

Laois County Council Planning Authority, Viewing Purposes Only

# Appendix 15.1

## Photographic Record





**Plate 1:** View of the initial section of trackway along which the proposed UGC route will extend in Forest Lower townland, facing south



**Plate 2:** View of area north of local road network and UGC route at Forest Lower, probable 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage,



**Plate 3:** View of proposed UGC route in Barranaghs townland, facing southwest towards the Laois/Offaly border



**Plate 4:** View of cast iron post box located to the south of the UGC route in Garryhinch village, the post box is registered on both the NIAH (Reg. No. 14933009) and the RPS (RPS Ref. No. 52-02)



**Plate 5:** View of Cloneyhurke Church which is located c.50m to the north of the UGC in Garryhinch village. The church is registered on both the NIAH (Reg. No. 14933007) and the RPS (RPS Ref. No. 52-01)



**Plate 6:** View of the general location of the gate lodge to Garryhinch Estate, which is depicted on the historic mapping, no visible trace



**Plate 7:** View of Kilnahown Bridge over which the UGC is proposed to extend, the bridge is recorded on both the NIAH (NIAH Reg. No. 14933012) and the RPS (RPS Ref. No. 52-05)



**Plate 8:** View of the northern elevation of Kilnahown bridge, facing southeast



**Plate 9:** View of the proposed UGC route as it extends through a wooded area in Coolaghy townland, facing southeast



**Plate 10:** Derelict late 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage situated to the immediate west of the proposed UGC route in Ballymorriss townland



**Plate 11:** View of probable early 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage located to the east of the route, and opposite the cottage depicted in Plate 18, in Ballymorris townland, facing east

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**Plate 12:** View of the eastern end of Canal Road in Portarlinton, facing northeast

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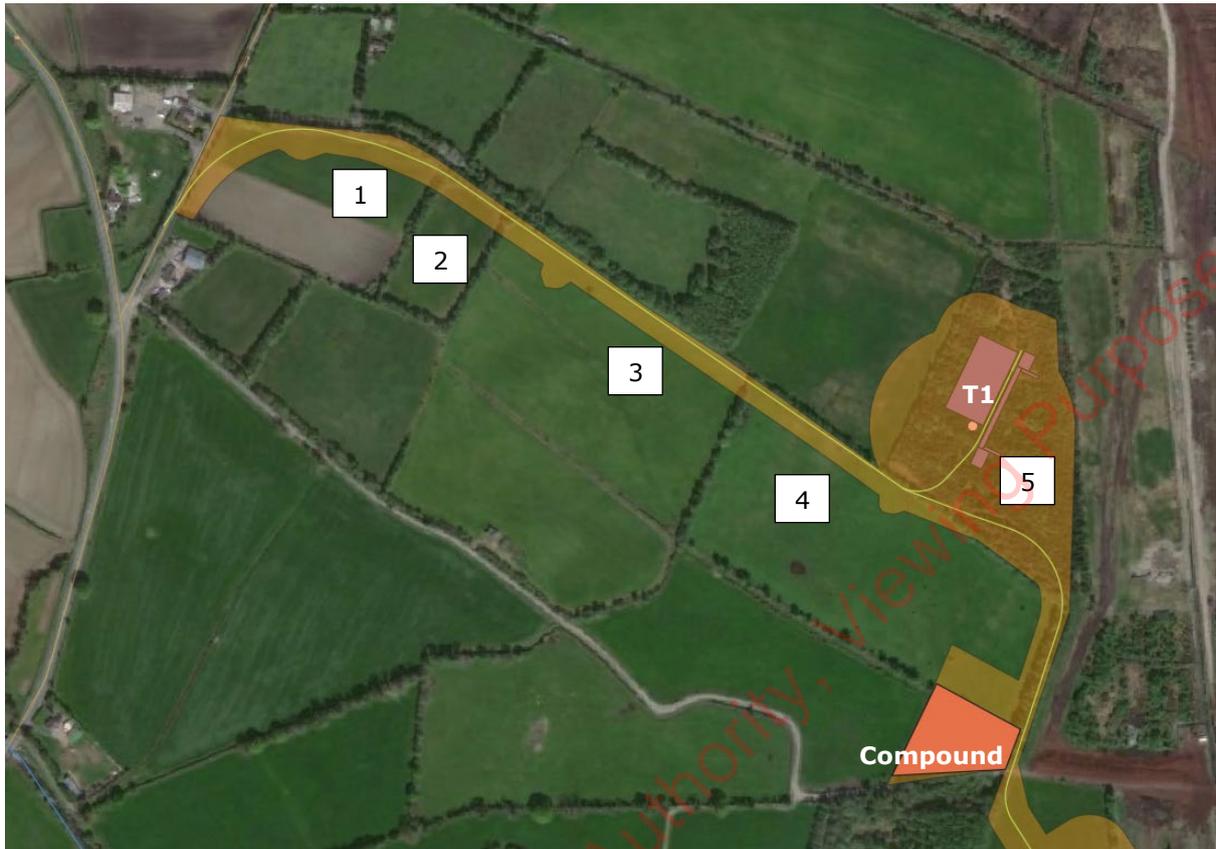
# Appendix 15.2

