

**An Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural
Heritage Impact Assessment Report
for the Proposed Aglish Substation and Grid
Connection, County Cork**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the importance and sensitivity of the known, as well as the potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, and the impact upon it, of a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), comprising a proposed substation and grid connection situated in the Townlands of AGLISH and Currahaly, County Cork. The report also aims to assess the potential of the Proposed Development on the known and potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage. This study was undertaken for HW Planning on behalf of Terra Solar Ltd by Rubicon Archaeology Limited.

The Proposed Development comprises a substation and grid connection for the AGLISH Solar Farm, County Cork (Planning Ref. 24/06157/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25). The proposed substation will be a 110 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electricity substation with the associated grid connection comprising 110 kV 'loop in/loop-out' underground cabling which will connect to the existing 110 kV Inniscarra to Macroom overhead line via two newly constructed interface towers, and ancillary site works. A decision is pending from An Coimisiún Pleanála on the proposed solar farm, which is the subject of a separate Archaeological Impact Assessment (O'Sullivan and O'Flaherty 2024).

The Proposed Development is situated c. 800 m north-west of the village of Farran, in the Townlands of AGLISH and Currahaly. The landscape of the Proposed Development site is currently agricultural fields under grass, set in a largely rural area with dispersed one-off developments.

The archaeological assessment has identified 51 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the study area (Section 1.3). These include 40 known or suspected monuments, five NIAH registration, one of which is also a Protected Structure (CH124), one previous excavation (CH131), and three Areas of Archaeological Potential (CH158–CH160). Additionally, the Proposed Development crosses one townland boundary (CH147). There are no monuments located within the boundary of the Proposed Development site; however, the proposed site boundary crosses the Zones of Notification associated with CH071–CH076.

The Proposed Development will have a direct effect on three CH sites, and an indirect effect on 21 CH sites.

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. A suitable buffer zone within which no development shall take place has been applied to the extents of CH071–CH076, whose Zones of Notification are crossed by the application boundary. This buffer zone will be informed by the geophysical survey and testing to be undertaken pre-construction. All buffer zones will be maintained during construction, operation and decommissioning of the development. Any person wishing to carry out works within the Zone of Notification associated with a known or suspected monument to which Section 14 of the *National Monuments Act 1930 (as Amended)* must obtain Ministerial Consent (see Section 3.1.1).
2. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, a combination of geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that

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should be employed in relation to the Proposed Development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist.

3. All groundworks such as those related to the access tracks, cables, boundary fences, interface towers, landscaping and temporary compounds shall be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH). Should any archaeological material be encountered, works will cease and the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the local planning authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried out following consultations with the local planning authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service.
4. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary must be removed a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to removal.
5. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.



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1. INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Project Background

The Proposed Development comprises a substation and grid connection. The proposed substation and grid connection would connect the proposed Aglish Solar Farm (Planning Ref. 24/06157/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25) to the National Grid via the existing 110 kV Inniscarra to Macroom overhead line. The proposed solar farm is the subject of a separate archaeological impact assessment, which forms part of the Aglish Solar Farm planning application to Cork County Council (see O’Flaherty and O’Sullivan 2024). At the time of writing, this application was still pending a decision following an appeal to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

1.2 Site Description and Location

The Proposed Development is situated c. 800 m north-west of the village of Farran, in the Townlands of Aglish and Currahaly. The landscape of the Proposed Development site is currently agricultural fields under grass, set in a largely rural area with dispersed one-off developments.

The proposed substation is located within agricultural fields, primarily used for tillage. The proposed grid connection will exit the proposed substation and will connect to the existing 110 kV Inniscarra to Macroom overhead line.

1.3 Study Area

The study area for this assessment has been defined in respect of two factors:

- The ability of sites/information sources to provide information pertaining to the archaeological potential of the Proposed Development site, and
- The potential physical effects, as well as effects on setting, that the proposed works may have on sites of cultural heritage significance.

Taking these factors into account, the study area has been defined as follows (See Table 1):

Subject	Study Area
National Monuments and Recorded archaeological monuments (RMPs)	Within 1 km of the Proposed Development.
Protected Structures and/or their curtilage	Within 1 km of the Proposed Development.



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Subject	Study Area
Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAS)	Within 1 km of the Proposed Development.
Structures recorded in the NIAH	Within 1 km of the Proposed Development.
Zones of Archaeological Potential	Within the Proposed Development footprint.
Unregistered features of cultural heritage	Within the Proposed Development footprint.
Areas of Archaeological Potential; Unregistered Cultural Heritage Receptors (UCH)	Within the Proposed Development footprint.
Previous Excavations and National Museum Topographical Files	Within 1 km of the Proposed Development.

Table 1 – Dimensions of the study area.



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2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Objectives

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, evaluate potential effects that the proposed works will have on this environment, and provide mitigation measures in accordance with the policies of the National Monuments Service, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) and Cork County Council, the *National Monuments Act 1930–2014*, as amended, and best practice guidelines, to avoid, reduce or offset these effects.

Cultural heritage (CH) includes artefacts, monuments, groups of buildings, sites, and museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater), intangible cultural heritage (ICH) embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments. The definition excludes ICH related to other cultural domains such as festivals, celebration etc. It includes industrial heritage and cave paintings (UNESCO 2009).

In order to provide a comprehensive assessment, an extensive desktop study in addition to a field inspection of the proposed development area was undertaken.

The scope and methodology for the baseline assessment has been devised with reference to the following guidelines:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022 *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) 2025 *Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects*.
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (DoAHGI) 1999 *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2003; Draft 2015 *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*.
- Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH) 2018 *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) 2011 *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*.
- EirGrid 2015 *Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects. A Standard Approach to Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of High Voltage Transmission Projects*.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment*.

The cultural heritage database (CHD) for this assessment was compiled in part from that of the previous CHD for the proposed AGLISH Solar Farm (Planning Ref. 24/06157). CH reference numbers have been retained from that CHD to maintain consistency across both reports. Any additional CH sites located within the study area for the substation and cable route have been numbered sequentially from that CHD.

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2.2 Desktop Study Methodology

The present assessment of the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage of the Proposed Development area is based on a desktop study of a number of documentary and cartographic sources. The desktop study was further augmented by an examination of aerial photography as well as a field survey. The main sources consulted in completing the desktop study are listed here:

- List of National Monuments in State Care: Ownership and Guardianship.
- List of Preservation Orders and the Register of Historic Monuments.
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- Files of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).
- Updated SMR available at www.archaeology.ie.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building Survey.
- County and Town Development Plans.
- Irish Antiquities Division, National Museum of Ireland Topographical Files.
- Ordnance Survey first and subsequent editions, www.osi.ie.
- National Folklore Collection.
- Early maps and estate maps.
- Aerial photographs.
- Excavations Bulletin (www.excavations.ie).
- www.loganim.ie (for townland names).

2.3 Field Inspection Methodology

A field inspection of the location of the proposed substation was undertaken by Ciarraí O’Sullivan of Rubicon Archaeology Limited in July 2024 (Plates 1–7).

The primary purpose of a field inspection is to assess the site in order to identify any potential low-visibility archaeological and/or historical sites or other elements that are not currently recorded, and which may be impacted upon negatively by the Proposed Development. It is also the purpose of the field inspection to survey any known monuments or sites and to consider the relationship between them and the surrounding landscape, all of which need to be considered during the assessment process.

The methodology used during the field inspection involved recording the present land use as well as the existing topography for the entire area comprising the proposed development site. A photographic record and written description were compiled for any known and/or potential sites of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural significance.

2.4 Methodology Used for Assessing Baseline Value of Sites

In order to categorise the baseline environment in a systemised manner, ‘baseline values’ have been assigned to each identified site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential within the study area (see Section 1.3). The baseline value of a site is determined with reference to the ‘importance’ and ‘sensitivity’ of the site.

The importance of a site is determined based on the following criteria: legal status, condition, historical associations, amenity value, ritual value, specimen value, group value and rarity.



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The sensitivity of a site is determined based on the presence of extant remains and/or the potential for associated sub-surface remains of the feature to be present *in situ*.

It should be noted that the *National Monuments Act 1930–2014*, as amended does not differentiate between recorded archaeological sites on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity. In addition, the *Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended)* does not differentiate between Protected Structures or Areas of Architectural Conservation on the basis of relative importance or sensitivity either. Consequently, professional judgement has been exercised to rate these features based on their perceived importance and sensitivity in relation to physical effects and effects on setting.

Taking the above factors into consideration, the criteria that have been defined are provided in Table 2 below.

Subject	Baseline Value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recorded Archaeological Monuments. - Protected Structures. - Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). 	Very High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites listed in the NIAH that are not Protected Structures. - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in good condition and/or which are regarded as constituting significant cultural heritage features. - Unrecorded features of archaeological potential. 	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered built heritage sites that comprise extant remains which are in poor condition. - Unregistered cultural heritage sites (not including built heritage sites) that comprise extant remains. - Townland boundaries that comprise extant remains. - Marshy/wetland areas. 	Medium/High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains, but where there is potential for associated subsurface evidence. - Townland boundaries for which there are no extant remains. 	Medium/Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unregistered cultural heritage sites for which there are no extant remains and where there is little or no potential for associated subsurface evidence. 	Low

Table 2 – Baseline values of sites.

Caution should be exercised when assessing the perceived significance of an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site as such categorisation is open to subjectivity. In addition, the perceived levels of importance as identified in this report are liable to future revision in the instance where new information, through the undertaking of further archaeological investigations, is provided.

2.5 Type of Effects

The following table lists the type of effects that a proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource (after Environmental Protection Agency 2022):



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Type of Effects	Definition
Direct	Direct effects arise where an archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the Proposed Development, or its associated physical effect zone, whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
Indirect	Indirect effects arise when an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage feature is not located within the footprint of the Proposed Development, or its associated physical effect zone, and thus is not affected directly. Such an effect could include an effect on setting or effect on the Zone of Archaeological Potential of site whereby the actual site itself is not physically affected.
Do-nothing Effects	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
Worst-case Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
Cumulative	The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
Indeterminable	Whereby the full consequence that the proposed development may have on the cultural heritage resource is not known.
Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
Residual	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
Synergistic Effects	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents.

Table 3 – Type of effects.

2.6 Methodology Used for Assessing Magnitude of Effects

The methodology used to assess the magnitude of potential pre-mitigation effects, as well as residual effects, of the proposed development on the baseline environment is presented in Table 4 below.

Effect Magnitude	Criteria
Profound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics. Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, adverse effects only. These effects arise where an archaeology site is completely and irreversibly destroyed. An effect that obliterates the architectural heritage of a structure or feature of national or international importance. These effects arise where an architectural structure or feature is completely and irreversibly destroyed by the proposed development. Mitigation is unlikely to remove adverse effects.
Very Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.



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Effect Magnitude	Criteria
Significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently affected, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological feature/site.• An effect that by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters the character and/or the setting of the architectural heritage. These effects arise where an aspect or aspects of the architectural heritage is/are permanently affected leading to a loss of character and integrity in the architectural structure or feature. Appropriate mitigation is likely to reduce the effect.• A beneficial or positive effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.• A moderate effect arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological integrity of the site is compromised, and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological feature can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.• A moderate effect to a site/monument may also arise when a site is fully or partly excavated under license and all recovered data is preserved by record.• An effect that results in a change to the architectural heritage which, although noticeable is not such that alters the integrity of the heritage. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Effects are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation is very likely to reduce the effect.• A beneficial or positive effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/or setting of a feature of archaeological or cultural heritage significance in a clearly noticeable manner.



Effect Magnitude	Criteria
Slight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities. An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as visual effect, which are not high or very high and do not directly affect or affect an archaeological feature or monument. An effect that causes some minor change in the character of architectural heritage of local or regional importance without affecting its integrity or sensitivities. Although noticeable, the effects do not directly affect the architectural structure or feature. Effects are reversible and of relatively short duration. Appropriate mitigation will reduce the effect. A beneficial or positive effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of an architectural heritage significance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable.
Not significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Imperceptible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effect on archaeological features or monument capable of measurement but without significant consequences. An effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measure merit but without noticeable consequences. A beneficial or positive effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

Table 4 – Criteria used for rating magnitude of effects.

Positive significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature may also be expressed.

- **Significant positive:** A beneficial effect that permanently enhances or restores the character and/or setting of the architectural heritage in a clearly noticeable manner.
- **Moderate positive:** A beneficial effect that results in partial or temporary enhancement of the character and/ or setting of the architectural heritage and which is noticeable and consistent with existing and emerging trends.
- **Slight positive:** A beneficial effect that causes some minor or temporary enhancement of the character of architectural heritage or local or regional importance which, although positive, is unlikely to be readily noticeable; and
- **Imperceptible positive:** A beneficial effect on architectural heritage of local importance that is capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

2.7 Assessing the Duration and Frequency of Effect

‘Duration’ is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics. The Environmental Protection Agency (2022) has issued the below guideline definitions when discussing duration in the context of environmental impact assessment.



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Term	Criteria
Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
Brief Effects	Effects lasting less than a day.
Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year.
Short-term Effects	Effects lasting 1–7 years.
Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting 7–15 years.
Long-term Effects	Effects lasting 15–60 years.
Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over 60 years.
Reversible Effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation.
Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).

Table 5 – Duration and frequency of effect.

2.8 Methodology Used for Assessing Significance Level of Effects

The significance level of a construction or operation effect on a feature is assessed by combining the magnitude of the effect and baseline value of the feature. The matrix in Table 6 provides a guide to decision-making but is not a substitute for professional judgement and interpretation, particularly where the baseline value or effect magnitude levels are not clear or are borderline between categories. The permanence of the effects is also taken into account, with irreversible effects being more significant while temporary or reversible changes are likely to be less significant.

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

Table 6 – Criteria for assessing significance level of effects.

2.9 Assessing Effects on Setting

The definition of setting follows the guidance set by Historic England as they have developed a range of comprehensive guidance on this subject specific to heritage assets (Historic England 2008; 2017). Hence setting is not simply the visual envelope of the asset in question. Rather, it is those parts of the asset's surroundings that are relevant to the significance of the asset and the appreciation thereof, and in which a heritage asset is experienced.

In most instances setting will relate to the historical value of the asset, where an appreciable relationship between the asset and an element of its surroundings helps the visitor understand and appreciate the asset. This may be in terms of a physical relationship, such as between a castle and the natural rise that



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it occupies, or a more distant visual relationship, such as a designed vista or the view from, for example, one ringfort to another. The former is referred to as immediate setting and the latter as landscape setting. Many assets will only have an immediate setting. Some assets will have aesthetic value that relates to the surrounding landscape, such as in the case of a designed view incorporating a distant hill, or that relates to the contribution the asset makes to the local landscape, for example a church spire providing a focal point in a view down a valley.

Historic England has provided a list of factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting. These are broad factors and have been taken into consideration when assessing magnitude of effect and sensitivity. They are summarised in Table 7.

