

## 15.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 15.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises a cultural heritage impact assessment which addresses archaeological and architectural heritage (under the overall term 'cultural heritage') of the Cloghercor Wind Farm in County Donegal as described in Chapter 2 of this EIAR (Description of the Proposed Project).

The study identifies previously recorded archaeological and architectural sites within and near to the wind farm project area, along the proposed route of the grid connection cable and at locations of turbine delivery route works and all associated works. This background information is considered in relation to the proposed project designs and informed the methodology and targets of ground surveys of the wind farm and associated works which were carried out in April 2021 and October 2022. The results of the study take into account the potential direct and indirect impact of the proposed project on cultural heritage.

This chapter addresses Cultural Heritage under two headings: archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

The assessment addresses the wind farm where construction of turbines, access tracks, compounds and associated works will directly and permanently impact the ground and where the turbines will have a prominent residual impact on the landscape, the grid connection cable route, roadside works at eight locations for the turbine delivery route (TDR) along the the N56 and the R262 road.

#### 15.1.1 *Statement of Authority*

Moore Group staff involved in the preparation of this chapter are William Anderson, Declan Moore and Nigel Malcolm.

William Anderson (BA, MA, PhD) is a senior archaeologist with Moore Group and has more than 15 years' experience in archaeological research and consulting.

Declan Moore (BA, MIAI) is Managing Director of Moore Group; he has been a licence eligible archaeologist in Ireland since 1999 and has 30 years' experience in archaeological consulting.

Nigel Malcolm (BSc) has extensive GIS and mapping experience and has worked on all large-scale infrastructural developments that Moore Group has undertaken.

#### 15.1.2 *Description of Project*

A detailed description of the proposed project is presented in Chapter 2 of this EIAR (Description of the Proposed Project).

### 15.2 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of impacts upon the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource is based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, followed by a field survey. Considering the legislative protection afforded to the cultural heritage resource this report evaluates the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and

historical importance of the subject area and examines the potential impacts of the proposed project on both the local archaeological monuments and cultural heritage sites.

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is based on guidance provided in the National Roads Authority's (NRA) Guidelines for the Assessment of Archaeological Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005a), and Guidelines for the Assessment of Architectural Heritage Impacts on National Road Schemes (NRA 2005b) (the 'NRA Guidelines'), as well as the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2022).

This study aims to assess the baseline archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource, to evaluate the likely impacts that the proposed project will have on this resource and to prescribe mitigation measures in accordance with the policies of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Donegal County Council, the National Monuments Acts (as amended) and best practise guidelines (see bibliography, Appendix 15.1). Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed project will have on the baseline environment is evaluated and identified.

### **15.2.1 Desk Based Study**

All known cultural heritage sites were mapped in GIS along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) First Edition Mapping (Circa 1830). Sites mapped included the following:

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the tentative list of candidate sites;
- National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders.
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).
- Records of Protected Structures from Donegal County Council.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) for County Donegal.
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

All townlands located within 2km of the proposed project site were listed and crossed referenced with:

- National Monuments, a list for County Donegal available from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).
- Preservation Orders, a list available from the National Monuments Service; and
- Lists contained in the Report of the Commissioners or Church Temporalities of Ireland (1879) which contain lists of Churches, School Houses and Graveyards that were vested in the Representative Church Body and the Burial Boards under The Irish Church Act, 1869.

Chapter 7 of the Donegal County Development Plan (2018-2024) addresses the Natural and Built Heritage: Section 7.2 addresses Built Heritage and lists objectives and policies under the aim 'to preserve, protect and enhance the built heritage of the County' (Donegal County Council 2018: 134-137). Section 7.3 addresses Archaeological Heritage and lists objectives and policies under the aim 'to conserve and protect the County's archaeological heritage for present and future generations while encouraging appreciation and enjoyment of these valuable, non-renewable, cultural resources through sustainable management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development' (Donegal County Council 2018: 138-139).

This report is cognisant of the Plan's Development Management Standards relating to the archaeological heritage and Objective AH-O-1: 'To conserve and protect the County's archaeological heritage for present and future generations.'

This report is also mindful of the Plan's Development Management Standards relating to the architectural heritage and has included details of all Protected Structures and structures recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Throughout the process of the appraisal the authors were mindful that these inventories do not contain all structures that may be worthy of protection and were vigilant for new structures worthy of protection.

To assess the potential impact of the proposal the following sources were also consulted or reviewed:

- Excavations Bulletin.
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland.
- Cartographic Sources.
- Toponyms.
- Aerial photographs.
- Published archaeological inventories; and
- Documentary Sources: several literary references were consulted.

Following the desktop assessment, the project area was inspected by William Anderson (Moore Group) in April 2021 and by Declan Moore (Moore Group) in October 2022. The inspections assessed recorded monuments around the perimeter of the wind farm site, surveyed a recorded monument within the wind farm study area, visited the location of proposed turbine locations, tracks and compound areas, followed the length of the grid connection cable route and inspected planned TDR works; areas of potential or suspected archaeological and vernacular historical sites were inspected and recorded.

When reference is made to the distance between an RMP/SMR and the proposed project site this relates to the minimal distance separating the site from the known edge of the RMP. Where the edge of the RMP is not precisely known, the distance relates to that which separates the site from the boundary of the RMP zone of archaeological potential as represented on the respective RMP map; where this is applied, it is stated accordingly.

The background research and field inspections gave a comprehensive understanding of the archaeological and architectural heritage that may be impacted by the proposed project and informs the recommended proposed mitigation measures contained in this chapter.

### **15.2.2 Terms and Definitions**

#### **Cultural Heritage**

For the purposes of this report the definition of "cultural heritage" is taken broadly from the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which considers the following to be "cultural heritage":

- Tangible cultural heritage.
- movable cultural heritage (artefacts).
- immovable cultural heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, architectural structures, and features, etc).
- underwater cultural heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and

- Intangible cultural heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

The phrase 'cultural heritage' is a generic term used to identify a multitude of cultural, archaeological, and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'cultural heritage', in compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to have historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social, or technical significance/merit.

### **Record of Monuments and Places**

A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county.

### **The Sites and Monuments Record**

The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is an inventory of the known archaeological monuments in the State. There are more than 150,800 records in the database and over 138,800 of these relate to archaeological monuments.

### **Register of Historic Monuments**

Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act states that the Minister is required to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded in the Register without the permission of the Minister is illegal, and two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a registered monument. This list was largely replaced by the Record of Monuments and Places following the 1994 Amendment Act.

### **Archaeological Survey Database**

The most up-to-date record of archaeological monuments, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI), is available for viewing and download on the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website. This record is continually revised and indicates several additional sites that do not feature on the printed maps.

### **Area of archaeological potential**

An 'area of archaeological potential' refers to an area of ground that is deemed to constitute one where archaeological sites, features or objects may be present in consequence of location, association with identified/recorded archaeological sites and/or identifiable characteristics.

## **15.3 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT**

### **15.3.1 Introduction**

The proposed study area is in the Fintown Valley district of west-central Donegal, across northwest-facing hillslopes on the southern side of the Gweebarra River valley. The nearest settlements are Doocharry to the north, Fintown to the east and Leitir Mhic an

Bhaird/Lettermacaward to the southwest; Glenties is approximately 6km to the south. The area spans a slope that has a generally southeast to northwest aspect, with its highest point being Croaghleheen (Cruach Léithín) (439m) at the east.

The Gweebarra Fault runs through the Fintown Valley unit, whose underlying geology is granite, with areas of limestone, schist, and marble to the southwest (Donegal County Council 2016: 149-151). The hillsides south of the Gweebarra River are Atlantic blanket bog, with mountainous blanket bog at elevations above 200m, and with exposed rock outcrops. Streams flow generally northwest down the hillside, and there are small lakes on the middle slopes including Lough Aneans More and Beg and Lough Sallagh. Much of the study area is planted with coniferous forest. The study area is sparsely populated with a small number of isolated dwellings, mostly on the flat ground beside the Gweebarra River.

See Figure 15.1 and Figure 15.2 of Appendix 15-3 which illustrate the archaeological and architectural heritage in the wider area.

### **15.3.2 General Archaeological, Architectural and Historical Background**

#### **15.3.2.1 Mesolithic Period (c. 8000BC-4000BC)**

The Mesolithic (middle stone age) people were the first inhabitants of Ireland, arriving about 9000 years ago. They were a mobile society relying on wild resources for food which was hunted and gathered using stone tools as well as boats, nets, and traps. Settlement was in temporary and semi -permanent groups of huts constructed of wood slung with hide which may have operated as seasonal or hunting camps.

