

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR THE PROPOSED COOM GREEN ENERGY PARK GRID CONNECTION

VOLUME 2 – MAIN EIAR

CHAPTER 13 - ARCHAEOLOGY, ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Prepared for:

Coom Green Energy Limited



Date: April 2026

Document No:

P24308-FT-EGN-XX-RP-EN-0001

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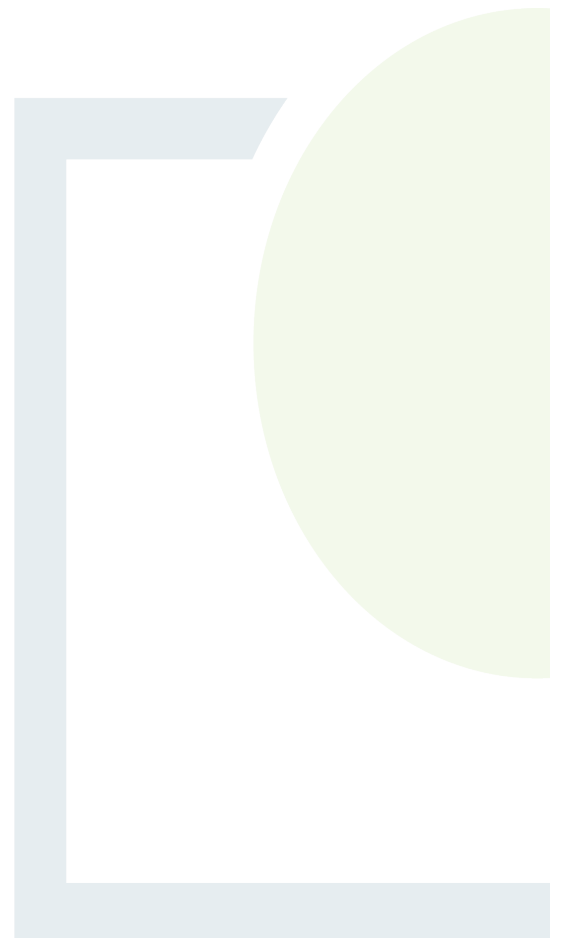


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13. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

13.1 Introduction

This chapter assesses the potential effects of the Proposed Development, as described in Chapter 2 – Development Description, on the cultural heritage resource. The term ‘cultural heritage’ encompasses heritage constraints relevant to both the tangible resource (including archaeology and architectural heritage); and non-tangible resources (including historical associations, folklore, tradition, language and placenames). The recorded and potential cultural heritage resource within a study area described in Section 13.4 of this chapter was assessed in order to compile a comprehensive cultural heritage baseline for the location of the Proposed Development as well as the surrounding lands.

The potential for direct and indirect effects during construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, as well as cumulative effects, are assessed herein. Where likely adverse effects on cultural heritage constraints are identified, appropriate mitigation strategies to be adopted to ameliorate these effects are outlined and residual effects following the application of these mitigation measures are also assessed.

This Chapter should be read in conjunction with the following appendices:

- Appendix 13.1 – Cultural Heritage Figures
- Appendix 13.2 – Cultural Heritage Photographic Record

The Proposed Development as referenced throughout this assessment refers to all elements of the project to be assessed in the EIAR, the details of which are set out within Chapter 2 - Development Description. The key elements of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- A 110 kV Underground Cable (UGC) Grid Connection Route from the proposed onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110 kV substation located near Rathcormac, Co. Cork.
- A 33kV Underground Cable (UGC) Collector Network Route between the western and eastern arrays of the permitted Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) development.
- A 110kV onsite substation at Lackendarragh, Co. Cork

13.2 Statement of Authority

The chapter was prepared by Tony Cummins who is a Senior Archaeologist with John Cronin & Associates. Mr. Cummins holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in archaeology (University College Cork (UCC) 1992/1994) and has accumulated thirty years’ continuous professional experience. He has extensive experience in the preparation of cultural heritage impact assessments for infrastructure developments which has included carrying out programmes of desktop research, field surveys and site investigations as well as liaising with project design teams and relevant local and national authorities. Assessment Methodology



13.2.1 Introduction

The methodology used for this assessment was in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (2022) *Guidelines for Information to be Contained in EIAR* and the European Commission (2017) *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report*. The assessment has also been carried out in accordance with guidelines for the assessment of impacts on the cultural heritage resource published in the International Council on Monuments and Sites *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011). The chapter complies with the requirements of Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

The assessment was based on desk-based research combined with an inspection of the Proposed Development and these were undertaken to identify any known or potential sites or features of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance that may be impacted by the Proposed Development. There are no professional guidelines which define the extent of study areas required to assess the effects of wind farm developments on the cultural heritage resource. The extent of the study area used for this assessment are, therefore, informed by the years of experience and professional judgement of the specialist and is considered suitable for the assessment of potential effects. The study area reviewed for the assessment comprised the area within the boundary of the Proposed Development as well as lands extending for 100m from its boundary. The extent of this study areas is suitable as it facilitated the compilation of a baseline context for the known cultural heritage resource within the boundary of the Proposed Development and its surrounds which informed the assessment of any likely direct and indirect significant effects on the locations and settings of known cultural heritage constraints.

13.2.2 Legal and Planning Context

The management and protection of the Irish cultural heritage resource is achieved through a framework of international conventions, national laws, guidelines and planning policies. This framework includes legislation established in accordance with the provisions of the 'European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage' (the Valletta Convention) and the 'European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage' (Grenada Convention) which were both ratified by Ireland in 1997. In addition, the UNESCO 'Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage', 2003, was ratified by Ireland in 2015. The National Monuments Service (NMS) and the National Built Heritage Service (NBHS), which are currently based in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), are responsible for the protection and promotion of Ireland's archaeological and architectural heritage resource.

The legislation, development plans and guidelines relevant to this assessment include the following:

- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023;
- National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended);
- Heritage Act 1995 (as amended);
- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 (as amended);
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (2011) Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999) Framework and Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage;
- DHLGH and Office of the Public Regulator (2022) A Guide to Architectural Heritage; and
- DHLGH and Office of the Public Regulator (2021) Archaeology in the Planning Process.



The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was signed into law in October 2023. While the Act is now law most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister has made one or more “Commencement Orders”. Section 7 of the Act (which provides for the repeal of the National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended) and related legislation) has not entered into force. Accordingly, the National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended) remain fully in force at the time of writing in April 2026. The Act contains transitional provisions which will, if necessary, enable certain aspects of the existing National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended) to continue in operation notwithstanding their repeal post-commencement of the Act while successor provisions are being brought fully into operation. The National Monuments Acts 1930 (as amended) therefore currently remains the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of the archaeological resource. There are a number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended) that are applied to secure the protection of the archaeological resource. These include the designation of National Monument status to examples considered to be of national significance as well as listing monuments in the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition, Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders may also be assigned to archaeological sites that are deemed to be in danger of damage or destruction.

Section 2 of the National Monument Act 1930 describes a National Monument as ‘a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto’. The prior written consent of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is required for works at or in proximity to a National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority as well as archaeological sites which are subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) comprises county-based lists and maps of archaeological monuments and places for each county in the State. It was established under Section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and was based on the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). All archaeological sites listed in the RMP receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended). Any person (including a landowner) proposing to carry out, or to cause or to permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to a recorded monument must give notice in writing to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage two months before commencing that work.