Factor	Discussion
Visual dominance	Where an historic feature (such as a hilltop monument or fortification, a church spire, or a plantation belonging to a designed landscape) is the most visually dominant feature in the surrounding landscape, adjacent construction of the proposed development may be inappropriate.
Scale	The extent of a proposed development and the number, density and disposition of its associated elements will also contribute to its visual effect.
Intervisibility	Certain archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from other historic sites. Construction of a proposed development should respect this intervisibility.
Vistas and sightlines	Designed landscapes invariably involve key vistas, prospects, panoramas and sightlines, or the use of topography to add drama. Location of a proposed development within key views, which may often extend beyond any designated area, should be avoided.
Movement, sound or light effects	The movement associated with a proposed development may be a significant issue in certain historic settings. Adequate distance should always be provided between important historic sites and proposed developments to avoid the site being overshadowed or affected by noise.
Unaltered settings	The setting of some historic sites may be little changed from the period when the site was first constructed, used or abandoned. Largely unaltered settings for certain types of sites, particularly more ancient sites, may be rare survivals and especially vulnerable to modern intrusions such as wind turbines. This may be a particular issue in certain upland areas.

Table 7 – Factors to be considered when assessing effects upon setting (after Historic England 2017)

The following are guides to the assessment of magnitude of effect on setting:

- Obstruction of or distraction from key views. Some assets have been sited or designed with specific views in mind, such as the view from a country house with designed vistas. The obstruction or cluttering of such views would reduce the extent to which the asset could be understood and appreciated by the visitor. Developments outside key views may distract from them and make them difficult to appreciate on account of their prominence and movement. In such instances the magnitude is likely to be greatest where views have a particular focus or a strong aesthetic character. Sympathetic development may improve key views by removing features that obstruct or distract from key views and hence preserve or enhance the importance of the asset.

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- Changes in prominence. Some assets are deliberately placed in prominent locations in order to be prominent in the surrounding landscape, for example prehistoric cairns are often placed to be silhouetted against the sky and churches in some areas are deliberately placed on ridges in order to be highly visible. Developments can reduce such prominence and therefore reduce the extent to which such sites can be appreciated or the contribution that they make to the local landscape. Similarly, sympathetic development can enhance the setting of such sites by, for example, removing modern forestry that would otherwise compromise the setting of a cairn that had been placed on a skyline.
- Changes in landscape character. A particular land use regime may be essential to the appreciation of an asset's function, for instance the fields surrounding an Improvement period farmstead are inextricably linked to its appreciation. Changes in land use can leave the asset isolated and reduce its value. In some instances, assets will have aesthetic value or a sense of place that is tied to the surrounding landscape character. Conversely, sympathetic development may restore or preserve the relevant land use and hence preserve or enhance the relevant value of the asset.
- Duration of effect. Effects that are long term or permanent are generally of greater magnitude than those that are short term.

Readily reversible effects are generally of lesser magnitude than those that cannot be reversed. Effects upon the defined setting will be of greater magnitude than those that affect unrelated elements of the asset's surroundings or incidental views to or from an asset that are unrelated to the appreciation of its value. The magnitude of effects can be rated from Negligible to Major using a similar scale to that for physical effects.

2.10 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

A review of the applicable legislation, as well as national, strategic and local planning policies and guidance was undertaken as part of this study. The relevant sections addressing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage in the *Cork County Development Plan (2022–2028)* are included in Appendix 5. Any mitigation measures proposed in Section 5 take account of the current legislation, policies and guidelines so as to avoid, reduce or offset effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment, in line with the aforementioned legislation, local planning policies and guidance.

2.11 Limitations of this Assessment

There were no difficulties or limitations encountered during the compilation of this report.



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3. BASELINE/RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Designated Archaeological Sites

3.1.1 Known or Suspected Monuments (The SMR and RMP)

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was issued for all counties in the State between 1984 and 1992 and is continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. The SMR is an inventory containing a numbered list of known or suspected monuments originally accompanied by 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps (at a reduced scale). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - the statutory list of recorded monuments established under Section 12 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994*. Under this Act, each site recorded in the RMP is granted statutory protection. When the owner or occupier of a property, or any other person, proposes to carry out, or to cause, or to permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to a recorded archaeological monument, they are required to give notice in writing to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

There are 40 known or suspected monuments located within the study areas (see Section 1.3) for the proposed substation and grid connection (see 1.3; Table 8).

There are no monuments located within the boundary of the Proposed Development site. The proposed site boundary crosses the Zones of Notification associated with CH071–CH076.

The zones do not define the exact extent of the monuments but rather are intended to identify them for the purposes of notification under Section 12 of the *National Monuments Act (1930–2004)*: each is referred to as a 'Zone of Notification'. If it is intended to carry out works within a Zone of Notification, two months prior notice in writing must be provided to the Minister for Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, even if planning permission is not needed for the works. Works undertaken through the planning process is via a formal notification mechanism and acts as notification in accordance with Section 12 of the National Monuments Act.

CH ID	Monument No.	RMP	Short Description	Townland
CH071	CO072-089----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH072	CO072-088----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH073	CO072-087----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH074	CO072-090001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH075	CO072-090002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH076	CO072-090003-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH077	CO072-091003-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH078	CO072-091002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH079	CO072-091001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH080	CO072-100001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH081	CO072-100002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH082	CO072-099002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH083	CO072-099001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH084	CO072-099003-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH085	CO072-099004-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH
CH086	CO072-098001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	AGLISH



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CH ID	Monument No.	RMP	Short Description	Townland
CH087	CO072-098002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Aglish
CH088	CO072-093----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Aglish
CH089	CO072-092004-	Yes	Church	Aglish
CH090	CO072-092003-	Yes	Graveyard	Aglish
CH091	CO072-092001-	Yes	Ecclesiastical enclosure	Aglish
CH092	CO072-092002-	Yes	Redundant record	Aglish
CH093	CO072-097----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Aglish
CH094	CO072-102----	Yes	Ringfort - rath	Farran (Muskerry East By.)
CH095	CO072-158----	Yes	Burnt mound	Farran (Muskerry East By.)
CH096	CO072-101----	Yes	Church	Farran (Muskerry East By.)
CH097	CO072-086005-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH098	CO072-086004-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH099	CO072-086003-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH100	CO072-086002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH101	CO072-086001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH102	CO072-085----	Yes	Ringfort - rath	Currahaly
CH103	CO072-083002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH104	CO072-083001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH105	CO072-082----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH106	CO072-084001-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH107	CO072-084002-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH108	CO072-084003-	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Currahaly
CH109	CO072-145----	Yes	Enclosure	Knocknagoul
CH110	CO072-081----	Yes	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	Knocknagoul

Table 8 – Known or Suspected Monuments within the study area.

3.1.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are broken into two categories: National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state and National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of a local authority. Section 8 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954* provides for the publication of a list of monuments, the preservation, of which, are considered to be of national importance. Two months' notice must be given to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage where work is proposed to be carried out at or in relation to any National Monument.

There are no National Monuments sites incorporated by the study area (see Section 1.3).

3.1.3 Sites with Preservation Orders

The *National Monuments Act 1930–2014* as amended provide for the making of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders in respect of National Monuments. Under Section 8 of the *National Monument Act 1930 (as Amended)*, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can place a Preservation Order on a monument if, in the Ministers' opinion, it is a National Monument in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed or is falling into decay through neglect. The Preservation Order ensures that the monument shall be safeguarded from destruction, alteration, injury, or removal, by any person or persons without the written consent of the Minister.

There are no sites with Preservation Orders incorporated by the study area (see Section 1.3)



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3.1.4 National Museum of Ireland Topographical Finds

The National Museum of Ireland Topographical Finds database was consulted to see if there was a record of an archaeological object within the study area. The database is a representation of the distribution of archaeological objects at a local and national level, based on the Irish Antiquities Division's Collections Database. Section 2 of the *1930 National Monuments Act (Amended)* defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

The database produced no results for the study area (see Section 1.3)

3.2 Designated Architectural Heritage Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. *The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000*, and the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999*, made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage.

3.2.1 Record of Protected Structures

The *Cork County Development Plan (2022–2028)* was consulted for schedules of Protected Structures. These are buildings that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, and/or technical point of view. Protected Structures receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under Section 57 (1) of the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000*. Protected structure status does not exclude development or alteration but requires the developer to consult with the relevant planning authority to ensure that elements which make the structure significant are not lost during development.

There is one Protected Structure located within the study area (see Section 1.3), which is also listed on the NIAH register (see Table 9). The site, CH124, is located c. 993 m south-east of the Proposed Development.

CH ID	Type	RPS No;	Short Description	Townland
CH124	RPS	RPS No. 00553	Rosemount House	Currahaly

Table 9 – Protected Structures located within the study area.

3.2.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

The *Cork County Development Plan (2022–2028)* was consulted for records relating to Architectural Conservation Areas (hereinafter 'ACAs'). The stated objective of ACAs is to conserve and enhance the special character of the area, including traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, landscape and setting.

There are no ACAs within the study area (see Section 1.3).



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3.2.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (hereinafter the 'NIAH') is a state initiative under the administration of the DoHLGH and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999*. Its purpose is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are five NIAH sites located within the study area (see Section 1.3), one of which (CH124) is also a Protected Structure (Table 9). The nearest NIAH site, CH121, is located c. 500 m south-west of the Proposed Development.

CH ID	Type	Reg No.	Short Description	Townland
CH121	NIAH	Reg No. 20907219	Monument	Currahaly
CH122	NIAH	Reg No. 20908413	Water pump	Currahaly
CH123	NIAH	Reg No. 20908414	Outbuilding	Currahaly
CH124	NIAH	Reg No. 20908424	Rosemount House	Currahaly
CH125	NIAH	Reg No. 20907220	Church	Farran (Muskerry East By.)

Table 10 – NIAH registrations located within the study area.

3.3 Undesignated Cultural Heritage Sites within the Proposed Development Site

This section deals with sites that are considered to be of cultural heritage value, but which do not fall within the above categories as they are not registered. Such sites may include lime-kilns, dwellings/outhouses, trackways or townland boundaries etc. identifiable on the First Edition 6/25-inch Ordnance Survey maps and/or noted during the field visit.

3.3.1 Sites identifiable on cartographic sources

The cartographic record for the study area was examined for the purposes of this report (Figures 3, 4 and 5). The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey Sheet (1840), First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey (1907) and the First Edition 6-inch Cassini Survey (c. 1908–1942) were consulted to identify undesignated cultural heritage sites that may be impacted on by the Proposed Scheme. The maps show that there were changes to the field system between the 6-inch map and 25-inch map, with fields being subdivided. For example, the two fields located at the east end of the grid connection are shown as four adjoining fields on the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map. By the time of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, this has reduced to two adjoining fields.

There are no undesignated cultural heritage sites located within the application boundary of the proposed substation and grid connection (see Section 1.3).

3.3.2 Townland boundaries

A townland is the smallest official land unit in the country. Ireland is made up of approximately 60,000 townlands. As a result, townland boundaries are ubiquitous in the Irish countryside and have been incorporated into the modern agricultural landscape. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo-



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Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. This suggests that many the boundaries of many of these territorial units preserve landscape divisions from the medieval period and perhaps earlier. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the 19th century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. Research into the name of these land units frequently provides information relating to its archaeology, history, folklore, ownership, topography or land use.

The First Edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey was consulted in order to identify the location of townland boundaries that may be affected on by the proposed scheme. The proposed development overlies or crosses one townland boundary (Section 1.3; Table 11).

CH ID	ID No.	Short Description	Townland
CH147	TB05	Townland Boundary	Aglish/Currahaly

Table 11 – Townland boundaries crossed by the Proposed Development.

3.3.3 Sites identifiable on aerial photography and satellite imagery

Ortho-rectified aerial photography available from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland was inspected in order to identify possible features of cultural and heritage significance. Aerial photography from the 1995, 2000, and 2005 fly-overs was inspected, as well as the latest Tailte Éireann images, LiDAR imagery (where available), Google Earth and Bing Maps satellite imagery.

No additional undesignated cultural heritage sites were identified on other aerial photography and satellite imagery within the Proposed Development site.

3.3.4 Sites identified during field inspection

The location of proposed substation was inspected by Ciarraí O’Sullivan of Rubicon Archaeology Limited in July 2024 (Plate 1–7).

No additional sites or features of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance were identified.

3.3.5 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs) are additional areas or locations whose landscape characteristics suggest a higher potential for unknown archaeological features to be present e.g. riverine, estuarine or peatland environments. There were three areas of archaeological potential identified based on landscape characteristics (see Section 1.3; Table 12).

CH ID	ID No.	Short Description
CH158	AAP11	Stream marking the Aglish/Farran Townland Boundary on the 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps.
CH159	AAP12	Stream marking the Aglish/Currahaly Townland Boundary on the 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps.
CH160	AAP13	Stream depicted on the 25-inch OS map. It flows in an east to west direction.

Table 12 – Areas of Archaeological Potential within the Proposed Development area.

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3.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.4.1 Prehistoric period

There is abundant evidence for prehistoric settlement in County Cork and there are several sites within the study area that may date to this period. A key feature of prehistoric activity within the study area are the 30 *fulachta fiadh* located within the study area. They are the most numerous prehistoric sites in Ireland, with over 4,500 known examples, some 2,000 of these in County Cork (Power 1990, 13–17). The majority of radiocarbon dates place these monuments in the Bronze Age (Brindley and Lanting 1990, 55–6).

Fulachta fiadh survive as low mounds, usually horseshoe shaped, of charcoal-enriched soil packed with fragments of heat-shattered stones (termed ‘burnt mound’); when levelled, they are often noticeable as black spreads in ploughed fields. They were usually situated close to a water source, like a stream, or in wet marshy areas. It is generally accepted that they were probably used as cooking places (Ó Drisceóil 1988). Water was boiled in a regular pit (lined with wooden planks or stone slabs to form a trough) by the addition of hot stones from a fire close by. O’Kelly (1954, 105–55) showed by experiment that the large quantities of water can be boiled in this way in about 20 minutes. He also demonstrated that meat, wrapped in straw and immersed in the boiling water, cooked at a rate of 20 minutes per pound weight. When the cooking was over the remnants of heat-shattered stones in the trough were discarded to one side. Eventually, after many uses, these would form a mound curving round three sides of the trough, hence the horse-shape mound (Power *et al.* 1997, 75). It is not certain whether *fulachta fiadh* were elements temporary hunting camps or of permanent settlements. The majority of radiocarbon dates place these monuments in the Bronze Age (Brindley and Lanting 1990, 55–6).

A review of the use of the term ‘*fulacht*’ in early Irish literature and of references to ‘activities that may have taken place at such sites’, suggest associations with ‘the cooking and eating of food, washing and bathing, music and sex’ (Ó Drisceóil 1990, 157–64). The word ‘*fulacht*’ means a pit used for cooking. The second element can be interpreted as either ‘*fiadh*’ meaning ‘of the deer’ or ‘of the wild’ or ‘*fian*’ meaning ‘of a roving band of hunters or warriors’ or ‘of Fianna or Fionn Mac Cumhail’ (Ó Drisceóil 1988, 671–80).