Evidence for Mesolithic activity in Donegal is relatively scarce, only one definite site, at Dunaff Bay near the mouth of Lough Swilly, some 20 km northeast of Letterkenny has been excavated. However, the proximity of this and the well-known Mount Sandel settlement site in County Derry as well as a thin scatter of Mesolithic tools across the county, suggests that activity in this period was widespread in the county, probably utilising the extensive coastline for fish and shellfish. There is one account of a Mesolithic stone axe found in the dunes at Dunfanaghy (Nolan, Ronayne and Dunlevy 1995, 3) but this is now unaccounted for.

#### **15.3.2.2 Neolithic Period (c. 4000BC-2500BC)**

Farming was first adopted in the Middle East but spread gradually across Europe in succeeding centuries, arriving in Ireland about 4000 BC. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements were built. The megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments of the Neolithic people built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes, are relatively common in the landscape. New methods were adopted for shaping stone tools and the first long distance trade networks were established.

Neolithic activity is far more apparent in the archaeological record due to the presence of numerous megalithic monuments. These are particularly abundant in Donegal, scattered across the landscape but often in concentrated areas, frequently hilltops or false crests commanding extensive views of the landscape. There is a small concentration of tombs on the Horn Head peninsula (two portal tombs and a court tomb). Construction on this scale is testament to a well organised and sophisticated society in the area. Megalithic monuments can be divided into funerary monuments, communal tombs for the burial of the dead and those with a more esoteric function such as stone circles, stone rows, or single standing stones whose function was probably ceremonial. Single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories.

### 15.3.2.3 The Bronze Age (c. 2500BC-500BC)

As stone tools were replaced using copper, later combined with tin to make bronze, the structure of society also changed over centuries. While some communal megalithic monuments, particularly wedge tombs continued to be used, the Bronze Age is characterised by a movement towards single burial and the production of prestige items and weapons, suggesting that society was increasingly stratified and warlike.

At least 25 wedge tombs are known across the county, in two concentrations, a band across the very north of the county, particularly Inishowen and on the coastline of the southwest around Killybegs. Cist graves also thought to be largely Bronze Age are found largely in the north of the county and one is recorded as having been uncovered in the sand hills around Dunfanaghy.

### 15.3.2.4 The Iron Age (c. 500BC-400AD)

In late Bronze Age Ireland, the use of the metal reached a high point with the production of high-quality decorated weapons, ornament, and instruments, often discovered from hoards or ritual deposits. The Iron Age however is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. Iron objects are found rarely, but there is no evidence for the warrior culture of the rest of Europe, although the distinctive La Tené style of art with animal motifs and spirals was adopted. Life in Iron Age in Ireland seems to have been much as it was in the early historic period – mixed farmers living in or around small, defended settlements known as ringforts or stone cashels.

Ringforts are common across Donegal, both as raths (defended settlements defined by an earthen bank) and cashels (defined by a bank of stone). These settlements are thought to be small farmsteads, enclosing houses, farm buildings and animal pens, enclosed as protection against raiders or wild animals. Excavations of the interiors suggest that the houses were circular huts, built of stakes with a double skin of wattle and a thatched roof. There are quite several surviving raths and cashels in and around Lough Swilly. A bronze and ibex-headed pin dated to the 1st century AD are reported as being found on Horn Head.

### 15.3.2.5 Later Historic Period

The rivalry between the two Ulster families dominated the history of the region until their eventual defeat and conquest by the Elizabethans, with the Cenel Conaill being dominant in the area of Donegal Town and beyond, maintaining control of the strategically important Barnesmore Gap. The Cenel Conaill retained control after the withdrawal of the Normans. In the 12th century the O'Donnells became princes of Tír Conaill. Under the leadership of the O'Donnells, the Cenel Conaill established their main seat in Donegal Town.

The late medieval lordship of Tír Chonaill (Donegal) reached the height of its power during the years 1461 - 1555. The lords of Tír Chonaill became the dominant force in Gaelic Ireland for almost a century. The lordship itself was in close contact with many centres of the Renaissance in Europe. Focusing primarily on three lords or princes of Tír Chonaill - Aodh Ruadh, Aodh Dubh and Maghnus O'Domhnaill - who between them ruled from 1461 - 1533 in an almost unbroken line of direct succession, these three lords (father, son and grandson) are recorded in history as "Three of the most remarkable men ever produced in Co. Donegal".

The rise to power of the O'Donnells after 1461 shows remarkable leadership. At the height of their power, these lords of Tír Chonaill became immediate overlords of nine North-Western counties, their power being built on the great loyalty shown to them by the inhabitants of Tír Chonaill.

Tír Chonaill was certainly not a depressed economic region in late medieval times. Its natural resources were utilised by a relatively small population, concentrated in the fertile lowlands. The region was famous for its vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, as well as large unenclosed areas sown with oats. The uplands and the rugged western coastlands were then largely uninhabited, providing the lowland inhabitants with valuable pastures, turf banks, large woodlands, and extensive reserves of wild game. Rivers and sheltered inlets were also a tremendous natural resource, giving salmon, eel, oyster, and seal fisheries. Sheltered bays attracted large numbers of foreign merchants and fishermen exploiting an immensely valuable salmon and herring fishery, which developed during the early sixteenth century into one of the biggest of its kind in Europe.

Tír Chonaill had long and established trading links with ports such as Bristol in the south of England, St. Malo and Morlaix in Brittany, Ayr, Wigton and Glasgow in Scotland and home ports such as Galway and Drogheda. Imports into Tír Chonaill were mainly wine, luxury clothes, modern weapons, and armour, while the main exports were fish and hides.

On the continent, the lords of Tír Chonaill were famed for their wealth, increased by their skillful commercialism. While the Bretons and French supplied the O'Donnell's with wine, salt, iron, gunpowder, and firearms in exchange for fish, tallow & hides. The Spanish too were important players. Hundreds of their fishing fleet were known to frequent the west coast. Not only did the Spaniards pay tribute of between a tenth and a sixth of their catch for protection while they fished, but they also paid for onshore facilities to cure their catch. Enterprises connected with the herring fishery were concentrated in the North-West, with O'Donnell ports such as Arranmore doing an extensive trade.

The pilgrim trade between the North-West of Ireland and the continent was another important form of contact between Renaissance Europe and Tír Chonaill. St. Patrick's Purgatory (Lough Derg) was one of the most exotic pilgrimage sites in Western Europe. Many important visitors came to the site, not least Pers Yonge, Master of the Magdalen in London, who brought a letter from Aodh Dubh O'Domhnaill to Henry VIII in 1515, and the French knight who came via Scotland in 1516. Such was the hospitality received by this individual that he returned with artillery and royal soldiers from the King of Scotland, enabling Aodh Dubh to capture Sligo and three other castles. Pilgrims from the North-West in turn visited Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the holy site associated with St. James. Many of those were undoubtedly from Tír Chonaill, as Aodh Dubh in 1507 told James IV of Scotland that he had intended to visit Galicia himself but had been otherwise advised.

Once there, Tír Chonaill pilgrims must have been impressed by the great Renaissance inspired Royal Hospice for Pilgrims built by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

It is evident therefore that Tír Chonaill did not depend on southern England for its links with Renaissance Europe. Much more important was the contact with lowland Scotland, Brittany, and Rome, which brought the region into direct touch with centres of humanist thought.

### **15.3.3 Archaeological Heritage**

All relevant archaeological and cultural heritage sites and their locations are presented in figures 15.1 – 15.5.

#### **15.3.3.1 World Heritage Sites**

Although not formally recognised in Irish legislation, impacts on World Heritage Sites will nonetheless be a material consideration for developments in their wider vicinity.

There are no World Heritage Sites or potential World Heritage Sites contained in the Tentative List of Candidate Sites within the vicinity of the subject site or the turbine delivery route.

### **15.3.3.2 National Monuments**

On a national level, the highest degree of protection granted to archaeological monuments are those afforded National Monument status, which are protected under the National Monuments Act of 1930 and its various amendments. These are the pre-eminent archaeological sites in Ireland and fall into several categories including:

- Sites that are in the ownership or guardianship of the state.
- Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders.
- Monuments in the ownership of a local authority; and
- Walled towns.

Afforded the same level of protection as National Monuments in State care are archaeological monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, Walled Towns and some archaeological monuments that are in the ownership of a local authority. Work in the vicinity of these sites requires Ministerial Consent. Although there are no formal registers of archaeological monuments that are in the ownership of local authorities they predominantly consist of Churches and/or Graveyards that were transferred into the ownership of the Burial Boards by the Church Temporalities Commission during the latter half of the 19th Century.