The NMS also maintains an online Historic Environment Viewer (HEV)¹ which comprises an interactive map/search facility that provides access to digital copies of the RMP maps and lists as well as the current SMR database, which is subject to ongoing updates, including the addition of archaeological sites that have been identified since the publication of the RMP. The “zones of notification” shown around archaeological sites on the RMP maps, as well as on online HEV, do not comprise formal buffer or exclusion zones but are intended to indicate areas that require particular consideration in relation to potential impacts on the relevant site or monument².

¹ <https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0c9eb9575b544081b0d296436d8f60f8>

² <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/archaeology-planning-process-pl13.pdf>



The protection of architectural heritage is provided for through the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Heritage Act 1995 (as amended). Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act 1995 (as amended), defines architectural heritage as including:

All structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes railways and related buildings and structures and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such railway, building or structure.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires Planning Authorities to keep a 'Record of Protected Structures' (RPS) which list buildings and other structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The RPS is listed in Local Authority development plans and planning permission is required for any works to such structures that would affect their character. This Act also provides for the inclusion of objectives for preserving the character of places, areas, groups of structures or townscapes of special interest which are designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). In addition, the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), including the NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, comprises a record of built heritage structures and associated lands within the State. While inclusion in a NIAH inventory does not provide statutory protection, the inventory is intended to advise Local Authorities on the compilation of their Records of Protected Structures.

The Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028³ includes a range of objectives in relation to the protection of the cultural heritage resource within the county and these include the following:

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.

HE 16-3: Underwater Archaeology: 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.

HE 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.

³ <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/planning-and-development/cork-county-development-plan-2022-2028>



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.

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, limekilns, 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.

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.

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.

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 1km 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.

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.

HE 16-11: Archaeological Landscape: 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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 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.



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.

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

13.2.3 Desktop Study

There were no difficulties in compiling information encountered during the compilation of this assessment. Section 13.4 of the chapter presents the results of the desktop study of relevant published sources and datasets which was carried out in order to identify all recorded and potential archaeological, architectural and other cultural heritage sites/features/areas within the environs of the Proposed Development. The principal sources reviewed for the assessment of the known archaeological resource were the SMR and RMP for County Cork. The Records of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas published in the current Cork County Development Plan and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) were consulted in relation to the designated architectural heritage resource.

Other sources consulted as part of the assessment included the following:

National Monuments in State Care and Preservation Orders: A review of the National Monuments in State Care in County Cork⁴ and archaeological sites subject to Preservation Orders⁵ was carried out as part of the assessment.

Archaeological Inventory of County Cork Volumes 3 and 5: These publications present summary descriptions of the recorded archaeological sites within this area of the county and the relevant entries are included within the chapter (Section 13.4). These inventories were published in 1997 and 2010 and, therefore, online NMS database resources pertaining to current SMR records of known archaeological sites were reviewed on the HEV in April 2026.

Heritage Council of Ireland: Heritage Map Viewer⁶: This online mapping resource collates various cultural heritage datasets compiled by, among others, the National Monuments Service, the National Museum of Ireland, Local Authorities and the Office of Public Works and was reviewed in April 2026.

⁴ <https://www.archaeology.ie/app/uploads/2025/03/monuments-in-state-care-cork.pdf>

⁵ https://www.archaeology.ie/app/uploads/2025/03/Preservation-Order-listing_March-2025-FINAL.pdf

⁶ www.heritagemaps.ie



Database of Irish Excavation Reports: The online Database of Irish Excavation Reports⁷ contains summary descriptions of the results of archaeological site investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1969 to present. Current data was accessed in April 2026.

Previous Assessment: The Cultural Heritage chapter in the 2020 EIAR prepared for the Coom Energy Park development was reviewed as part of this assessment.

Literary Sources: Published sources consulted in order to assess the archaeological, historical, architectural heritage and folklore resource are listed in Section 13.9.

Historic Maps: A review of various historic map editions published by the Ordnance Survey from the mid-19th century onward was carried out. These sources can indicate the presence of past settlement patterns, including features of archaeological and architectural heritage significance that no longer have any surface expression. Extracts from the reviewed maps are presented in Appendix 13.1.

Aerial/Satellite/LiDAR Imagery: A review of available imagery of the study area published online by Google Earth and Tailte Eireann, was undertaken in order to review the extent of modern interventions and to ascertain if any traces of undesignated cultural heritage features, including sub-surface archaeological sites, were visible within the environs of the Proposed Development. A review of LiDAR datasets commissioned by the Applicant was also conducted.

Irish National Folklore Collection⁸: Transcribed material from the National Folklore Collection archive which has been digitised and published online was reviewed in April 2026.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Tentative List: There are currently two designated World Heritage sites in Ireland (Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath and Scelig Mhichíl, Co. Kerry). A number of other examples have been included in a Tentative List nominated by Ireland for inclusion, and these comprise the Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo, the Transatlantic Cable Ensemble, County Kerry and the Royal Sites of Ireland (Dún Ailinne County Kildare; Hill of Uisneach, County Westmeath; Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary; Rathcroghan, County Roscommon and Tara, County Meath) and the Historic Astronomical Observatories of Ireland. None of these are located within the region of the country containing the Proposed Development.

13.2.4 Site Inspection

An inspection of the Proposed Development was carried out in November 2025, and the results are described in Section 13.4 while annotated extracts from the photographic record are provided in Appendix 13.2.

13.2.5 Assessment of Effects

The following provides a summary of the criteria used to assess effects in order to concisely outline the methodology specifically applied to the cultural heritage resource which complies with relevant EPA and ICOMOS guidelines.

⁷ www.excavations.ie

⁸ www.duchas.ie



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

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

Quality of Effect: The quality of an effect on the cultural heritage resource can be positive, neutral or negative:

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

Type of Effect: The types of effect on the cultural heritage resource can be described as follows:

- Direct Effect – where a cultural heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the Project, which will result in its complete or partial removal;
- Indirect Effect – Effects on the cultural heritage environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway;
- Cumulative Effect -The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects;
- ‘Do-nothing Effects’ - The cultural heritage environment as it would be in the future should the Project not be carried out;
- ‘Worst-case’ Effects - The effects arising from a Project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail;
- Indeterminable Effects - When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described;
- Irreversible Effects - When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost; or
- Residual Effects - The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.



Magnitude of Effect: The magnitude of effect is based on the degree of change, incorporating any mitigation measures, on a cultural heritage asset and can be negative or positive. The magnitude is ranked without regard to the value of the asset according to the following scale: High; Medium; Low and Negligible and has been informed by criteria published in the International Council on Monuments and Sites Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS 2011) (Table 13.1).