3.4.2 Medieval period (AD 400–1540)

The early medieval period (AD 400–c. 1169) was a time of rapid expansion of agriculture. Throughout this period Ireland was a predominantly rural society characterised by dispersed settlement. The economy was based on mixed agriculture though the rearing of cattle was seen as very important. Ringforts and enclosures are indicative of settlement at this time.

Ringforts are undoubtedly the most widespread and characteristic archaeological field monument in the Irish countryside. There are two known with the study area neither of which are located within the proposed development boundary. There is a single undated enclosure (CH109) within the study area which may also be early medieval in date. Ringforts are usually known by the names *ráth* or *lios*, forming some of the most common placename elements in the countryside. The ringfort is basically a circular or roughly circular area enclosed by an earthen bank formed of material thrown up from concentric fosse (ditch) on its outside. Generally, the diameter of the enclosure is between 25 m and 50 m. A single bank and fosse (univallate) is the most usual form; double rings (bivallate) or triple rings (trivallate) are rarer. The number of rings of defence are thought to reflect on the status of the site, rather than the strengthening of its defences. These sites have endured centuries of erosion, reuse and



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sometimes deliberate destruction and it is not always possible to distinguish original features; the overgrown nature of many sites compound the problem of field recording. However, entrances may be detected where a clear break in the bank is in line with an uncut causeway over the fosse (Power 1992, 131).

Archaeological excavation has shown that the majority of ringforts were enclosed farmsteads, built in the early medieval period. Though not forts in the military sense, the earthworks acted as a defence against natural predators like wolves, as well as human threats. Local warfare and cattle raiding were commonplace at this time. The construction of so many throughout the country, in a relatively short period (400–500 years), reflects on the stability and wealth of society at the time, and also its homogeneity. As well as farming-related activities like corn-grinding and animal husbandry, the ringfort was home to a wide variety of craft industries, including spinning, weaving, metal- and glass-working (*ibid.*).

Other evidence of early medieval activity includes the ecclesiastical site of Aglish which is indicated by a large ecclesiastical enclosure (CH091). This is a roughly circular enclosure (c. 200 m north–south) in which lies Aglish church (CH089) and graveyard (CH090).

3.4.3 Post-medieval (AD 1540–1700) and early modern period (AD 1700–1850)

Post-medieval activity is indicated by the parish church of Aglish (CH089) which was in ruins by at least 1615. It is also indicated by country houses of which one is recorded within the study area (CH124).

3.5 Toponymy of Townland/s

The Irish landscape is divided into approximately 60,000 townlands and the system of landholding is unique in Western Europe for its scale and antiquity. Many townlands predate the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, and Irish historical documents consistently use townland names throughout the historic period to describe areas and locate events accurately in their geographical context. The townland names and boundaries were standardised in the 19th century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The original Irish names were eventually anglicised to varying degrees, depending in part upon the linguistic skills of the surveyors and recorders. A study of the townland names can provide information on aspects of cultural heritage including descriptions of the use of the landscape by man and the potential presence of archaeological or cultural heritage sites or features.

There are two townlands within the development area (see Section 1.3; Table 13).

English Name	Irish Name	Glossary
Aglish	<i>An Eaglais</i>	Church
Currahaly	<i>Currach Cheallaigh</i>	Marsh

Table 13 — Townland placename evidence (after Irish Placenames Committee 2013).

3.6 Intangible Heritage/Irish Folklore Commission

Cultural Heritage is a broad term that includes Archaeological Heritage, Built Heritage, Portable Heritage, and other resources inherited from the past by contemporary society. It consists of the tangible and intangible traces of the interactions between people and places, people and nature and people and objects through time (Transport Infrastructure Ireland 2025, 8). Folklore and local tradition

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are examples of intangible interactions between people and places where they live. In Ireland, work was done by the Irish Folklore Commission, and its successors, to collect and preserve Irish folklore. The Schools' Collection, for example, collected folklore and local traditions from pupils of 5,000 primary schools (Dúchas 2025).

Examination of the School's Collection produced three schools which are relevant to the study area (See Table 14). These collections preservation local knowledge and folklore for the study area. This includes placenames lore including local field names, weather lore and local customs. The collection from An Fearann mentioned the graveyard (CH090) in Aglish (Buttimer 1937, 317). Holy well, mass rocks and 'Galláin' are recorded in the collection from Cannaway. The collection records two holy wells within the Townland of 'Mahalough' (Young 1937, 288).

School Name, Address	Vol. No.	Date	Teacher Name
Cannaway (Canovee), Killinardrish, Bawnatemple, Co. Cork	0345	1937	Richard Young
An Fearann, Farran, Co. Cork	0345	1937	Muiris Buttimer
An Chloch Dhubh, Crookstown	0346	N/A	M. Bean Uí Mhurchadha

Table 14 – Relevant schools in the study area that took part in the School's Collection.

3.7 Recent Excavations

The Excavations Bulletin is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available online at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1970 onwards. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this report to establish if any archaeological investigations had been carried out within the study area (see Section 1.3). The database produced one result for archaeological excavations undertaken within the study area, CH131 (Appendix 6). No archaeology was found during this excavation.

3.8 Topography and Soils

According to the Teagasc Soil Information System (<http://gis.teagasc.ie/soils/index.php>) the landscape is underlain by Devonian Sandstones. This is overlain by till derived chiefly from post glacial sand and gravel deposits. In parts of the study area, the soil is shallow and there are many areas of outcropping bedrock. The River Lee runs along the northern extent of the study area and the soils here are glaciofluvial sandstone sand and gravel.

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4. IMPACT STATEMENT

4.1 Development Description

The Proposed Development comprises a substation and grid connection which forms part of the Aglish Solar Farm, County Cork (Planning Ref. 24/0615/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25). The proposed substation will be a 110 kV electricity substation with the associated grid connection comprising 110 kV 'loop in/loop-out' underground cabling which will connect to the existing 110 kV Inniscarra to Macroom overhead line via two newly constructed interface towers.

General

The Proposed Development comprises of:

1. A 110 kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electricity substation with single-storey substation building, single-storey Independent Power Producer (IPP) control room building, High Voltage (HV) electrical equipment and associated infrastructure (to include transformer, lightning protection masts, back-up diesel generator, fire/blast wall, telecoms pole, perimeter security fencing, security lighting, water and drainage infrastructure, and temporary construction compound) to connect to and serve a solar farm.
2. Associated loop-in/loop out infrastructure to connect into an existing 110 kV overhead transmission line (including underground 110 kV cabling [lengths of c. 790 and 880 m from proposed substation to interface towers, including HDD crossing of L2204 road], 2 No. new interface towers and decommissioning of c. 75 m of existing 110 kV overhead line).
3. Construction and operational access from the public road L2204.
4. All ancillary site development, landscaping and earthworks. The development subject to this application forms part of grid connection and access arrangements which will facilitate the connection of the proposed Aglish Solar Farm (Cork County Council Reference 24/6157 / An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25) to the national grid.

The operational lifetime of the solar farms is assumed to be 40 years. However, following the decommissioning of the solar farm, it is envisaged that the substation (and underground cable grid connection) will remain *in situ* as a valuable functioning and operational part of the electricity transmission network managed by the Transmission Systems Operator, EirGrid.

Substation

The substation will be based on EirGrid design specifications. The substation compound will consist of a two-storey AIS substation building, single-storey IPP Control Room building, HV electrical equipment and associated infrastructure including palisade fences and concrete post and rail fences. The installation of HV electrical equipment will include a transformer with associated equipment along with:

- Cable Sealing End (CSE).
- Surge Arrestor (SA).
- Earth Disconnect (DA, DB, DL, DT).
- Current /Voltage Transformer (CT/VT).
- House Transformer (HoT).
- Circuit Breaker (CB).
- Lightning Masts (LM).

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- Back-Up Diesel Generator.
- Harmonic filters if required by EirGrid.
- Capacitor Bank if required by EirGrid.
- Fire/Blast Wall.
- Telecoms Pole.
- 110 kV underground cable which will connect into the existing Inniscarra Macrooom overhead line via 2 no. new Interface Towers.

The substation compound has a total area of 11,996 m².

Earthworks will be undertaken so the compound is level, with a finish compound level of 123.2 m.

Site access

The site will be accessed for both the construction and operational phases by means of two entrances from the L2204. These entrances will be subject to some upgrades, including removal of existing roadside sod and stone ditch to provide new gate as presented under Cork County Council Reference 24/6157. The entrances will be suitably splayed and has been subject to sight line and auto track analysis, with the latter including modelling of abnormal load delivery for the transformer. Operational sightlines will be maintained by trimming back hedgerows with all necessary land within ownership.

A 4.5 m wide compacted access track will extend from the entrance to the substation compound. The design includes a temporary construction track to cater for deliveries, which will be decommissioned post the construction phase (and land reinstated), as well as an operational access track. The track will include a geotextile base and filter membrane and 200 mm of Clause 804 sub-base.

Connection to national grid

In order to connect to the transmission network, it is proposed to connect the 110 kV substation into the national grid via a 'loop-in/loop-out' underground 110 kV cable grid connection which will connect into the existing 110 kV Inniscarra-Macrooom overhead transmission line.

Two new steel lattice interface towers of approximately 16 m in height will form part of the existing overhead line and both towers will connect to the proposed 110 kV substation via underground 110 kV cables. The interface towers are approximately 75 m apart, therefore the same length of the existing 110 kV Inniscarra-Macrooom overhead line will need to be decommissioned. The underground cable is comprised of 3 no. power ducts, 2 no. telecom ducts and 1 no. earth continuity duct. The cables to each interface tower are c. 790 and 880 m in length. The crossing of the L2204 will be by means of Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD).

This connection method will constitute a new node of the transmission network, connect the proposed substation and associated solar farm generation to the national electricity grid. The construction method for the interface towers and decommissioning of 110 kV overhead lines is set out in the Aglish Substation and Grid Connection Construction Methodology prepared by Aglish Solar Farm Limited.

All works will be carried out in accordance with international best practice and full compliance with health and safety requirements.

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Temporary construction compound

As outlined in the submitted site layout plans, it is proposed to provide a temporary construction compound south of the proposed substation, accessed from the entrance from the L2204. The temporary compound will include the following facilities at a minimum:

- Adequate canteen space to allow for all workers during the peak period.
- Office space with lighting, heating and internet facilities.
- Toilets and adequate welfare facilities for construction staff in accordance with the relevant statutory Health and Welfare guidelines.
- Parking space for both light and heavy vehicles.
- Designated skips and temporary storage areas.

Surface water drainage and water services

Surface water drainage proposals for the development have been developed to mimic the natural drainage patterns of the site and thereby be in accordance with the best management practices of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) including those set out in the SuDS Manual (C753) published by CIRIA in 2015. Specifically, this includes the following:

- The compound construction is formed with permeable stone thus mimicking a soakaway scenario. ESB compound stone is single sized for the first 150 mm for safety purposes. It then changes to a graded 6F2 material.
- The main areas to be drained includes the roofs and the compound road. These equate to approximately 663 m². The compound road will be drained via series of road gullies.
- Assuming even the most basic of infiltration rates down through the permeable compound stone, the existing greenfield situation is easily maintained.

The surface water generated in the hardstanding and bunded areas will discharge to the soakaway via a Class 1 Full Retention Oil Separator. The electrical transformer in the substation is oil filled equipment and, as such, is protected with impermeable bunds. Surface water generated in this bund will be pumped out by an oil sensitive pump ensuring that only non-contaminated water enters the site drainage network.

In relation to wastewater, a 5 m³ foul holding tank is proposed as part of the operational development. These tanks are normally used in ESB substations. It will be emptied periodically, with the capacity in excess of modelled holding requirements.

It is proposed to provide the required potable water demand of the station with a bored well on site. The potable water demand within the site will be low as the proposed station is to be unmanned. To avoid issues like stagnation in the water supply line and problems resulting from this, there will be a continual water demand of 24 litres per week from automatically flushing WCs within the station.

Site restoration and landscaping

This will involve the reinstatement of all other excavated materials and associated landscaping works. It will include the replacement of topsoil in disturbed ground areas such as access tracks and the removal of the construction compound and other temporary work areas.

The submitted Landscape Mitigation Plan identifies that c. 31 m of existing hedgerow and 2 no. trees will be removed to facilitate access to the fields that include the proposed substation and grid



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connection. These removal works are included in the wider solar farm application which provides for removal of a total of 86 no. linear metres of hedgerow and 3 trees, which will be offset by 872 linear metres of new hedgerow planting, as well as the bolstering of an additional 22,296 linear metres, where necessary, to fill any gaps in existing hedgerows.

Other planned works

Cork County Council Reference 24/6157 (ACP-323402-25)

It is intended that the proposed 110 kV substation and grid connection will service the Aglish Solar Farm, which is currently awaiting a decision from An Coimisiún Pleanála, At the time of writing, the solar farm application is undetermined.

The solar farm with a total area of *c.* 161 hectares. The solar farm will consist of solar panels on ground mounted frames, 23 no. single storey electrical inverter/transformer stations, 6 no. single storey spare parts containers, 3 no. Ring Main Units, 7 no. weather stations, underground electrical ducting and cabling within the development site, private lands and within the L62031, L6203, R619, L6207, L22012 and L2204 public roads to connect solar farm field parcels, security fencing, CCTV, access tracks, 4 no. stream/drain deck crossings, 6 no. horizontal directional drill crossings (under watercourses/drains/public road), temporary construction compounds, landscaping and all associated ancillary development and drainage works. Construction and operational access will be via 7 no. entrances from the L62031, L6203, L22012, L6398 and L2204 local roads. The operational lifespan of the solar farm will be 40 years, and planning permission is requested for this duration.

The solar farm will contribute directly to a carbon dioxide emission reduction of 28,657 tonnes per annum or the equivalent of approximately 1,146,298 tonnes of CO₂ over the 40 year lifetime of the project.

In response to a Request for Information (RFI) for the Aglish Solar Farm, an updated AIA was produced (O'Sullivan and O'Flaherty 2025) to address the issues raised in the RFI relating to the Archaeology. Additionally, the design of the solar farm was amended on the request of Cork County Council. In summary, these changes are as follows:

- A reduction in the panelled area in Parcel 4, with omission of panels, fencing and CCTV in western area. A corresponding omission of 1 no. inverter/transformer from Parcel 4.
- Relocation of interconnector 4 cabling in Parcel 4 to avoid a Recorded Monument on the L6398 local road. The interconnector cabling in this area will now enter the L6207 to the south, with a corresponding reduction of 1.05 km of underground cabling from the public road.
- Relocation of interconnector 3 in Parcel 4 to the northern edge of the L6207/L6398 bend.
- The circuit will enter Parcel 4 at a revised point removing approximately 190 m of cabling from the L6398 road.
- Minor alterations to panelled area in Parcel 6 to provide buffer/access to Recorded Monument. Omission of 1 no. inverter/transformer in Parcel 6.
- Revisions to proposed landscaping which now provide for the removal of 86 no. linear metres of hedgerow and 3 trees (reduction of 11 linear metres of removal on that originally proposed), 872 linear metres of new hedgerow planting (Type 2), as well as the bolstering of an additional 22,296 linear metres where necessary, to fill any gaps in existing hedgerows.