## Field Survey Record

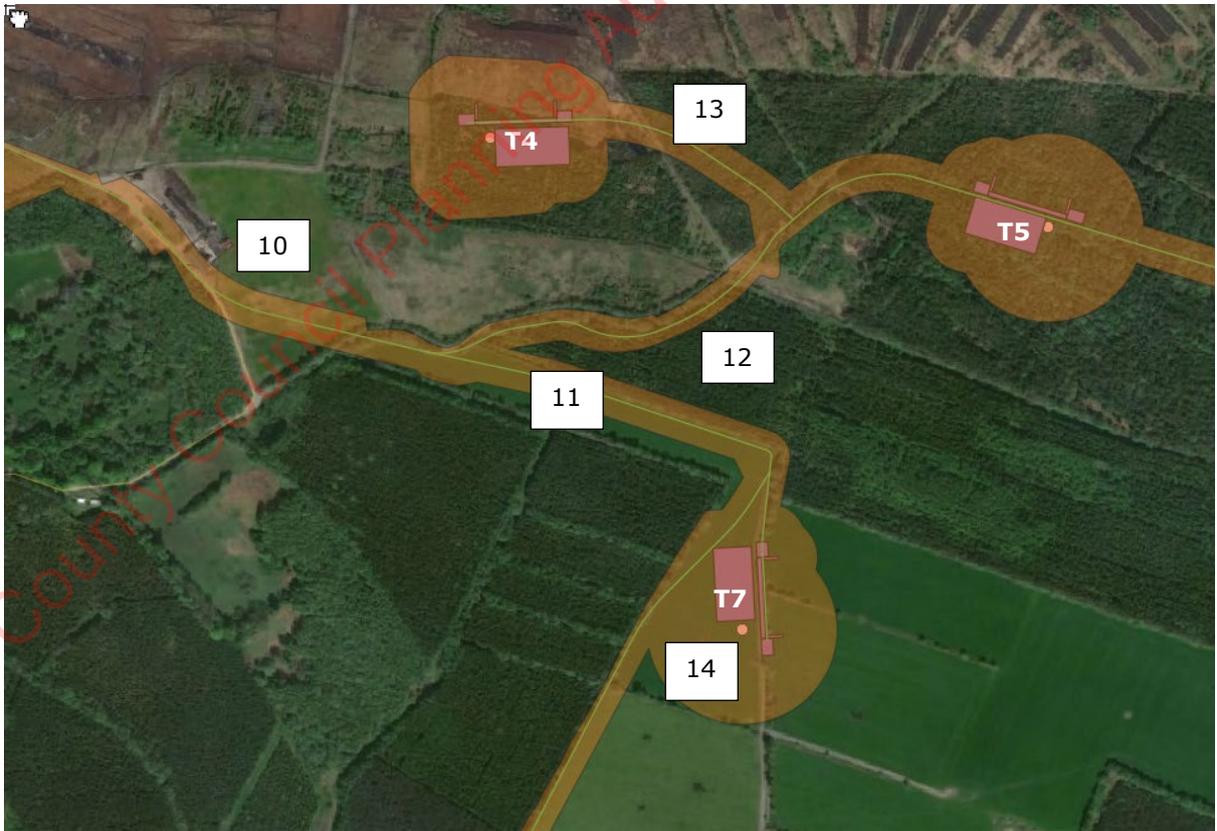