Table 13-1: Magnitudes of Effect on Cultural Heritage Assets (per ICOMOS 2011)

Magnitude	Description
High	<p>Most or all key archaeological or architectural materials affected such that the resource is totally altered.</p> <p>Comprehensive changes to setting.</p> <p>Changes to most or all key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; extreme visual effects; fundamental changes to use or access; resulting in total change to historic landscape character unit</p> <p>Major changes to area that affect Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation</p>
Medium	<p>Changes to many key archaeological or historic building materials/elements such that the resource is clearly/significantly modified.</p> <p>Considerable changes to setting that affect the character of the archaeological asset.</p> <p>Changes to the setting of a historic building, such that it is significantly modified.</p> <p>Change to many key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape, considerable changes to use or access, resulting in moderate changes to historic landscape character.</p> <p>Considerable changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.</p>
Low	<p>Changes to key archaeological materials/historic building elements, such that the resource is slightly altered/slightly different.</p> <p>Slight changes to setting of an archaeological monument.</p> <p>Changes to setting of a historic building, such that it is noticeably changed.</p> <p>Changes to few key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; slight visual changes to few key aspects of historic landscape; slight changes to use or access; resulting in limited change to historic landscape character.</p> <p>Changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.</p>
Negligible	<p>Very minor changes to key archaeological materials or setting.</p> <p>Slight changes to historic building elements or setting that hardly affect it.</p> <p>Very minor changes to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; virtually unchanged visual effects; very slight changes to use or access; resulting in very small change to historic landscape character.</p> <p>Very minor changes to area that affect the Intangible Cultural Heritage activities or associations or visual links and cultural appreciation.</p>



Value/Sensitivity assessment criteria: While various national and local authority legal designations exist for elements of the Irish cultural heritage resource (see Section 13.3.2), there is no formal criteria for grading the value of individual constraints. The evaluations used in this assessment have been informed by guidelines presented in the *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011). The evaluation of the values of cultural heritage assets is, therefore, not intended as definitive but rather as an indicator which contributes to a wider judgment based on the individual circumstances of each asset. The application of values included a consideration of their legal designations (e.g., National Monuments in State Care), condition/preservation; documentary/historical significance, group value, rarity, visibility in the landscape, fragility/vulnerability and amenity value on a case-by-case basis. It is noted that archaeological monuments, whether extant or levelled, have the potential to possess sub-surface attributes, including artefacts and other archaeological remains, which may possess values that cannot be discerned without recourse to archaeological excavation but are unlikely to be affected in the absence of direct negative effects. The values of known or potential cultural heritage assets are ranked according to the following scale as defined by ICOMOS: Very High; High; Medium; Low, Negligible and Unknown (Table 13.2). The values assigned to identified constraints within the study area were determined following the completion of desktop research and site inspections.



Table 13-2: Factors for assessing the Value/Sensitivity of Cultural Heritage Assets (based on ICOMOS 2011)

Indicative Value	Example of Asset Types
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including Tentative List properties) Sites, buildings or landscapes of acknowledged international importance Intangible associations with individuals or innovations of global significance
High	Nationally designated sites, buildings and landscapes of significant quality, rarity, preservation and importance Undesignated assets of the quality and importance to be designated Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives Archaeological Landscapes with significant group value Intangible associations with individuals or innovations of national significance
Medium	Designated or undesignated assets that can contribute significantly to regional research objectives, including buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Conservation Areas and historic townscapes containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character. Intangible associations with individuals or innovations of regional significance
Low	Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives. Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings and settings Intangible associations with individuals or innovations of local significance
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest Landscapes little or no significant historical interest Buildings or urban areas of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character
Unknown Potential	Assets whose importance has not been ascertained. Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance

Significance of Effects: The significance of effect can be described as Profound, Very Significant, Significant, Moderate, Slight, Not Significant or Imperceptible (Table 13.3) and is assigned based on the combined evaluation of effect magnitude and asset value/sensitivity (Table 13.4).



Table 13-3: Significance of Effects (based on EPA EIAR Guidelines 2022)

Significance	Description
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without affecting its sensitivities
Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment
Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics

Table 13-4: Significance of Effects Matrix (based on EPA EIAR Guidelines 2022)

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



13.2.6 Consultations

Pre-application consultation was carried out with the Cork County Council Archaeologist (CCCA), as recommended by Objective 16-9 of the County Cork Development Plan 2022-2028 (see Section 13.3.2). An online pre-application meeting with Cork County Council on 04/02/2026 was attended by the chapter author and the CCCA. The meeting included discussions in relation to the absence of any recorded archaeological sites or designated architectural structures within the environs of the Proposed Development, details on the nature of construction phase works as well as the potential suitability of geophysical survey of the Proposed Development and the associated onsite constraints, which includes extensive sections within forestry and public roads. The chapter author also carried out further consultation with the CCCA by email and phone during February 2026 in relation to these onsite constraints and the CCCA recommended pre-application testing of any suitable green field lands. The Applicant was appraised of the CCCA's recommendations in relation to this aspect of the consultation process.

13.3 Receiving Environment

13.3.1 Desktop Study

13.3.1.1 *Introduction*

The following sub-sections present the results of desktop reviews of the information sources detailed in Section 13.3.3 and include datasets that have been retrieved from current state and local authority sources at the time of writing in April 2026.

13.3.1.2 *National Monuments*

There are no National Monuments in State Care or archaeological sites subject to Preservation Orders located within the study area.

13.3.1.3 *Recorded Archaeological Sites*

The SMR lists four recorded archaeological sites that are located within the boundary of the Proposed Development and each of these were identified and fully excavated during archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of the M8 motorway scheme. They comprised a charcoal-making site (CO035-118---) and three hearth sites (CO035-119---, CO035-120--- and CO035-121---). All four of these sites were fully preserved by record through archaeological excavation in advance of road construction works and, therefore, no archaeological remains exist at their recorded locations. Their sensitivity to effects is, therefore, deemed to be negligible.



The study area also contains a mass rock (CO043-009----) in Chimneyfield townland, an enclosure (CO035-042----) in Glanakip townland and a fulacht fia (CO043-005----) in Coom (Hudson) townland, none of which are located within or adjacent to the boundary of the Proposed Development (Table 13.5). While these archaeological constraints are considered to be of high value, as described below, they are in varying states of preservation and their sensitivity to effects on their settings range from low to high. In addition, the outer edge of the study area also encroaches into the south end of the zone of archaeological notification surrounding a levelled ringfort site (CO035-048----) in Ballynahina townland which is located c.150m from the Proposed Development (Table 13.5 and Appendix 13.1; Figures 13.1 to 13.6). These eight archaeological sites are detailed in the sub-sections presented below which are based on the main periods of the archaeological record. The dating framework used for each of these periods is based on the *Guidelines for Authors of Reports on Archaeological Excavations* published by the National Monuments Service⁹.

Table 13-5: Recorded archaeological sites within study area

Monument No.	Classification	Townland	Approx. distance from development boundary
CO035-042----	Enclosure	Glanakip	40m northwest
CO043-009----	Mass-rock	Chimneyfield	85m north
CO035-118----	Charcoal-making site (excavated)	Corrin	Within
CO035-119----	Hearth (excavated)	Corrin	Within
CO035-120----	Hearth (excavated)	Corrin	Within
CO035-121----	Hearth (excavated)	Corrin	Within
CO043-005----	Fulacht fia	Coom (Hudson)	100m
CO035-048----	Ringfort	Ballynahina	150m (zone of notification extends into study area)

13.3.1.3.1 Prehistoric Periods

Until the recent identification of potential Palaeolithic human butchery marks on faunal remains recovered from cave locations in Munster, the earliest recorded evidence for human activity in Ireland dated to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers lived on the heavily wooded island. The archaeological record indicates that these mobile groups tended to favour coastal, lake and river shores locations which provided a transport resource and also provided elements of their varied diet. They did not construct any monuments that have left any above ground traces although their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields. The Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival of agriculture and its establishment as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as megalithic tombs, substantial rectangular timber houses and field systems, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. There are no recorded Mesolithic or Neolithic archaeological sites located within the study area.