Generally National Monuments in state care are numbered amongst the best preserved and most impressive monuments in the country.

There are no National Monuments in the vicinity of the subject site or in the vicinity of the turbine delivery route. The nearest National Monument is the medieval ecclesiastical complex at Inishkeel Island (NM658, DG064-003), 11.6km to the west of the wind farm study area. This complex comprises multiple components which are included in the National Monument listing.

There are no sites with Preservation Orders within 10km of the subject site or in the vicinity of the turbine delivery route. The nearest site with a Preservation Order is a ringfort at Inver Glebe (DG092-011), more than 22km to the south.

The nearest walled town is Lifford, 50km to the east.

There are 14 religious sites recorded within 10km of the subject site or in the vicinity of the turbine delivery route. These include sites with multiple entries so represent eight separate locations. The closest religious site to the study area is a church, ecclesiastical enclosure, and graveyard (DG065-010) at Mí n An Ghabhann, more than 3km to the southwest.

### **15.3.3.3 Archaeological Monuments**

The legislation that affords protection to the archaeology of Ireland has seen several amendments since the first National Monuments Act of 1930 and there is a legacy of several different registers and associated terminology. The following sections contain information relative to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD).

There are no sites on the RHM within 1km of the study area. There is one RHM site located within 10km of the study area – the portal tomb and cairn at Toome townland (MG0398, DG065-005).

There are 81 recorded archaeological monuments located within 10km of the subject area, two of which are redundant records. These sites include prehistoric megalithic tombs, early medieval raths and souterrains and ritual sites such as holy wells and bullaun stones. The 79 monuments fall into 32 separate categories. The most prevalent site types are ringforts (11, including cashels, raths and unclassified), cross-slabs (9), graveyards and burial grounds (8), structures (8), mounds (6) and megalithic tombs (5).

One recorded monument is located within the study area: a megalithic structure (DG058-005) in the north of the area. This monument will not be directly impacted upon. Four other RMP sites are within 3km of the area and another two are slightly further than 3km. ASD entries for these seven sites, which are all to be included on the next revision of the RMP, are as follows:

#### **DG058-005----**

Class: Megalithic structure

Townland: CLOCHAR AN CHUILINN

Description: Situated in an area of open moorland with extensive outcropping rock on the southern side of the valley of the Gweebarra River. This feature is located at the north-western end of a low ridge of outcropping rock in an area of cut-away bog and the remains appear to have been largely exposed in the process of peat cutting. The structure consists of a large boulder-type roofstone (3.2m by 3.7m and up to 1m thick), orientated approximately north-south, that slopes downwards from the north where it is supported by two smaller boulders that present a flat portal-like appearance. It rests on a further boulder at the southwest and by what appears to be several courses of stones at the south which are enveloped in the peat at this end of the structure. The three supporting boulders sit directly on the bedrock which is exposed beneath the cover stone. The north-western edge of the cover stone appears to have been shattered artificially though it is impossible to be certain if this is integral to the feature's original condition. It is possible that this configuration of boulders is the result of natural glacial forces, or it may well be a fortuitous arrangement of rocks. Morphologically, it does not conform to any known monument type and the extant remains are hardly sufficient to permit classification as a monument. It may well represent some effort at raising a boulder in the megalithic tradition and while interpretation as a megalithic structure is suggested, this is purely tentative, and a proper elucidation of the monument must await further investigation.

#### **DG058-002001-**

Class: Ritual site - holy well

Townland: DOIRE LEAC CHONAILL THEAS

Description: On the SW of the mound surrounding the well is a small portable basin-stone (DG058-002002-) with a depression .23m in diameter and 0.09m deep. The well was described by Ó Muirghéasa in 1936 as 'St. Conall's Holy Well at Derryleacconnell, not far from Doochary, is still remembered by the pious people around there, and has stations performed at it' (Ó Muirghéasa 1936, 151). (Ó Muirghéasa No. 41)

#### **DG058-002002-**

Class: Bullaun stone

Townland: DOIRE LEAC CHONAILL THEAS

Description: On the SW of the mound surrounding the well (DG058-02001-) is a small portable basin-stone (DG058-002002-) with a depression .23m in diameter and 0.09m deep. (Ó Muirgheasa No. 41)

#### **DG058-001----**

Class: Ritual site - holy well

Townland: DOIRE NA CORADH

Description: A 'holy well' still in use. Situated on a marshy, treecovered slope N of the Gweebarra river.

#### **DG065-010001-, -010002- and -010003-**

Class: Church, Ecclesiastical Enclosure and Graveyard

Townland: MÍN AN GHABHANN

Description: A modern graveyard wall (DG065-010003-) encloses a subcircular space c. 30m to 35m in diameter. This seems to follow the line of an older enclosure (DG065-010002-), although there is no further evidence of this now. The circular line is broken on the N side by the extension of the graveyard and the building of a modern church. At the centre of the subcircular graveyard are the ruins of Lettermacaward Old Church. Described in 1622 as a small chapel (Royal Commission, 212) it had fallen into ruins by the middle of the 17th century (Simington 1937, 82), and was not repaired. The new church was built beside it c. 1788 (Leslie 1940, 105). The remains of the small church, 5.6m x 9.15m internally, are built of split stone, rubble and mortar. The E gable survives to a height of 2.4m and has a wide central window with splayed ingoings; the jambs and head have fallen away. There is a similar, partially blocked-up smaller window at the E end of the S wall, the round-headed rear-arch survives. The flat-headed doorway to the W is missing its wooden lintel; it has splayed ingoings. The windows and door retain indications of timber frames. The W gable, 2.6m high, is featureless as is the N wall which survives to a height of 1.4m. The round-headed rear-arch, the wide opening of the E window, 1.15m and the evidence for wooden frames would suggest a late date for this church, possibly late medieval or early 17th century.

The above description was derived from the 'Archaeological Survey of County Donegal. A description of the field antiquities of the County from the Mesolithic Period to the 17th century.' Compiled by: Brian Lacey with Eamon Cody, Claire Cotter, Judy Cuppage, Noel Dunne, Vincent Hurley, Celie O'Rahilly, Paul Walsh and Seán Ó Nualláin (Lifford: Donegal County Council, 1983). In certain instances, the entries have been revised and updated.

#### **DG066-003----**

Class: Mound

Townland: AN CURRAOIN

Description: There is no trace of this feature, which was first shown on the 1848-51 edition of the OS 6-inch map. According to Thomas Fagan (1845-8), 'the grave in question was originally enclosed by large flag stones, a few of which now lie prostrate on the grave, but all of which are absorbed beneath a cairn of small stones of modern collection'. A later, 1:2,500 Name Book (1903) makes no reference to the presence of stones at the site and describes it simply as a low mound of earth. Local information has suggested that it was a mound, probably oval, measuring c. 6m by 3m by 0.5m high (Ó Nualláin 1983a, 47). During its destruction in around 1940 it was reportedly found to have been composed entirely of clay. There seems to be little likelihood that there was a megalithic tomb here.

Fagan 1845-8, book 23, 17; OS Revision Name Book, sheet 66 (1848-51), 18 (recounts a legend associated with the site); Doherty 1891, 82; OS 1:2, 500 Name Book, sheet 66 (1903), 19; Ó Nualláin 1983a, 47, no. 156; SMR 1987, 66:3; RMP 1995, 66:3.

**DG066-004----**

Class: Megalithic structure                      Townland: AN CURRAOIN

Description: Depicted on the current edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map in gothic script as 'Finnygals Apron Stones'.

Compiled by: Caimin O'Brien. Date of upload/revision: 19 July 2010

**DG065-006----**

Class: Crannog                                      Townland: TUAIM (TC Leitir Mhic an Bhaird)

No description available.

#### **15.3.3.4 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland**

The topographical files of the NMI identify all recorded finds held in the NMI archive that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. The files sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early 20th century. Valuable information that can be gleaned might include the exact location, ground type, depth below ground level and condition when found, of each find. However, the amount and the usefulness of the information available on each find can vary considerably. The topographical files are listed by county and townland and/or street name. A review of [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) was completed.

A review of the NMI finds database on the Heritage Council's [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie) website, noted no finds recorded within the study area or its near surroundings. The nearest listed finds are from the excavation of an Iron Age settlement and cemetery in 1959 on sand dunes at Dooley, 6.6km west of the study area (DG065-003), which recovered over 2000 artefacts including iron, bronze and carved antler objects (Ó Ríordáin and Rynne 1961).