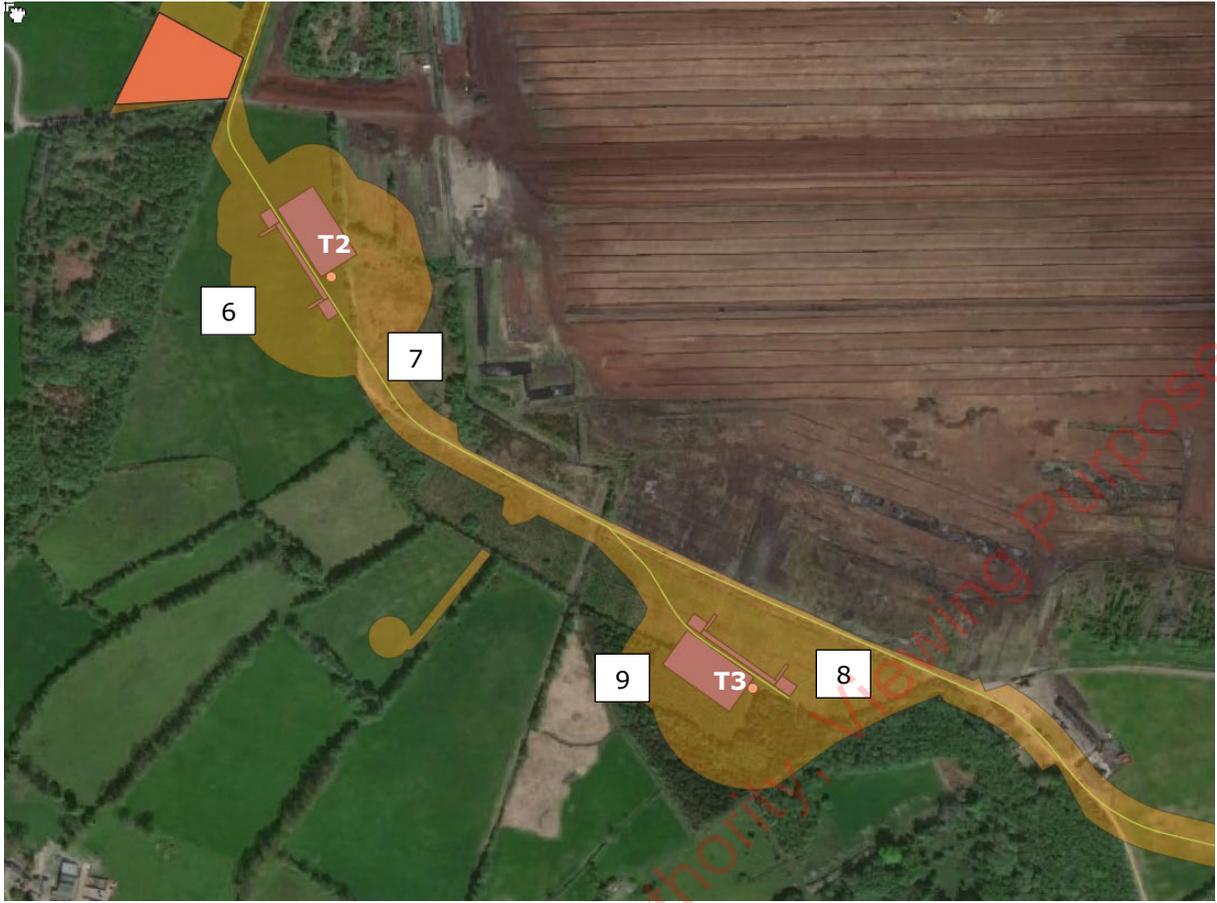


