

12. ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

12.1 Introduction

This archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage chapter was prepared by Tobar Archaeological Services. It presents the results of an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment of the Proposed Development. The purpose of this chapter is to assess the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape. The assessment is based on both a desktop review of the available cultural heritage and archaeological data and a field inspection of the Proposed Development area. An assessment of potential effects, including cumulative effects, is presented.

12.1.1 The Proposed Development

The Development consists of a proposed windfarm of up to 21 turbines with a minimum tip height of 200m. The development proposal will also consist of proposed infrastructure in the form of site roads, temporary construction compounds, an on-site substation and a grid connection cable route connecting to the existing Bellacorick substation. All aspects of the Proposed Development are described in Chapter 4 of the EIAR.

12.1.2 Location and Topography

The site is located at Sheskin County Mayo approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Erris and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline. Ballycroy National Park is 7km south of the site and Knockmoyle Nature Reserve is 2.1km east of the site. The site covers an area of 1013 hectares (within the red line boundary) and has an undulating elevation range of 110m AOD in the southeast to 285m AOD in the west. The Site can be accessed from the N59 via a local road and existing forestry roads/tracks. The site is largely covered with commercial forestry plantations in the ownership of Coillte.

12.1.3 Statement of Authority

This chapter of the EIAR has been prepared by Miriam Carroll of Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. Miriam and Annette both graduated from University College Cork in 1998 with a Masters degree in Methods and Techniques in Irish Archaeology. Both are licensed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to carry out excavations and are members of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. Annette Quinn and Miriam Carroll have been working in the field of archaeology since 1994 and have undertaken numerous projects for both the private and public sectors including excavations, site assessments (EIAR) and surveys. Both authors also have experience in carrying out Built Heritage assessment reports and building surveys as well as Local heritage plans and Conservation and Management Plans for Heritage towns / groups. Miriam Carroll and Annette Quinn are directors of Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd which has been in operation for 19 years.

12.1.4 Relevant Legislation

Archaeological monuments are safeguarded through national and international policy, which is designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention). This was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

Both the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 and relevant provisions of the Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring protection of archaeological monuments, the latter of which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date. There are a number of provisions under the National Monuments Acts which ensure protection of the archaeological resource. These include the Register of Historic Monuments (1997 Act) which means that any interference to a monument is illegal under that Act. All registered monuments are included on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and consists of a list of known archaeological monuments and accompanying maps. The Record of Monuments and Places affords some protection to the monuments entered therein. Section 12 (3) of the 1994 Amendment Act states that any person proposing to carry out work at or in relation to a recorded monument must give notice in writing to the Minister (Environment, Heritage and Local Government) and shall not commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice. All proposed works, therefore, within or around any archaeological monument are subject to statutory protection and legislation (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

The term ‘national monument’ as defined in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act 1930 means a monument *‘the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto’*. National monuments in State care include those which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Section 5 of the National Monuments Act (1930) allows owners of other national monuments to appoint the Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or the relevant local authority as guardian of such monuments, subject to their consent. This means in effect that while the property of such a monument remains vested in the owner, its maintenance and upkeep are the responsibility of the State. Some monuments are also protected by Preservation Orders and are also regarded as National Monuments. National Monuments also includes (but not so as to limit, extend or otherwise influence the construction of the foregoing general definition) every monument in Saorstát Éireann to which the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1882, applied immediately before the passing of this Act, and the said expression shall be construed as including, in addition to the monument itself, the site of the monument and the means of access thereto and also such portion of land adjoining such site as may be required to fence, cover in, or otherwise preserve from injury the monument or to preserve the amenities thereof.

Under the Heritage Act (1995) architectural heritage is defined to include *‘all structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including street-scapes 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...’*. A heritage building is also defined to include *‘any building, or part thereof, which is of significance because of its intrinsic architectural or artistic quality or its setting or because of its association with the commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, political, social or religious history of the place where it is situated or of the country or generally’*.

12.1.4.1 Granada Convention

The Council of Europe, in Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), states that *‘for the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each member State will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage’*. The Granada Convention emphasises the importance of inventories in underpinning conservation policies.

The NIAH was established in 1990 to fulfil Ireland's obligations under the Granada Convention, through the establishment and maintenance of a central record, documenting and evaluating the architectural heritage of Ireland. Article 1 of the Granada Convention establishes the parameters of this

work by defining 'architectural heritage' under three broad categories of Monument, Groups of Buildings, and Sites:

- Monument: all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings;
- Group of buildings: homogeneous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units;
- Sites: the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogenous to be topographically definable, and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

The Council of Europe's definition of architectural heritage allows for the inclusion of structures, groups of structures and sites which are considered to be of significance in their own right, or which are of significance in their local context and environment. The NIAH believes it is important to consider the architectural heritage as encompassing a wide variety of structures and sites as diverse as post boxes, grand country houses, mill complexes and vernacular farmhouses.

12.1.5 Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 outlines a number of policies and objectives in relation to architectural and archaeological heritage as follows:

Archaeological Heritage Policies

BEP 1 To support and promote the protection, appropriate management and sympathetic enhancement of the county's archaeological heritage within the Plan area, in particular by implementing the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).

BEP 2 To promote awareness of and encourage the provision of access to, the archaeological resources of the county.

BEP 3 To encourage the management and maintenance of the county's archaeological heritage, including historic burial grounds, in accordance with best conservation practice that considers the impact of climate change.

Archaeological Heritage Objectives

BEO 1 To protect the archaeological heritage and sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in addition to National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.

BEO 2 To protect the tentative World Heritage Site in Mayo on the UNESCO Tentative List - Ireland 2010, The Céide Fields, from inappropriate development and support its nomination to World Heritage Status.

BEO 3 To implement, in partnership with the County Mayo Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the community, the County Mayo Heritage Plan and any revisions thereof.

BEO 4 To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner, avoiding adverse effects on landscape setting and context of monument.

BEO 5 To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places, in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) , having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

BEO 6 To protect archaeological sites, monuments, underwater archaeology and archaeological objects in their setting, which are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places for Mayo.

Architectural Heritage Policies

BEP 4 To protect the architectural heritage of County Mayo which is a unique and special resource.

BEP 5 To promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen with recognised conservation expertise, for works to protected structures or historic buildings in an Architectural Conservation Area.

BEP 6 To encourage the conservation of Protected Structures, and where appropriate, the adaptive re-use of existing buildings and sites in a manner compatible with their character and significance.

BEP 7 To protect buildings and structures included in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) which forms part of this Plan.

Architectural Heritage Objectives

BEO 7 To review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions, as appropriate.

BEO 8 To ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of buildings and structures included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.

BEO 9 To protect the setting of protected structures and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures, which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.

BEO 10 To ensure that any new development or alteration to a building within or adjoining an Architectural Conservation Area positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density, layout, proportions, plot ratio and building lines.

BEO 11 To identify places of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, and to define them as Architectural Conservation Areas and to undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation for the following areas:- Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Killala, Pontoon and Doogort or any other special character areas considered by the Planning Authority worthy of such protection in County Mayo.

The Draft CDP also outlines policies and objectives in relation to historic buildings and vernacular architecture as follows:

BEP 8 To encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features, where appropriate.

BEP 9 To promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the county.

BEP 10 To encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular heritage of Mayo.

BEP 11 To promote the sympathetic maintenance refurbishment and re-use of vernacular built heritage and to support the retention of original fabric such as windows, doors, renders/pub/shop-fronts, roof coverings and interiors.

BEP 12 To support proposals to appropriately refurbish and extend vernacular structures in a semi-derelict or derelict condition.

BEP 13 To encourage the protection, conservation, promotion and enhancement of Country Houses, Gardens and Demesnes in the county and support public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites, where appropriate.

BEP 14 To discourage development that would lead to a loss of, or cause damage to, the character, the principle components of, or the setting of Country Houses, Gardens and Demesnes in recognition of their contribution to cultural heritage, landscapes and green infrastructure. Architectural heritage impact assessment, including consideration of demesne and setting may be required for proposals.

BEO 12 To identify and retain good examples of vernacular architecture and historic street furniture in situ, for example, cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting, kerbing and traditional road and street surface coverings.

BEO 13 To ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.

BEO 14 To update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the county and to promote available grant schemes in order to assist owners with their retention and repair.

BEO 15 To preserve the character and setting (for example, gates, gate piers and courtyards) of historic building and vernacular buildings, where deemed appropriate by the planning authority.

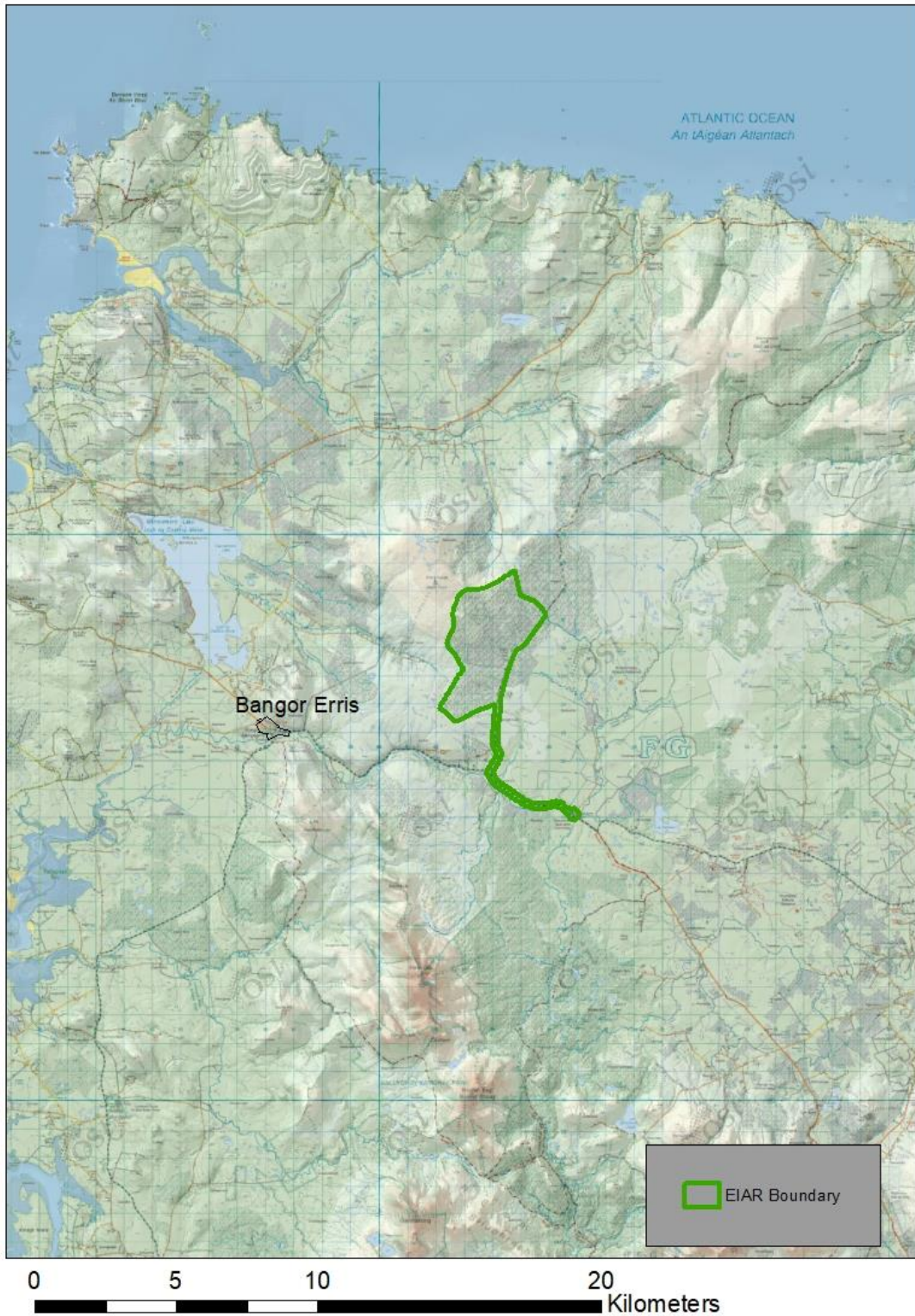


Figure 12-1: Site location map.

12.1.5.2 Statutory Consultations

12.1.5.2.1 Mayo County Council

Mayo County Council requested that a suitably qualified archaeologist undertake a site visit and desktop assessment and that Geophysical Survey, Archaeological Testing, Archaeological Excavation and Archaeological Monitoring may be required. No other comments were made.

12.1.5.2.2 National Monuments Service

The scoping document was issued on the 25th of March 2021 and a reminder was sent on 1st June 2021. A second reminder was issued on the 17th of December 2021. No response was received.

12.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment of the archaeology, architecture and cultural heritage of the Proposed Development included geographic information system (GIS) mapping, desk-based research and field inspection.