#### **15.3.3.5 Toponym Analysis and Undesignated Cultural heritage**

While encompassing the protected archaeological and architectural heritage resource, cultural heritage also includes various undesignated cultural heritage items such as vernacular structures as well as intangible assets such as folklore, placenames and historical events and associations.

Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology, and folklore of an area. The placename can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. In compiling the following data, several resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).

The barony of Boylagh derives from the Irish name *Baollaigh*. This name is said to have been introduced in the 16th century to refer to lands controlled by the Ó Baoighill clan. 'Baoigheallaigh' is the plural of *Baoigheallach* which may be explained as 'a descendent of

Baigheall' from whom the Ó Baoighill are named. *Baigheallaigh* would have originally referred to the collective members of the Ó Baoighill clan, but later it was applied to the territory over which they ruled' (Mac Giolla Easpaig 1995: 156).

The parish name, Inishkeel, derives from the island located to the west of the study area. The Irish 'Inis Caoil' can be translated as 'narrow island'.

The names of townlands in the study area and its surroundings are given in English and Irish and translations of these names are presented in Table 15-1.

*Table 15-1: Toponym analysis of townland names*

Townland (English)	Irish Genitive	Translation/Interpretation
Clogherachullion	<i>Chlochar an Chuilinn</i>	clochar (also: cloichear) = stony place; cuileann = holly
Cloghercor	<i>an Chlochair Chorr</i>	clochar (also: cloichear) = stony place; corr = round hill, pointed hill, hollow; pointed, conspicuous, odd
Coolvoy	<i>na Cúl bhá</i>	Cul bhuidhe = 'yellow back', an Cúl bháighe'; báighe: = 'a recess/outshot in a house, a piece of land between two hills'.
Derryleconnell	<i>Dhoire Leac Chonaill Thuaidh</i>	doire = (oak-) wood, grove, thicket leac = flat stone or rock, flagstone
Derryloaghan	<i>Dhoire Luacháin</i>	doire = (oak-) wood, grove, thicket
Drumaneany	<i>Dhroim an Aonaigh</i>	droim (also: drom) = ridge
Meenmore West	<i>na Míne Móire Thiar</i>	mín = mountain pasture mór = great, big
Lougherrig	<i>Loch Eirg</i>	loch = lake; inlet
Shallogan More	<i>an tSealgáin Mhóir</i>	mór = great, big
Galwolie	<i>na Gallbhuaile</i>	gall = foreigner, Protestant boile = grazing ground

The proposed project is located within the Donegal Gaeltacht area for the most part. The online database of the Irish National Folklore Schools Collection ([www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie)) was reviewed and it does not contain entries for any of the townlands within the study area.

#### **15.3.3.6 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork**

The Excavation Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2012. The database gives access to almost 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author. In general, the database contains information on sites for which final excavation reports have been received.

The National Roads Authority (NRA) archaeological database (<http://archaeology.nra.ie>) contains a description of the results of excavations carried out in advance of various road schemes. In general, the database contains information on sites for which final excavation reports have been received.

Reports on previous excavations were searched on the excavations.ie website by using the interactive map application and by searching under the names of townlands in the study area and its surroundings (see Toponym Analysis below for a list of townlands). There are no reports on archaeological work taking place within the study area or elsewhere in Clogherachullion or Cloghercor townlands. There are also no reports of archaeological work in any of the townlands adjacent to the study area. The closest reported archaeological projects are for Ballynacarrick, west of the area, where monitoring for a waste facility on bogland found no archaeological features (Mary Henry, 'Ballynacarrick, Donegal', Excavations 2002:0406) and Fintown, east of the area, where testing prior to a housing development also found nothing of archaeological significance (Declan Moore, 'Fintown, Donegal', Excavations 2007:359). More recently the route of the nearby N56 Leitirnacaward to Glenties (Kilraine) approved road scheme was subject to a testing programme (E005014) followed by archaeological excavation of exposed material in 2019 (E005040). Two archaeological sites were discovered in the townland of Letterilly which were excavated by TVAS Ireland Ltd.

Archaeological surveys have been completed for the area, including for the Donegal County Council commissioned survey of field antiquities (Lacey 1983) and as part of the survey of megalithic tombs of Ireland (Cody 2002).

#### **15.3.3.7 Cartographic Research**

Historical maps were consulted to assess the historic landscape since the 19th century. The following maps were consulted: First Edition 6-inch maps prepared for the study area were published in 1836, based on surveys undertaken in 1834. Second Edition 25-inch maps, dating from the late 19th and early 20th century, were not prepared for the study area; the nearest sheet (published 1906 after surveys in 1904) only extends into a small part of the study area's southwest corner. The so-called Last Edition 6-inch maps for the area were published in 1998.

Analysis of the maps located several built features within the study area which are either ruined or no longer extant. Most of these features are dwellings and farmsteads. None has any statutory listing as archaeological or architectural sites but can be considered vernacular cultural heritage features. No potential unlisted archaeological sites were identified from the analysis of historic maps.

#### **15.3.4 Architectural Heritage**

All relevant architectural heritage sites and their locations are presented in Figures 15.1 – 15.5.

##### **15.3.4.1 Architectural Conservation Areas**

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides that all Development Plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures. In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas in the study area or within 10km of the study area.

#### **15.3.4.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) & National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)**

The importance of our built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part II, Section 10) which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include in their Development Plans objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the structures importance, protection from adverse impacts and potential access to grant aid for conservation works. The record of Protected Structures is an ongoing process and can be reviewed and added to. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

The NIAH County surveys, established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 provides an index of structures deemed to be of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social, scientific, or technical interest. The NIAH inventory also provides valuable information to local authorities on the rich heritage of the country's demesnes, parks, gardens, and designed landscapes. The results of the NIAH surveys are available on the [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) website. Each entry comprises a site description and appraisal providing a qualitative account of why the building is an important part of Irish architectural heritage justifying its inclusion. The inventory also rates the structures on a scale ranging from local, regional, national to international.

There are no RPS sites within the study area. There are four RPS sites within 3km of the study area (Donegal County Council 2018): Doocharry Bridge (40905802), 1.15km to the north, St Bridget's Catholic Church in Lettermacaward (40906501), 1.02km to the west, Lettermacaward Parish Church (40906502), 1.89km to the west and Glebe House (The Rectory) (40906503), approximately 2.63km to the west. Two bridges recorded on the NIAH are located in the immediate vicinity of areas where roadside modifications are planned for the turbine delivery route (40909325 and 40909326). Entries on Donegal County Council's (2018) RPS or NIAH website are as follows:

##### **Doocharry Bridge, 40905802**

Description: Road bridge over Gweebarra river in two segmental-arched spans with custone voussoirs, dressed squared rubble stone haunched ashlar abutments and rubble stone parapets. Large cutwater and projecting ashlar centering ledge built c. 1785.

##### **St Bridget's Church, 40906501**

Detached Gothic-style Catholic Church built c. 1875 with six bay nave and with choir gallery internally, porch to west and sacristy to east, refurbished c. 1980.

##### **Lettermacaward Parish Church, 40906502**

Detached Georgian-Gothic Church of Ireland church built 1788 with entrance porch to west, bellcote to west gable, vestry to north-east corner.

### **Glebe House (The Rectory), 40906503**

Detached two-storey over basement 'L' shaped former rectory with hipped roof and walled courtyard and two storey stables to the rear.

### **Eanybeg Bridge, 40909325**

Multi-arched bridge carrying main road over the Eanybeg Water, built c. 1780, having roughly dressed V-profile cutwaters to piers. Segmental-headed arches having dressed ashlar voussoirs.

### **Eanymore Bridge (Sir Alberts Bridge), 40909326**

Triple-arched bridge carrying main road over the Eanymore Water, built c. 1780, having ashlar V-profile cutwaters to piers. Segmental-headed arches having dressed ashlar voussoirs; squared rubble stone construction to arch barrels.

There are no other NIAH sites within the study area or within 3km. The nearest NIAH sites are in Glenties, approximately 3.3km to the south of the study area.

#### ***15.3.4.3 Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates***

The Architectural Section of the DHLGH is in the process of a multi-phase study looking at Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens that appear as shaded areas on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps, circa. 1830.

'The objective of this survey is to begin a process of understanding of the extent of Ireland's historic gardens and designed landscape. Sites were identified using the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. These were compared with current aerial photography to assess the level of survival and change.'

There are no demesne landscapes or historic gardens that intersect the study area or in its surroundings.

#### ***15.3.5 Other Cultural Heritage Sites***

A review of historic maps and aerial photography was undertaken to identify previously unrecorded archaeological or architectural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features that may be affected by the proposed project. Source reviewed are the First Edition OS map sheets (1836), the 'Last Edition' OS maps (1998) and aerial photography on the Heritage Maps, Bing, and Google platforms. See Figure 15.3, Figure 15.4 and Figure 15.5 of Appendix 15-3 which shows archaeological and architectural heritage of the area on satellite photography.