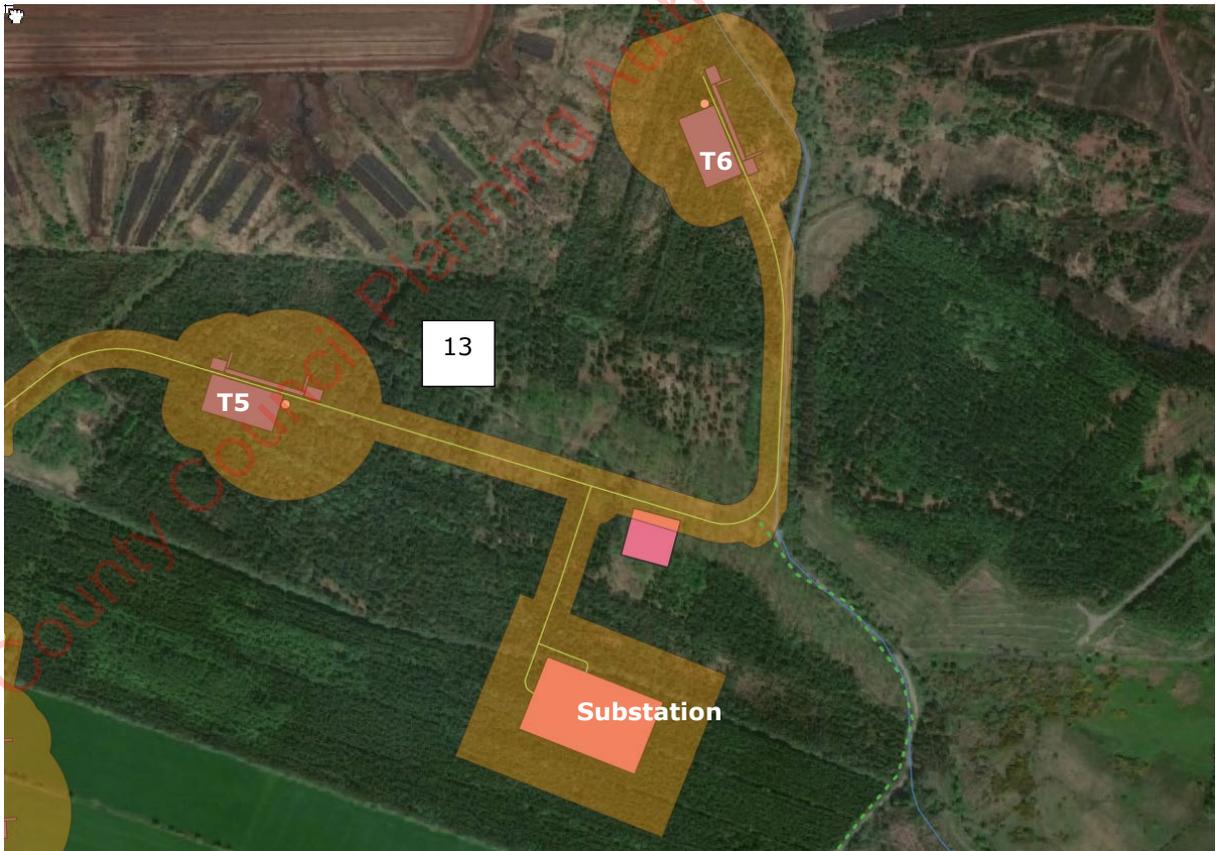
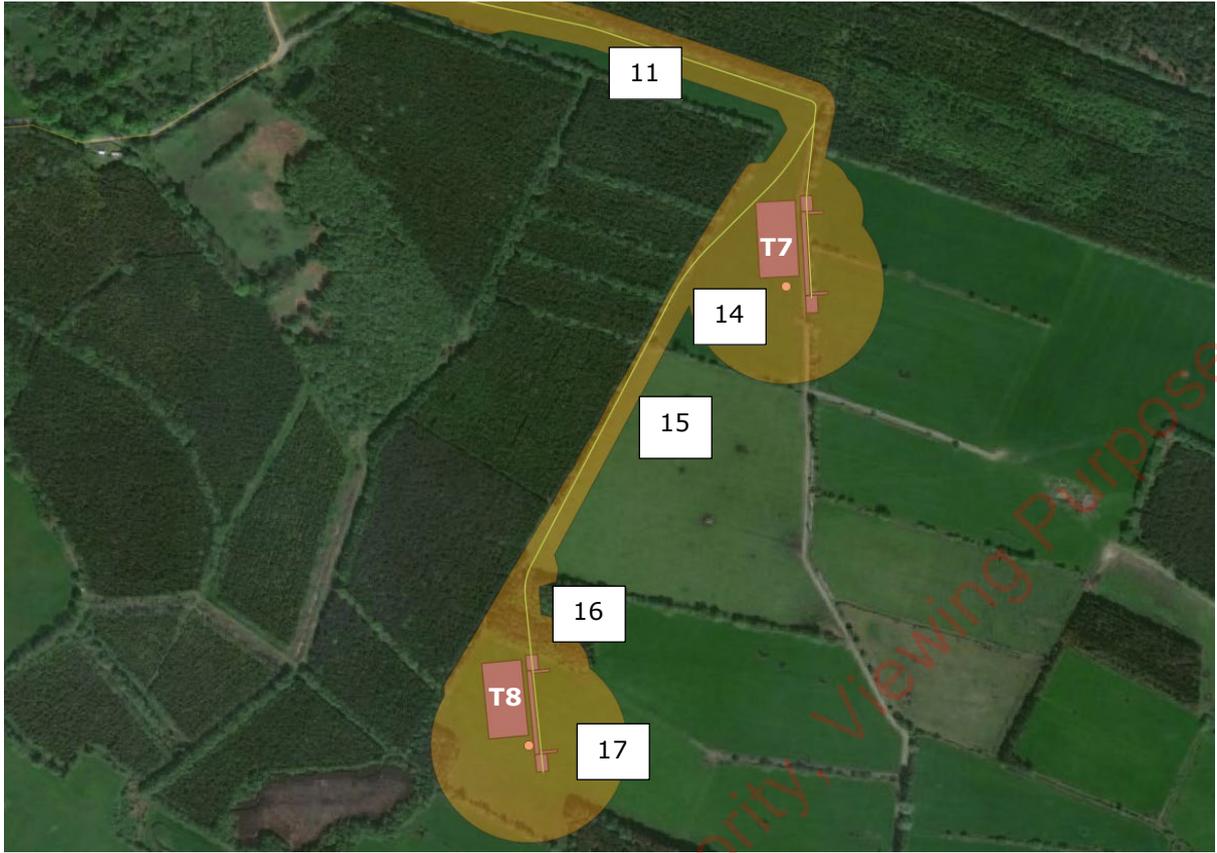
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Aerial views of referenced surveyed areas with planning boundary, turbine, compound, substation and access tracks indicated



