

13 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

13.1 Introduction

The applicant, Mr. James Foran and Nephin Renewable Gas - Reatagh Limited, proposes to develop an Anaerobic Digestion Facility (herein referred to as the Proposed Development) on a site located in the townlands of Curragnagarraha, Reatagh, and Curraghballintlea, Co. Waterford. Moore Group was commissioned to complete an Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development site is located approximately 2.9km southeast of the town of Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary and approximately 19.5km northwest of Waterford City, Co. Waterford. The approximate grid reference location for the centre of the site is S 42576 19569, ITM: 642523, 619604. The site comprises improved grassland bordered by mature trees and hedgerow situated in a flat, low-lying pasture landscape. The total site area measures ca. 7.7 ha.

There are no monuments recorded by the National Monuments Service (NMS) within the boundary of the subject site. The nearest monuments, two fulachtaí fia (WA003-094-- & 94001--) are located ca. 200m to the west of the site. There are no other features of Cultural Heritage significance in the immediate vicinity.

13.1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage environment (hereafter referred to as Cultural Heritage environment or Cultural Heritage resource), to evaluate the potential or likely impacts that the Proposed Development will have on this environment and, where appropriate, to suggest mitigation measures to ameliorate potential impacts, in accordance with the policies of:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- The National Monuments Acts (1930-2005).
- Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.
- Best practice guidelines.

Following on from this, the residual impact that the proposed scheme will have on the baseline environment is identified and evaluated.

13.1.2 Terms & Definitions

13.1.2.1 Cultural Heritage

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 Environmental Impact Assessment 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. 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, etc).
- Underwater Cultural Heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and
- Intangible Cultural Heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

Cultural Heritage comprises archaeology, architectural heritage, folklore, and history. Archaeology is the study of past societies through surviving structures, artefacts, and environmental data, and is concerned with known archaeological sites and monuments, areas of archaeological potential and underwater archaeology.

Architectural heritage comprises structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social, or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings, and contents.

Architectural heritage and archaeology together form 'built heritage' or 'tangible heritage'. Folklore and history are aspects of 'intangible heritage', which also includes language, musical traditions, traditional crafts and skills, townland names, poetry and so on. These forms of Cultural Heritage are "non-moveable, non-material and largely non environmental although by their associations with certain sites and places, add to the character of an area".

13.1.2.2 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. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific, or other form of significance. The sites are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity".

13.1.2.3 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.

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

13.1.2.4 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database

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.

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 RMP is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places (resulting from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland [ASI]) and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. The information contained within the RMP is derived from the earlier non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). However, some entries were not transferred to the statutory record as they refer to features that on inspection by the Archaeological Survey were found not to merit inclusion in that record or could not be located with sufficient accuracy to be included. Such sites however remain part of the SMR. The record is a dynamic one and is updated to take account of on-going research.

The most up-to-date record of archaeological monuments, the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD), is available for viewing and download on the www.archaeology.ie website. This record is continually revised and indicates several additional sites that do not feature in the RMP. The National Monuments Service also makes available SMR Zones of Notification on the website.

13.1.2.5 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.

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.

13.1.2.6 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. No registered Historic Monuments were identified.

13.1.2.7 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.

13.1.2.8 Record of Protected Structures/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

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 importance of a structure, 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.

13.1.2.9 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.

13.1.3 Methodology

In this assessment, tangible Cultural Heritage resources are captured under the relevant sections of archaeology and architectural/built heritage, while non-tangible associations with these sites and the wider study area (i.e., history and folklore) are assessed, where known, in the archaeological and historical background section of this report, with further information presented in relevant sections.

Evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the archaeological, architectural, and Cultural Heritage resource is based on a desktop study of written, graphic, photographic, cartographic, and electronic information sources followed by a field survey. Considering, amongst other aspects, 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 Development and the effects on that resource.

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is broadly 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'), the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2023) and other relevant guidelines.