12.2.1 Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

GIS is a computer database which captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data that is linked to location. GIS is geographic information systems which includes mapping software and its application with remote sensing, land surveying, aerial photography, mathematics, photogrammetry, geography and tools that can be implemented with GIS software. GIS was used to manage the datasets relevant to the archaeological and architectural heritage assessment and for the creation of all the maps in this section of the report. This involved the overlaying of the relevant archaeological and architectural datasets on georeferenced aerial photographs and road maps (i.e. Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)), where available. The integration of this spatial information allows for the accurate measurement of distances of a Proposed Development from archaeological and cultural heritage sites and the extraction of information on ‘monument types’ from the datasets. Areas of archaeological or architectural sensitivity may then be highlighted in order to mitigate the potential negative effects of a development on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage.

ArcGIS online viewshed analysis was also used to assess effects on setting of archaeological and architectural heritage monuments. The Viewshed tool uses the ESRI Elevation Analysis service to determine which areas are visible from specified observer points (the observer points being the monuments). Visibility settings are used to set the height of the observer (1.75m standard), the minimum height of the observed features (e.g. hub height of turbines set to 100m), and the maximum viewing distance of the observer. This tool was utilised to ascertain the potential/theoretical visual effects on Cultural Heritage Assets. The results show the worst-case scenario since the model does not take screening (trees or vegetation) into consideration. The results are outlined in Section 12.3.

12.2.2 Desktop Assessment

The following sources were consulted as part of the desktop assessment for the Proposed Development:

- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)
- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- National Monuments in State Care County Mayo
- The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland on www.heritagemaps.ie
- First edition Ordnance Survey maps (OSI)
- Second edition Ordnance Survey maps (OSI)
- Aerial photographs (copyright of Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI))

- Excavations Database
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)
- Record of Protected Structures
- Previous archaeological surveys and assessments carried out on or near to the Proposed Development area

Each of these are discussed in the following sections.

12.2.2.1 **Record of Monuments and Places, Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments**

A primary cartographic source and base-line data for the assessment was the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Mayo. All known recorded archaeological monuments are indicated on 6-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and are listed in these records. The SMR/RMP is not a complete record of all monuments as newly discovered sites may not appear in the list or accompanying maps. In conjunction with the consultation of the SMR and RMP the electronic database of recorded monuments and SMRs which may be accessed at www.maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment was also consulted.

A review of all National Monuments in State Care and those subject to Preservation Orders was also undertaken as part of the assessment.

12.2.2.2 **Cartographic Sources and Aerial Photography**

The 1st (1840s) and 2nd (1900s) edition OS maps for the area were consulted as was OSI aerial photography.

12.2.2.3 **Topographical Files - National Museum of Ireland**

Details relating to finds of archaeological material and monuments in numerous townlands in the country are contained in the topographical files held in the National Museum of Ireland. In order to establish if any new or previously unrecorded finds had been recovered from the Proposed Development area these files were consulted for each townland within and adjacent to the same. Heritage Maps (www.heritagemaps.ie) also contains locational detail for Museum find spots.

12.2.2.4 **Archaeological Inventory Series**

Further information on archaeological sites may be obtained in the published County Archaeological Inventory series prepared by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The archaeological inventories present summarised information on sites listed in the SMR/RMP and include detail such as the size and location of particular monuments, as well as any associated folklore or local information pertaining to each site. The inventories, however, do not account for all sites or items of cultural heritage interest which are undiscovered at the time of their publication. Many sites have been discovered since the publication of the Inventory Series, which have now been added to the Sites and Monuments Record.

12.2.2.5 **Record of Protected Structures**

The Record of Protected Structures for County Mayo as listed in the County Development Plan was consulted for the schedule of buildings and items of cultural, historical or archaeological interest. A digital dataset for Mayo RPS is available online and added to the GIS constraints mapping for this chapter.

12.2.2.6 Excavations Database

The Excavations Database is an annual account of all excavations carried out under license. The database is available on line at www.excavations.ie and includes excavations from 1985 to 2020. This database was consulted as part of the desktop research for this assessment to establish if any archaeological excavations had been carried out within or near to the Proposed Development area.

12.2.2.7 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

This source lists some of the architecturally significant buildings and items of cultural heritage and is compiled on a county by county basis by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The NIAH database was consulted for all townlands within and adjacent to the study area. The NIAH survey has been published and the digital dataset was downloaded on to the base mapping for the Proposed Development (www.buildingsofireland.ie). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

12.2.2.8 Previous Assessments

No previous assessments were carried out on the Proposed Development site.

12.2.3 Field Inspection

The Proposed Development area was subject to a walk-over survey in September 2021 and April 2022. A photographic and descriptive record was made of the Proposed Development site and any features of interest therein.

12.2.3.1 Limitations Associated with Fieldwork

Dense forestry renders access to certain areas difficult. This is dealt with by way of mitigation measures at the construction stage however. Fire breaks, existing roads and thinned forestry could be accessed with relative ease. Areas with dense forestry and overgrowth could not be accessed however. Archaeological testing and monitoring at the construction stage (post clear-felling) will be undertaken which will assess the site for the presence or otherwise of sub-surface archaeological features. Each cultural heritage asset is assessed below with suitable mitigation measures proposed.

12.2.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The likely effects on the existing archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment are assessed using the criteria as set out in the *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2022). The following terminology is used when describing the likely effects of the development from a Cultural Heritage perspective.

12.2.4.1 Types of Impact

- Direct impacts arise where an archaeological heritage feature or site is physically located within the footprint of the development whereby the removal of part, or all of the feature or site is thus required.
- Indirect impacts may arise as a result of subsurface works undertaken outside the footprint of the development, secondary environmental change such as a reduction in water levels and visual impacts.
- Cumulative Impacts arise when the addition of many impacts create a larger, more significant impact.
- Residual Impacts are the degree of environmental changes that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

12.2.4.1.1 Magnitude of Effects (Significance)

- Profound: Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects. Reserved for adverse, negative effects only. These effects arise where an archaeological site is completely and irreversibly destroyed.
- Very Significant: An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of the sensitive aspect of the environment.
- Significant: An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological site.
- Moderate: A moderate effect arises where a change to an archaeological site is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the integrity of the site is compromised and which is reversible. This arises where an archaeological site can be incorporated into a modern day development without damage and that all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- Slight: An effect which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not high or very high and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological site.
- Not Significant: An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
- Imperceptible: An effect on an archaeological site capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

12.2.5 Methodology for the assessment of impacts on visual setting (indirect effects)

A standardised approach was utilised for the assessment of impacts of visual setting (indirect effects) according to types of monuments and cultural heritage assets which may have varying degrees of sensitivity. This assessment includes visits to cultural heritage assets within the ELAR boundary only as other assets outside the ELAR boundary do not have public access. The assessment of impacts on visual setting was undertaken using both the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as presented in Chapter 11 of this ELAR, and also viewshed analysis from specific cultural heritage assets (viewshed analysis is described in Section 12.1.6 above). The viewshed analysis used in the assessment of potential impacts on the visual setting of cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape of 10km and 20km considers the effects of the proposed turbines only. Other lower visibility infrastructure such as roads, grid connection, sub-station etc. are not included in the viewshed analysis. All other infrastructure (proposed roads, grid connection, sub-station, compounds etc) are assessed without the use of viewshed analysis.

While direct physical impacts to a site or monument can easily be assessed in quantitative terms, the assessment of impacts on setting can be subjective and as such is a matter of qualitative, professional

judgement and experience. The distances below used in the assessment of impacts on setting are regarded as appropriate and are based on professional judgement.

Table 12-1: Cultural Heritage Assets considered according to sensitivity

Cultural Heritage Asset	Distance Considered
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (including tentative sites)	20km
National Monuments (State Ownership and Preservation Order Sites)	10km
Recorded Monuments, RPS	5km
NIAH structures	5km
Undesignated sites, if relevant	500m from Proposed Development

The potential visual effects of the turbines on the setting of cultural heritage assets are graded according to two criteria:

1. **Distance to the nearest turbine:** Each increment of distance is numbered from 1-5 in severity with 1 being the lowest in severity (i.e. 4-5km from the nearest turbine and 5 being the most severe (0-1km from the nearest turbine).
2. **Number of turbines visible on ZTV.** Each increment is also numbered from 1-4 with 1 being the least severe (i.e. 1-6 turbines visible) and 4 being the most severe (19-21 turbines visible).

The number values are then multiplied to arrive at a potential effect (from Not Significant to Significant). Very Significant and Profound are reserved for adverse direct effects which result in the total removal of cultural heritage assets which does not occur from visual impacts. The following table is used to ascertain the potential visual effect not assuming any vegetation, existing buildings, and any other screening in the landscape.

Table 12-2: Theoretical visual effects according to distance and number of turbines visible

No. of Turbines Visible (ZTV)	1-6 (1)	7-13 (2)	14-18 (3)	19-21 (4)
Distance of Asset to Turbine				
4-5Km (1)	1	2	3	4
3-4Km (2)	2	4	6	8
2-3km (3)	3	6	9	12
1-2km (2)	4	8	12	16
0-1km (1)	5	10	15	20
Imperceptible (0)	Not Significant (1-5)	Slight (6-10)	Moderate (11-15)	Significant (16-20+)

12.3 Existing Environment

12.3.1 Description of Proposed Development site

A description and photographic record of the proposed development is presented in Appendix 13.1.

12.3.2 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage includes UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on the tentative list, National Monuments in State Care and those which are subject to a preservation order, sites listed in the RMP/SMR and newly discovered archaeological sites. Each of these are addressed in the following sections. Sub-surface archaeology is also addressed in the assessment.

12.3.2.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List

The Céide Fields and North West Mayo Boglands are on the World Heritage Tentative list due to their outstanding Cultural Heritage value. It is difficult to define the full extent of the Ceide Fields because as research progresses, the extent of the field walls can change. Impacts on the Ceide Fields are addressed in Section 12.3.3.

They are described by UNESCO as follows:

‘The Céide Fields comprises a Neolithic landscape consisting of megalithic burial monuments, dwelling houses and enclosures within an integrated system of stone walls defining fields, which are spread over 12 km² of north Mayo. Many of the features are preserved intact beneath blanket peat that is over 4m deep in places. The significance of the site lies in the fact that it is the most extensive Stone Age monument in the world and the oldest enclosed landscape in Europe. The blanket bog landscape is of immense importance for its natural habitat value as well as for its illustration of environmental and climate history. The Céide Fields were constructed around 5,700 years ago by Neolithic farmers. This post-glacial landscape was dominated by woodlands, grasslands and heaths in a climate that was relatively warm and dry. Archaeological evidence from survey and excavations has been supplemented

and confirmed by a programme of radiocarbon dating pine stumps preserved in the peat throughout North Mayo (Caulfield et al. 1988) and also by extensive palaeoecological research by Molloy and O'Connell (1995, O'Connell and Molloy 2001). This research has revealed that the farmers cleared woodlands dominated by pine and birch to make pasture for grazing livestock.

The Monument shows a countryside that was systematically divided into regular coaxial field systems bounded by dry stone walls. On the Céide hill a series of parallel walls over 1.5km long divide the land into long strips, varying from 90m to 150m wide. To the west of the Céide Fields Visitor Centre these walls seem initially to follow the contour of the Behy valley and then continue over the spur of the hill onto the eastern Glenulra side merging with a second similar parallel system following the alignment of the Glenulra valley. This continues further eastwards onto the next hillside. The width of each strip remains remarkably consistent, despite "meanders" in the walls. Each strip of land was subdivided by "cross walls" into rectangular fields, up to several hectares in size (Caulfield 1988, Caulfield et al 1998). Further to the north East of Glenulra in Doonfeeny and Ballyknock and to the east the layout of the fields is not as regular.

Within the area of the actual fields there are five court tombs. Behy is a fine example of a transeptal chambered tomb with drystone court that was excavated in the 1960s. Two tombs are located at Glenulra and one apiece at Sralagagh and Aghoo. Immediately outside the fields area, located in modern farmland are a further six tombs. There are two unclassified but possible court tombs in Glenulra, two portal tombs in Ballyknock and two court tombs in Ballyglass (both excavated and one is a fine example of a central court tomb which had evidence of a substantial rectangular dwelling house beneath it). It is likely these were also originally surrounded by fields but the lack of blanket peat means that they have not survived.

There are several dwelling sites associated with the fields also. When excavated, an oval shaped stonewalled enclosure in Glenulra (adjacent to the Visitor Centre) was revealed to have surrounded a round house of wood, (Caulfield 1978, 1983). At least 11 other similar enclosures throughout the field systems are presumed also to have been dwelling areas, indicating a pattern of dispersed settlement. Nearby a small egg-shaped structure attached to a field wall may have been used as an animal pen (Byrne and Dunne 1990), and other excavations have revealed various features and artefacts (Byrne 1989, 1991, 1992). There is also a high probability that many other individual structures remain undiscovered beneath the deeper peat.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The significance of the Céide Fields lies in the fact that along with their associated megalithic monuments and dwelling structures they provide a unique farmed landscape from Neolithic times. Not only are they "an outstanding example" but they are the outstanding example of human settlement, land-use and interaction with environment in Neolithic times. The first adoption of farming occurred at different times throughout the world. Nowhere else is there such extensive physical remains of a Neolithic farmed landscape surviving from this significant period in prehistory.

The Céide Fields are certainly of 'universal' value in the definition first used by UNESCO in 1976 'represent or symbolize a set of ideas or values which are universally recognized as important, or as having influenced the evolution of mankind as a whole at one time or another' (1976 CC-76-WS-25E).