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Area Ref. No.	Survey Notes
1	<p>Irregularly shaped, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.200m NW-SE by c.140m NE-SW, widest at east. Proposed main wind farm access road commences in southwest corner of field, adjoining public road beyond. Access road initially extends northwards along western margin of field before extending eastwards along northern margin of field. Depicted as part of a large area of commonage on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch OS map (surveyed c.1840), area has become partially enclosed and forested by the time of the production of the 25-inch OS map (surveyed c.1900). Dernacart/Forest Upper townland boundary extends east to west across Fields 1, 2, and 3, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. The field is relatively level with only slight surface undulations and a gentle downward slope near its northern margin where a narrow band of overgrowth separates the maintained pasture from the field boundary. The boundaries are formed by mature deciduous treelines with overgrowth and varying sized ditches beneath. A band of deciduous trees which runs to the northeast of the northern boundary defines the alignment of a former trackway depicted on the 25-inch map.</p>
2	<p>Rectangular, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.130m NE-SW by c.67m NW-SE. Proposed main wind farm access road extends NW-SE along the northern margin of the field. Depicted as part of a large area of commonage on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch OS map, area has become partially enclosed and forested by the time of the production of the 25-inch OS map. Dernacart/Forest Upper townland boundary extends east to west across Fields 1, 2, and 3, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. Similar in topography to Field 1 with only a marginal downward slope to the north, where again a band of overgrowth separates the recently cut pasture from the northern field boundary. The wind farm access road is proposed to extend through this band of overgrowth. The boundaries are formed by mature deciduous treelines with overgrowth and varying sized ditches beneath. A band of deciduous trees which runs to the northeast of the northern boundary defines the alignment of a former trackway depicted on the 25-inch map. Approximately 35m to the south of the northern boundary in the north central portion of the field there are a number of low surface undulations in an area which appears to have a higher soil moisture content than the surrounding area.</p>
3	<p>Large rectangular, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.270m NW-SE by c.160m NE-SW. Proposed main wind farm access road extends in a NW-SE direction along the north-eastern margin of the field. Depicted as part of a large area of commonage on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch OS map, area has become enclosed and partially forested by the time of the production of the 25-inch OS map. Dernacart/Forest Upper townland boundary extends east to west across Fields 1, 2, and 3, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. The field is generally level with only occasional natural looking surface undulations evident. Its boundaries are formed by mature deciduous tree lines to the east, north and west, and an open c.3m wide by 2m deep ditch to the south. A c.3m wide by c.2m deep ditch is contained within the tree line between Fields 3 and 4. A band of deciduous trees which runs to the northeast of the northern boundary defines the alignment of a former trackway depicted on the 25-inch map. An internal division within the field is formed by a c.2m wide by 2m deep ditch which runs nearly the full length of the field within its northern third. A solitary deciduous tree stands in the north-central part of the field to the southwest of the proposed access road.</p>
4	<p>Large rectangular shaped, moderate quality, improved pasture field with southward extension in southeast corner. Measures c.360m NW-SE in length and c.155m in width in general but up to c.200m in width at its eastern side when including the southward extension. This area of the field (area of extension) is the proposed location of the temporary compound, the main wind farm access road also extends along the northern and eastern margins of the field. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch OS map but the area had been enclosed, forested, and divided into two separate fields by the time of the production of the 25-inch map. Increased amount of nettle and weed growth within this field compared to previous fields. Also increased amount</p>