⁹ <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/publications/excavation-reports-guidelines-for-authors.pdf>



Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c. 2400–500 BC). This new technology introduced a new artefactual assemblage into the Irish archaeological record, and the period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and fulachta fia. The development of new burial practices meant that the construction of funerary monuments such as wedge tombs, cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists was a common practice during this period. The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). Relatively little was known about Iron Age settlement and ritual activity until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of sites dating to this period during archaeological investigations carried out as part of development projects. It is noted that while the vast majority of all prehistoric settlement sites leave no above ground remains their foundations and occupation deposits, which may contain artefactual and environmental remains, can often survive below modern ground surfaces.

The study area contains 1 no. fulacht fia (CO043-005----) and these sites comprise spreads of burnt stones within charcoal-rich deposits, which often contain an underlying trough feature, and are typically located within the environs of natural water sources. They functioned by placing fire-heated stones into the water-filled trough in order to raise the water to boiling point and the mounds of burnt stones and charcoal deposits were formed by material cleared out of the trough following each use of the site. While many examples have been levelled by ploughing or land improvement works, in their undisturbed form they typically comprise horseshoe-shaped mounds built up around a central trough. The excavations of these sites typically produce Bronze Age dates, and they are generally interpreted as the remains of cooking sites. The example within the study area is now occupied by commercial forestry and its sensitivity to indirect effects on its setting is deemed to be low. This site was recorded as follows by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI), at a time before the planting of forestry at its location:

Fulacht fiadh CO043-005----: In rough grazing on NE-facing slope. Low oval mound of burnt material (9m N-S; 15.8m E-W).



13.3.1.3.2 Early Medieval Period

The early medieval period began with the introduction of Christianity to Ireland and continued until the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century (c. AD 400–1169). While this period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports, the dominant settlement pattern continued to be rural-based and was centred on enclosed farmsteads known as ringforts. These are the most common early medieval sites within the Irish landscape and comprise circular enclosures delimited by earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Their stone-built equivalents are known as ‘cashels’ and are typically located within western counties. Archaeological excavations of these sites have demonstrated that the majority comprised enclosed farmsteads containing the foundations of domestic and agricultural buildings. The boundary of the Proposed Development contains four recorded archaeological sites comprising a charcoal-making site and three hearths, which were found in close proximity to each other and excavated in advance of the construction of the M8 motorway. Two of the hearths were radiocarbon dated to the early medieval period. The study area also extends into the zones of notification around a levelled ringfort (CO035-048----) and enclosure site (CO035-042----) which also likely also dates to this period. As detailed in the below ASI inventory entries, the ringfort has been levelled while the enclosure is located within inaccessible forestry and, therefore, both retain a low sensitivity to setting effects. The early medieval archaeological sites within the study area have been described as follows by the ASI:

Charcoal-making site CO035-118----: Discovered during archaeological testing in advance of the construction of the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass and excavated in 2003. This feature comprised an oval pit (1.95m x 1.15m; D 0.24m) which contained two fills: a primary fill of oxidised clay with frequent inclusions of fire-reddened stones and an overlying fill of charcoal-enriched silty clay. According to the excavator (O’Connell 2006e, 38), this feature was interpreted as a charcoal production pit. Two hearths (CO035-119----, CO035-120----) were located c. 5.5m and c. 15.5m to the SE, respectively. (O’Connell 2006d, 55-6; O’Connell 2006e).

Hearth CO035-119----: One of two hearths (see CO035-120----) discovered during archaeological testing in advance of the construction of the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass and subsequently excavated in 2003. A charcoal spread (0.9m x 0.8m; D 0.025m) overlying a deposit of bright orange/red oxidised clay was discovered c. 5.5m SE of a charcoal-making site (CO035-118----). This was interpreted as the remains of an informal hearth (O’Connell 2006e, 38). The other hearth (CO035-120----), which dates to the early medieval period, is c. 10m to the SE. Another early medieval hearth (CO035-121----) was found in the immediate vicinity. (O’Connell 2006d; 2006e)

Hearth CO035-120----: One of two hearths (see CO035-119----) discovered during archaeological testing in advance of the construction of the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass and subsequently excavated in 2003. A charcoal enriched spread (D 0.2m) overlying an informal hearth (0.91m x 0.74m) was uncovered 15.5m to the SE of a charcoal-making site (CO035-118----). A sample of carbonised oak taken from the charcoal layer yielded a radiocarbon date of AD 810-1000 cal. (O’Connell 2006e, 39). The other hearth (CO035-119----) lies c. 10m to the NW and another early medieval hearth (CO035-121----) was found in the immediate vicinity. (O’Connell 2006d; 2006e)

Hearth CO035-121----: Discovered during archaeological testing in advance of the construction of the N8 Rathcormac-Fermoy Bypass and subsequently excavated in 2003. This informal hearth (1.7m x 0.9m), which comprised a thin layer of oxidised clay, was discovered underneath a charcoal-enriched silty clay layer. A sample of charcoal returned a radiocarbon date of AD 960-1040 cal. (O’Connell 2006e, 39). Two similar hearths (CO035-119----, CO035-120----) were found in the immediate vicinity. (O’Connell 2006d, 55-6; 2006e)



Ringfort CO035-048----: In Fermoy golf course, on ESE-facing slope, on W end of Corrin ridge. Depicted on 1842 OS 6-inch map as sub-rectangular area planted with trees; marked on 1903 and 1935 OS 6-inch map as circular area (diam. c. 30m). Levelled; no visible surface trace. According to Windele (1897, 375) 'fort on Corrin ridge to the West looks down on Ballinahina, Barry's place'.

Enclosure CO035-042----: In forestry, on N-facing slope. Shown only on 1842 OS 6-inch map as hachured circular enclosure. Inaccessible due to heavy afforestation.

13.3.1.3.3 High, Late and Post Medieval Periods

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th century broadly marks the advent of the Irish high medieval period which continued to c.1400 and was followed by the late medieval period which extended to c.1550. These periods saw the continuing expansion of Irish urbanisation as many of the port cities developed into international trading centres and numerous villages and market towns began to develop throughout the country, often within the environs of Anglo-Norman manorial centres which were defended by masonry castles. By the 15th century the native Irish chieftains and lords began to construct tower-house castles within their own landholdings as centres of territorial control. The centuries following AD 1550 comprise the post-medieval period which continued into the middle of the 19th century with the period thereafter often described as early modern. The early decades of the post-medieval period saw a long phases of warfare between the 1560s and 1603 and during the mid-17th century Cromwellian Wars. As the post-medieval period progressed high and low status stone houses began to replace simpler cabins throughout the Irish countryside and many farmsteads at this time typically consisted of single-storey cottages with associated outbuildings while two-storey farmhouses became more common during the 19th century. The road network within the rural landscape also began to greatly expand during this period with many existing local roads are present on mid-19th century Ordnance Survey maps. The settlement pattern throughout the rural landscape was greatly affected by the 19th century Famine period which saw the depopulation of many areas. The period after the Famine saw a move away from small-scale subsistence farming towards more market-led pasture which increased the extent of reclamation and land improvement works throughout the landscape.