In 1998 it was stated "The requirement of outstanding universal value characterizing cultural and natural heritage should be interpreted as an (WHC-98/CON F.201/INF.9) outstanding response to issues of universal nature common to or addressed by all human cultures."

In 2006 Barker stated that the "transition from foraging to farming was the most profound revolution in human history", (Barker, G. 2006. *The Agricultural Revolution in Prehistory: Why did Foragers become Farmers?* Oxford, Oxford University Press, 414).

Authenticity: The Céide Fields are totally authentic in that the stone field walls have quite simply not been disturbed in over 5,000 years. The vast majority are still completely hidden untouched beneath up to 4 metres of blanket peat. The growth of this blanket bog is not only part of the unique environmental history of the site but has served as a very real physical protection of the remains as well as providing unequivocal proof of the antiquity of the site.

Integrity: Where archaeological excavations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the Visitor Centre, the physical structure of the remains have not been disturbed. A deliberate decision was taken not to "reconstruct" in any way, even though most of the walls had already collapsed prior to the growth of the bog. The abandonment of the fields and the collapse of the walls are seen as an integral part of the history of the site.

Surveyed Extent of the Ceide Field Walls

The 2011 publication entitled *Excavations on Céide Hill, Behy & Glenulra, North Co. Mayo, 1963-1994* provides a map of the surveyed extent of the Ceide Field walls. The surveyed fields walls measure 12km to the west of the site and 13km to the northeast. The surveyed extent is overlaid on the Proposed Development and is detailed in Figure 12-2: Surveyed field walls shown outlined in black (derived from 2011 publication on *Excavations at on Céide Hill, Behy & Glenulra, North Co. Mayo, 1963-1994*) in relation to proposed development site.

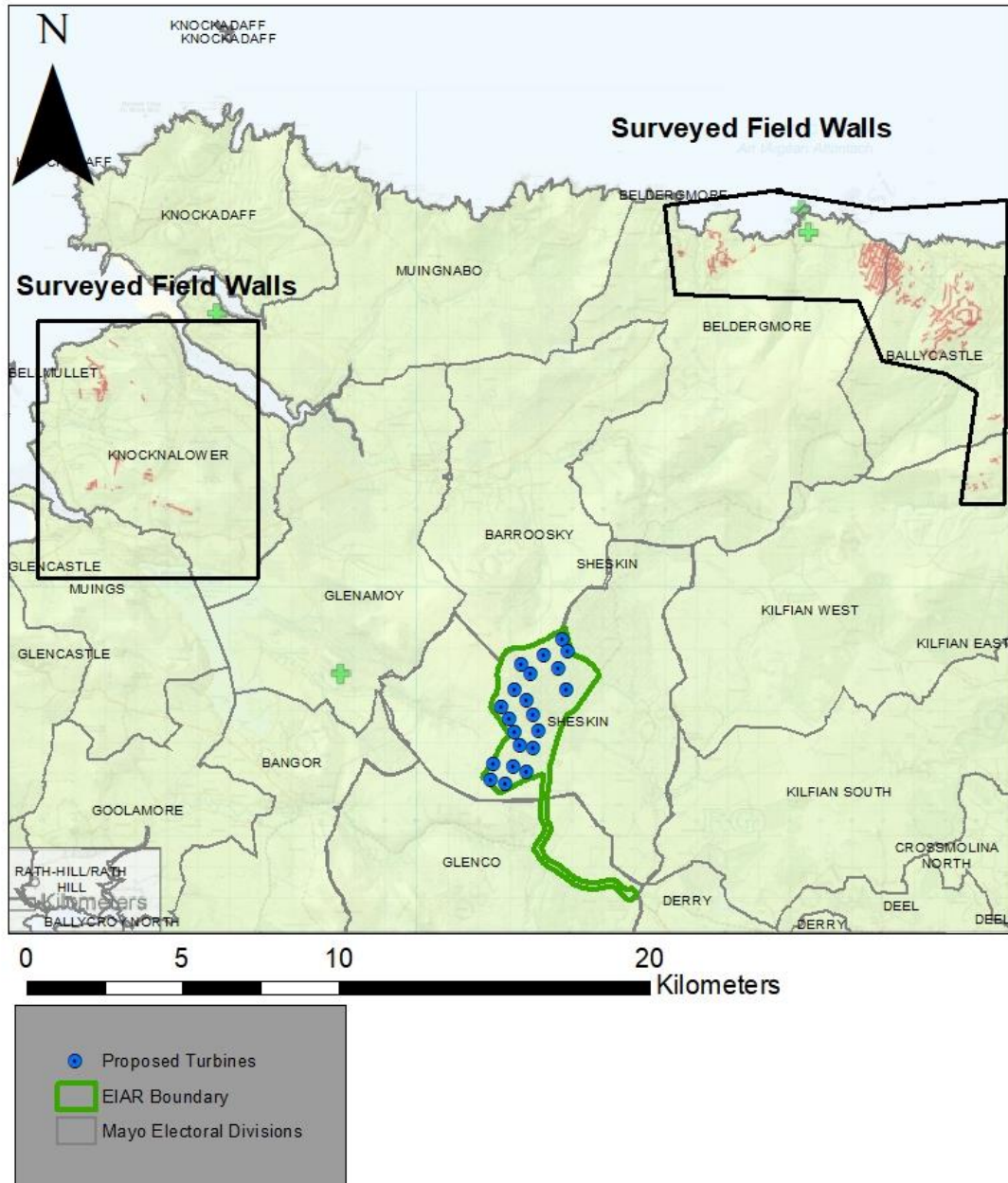


Figure 12-2: Surveyed field walls shown outlined in black (derived from 2011 publication on Excavations at on Céide Hill, Behy & Glenulra, North Co. Mayo, 1963-1994) in relation to proposed development site.

Ceide Fields in the Record of Monuments and Places

The Ceide Fields are defined in the statutory Record of Monuments and Places map on OS Sheet 6 (Site Number MA006-032). This Zone of Archaeological Potential is mapped on Figure 12-1 in relation to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development measures 14km to the northeast.

Views from the Ceide Fields

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (used as part of the Landscape and Visual Assessment chapter) was assessed in terms of what cultural heritage assets fall within the visible areas. The Ceide fields fall outside the visible areas. No turbines will be visible from the Ceide fields or visitor centre.

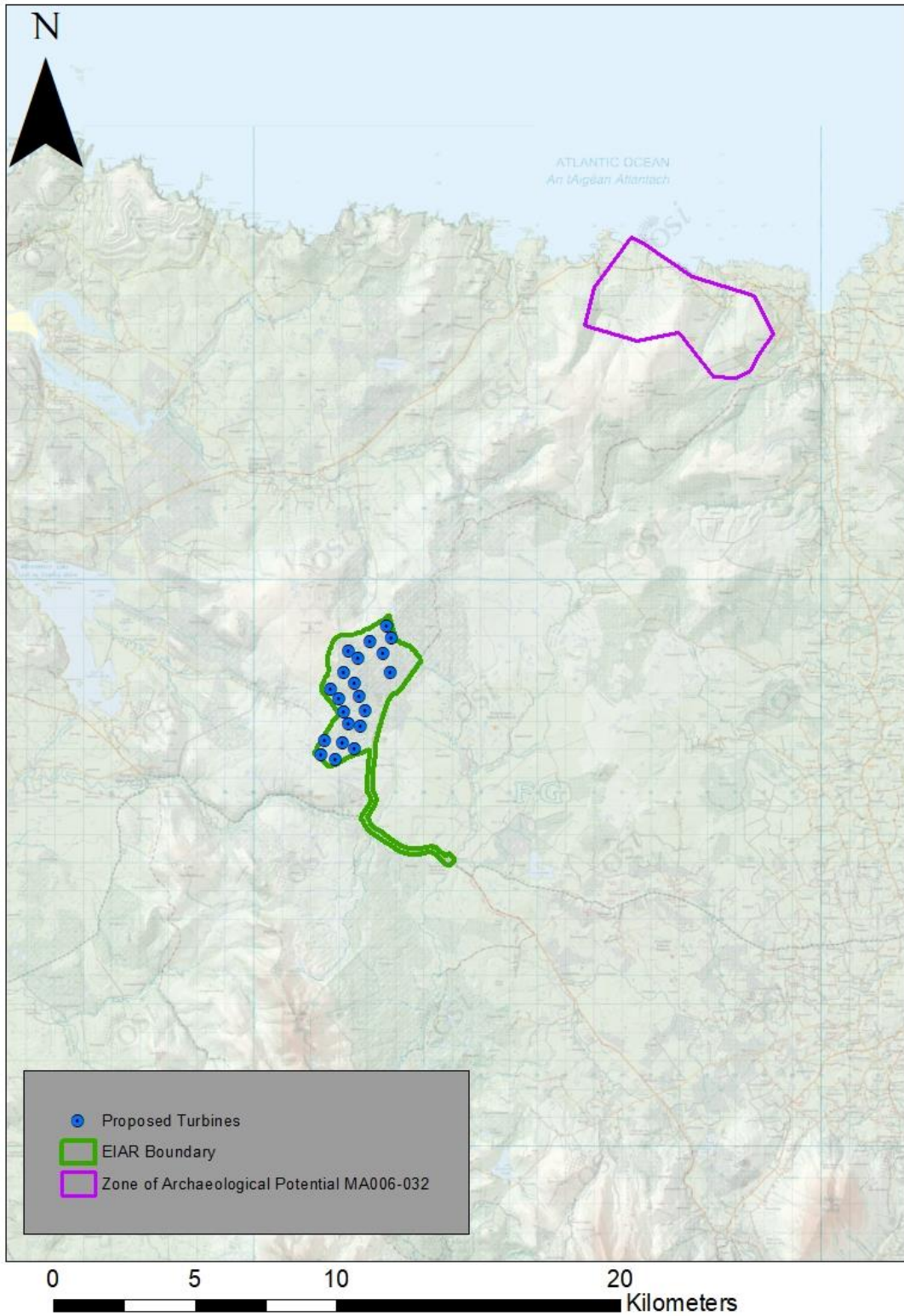


Figure 12-3: Zone around Ceide Fields as defined on the Statutory Record of Monuments and Places map (outlined in purple).

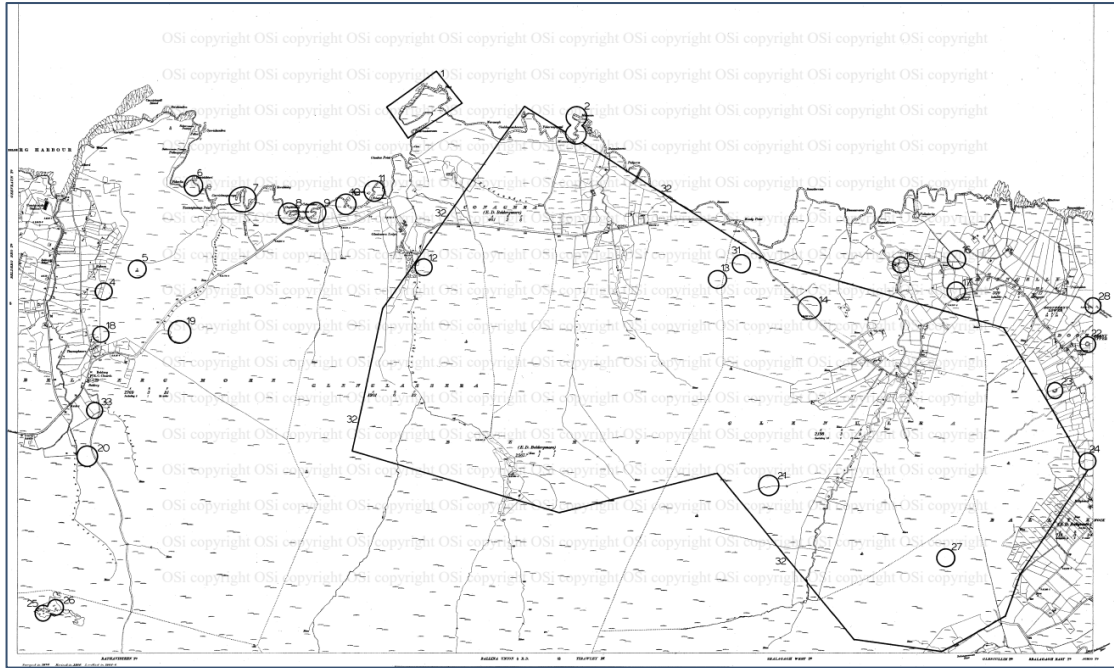


Figure 12-4: Extract from Statutory Record of Monuments and Places map Sheet 6 showing zone around Ceide fields MA006-032.

12.3.2.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are those recorded monuments which are in the ownership / guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. They are frequently referred to as being in 'State Care'. National Monuments also include those which are subject to a Preservation Order. No National Monuments are located within the Proposed Development site boundary or within 10km of the nearest proposed turbine.

12.3.2.3 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within the ELAR Site Boundary. A total of nine (9) archaeological monuments are located within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine and these are detailed in

Table 12-3 below. The monuments locations are shown on Figure 12-5. This is a particularly low number of archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity with the nearest monument being located at 1.4Km from Turbine SH17.