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Additionally, the applicant expanded the study area of the visual impact of the solar farm to 5 km in line with the LVIA and has committed to completing a programme of archaeological geophysical survey and testing after permission is granted. A decision has been taken by the applicant to not undertake this work at this time, particularly with regard to the priority status afforded to solar farm projects in terms of fast permitting and overriding public interest when dealing with competing environmental interests. This legal requirement combined with the mitigation measures proposed in this report will ensure the protection and safeguarding of any sub surface archaeology. The justification for this approach is discussed further in Section 6.3.

4.2 Baseline Environment Summary

The Proposed Development site has identified 51 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the defined study areas (see Section 1.3; Table 15).

Site Type	Summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- RMP receptors- SMR receptors- National Monuments- Sites with Preservation Orders- Sites listed in the Register of Historic Monuments	There are 40 known or suspected monuments located within the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Protected Structures	There is one Protected Structure (CH124) located within the study area, which is also a NIAH registration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)	There are no ACAs incorporated by the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sites Listed in the NIAH	There are five NIAH registrations within the study area, one of which (CH124) is also listed in the RPS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unregistered Cultural Heritage Sites	There are no undesignated heritage sites within the development area. The development crosses two townland boundaries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Areas/Features of Archaeological Potential	There are three additional Areas of Archaeological Potential within the proposed development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Previous Archaeological excavation- National Museum of Ireland Topographical Finds	There was one previous excavation found within the study area. No National Museum of Ireland Topographical Finds were found within the study area.

Table 15 – Summary of baseline environment.

4.3 Impact Assessment

This section assesses the likely significant impacts that the proposed development will have on the baseline/receiving environment, prior to the implementation of any mitigation measures. The

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methodology used in ascertaining the baseline value of sites, the type, magnitude and significance level of impacts is set out in Section 2 above.

Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset these impacts and the residual impact that the project will have on each site of cultural heritage significance and/or potential are provided in Sections 5 and 6 below.

4.3.1 Direct effects

Proposed substation and grid connection

The proposed substation will be a 110 kV substation with the associated grid connection comprising underground cabling which will connect to the existing 110 kV Inniscarra to Macroom overhead line via two interface towers located in the substation compound. The substation compound consists of a two storey EirGrid Control Building, IPP Control Room building, High Voltage (HV) electrical equipment and associated infrastructure including palisade fences and concrete post and rail fences.

The substation will be linked to the proposed AGLISH Solar Farm (Planning Ref. 24/0615/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25) via underground 33 kV interconnector cables. The internal interconnector cable route of the solar farm, to which the substation will link, is the subject of a separate archaeological impact assessment (O’Flaherty and O’Sullivan 2024). The planning application for the solar farm is currently under appeal.

Two new steel lattice interface towers of approximately 16 m in height will form part of the existing overhead line and both towers will connect to the proposed 110 kV substation via underground 110 kV cables. The underground 110 kV cable which will connect the substation to the two interface towers will have a direct effect on CH147, CH159 and CH160, the Townland Boundary and Areas of Archaeological Potential. There are no upstanding remains associated with CH147 and CH158–CH160, however, the groundworks and horizontal direct drilling required for the cable installation will have a potential effect on any unknown subsurface remains associated with the sites.

4.3.2 Indirect effects

Proposed substation and grid Connection

The Proposed Development boundary crosses the Zones of Notification associated with six *fulachtaí fiadh*, CH071–CH076. The cable route does not interact directly with the monuments, but there is potential for an impact on the monuments if the cable route interacts with any unknown subsurface archaeology within the associated Zones of Notification. Additionally, the buildings and fencing, as well as interface towers associated with the substation will have a long-term, indirect effect on the setting of the six *fulachtaí fiadh* (CH071–CH076) as well as 14 additional *fulachtaí fiadh* (CH077–CH085, CH097–CH101) in the surrounding landscape. Given the location of the *fulachtaí fiadh* on private land, they are not currently considered to be public amenities. Additionally, the low-lying nature of the monuments means that they are of limited existing visual amenity, and the effect of the Proposed Development on this is judged to be slight. In addition, it will have an indirect effect on the setting of a single townland boundary (CH147).

The substation compound has been sited largely away from the zones of notification associated with the monuments, which will reduce the effect on the setting and the potential archaeological impact; however, the substation development boundary crosses the Zone of Notification associated with CH073–CH075. As such the potential indirect effect on the monuments is judged to be moderate. The AIA for the AGLISH Solar Farm (Planning Ref. 24/0615/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25) includes

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the following mitigation measures which have already been incorporated into the design of the solar farm:

1. *Buffer zones around known RMP receptors have already been incorporated into the design of the proposed solar farm. All buffer zones shall be maintained during construction, operation and decommissioning of the development:*
 - *CH001, CH030, CH071–CH076, CH161: the solar farm has been designed that no solar panels or other development will take place within their Zone of Notifications.*
 - *CH073: a 4 m distance between the solar panels to the north to allow access to this receptor (as requested by Cork County Council Archaeologist).*

Applying these buffer zones for the duration of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the substation would minimise the potential impact of the Proposed Development on CH071–CH076.



CH No.	Category	Summary	Baseline Value	Effect Type	Description of Effect	Effect Magnitude	Significance of Effect
CH147	Townland Boundary	Townland Boundary	Medium/High	Direct effect	Potential direct permanent effect on unknown subsurface remains associated with the Townland Boundary.	Moderate	Slight
CH147	Townland Boundary	Townland Boundary	Medium/High	Indirect effect	The proposed substation will have a long-term, indirect effect on the setting of the Townland Boundary.	Moderate	Slight
CH159, CH160	AAP	Streams	Medium/High	Direct effect	Potential effect on unknown subsurface archaeological remains	Moderate	Slight
CH071–CH076	RMPs (x6)	<i>Fulachtaí fiadh</i>	Very High	Indirect effect	Potential effect on unknown subsurface archaeological remains within the Zone of Notification associated with the monuments. The proposed substation will have a long-term, indirect effect on the setting of the monuments.	Moderate	Moderate
CH071–CH085, CH097–CH101	RMPs (x14)	<i>Fulachtaí fiadh</i>	Very High	Indirect effect	The proposed substation will have a long-term, indirect effect on the setting of the monuments.	Slight	Moderate

Table 16 – Summary of effect and effect magnitude prior to mitigation.

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4.3.3 Cumulative effects

Cumulative effect is defined as: *‘The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact’* (Environmental Protection Agency 2017). Cumulative impacts encompass the combined effects of multiple developments or activities on a range of receptors. In this case the receptors are the archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage sites in the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme. Cumulative impacts at the construction and operational stages are considered.

The subject lands are currently in agricultural use, which will have impacted upon any sub-surface archaeological features or deposits which may be present. Past impacts upon the site include the excavation of drainage ditches, clearance of field boundaries, mechanical cultivation and construction of access routes. Other developments consist mainly of one-off housing and agricultural buildings. One-off housing and buildings are not considered to be detrimental to the setting of archaeological monuments and will not contribute to cumulative effects occurring.

It is intended that the proposed 110 kV substation and grid connection will service the Aglish Solar Farm, which is currently the subject of a planning application (Planning Ref. 24/06157/ An Coimisiún Pleanála ACP-323402-25) to Cork County Council. The Proposed Development is situated within Parcels 5 and 6 of the proposed Aglish Solar Farm. The application for the solar farm also includes the internal 33 kV underground connection which links the substation to the proposed Aglish Solar Farm. At the time of writing, the solar farm application is undetermined.

The proposed Aglish Solar Farm was the subject of a separate archaeological impact assessment (see O’Flaherty and O’Sullivan 2024). As outlined in Section 2.1, the CHD for the current assessment was compiled in part from that of the previous CHD for the proposed Aglish Solar Farm. This means that the same archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage receptors were identified by both assessments.

The proposed Aglish Solar Farm is a large scale project, measuring a total area of c. 161 hectares. Although this footprint is extensive, the majority of the area effected is localised to where subsurface groundworks will take place including the mounting of solar panels, as well as the laying of access routes and cabling. Where such groundworks are required then the construction phase of the solar farm will have a direct effect on any unknown subsurface archaeological features. The separate solar farm AIA outlined the effect the solar farm will have on the cultural heritage sites, and the recommended mitigations which reduce the effect of the mitigations.

The Proposed Development, which comprises the substation and grid connection, will have an additional localised, direct effect on any unknown subsurface archaeological features. In this way, it will combine with the Aglish Solar Farm to contribute to the cumulative effect on the known and unknown cultural heritage sites.

However, the implementation of mitigation measures recommended in Section 5 for the Proposed Development will ensure that the cumulative effect is neutral and not significant.



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Ref. Number	Distance from Subject Site	Status	Status
ABP: 323402, 24/06157	c. 0 km	Appeal Ongoing	A 10 year permission is sought for a solar farm with a total area of c. 161 hectares and all associated site works. 40 years planning permission is requested.
254354	c. 4.6 km	Granted Permission – 10/11/2023	Permission to upgrade the existing floodlighting system to playing pitch number one (the old pitch), install a diesel-powered generator to operate the upgraded floodlighting system, upgrading the existing car park lighting and all associated site works.
234312	c. 4.6 km	Granted Permission – 14/11/2023	The demolition of the existing school buildings, the removal of existing pre-fabricated temporary accommodation and the construction of a new split level, part single storey, part two storey and part three storey 1,000 pupil secondary school comprising a four classroom special education unit, a single storey multi-purpose hall, general purpose room, general classrooms, specialist classrooms, social areas, library, administration areas, service yards, external stores, covered storage areas for construction studies, toilet and changing facilities and associated ancillary accommodation. The development also includes the provision of new site entrances, car parking area, drop-off areas, new site boundary, new ball courts, playing pitch, landscaped external areas and all associated site works
ABP: 313728	c. 2.9 km	Granted Permission – 21/08/2023	The alteration of the permitted No. 62 detached house type B (under planning permission 19/06613) to 2 no. semi-detached 3 bedroom Type F houses on an extended site area and including 5 no. new detached 4 bedroom dwelling composed of; 2 no. Type B and 3 No. Type C, together with associated site development works.
ABP: 310214	c. 1 km	Granted Permission – 18/01/2022	Development of a small scale quarry for rock extraction.
ABP: 309891	c. 2.1 km	Granted Permission – 23/09/2021	Extension of existing quarry excavation area (06/13499 and PL04.226347).



Ref. Number	Distance from Subject Site	Status	Status
Reg. Ref. 22/4909	c. 6.6 km	Granted Permission – 15/06/2022	Modification to the solar farm permitted under planning reg no. 15/6625 and extended under 21/4505. The modifications consist of changes to the dimensions of the permitted photovoltaic panels, replacement of the 2 transformer stations with 1 smaller transformer station and 1 smaller storage unit, changes to the design of the delivery station and associated layout changes. All modifications are within the boundary of the permitted development.
Reg. Ref. 20/4916	c. 3.6 km	Extension of Duration Granted – 01/07/2020	A solar PV panel array consisting of up to 5,400 m ² of solar panels on ground mounted steel frames, electricity control room, power inverter unit, underground cable ducts, temporary laydown area, boundary security fence, site entrance, CCTV and all associated site works. Extension of Duration of permission granted under Planning Reference 14/06644 and (ABP 04.244539).

Table 17 – Summary of relevant planning applications in the area.

4.3.4 Visual Amenity

The sites with statutory protection are considered visual amenities due to their known protection or preservation status (statutory or otherwise), and the potential for upstanding remains to survive. The vast majority of the identified CH sites have no above grounds elements with many being identified through aerial photography. Many of the sites are far enough away not to be visually impacted by the proposed solar farm.

The proposed substation compound will have an effect on the visual amenity of CH071–CH085, CH097–CH101, a series of *fulachtaí fiadh* located along the underground cable route between the substation and interface towers. The monuments are located on private land and are not considered to be public amenities. Additionally, the low-lying nature of the monuments means that they are of limited existing visual amenity, and the effect of the Proposed Development on this is judged to be slight.



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5. MITIGATION STRATEGY

The following mitigation measures proposed are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority. They have been compiled with reference to the *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (1999).

The current state policy is that preservation *in situ* of archaeological material is the preferred option. Where this cannot be achieved then appropriate measures need to be adopted to ameliorate the impacts that the Proposed Development may have on features of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage within the study area (see Section 1.3) during both the construction and operational phases of the works.

The below recommendations have been compiled with reference to the *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (1999) as well as the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2003 *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022 *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)*.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2011 *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*.

The following mitigation measures are recommended:

1. A suitable buffer zone within which no development shall take place has been applied to the extents of CH071–CH076, whose Zones of Notification are crossed by the application boundary. This buffer zone will be informed by the geophysical survey and testing to be undertaken pre-construction. All buffer zones will be maintained during construction, operation and decommissioning of the development. Any person wishing to carry out works within the Zone of Notification associated with a known or suspected monument to which Section 14 of the *National Monuments Act 1930 (as Amended)* must obtain Ministerial Consent (see Section 3.1.1).
2. As part of an advance works programme prior to construction, a combination of geophysical survey and archaeological test trenching will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the Proposed Development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist.
3. All groundworks such as those related to the access tracks, cables, boundary fences, interface towers, landscaping and temporary compounds shall be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH). Should any archaeological material be encountered, works will cease and the County Archaeologist and National Monuments Service shall be notified. A strategy will be proposed to the local planning authority archaeologist and National Monuments Service to suitably record any archaeological material identified, and preserve any archaeological material *in situ*, where possible. Where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved, either in whole or in part, then a programme of archaeological excavation will be proposed, to ensure the preservation by record of the area of the development that will be directly impacted upon. Further work will then only be carried

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out following consultations with the local planning authority archaeologist and the National Monuments Service.

4. Where a section of an upstanding townland boundary must be removed a representative cross-section of the feature will be investigated and recorded by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to removal.
5. Results from these archaeological works shall be compiled in a detailed report setting out any findings and outlining any further mitigation measures that should be employed in relation to the proposed development. This report will be submitted to the National Monuments Service (DoHLGH) and the local planning authority archaeologist.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.



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CH No.	Phase	Baseline Value	Effect Type	Mitigation Measures	Magnitude of Effect after Implementation of Mitigation Measures	Significance of Effect after Implementation of Mitigation Measures
CH147	Construction/Operation	Medium/High	Direct effect	Mitigation Nos. 1-5	Slight	Slight
CH147	Operation	Medium/High	Indirect effect	No further mitigations recommended.	Slight	Slight
CH159, CH160	Construction	Medium/High	Direct effect	Mitigation Nos. 1-3, 5	Slight	Slight
CH071-CH076	Construction	Very High	Indirect effect	Mitigation Nos. 1-3, 5	Slight	Moderate
CH071-CH085, CH097-CH101	Operation	Very High	Indirect effect	No further mitigations recommended.	Slight	Moderate

Table 18 – Summary of effect and effect magnitude after mitigation.