There are no recorded high or late medieval sites located within the study area, but it does contain a mass-rock site (CO043-009----) which is post-medieval in date. Mass-rocks were used as the sites of hidden Catholic masses during the time of Penal Laws (1690s-1750s) when such practices were outlawed. They are known as Carrig na Aifrinn in Irish and often comprised natural boulders with flat tops that were used as altars. Due to the dangers involved in attending illegal mass services, they were typically located in remote areas in order to afford protection to the priest and their congregations. The example located within the study area remains extant, and therefore retains a high sensitivity to setting effects, and it has been described as follows by the ASI:

Mass Rock CO043-009----: Rock platform on E side of river Bride with rock cliff rising behind. White metal cross hangs suspended down cliff face. Plaque with inscription in both Irish and English reads 'Mass was said here in Penal times'. Access to W is via iron and wooden bridge; to S path leads N from road.

The *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (Lewis 1837) provides general descriptions of Irish parishes prior to the Famine period and often includes information on contemporary land use patterns, historical events as well as notable archaeological sites and built structures, including schools, churches and country houses. The Proposed Development extends through the civil parishes of Dunbulloge, Ardnageehy, Rathcormack, Castlelyons and Fermoy. Lewis's description of these areas contains no references to any of the townlands within the study area, and records that the majority of the rural lands within these parishes consisted of hilly ground with light stony soils, rough grazing and peat bogs with better quality soils in the valleys. Further detail on the area of the Proposed Development during the 19th century is provided in the cartographic review presented below (Section 13.4.1.3.7).



13.3.1.3.4 Database of Irish Excavation Reports

The database contains the following entries describing the results of the archaeological excavation of the charcoal-making site (CO035-118----) and three hearth sites (CO035-119----, CO035-120---- and CO035-121----) formerly located within the section of the Proposed Development that crosses the M80 motorway:

Licence number: 03E0913 - Site type: Charcoal-making site

Database Entry: Testing was carried out in advance of construction along the route of the proposed N8 Rathcormac–Fermoy Bypass on behalf of Cork County Council in 2002. During this phase of centre-line testing a series of features of archaeological potential were identified at Corrin. These were three pits, two post-holes, three charcoal spreads and a deposit of oxidised clay. The site was subsequently designated Corrin 2 and was excavated over a period of five days in September 2003. Three trenches, covering an area of 3900m², were stripped of sod and topsoil to expose any underlying features. These were fully excavated in advance of road construction. Area 1 was located at the south and contained one pit and two charcoal spreads. The pit was oval and had dimensions of 1.95m by 1.15m by 0.24m deep. It was filled with a grey/black charcoal-enriched silty clay. The charcoal spreads had similar dimensions (average 0.9m by 0.8m by 25mm deep) and overlay deposits of oxidised clay. They represent the remains of informal hearths. A similar hearth was located in Area 2. Area 3 contained the remains of two post-holes. The post-holes had dimensions of 0.3m by 0.25m by 0.14m deep and 0.4m by 0.5m by 0.1m deep. Two further pits recorded in this area were non-archaeological, the result of modern agricultural activity.

13.3.1.3.5 Archaeological Objects

A partial National Museum of Ireland dataset which maps the locations of recorded archaeological object discoveries has been published on The Heritage Council's online Heritage Map Viewer¹⁰. A review of this dataset revealed that it does not record any discoveries within the study area.

13.3.1.3.6 Designated Architectural Heritage Structures

There are no Protected Structures, NIAH-listed structures or lands, or Architectural Conservation Areas located within the study area.

13.3.1.3.7 Cartographic Review

The following section presents an overview of the depiction of the location of the Proposed Development on the 1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map series published in 1846 and the 25-inch OS map series published in 1900 (Appendix 13.1; Figures 13.8 to 13.13). The detail on both of these maps shows much of the sections of existing roads within the boundary of the Proposed Development as part of the 19th century road network, while sections within greenfield and forested areas are shown as open moorland and enclosed fields. The majority of the section of the route that extends along the edges of pasture fields in the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour and Knocknacaheeragh is depicted as open moorland on both OS maps, indicating that the existing enclosed grassland in these areas was created during 20th century land improvement works.

¹⁰ <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>



The maps show three undesignated agricultural structures within the environs of the green field section of the Proposed Development as well as one masonry road bridge in Chimneyfield townland (Table 13.6 and Appendix 13.1; Figures 13.8 to 13.13). These features have been assigned the prefix CHC (Cultural Heritage Constraint) for the purposes of this assessment. The Proposed Development also extends across several townland boundaries, the majority of which comprise watercourses or roadways. The remaining townland boundaries are depicted within areas of open moorland on the historic OS maps and no constructed boundary features, such as banks or ditches are shown at their locations. There were no potential unrecorded archaeological sites identified within the boundary of the Proposed Development on the reviewed cartographic sources.

Table 13-6: Undesignated structures shown within environs of Proposed Development on historic OS maps

Structure	Townland	Details	ITM E	ITM N
CHC 1	Coom (Hudson)	Small farm building shown on the 1st edition 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps. No longer extant in pasture field and is of negligible value/sensitivity	564481	591260
CHC 2	Coom (Hudson)	Small farm building shown on the 1st edition 6-inch OS map and not depicted on the 25-inch edition. No longer extant in pasture field and is of negligible value/sensitivity	564584	591172
CHC 3	Killeagh	Small farmyard shown on the 1st edition 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps. There is one structure shown on the 6-inch map with additional structures depicted on 25-inch edition of late 19th century date. It is now located within a commercial forestry plantation.	568041	593267
CHC 4	Chimneyfield	Bride Bridge. This road bridge is shown on the 1st edition 6-inch and 25-inch OS maps and remains in use within a public roadway. The bridge also forms part of the Glenville Famine Walkway at a short section where it extends onto the public road	568362	590212



13.3.1.3.8 Aerial/Satellite/LiDAR Imagery

A review of online aerial and satellite images captured between 1995 and 2024 (Tailte Éireann, Google Earth and Bing) and LiDAR imagery commissioned by the Applicant revealed that large portions of the lands within the western end of the Proposed Development are occupied by forestry plantations with the remainder of the route in this area located within enclosed farmland. A study by the Heritage Council of Ireland on the impacts of forestry plantations on archaeological sites, including their surface and buried elements, has noted that the initial planting process involves a number of ground disturbance activities, such as ploughing, drainage, access roads and planting, that has the potential to destroy or severely impact any sites within the plantation (Johnson 1998). Further impacts are also likely to occur during the operational phase of the plantation through continued disturbance by extensive root systems, which will entwine with any sub-surface archaeological deposits or features with little or no potential for removal of trees without causing further destruction (ibid.). The remainder of the route extends along the existing public road network which is depicted on the 19th century OS maps. No potential unrecorded archaeological sites or other features of potential cultural heritage significance were noted within the boundary of the Proposed Development on any of the reviewed aerial/satellite imagery. The LiDAR datasets commissioned by the Applicant encompass the green field areas that the route extends through, and a targeted review of the imagery did not reveal any traces of potential unrecorded archaeological sites within these green field areas (see Appendix 13.1; Figures 13.14 and 13.15).

13.3.1.3.9 Undesignated Cultural Heritage Assets

While encompassing the protected archaeological and architectural heritage resources, cultural heritage also includes various undesignated assets such as historic settlements, demesne landscapes, vernacular structures, folklore, placenames, townland boundaries and historical associations. As detailed in Section 13.4.1.3.7, the review of historic mapping revealed the potential presence of a small number of undesignated cultural heritage structures located in close proximity to the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development extends into 22 townlands which are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape, and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest (Table 13.7). The boundaries and names of Irish townlands were recorded and standardised by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in the 19th century and typically entailed anglicisations of their original Irish names. The Irish origins of townland names often refer to natural topographical features, past landowners, farming practices, etc. but some name elements may also give an indication of the presence of archaeological sites within the townland, e.g., lios or rath indicate the presence of a ringfort while temple, saggart, termon or kill may record associations with a church site. The translations of the townland names presented in Table 13.7 were sourced from the Placenames Database of Ireland¹¹. The database does not contain any records of historical references to these townlands that pre-date the 17th century.