Table 12-3: SMRs within 5km of the Proposed Development site boundary.

Smr No.	Itm E	Itm N	Class	Townland	Turbine ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)
MA027-002001-	492074	822439	Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb	Largan Beg	Sh17	1414
MA027-002002-	492074	822439	Inscribed stone	Largan Beg	Sh17	1414
MA027-001002-	491613	822314	Altar	Largan Beg	Sh17	1686

Smr No.	Itm E	Itm N	Class	Townland	Turbine ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)
MA027-001003-	491613	822314	Cross-inscribed stone	Largan Beg	Sh17	1686
MA027-001001-	491615	822307	Children's burial ground	Largan Beg	Sh17	1691
MA019-001—	491570	829123	Crannog	An Léana Riabhach	Sh08	2411
MA027-003—	494944	821729	Cist	Tawnaghmore (Erris By.)	Sh01	2711
MA012-011—	493854	832533	Enclosure	Sraith Na Pláighe	Sh12	4266
MA012-010—	493734	833196	Redundant record	Sraith Na Pláighe	Sh12	4940

12.3.2.3.1 Monument Descriptions

The following are extracts from the descriptions of the monuments on the historic environment viewer. In many instances no descriptions are available.

MA027-002001

No Description available.

MA027-002002

No Description available.

MA027-001002

In a children's burial ground (MA027-001001-). There is an altar (1.75m E-W; 1.65m N-S; max H 1.2m), crudely constructed of stones, at the NNW end of the burial ground. Aldridge (1969, 86) recorded it as 'an altar of rough stones, with a curiously shaped water worn stone standing at each corner'. Aldridge (1969, 86) noted a cross-inscribed stone (MA027-001003-) on the altar.

MA027-001003

In a children's burial ground (MA027-001001-). Aldridge (1969, 86) noted a cross-inscribed stone (MA027-001003-) on a crude stone-built altar (MA027-001002-) at the NNW end of the burial ground.

He described it as a 'natural square stone with crude superimposed crosses cut in it'. It was not located during an inspection in 1996.

MA027-001001

Situated on a steep SW facing hillside, in rough mountainous terrain.

This children's burial ground is indicated on the 1838 OS 6-inch map as 'Grave Yard' and on the 1921 edition as 'Grave Yd. (Disused)'. It consists of roughly triangular-shaped area (14.3m NE-SW; 12.3mNW-SE) bordered by field boundaries from WSW–ESE and by a stream from ESE–S. In the

interior there is a crude altar (027-001002-) at the NNW, and numerous graves marked by slabs, boulders and

roughly square stone settings. Aldridge (1969, 86) noted a cross-inscribed stone (MA027-001003-) on the altar.

MA019-001

No Description available.

MA027-003

No Description available.

MA012-011

No Description available.

MA012-010

Listed in the SMR (1991) and the RMP (1996) as a possible enclosure based on an aerial photograph (OS 6 9621-0; Roll 233, Pr. 10). Field investigation proved it to be a natural feature and not an archaeological monument.



Figure 12-5: SMRs within 5km of the nearest proposed turbines.

12.3.2.4 Excavations Database

The database of excavations carried out in Ireland (www.excavations.ie) was consulted for any such licensed work which took place on or adjacent to the Proposed Development site. Only entry was returned and comprises an archaeological monitoring project of an electricity structure. The summary report of the project is as follows:

2016:339 - Sheskin, Bellacorick, Mayo

County: Mayo Site name: Sheskin, Bellacorick

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A Licence number: 16E0384

Author: Dermot Nelis

Site type: No archaeology found

ITM: E 496260m, N 827820m

Monitoring was carried out between 11 and 15 September 2016. Development involved the construction of a 100m high cable-stayed steel lattice tower mast with 15 anchor points. The meteorological mast was supported on a railway sleeper raft base floated on the bog surface which did not require excavation. Fifteen pits, each measuring approximately 3m long x 3m wide x 3m – 3.5m deep were excavated as part of the construction works. The pits were excavated in three separate lines, with each line extending from the location of the meteorological mast and containing five pits. Pits in each of the three lines were spaced on average 9m apart. None of the pits revealed natural geology, with peat being noted at the base of all excavation works. Line 1 contained the wettest part of the development area, although water was noted in the majority of the pits. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during monitoring.

12.3.2.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland on www.heritagemaps.ie were consulted for archaeological finds from the townlands in the immediate vicinity of the EIAR Boundary.

A number of finds were noted in the vicinity of the EIAR boundary with the nearest being depicted on Figure 12-6 below. This demonstrates, in general, the artefact bearing potential of bogs and that such potential could extend into the Proposed Development site. This potential impact is dealt with by way of mitigation at the construction stage however. .



Figure 12-6: Museum finds spots in relation to the proposed development.

12.3.3 Architectural and Cultural Heritage

A number of documentary and cartographic sources were utilised in order to ascertain the potential for the presence of architectural /cultural heritage features on or within the area of the Proposed Development. The RPS for County Mayo is available as a downloadable dataset. Cultural heritage includes items such as buildings, farmhouses, gates, bridges, piers, and stone field boundaries.

12.3.3.1 Protected Structures

No Protected Structures subject to statutory protection are located within the Proposed Development site boundary or within close proximity to same. The nearest protected structure is in excess of 16km away (Figure 12-7).

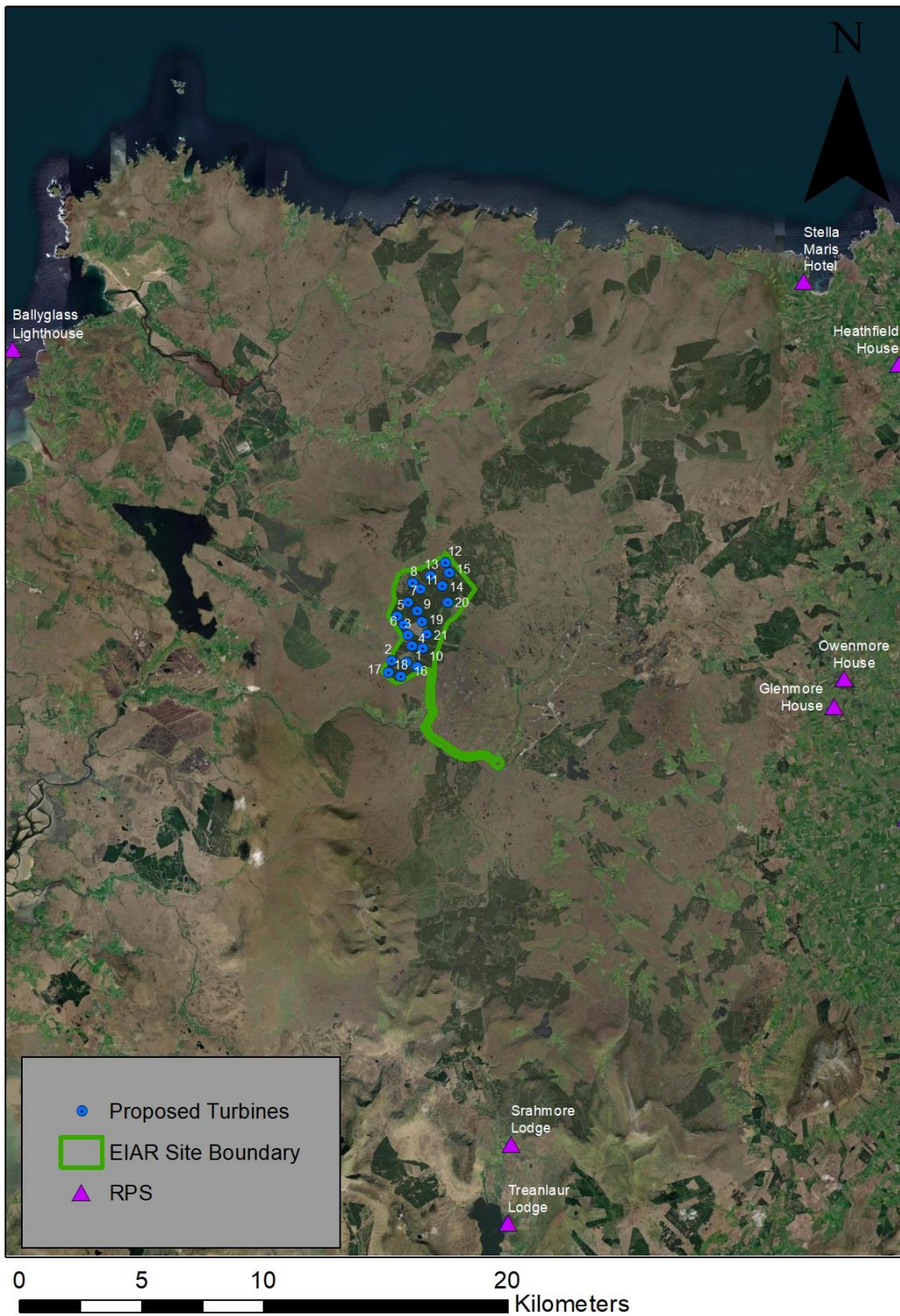


Figure 12-7: RPS structures located in excess of 16km from the nearest proposed turbines.

12.3.3.2 NIAH structures

Two structures listed in the NIAH are located within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine and consist of Sheskin Lodge on the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site and the Catholic Church of Our Lady to the south. They are also located within the EIAR site boundary. Direct and indirect effects are addressed below in Section 12.3.

Table 12-4: NIAH sites within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine.

REG NO.	NAME	TD. NAME	ORIGINAL USE	ITM E	ITM N	Distance to nearest turbine (m)
31301901	Sheskin Lodge	Sheskin	Hunting / fishing lodge	494654	825964	740m to SH20
31302701	Catholic Church of Our Lady	Tawnaghmore [Err. By.]	Church / chapel	493909	821591	2300 to SH18



Figure 12-8: NIAH within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine.

12.3.3.2.1 Sheskin Lodge

Sheskin Lodge is in private ownership and will be avoided as part of the Proposed Development. It is located 767m to Turbine 20 to the north and 921m to Turbine 21.

Sheskin Lodge is listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and an historical account of Sheskin Lodge has been undertaken by Author David Hicks and the following information was gleaned from his research ([David Hicks \(davidhicksbook.blogspot.com\)](http://davidhicksbook.blogspot.com)): The house has a connection with one of Ireland's most famous whiskey distilling families and is also associated with the world of literature.

Members of the Wills family once acted as the stewards of the Sheskin Lodge for the Jameson family. The first mention of Sheskin Lodge was in November 1858 where it states that road repairs will take place 'between the mail car road and the lodge in Sheskin'. In November 1866, it is noted that a Charles Monck Wilson is listed as being the owner of Sheskin Lodge however in July of 1868, the estate was listed for sale in The Landed Estate Courts. The estate is described as running to 7,012 acres which included a 'comfortable shooting lodge, gardens and offices' all situated in the centre of the estate. This sizable estate stretched from Ballyscastle to Bellacorick in Co. Mayo. It is at this time that Sheskin Lodge and the surrounding 7,000 acres were purchased by John Jameson. In August 1878 it was recorded that, John Jameson, now listed as the owner of Sheskin Lodge, has donated £5 to the repair of local churches. It is said that when the Jameson family purchased the lodge they made many improvements, which probably included the addition of the distinctive glazed veranda to the front of the lodge with its decorative cast iron supports that have survived to this day. John was the descendant of John Jameson from Scotland who founded the famous Whiskey Distillery that still bears the family name. John Jameson who owned Sheskin was extremely wealthy and when he died in Dublin in December 1881, he left an estate valued at over £ 300,000. He died at the family home St. Marnock's in Dublin which is now the Portmarnock Hotels and Golf Club. He was succeeded by his son also named John, born in 1835 who inherited his holdings including Sheskin Lodge. King Edward VII, known as the party King, visited the Jameson family home at St Marnock's, where the golf-keen family also developed an early nine-hole course, founding one of the city's oldest golf clubs. Bertie, as the King was known, was in particular friendly with the youngest brother, Willie Jameson, a good sailing friend of his since 1880. It was Willie who personally helped Edward to commission his racing yacht the Britannia. Members of the Jameson family owned impressive homes in Dublin, including One of the most grandiose is Sutton Castle commissioned by Andrew Jameson, a grandson of John Jameson who founded the famous distillery near Smithfield. He made the decision to decamp from his townhouse on Fitzwilliam Square for the fresh air of the southern slopes of the Howth Peninsula, and commissioned architect Alfred Darbyshire to design Sutton House, a 40-room Tudor-style mansion finally completed in 1895. The last Jameson to own the house was Harriet Kirkwood, Andrew's daughter, a well-known artist. While the Jameson family was wealthy and mixed in the highest echelons of society but they were no strangers to scandal. James S. Jameson, one of the Dublin whiskey heirs and a well known explorer, had died of fever on an expedition in the Congo in 1888. But by 1890 revelations were coming out that prior to his death, he had purchased a 10-year-old slave girl and handed her over to cannibals so he could observe and make sketches of her being killed and eaten. That expedition became the inspiration for Joseph Conrad's novel "Heart of Darkness". The revelations brought considerable hostility towards the privileged family.

