Archaeological Monitoring Report,

Cleanrath Windfarm Cable Trenching Route,

Grousemount,

Co. Kerry.

October 26th, 2018

Report prepared on behalf of: Cleanrath Windfarm Ltd,

Lissarda Business Park,

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1 Introduction

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken of cable trenching works with regard to Cleanrath Wind Farm in the townland of Grousemount on the Kerry - Cork border *c.*10km ESE of Kilgarvan (Figures 1-2). The monitoring relates to a ten-year Grant of Planning, (Reg. No. 15/1164), for the provision of underground grid connection to the national grid *via* Coomataggart substation.

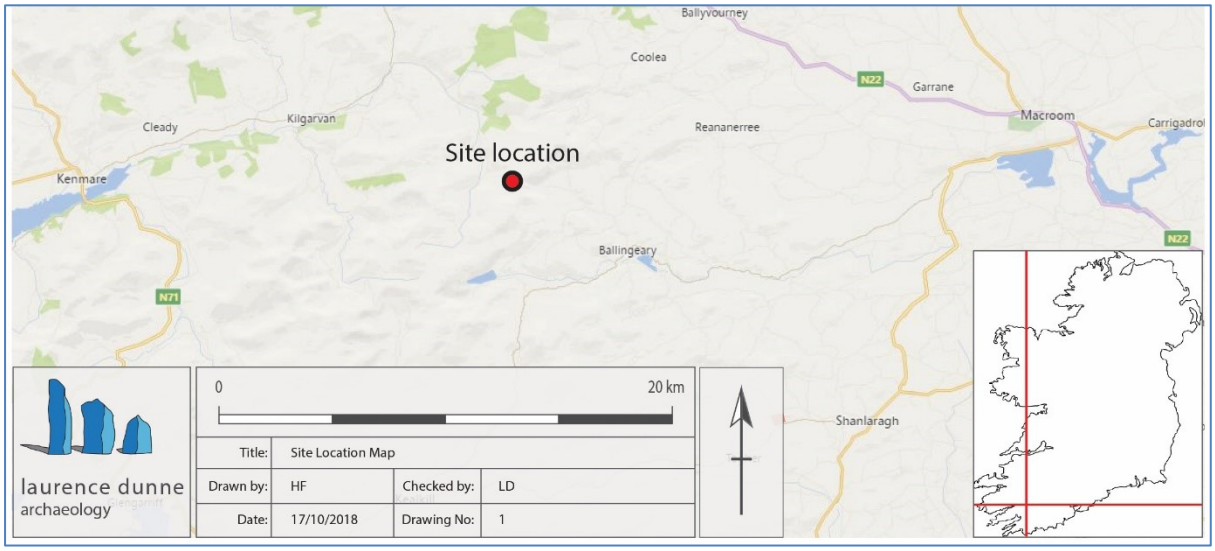

Figure 1: Site location map

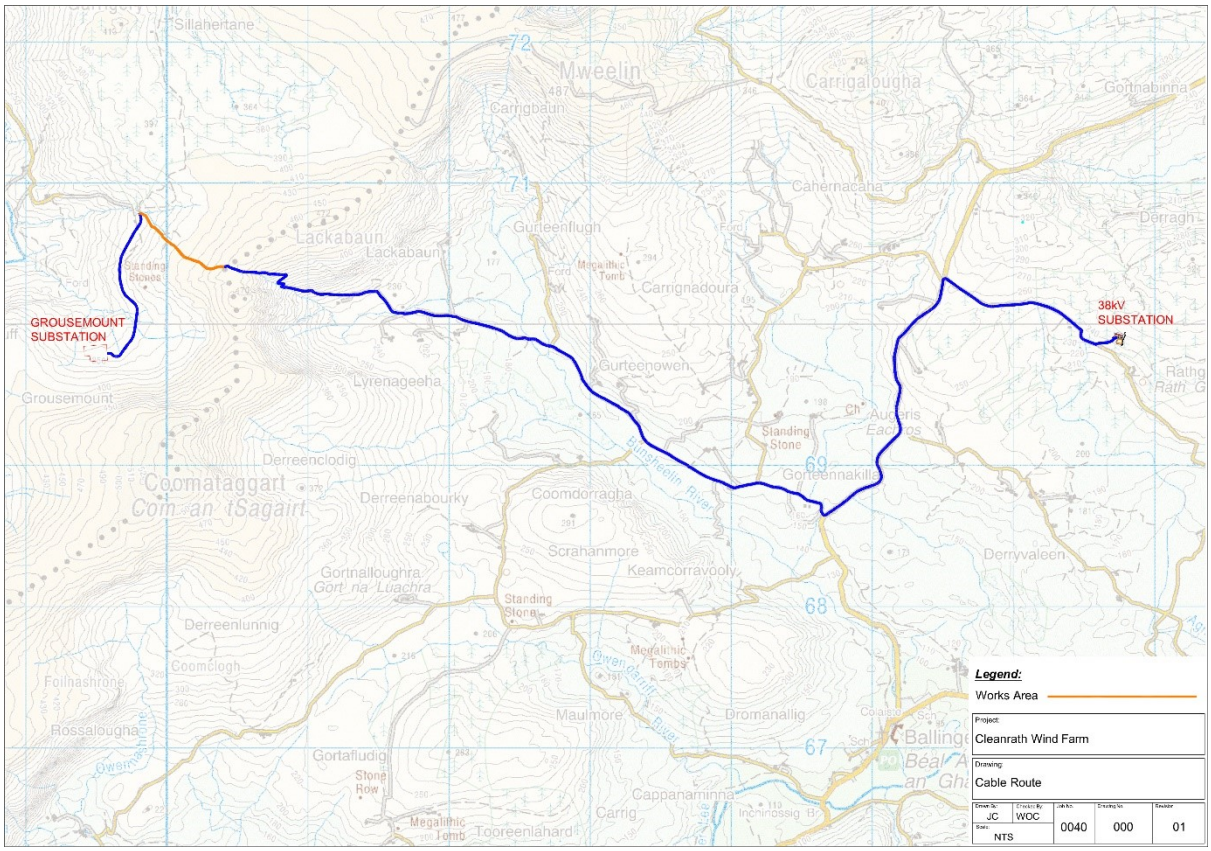

Figure 2: Underground grid cable route. Monitored section in orange (courtesy Enerco, Lissarda, Co. Cork).