13.1.3.1 Desktop Assessment

Known Cultural Heritage sites were mapped in the Open-Source Geographic Information System (GIS) software QGIS (Version 3.34.1). The following information sources, where relevant, were used for this report:

- 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.
- Potential National Monuments in the ownership of a local authority.
- Walled Towns.
- Archaeological Monuments that are the subject of both Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders.
- The Register of Historic Monuments.
- Archaeological Survey Database (ASD) from www.archaeology.ie (Sites and Monuments Record available through the Historic Environment Viewer).
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) for County Waterford.
- National Monuments Service (NMS) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Zones of Notification.
- 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. These sites which have the potential to be in the ownership of the Local Authorities were highlighted as potential National Monuments.

Architectural Heritage

- Architectural Conservation Areas from the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.
- Protected Structures from the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and NIAH Garden Survey, and
- Designed Landscapes indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

The Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 was reviewed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the Cultural Heritage of the area. The development plan contains lists of Cultural Heritage sites including national monuments, recorded monuments, architectural conservation areas, protected structures, and protected views as well as baseline assessments of the landscape character of the county.

The plans also outline the county's heritage policies and objectives that aim to protect and promote the archaeological, architectural, and Cultural Heritage of the region. This evaluation was carried out with due regard to these policies and other relevant information contained within the plans.

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

- **Excavations Bulletin:** The Excavation Bulletin is both a published 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 over 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.
- **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.
- **Cartographic Sources:** Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork.
- **Toponyms:** 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 and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913). The townland is an Irish land unit of considerable longevity as many of the units are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. However, the term townland was not used to denote a unit of land until the Civil Survey of 1654. It bears no relation to the modern word 'town' but like the Irish word *baile* refers to a place. Many of the townlands are mapped within the Down Survey of the 1650s, so called as all measurements were carefully 'laid downe' on paper at a scale of forty perches to one inch.

- **Aerial photographs:** The usefulness of aerial photography is that it allows for a different perspective - 'the distant view'. Archaeological sites may show up on the ground surface, depending on their state of preservation, by light and shadow contrasts (shadow marks), tonal differences in the soil (soil marks) or differences in height and colour of the cultivated cereal (crop marks). It is also a useful aid in pinpointing existing features and can assist in ascertaining their extent and degree of preservation.
- **Lidar:** The Geological Survey Ireland Open Topographic Data Viewer was consulted for available 1m/2m DTM Lidar data of the site.
- **Published archaeological inventories;** and
- **Documentary Sources:** several literary references were consulted.

13.1.3.2 Field Inspection

In addition to documentary and archival research and analysis, a detailed surface-based inspection of the total area of the site was undertaken by the author. This involved uploading GIS mapping with Cultural Heritage constraints onto a mobile device and visiting selected accessible monuments to appraise the possible effects that the Proposed Development would have on the receiving archaeological, architectural, and Cultural Heritage environment as well as to determine sites' current extent and condition. Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological, architectural, and historical remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

13.1.4 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the completion of this assessment. The assessment is based upon currently available information at the time of writing.

13.1.5 Description of Project

The Proposed Development will accept and treat 90,000 tonnes per annum of locally sourced agricultural manures, slurries, food processing residues and crop-based feedstocks to produce grid quality biomethane, also known as renewable natural gas (RNG) suitable for direct injection into Gas Network Ireland's (GNI) transmission and distribution network. The RNG produced at the Anaerobic Digestion Facility will be used as a direct replacement for conventional natural gas and in doing so contribute towards the Government's aspiration to develop 5.7TWh of indigenous biomethane production. In addition to RNG, the facility will

produce a nutrient rich biobased fertiliser which can be used as a direct replacement for fossil fuel derived fertiliser. The Anaerobic Digestion Facility will also allow the recovery of biogenic carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The development will consist of the following:

- Construction of 3 no. digesters (c. 15.5m in height), 2 no. digestate storage structures (c. 15.5m and 12m in height), 4 no. pump houses (c. 2.59m in height), a liquid feed tank (c. 4m in height), located in the northeastern section of the site.
- Construction of 4 no. pasteurisation tanks (each c. 6m in height), a post pasteurisation cooling tank (c. 4m in height) and pre fertiliser manufacturing tank (c. 4m in height) located in the centre of the site.
- Construction of a part single-storey and part two-storey reception hall (with a gross floor area (GFA) of c. 2,113 sq.m and an overall height of c. 16.5m) to accommodate reception and storage areas, a laboratory, panel room, tool store, workshop, located in the northwestern section of the site.
- Construction of a single-storey solid digestate storage and a nutrient recovery building (with a GFA of c. 880 sq.m and an overall height of c. 12.4m) located to the south of the reception hall, in the central section of the site.
- Odour abatement plant and equipment and a fuel tank will be provided to the south of the solid digestate storage and nutrient recovery building.
- 2 no. CO₂ tanks (c. 10.7m in height), a CO₂ loading pump (c. 2.5m in height), CO₂ auxiliaries (c. 2.6m in height), CO₂ liquefactor (c. 8.2m in height), a CO₂ compressor (c. 5.9m in height), a CO₂ pre-treatment skid (c. 3.5m in height), and associated plant including a backup boiler / biomethane boiler and a Compressed Natural Gas compression unit / biogas compression system located in the southern portion of the site.
- A H₂S washing tower (c. 7.8m in height), a biogas treatment skid (c. 4.1m in height), a combined heat and power (CHP) unit and panel room (c. 10m in height), a biogas compression system, a biogas upgrading module, and an emergency biogas flare (c. 11.3m in height), also located within the southern section of the site.
- Construction of a two-storey office and administration building with an overall height of c. 8.5m and a GFA of c. 272sq.m, located within the western area of the site, adjacent to the main site access.
- Construction of a grid injection unit (c. 2.75m in height) within a fenced compound, an ESB substation (c. 3.4m in height and a GFA of c. 23.5 sq.m), and 2 no. propane tanks located in the south-western portion of the site.
- Alterations to the existing public road (c. 475m to the south of the main site area) including provision of boundary setbacks and replacement planting, providing a new site entrance and access road to serve the development.
- Associated and ancillary works including parking (6 no. standard, 3 no. EV and 1 no. disabled parking spaces and bike storage for 10 no. bikes), a weighbridge, solar PV arrays at roof level, wastewater treatment equipment, bunding and surface treatments, attenuation pond, boundary treatments, lighting, services, lightning protection masts, drainage, landscaping, and all associated and ancillary works.

Extracts from the planning drawings as submitted can be seen in **Figure 13.1** and **13.2a** and **13.2b**. A detailed description of the processes involved at this Proposed Development are included in **Chapter 2: Project Description** of this EIAR.