It is recorded in the census of 1901 that John Wills aged 33 was the Steward of Sheskin Lodge and lived there with his wife Mary Jane aged 26 their two year old daughter Gladys. They were members of the Church of Ireland and all were born in Mayo. Also resident in the lodge is there servant Maria Clarke aged 25. By 1911, Sheskin has another steward and it is William Wills (John Wills' brother) aged 34 who lives there with his sister Sarah aged 44. The lodge at this time is described as having five outbuildings, seven windows in its front elevation and consists of ten rooms internally. A later auction advertisement describes the building as having four bedrooms, a drawing room, dining room and kitchen. It appears that the Jameson family's connection with the lodge ended in May 1922 possibly due to the death of John at the age of 85 in 1920, the family no longer had a use for the lodge. At this time it is advertised that an auction of the household effects of Sheskin Lodge will take place under the instruction of William George Jameson, the brother of John. The furniture was removed from the lodge to Boland's Salesrooms in King Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Afterward it appears Sheskin became the home of a number of individuals during the course of the 1930's. In 1931, it is stated that Sheskin Lodge is the residence of Col. J.F. Champion who was complaining in the local newspaper about the state of the Crossmolina to Belmullet road. In March 1938, it was advertised in local newspapers that C.G.T. Morrison of Christ Church, Oxford intended to dispose of the contents of Sheskin Lodge.

In June of 1939 Sheskin became a brief home to the British writer Terence Hanbury White who travelling to County Mayo to look for a suitable isolated location to rent, in particular a grouse or fishing lodge. He became known for his books which were based on the court of King Arthur and his knights of the round table. One of his best known works is 'The Sword in the Stone' which was adapted into an animated film by Walt Disney. He took Sheskin Lodge for September of 1939 and intended to have a large house party but the Second World War was looming and his guest list began to shrink. The lodge at this time was described as crumbling aristocratic bungalow with a glassed in winter garden set amid feral rhododendron and pine. While White was visiting Belmullet on September 1st 1939, he first heard that Germany was at war with Poland. Just over a week later, during a trip to Crossmolina by the Garrett Family, who had made the journey to Mayo to stay at Sheskin with White, confirmed the news that England and Germany were now at war. White remained at Sheskin until October 1939, during this time living alone in the woods in a lodge lit by candle light. While the lodge has been abandoned for a number of years, its decline appears to have been accelerated with the recent removal of its roof. It is probably this building's location which is its downfall, the isolation that have attracted so many people over the years to escape from the bustling world has resulted in its very existence being forgotten.

No public access is permitted to the structure however.



Plate 12-1: View of Sheskin Lodge entrance looking north.

NIAH Description:

Detached three-bay single-storey sporting lodge, occupied 1901, on a T-shaped plan centred on single-bay single-storey flat-roofed projecting open porch. Now disused. Hipped slate roof on timber construction with roll moulded clay ridge tiles, rendered chimney stacks having capping supporting terracotta or yellow terracotta pots, and no rainwater goods visible on overgrown cut-limestone eaves[?]. Part overgrown rendered walls. Square-headed central door opening with concealed dressings framing remains of timber door having overlight. Square-headed flanking window openings with cut-limestone sills, and concealed dressings framing one-over-one timber sash windows. Interior including entrance hall retaining timber surrounds to door openings framing timber panelled doors; and timber surrounds

to door openings to remainder framing timber panelled doors with timber panelled splayed reveals or shutters to window openings. Set in unkempt grounds.

A dilapidated sporting lodge erected for John Jameson of Dublin representing an interesting component of the later nineteenth-century domestic built heritage of north County Mayo with the architectural value of the composition, one succeeding a nearby lodge annotated as "Sheskin Lodge" on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1838; published 1839), suggested by such attributes as the deliberate alignment maximising on scenic vistas overlooking rolling grounds; and the compact rectilinear plan form centred on a veranda-like porch. A prolonged period of unoccupancy or neglect notwithstanding, the elementary form and massing survive intact together with remnants of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior, thereby upholding much of the character or integrity of a sporting lodge making a largely inconspicuous visual statement in a densely forested setting.



Plate 12.2: Photo of Sheskin Lodge (courtesy of the NIAH)

12.3.3.2.2 **Catholic Church of Our Lady**

This is located within the EIAR Site boundary and adjacent to the proposed grid connection cable route (See Section 12.2.4.1.2). It is located 2.3km to the nearest turbine (SH18).

Direct and Indirect effects are described below.

The NIAH describe the structure as follows: Detached three-bay double-height single-cell Catholic church, dated 1952. Renovated, 1971[?], with sanctuary reordered. Pitched slate roof with clay ridge tiles terminating in rendered gabled bellcote to apex to entrance (west) front framing cast-bronze bell, slightly sproketed eaves, and replacement uPVC rainwater goods on rendered thumbnail beaded consoles. Rendered walls on rendered plinth with rusticated rendered quoins to corners. Round-headed window openings with concrete sills, and concealed dressings framing storm glazing over fixed-pane fittings having stained glass margins centred on leaded stained glass "lozenges". Round-headed "Trinity

Window" to chancel (east) with concealed dressings framing fixed-pane fittings having stained glass margins centred on leaded stained glass "lozenges". Round-headed door opening to entrance (west) front with concrete threshold, and rusticated rendered block-and-start surround having moulded reveals framing replacement glazed timber boarded or tongue-and-groove timber panelled double doors. Round-headed window opening to gable with concealed dressings framing fixed-pane fitting having stained glass margins centred on leaded stained glass "lozenge". Interior including vestibule (west); square-headed door opening into nave with glazed timber panelled double doors; full-height interior open into roof with arcaded choir gallery (west) below stained glass memorial "West Window" (undated), tessellated "quarry tile" central aisle between timber pews, Gothic-style timber stations between stained glass memorial windows (undated), stepped dais to sanctuary (east) reordered, 1971[?], with Classical-style timber altar below stained glass memorial "Trinity Window" (undated), and exposed pointed-arch braced Hammerbeam timber roof construction on thumbnail beaded corbels with wind braced ceiling. Set in landscaped grounds with rendered piers to perimeter having stepped capping supporting replacement mild steel double gates.

A church erected under the aegis of Reverend Michael O'Donnell PP representing an integral component of the mid twentieth-century ecclesiastical heritage of County Mayo with the architectural value of the composition, one recalling the near-contemporary Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart (1946-7), Bangor (see 31302604), confirmed by such attributes as the compact rectilinear "barn" plan form, aligned along a liturgically-correct axis; the slender profile of the openings underpinning a streamlined Romanesque theme with the chancel defined by an elegant "Trinity Window"; and the simple bellcote embellishing the roofline as a picturesque eye-catcher in the landscape. Having been well maintained, the elementary form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior reordered (1971) in accordance with the liturgical reforms sanctioned by the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican (1962-5) where contemporary joinery; and some vibrant stained glass, all highlight the artistic potential of the composition: meanwhile, a "medieval" Hammerbeam roof construction pinpoints the engineering or technical dexterity of a church making a pleasing visual statement in a rural street scene.



Plate 12-3: Catholic Church (courtesy of the NIAH)

12.3.3.3 Cartographic Evidence

The available historic Ordnance Survey maps were consulted for any items of cultural heritage merit that may be located within the Proposed Development site.

12.3.3.3.1 1st Edition OS maps

The Ordnance Survey came to Ireland in 1824 in order to carry-out a precise admeasurement of the country's 60,000 or so townlands as a preliminary to the larger task of reforming Ireland's local taxation system. The townland boundaries were demarcated by a Boundary Commission, and the Ordnance Survey had the task of measuring them. In addition to boundaries the maps are truly topographical in content. Drawn at the large scale of six inches-to-one-mile (1:10,560) it was important to mark all buildings, roads, streams, placenames, etc, that were required for valuation purposes. Ultimately the maps were used as a basis for the rateable valuation of land and buildings in what became known as Griffith's Valuation. Working from north to south, the survey began in Antrim and Derry in 1829 and was completed in Kerry in 1842. It was published as thirty-two county maps between 1832 and 1846, the number of sheets per county varied from 153 for County Cork to 28 for Dublin, each of the 1,994 sheets in the series depicting an area 21,000 by 32,000 feet on the ground. Each county was projected on a different central meridian and so the maps of adjacent counties do not fit neatly together at the edges. Map content stops at the county lines.

The First Edition

The early Ordnance Survey maps are an unrivalled source for the period immediately before the Great Irish Famine (1847-50) when the population was at the highest level ever recorded in Ireland.

The first edition map (1829-41) for the area of the Proposed Development shows a largely open featureless landscape.

6 inch Cassini

The Cassini 6 inch map shows more enclosed fields in the vicinity of Turbine Sh20 and a number of small enclosed fields are shown to the south of Turbines SH10 and SH04. The remainder of the site is largely open and featureless.

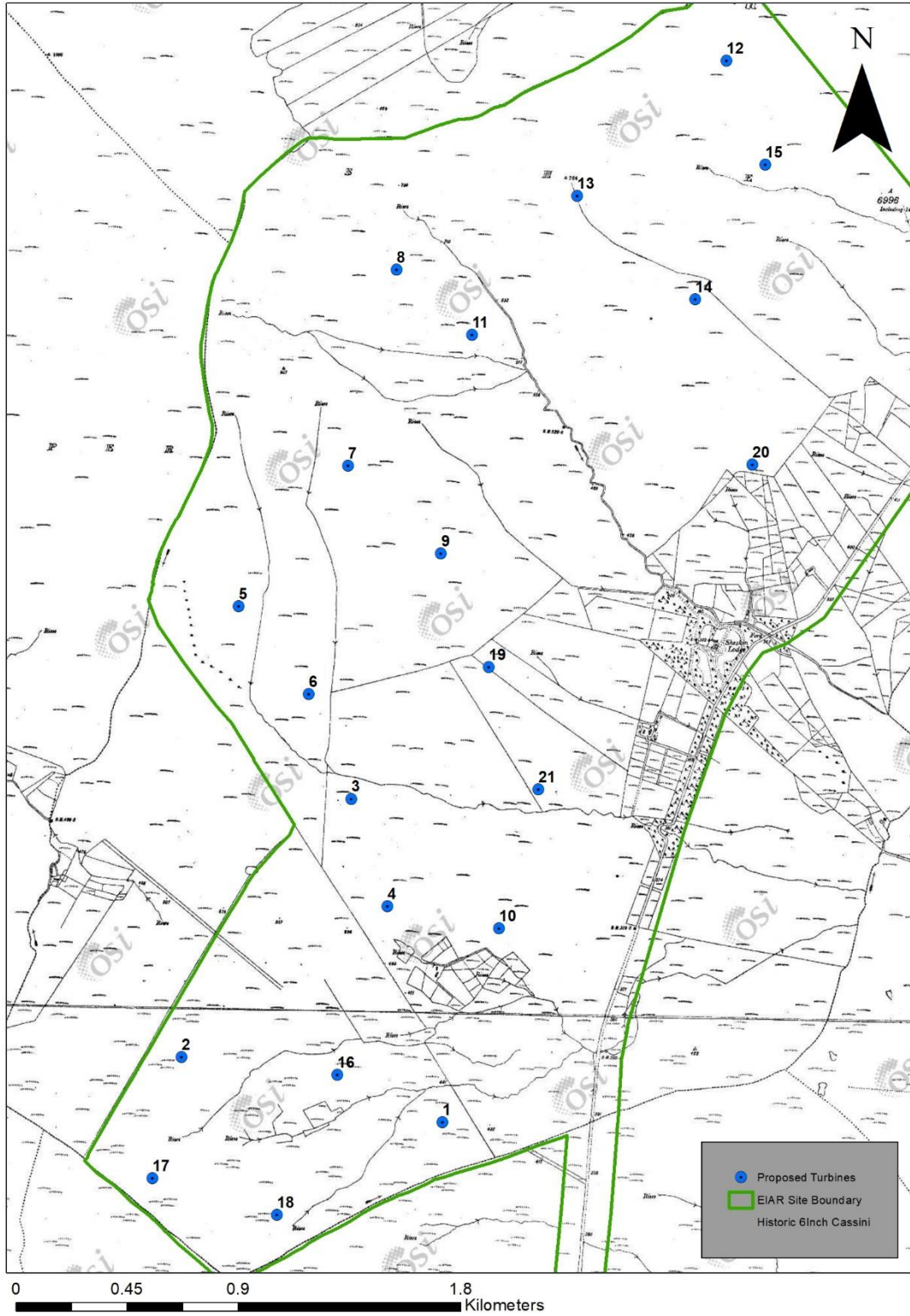


Figure 12-9: Proposed application boundary on 6inch Cassini.