¹¹ www.logainm.ie



Table 13-7: Townland name translations

Townland name	Irish Origin	Interpretation
BALLYNAHINA	Baile na hEidhne	Baile: townland, town, homestead
CHIMNEYFIELD	Páirc an tSimné	'from a ruined house with a standing chimney ... Ath a Dúna appears to have been the older name' (1917)
COOLMUCKY	Cúil Mhuicí	Cúil: corner, nook
COOLNAKILLA	Cúil na Coille	corner of the wood
COOM (Hudson)	An Com (Hudson)	hollow
CORRIN	An Carn	cairn, pile of rocks
FARRAN NORTH	An Fearann Thuaidh	north land
FARRAN SOUTH	An Fearann Theas	south land
GLANAKIP	Gleann an Chip	glen of the tree stump
GLANNASACK	Gleann na Sac	glen of the sacks
KILL SAINT ANNE NORTH	Coill Seansián Thuaidh	Church of St. Anne (likely refers to a recorded church (CO045-001002-) in this townland which is located outside study area)
KILLEAGH	An Choill Liath	the grey wood
KNOCKANANIG	Cnoc an Eanaigh	hill of the marsh
KNOCKAUNACORRIN	Cnocán an Chairn	hillock of the cairn
KNOCKAUNALOUR	Cnocán na Lobhar	'the little hill of the lepers'
KNOCKDOORTY	Cnoc Uí Dhúrtaigh	O' Doorty's Hill
KNOCKNACAHERAGH	Cnoc na Cathrach	hill of the caher (cashel) or stone fort (there are no recorded cashel sites in the townland)
LACKENDARRAGH NORTH	Leacain Darach Thuaidh	glen-slope of the oakwood
MOANLAHAN	An Mhóin Leathan	broad bog
MULLENABOREE	Muilleann na Buaráí	mill of the spancel
MULLENATAURA	Móinín an tSamhraidh	the (little) bog of summer
RATHCORMACK-MOUNTAIN	Sliabh Ráth Chormaic	mountain of Cormac's ringfort (likely associated with name of wider parish)

A review of the National Folklore Collection UCD Digitization Project revealed that this online database includes a number of entries for the townlands within the study area. No entries containing descriptions of folklore, traditions or references to potential features of cultural heritage significance associated with the location of the Proposed Development were noted during the review.



A section of a walkway known as Glenville Famine Walk extends through the study area within the environs of the mass rock (CO043-009----) in Chimneyfield townland, which is known locally as Carraig an Aifrinn. The walking route extends from this mass rock to Doonpeter holy well which is located in lands to the east of the study area. The route primarily extends through agricultural lands but does include a short section (c.20m long) within the public road over Bride Bridge (CHC4) which is located within the redline boundary of the Proposed Development and this is located c.85m to the south of Carraig an Aifrinn mass rock.

13.3.2 Site Inspection

The Proposed Development extends eastwards from the western array of the permitted Coom Green Energy Park and primarily follows tarmac-surfaced local roads until it reaches the existing Barrymore substation located c.4km to the southeast of Fermoy town. Sections of the 33kV Collector Network Route (CNR) extend through commercial forestry plantations with a localised section located within an area of pasture fields in the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Knockaunalour and Knocknacaheragh.

The route does not extend through any settlement centres and the adjoining undulating lands are dominated by vacant pasture fields with dispersed 20th century detached houses flanking areas of the roadside. An inspection of the sections of the route that extend along public roads did not reveal any features of potential cultural heritage interest within the road margins.

The proposed onsite 110kV substation at Lackendarragh is located within an inaccessible area of commercial forestry which is shown as an area of vacant moorland on the first edition 6-inch OS map (1846). The 110kV GCR section of the Proposed Development extends along an existing forestry track to the south of the proposed Lackendarragh substation and then extends along public roads to the existing Barrymore substation. The majority of the existing public road network that this section of the Proposed Development follows is present on the first edition 6-inch OS map (1846) with localised additional sections present on the 25-inch OS map (1900).

The site inspection included a visual appraisal of the locations of three unexcavated recorded archaeological sites located within the study area extending for 100m from either side of the Proposed Development and these comprise a mass rock (CO043-009----), an enclosure (CO035-042----) and a fulacht fia (CO043-005----). The study area also extends within the zone of notification surrounding a levelled ringfort (CO035-048----). The location of mass rock (CO043-009----) is publicly accessible via a footpath extending from a gateway on the road to the south of its location. The other archaeological sites are located within third party lands, and the visual appraisal of their locations was, therefore, carried out from nearby sections of public roads that form part of the route of the Proposed Development.

The extant mass rock (CO043-009----) in Chimneyfield townland is within a wooded area c.85m to the north of the road that the 33kV CNR follows and its location is screened from the road by the absence of a direct sightline and trees. A signage post indicates the location of the mass rock and a low, modern gate entrance to a woodland pathway that leads to the mass rock is situated on the north side of the road. An adjacent masonry road bridge, known as Bride Bridge (CHC 4) is shown on the historic OS maps (Appendix 13.1: Figures 13.10 and 13.11), and this comprises a single arch structure with low random rubble parapet walling on both sides. The north parapet wall has been subject to modern repair, and the bridge road deck is surfaced with tarmac. In addition, a c.20m long section of the public road at this location forms part of the Glenville Famine Walk which extends from the mass rock to the road and then turns to the east before continuing along a gravel pathway in a field to the south of the road. An information plaque for the walkway is set near an entrance gate in a lay-by area to the south of the roadside. While the bridge is not listed as a protected structure or included in the NIAH, it does comprise a historic structure of local (low) value/sensitivity.



The location of enclosure (CO035-042----) in Glanakip townland is c.40m to the east of the section of road that the 110kV GCR section of the Proposed Development follows. The location of the enclosure is now occupied by a forestry plantation, and no visible surface traces of this site were observed from the adjacent roadside.

The location of fulacht fia (CO043-005----) in Coom (Hudson) townland is now occupied by an area of commercial forestry located c.100m to the south of the 33 kV CNR section of the Proposed Development and no traces of this archaeological site are visible from the roadside area.

The location of levelled ringfort (CO035-048----) in Ballynahina townland is c.150m to the north of the section of the road that the 110kV GCR section of the Proposed Development follows. The location of the levelled ringfort is now occupied by a golf course, and no visible surface traces of the recorded location of this site are observable from the road.

A field-walking survey of the green field areas within the 33 kV CNR section of the Proposed Development within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour and Knocknacaheragh was carried out as part of the site inspection. The section of the route in these townlands, which is shown as open moorland on the historic OS maps (Appendix 13.1; Figures 13.8 to 13.13), is now occupied by enclosed grassland fields bound with field banks and fences indicating that this area was subject to land improvement works during the 20th century. The OS maps show boundaries between the townlands of Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour and Knocknacaheragh as dotted lines extending through open moorland and no constructed features, such as banks or ditches, are depicted along these land divisions. The inspection of the route in these areas did not identify any potential features at the location of these townland boundaries. The lands within this section of the route are undulating and broadly extend along low-lying terrain in of Coom (Hudson) townland while the route extends through hilly terrain with areas of gradual-moderate hillslopes and localised areas of more level terrain in the townlands of Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour and Knocknacaheragh. No potential unrecorded archaeological sites or other features of cultural heritage interest were noted during the field-walking inspection of the green field section of the Proposed Development in these townlands.