The review of historic maps identified a small number of formerly standing buildings, which within the study area consist of four building clusters and two isolated buildings. Two of the clusters are situated along the south/east bank of the river Gweebarra. The southern of these, in Cloghercor, is labelled as 'Clashy'; the northern cluster, in Clogherachullion, is not labelled. A third cluster is in the south of the area and a fourth is in the centre of the area. Recent aerial photographs show ruined buildings at all four of these locations and only one of the locations appears to still have habitation nearby. Nothing of significance was noted at the locations of temporary site compounds, borrow pits, the substation location or along the areas where roadside modifications are required.

No other previously unknown cultural heritage sites were identified.

### 15.3.6 Fieldwork

The project area was surveyed by William Anderson on 14-16 April 2021 and by Declan Moore in October 2022. The surveys comprised walkover and windscreen surveys of the wind farm project including the location of proposed turbines, hardstanding, access tracks, the grid connection cable route, blade changeover area, the turbine delivery route and recorded heritage sites in the surroundings of the project area.

Within the wind farm area, the survey involved navigating to the location of proposed works by car and on foot using a smartphone loaded with the GIS that included the project design. Archaeological and historic landscape features were documented with a digital camera, written notes and their location recorded using a handheld GPS. The topography, views and ground conditions were assessed and recorded. The grid connection cable route and turbine delivery route were assessed by driving or walking their entire lengths and inspecting previously recorded and suspected archaeological features. Archaeological and architectural sites in the project area and its surroundings were inspected to assess the potential impact on the setting of these sites after having been identified from the desktop review.

#### 15.3.6.1 Wind farm area

The area of the wind farm was surveyed by using public roads to access locations of proposed infrastructure including turbines and tracks and to assess recorded and potential archaeological and heritage features identified from site registers and historic maps. For the purpose of navigation, recording and reporting, the area was divided into northeast, central and southwest sections.

Attempts were made to visit as many turbine locations as possible, however, many areas of proposed project within the wind farm were not accessible due to thick forest and impassable ground.

The northeast section covers the west-facing middle and lower slopes of Croaghleheen. The project area extends from close to the hill's summit in the east to the banks of the river Gweebarra in the west. There is one recorded archaeological monument within this area – a megalithic structure (DG058-005, discussed below) beside the L6363 local road as it runs parallel to the southeast of the river. The land is accessed along a track that runs south from the local road along the Gweebarra River. This track is aligned north/south, perpendicular to the hillslope and beside a north/south aligned gully, rising over a series of low ridges.

T4 is situated in trees close to the upper edge of the plantation forest where the ground has been damaged from mechanical planting and harvesting. Climbing the hillside above T4 affords wide views across the whole project area. A south to north running stream, which has its source at a small hilltop lake – Lough Sallagh cuts a deep gully in the upper slopes of the hillside which becomes shallower on the more gently sloping middle slope. Here, close to a recently erected pylon, is the location of a ruined settlement consisting of several buildings beside the stream. A branch of the access track runs to the west, and this was followed in an attempt to access turbines T6 and T7 whose locations were viewed but not accessed; these turbines are located in quite recently planted forest. The location of T8, further uphill, was viewed from distance – the ground approaching this location is impassable.

The terrain and ground conditions in the northeast section are varied, ranging from alluvial floodplain near the Gweebarra River, though with many rocky outcrops, to gently sloping lower to middle slopes with level terraces and rise more sharply to the southeast, above the treeline, with cliffs leading to the summit of Croaghleheen.

There are frequent rock outcrops interspersed with extensive areas of bog and standing or running water. Along the track and firebreak that runs west from the north/south aligned track are areas of bedded granite exposed on the surface. In other areas the bedrock appears to be below several metres of peat and sand. A cutting along this track provided useful information on the soil profile of the middle slope: it revealed approximately 900mm of peat which overlays dark reddish brown stony sandy silt at 900-1600mm and below this coarse yellow brown sand. In general, ground where there has been mechanical tree planting and harvesting is likely to have undergone some level of disturbance, though the impact below the level of peat is not known.

The central section of the wind farm covers moderate to gently sloping ground with a northwest-facing aspect on the northern slopes of Gafarretmoyle. There are two small lakes on the level ground of the middle slope – Lough Aneane Beg and Lough Aneane More – fed by a stream called Sruhannaelassagh and this and several other streams flow southwest towards the river Gweebarra.

Most of the central section is heavily forested, and the land is not easily accessible and much of it is impassable due to the dense forest. Accessed parts of the central section include the ridge which is close to turbine T12 in the north and a wide north/south corridor of cleared land where electricity pylons run. Few observations can be made based on the limited access; previous planting of trees is likely to have caused prior ground disturbance across much of the land and this was witnessed in the inspected areas, though the depth of this disturbance and whether it would impact any archaeological deposits is not known.

The southwest section of the wind farm around Derryloaghan covers varied terrain on the gentle middle to lower slopes of Derkbeg Hill to the south and Cleengort Hill to the southwest. Land use is mostly plantation forest, though there are large tracts of moorland peat bog which remain unplanted or where former forestry has been removed. The southwest section is the most accessible part of the wind farm due to public roads and several forestry tracks which lead to land close to turbine locations.

The northern part of the project area close to the river Gweebarra was accessed along a branch of the L6363 which, after passing through Derryloaghan – where there are several inhabited and ruined buildings – runs north down the gentle slope. Over a historic stone bridge is a gated forestry track to the east, providing access to the location of T19 on a gentle, northwest-facing slope in dense planted forest of mature trees. Along the river's south bank there is a ruined building, marked on historic maps as 'Ferry House' and nearby is a cobbled slipway going down to the river. This location may relate to the ferry operation described in 17th-century documents.

In the eastern side of the southwest section, beside the division with the central section, a number of vernacular heritage features are situated beside or close to the L6363 local road as it runs north through planted forest. Several of these are indicated on historic maps, including a group of ruined buildings in a clearing set back from the road which consist of two main buildings and a smaller hut feature. Nearby, but on the opposite side of the road, is an intriguing feature which appears to be a sweathouse with a drystone setting, a circular hole on top and a recessed entrance in the west facing front. Close to both are some recently abandoned residential buildings, and further to the north is a drystone barn.

The proposed site access tracks follow for the most part existing tracks that run through the planted forest, occasionally flanked by ditches and embankments such that the land is already substantially disturbed. There are no previously recorded archaeological monuments along the track route and no historic vernacular features identified during the inspection will be directly

impacted. Land crossed by the tracks is likely to have been disturbed from mechanical planting and harvesting of trees as well as frequent drainage channels. Due to this disturbance, there is little or no potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features to be located along the route.

The proposed underground cable route will not impact directly on any known cultural heritage sites. For the most part the route follows clearway and existing roadway. Proposed borrow pit locations and temporary site compounds are located within thick forest and impassable ground and it was not possible to inspect these locations. There are no known cultural heritage sites at these locations and due to this disturbance, there is a low potential for previously unrecorded archaeological features to be located at these locations.



*Plate 15-1 North-facing view of location of T4*



*Plate 15-2 North-facing view towards location of T6*



*Plate 15-3 West-facing view towards location of T7*



*Plate 15-4 Deeply incised gully on the upper middle slope of Croaghleheen*



*Plate 15-5 Profile of cutting along track, showing stratified peat, stony humic silt and sand*



*Plate 15-6 Bedded granite exposed along firebreak in northeast of project area*



*Plate 15-7 Southwest-facing view towards location of T12*

### **15.3.6.2 Archaeological monuments in the study area**

#### **DG058-005 – Megalithic structure**

The recorded megalithic structure is located 2.1km southwest of Doocharry, on grassland beside the L6363 local road, 20m west of the road verge. Its setting is on relatively level but rough ground with a rocky rise of outcropping stone and boulders directly to the north and another outcrop is to the northwest. Though many large boulders are in the locality there are none immediately beside the megalithic structure.

The structure has been described in detail as part of the monument record after it was inspected by Paul Walsh in 2014. He concludes that ‘while interpretation as a megalithic structure is suggested, this is purely tentative, and a proper elucidation of the monument must await further investigation’. The monument does have similarities with portal tombs, several examples of which are in the surrounding region, however, there are also many large boulders present in the locality, including glacially deposited rocks which can take the appearance of constructed megaliths. Determining the cultural status of this potential monument is outside the scope of this assessment, which will work on the basis that it is a prehistoric megalithic monument.