Area Ref. No.	Survey Notes
	<p>of surface undulations, particularly along proposed access route alignment in northern margin of field, these undulations largely appear to be naturally occurring or as a result of recent land works. The boundaries of the field are formed by mature deciduous tree lines with overgrowth and varying sized ditches beneath. The trees along the southern boundary are smaller and more sporadic in nature. The proposed wind farm access route extends into a band of deciduous woodland at the western margin of the field. These trees define the alignment of a former trackway depicted on the 25-inch map. The area of the temporary site compound is generally level with occasional low surface undulations and a higher concentration of nettle and weed growth, a post and wire fence extends in a NE-SW direction across the southern third of the area, while there is a cattle pen in the extreme southeast corner.</p>
5	<p>Triangular parcel of mixed forested land measuring c.265m NE-SW by c.225m NW-SE at south end and c.65m NW-SE at north end of field. This area is the proposed location of Turbine 01 (T.01) and its associated hardstand which is to be positioned in the centre of the area, the access spur to T.01 is proposed to extend through the south-western portion of the field. Depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on both historic map editions. Inaccessible due to dense forestry and overgrowth.</p>
6	<p>Irregularly shaped, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.345m N-S by c. 235m E-W at its southern end and c.85m E-W at its northern end. Proposed location of T.02 and its associated hardstand is in the east-central portion of the field. The main wind farm access road extends through the northern and eastern portions of the field in a NW-SE direction. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the both historic map editions. A large portion of the southern and western areas of the field are outside the wind farm site boundary. Stone access track to surrounding bog and farmland extends to immediate north and east of field, post and wire fence separates track from field, sporadic tree line along eastern boundary also. The portion of the western boundary which is within the windfarm landholding is formed by a mature deciduous tree line, the eastern extent of a forestry plantation. The field is relatively flat, with occasional surface undulations. A c.5m x 5m circular depression was noted to the east of the proposed access route in the northern portion of the field. As this field was subject to significant land improvement works the feature is likely to be non-archaeological, a similar scenario is probable with other undulations and tree trunk remnants noted across the proposed T.02 hardstand area.</p>
7	<p>Irregular, dog-leg shaped area of scrub and forestry measuring a maximum of c.265m in length NW-SE by c.90m in width E-W, narrower in southeast corner where minimum width is c.30m NE-SW. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the both historic map editions. Eastern margin of the field is outside the wind farm site boundary. The very western portion of the hardstand for T.02 extends into the north-western corner of the area, while the main wind farm access road is proposed to extend along the eastern margin of the field. The northern portion of the area is less overgrown and was possibly subject to some peat harvesting in the past. Frequent reed and rush growth indicate a high water-table. Existing bog track which dissects the southern portion of the area extends through both scrub and forestry. To the north of the track is unmaintained scrub, to the south is an organised mixed forestry plantation, neither area provided surface visibility. A wide (up to 5m) and deep (up to 3m) water-filled ditch separates the Field 7 area from the Field 8 area (also forestry).</p>
8	<p>Elongated area of mixed deciduous and coniferous forestry plantation measuring c.330m NW-SE by c.70m NE-SW. The main windfarm access road extends through the field in a general west to east direction. The northern portion of the T.03 hardstand and turbine location extend across the south-central margin of the area. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the both historic map editions, with a probable drainage channel depicted extending through the area in a NE-SW direction on the 25-inch map.</p>