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6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Archaeological Findings Summary

The archaeological assessment has identified 51 sites of archaeological, and/or cultural heritage significance within the study area (Section 1.3). These include 40 known or suspected monuments, five NIAH registration, one of which is also a Protected Structure (CH124), one previous excavation (CH131), and three Areas of Archaeological Potential (CH158–CH160). Additionally, the Proposed Development crosses one townland boundary (CH147).

The Proposed Development will have a direct effect on three CH sites, and an indirect effect on 21 CH sites.

6.2 Recommendations

It is recommended that the mitigation strategy outlined in Section 5 above be adopted. If the design of the Proposed Development is altered this assessment will need to be updated accordingly.

Please note all recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service and the local planning authority archaeologist.

6.3 Note on the timing of Archaeological Geophysical Surveys and Testing

The applicant is fully committed to completing the archaeological geophysical survey and testing after permission is granted. On review of matters, a decision has been taken by the applicant to not undertake this work at this time having regard to the following:

- Under government policy, there is a need for decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and retain security of energy supply. In terms of this energy supply, Ireland is highly dependent on imports when compared to other EU countries. This dependence on energy imports carries significant risks to national electricity supply which can be offset by domestic generation. The need for greater domestic generation is underlined by recent adverse weather conditions and electricity outages in Ireland. To deliver on government policy and to safeguard against supply shortages, projects such as the proposed solar farm must be supported by positive decision making. This point is not made in any way to downplay the importance of archaeological heritage – the applicant is fully committed to their obligations in this regard– rather, there is a need for flexibility and balance on issues. In this case, positive steps can be taken to deliver an important renewable energy project without compromising archaeological heritage by means of an appropriately worded planning condition which can alleviate any archaeological concerns on the site.
- This proposed approach aligns with the National Monuments Service (NMS) Solar Farm Developments – Internal Guidance Document (2016) which acknowledges that once a detailed assessment is complete “it should be possible to avoid a ‘Further Information’ request and...proceed to deal with the application through the recommendation of planning conditions.”. The assessment completed by Rubicon Archaeology is detailed in nature, supported by desktop research, site survey and drone analysis. The findings and recommendations provide for certainty in approach that all archaeology matters will be



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resolved in full and in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Development prior to the construction of the proposed development.

- The NMS have recently confirmed that the above referred Guidance Document is under review and being revised in close consultation with Solar Ireland (formerly the Irish Solar Energy Association). It is evident that the amended guideline will continue to be utilised into the future and the NMS has indicated to Solar Ireland that the undertaking of geophysical survey and archaeological testing on site in the ‘post-planning’ and ‘pre-construction’ phase of development will continue to be an acceptable approach.
- Planning is just one of several necessary milestones in the development lifecycle for a solar farm. There are wider non-planning programme requirements relating to grid, route to market, construction etc which must be met in order for Ireland to achieve its climate targets. A lengthy planning process carries a high risk of subsequential delays with the obvious conclusion that climate targets are at risk. The Applicant provided detailed information on solar development milestones as part of the solar farm planning application to Cork County Council response but this does not appear to have been considered by the planning authority in its decision making process. The NMS, however, has indicated an understanding of the various program and development constraints experienced by solar developers and has shown a willingness to consider same in the future amended guidelines. For the benefit of the Commission, a graphic indicting the timeline constraints and where in the process archaeological geophysical survey and further assessment can be undertaken is included in Appendix C.
- The approach is consistent with precedent established on other solar farm sites nationally, including substation / grid connections at Ballysallagh, Co. Cork (reference 321518-24), Rathcoursey, Co. Cork (reference 318685-23), Delamain, Co. Kildare (reference 319252-24), Garreenleen, Co. Carlow (reference 313193-22), and Tullabeg, Co. Wexford (reference 305803-19), among others. Based on the adopted mitigation by design avoidance strategy, and the findings of the Rubicon Archaeology Report, the applicant submits the requirement for geophysical survey and/or testing can take place post planning decision which is consistent with established precedent. In the case of the above referenced Ballysallagh and Rathcoursey Solar Farm substations / grid connections, both of these applications were granted under the auspices of the current Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028.

In the most recent case at Ballysallagh, the inspector confirmed their reasoned view that

“Overall having regard to the fact that no RMP’s are located within the substation site...I am satisfied that the proposed advance geophysical survey and advance archaeological test trenching is an acceptable approach. I concur with the Applicant that in light of the AIA conclusions and having regard to the National Monuments Service – Internal Guidance Document in relation to Solar Farms, I consider it reasonable that targeted test trenching be undertaken post permission. I note that the Board have adopted similar approaches in relation to other solar projects for example ABP-311760-21, ABP-312712-22 and ABP-318001-23”.

- It is respectfully submitted that the recent legal judgment (Coolglass Wind Farm Limited v. An Bord Pleanála [2025] IEHC1) provides for the positive determination of the subject application as proposed. This is the first judgment to consider in detail the nature and scope of the obligation imposed on public bodies by Section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act. The language of Section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act requires compliance with obligations as far as practically or possible. The



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clear direction is that there is a requirement on competent planning authorities to ensure compliance with binding EU and national commitments in relation to renewable energy development extending to a clear presumption in favour of permitted such projects in a timely manner unless there is an explicit reason they cannot. In the case of the subject substation, no such reason exists, with the completion of pre-commencement geophysical survey and testing previously accepted locally. As outlined, an appropriately worded planning condition will alleviate any archaeological concerns on the site whilst simultaneity facilitating a positive and timely decision

- The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) Enduring Connection Policy sets the terms and conditions for electrical generators access to the electricity systems. The policy “has considered evolving European and national energy policy including the prioritisation and timelines in the Government’s Climate Action Plan” and “prioritises, in the first instance, large renewable energy projects”. Streamlining planning process for both solar farms and substations and grid connections is critical to defined timeline windows for accepting grid connection offers. Delays with planning permissions can result in consequential delays in ECP (and RESS) processes as demonstrated in Appendix C.
- The applicant submits that the approach is compliant with Cork County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-9 and HE 16- 13. HE 16-9 requires the preparation of an archaeological assessment on sites of 0.5 ha or more in the county. This obligation has been fulfilled in the context of the prepared Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment Report by Rubicon Archaeology. The assessment completed for the Aglish Solar Farm complies with the Department’s requirements. Specifically, the Mitigation Strategy of the Rubicon Archaeology report confirms that specified measures have been compiled with direct reference to the ‘Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)’. The mitigation commitments made will protect and preserve previously unrecorded archaeological sites, and will require preservation *in situ* to protect any heretofore unidentified archaeological monuments discovered. This approach achieves all requirements under Objective HE 16-13.

Having regard to the above, the applicant respectfully request that a suitably worded condition be applied which will provide for the positive conclusion and resolution of all archaeological considerations in respect of the subject application. This approach will ensure that there will be no significant archaeological impacts and provides the National Monuments Service and Cork County Council with the necessary safeguards to ensure this is the case. As outlined, this approach is also fully in accordance with the National Monuments Services own Solar Farm Developments – Internal Guidance Document (2016).

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APPENDIX 1 INVENTORY OF IDENTIFIED SITES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND/OR POTENTIAL WITHIN STUDY AREA

CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH071	RMP	CO072-089----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on N side of stream. Partially overgrown kidney-shaped mound of burnt material (L 14m; Wth 7.8m; H 1m); opening (Wth 5.8m) faces SW. Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-088---) c. 100m to E.	Aglish	Very High	548229	569772
CH072	RMP	CO072-088----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In tillage, on N side of stream and c. 100m E of another <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-089---). Overgrown mound of burnt material (L 15m; Wth 15m; H 1m).	Aglish	Very High	548330	569751
CH073	RMP	CO072-087----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In pasture, to E of field fence. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined.	Currahaly	Very High	548085	569643
CH074	RMP	CO072-090001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on N side of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N side of stream (CO072-09002; CO072-09003-).	Aglish	Very High	548017	569776
CH075	RMP	CO072-090002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on N side of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N side of stream (CO072-09001-; CO072-09003-).	Aglish	Very High	548059	569784
CH076	RMP	CO072-090003-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In tillage, on N side of stream. Circular mound of burnt material (diam. 13.6m; H 1m) on E side of field fence. Shown on 1938 OS 6-inch map as mound bisected by fence; no visible surface trace on W side of fence. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N side of stream (CO072-09001-; CO072-09002-).	Aglish	Very High	548090	569783



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH077	RMP	CO072-091003-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on N side of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N side of stream (CO072-0919001-; CO072-091002-).	Aglish	Very High	547712	569773
CH078	RMP	CO072-091002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on N side of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N side of stream (CO072-091001-; CO072-091003-).	Aglish	Very High	547662	569770
CH079	RMP	CO072-091001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In tillage, on N bank of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> along N bank of stream (CO072-091002-; CO072-091003-).	Aglish	Very High	547611	569783
CH080	RMP	CO072-100001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In pasture. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined. Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-100002-) c. 15m to E.	Aglish	Very High	548118	570192
CH081	RMP	CO072-100002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In pasture. Spread of burnt material noted; extent of spread not determined. Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-100001-) c. 15m to W.	Aglish	Very High	548140	570192
CH082	RMP	CO072-099002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 7.7m; H 0.1m). One of a group of four <i>fulachta fiadh</i> in the same field (CO072-099001-; CO072-099003-; CO072-099004-).	Aglish	Very High	547971	570283



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH083	RMP	CO072-099001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 4.75m; H 0.15m). One of a group of four <i>fulachta fiadh</i> in the same field, one to S (CO072-099002), one to E (CO072-099003-) and one to NE (CO072-099004-).	Aglish	Very High	547970	570295
CH084	RMP	CO072-099003-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown mound of burnt material (diam. 5.5m; H 0.1m). One of a group of four <i>fulachta fiadh</i> in the same field (CO072-099001-; CO072-099002-; CO072-099004-).	Aglish	Very High	547993	570299
CH085	RMP	CO072-099004-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Spread of burnt material noted. One of a group of four <i>fulachta fiadh</i> in the same field (CO072-099001-; CO072-099002-; CO072-099003-).	Aglish	Very High	548018	570312
CH086	RMP	CO072-098001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In reclaimed pasture. Shown as mound on 1938 OS 6-inch map. No visible surface trace. Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> immediately to N (CO072-098002-).	Aglish	Very High	548169	570542
CH087	RMP	CO072-098002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In reclaimed pasture. Shown on 1938 OS 6-inch map as mound. No visible surface trace. Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-098001-) immediately to S.	Aglish	Very High	548163	570561
CH088	RMP	CO072-093----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In pasture, to E of stream. Spread of burnt material noted; extent not determined.	Aglish	Very High	547108	570344



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH089	RMP	CO072-092004-	Church	Close to NW corner of E section of graveyard (CO072-092003-), near centre of early ecclesiastical enclosure (CO072-092001-). Ivy-clad section of N wall (L 18.4m) and W gable (L 7.15m) are all that now stand of former parish church of Aglish; in ruins since at least 1615, S wall had fallen by 1700 (Brady 1863, vol. 1, 1-2). Junction of N and W walls survives only at foundation level. Hartnett (1939, 110) mentions 'pointed window which has been built up at an early period' and 'rectangular recess 24 inches by 21 inches' on the N wall, both features now completely masked by ivy, as are 'two narrow square-headed windows, with a slightly inward splay' (ibid.), which he describes on W gable. Exterior face of W wall has series of projecting stones set close to either corner, as if to key into additional structure. Chest tomb built against inside of W gable, similar tomb against S end of same wall. Headstone dated 1798 in interior	Aglish	Very High	547569	570547



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CH090	RMP	CO072-092003-	Graveyard	<p>On top of a E-W ridge, overlooking Lee valley to N. Approached by lane from road to W. Graveyard consists of two rectangular sections enclosed by earthen bank (H c. 1.5m); stone-faced externally, sloping down gently internally. Eastern section (c. 40m E-W; c. 35m N-S) contains fragmentary remains of parish church of Aglish (CO072-092004-), close to NW corner. Linear hollow (Wth 7m; D 0.95m) runs S from SW corner of church, immediately E of stone-faced earthen bank dividing E and W sections of graveyard. In occasional use; earliest headstone noted dated 1785, some chest tombs in vicinity of church ruin. Western section (c. 50m E-W; c. 60m N-S) named 'Friar's Field' on 1842, 1904 and 1938 OS 6-inch maps but no record of friary having existed here (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988); consists of level grassy area. Recent burials at E end; adjacent to these, on W side are two long low earthen mounds (N mound: c. 10m N-S; c. 2.5m E-W; H c. 0.3m. S mound: c. 9m N-S; c. 2.5m E-W; H c. 0.3m) of uncertain nature. Hartnett (1939, 111) noted 'traces of mounds' in this section, which are probably those described above. In 1700 reported that flax was growing in W section, which also contained foundation of house (Brady 1863, vol. 1, 2). Remains of early ecclesiastical enclosure (CO072-092001-) surround graveyard.</p>	Aglish	Very High	547567	570539
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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH091	RMP	CO072-092001-	Ecclesiastical enclosure	On top of a E-W ridge, overlooking Lee valley to N. 1842, 1904 and 1938 OS 6-inch maps show curving field fence NNW->SSE and bend in laneway SSE->W, suggesting presence of roughly circular enclosure (c. 200m N-S), within which is Aglish graveyard (CO072-092003-). Field in SW quadrant named 'Friar's Field' on all three OS 6-inch maps, but no record of friary ever existing here (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988). Field fences about graveyard are now levelled but outline of enclosure still visible as cropmark from air (see photograph, Mould 1981, 108). Included by Hurley (1982, 305) in list of 'early sites'	Aglish	Very High	547542	570544
CH092	RMP	CO072-092002-	Redundant record	Listed as a 'potential site - name' in the SMR (1988) and the RMP (1998) based on the fact that the field is named 'Friar's Field' on the 1938 OS 6-inch map. There is, however, no evidence of any religious house at this location (Gwynn and Hadcock 1988) and the name 'friars field' probably refers to the early ecclesiastical site (CO072-092001-) in which the 'friars field' is located.	Aglish	Very High	547549	570534
CH093	RMP	CO072-097----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, to SW of stream. Overgrown mound of burnt material, impossible to determine dimensions.	Aglish	Very High	547977	570850



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH094	RMP	CO072-102----	Ringfort - rath	In tillage. Depicted as oval enclosure (diam. c. 50m) on 1842 OS 6-inch map, truncated on N side by field boundary. Levelled; no visible surface trace. According to Hartnett (1939, 115), 'slightly raised platform 1 to 11/2 feet over the surrounding field indicates the position of the rampart', measuring 160 ft x 150 ft. Known locally as the fort (<i>ibid.</i>).	Farran (Muskerry East By.)	Very High	548271	570854
CH095	RMP	CO072-158----	Burnt mound	According to local information, a spread of heat-shattered stones and charcoal-enriched soil was visible when this field was ploughed in 1997. This spread could not be located in 2000 when the field was in pasture.	Farran (Muskerry East By.)	Very High	548728	570326
CH096	RMP	CO072-101----	Church	Indicated as a cruciform structure and named 'R.C. Chapel' only on the 1842 OS 6-inch map. There were no visible remains of this church in 1982. Hartnett (1939, 115) noted that while 'no vestige of masonry' survives 'a raised platform 30 by 20 yards [c. 27m by 18m] and 1 to 2 feet [0.3-0.6m] above the adjacent ground level marks the spot'. Hartnett also records that he was informed locally that this is believed to be the old parish church of Aglish and that the ground has never been tilled (<i>ibid.</i>).	Farran (Muskerry East By.)	Very High	548980	569809