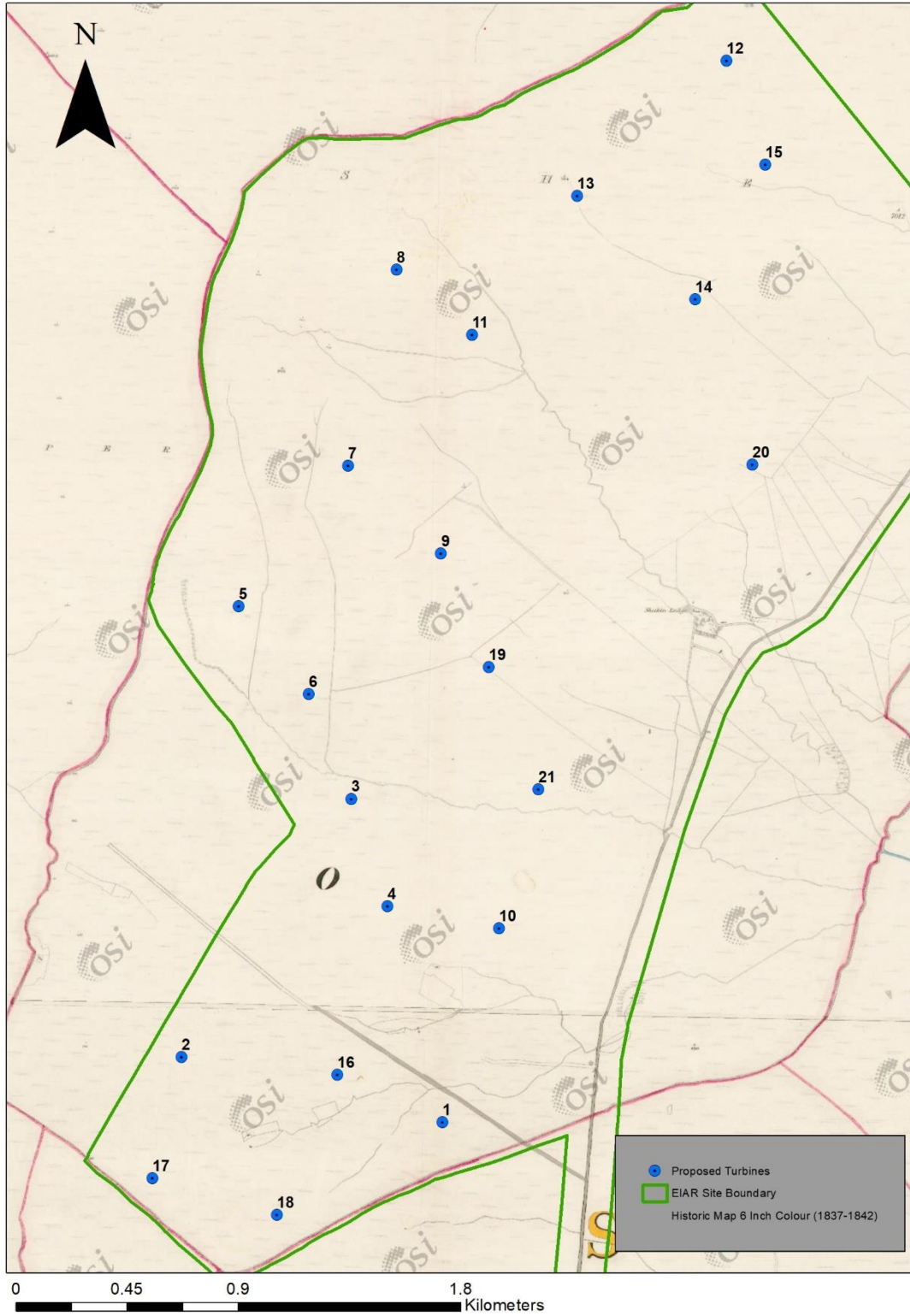


Figure 12-10: Proposed application boundary on 1st edition OS background.

12.3.3.4 Townlands and administrative boundaries

Townlands and administrative boundaries may indicate the presence of archaeological features within a development site. Administrative counties are subdivisions of pre-established counties which were formed for administrative purposes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Baronies are administrative units larger than civil parishes and originally established as the primary subdivision of counties by the British administration in Ireland. Irish baronies which were formed at the time of the Norman conquest were usually named either after Irish territories, or from places which had been of importance in pre-Norman times. Irish baronies came into existence at different periods. The division of Ireland into counties and baronies was a process which continued down to the reign of James I. The original baronies in Ireland were the domains of the Norman barons; in the final stage of development they were divisions of counties created merely for greater convenience of administration. The word barony is of feudal origin, and was applied to a tenure of a baron, that is, of one who held his land by military service, either directly from the king, or from a superior feudal lord who exercised royal privileges. The origin of the Irish barony (a division of land corresponding to the English hundred) is to be found in the grants of lands which were made to the barons of Leinster and the barons of Meath (Liam Price, 'Ráith Oinn', Éigse VII, lch. 186-7). Civil parishes are administrative units larger than townlands and based on medieval ecclesiastical parishes. Civil parishes, modern Catholic parishes and Church of Ireland parishes may differ in extent and in nomenclature. Counties are administrative units larger than baronies and originally established by the British administration in Ireland between the twelfth and the seventeenth centuries. Some of these were subsequently subdivided into smaller administrative county units.

Townlands are the smallest land units which were determined and established in the Irish administrative system in the first half of the nineteenth century. Many of the townlands were in existence prior to that. Townland names are a valuable source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. Logainm.ie was utilised to ascertain the origin of the townland names within the Proposed Development site.

The Proposed Development site is located within the townland of Sheskin in its entirety (apart from the Grid connection route). Sheskin is translated as Seisceann, 'a quagmire or sedgy marsh' in 1838.

12.3.4 Grid Connection Route

It is intended to connect the onsite 110kV Sheskin South substation located in the southeast of the wind farm site boundary to the national grid by an underground cable connection to the existing Bellacorick 110kV substation off the N59 road. The Bellacorick 110kV substation is located approximately 6km from the proposed wind farm site boundary. The underground cable route will utilise existing forestry access tracks and the local road network; therefore, no third party or additional land take is required. Upon leaving the site, the underground cable connection will travel south along an existing forest track for approximately 2km before joining a local road where it will continue for approximately 1km then subsequently turn east onto the N59 road for 3.5km where it will connect the Bellacorick 110 kV substation.

All cultural heritage assets within 100m of the proposed grid connection cable route were included in the assessment. A bridge and a church are located within the 100m study area. No other structures were noted during field assessment or the desktop review of the proposed route.

12.3.4.1.1 Bridge at ITM E494171, N824346

A stone bridge is located at the northern end of the proposed grid connection cable route. Concrete culverting has been constructed under the arches potentially suggesting a re-build. The structure is

marked on the 1st Edition OS historic map although is not named. It is not a protected structure, NIAH or recorded monument. Impacts are addressed below in Section 12.3.2.8.

Horizontal directional drilling through the river bed will be undertaken thus avoiding any impacts to the bridge. The methodology is described in Appendix 4-5 of the EIAR.

12.3.4.1.2 **NIAH Reg 31302701 Catholic Church of Our Lady**

This structure has already been described above in Section 12.2.3.2 and Section 12.3.3.2.2 above as it is located within 5km of the proposed turbines. It is located at the roadside and 40m to the east and north of the proposed grid connection cable route. Since the proposed cable route will be confined to the road side, the structure will not be impacted.

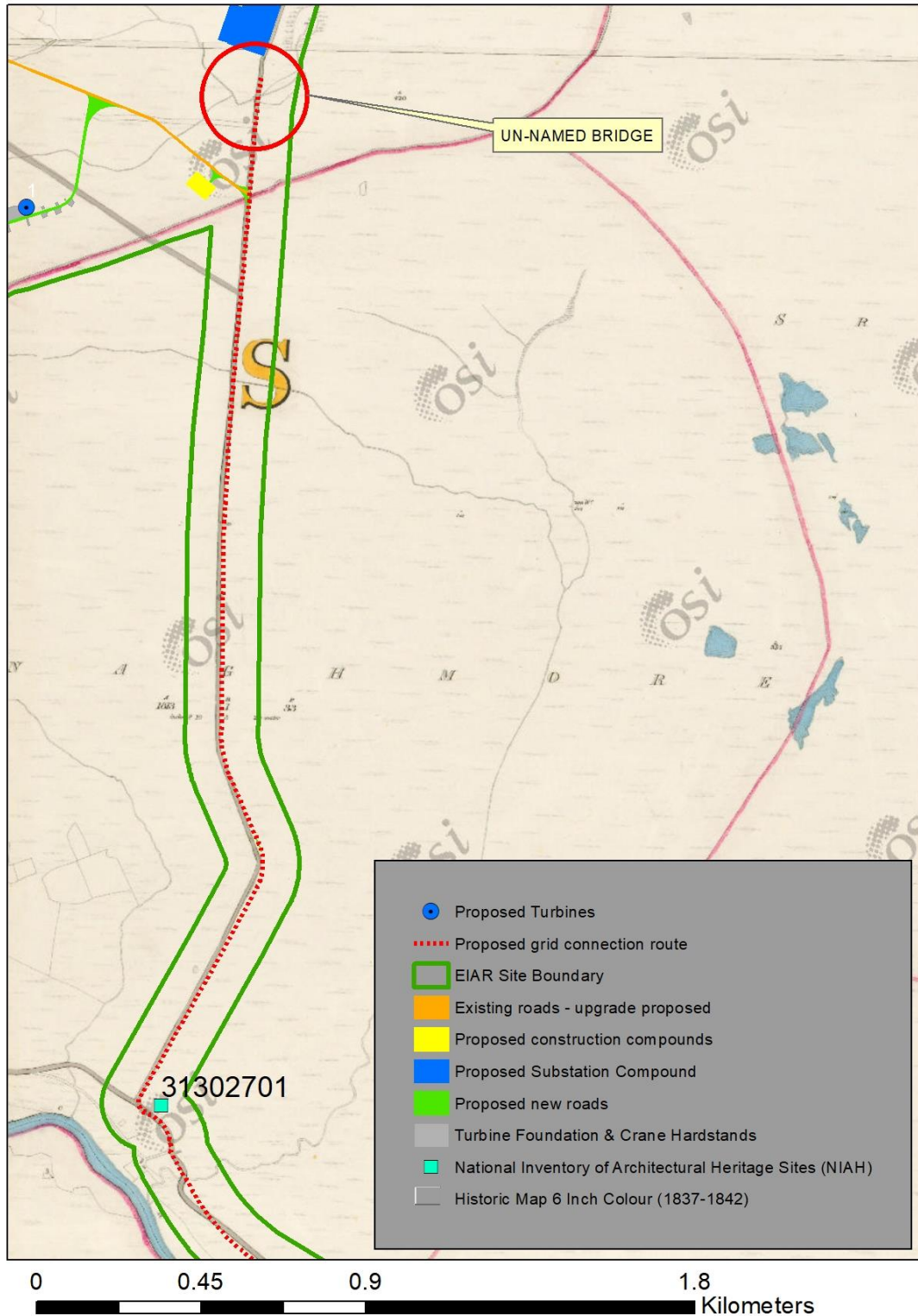


Figure 12-11: Cultural Heritage assets within 100m of the proposed grid connection cable route.

12.3.5 The Proposed Haul Route

The proposed turbine delivery route will be from the Port of Galway to the wind farm site at Sheskin South in northwest County Mayo.

It is intended that the port of entry for large turbine components will be Galway Port. Vehicles delivering large turbine components and other abnormal loads to the site will depart from Galway Port and travel northwest through Galway City along the R339 and R336 Regional Roads before reaching the N6 National Road at the Bothar na dTreabh/Tuam Road junction. The delivery vehicles will continue west along the N6/M6 Motorway before merging onto the M17 at the M6/M17/M18 intersection. From here, the delivery vehicles will continue north on the M17 and N17 Tuam bypass. The delivery vehicles will continue on the N17 northwards through Claremorris and on to Charlestown where they will merge onto the N5 heading west to Ballyvary, before turning north onto the N58 to Foxford. The vehicles will then turn west onto the N26 and continue north to Ballina before turning west onto the N59. The vehicles will follow the N59 westwards to Crossmolina until they reach the L59296 turn off to the proposed wind farm site. The vehicles will travel north along the L59296 before merging onto an existing forestry access road then turn west into the proposed development site. The turbine delivery route is shown on Figure 4-20.

Two areas along the proposed transport delivery route will require groundworks in the form of topsoil removal and these are located at the following locations:

1. Junction at TAWNAGHMORE (Erris By.) townland between the N59 and the local road to the proposed wind farm site at ITM E493849, N821599.

The area of the proposed junction accommodation is located 55m to the west of the Catholic Church of our Lady NIAH reference 31302701. This is described in Section 12.2.3.2.2 above. There will be no impacts to the structure itself as a result of the topsoil removal. Potential effects to sub-surface archaeology are addressed in Section 12.3.2.5.



Figure 12-12: Junction accommodation area at Tawnaghmore Td.

2. Junction at Ballyglass East south of Charlestown and south of the N59 at ITM E548374, N800806

No constraints are located within or adjacent to the proposed junction accommodation area at Ballyglass East. Potential effects to sub-surface archaeology are addressed in Section 12.3.2.5.