From the monument there are uninterrupted views across the hillside which is the proposed location of the wind farm. The nearest turbine, T1, is 750m to the southeast; most or all of turbines in the northwest and centre of the wind farm would be visible from this monument. There will be no direct physical impact on this feature.



Plate 15-8 Southeast-facing view of megalithic structure (DG058-005)



Plate 15-9 South-facing view of megalithic structure (DG058-005)

### **15.3.6.3 Vernacular heritage features in the study area**

During the survey, numerous heritage features were recorded, some of which were identified using historic maps and some of which do not appear on the consulted historic maps. These features do not necessarily have statutory protection under heritage or planning laws, though their preservation is required as part of Donegal County Council's Development Plan.

#### **HF01 – Clachan, corn kilns**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1554

Located mainly outside the project area, this cluster of ruined buildings is shown on the 1836 First Edition map with 'Corn Kiln' and 'Old Corn Kiln' labelled. The area is bounded by drystone walls and is situated west of a fast-flowing south-north stream.

#### **HF02 – Cottage, ruined**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1555

Ruined stone building of mortared granite comprising a single room with traces of adjoined structure, collapsed, to the west. Both gable ends and most of the side walls are standing to a height of 1m or more. The building is east/west aligned with the chimney piece at the east end. Internal dimensions of the single room are 4.4m north/south by 5.2m east/west with wall thickness of 400mm. A large tree stump is in the centre – its growth and felling must have caused major damage to the structure. Traces of an enclosure wall surround the building.

#### **HF03 – Ferry slipway**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1557

Slipway of flat flagstones set into the ground, providing a ramp north/south aligned into the south side of the Gweebarra River. This is the location of a ferry which crossed the river at this point and is documented from the early 17th century – it operated into the 19th century but must have been superseded by the construction of the bridge at Lettermacward in the 1890s.

#### **HF04 – Building, disused**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1558

Small, square-shaped building marked as 'Ferry House' on the 1836 First Edition OS map. The building is a two-storey, gabled roof structure of granite rubble with rendered exterior. Traces of wall show that it would have formerly extended to the east. The roof is still intact, but the structure is in an advanced state of decay with vegetation growing into its south side.

#### **HF05 – Bridge**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1559

Small, two-arch bridge crossing a stream along the L6363 local road that runs north of Derryloaghan towards River Gweebarra. Shown on 1836 First Edition OS map.

### **HF06 - Buildings, ruined**

Section: southwest

GPS points: 1560, 1561

Two ruined buildings at right angles to each other and a smaller hut structure nearby the north. Shown on 1836 First Edition OS map.

### **HF07 - Well**

Section: southwest

GPS points: 1562

Drystone well beside the L6363 local road in the west of Cloghercor townland. The well is not shown on historic maps.

### **HF08 - Buildings, derelict**

Section: southwest

GPS points: 1563

Residential building and outhouses or barns beside the L6363 local road in the west of Cloghercor townland. Appear to have been inhabited in quite recent years.

### **HF09 - Barn**

Section: southwest

GPS points: 1564

Stone barn close to L6363 local road in west of Cloghercor townland

### **HF10 - Enclosed farmstead, ruined**

Section: northeast

GPS points: 1567, 1569

Ruined buildings within a walled enclosure beside a stream in the northeast of the study area form the remains of an abandoned farmstead. This settlement appears on the First Edition 1836 map, just south of the townland boundary between Cloghercor and Clogherachullion. The location is on level, open ground north of an east-west flowing stream. The ruins consist of an east/west aligned terrace of building divided into three units and spanning a total length of approximately 35m. These are set within an area of cleared ground which has a wall around

it and a ditch to the north. An outer enclosure extends to the east. The overall enclosed area measures approximately 150m east/west by 45m north/south.

**HF11 – Hut, ruined**

Section: northeast

GPS points: 1570

**HF12 – Embanked rectilinear enclosure**

Section: northeast

GPS points: 1573

**HF13 – Homestead and outbuildings, ruined**

Section: southwest

GPS points: 1576-1579

Located in Derryloaghan, either side of the L6363 on its western branch towards Cleengort. Consists of a ruined house, inhabited in quite recent times (in the last 20-30 years), with drystone barn, hut and other structures in the vicinity.

**HF14 – Cottage, ruined**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1582

East of L6363 in Derryloaghan

**HF15 – Buildings, ruined**

Section: southwest

GPS point: 1583

South of L6363 in the north of Cloghercor townland

**HF16 – Cottage, ruined**

Section: northeast

GPS point: 1586

North of L6363, a ruined cottage in a field to the south of Gweebarra River in the north of Clogherachullion townland

**15.3.6.4 Survey of the Turbine Delivery route and Blade Changeover area**

There are eight areas where roadside modifications are planned for the turbine delivery route (TDR) and a blade changeover area. These are located on already built-up roadways and between along the N56 Killybegs to Inver road and the R262 road between Inver and Glenties.

All of the roadside modification locations are on already existing roadways: there are no archaeological constraints associated with these locations. The location of the hardstanding for the blade changeover area in Drumnacross townland is in greenfield where peat has been extracted in the past and is therefore of low archaeological potential. Just north of Frosses village in Meenacahan townland roadside modifications will be carried out in the immediate vicinity of a named bridge (Sir Alberts Bridge) which is recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909326). This Triple-arched bridge carries the main road over the Eanymore Water and was built c. 1780. It is rated as of regional significance. It will not be directly impacted by the roadside modification works. Further north in Tullynaglaggan townland there is a multi-arched bridge carrying the main road also over the Eanybeg Water which was also built c. 1780 and is recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909325). Road modification works will be carried out immediately to the south of this bridge which is rated regional. There will be no direct impact on the bridge. There are notable concentrations of archaeological and architectural sites along the TDR at Inver, Frosses and Dunkineely. These sites will not be directly impacted.

#### **15.3.6.5 Survey in the surroundings of the study area**

Based on background research, recorded archaeological monuments and architectural sites in the surroundings of the project area were identified. The purpose was to assess the potential impact of the project upon the setting of these places. Inspected locations were chosen based on the basis of their proximity to the project as well as the presence of upstanding features and the higher significance of the sites. The visibility of the proposed project is addressed in the landscape and visual impact assessment (Chapter 13).

#### **Archaeological monuments surrounding the study area**

##### **NM658, DG064-003 – Inishkeel**

Inishkeel, an island approximately 500m off the coast at Narin which is accessible by foot only at low tides at certain times of year, is the location of an early medieval monastery founded in the 6th century by St. Connell. There are standing remains of two medieval churches within the graveyard, as well as early medieval cross slabs. Ten components of the complex are recorded on the SMR, and the complex is a National Monument in State ownership (NM658, DG064-003).

The island was visited to assess the visibility of the project area from the location of the National Monument and the project's potential impact on the setting of the monument. The monastic complex is situated on a promontory on the eastern side of the island, facing the mainland. The Bluestack Mountains and the location of the wind farm are visible from the monastic complex – the peaks of Croaghleheen, Gafarretmoyle and Gaffaretdor are clearly visible as are their lower slopes where the wind turbines are proposed. Though more than 10km distance to the east, most of the turbines would be visible in the distance. Given the distance the impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.

##### **DG058-001 – Holy well**

Tobar Shorcha is the name of the holy well on the north side of Doocharry village, approximately 70m west of the River Gweebarra. The well is accessed along a wall-lined pathway from the west side of the R254 road. This avenue leads to a circular walled area where the well is set into the ground, covered by a wooden lid, with a cross above and a shrine with a niche containing a statue of the Virgin Mary.

The well is in a modern and carefully maintained setting and water is contained in the covered well itself. There is many a large number of recent offerings centred on the statue, indicating its continued veneration in the present day.

From the location of the holy well, the location of the wind farm is not visible; from the entranceway to the well, along the R254 road, the wind farm location is also not visible as there is not clear visibility along the Gweebarra River valley. The nearest proposed turbine (T1) is 2.74km to the south. There will be no impact on the setting of this site.

#### **DG058-002001 and DG058-002002 – Holy well and bullaun stone**

The holy well (DG058-002001) with bullaun stone (DG058-002002) at Derryleconnel, which has been described as ‘St Conall’s Holy Well’, is located at the base of a moderately steep, southeast sloping pasture field on the north bank of the River Gweebarra, barely 10m from the watercourse. The well is on private farmland and is accessed across the field, 150m southeast of the Doocharry- Lettermacaward road. 1.7km southwest of Doocharry.