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH097	RMP	CO072-086005-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, to E of stream. Circular mound of burnt material (L 9.2m; Wth 7m; H 0.5m). One of a group of five <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-086001-; CO072-086002-; CO072-086003-; CO072-086004-).	Currahaly	Very High	547575	569666
CH098	RMP	CO072-086004-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, to E of stream. Horseshoe-shaped mound of burnt material (L 9.3m; Wth 11.5m; H 1m); opening (Wth 4m) faces SE. One of a group of five <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-086001-; CO072-086002-; CO072-086003-; CO072-086005-).	Currahaly	Very High	547563	569641
CH099	RMP	CO072-086003-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (L 7.8m; Wth 4m; H 0.7m). One of a group of five <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-086001-; CO072-086002-; CO072-086004-; CO072-086005-).	Currahaly	Very High	547545	569632
CH100	RMP	CO072-086002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on E side of stream. Circular mound of burnt material (L 6.5m; Wth 4.8m; H 0.7m). One of a group of five <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-086001-; CO072-086003-; CO072-086004-; CO072-086005-).	Currahaly	Very High	547524	569649
CH101	RMP	CO072-086001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on E bank of stream. Oval mound of burnt material (L 14.6m; Wth 5.4m; H 0.5m). One of a group of five <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-086002-; CO072-086003-; CO072-086004-; CO072-086005-) in same field	Currahaly	Very High	547512	569634



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH102	RMP	CO072-085----	Ringfort - rath	In pasture. Remains of circular enclosure (diam. c. 40m) depicted on 1842 OS 6-inch map, cut by roadway running E-W. Arc (NW->NE) formed by earthen bank (H 0.4m) survives to N of roadway. Bank levelled to S of roadway; Hartnett (1939, 114) recorded 'track of rampart' here.	Currahaly	Very High	547765	569165
CH103	RMP	CO072-083002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 13.8m; H 1m). Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-083001-) immediately to NW.	Currahaly	Very High	547040	569243
CH104	RMP	CO072-083001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 12.6m). Second <i>fulacht fiadh</i> (CO072-083002-) immediately to SE.	Currahaly	Very High	547034	569253
CH105	RMP	CO072-082----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 9m; H 0.7m).	Currahaly	Very High	546903	569338
CH106	RMP	CO072-084001-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on S side of stream. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 5.7m; H 0.2m). Two other <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-084002-; CO072-084003-) to E along stream.	Currahaly	Very High	547141	569556
CH107	RMP	CO072-084002-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, on S side of stream. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 4.4m; H 0.2m). One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-084001-; CO072-084003-).	Currahaly	Very High	547169	569560



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CH No.	Category	ID	Summary	Description	Townland	Baseline Value	ITM E	ITM N
CH108	RMP	CO072-084003-	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground. Partially overgrown circular mound of burnt material (diam. 8m; H 0.2m). One of a group of three <i>fulachta fiadh</i> (CO072-084001-; CO072-084002-).	Currahaly	Very High	547191	569575
CH109	RMP	CO072-145----	Enclosure	Cropmark in tillage (AP: Dr D.D.C. Pochin Mould) shown univallate circular enclosure (diam. c. 50m).	Knocknagoul	Very High	546858	569784
CH110	RMP	CO072-081----	<i>Fulacht fia</i>	In marshy ground, to E of spring. Kidney-shaped mound of burnt material (L 7.8m; Wth 4.8m; H 0.7m); opening (Wth 5.5m) faces NW.	Knocknagoul	Very High	546808	569527
CH121	NIAH	20907219	Monument	Freestanding limestone monument, erected c.1945, comprising cross with foliated ends of arms having inscription at crossing, set on inscribed pedestal. Set on roughly dressed stone plinth and approached by flight of steps. This limestone cross is erected in memory of James Foley and describes him as a local republican involved in the struggle for Irish Independence.	Currahaly	High	547603	569157

Note: The abbreviations that have been used for the 'Category' section are as follows:

RMP:	Recorded archaeological monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
NIAH:	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
RPS:	Record of Protected Structures
EX	Previous excavation
TB	Townland boundary
AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential

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APPENDIX 2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

EIA Legislation

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC requires that certain developments be assessed for likely environmental effects before planning permission can be granted. The EIA Amendment Regulations, SI 93 OF 1999 specifies in Section 2(b) of the Second Schedule, *Information to be Contained in an Environmental Impact Statement*, that among other factors, information is to be provided on:

‘Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage’

Each of these assets is addressed within this assessment report.

Cultural Heritage Legislation

Archaeological Monuments/Sites

Archaeological heritage is protected primarily under the edited. Section 2 of the 1930 *National Monuments Act* defines the word ‘monument’ as including:

‘any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes’.

Under the 1994 Act, provision was made for a Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). The RMP is a revised set of SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) maps, on which newly discovered sites have been added and locations which proved not to be of antiquity have been de-listed by the National Monuments Service.

In effect, the *National Monuments Act 1930–2014*, as amended provide a statutory basis for:

- Protection of sites and monuments (RMPs).
- Sites with Preservation Orders.
- Ownership and Guardianship of National Monuments.
- Register of Historic Monuments (pre-dating AD 1700).
- Licensing of archaeological excavations.
- Licensing of Detection Devices.
- Protection of archaeological objects.
- Protection of wrecks and underwater heritage (more than 100 years old).

In relation to proposed works at or in the vicinity of a recorded archaeological monument, Section 12 (3) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994* states:

‘When the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded [in the Record of Monuments and Places] or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry

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out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.'

Archaeological artefacts

Section 2 of the 1930 *National Monuments Act (Amended)* defines an archaeological object as (in summary) any chattel in a manufactured or partly manufactured state or an unmanufactured state but with an archaeological or historical association. This includes ancient human, animal or plant remains.

Section 9 (1) of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994* states that any such artefact recovered during archaeological investigations should be taken into possession by the licensed archaeological director and held on behalf of the state until such a time as they are deposited accordingly subsequent to consultation with the National Museum of Ireland.

Architectural Sites

In 1997 Ireland ratified the Granada Convention on architectural heritage. This provided the basis for a national commitment to the protection of the architectural heritage throughout the country. The *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999* and *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000* made the legislative changes necessary to provide for a strengthening of the protection of architectural heritage. The former Act has helped to provide for a forum for the strengthening of architectural heritage protection as it called for the creation of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage which is used by local authorities for compiling the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in each respective county's Development Plan and provides statutory protection for these monuments.

Section 1 (1) of the *Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999* states:

'architectural heritage means all—

- (a) structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,*
- (b) groups of such structures and buildings, and*
- (c) sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'*

The 1999 Act was replaced by the *Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000* where the conditions relating to the protection of architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of the Act. Section 57 (1) of the 2000 Act states that:

'...the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of—

- (a) the structure, or*
- (b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest'*

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APPENDIX 3 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS USED

The following sets out the definitions of the terms which are used throughout the report:

- (i) The phrase ‘cultural heritage’ is a generic term used in reference to a multitude of cultural, archaeological and architectural sites and monuments. The term ‘cultural heritage’, in compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to be of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest.
- (ii) For the purpose of this assessment, each identified cultural heritage site is assigned a unique cultural heritage number with the prefix ‘CH’.
- (iii) A feature recorded in the ‘Record of Monuments and Places’ (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930–2014, as amended. When reference is made to the distance between an RMP and the proposed development site (see below), this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.
- (iv) An ‘area of archaeological potential’ refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.
- (v) The term ‘proposed development site’ refers to the defined area of land within which the proposed development, including access tracks etc, may be constructed.
- (vi) In relation to the term ‘study area’ please see Section 1.3 above.
- (vii) The term ‘receiving environment’ refers to the broader landscape within which the study area is situated. Examination of the site’s receiving environment allows the study area to be analysed in its wider cultural context.
- (viii) The terms ‘baseline environment’ and ‘cultural heritage resource’ refer to the existing, identifiable environment against which potential effects of the proposed scheme may be measured.

Note: Information regarding archaeological site types and periods is provided in a glossary in Appendix 4.

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APPENDIX 4 GLOSSARY AND DEFINITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS

Church: A building used for public Christian worship. These can be of any date from *c.* AD 500 onwards.

Burnt mound: A circular or irregularly shaped mound of material consisting of burnt stones, ash and charcoal with no surface evidence of a trough or depression. Levelled examples can appear as a spread containing burnt stones. These can be of any date from the Bronze Age (*c.* 2400–500 BC) to the early medieval period (5th–12th century AD). See also *Fulacht fia*.

Enclosure: An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.

Field boundary: A continuous linear or curving bank, wall or drain which defines the limits of a field. These date to any period from the Neolithic (*c.* 4000–2400 BC) onwards.

Ringfort – rath: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse. Some examples have two (bivallate) or three (trivallate) banks and fosses, but these are less common and have been equated with higher status sites belonging to upper grades of society. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from AD 500 to 1000.

Ringfort – unclassified: A roughly circular or oval area surrounded by an earthen bank with an external fosse (see Ringfort - rath) or a stone wall (see Ringfort - cashel). The term Ringfort - unclassified is used in instances where the surviving remains are insufficient to determine whether the monument was originally a rath or cashel. They functioned as residences and/or farmsteads and broadly date from 500 to 1000 AD.

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APPENDIX 5 CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2022-2028) EXCERPT

- *Cork County Development Plan (2022-2028)*: This Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Cork County over a 6-year period.
- The County's national heritage is protected by a number of different pieces of legislation. The *National Monuments Acts (1930–2004)* provide for the protection of our archaeological heritage. Our buildings, townscapes and landscapes are protected under the Planning and Development Acts. In addition, there are a number of international conventions and agreements relating to our heritage, which Ireland has ratified including the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, which clearly requires that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) includes consideration of effects on archaeological heritage.
- *Heritage Ireland 2030* has replaced the *National Heritage Plan (2002)* with updated national policy priorities in relation to the protection and management of our national heritage (built, cultural and natural). These documents are underpinned by the core principle that heritage belongs to us all and we all share a responsibility to protect it.
- The responsibility of Local Authorities in relation to the care and protection of heritage is also identified in the National Heritage Plan. Key actions in these plans include the requirement of Local Authorities to prepare and implement Local Heritage Plans in partnership with the main stakeholders in the area. The Cork County Heritage Plan was adopted in 2005 and is currently in its implementation phase. Actions arising from the current Plan include 8 heritage publications which focus on a range of issues including guidance on the protection of areas of special cultural interest (Múscraí Heritage Plan), a detailed publication on the county's archaeological resource and guidance on specific elements of built heritage value including shopfronts and works within Architectural Conservation Areas.
- A series of beautifully illustrated historic maps have also been produced for a selection of County Towns to aid education and awareness of the County's rich urban heritage. This process is ongoing.
- The Plan also recognises the overlapping policy themes that Built and Cultural Heritage shares with other Chapters within the Plan. At a site level, for example, there is potential for negative effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna where older building stock provides habitat for roosting bats, owls etc. and is refurbished without mitigation measures being implemented. The Plan therefore recommends consultation with Chapter 15 Biodiversity and Environment in this instance and supports the requirement for an ecological assessment (where appropriate).
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-1: County Heritage Plan**
- Continue to implement the current *County Heritage Plan (2005)* in partnership with relevant stakeholders and any successor of this document.
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-2: Protection of Archaeological Sites and Monuments**
- Secure the preservation (i.e. preservation *in situ* or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments and their setting included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (see www.archaeology.ie) and the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally.
- In securing such preservation, the planning authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the *Development Applications Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage* as outlined in the *Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* policy document or any changes to the policy within the lifetime of the Plan.
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-3: Underwater Archaeology**



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- Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated underwater and terrestrial features. In assessing proposals for development, the development will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, wetlands, intertidal and sub-tidal environments through appropriate archaeological assessment by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- **County Development Plan Objective 16-4: Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns and Settlements**
- Proposed development works in Historic Towns and settlements, Zones of Archaeological Potential, Zones of Notification and the general historic environs in proximity to the zones, should take cognisance of the impact potential of the works, and all appropriate archaeological assessments employed to identify and mitigate the potential impacts
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-5: Zones of Archaeological Potential**
- Protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) located within historic towns, urban areas and around archaeological monuments generally. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the upstanding and potential for subsurface archaeology, through appropriate archaeological assessment.
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-6: Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology**
- Protect and preserve industrial and post-medieval archaeology and long-term management of heritage features such as mills, lime-kilns, forges, bridges, piers and harbours, water-related engineering works and buildings, penal chapels, dwellings, walls and boundaries, farm buildings, estate features, military and coastal installations. There is a general presumption for retention of these structures and features. Proposals for appropriate redevelopment including conversion should be subject to an appropriate assessment and record by a suitably qualified specialist/s
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-7: Battlefield, Ambush and Siege Sites and Defensive Archaeology**
- Protect and preserve the defensive archaeological record of County Cork including strategic battlefield, ambush and siege sites, and coastal fortifications and their associated landscape due to their historical and cultural value. Any development within or adjoining these areas shall undertake a historic assessment by a suitably qualified specialist to ensure development does not negatively impact on this historic landscape.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-8: Burial Places**
- Protect all historical burial places and their setting in County Cork and encourage their maintenance and care in accordance with appropriate conservation principles
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-9: Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes**
- All large scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5 ha or more in area or 1 km or more in length) and Infrastructure schemes and proposed roadworks are subjected to an archaeological assessment as part of the planning application process which should comply with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's codes of practice. It is recommended that the assessment is carried out following pre planning consultation with the County Archaeologist, by an appropriately experienced archaeologist to guide the design and layout of the proposed scheme/development, safeguarding the archaeological heritage in line with Development Management Guidelines.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-10: Management of Monuments within Development Sites**
- Where archaeological sites are accommodated within a development it shall be appropriately conservation/ protection with provision for a suitable buffer zone and long-term management plan put in place all to be agreed in advance with the County Archaeologist.