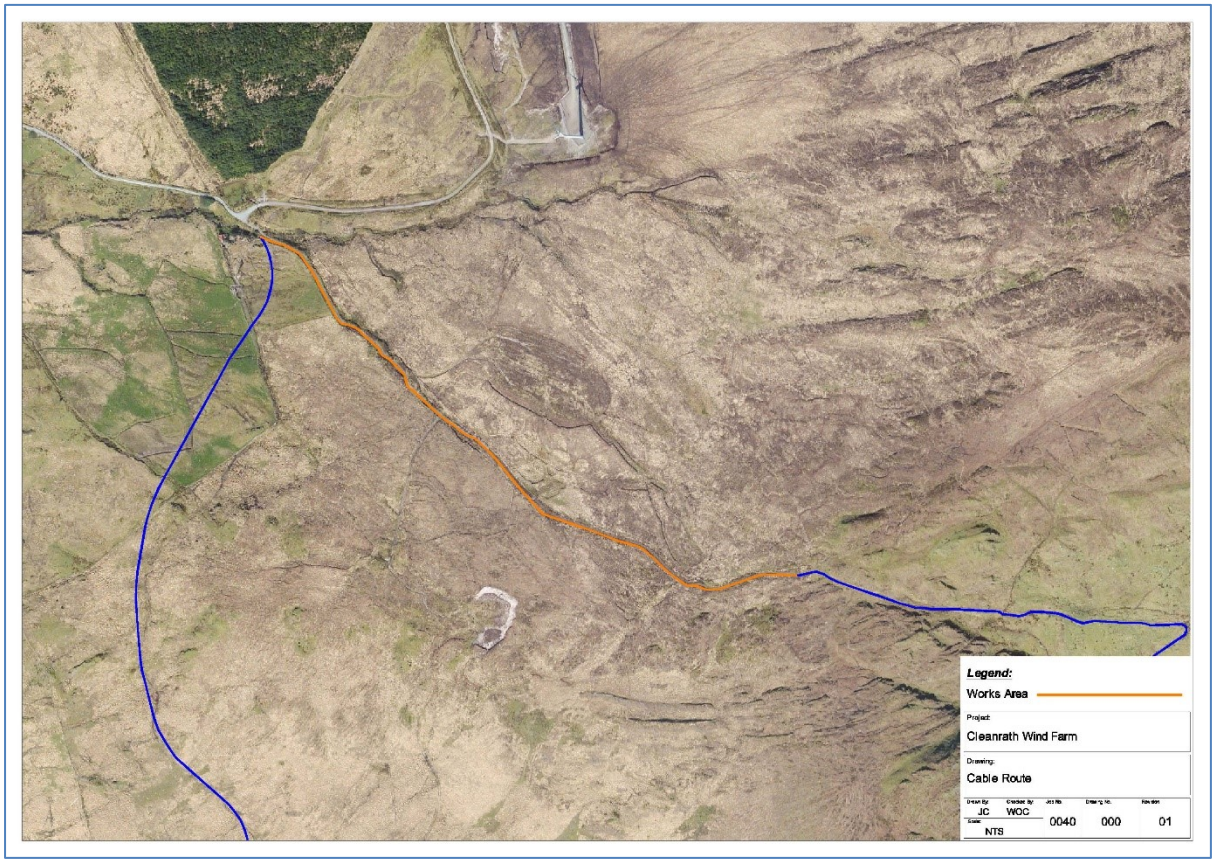

Figure 3: Section of underground grid cable route monitored highlighted in orange (courtesy Enerco, Lissarda, Co. Cork).

2 Location

The entire underground grid-cable route extends for *c.*16.5 km from the proposed substation site within Cleanrath South in County Cork to the Coomataggart substation in the townland of Grousemount, County Kerry (Figures 2-4). This report relates the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken in September/October 2018 of a short *c.*0.76km section in County Kerry. The monitored section extends from the county boundary at Lackabaun in a general WNW direction within the townland of Grousemount in County Kerry (Figure 4).

3 Existing environment

The monitored cable trenching section extends along an existing pre-famine routeway situated in upland boggy mountainous terrain in the Sheehy Mountains that straddle the Kerry-Cork border. The routeway over the mountains from Lackabaun in Co. Cork where it reaches its zenith at *c.*450m OD. The routeway then proceeds downslope forming the townland boundary between Grousemount and Sillahertane (*Sailcheartáin*-a place abounding in sallys or willows), into the Glanlee River valley. The Glanlee River, known locally as the *Abha Bheag* or little river, is a tributary of the Roughty River rises nearby and issues into Kenmare Bay. The Roughty River is derived from the name of the glen where it rises *Gleann Ó Ruachta* which also gives its name to the ancient barony name for the region, Glenarought. The townland of Grousemount - *Sliabh na gcearc fraoich* was also recorded in 1841 by O'Donovan as *Cnocán an Phóna*-the hillock of the pound. Sillahertane townland is derived from the Irish word *Sailcheartáin*-a place abounding in sallys or willows, (www.logainm.ie).

The landscape of the area is open, virtually treeless with extensive *fionnán* grass, some furze and heather on blanket bog (Plates 1-2).

Plate 1: View from SE of monitoring of initial enabling works.

4 Archaeological Context

4.1 Recorded Archaeology of the Route Section Area

The online database of the Sites & Monuments Records (SMR) of the National Monuments Service (NMS) of the Dept. Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht (DCHG) returned only one monument in proximity to the grid cable trenching route. The monument comprises of an anomalous stone group, KE095-005, situated *c.*400m SW of the route. The SMR describe the site as *'... anomalous stone group consists of a rectangular arrangement (long axis NE-SW) of four non-contiguous stone slabs. The NE slab (H 0.8m; 0.7m x 0.1m) is upright and lies parallel to the SW slab (H 1.22m; 1.2m x 0.12m) at a distance of 3.4m. The SW slab is also upright and has a notch carved on its upper surface. The SE slab (H 1.22m; 1m x 0.15m) is upright and has a notch carved on its SW edge while the NW slab (H 0.15m; 0.95m x 0.06m), which is parallel, barely protrudes above the surface of the bog at a distance of 2.9m'* (www.archaeology.ie).

There was no impact, visual or otherwise, by the grid cable trenching to the recorded monument, KE095-005.