The well is centred around a small, northwest/southeast flowing stream close at its outflow into the River Gweebarra. It is contained within a fenced off area at the base of the slope. This area consists of the stream which is channelled into a bend with the stone-lined well at its centre; the well is surrounded by a path, presumably for circumnavigating the well as part of ritual patterns. The path has small bridges along it that cross the stream and a set of steps to the west of the well; all these features are built of dry stone or earth and there is no evidence for formal modernisation of the well. Next to the steps, 3m southwest of the well, is the bullaun stone which is a subcircular piece of granite with a circular depression in its centre.

An account from the 1930s states that the well ‘is still remembered by the pious people around there, and has stations performed at it’ (Ó Muirgheasa 1936, 151). The well still appears to be visited on a small scale and there are indications of continued veneration in the form of offerings including rags tied to trees and coins placed on the bullaun stone – these coins were observed to date from the 1980s until the early 2000s. The well appears to be dry, perhaps due to blockage of the channel that feeds it.

From the riverside there are views south to the location of the proposed wind farm. While the lower slopes of Croaghleheen are obscured by a ridge on the south side of the river, the middle and upper slopes of the hillside on the opposite side of the valley are visible. The nearest turbine, T1, is 1.2km to the south-southeast. All of the turbines proposed within the range have the potential to be viewed within the context of the Gweebarra river valley. On the northern banks of the Gweebarra River to the north, west and southwest of the site, there is potential to afford views of all 19 of the proposed turbines, irrespective of which turbine within the range is selected. The impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse (for all turbines within the range).

#### **DG065-006 – Crannog**

The crannog which is located in the southwest of Lough Tuama was viewed from the northwest along the N56 road, close to the location of Saint Bridget’s Catholic Church at Lettermacaward (RPS 2336). The lough and crannog are in a slight hollow which is bordered to the east by a steep, craggy rise which the N56 runs below. The wind farm will not be visible from the location of the crannog. There will be no impact on the setting of this site.

#### **DG065-010001, -010002 and -010003 – Lettermacaward Old Church, Graveyard and Ecclesiastical Enclosure**

Lettermacaward Old Church is located on raised ground to the north of the Gweebarra River, close to the mouth of the river's estuary into Gweebarra Bay. The church is within a subcircular enclosure formed by a modern wall thought to follow an historic alignment and which is registered as an ecclesiastical enclosure (DG065-010003). There are several graves and graveslabs in the graveyard (DG065-010002), including 18th- and 19th-century graves with inscriptions and small markers of uncarved stone. Gravestones within the ruined church post-date its usage as a church: the building was reportedly in ruins by the mid-17th century. In the centre of the graveyard is the ruined church building (DG065-010001); the late-18th century parish church is parallel to the north (RPS 40906502) with a small, separate graveyard beyond it.

The rise on which the churches and graveyards are situated has an east-facing aspect, providing views along the Gweebarra River valley. Almost all of the wind farm area and most of the proposed turbine locations are visible from here. The impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.

### **Architectural sites surrounding the study area**

#### **RPS 40905802 – Doochary Bridge**

Doochary Bridge (RPS 40905802) is the earliest bridge crossing of the Gweebarra River and estuary, built in 1786 at the direction of landowner William Burton Conyngham. The bridge is a stone structure of two arches, one larger to the east and one smaller to the west, with a large central pier built into a rock outcrop and abutments built on to the natural stone along the riverbanks. The original bridge structure is mainly intact but there are numerous alterations to the stonework, especially the parapet wall which is built of less finely dressed stone than the rest of the bridge, and part of which on the south side of the bridge has been recently damaged.

Looking south along the Gweebarra River from Doochary Bridge, the location of the wind farm is partially visible. The view is obscured by a rocky ridge that runs along the east of the river, but to the right of here in the distance there is partial visibility of the central area of the wind farm; turbines on the lower ground of the area's western (such as T10 and T14) would be visible. The nearest proposed turbine (T1) is 2.4km to the south-southwest though this and other turbines in the northeast of the project area would be obscured from view. The impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.

#### **RPS 40906501 – St Bridget's Church**

Saint Bridget's Catholic Church at Madavagh, Lettermacaward (RPS 40906501) is located on the north side of the N56. The church was built in 1875 and refurbished in 1980; the building is set back from the road with a large car park in front and next to it is a large hall (Halla Nam Bríde).

There are uninterrupted views across the Gweebarra River towards most of the project area from the church. The impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.

#### **RPS 40906502 – Lettermacaward Parish Church**

Lettermacaward Parish Church is the Church of Ireland church, built in 1788, which is located within the same enclosure and directly north of the ruined medieval church (DG065-010001). To the north of the 18th-century church is a small graveyard separate from the graveyard which surrounds the medieval church to the south. There are uninterrupted views across the

Gweebarra River towards most of the project area from the church. The impact on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.



Plate 15-10 Monastic complex on Inishkeel (NM658, DG064-003)



Plate 15-11 View from Inishkeel graveyard, facing east; the lines mark the approximate width of the project area visible on the horizon



Plate 15-12 South-facing view from the entrance to Tobar Shorcha (DG058-001)



Plate 15-13 South-facing view across Gweebarra River from St Connell's well (DG058-002001)



Plate 15-14 Lettermacaward Old Church (DG065-010001) and parish church (40906502)



Plate 15-15 East-facing view from Lettermacaward church, graveyard and enclosure



Plate 15-16 South-facing view from Doochary Bridge (40905802)



Plate 15-17 East-facing view from Saint Bridget's Catholic Church (40906501)

#### **15.3.6.6 Biodiversity Enhancement Lands**

The biodiversity enhancement lands are areas of land outside the site where management of farming practices (reducing grazing intensity) to improve bird prey species will take place. These practices will not involve any excavations. There will be no impact on the cultural heritage resource in these areas.

### **15.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION**

#### ***15.4.1 Potential Construction Phase Direct Impacts***

Potential construction impacts may be direct, physical impacts on known and previously unrecorded archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features. In relation to the proposed project, direct, physical impacts on the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage site, structure, monument, or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.
- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and/or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and/or materials to or from site a direct physical impact will occur; and
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments, or features.

If these impacts cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

##### **15.4.1.1 Potential Direct Physical Impacts on Recorded Archaeological Monuments**

There is low potential for previously unrecorded archaeology to be present in areas of planted forest where there has been previous ground disturbance from mechanical ripping, planting, and harvesting, as well as previously established tracks. Prior disturbance of topsoil and subsoil on previously planted and harvested forest was observed across much of the proposed wind farm.

The proposed works will not directly impact on any recorded archaeological monuments. There is one recorded archaeological monument within the proposed study area – a megalithic structure (DG058-005), located in the northwest of the area; another four recorded monuments are within 3km – two holy wells, a bullaun stone and a mound. There are notable concentrations of archaeological sites along the TDR particularly at Inver, Frosses and Dunkineely. These sites will not be directly impacted.

#### **15.4.1.2 Potential direct Physical Impacts on unrecorded Archaeological Monuments**

Although only one archaeological site has been recorded within the subject area, there remains the possibility of previously unrecorded sites being present. There has been little archaeological investigation of this area: apart from surveys of known monuments, no archaeological fieldwork has been documented in the study area or its immediate surroundings. The potential for direct impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological material at this location was assessed as low.

#### **15.4.1.3 Potential direct Physical Impacts Architectural Sites**

The proposed project will not directly physically impact any upstanding architectural features. There are few recorded sites of architectural significance in the vicinity. There are no listed architectural heritage sites in the subject area or its immediate surroundings. There are notable concentrations of architectural sites along the TDR particularly at Inver, Frosses and Dunkineely. These sites will not be directly impacted.

Just north of Frosses village in Meenacahan townland roadside modifications will be carried out in the immediate vicinity of a named bridge (Sir Alberts Bridge) which is recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909326). Further north in Tullynaglaggan townland there is a multi-arched bridge recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909325). Road modification works will be carried out immediately to the south of this bridge. There will be no direct impact on these two bridges.

#### **15.4.1.4 Potential direct Physical Impacts on Unrecorded Architectural Features**

There are no recorded architectural sites within the wind farm site and of structures observed during survey none are likely to qualify for listing on the County Council's Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

There are no predicted impacts on previously unrecorded features of architectural heritage importance. Within the study area there is a small number of historical features identified from historical maps which include dwellings and small farmsteads.

There will be no direct impact on these features.

#### **15.4.1.5 Potential Impacts on the setting of archaeological sites**

In the wider surroundings, there are another 74 recorded monuments within 10km of the study area. These sites include megalithic tombs, early medieval settlement remains such as raths and souterrains and medieval ritual sites such as holy wells and bullaun stones. There are no National Monuments within 10km of the area – the closest is the medieval ecclesiastical complex at Inishkeel Island (NM658, DG064-003). There will be a slight adverse impact on the setting of these sites (see section 15.3.6.5 above for further details). The TDR works will not impact on the setting of any recorded archaeological sites.