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- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-11: Archaeological Landscapes**
- To protect archaeological landscapes and their setting where the number and extent of archaeological monuments are significant and as a collective are considered an important archaeological landscape of heritage value.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-12: Raising Archaeological Awareness**
- As part of the Heritage Plan it is an objective to develop a management plan, if resources allow, for the archaeology of County Cork, which could include an evaluation of the Historic Character Assessment of Cork County helping to identify areas for tourism potential, and strategic research while also promoting best practice in archaeology and encouraging the interpretation, publication and dissemination of archaeological findings from the development application process.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-13: Undiscovered Archaeological Sites**
- To protect and preserve previously unrecorded archaeological sites within County Cork as part of any development proposals. The Council will require preservation *in situ* to protect archaeological monuments discovered. Preservation by record will only be considered in exceptional circumstances
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-14: Record of Protected Structures**
- (a) The identification of structures for inclusion in the Record will be based on criteria set out in the *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2011).
- (b) Extend the Record of Protected Structures in order to provide a comprehensive schedule for the protection of structures of special importance in the County during the lifetime of the Plan as resources allow.
- (c) Seek the protection of all structures within the County, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. In accordance with this objective, a Record of Protected Structures has been established and is set out in Volume Two Heritage and Amenity, Chapter 1 Record of Protected Structures.
- (d) Ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) contained in the Record of Protected Structures.
- (e) Protect the curtilage and attendant grounds of all structures included in the Record of Protected Structures.
- (f) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.
- (g) Ensure high quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.
- (h) Promote and ensure best conservation practice through the use of specialist conservation professionals and craft persons.
- (i) In the event of a planning application being granted for development within the curtilage of a protected structure, that the repair of a protected structure is prioritised in the first instance i.e. the proposed works to the protected structure should occur, where appropriate, in the first phase of the development to prevent endangerment, abandonment and dereliction of the structure.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-15: Protection of Structures on the NIAH**
- Protect where possible all structures which are included in the NIAH for County Cork, that are not currently included in the Record of Protected Structures, from adverse impacts as part of the development management functions of the County.



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- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-16: Protection of Non- Structural Elements of Built Heritage**
- Protect non-structural elements of the built heritage. These can include designed gardens/garden features, masonry walls, railings, follies, gates, bridges, shopfronts and street furniture. The Council will promote awareness and best practice in relation to these elements.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-17: Areas of Special Planning Control**
- Establish areas of special planning control within Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate. These areas will include a scheme setting out objectives for the conservation and enhancement of the special character of the area and will be based on an Architectural Appraisal of each town.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-18: Architectural Conservation Areas**
- Conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas included in this Plan. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock, material finishes, spaces, streetscape, shopfronts, landscape and setting. This will be achieved by;
 - (a) Protecting all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all other features considered to be intrinsic elements to the special character of the ACA from demolition and non-sympathetic alterations.
 - (b) Promoting appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within the ACA and securing appropriate infill development.
 - (c) Ensure new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area and contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.
 - (d) Protect structures from demolition and non-sympathetic alterations.
 - (e) Promoting high quality architectural design within ACAs.
 - (f) Seek the repair and re-use of traditional shopfronts and where appropriate, encourage new shopfronts of a high quality architectural design.
 - (g) Ensure all new signage, lighting advertising and utilities to buildings within ACAs are designed, constructed and located in such a manner they do not detract from the character of the ACA.
 - (h) Protect and enhance the character and quality of the public realm within ACAs. All projects which involve works within the public realm of an ACA shall undertake a character assessment of the said area which will inform a sensitive and appropriate approach to any proposed project in terms of design and material specifications. All projects shall provide for the use of suitably qualified conservation architects/ designers.
 - (i) Protect and enhance the character of the ACA and the open spaces contained therein. This shall be achieved through the careful and considered strategic management of all signage, lighting, utilities, art works/pieces/paintings, facilities etc to protect the integrity and quality of the structures and spaces within each ACA.
 - (j) Ensure the protection and reuse of historic street finishes, furniture and features which contribute to the character of the ACA.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-19: Vernacular Heritage**
- (a) Protect, maintain and enhance the established character, forms, features and setting of vernacular buildings, farmyards and settlements and the contribution they make to our architectural, archaeological, historical, social and cultural heritage and to local character and sense of place.
- b) Cork County Council encourages best conservation practice in the renovation and maintenance of vernacular buildings including thatched structures through the use of specialist



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conservation professionals and craft persons. Development proposals shall be accompanied by appropriate documentation compiled by experienced conservation consultant.

- c) There will generally be a presumption in favour of the retention of vernacular buildings and encouragement of the retention and re-use of vernacular buildings subject to normal planning considerations, while ensuring that the re-use is compatible with environmental and heritage protection.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-20: Historic Landscapes**
- (a) Recognise the contribution and importance of historic landscapes and their contribution to the appearance of the countryside, their significance as archaeological, architectural, historical and ecological resources.
- (b) Protect the archaeological, architectural, historic and cultural element of the historic/heritage landscapes of the County of Cork.
- (c) All new development within historic landscapes should be assessed in accordance with and giving due regard to Cork County Councils 'Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings' or any other relevant guidance notes or documents issued during the lifetime of the Plan.
- **County Development Plan Objective HE 16-21: Design and Landscaping of New Buildings**
- (a) Encourage new buildings that respect the character, pattern and tradition of existing places, materials and built forms and that fit appropriately into the landscape.
- (b) Promote sustainable approaches to housing development by encouraging new building projects to be energy efficient in their design and layout.
- (c) Foster an innovative approach to design that acknowledges the diversity of suitable design solutions in most cases, safeguards the potential for exceptional innovative design in appropriate locations and promotes the added economic, amenity and environmental value of good design.
- (d) Require the appropriate landscaping and screen planting of proposed developments by using predominantly indigenous/local species and groupings and protecting existing hedgerows and historic boundaries in rural areas. Protection of historical/commemorative trees will also be provided for.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-22: Village Design Statements**
- Facilitate the preparation and implementation of village design statements and other community led projects and plans to enhance village environments whilst ensuring that such initiatives are consistent with other Plan policies.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-23: Cultural Heritage**
- Protect and promote the cultural heritage of County Cork as an important economic asset and for its intrinsic value to identity of place and the well-being of people within the County.
- **County Development Plan Objectives HE 16-24: Naming of New Developments**
- Promote and preserve local place names, local heritage and the Irish language by ensuring the use of local place names or geographical or cultural names which reflect the history and landscape of their setting in the naming of new residential and other developments. Such an approach will be a requirement of planning permissions for new developments.

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APPENDIX 6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Site Name: AGLISH

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A **Licence Number:** 08 E0788

Author: Miriam Carroll, Tobar Archaeological Services, Saleen, Midleton, Cork.

Site Type: No archaeological significance

Period/Dating: —

ITM: E 547549 m, N 570383 m

Testing of a Proposed Development site at AGLISH, Co. Cork, was undertaken as part of an impact assessment. The development consisted of the construction of an extension to a private house and associated services, within the constraint zone for an ecclesiastical enclosure (CO072-092/01), church (CO072-092/04) and graveyard (CO072-092/03). No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during testing.

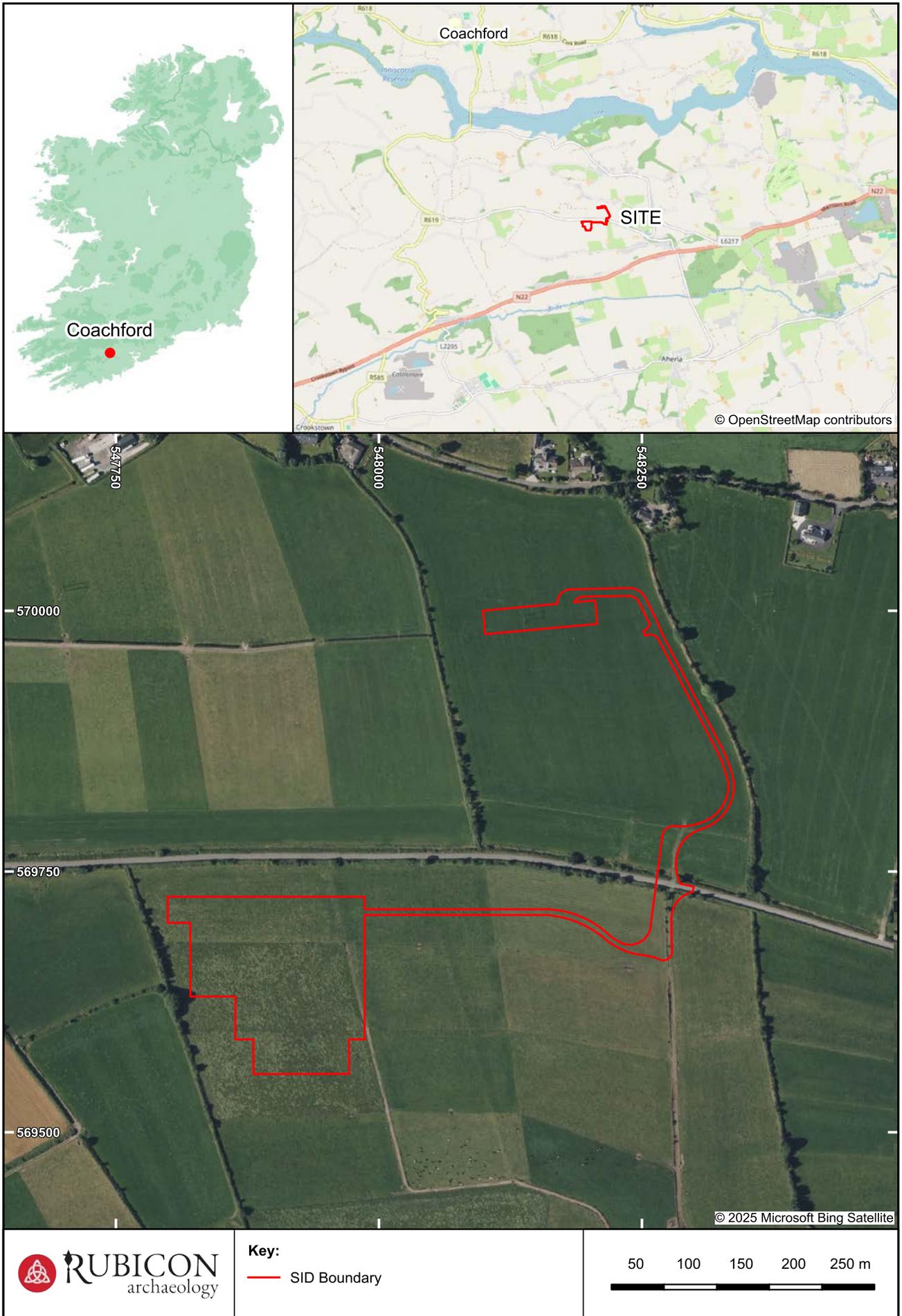


Figure 1 - Site location.

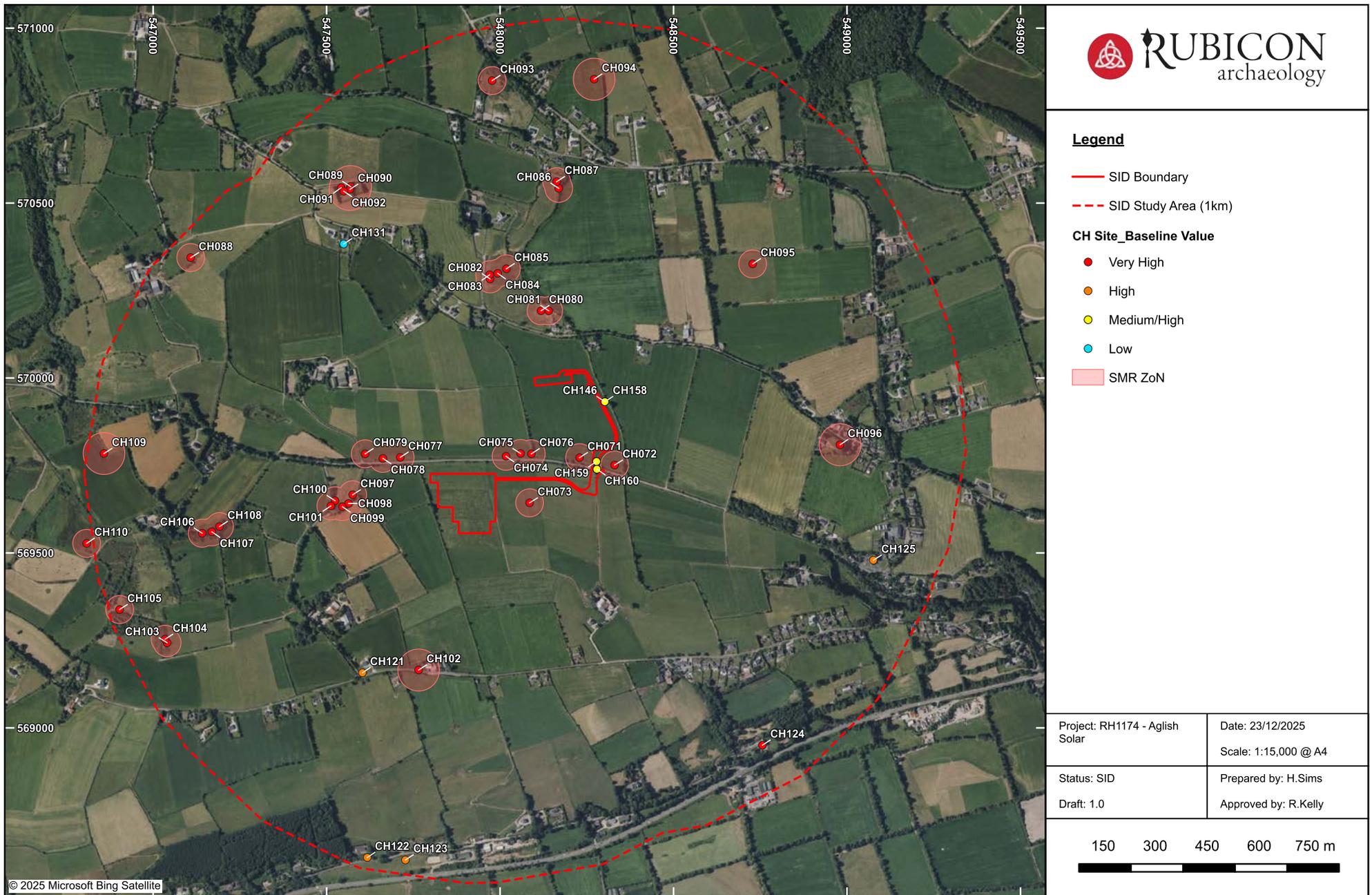


Figure 2 - Cultural Heritage sites within the proposed development study area.