The section of the route in Coom (Hudson) townland extends within the environs of two potential vernacular farm buildings depicted on historic OS maps (Appendix 13.1; Figure 13.8) and no surface traces of these structures survive in this area.

There were no surface traces of any potential unrecorded archaeological sites or undesignated structures of architectural heritage significance identified during the inspection of the green field areas within the boundary of the Proposed Development which is primarily directly adjacent to 20th century field boundary banks and modern farm tracks.

Sections of the 33 kV CNR and 110kV GCR, extend within commercial forestry plantations and include sections that follow existing modern forestry roads of stone construction while other sections of the 33 kV CNR, as well as the proposed Lackendarragh substation, extend through the overgrown interior of the plantations. No potential cultural heritage features were noted along the margins of existing forestry roads while the interiors of the forestry plantations were largely inaccessible due to the presence of trees and undergrowth.



13.4 Potential Effects

13.4.1 Do Nothing Scenario

The likely evolution of the environment in the absence of the Proposed Development will entail the areas within the redline boundary remaining in agricultural, forestry and road network use with no ground excavations works occurring. This scenario would likely result in the continued preservation of the known cultural heritage constraints within the boundary of the Proposed Development, including any potential unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological remains. As such, there would not be any likely significant effects on the cultural heritage resource.

13.4.2 Construction Phase

The Proposed Development will entail the excavation of an underground cable within public roads and green field areas as well as the use of horizontal directional drilling (HDD) at the location of the majority of watercourse crossings and the M80 motorway. The cable trench will typically be 450 mm wide and 1250 mm deep while in areas requiring a quintuple circuit, the trench will have a width of 1550 mm and depth of 1250 mm.

The route and layout of the Proposed Development was subject to cultural heritage reviews during the design phase in order to assist in mitigation of potential effects on the cultural heritage resource by design.

As noted in Section 13.4, there are no unexcavated archaeological sites located within or adjacent to the boundary of the Proposed Development. The boundary of the Proposed Development does contain four archaeological sites which were identified during the M80 motorway scheme, and these comprised a charcoal-making site and three hearths (see Appendix 13.1; Figure 13.6). These sites were fully excavated as part of that road scheme and are no longer present at their recorded locations. The construction phase of the Proposed Development will, therefore, not result in any direct effects on the known archaeological resource.

There are no recorded archaeological sites located within 100m of the section of the Proposed Development that extends through green field lands, and no potential unrecorded archaeological sites were identified in this area during the desktop studies and field surveys carried out as part of this assessment. The construction phase works in the green field areas will be confined to the excavation of a 1250mm wide cable trench located directly adjacent to existing field boundaries, the majority of which are of likely 20th century date, and modern farm tracks. No other construction phase works requiring ground excavations, such as access roads, compound areas, soil retention areas, will occur within green field lands. Given the small-scale nature of the proposed ground excavation works required to facilitate the 1250mm wide cable trench, the construction phase will have the potential result in low-medium magnitude, permanent, direct, negative effects of potential moderate-significant significance, on any unrecorded archaeological remains that may exist within the footprint of the cable trench, and this will require mitigation.

The 33 kV CNR and 110 kV GCR sections of the Proposed Development will entail the excavation of a cable trench within public roads, the construction of which has reduced original ground levels. This includes one location where the route of the 110 kV GCR extends along a section of road that extends into the zone of notification surrounding an archaeological site which comprises a levelled enclosure (CO035-042----) in Glanakip townland (see Appendix 13.1; Figure 13.4). The recorded location of this enclosure is located within commercial forestry at a distance of c.40m from the road and no traces of this site are visible from the roadside. The potential for unrecorded subsurface features associated with this levelled site extending within the boundary of the Proposed Development, while low, cannot be completely discounted and this will require mitigation. The construction phase will not result in any indirect effects on the setting of this levelled enclosure site.



There are no recorded archaeological sites, or any designated architectural structures, located within 1km of the proposed location of Lackendarragh 110 kV substation in an area of forestry plan and the construction of this element of the Proposed Development will have a neutral effect on the known cultural heritage resource.

The use of HDD at water-crossings will not require any in-channel works that will have the potential to result in negative effects on any potential unrecorded, underwater archaeological features that may exist within the watercourses.

There are no designated architectural heritage structures located within the study area and, therefore, the Proposed Development will result in a neutral effect on this element of the cultural heritage resource.

The potential for the use of HDD at the location of Bride Bridge (CHC 4), within the 33kV CNR section, was explored as part of the GCR design but was deemed unfeasible due to topography and the crossing method here will involve the placement of the cables within the bridge deck. Site surveys carried out as part of the GCR design have determined that sufficient depth is present in the bridge deck and the cables can be accommodated without the need to modify the bridge. While the proposed works will not result any interventions to the historic fabric of this bridge, the excavation of the cable trench within the road fill material will result in a temporary, low magnitude, negative, direct effect on the setting of the bridge as well as the associated short section of the Glenville Famine Walk which extends across the structure and this will require mitigation. The construction phase works at this location will also result in temporary, negligible magnitude, indirect effect on the wider setting of the mass-rock (CO043-009----) located c.85m to the north of the bridge and this will not require mitigation.

The 33kV CNR, 110 kV GCR and Lackendarragh 110 kV Substation elements of the Proposed Development, extend into areas of inaccessible forestry plantations. A Heritage Council of Ireland study on the impacts of forestry on the archaeological resource concluded that the processes involved in the planting, maturing and rotation of planted lands have a high potential to completely remove or to severely degrade any archaeological sites and associated sub-surface deposits that may exist within plantations (Johnson 1998). While there is a low potential for the survival of unrecorded cultural heritage constraints (including CHC 3) within Proposed Development locations in the forestry plantations, this cannot be completely discounted and works within forested areas will require mitigation.

13.4.3 Operation Phase

The operation phase will entail the presence of an underground cable located within existing roadways, green field and forested areas and this will result in a neutral effect on the cultural heritage resource. The operation phase will also include the presence of the 110kV onsite substation at Lackendarragh. There are no recorded archaeological sites or architectural heritage structures located within 1km of its location and this element of the Proposed Development will result in a neutral effect on the cultural heritage resource during the operation phase.



13.4.4 Cumulative Effects

Appendix 1.3, Volume 3 of the EIAR contains a list of developments that have been considered for potential cumulative effects, and which have been considered as part of this assessment. The majority of these comprise renewable energy and transport developments located at distances of 4.5km to 24km from the Proposed Development. Given these distances, these developments are deemed not to have the potential to act in combination with the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development to result in any likely significant cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource. The locations of the Coom Green Energy Park, Bottlehill Landfill, a proposed Solar Farm in Castlelyons, Fermoy, a single wind turbine in Moneygorm townland and existing forestry activity are located adjacent to or within 2km of the Proposed Development and details on the cultural heritage context of these developments are presented below. The appraisal of these developments included reviews of any relevant archaeological and cultural heritage assessment reports that are published on Cork County Council and An Coimisiún Pleanála online planning records as well as any entries for archaeological investigations at their locations contained in the Database of Irish Excavation Reports.