#### **15.4.1.6 Potential Impacts on the setting of architectural sites**

Within 3km of the study area there are four structures on Donegal County Council's Record of Protected Structures: Doocharry Bridge (RPS 40905802), St Bridget's Church in Lettermacaward (RPS 40906501), Lettermacaward Parish Church (RPS 40906502) and Glebe House (RPS 40906503). The study area does not cross any Architectural Conservation Areas or demesnes or historic gardens. There will be a slight adverse impact on these sites (see section 15.3.6.5 above for further details).

#### **15.4.1.7 Potential Indirect Impacts on intangible cultural heritage**

The proposed project is located within the Donegal Gaeltacht area for the most part. While the construction phase will see the arrival of construction workers to the area, this will be short-term and will not result in permanent settlement of the area by non-Irish speakers. The Project is, therefore, is predicted to result in a negligible, indirect, not significant impact on the Irish language during the construction phase.

### **15.4.2 Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effect of the proposed project on the cultural heritage resource were assessed by considering other projects in the proposed project site and its surroundings as described in Section 4.4 of Chapter 4 of this EIAR (Planning, Policy, and Development Context).

In the wider surroundings, there are another 74 recorded monuments within 10km of the study area. These sites include megalithic tombs, early medieval settlement remains such as raths and souterrains and medieval ritual sites such as holy wells and bullaun stones. There are no National Monuments within 10km of the area – the closest is the medieval ecclesiastical complex at Inishkeel Island (NM658, DG064-003) which is roughly 10.5km west of the subject site. There will be a slight adverse effect on the setting of these sites (see section 15.3.6.5 for further details). The TDR works will not impact on the setting of any recorded archaeological sites. The complex at Inishkeel is a National Monument in State ownership (NM658, DG064-003). Though more than 10km distance to the east, most of the turbines would be visible in the distance. Given the distance the cumulative effect on the setting of this site was deemed slight adverse.

Within 3km of the study area there are four structures on Donegal County Council's Record of Protected Structures: Doocharry Bridge (RPS 40905802), St Bridget's Church in Lettermacaward (RPS 40906501), Lettermacaward Parish Church (RPS 40906502) and Glebe House (RPS 40906503). The study area does not cross any Architectural Conservation Areas or demesnes or historic gardens. There will be a slight adverse cumulative effect on the settings of these sites (see section above for further details).

There will be no direct physical impacts on any recorded monuments, Protected Structures, NIAH structures or other impact of the proposed wind farm on cultural heritage resources because of the development. An assessment of cumulative effects was also undertaken taking into consideration projects within 20km of the proposed project. This included all permitted, proposed, and existing developments. When considered cumulatively effects on the wider setting of the cultural heritage resource is slight adverse.

Cumulative direct effect on sub-surface archaeological features/sites can occur because of peat removal and groundworks. The proposed project in combination with other developments, could result in potential increased negative effects to sub-surface archaeological features (i.e., cumulative effect). 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 project. Any archaeological feature encountered will be fully excavated and recorded thus ameliorating cumulative direct effect.

Forestry replanting is planned as part of the proposed project, however, the areas for replanting are at a significant distance (>100km) from the proposed project, and these are expected to cause no cumulative effect. These sites will be assessed individually to ensure that there are no impacts to Archaeology/Cultural Heritage.

#### **15.4.3 Operational Phase**

There are no predicted impacts on the local archaeological or architectural resource that will arise during the operational phase of the proposed project. There will be a slight adverse impact on several archaeological and architectural features during the lifetime of the windfarm (see section 15.3.6.5 above for further details).

The proposed project is located within the Donegal Gaeltacht area for the most part. The requirement for low numbers of onsite staff during the operational phase of the Project will be intermittent and this will not result in any predicted impacts on the Irish language.

#### **15.4.4 'Do Nothing scenario'**

In this instance, there would be no impact on any potential unrecorded sub surface deposits.

#### **15.4.5 Pre Mitigation Impact**

If the proposed work were undertaken in the absence of archaeological and architectural mitigation construction work could potentially negatively impact recorded and previously unknown sites, structure, features, artefacts, or deposits resulting in the loss or damage of the cultural heritage resource.

#### **15.4.6 Decommissioning Phase Impacts**

There are not anticipated to be any direct or indirect impacts on cultural heritage as part of the decommissioning phase. All mitigation measures relating to archaeology will have been completed as part of the construction phase.

#### **15.4.7 Mitigation Measures and Residual Impact's**

The best form of archaeological mitigation – preservation in situ – is achieved by avoiding direct physical impacts upon archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage site, structures, monuments, and features. All designated archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, or features have been avoided by the design team. The following sections detail mitigation measures to avoid or minimise impacts on archaeological and architectural heritage.

Mitigation measures proposed take into account Coillte's standard mitigation measures regarding archaeology and cultural heritage (Tiernan 2017: 49-52), though these relate to harvesting and establishment of forests rather than developments such as the proposed wind farm.

The following mitigation measure is proposed:

**Archaeological monitoring** - Excavations associated with construction works, namely topsoil stripping, will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. In the event that archaeological deposits are discovered, work in the area will cease immediately and the archaeologist will liaise with the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

A suitably qualified cultural heritage consultancy/consultant will be appointed to oversee the effective implementation of the archaeological mitigation measures prescribed in this chapter for the construction phase of the proposed project.

Due to differences in the nature of aspects of the proposed project as well as variable ground conditions – particularly where there has been planted forest which is considered to have caused prior ground disturbance – mitigation measures to ensure the recording and management of any unrecorded archaeological sites are tailored to the specific conditions at each proposed project area.

Archaeological mitigation measures for different components and locations of the proposed project are detailed below.

The National Monuments Act, as amended requires that, in the event of the discovery of archaeological finds or remains that the relevant authorities, the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland, should be notified immediately. Allowance will be made for full archaeological excavation, in consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DHLGHG, if in the event that archaeological remains are found during the construction phase.

The monitoring will be conducted by a suitably qualified archaeologist licenced by the DHLGH. Should archaeological material be uncovered during this testing, the feature will be trowelled back to determine its form, age, nature, and extent then photographed and recorded to best professional standards and adhering to the Department's *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (1999). Based on information gathered from archaeological monitoring, and in consultation with the National Museum and the National Monuments Section of the DHLGH, further mitigation such as excavation may be required.

In areas of the proposed project where there is or has been planted forest, archaeological inspections of topsoil stripping by a suitably qualified archaeologist will take place to determine the level of ground disturbance and to assess the presence of any archaeological features. If the ground disturbance is found to be minimal at these locations, then full-time archaeological monitoring will occur.

Just north of Frosses village in Meenacahan townland roadside modifications will be carried out in the immediate vicinity of a named bridge (Sir Alberts Bridge) which is recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909326). Further north in Tullynaglaggan townland there is a multi-arched bridge recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909325). Road modification works will be carried out immediately to the south of this bridge. There will be no direct impact on these two bridges. Care will be taken not to inadvertently damage these sites or other vernacular features along the TDR.

The above recommendations are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) and County Donegal Heritage Office.

### **15.4.8 Operation phase**

There are not anticipated to be any impacts on cultural heritage as part of maintenance works during the wind farm's operational phase.

#### **15.4.8.1 Decommissioning phase**

There are not anticipated to be any direct or indirect impacts on cultural heritage as part of the decommissioning phase. All mitigation measures relating to architecture will have been completed as part of the construction phase.

## **15.5 RESIDUAL EFFECTS**

### **15.5.1 Construction phase**

The residual effects of the proposed project on cultural heritage will be negligible. If archaeological sites are identified and cannot be avoided, excavation and recording will create a comprehensive record prior to the construction stage of the development. If features are to be preserved in situ, detailed plans will be required as to the location, layout and extent of these features/sites. Before and after photographs will be required as well as a full report on the preservation of the site and how this was achieved, by the National Monuments Service. Once mitigation measures at the construction stage have been applied, there will be slight or no residual effects.

### **15.5.2 Operation phase**

Slight residual impacts in relation to the setting of archaeological monuments and architectural sites in terms of visibility to and from monuments and sites are envisaged.

#### **15.5.2.1 Decommissioning phase**

There are not anticipated to be any direct or indirect impacts on cultural heritage as part of the decommissioning phase. All mitigation measures relating to architecture will have been completed as part of the construction phase through avoidance of vernacular features.