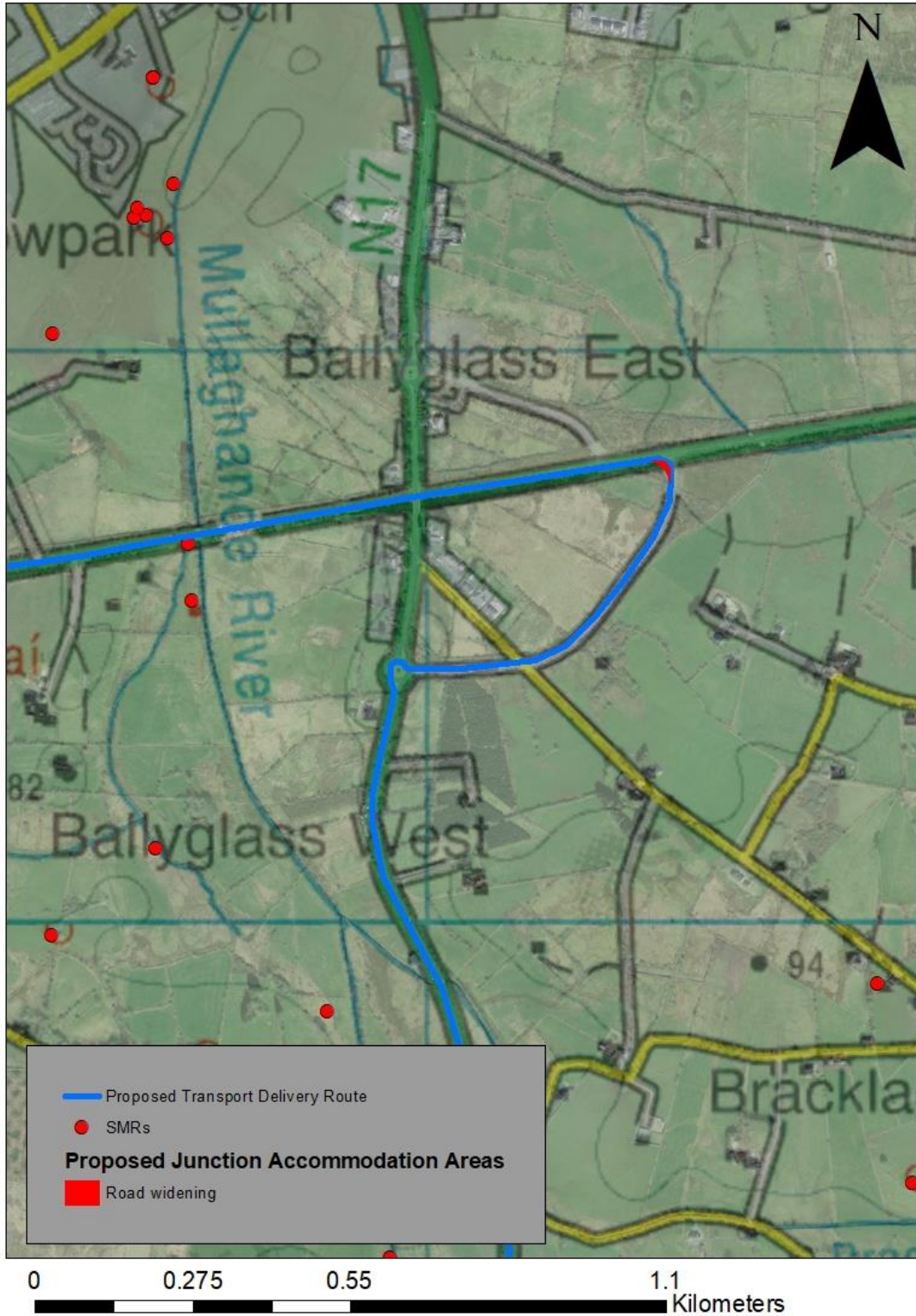


Figure 12-13: Proposed junction accommodation area at Ballyglass East.

12.4 Likely Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures

12.4.1 Construction Phase Potential Impacts (Indirect)

Indirect effects, in terms of archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage are considered to be those effects which happen away from ‘the site’. This includes impacts on visual setting of any cultural heritage assets in the wider landscape. Since these effects are only possible once development is operational, they are considered operational effects and are therefore discussed in Section 12.3.3 below. No indirect effects were identified which would occur at the construction stage.

12.4.2 Construction Phase Potential Impacts (Direct)

Direct impact refers to a ‘physical impact’ on a monument or site. The construction phase of the development consists largely of earthmoving activities such as peat and topsoil removal. The potential impacts on the known and potential archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the area are outlined below with the mitigation measures that will be implemented in full. The impacts are described according to each element of the Existing Environment (National Monuments, SMRs, Sub-surface archaeology etc). Where any potential direct impacts do occur they are negated with mitigation measures that will be implemented in full such as exclusions zones (buffer zones), testing, monitoring, etc.

12.4.2.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Direct Effects)

Since no UNESCO sites are located within the EIAR boundary no direct effects will occur.

12.4.2.2 National Monuments within the EIAR Boundary

No National Monuments are located on or in close proximity to the Proposed Development site including the proposed grid connection cable route, therefore no direct impacts to such monuments will occur. National Monuments in the wider landscape setting are assessed for visual effect and this is described in 12.4.3 below.

12.4.2.3 Recorded Monuments within the EIAR boundary

No recorded monuments are located within the EIAR Site Boundary (either in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm or the associated grid connection cable route) and therefore no direct effect will occur to such cultural heritage assets. Visual effects on RMPS in the wider landscape setting of 5km from the nearest turbines are assessed separately in Section 12.4.3.

12.4.2.4 Newly Recorded Archaeological Sites

No above-ground newly recorded sites were noted during the walk-over survey of the footprint of the Proposed Development area. In this regard no direct effect will occur.

12.4.2.5 Sub-surface Archaeological Potential

While no archaeological monuments were recorded within the EIAR site boundary, the potential exists for the development area to contain as yet unrecorded sub-surface sites and artefacts. It is possible that such sites may be uncovered either within the peat/topsoil and/or at the level of the underlying natural subsoil. The excavation of peat during all elements of the Proposed Development has the potential to impact on any new sites, if present. Mitigation measures will include construction stage monitoring of all elements of the Proposed Development including turbine bases, hardstands, roads, cable trenches,

construction compounds, substation site, grid connection, borrow pits, drainage, junction accommodation areas along the haul route and any other peat / topsoil activities.

Pre-Mitigation Impact

Should new sites, features or artefacts be present within the site (currently not visible on the surface) the impact is likely to be significant negative and permanent (i.e. the excavation by machinery would permanently remove the sites resulting in a significant negative impact).

Proposed Mitigation Measures

- Archaeological monitoring of ground works during construction. This will include all excavation works within the EIAR site boundary as well as any topsoil removal along the haul route (two junction accommodation areas located at Tawnaghmore and Ballygalss East as described in Section 12.2.5. If archaeological finds, features or deposits are uncovered during archaeological monitoring, the developer will be prepared to provide resources for the resolution of such features whether by preservation by record (excavation) or preservation in situ (avoidance). Once the project is completed, a report on the results of the monitoring will be compiled and submitted to the local authorities and the National Monuments Service. The National Monuments Service will be informed of such findings to discuss how best to proceed.

Residual Impact

The sites/features, if detected, during monitoring will be preserved by record (archaeologically excavated) or preserved in-situ (avoidance) and therefore a full record made of same. In this regard, the potential impact after the mitigation measures is likely to be slight.

Significance of Impacts

The construction stage will have no significant effects on unrecorded potential sub-surface sites. The impacts, after the implementation of mitigation, is likely to be slight.

12.4.2.6 Protected Structures within the EIAR boundary

No Protected Structures are located within the EIAR site boundary either in the area of the proposed wind farm or along the proposed grid connection cable route. In this regard no direct impacts to this resource were identified. Any protected structures in the wider landscape setting of 5km from the nearest turbine are considered separately below and are assessed in terms of any potential visual impact.

12.4.2.7 NIAH Structures within the EIAR Site Boundary

Two NIAH structures are located within the EIAR Site boundary and are described above in Section 12.3.2.3. They consist of the following: NIAH 31301901 Sheskin Lodge and NIAH 31302701 Catholic Church of Our Lady.

12.4.2.7.1 **Sheskin Lodge**

Pre-mitigation impact

There will be no direct effects on the lodge as part of the development proposal. Sheskin Lodge is in private ownership and will be avoided as part of the Proposed Development. It is located 767m to Turbine 20 to the north and 921m to Turbine 21.

Proposed mitigation measures

- No mitigation measures are being proposed since no direct effects were identified.

Residual Impact

As the structure will be excluded from the Proposed Development no direct impacts to these features will occur with no requirement for mitigation. No residual effects will occur.

Significance of Effects

The Proposed Development will not have any direct effects.

12.4.2.7.2 **Catholic Church of Our Lady**

Pre-mitigation impact

This structure has already been described above in Section 12.2.3.2 and Section 12.3.3.2 above as it is located within 5km of the proposed turbines and also within the EIAR boundary. It is located at the roadside and 40m to the east and north of the proposed grid connection cable route. Since the proposed cable route will be confined to the roadside, the structure will not be impacted.

Proposed mitigation measures

- No mitigation measures are being proposed since no direct effects were identified.

Residual Impact

As the structure will be excluded from the Proposed Development no direct impacts to these features will occur with no requirement for mitigation. No residual effects will occur.

Significance of Effects

The Proposed Development will not have any direct effects on the structure.

12.4.2.8 Bridge at ITM E494171, N824346

A stone bridge is located at the northern end of the proposed grid connection cable route. Concrete culverting has been constructed under the arches potentially suggesting a re-build. The structure is marked on the 1st Edition OS historic map although is not named. It is not a protected structure, NIAH or recorded monument and is considered to be of local cultural heritage value.

Horizontal directional drilling through the river bed will be undertaken thus avoiding any impacts to the bridge. The methodology is described in Appendix 4-5 of the EIAR.

Proposed mitigation measures

No mitigation measures are being proposed since no direct effects were identified.

Residual Impact

No residual effects will occur.

Significance of Effects

The Proposed Development will not have any direct effects.

12.4.3 Operational Phase Potential Impacts (Indirect)

Indirect impacts are where a feature or site of archaeological, architectural heritage merit or their setting is located in close proximity to a Proposed Development. Indirect impacts here are mainly concerned with impacts on setting of cultural heritage sites.

Impacts on settings of sites may arise when a development is proposed immediately adjacent to a recorded monument or cluster of monuments. While the Proposed Development may not physically impact on a site, it may alter the setting of a monument or group of monuments. There is no standardised industry-wide approach for assessing the degree of impact to the setting of a monument. For purposes of assessing visual impact on setting, the uniqueness of the monuments, the potential interrelationships of monuments, the inter-visibility of monuments, visual dominance and whether a setting is altered or unaltered can be used to assess impact. The nature and dominance of the Proposed Development is also taken into consideration and the topography within which the development is located.

12.4.3.1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Direct Effects)

The Céide Fields and North West Mayo Boglands are on the World Heritage Tentative list due to their outstanding Cultural Heritage value. It is difficult to define the full extent of the Ceide Fields because as research progresses, the extent of the field walls can change. Many are sub-surface and have no visible extent above ground.

In order to assess the potential visual effects on the Ceide Fields, a number of tools were utilised including site visits, desktop analysis, the use of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (used in the LVIA chapter 11) and a photomontage taken from the Ceide fields. The latter shows any potential theoretical visibility. The ZTV was overlaid on the project GIS mapping and the result shows that the Ceide fields, in particular around the visitor centre, are located in an area where no turbines are visible.

Furthermore, a photomontage was taken from the Ceide fields visitor centre and this shows that the proposed turbines at Sheskin will not be visible. This viewing point was selected as it is publicly accessible and has a high visitor presence. The photomontage (both a 180 and 40 degree view) are shown in Appendix 12.2.

12.4.3.2 National Monuments

National Monuments are those recorded monuments which are in the ownership / guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. They are frequently referred to as being in 'State Care'. National Monuments also include those which are subject to a Preservation Order. No National Monuments are located within the Proposed Development site boundary or within 10km of the nearest proposed turbines. Furthermore, of those National Monuments in the wider landscape area, none are located within the ZTV. All such monuments are located in areas where there is no visibility in the direction of the Proposed Development.

12.4.3.3 Recorded Monuments

No recorded monuments are located within the EIAR Site Boundary. A total of nine (9) archaeological monuments are located within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine and these are detailed in

Table 12-3 above. The monuments' locations are shown on Figure 12-5 above which shows a notable dearth of monuments in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. This is a particularly low number of archaeological monuments in the immediate vicinity with the nearest monument being located at 1.4Km from Turbine 17. The monuments potential visual effects are calculated in accordance with the methodology as set out in Section 12.2 above.