Area Ref. No.	Survey Notes
	The area was not readily accessible for survey, however, a partially accessible area along the proposed access route at the western end of the area, revealed the ground surface to be heavily disturbed by drainage channels and tree planting drills, and was also heavily overgrown.
9	Triangular area of mixed forestry located to the south of Field 8, measures c.260m NW-SE by 165m NE-SW at its south-eastern end, the field tapers to a point at its north-western end. The majority of the T.03 turbine location and hardstand are located in the north-central portion of the field. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage which borders marginal farmland to the south on the both historic map editions. The area to be impacted by the proposed works was not accessible at time of survey due to the dense forestry and overgrowth which surrounds it. Likely similar in characteristics to Field 08 with a heavily channelled and overgrown ground surface within the area.
10	Irregularly shaped, improved pasture field measuring c.225m NW-SE by c.145m NE-SE. Appears on the aerial imagery to have been recently reclaimed/improved. The main wind farm access road extends south-eastwards from the central west margin of the field, exiting near its southeast corner. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the both historic map editions, the 25-inch map shows it border reclaimed enclosed pastureland to the west. At time of survey the field was heavily overgrown with scrub growth which did not allow any surface definition. The field is bound by an electric fence with a laneway beyond to the west. The southern boundary is comprised of an electric fence with a deep c.2m ditch behind with scrub and mature tree growth and an access laneway to Fields 11,12, and 13 behind. The northern and eastern boundaries are formed by open ditches measuring c.3m wide by c.2m deep. Sheds associated with commercial peatland to its north located beyond western field boundary.
11	Narrow and elongated, good quality, improved pasture field located between two areas of coniferous forestry, measures c.435m WNW-ESE by c.50m NNE-SSW. Main wind farm access road is proposed to extend along the northern margin of the field with spur towards proposed substation location, T.04, T.05 and T.06 extending off main access road in northwest corner of field. Depicted as open commonage on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map, area was not surveyed for the 25-inch map of c.1900. Forest Upper/Forest Lower townland boundary extends NNW-SSE across Fields 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. Field boundaries are formed by c.1.5m deep by c.1.2m wide ditches on all sides with overgrowth and deciduous tree lines beyond. Large commercial forestry plantations beyond north and south boundaries of field. There is a slight downward slope to the north and south from a low central ridge extending east to west across field. Open boundary with Field 14 in southeast corner of field.
12	Large, elongated area of coniferous forestry, measures c.1.1km WNW-ESE by c.165m NNE-SSW. Access spur to Turbines 5 and 6 extends along the western margin of the area. Depicted as open commonage on the 1st edition 6-inch map, area was not surveyed for the 25-inch map of c.1900. Forest Upper/Forest Lower townland boundary extends NNW-SSE across Fields 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. Field 12 comprises a large area of dense planted coniferous forestry which was not suitable for survey. The area is bound to the northwest by a c.5m area of scrub growth; behind which is an overgrown access track running parallel to the north-western forest boundary and which extends in a general northeast direction towards the area designated as Field 13. The access track is heavily overgrown and bound to the southeast (F.12) by a c.2m deep ditch with scrub and denuded mature tree growth. There is a shallower ditch running on the northwest side of the access track. The access track becomes more overgrown as it continues in a northeast direction past the proposed substation location which is located in the north-western corner of the area.
13	Large, irregularly shaped area of coniferous and deciduous forestry which measures c.1.3km E-W by c. 730m N-S (max). Area has differing growth rated throughout and is interspersed with clearings.