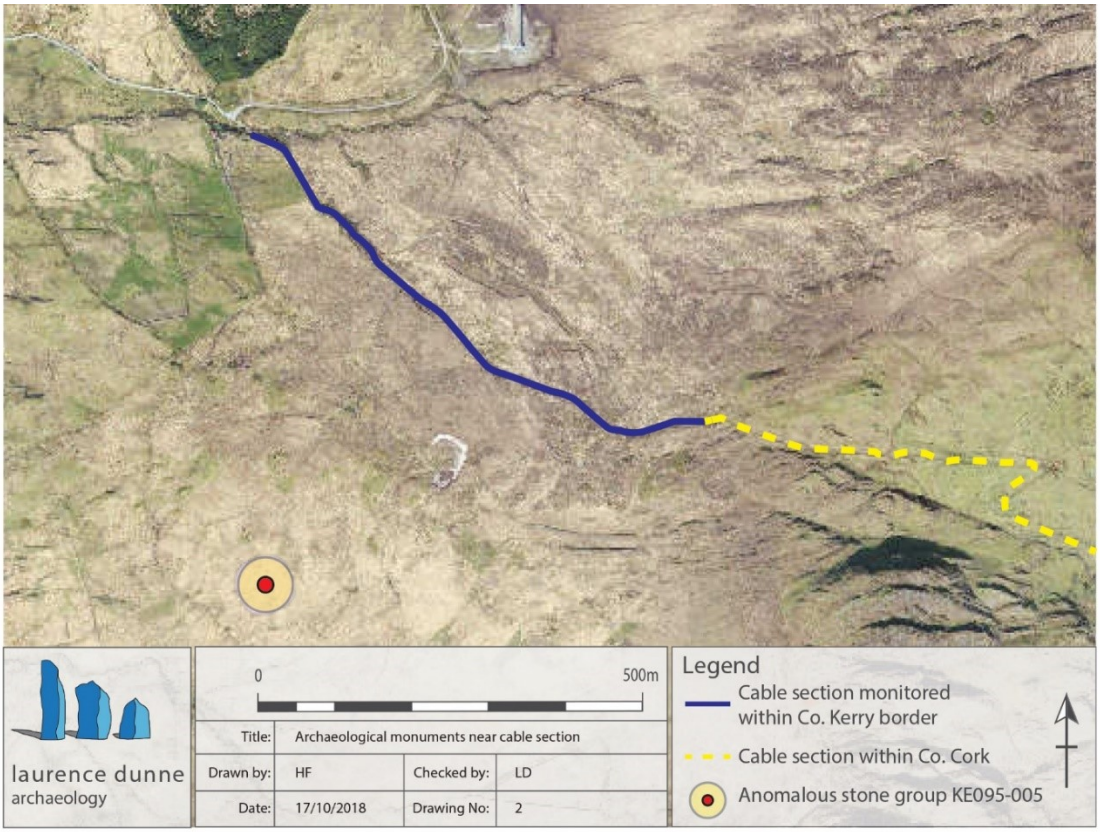

Figure 4: Location of anomalous stone group, KE095-005 in relation to the grid cable trenching route.

4.2 Previous Licensed Excavations

Examination of the online database of licensed excavations undertaken in Ireland, (www.excavations.ie), revealed that a series of archaeological test excavations were undertaken in advance of the construction of Grousemount Wind Farm. In 2015 unlicensed testing was undertaken by Alison McQueen and Associates with negative results. In 2016 and 2017 number of test trenches were open within Grousemount Wind Farm by John Cronin and Associates under the license 16E0127 and 16E0127-ext. Due to testing phase, possible burnt spread material was discovered *c*.3km SW of proposed cable route (*IBID*). Otherwise nothing of archaeological interest was found during the testing. However, it would appear that none of the previous archaeological test excavations were undertaken in close proximity to the Kerry section of the cable trenching.

5 Archaeological Monitoring

Trenching excavations were carried out using 360º tracked excavators equipped with 0.60m wide toothed buckets, under archaeological supervision. The entire length of the cable trenching was excavated to the depth of 1.2m or deeper as required, to the point where natural subsoil was reached. The trench stratigraphy of all excavated areas was recorded irrespective of the presence or otherwise of archaeological deposits or features. All on-site recording was carried out principally by sketches, photography and completion of daily notes.

No topsoil was noted in the course of the trenching excavations, however residual areas of peat were still visible in the section. Natural subsoil consisted almost entirely of sandstone bedrock.

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted or recorded.

Plate 2: View from NW of linear cable trenching.

6 Conclusions

- Nothing of archaeological interest was noted or recorded during monitoring of the cable trench excavations
- There was no impact on any archaeological monuments or other historic structures situated in close proximity of the proposed cable route
- No archaeological artefacts were found in the course of the monitoring

7 References

Carroll, M and Quinn, A, 2015. *Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. Environmental Impact Statement for Cleanrath Wind Farm, pps.11-59.* McCarthy Keville Associates,

de Valera, R and Ó Nualláin, S. 1982. *Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland. Volume IV., Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary.* Stationery Office, Dublin.

Database of Excavation Reports undertaken in Ireland, www.excavations.ie

McCarthy Keville Associates, 2015. *Cleanrath Windfarm Ltd, Planning and Environmental Report, Cultural Heritage Section, Proposed National Grid Connection Cabling Works, in the Townland of Grousemount, Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry.*

National Monuments Service online database, www.archaeology.ie

OSNB - Ordnance Survey Name Books, Kerry. O'Donovan, J. *et al*, 1841.