Table 12-5: Table of potential impacts considering both distance and number of turbines visible

SMR No.	ITM E	ITM N	Class	Townland	Turbine ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Number of turbines visible (ZTV)	Potential Visual Effect
MA027 - 002001-	492074	822439	Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb	Largan Beg	Sh17	1414	1-6	Not Significant
MA027 - 002002-	492074	822439	Inscribed stone	Largan Beg	Sh17	1414	1-6	Not Significant
MA027 - 001002-	491613	822314	Altar	Largan Beg	Sh17	1686	0	No indirect effect
MA027 - 001003-	491613	822314	Cross-inscribed stone	Largan Beg	Sh17	1686	0	No indirect effect
MA027 - 001001-	491615	822307	Children's burial ground	Largan Beg	Sh17	1691	0	No indirect effect

SMR No.	ITM E	ITM N	Class	Townland	Turbine ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Number of turbines visible (ZTV)	Potential Visual Effect
MA019-001—	491570	829123	Crannog	An Léana Riabhach	Sh08	2411	14 -18	Moderate
MA027-003—	494944	821729	Cist	Tawnaghmore (Erris By.)	Sh01	2711	19-21	Moderate
MA012-011—	493854	832533	Enclosure	Sraith Na Pláighe	Sh12	4266	7-13	Not Significant
MA012-010—	493734	833196	Redundant record	Sraith Na Pláighe	Sh12	4940	7-13	Not Significant

12.4.3.4 Protected Structures

No Protected Structures subject to statutory protection are located within the Proposed Development site boundary or within close proximity to same. The nearest protected structure is in excess of 16km away (Figure 12-7). There are no instances where the setting of any protected structure will be compromised therefore.

12.4.3.5 NIAH

All NIAH structures within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine were considered in the assessment in order to ascertain any potential negative visual effects. All such structures are described in Section 12.2.3.2 and 12.2.4.1.2. Two structures listed in the NIAH are located within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine and consist of Sheskin Lodge on the eastern boundary of the Proposed Development site and the Catholic Church of our Lady to the south. The potential visual effects are considered significant as a worse case scenario as the calculation and ZTV model does not take screening due to vegetation and other buildings into consideration. The realistic visual effect is likely to be less severe given the actual nature of the surrounding landscape (coniferous forestry).

Table 12-6: Table of impacts based on distance and number of turbines visible

NIAH No.	Itm E	Itm N	Class	TD.	Turb ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Number of turbines visible (ZTV)	Potential Visual Effect
31301901	494654	825964	Sheskin Lodge	Sheskin	SH20	767m	19 -21	Significant

NIAH No.	Itm E	Itm N	Class	TD.	Turb ID	Distance to nearest turbine (m)	Number of turbines visible (ZTV)	Potential Visual Effect
31302701	493909	821591	Catholic Church of Our Lady	Tawna ghmore [err. By.]	SH18	2.3km	19-21	Moderate

12.4.3.5.1 **Sheskin Lodge and Church of our Lady**

Pre-mitigation impact

Sheskin Lodge is in private ownership and while it is located within the EIAR Site Boundary, it is not located within the application site boundary (Refer to Figure 1-4 of this EIAR.. It is located 767m to Turbine 20 to the north. In its current setting the lodge, although is not accessible, is located on the periphery and to the east of a large commercial forest plantation. There are now limited views to the west. The church of our Lady is located 2.3km to the nearest turbine (SH18).

Once the proposed wind farm is operational and the turbines have been constructed, the views and settings of both structures will change further in that the majority of turbines will be visible from their locations resulting in a potential moderate to significant effect.

Proposed mitigation measures

It is not possible to mitigate the effect of the turbines on the visual setting of the NIAH structures. No mitigation measures are being proposed therefore.

Residual Impact

Since no mitigation measures can be proposed, the residual effects will be the same as the pre-mitigation impacts (see table of impacts).

Significance of Effects

The Proposed Development will have potentially moderate to significant effect on the setting of both structures taking into account the calculated distance (0-1km and 2-3km) as well as the number of turbines visible on the ZTV (i.e. 19-21). This is a worse case scenario and in reality the effects on the setting will be less severe the model does not take screening from vegetation or buildings into account.

12.4.3.6 **Bridge at ITM E494171, N824346**

A stone bridge is located at the northern end of the proposed grid connection cable route.

Pre-mitigation impact

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility shows that potentially 19-21 turbines will be seen from the location of the bridge. The bridge is not subject to statutory protection and is of local cultural heritage significance. The potential visual effect is considered to be Not Significant.

Proposed mitigation measures

It is not possible to mitigate the effect of the turbines on the visual setting of the bridge. No mitigation measures are being proposed therefore.

Residual Impact

Since no mitigation measures can be proposed, the residual effects will be the same as the pre-mitigation impacts.

Significance of Effects

The Proposed Development will have a Not Significant effect on the setting of the bridge since the overall setting of the bridge does not extend beyond the bridge itself.

12.5

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impact is defined as ‘The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact’ (EPA 2022). Cumulative impacts encompass the combined effects of multiple developments or activities on a range of receptors. In this case, the receptors are the archaeological monuments and architectural/cultural heritage sites in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development. Cumulative Impacts at the Construction and Operational Stages are considered.

This cumulative impact assessment included all other developments within 20km of the Proposed Development, as listed in Section 2.5 of Chapter 2 of this EIAR and shown in Figure 2-3.

12.5.1

Cumulative Impacts (Direct Impacts – Construction stage)

Direct effects for the Proposed Development are considered to be confined to within the EIAR site boundary and relate to construction effects. When the Proposed Development is added to other projects, then direct effects could potentially increase resulting in an overall cumulative impact on cultural heritage and archaeology.

Other projects within 20km of the Proposed Development are also deemed to have been assessed through the EIAR and planning application process with suitable mitigation measures being implemented.

The mitigation measures, included in Section 12.3.2 above, which will be implemented for the Proposed Development are such that no significant direct effects will take place and therefore not contribute significant to a cumulative direct effect.

12.5.1.1 **Cumulative impacts (direct) considering other windfarms within 20km**

The majority of projects as listed on Figure 13.12 (including existing, permitted and Proposed Developments) are located near to the Proposed Development. Each cultural heritage asset is assessed cumulatively.

12.5.1.1.1 **Cumulative effects to UNESCO World Heritage sites (tentative) National Monuments in State Care, Recorded Monuments, NIAH and RPS**

There are no UNESCO WHS, National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, RPS structures or NIAH sites located within the footprint of the Proposed Development and therefore no direct effects on this resource were identified when considering the Proposed Development alone. In this regard no cumulative direct impacts to the known documented cultural heritage sites will occur. There are no UNESCO sites located within the footprint of either the Proposed Development or other nearby projects within 20km.

12.5.1.1.2 **Cumulative impact to potential unknown sub-surface sites**

Direct effects to sub-surface archaeological features/sites can occur as a result of topsoil or peat removal and groundworks. The Proposed Development in combination with other developments, could result in potential increased negative effects to sub-surface archaeological features ((i.e. cumulative impacts). Since all projects have been assessed from a cultural heritage perspective through the EIAR process, all potential negative effects are deemed to have been dealt with through the use of effective mitigation measures and planning conditions issued through the Planning Authorities.

If the mitigation measures prescribed in this EIAR are implemented then cumulative direct effects to unknown sub-surface archaeology will not occur, regardless of the other projects within 20km of the Proposed Development.

12.5.2 **Cumulative Impacts (Indirect Impact on Setting)**

Indirect impacts on setting occur at the operational stage of the development (when turbines are operational). In this regard in order to assess overall cumulative effects on archaeology and cultural heritage, the proposed project is considered in the context of other developments, in particular other permitted and proposed wind farms. Other windfarms include the following:

- > Permitted ABO Sheskin
- > Existing Bellacorick
- > Existing Bunnahowen
- > Existing Dooleeg More Single Turbine
- > Existing Oweninny Phase 1
- > Permitted Oweninny Phase 2 (Under Construction)
- > Proposed Oweninny Phase 3
- > Proposed Glenora Wind Farm

A proposed hydrogen plant (Pl. Ref. 22502) located just north of the Bellacorick substation but is not considered a high visibility development.

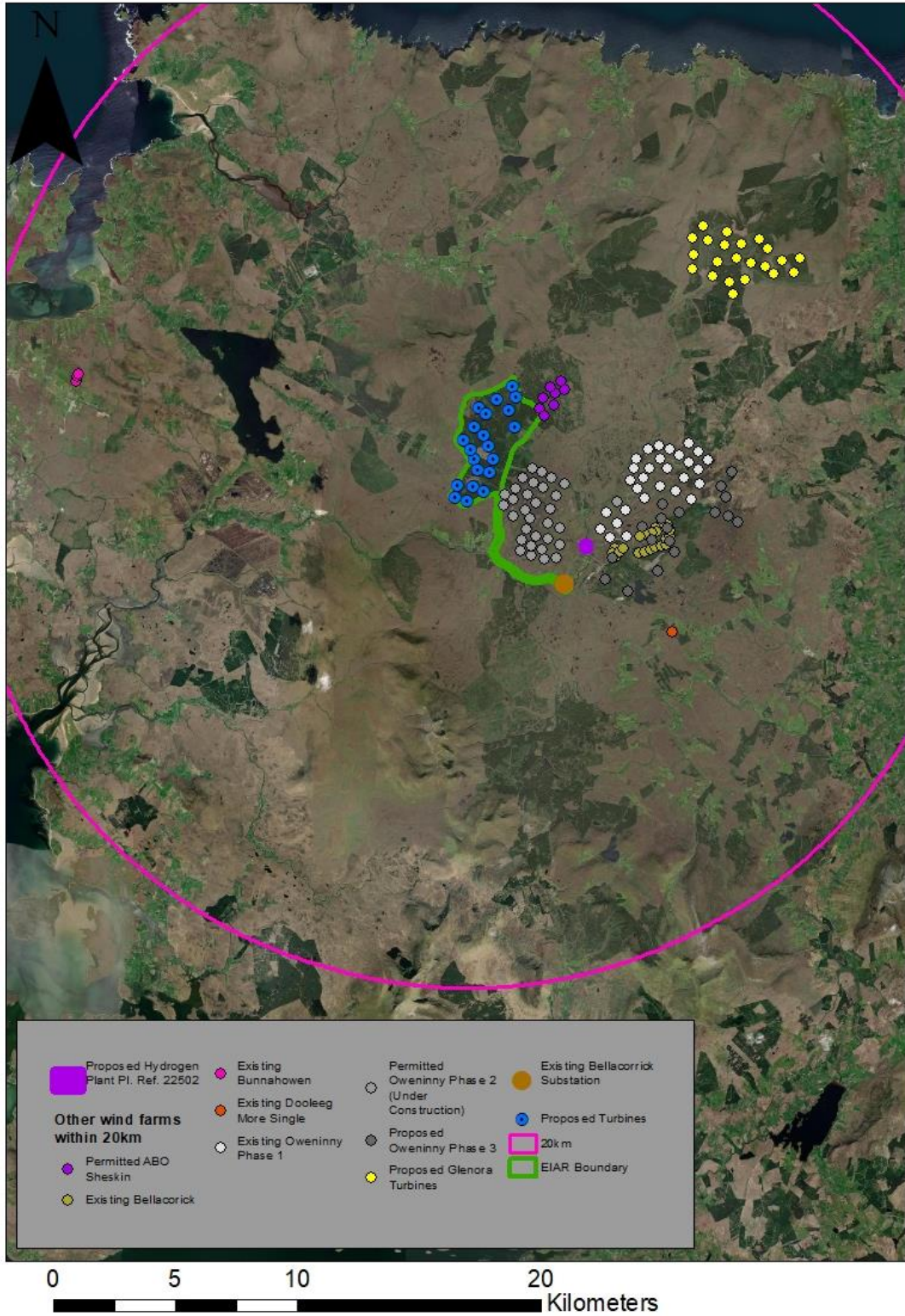


Figure 12-14: Other projects being considered for cumulative impacts within 20km of the nearest proposed Sheskin South turbines

12.5.2.1 UNESCO World Heritage sites (tentative)

The Ceide fields were considered in the assessment in terms of potential effects on their setting. Photomontage (Appendix 12.2) and the ZTV used in the LVIA Chapter 12 shows that no views of the proposed Sheskin South turbines are possible from the Ceide fields. This is also the case when other projects are added to the proposed project in that views from the Ceide fields are still only to the north. In this regard, despite the increased number of projects to the south of the Ceide fields, no turbines are visible in the direction of the Proposed Development. No turbines fall within the visible areas and therefore no cumulative effects will occur.

12.5.2.2 National Monuments in State Care

National Monuments are those recorded monuments which are in the ownership / guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. They are frequently referred to as being in 'State Care'. National Monuments also include those which are subject to a Preservation Order. No National Monuments are located within the Proposed Development site boundary or within 10km of the nearest proposed turbines. When considered cumulatively, no national monuments occur within 10km of any of the proposed, permitted or operational turbines (including the Proposed Development). The immediate setting of the National Monuments will not be impacted therefore.

12.5.2.3 Recorded Monuments, RPS and NIAH structures (5km)

When the Proposed Development is considered alone, the potential effects on setting of RMPs vary from No effects to Not Significant to Moderate. When considered cumulatively with other projects within the 5km assessment zone, the effects on setting will increase given the proximity of the other projects to the Proposed Development. Cumulative effects on setting from RMPs sites will occur therefore. These cumulative effects are not considered to be significant however which would be an effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment. An effect like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological site.

A similar scenario is identified for the two NIAH structures within 5km of the Proposed Development. Cumulative effects may occur due to the increased number of turbines visible from the cultural heritage assets.

The findings are a worst case scenario since viewshed analysis and ZTV does not take natural screening into consideration which in reality will alleviate and minimise the potential effects on setting.