Area Ref. No.	Survey Notes
	<p>The area forms much of the north-eastern section of the windfarm, which is proposed to contain Turbines 4, 5, and 6, proposed sub-station, and all associated access tracks. Depicted as open commonage on the 1st edition 6-inch map, area was not surveyed for the 25-inch map of c.1900. Forest Upper/Forest Lower townland boundary extends NNW-SSE across Fields 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. The area is accessed via a laneway running along the northwest boundary of Field 12, which extends into a clearing in the southern portion of this area. The laneway divides into two tracks with one extending through forestry in a north-eastward direction towards the proposed location of Turbine 5, with the other trackway extending in a north-westward direction, also through forestry, and crossing an existing track (c. 0.5m raised track with plantation on both sides). The latter existing track opens out (north of T.4) onto a vast area of maintained bog-land with evidence of past peat harvesting in the form of cutaway sections of peat. The bog is covered by planted young tree growth and natural heather. The proposed T.04 hardstand location is within dense forestry to the southwest of the area of open bog-land. In relation to the north-easterly aligned trackway, the proposed access route to T.05 continues for c.100m through an area of planted deciduous forestry, the track is raised above the surrounding ground level by c.1m on either side. The proposed access track then veers to the east through an area of dense planted coniferous forestry to the location of T.5. The proposed sub-station is also located within dense forestry. Access was not possible through the dense forestry in these areas.</p>
14	<p>Triangular, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.240m NNE-SSW by c.155m WNW-ESE at southern end and c.45m WNW-ESE at northern end. The proposed main wind farm access road extends northeast to southwest from northeast corner of field and down along the western margin of the field. The proposed Turbine 07 and its associated access spur are located in the eastern portion of the field. The field is depicted as open commonage on the 1st edition 6-inch map, area was not surveyed for the 25-inch map of c.1900. Forest Upper/Forest Lower townland boundary extends NNW-SSE across Fields 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. The field is accessed directly from the south-eastern corner of Field 11 and is predominantly level, however, there is an area of differential growth in the southern portion of the field. This is possibly a drainage related issue. A farm trackway extends N-S along the eastern margin of the field which is bounded by a deciduous tree line. The western boundary of the field is formed by the eastern extent of a dense plantation of coniferous trees. A c.1.5m deep drainage ditch divides the forestry from the pasture. The southern boundary with Field 15 was formed by a c.1.5m deep drain with scrub and denuded mature tree growth and contained stagnant water to the west.</p>
15	<p>Near trapezoidal shaped, good quality, improved pasture field measuring c.240m NNW-SSW by c.320m WNW-ESE at south end and c.170m WNW-ESE at north end. The proposed access spur to Turbine 8 extends in a NNW to SSE direction along the western margin of the field. The field is depicted as part of a larger area of commonage on the both historic map editions. Forest Upper/Forest Lower townland boundary extends NNW-SSE across Fields 11, 12, 13, 14 ,15, however, there is no modern-day boundary on this alignment. The field is relatively level but there is a slight incline to the south. It has evidently been subject to significant land improvement. Two small circular areas of disturbed topsoil in the centre of the field are as a result of modern activity. There is a continuation of the laneway which extends southwards along the eastern margin of the field from Field 14, there is no tree line along this section. The western boundary of the field was again formed by the continuation of the c.1.5m deep drainage ditch with forestry plantation to west. The southern was formed by a similar ditch with scrub overgrowth and occasional tree growth along its line.</p>
16	<p>Small trapezoidal parcel of deciduous forestry measuring c.100m NW-SE by c.80m NE-SW at eastern end and c.60m NE-SW at western end of area. Access spur to T.08 extends N-S through the western portion of the area.</p>

Area Ref. No.	Survey Notes
	Depicted as part of a larger area of open commonage on both the historic map editions. Area was not accessible due to the densely planted nature of the trees.
17	Large, irregularly shaped, moderate quality pasture field measuring c.280m NW-SE by a max of c.170m NE-SW across its central portion, narrower at NW and SE ends at c.100m. Turbine location and hardstand for Turbine 8 are proposed to be located in the north-western half of the field. Depicted as part of a larger area of open commonage on both the historic map editions. Field contains slight undulations as well as a gentle downward slope to the south. The field is separated from Field 16 to the northwest by a modern electric fence and bound to the west and southwest by planted coniferous forestry. There are two circular areas of exposed soil (c.5m in diameter) located in the southwest corner which are probably associated with agricultural activity.

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