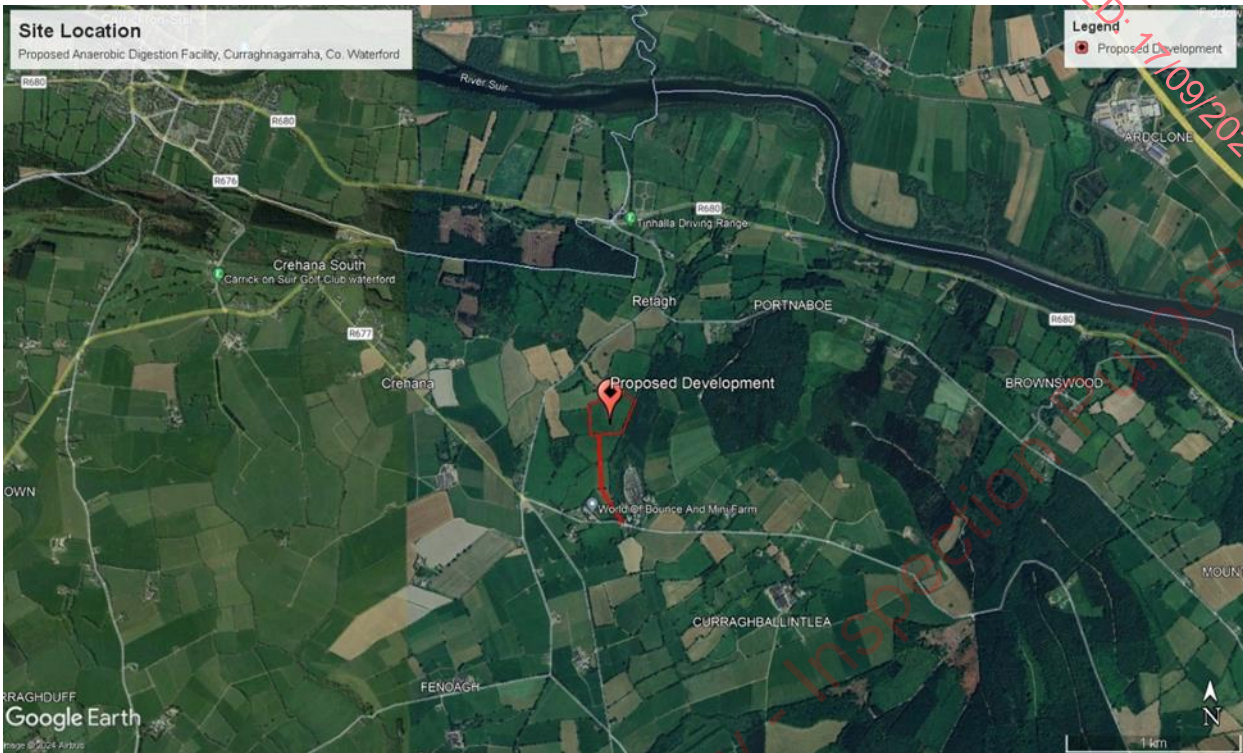


Figure 13.1: Location of the Proposed Development



Figure 13.2a: Site Layout – Main Site

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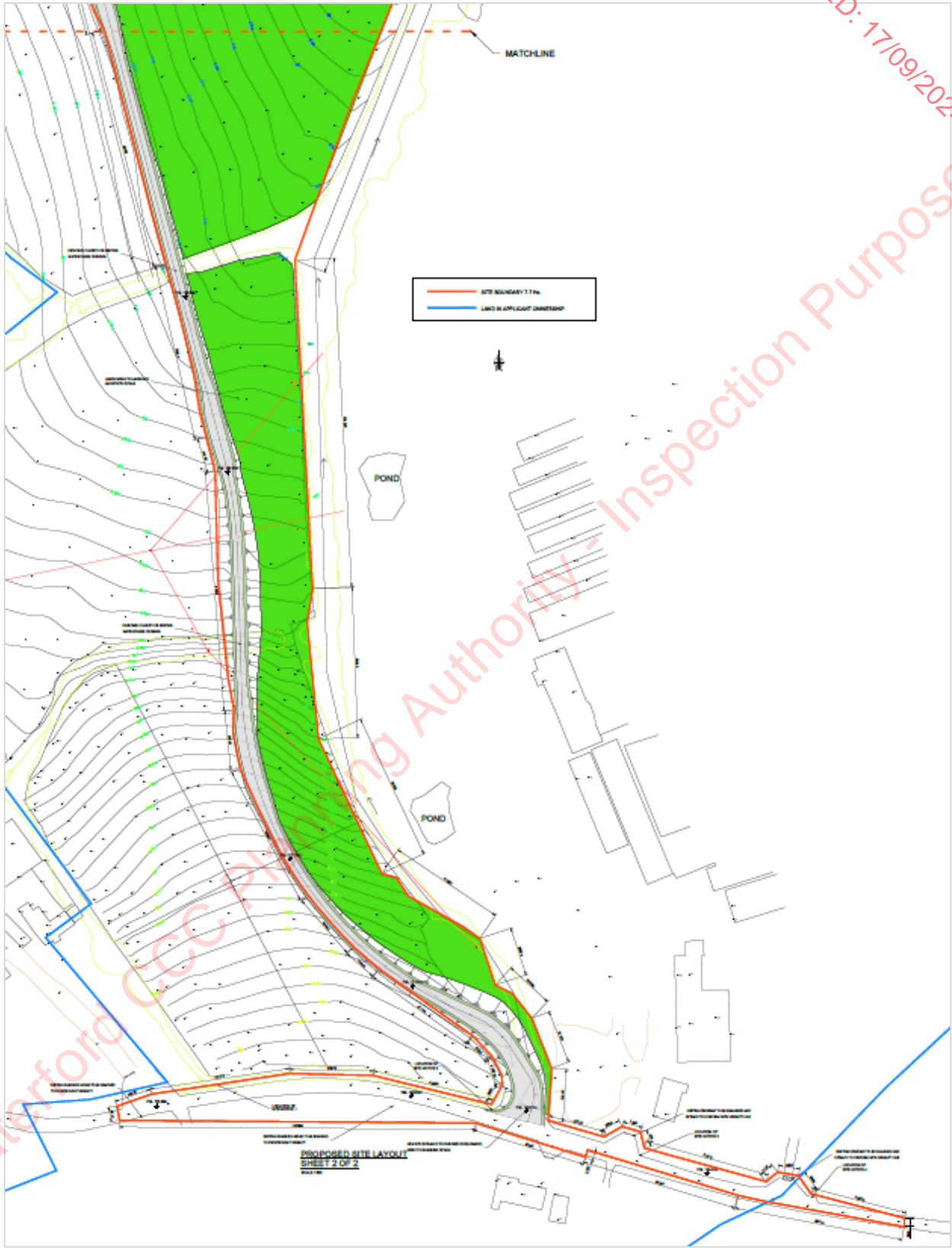


Figure 13.2b: Site Layout – Access Road

Installation of Gas Pipeline

Biomethane will be supplied to the existing gas network via the on-site Grid Injection Unit (GIU) and a pipeline connecting the site to the existing medium pressure distribution gas pipeline located ca. 2.5km north from the site at Carrickbeg, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary. The existing medium pressure distribution gas pipeline and the proposed route for the pipeline linking the site to the existing local gas network are shown in **Figure 13.3**. The final pipeline will be designed, consented and delivered by Gas Networks Ireland in accordance with the following standard: *I.S. 328 2021 Gas transmission — Pipelines and pipeline installations*.