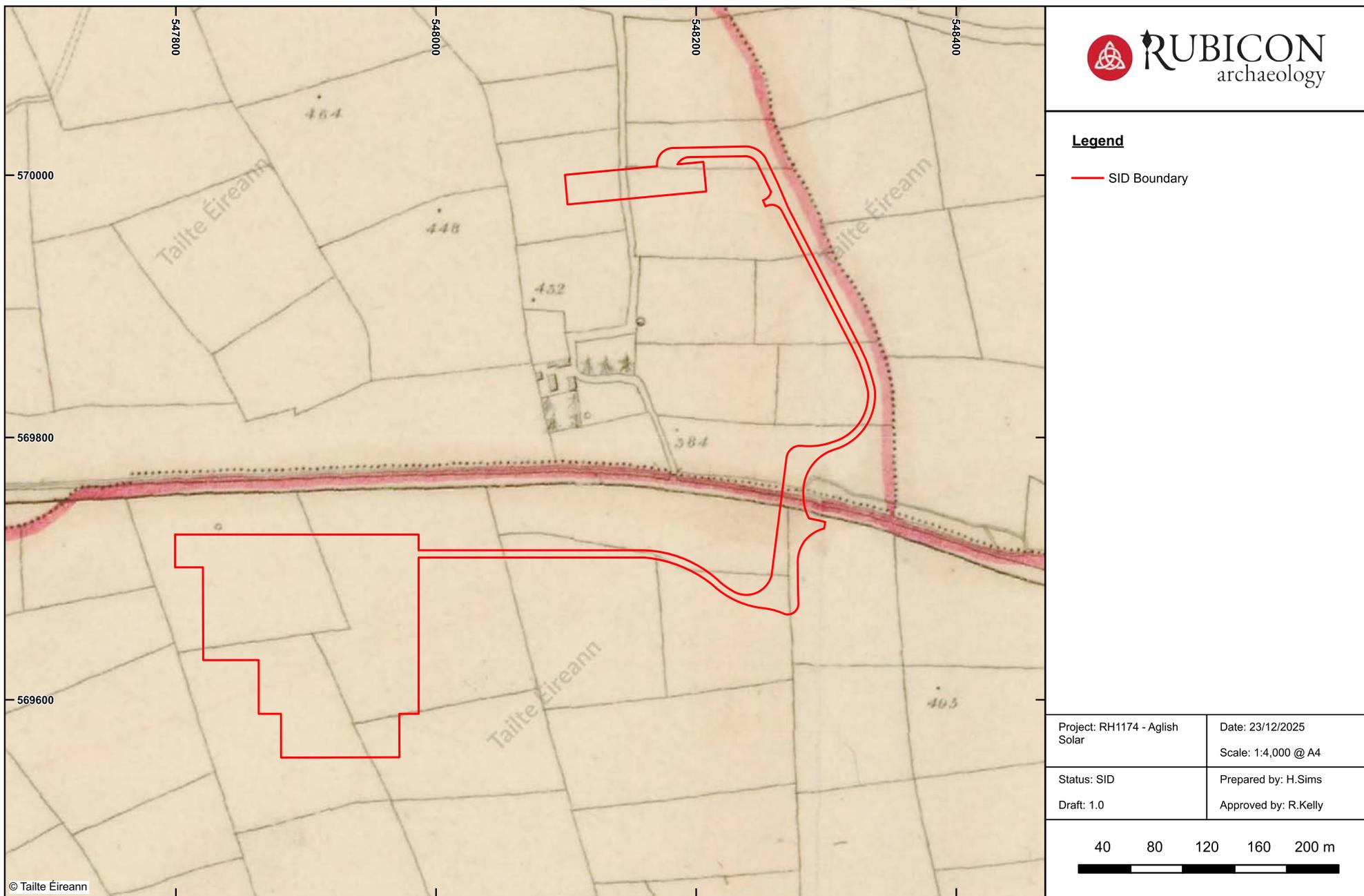


Figure 3 - First edition 6-inch OS map with proposed substation development.

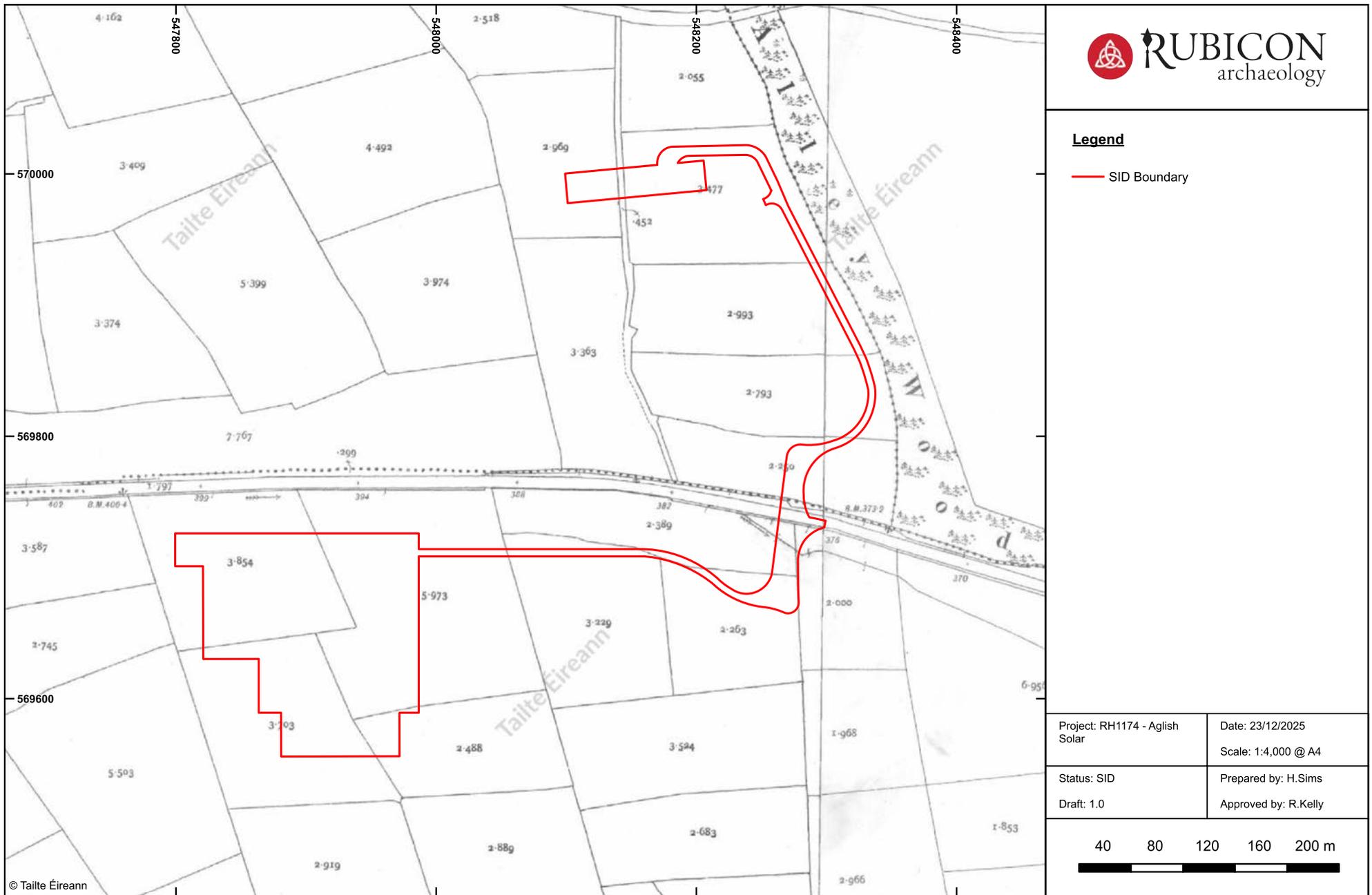


Figure 4 - First edition 25-inch OS map with proposed substation development.

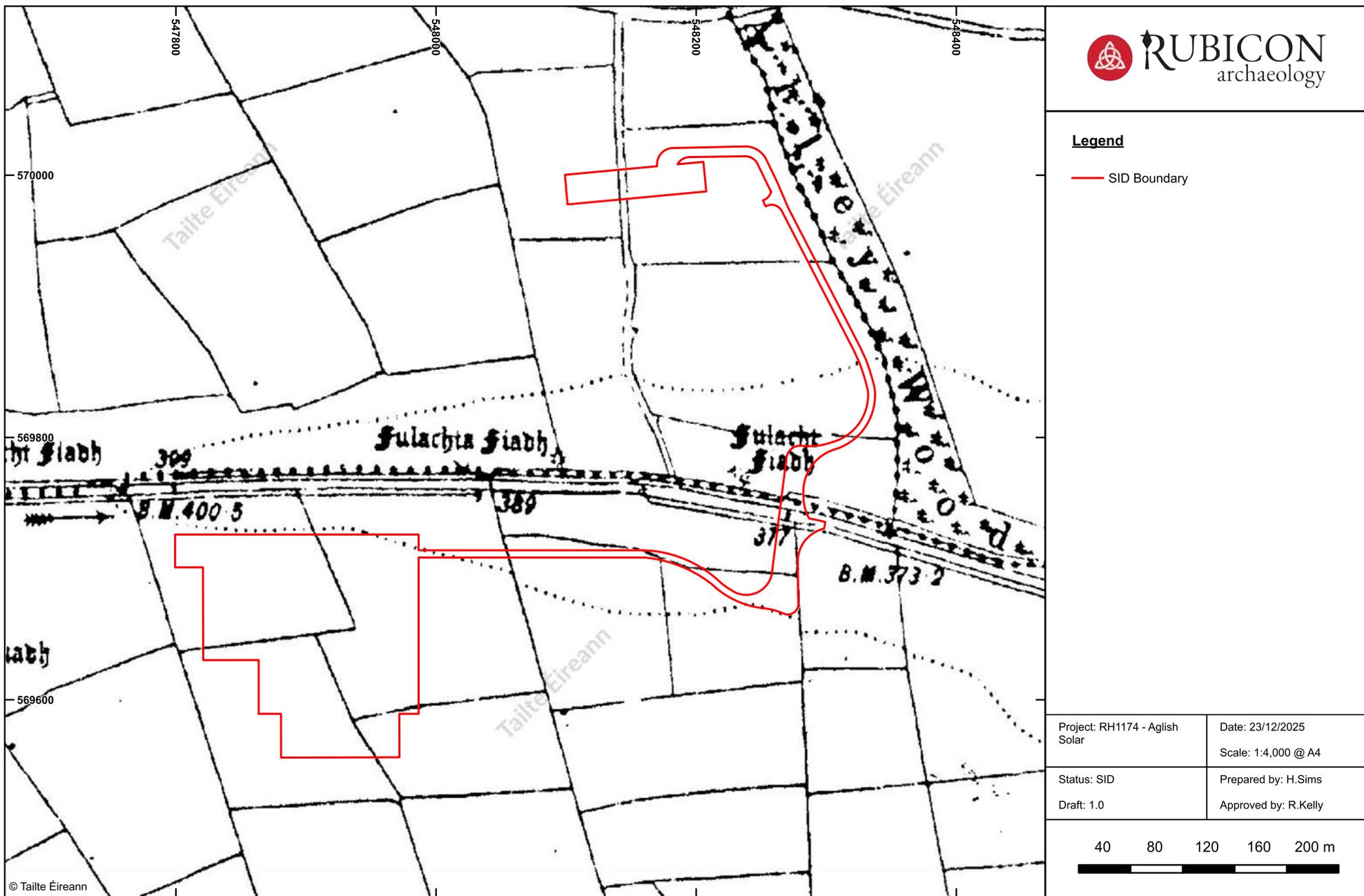


Figure 5 - Cassini edition 6-inch OS map with proposed substation development.

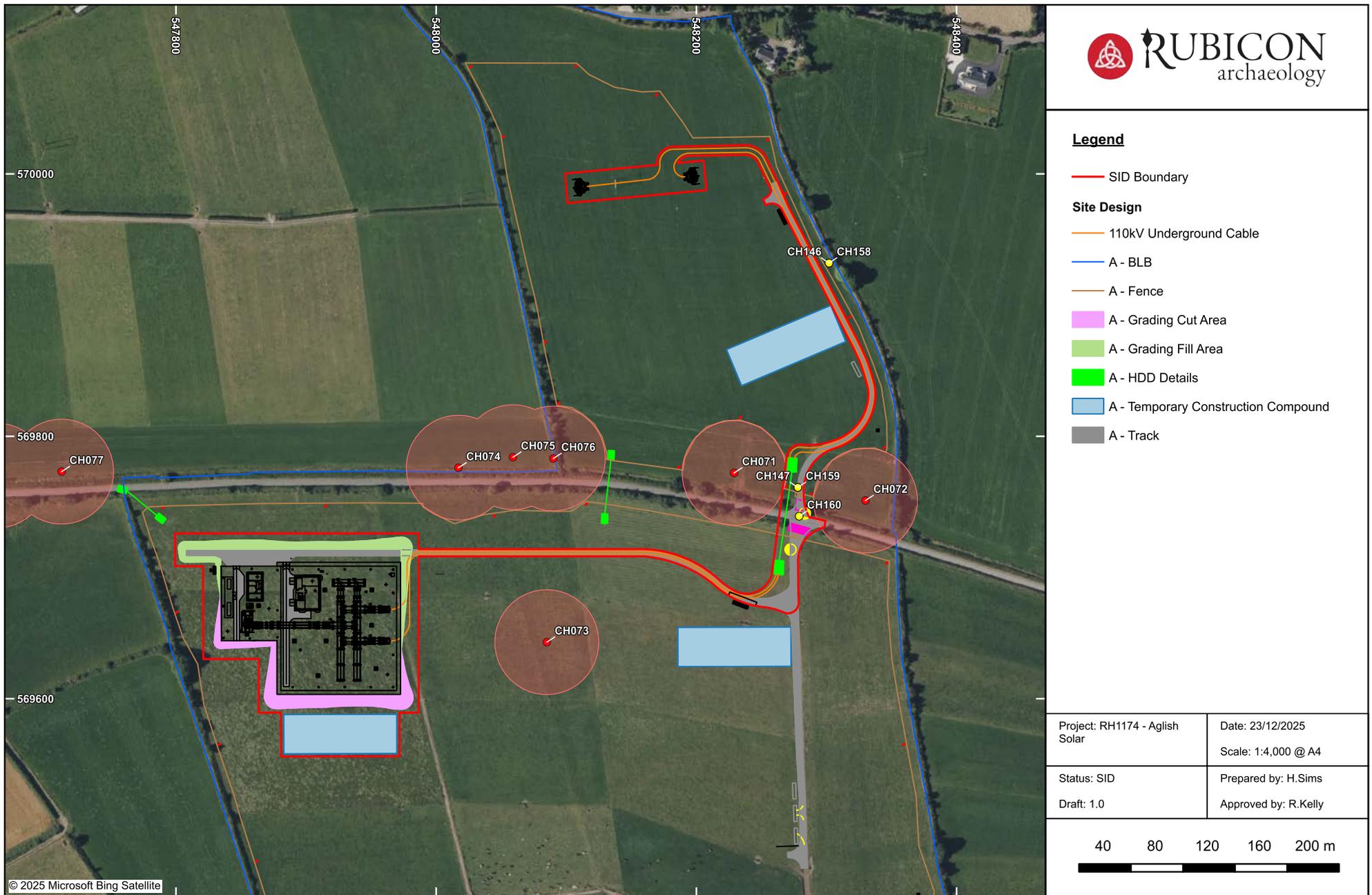


Figure 6 - Proposed substation layout with CH sites.



Plate 1 - Parcel 5, View of the location of CH071 (Fulacht Fia) and CH159, facing west



Plate 2 - View of the location of CH076 (Fulacht Fia) and CH159, facing west



Plate 3 - View of the location of CH072 (Fulacht Fia), and CH159, stream marking townland boundary (CH147), facing northwest



Plate 4 - View of the location of CH146 (Townland Boundary) and CH158 (Stream), facing northeast



Plate 5 - View of development area, facing south



Plate 6 - View of the location of CH073, facing north



Plate 7 - View of the location of CH074, CH075 and CH076 (Fulachtai Fia) in field adjacent Parcel 5, facing north