A review of the Cultural Heritage chapter in the EIAR¹² prepared for the permitted Coom Green Energy Park development revealed that it would result in no likely direct construction phase effects on the known cultural heritage resource. The operation phase of the wind farm was predicted to result in imperceptible to moderate negative visual effects on cultural heritage receptors within the wider landscape. The grant of planning for this development included a condition requiring archaeological monitoring of ground excavation works (ACP ref. 308885).

There are no recorded archaeological sites or designated architectural heritage structures located within the Bottlehill Landfill site. In addition, archaeological monitoring of the construction phase of this development did not identify anything of archaeological significance.¹³

A review of an Archaeological Resolution Strategy Document¹⁴ prepared for the proposed Solar Farm in Castlelyons, Fermoy revealed that a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites were identified during geophysical and test trenching investigations in green field lands within the planning application boundary. The document presents mitigation measures for these sites which include preservation by avoidance or record (excavation) followed by archaeological monitoring of the construction phase.

The location of a single consented wind turbine in Moneygorm townland, which remains to be constructed, does not contain any recorded archaeological sites or designated architectural heritage structures. The grant of planning for this development issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) (ref. PL04.241037) includes a condition (No. 15) requiring the developer to employ a suitably qualified archaeologist who shall monitor all site investigations and other excavation works.

As detailed in Section 13.4, there are two recorded archaeological sites located within sections of commercial forestry within the study area appraised for the Proposed Development. These comprise an enclosure (CO035-042----) in Glanakip townland and a fulacht fia (CO043-005----) in Coom (Hudson) townland. Neither of these sites are located within the boundary of the Proposed Development and no construction or operational phase effects on their settings will occur as a result of the Proposed Development.

¹² <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/308885>

¹³ <https://excavations.ie/report/2005/Cork/0013223/>

¹⁴ <https://planning.corkcoco.ie/ePlan/AppFileRefDetails/245211/0>



13.4.4.1 Conclusion

As detailed in Sections 13.5.2 and 13.5.3, the construction phase of the Proposed Development will also not result in any likely direct effects on the known cultural heritage resource, and the operation phase will result in a neutral effect on the resource. Based on this conclusion and the cultural heritage context of the above developments, it is concluded that the Proposed Development will not act in combination with the above developments to result in any likely significant cumulative effects on the cultural heritage resource.

13.5 Mitigation

There are no protected structures or NIAH-listed structures located within the boundary of the proposed development or within the study area extending for 100m from its boundary and, therefore, no protective measures for these elements of the cultural heritage resource are required.

There are four recorded archaeological sites located within the boundary of the proposed development, and these were all excavated in advance of the construction of the M80 motorway (see Table 13.5). No mitigation measures for these excavated sites are required. The other recorded archaeological sites within the study area are located within private lands and none are adjacent to the boundary of the Proposed Development (see Table 13.5). No protective mitigation measures for these archaeological sites are, therefore, required.

As detailed in Section 13.4, there are no recorded archaeological sites located within 100m of the green field sections of the Proposed Development which comprises areas of pasture fields that appear to have been created during 20th century land improvement works. The excavation of a 1250mm wide cable trench adjacent to field boundaries and modern farm tracks will be the only construction phase works within the green field areas, and no associated works such as access tracks, hardstands and compounds will be required. As noted in Section 13.5.2, the potential exists that the small-scale footprint of the proposed cable trench may contain as yet unrecorded subsurface archaeological features that could be subject to direct effects. The Applicant will, therefore, appoint a suitably qualified archaeologist to constantly monitor the excavation of the section of cable trench within all green field areas during the construction phase, and this will be carried out under licence by the National Monuments Service. The ground excavation works be confined within the 1250mm wide trench footprint and topsoil stripping will be carried out with a toothless grading bucket and under the constant direction of the appointed archaeologist. No removal of topsoil will occur in the absence of the archaeologist.

In the event that archaeological material is found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have excavation works halted in the relevant area. All identified archaeological features/deposits shall then be hand-cleaned, recorded and left to remain in situ within cordoned off areas while the Cork County Council Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service are notified of the discovery and consulted in regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ or excavation). The Planning Authority and the National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a report describing the results of the all archaeological works.

Archaeological monitoring of ground works within the public road that extends into the zone of notification surrounding levelled enclosure (CO035-042----) in Glanakis townland (see Appendix 13.1; Figure 13.4) will also be carried out. In the event that any archaeological material is found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have excavation works halted at the relevant location. All identified archaeological features/deposits shall then be hand-cleaned, recorded and left to remain in situ while the Cork County Council Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service are notified of the discovery and consulted in regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ or excavation).

Archaeological monitoring of ground works within the road fill material over Bride Bridge (CHC 4) will also be carried out and in the event that any sub-surface historic bridge masonry is exposed it will be recorded and then preserved in situ by avoidance.



The locations of the Proposed Development within forestry plantations will be subject to field-walking inspections by the appointed archaeologist following tree-felling works and this will include an appraisal of the extent of disturbance of underlying ground surfaces. Any identified remains of farm buildings within the plantation at the location of CHC 3 in Killeagh townland (see Section 13.4.1.3.7) will be avoided. Based on the results of the inspection of the ground conditions in felled areas, the appointed archaeologist will consult with the Cork County Council Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service in relation to any required additional mitigation measures within forestry plantations.

13.5.1 Monitoring of Mitigation

There are a number of obligatory processes to be undertaken as part of archaeological licence applications which will allow for monitoring of the successful implementation of the archaeological mitigation measures outlined above. These include the submission of method statements detailing the proposed strategy for all site investigations for the approval of the National Monuments Service as part of the licence application. A report will be compiled on all archaeological site investigations to comply with the licensing process which will clearly present the results in written, drawn and photographic formats and copies will be submitted to the National Monuments Service, the Local Authority and the National Museum of Ireland.

13.6 Residual Effects

The mitigation measures presented in Section 13.6 will provide for either the preservation in situ of any currently unknown, sub-surface archaeological features within the Site by avoidance or the proper and adequate recording of this resource by full archaeological excavation. Preservation in situ shall allow for a negligible magnitude of effect resulting in a potential not significant/imperceptible significance of effect in the context of residual effect on the unrecorded archaeological resource. Preservation by record shall allow for a high magnitude of effect, albeit ameliorated by the creation of a full and detailed archaeological record, the results of which shall be publicly disseminated. This shall result in a potential slight to moderate range of significance of direct effects in the context of residual effects on the unrecorded archaeological resource.

13.7 Conclusions

The construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development will not result in any likely significant effects on any known cultural heritage constraints.

The Proposed Development will also not result in any likely significant cumulative or residual effects on the known cultural heritage resource.

The potential does exist for the presence of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features within proposed construction areas. In the event that any sub-surface archaeological remains are identified during the monitoring mitigation detailed in Section 13.6, they will be cleaned, recorded and left to remain in situ within cordoned off areas while the Local Authority Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service are notified and consulted in relation to appropriate future mitigation strategies, which may entail preservation in situ by avoidance or preservation by record through licensed archaeological excavation. No likely significant effects on potential unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features will arise following the implementation of these mitigation measures.

In conclusion, no likely residual significant effects on the cultural heritage resource will occur as a result of the Proposed Development.



13.8 References

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www.excavations.ie (Excavations Database)

www.logainm.ie (Placenames)

www.heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html (Various heritage datasets)

www.duchas.ie (Irish Folklore Schools Collection)



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