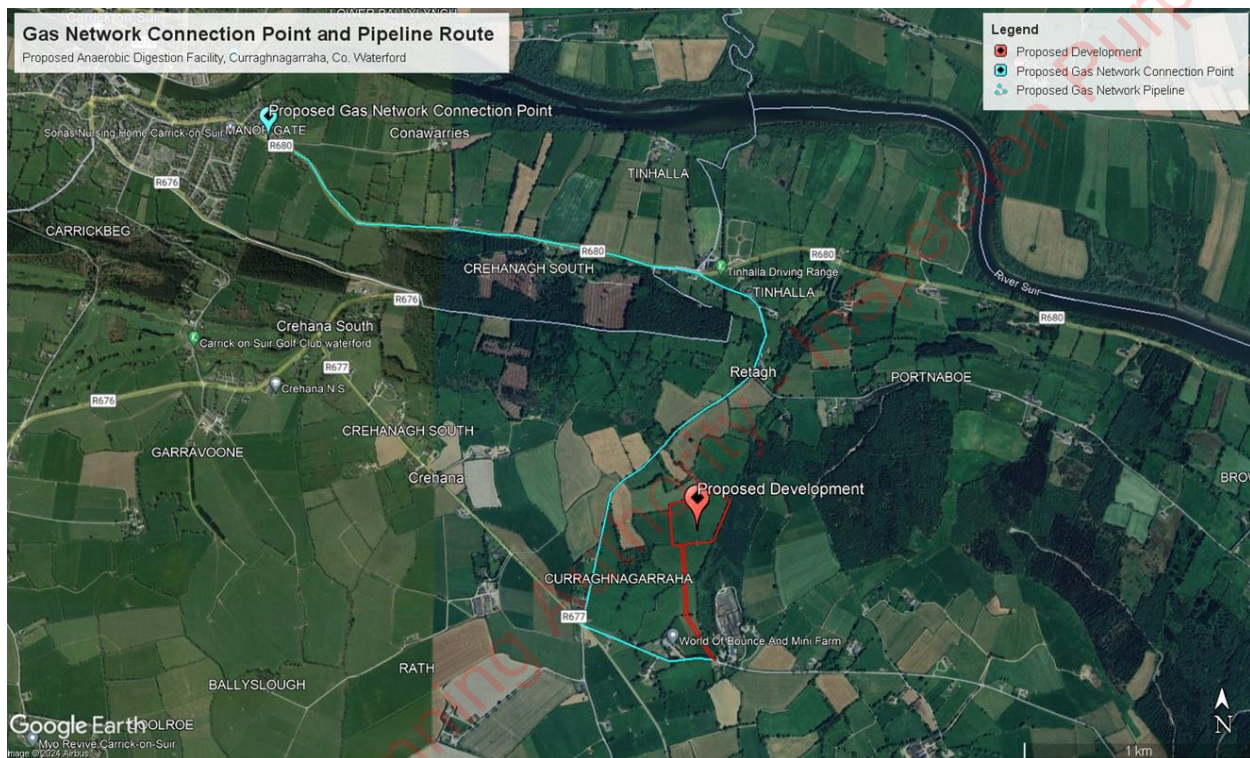


Figure 13.3: Proposed gas network connection point and pipeline route from Proposed Development

13.2 Existing Environment

13.2.1 Location Details

County and Town	Waterford
Barony	Upperthird
Parish	Fenoagh
Street	N/A
Townland	Curraghnagarraha, Reatagh, and Curraghballintlea
Archaeological Monuments	None within Proposed Development boundary or in immediate vicinity
Architectural Sites	None as listed by the NIAH or RPS within or in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development boundary.
ITM	Centred on 642512/619608

Table 13.1: Location details

13.2.2 Archaeological Baseline Data

13.2.2.1 General Archaeological and Historical Background

As noted below Curraghnagarraha derives from the Irish 'Currach na nGarraithe, Currach meaning Marsh and Garraí meaning Court or Garden. The subject site is low lying and still prone to saturation in modern times. It is likely that in prehistory the site would have been wetland marsh and possibly a shallow lake.

The Mesolithic 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. These hunter/gatherer people encountered a landscape rich in woodlands with hazel scrub, oak, ash, and pine and made little disturbance to the natural landscape. Recorded Mesolithic activity on the island to date shows a marked concentration in the northeast of Ireland. This concentration of find-spots and sites in the northeast can, in part be attributed to both the availability of flint and the large number of antiquarians and collectors in the region. Evidence for Mesolithic activity in Waterford is relatively scarce and primarily focussed on the river valleys of the primary Rivers, the Nore, Suir and Barrow. Lithic scatters from the period have been found along the banks of the Barrow River in Wexford near Camolin, to the North of the County (Green and Zvelebil 1990).

The practice of farming spread from the Middle East, through eastern and southern Europe to reach Ireland via Britain around 4000BC. Ireland's Mesolithic hunters were, over a period, displaced or assimilated by the new Neolithic settlers. This transition fundamentally changed the local economy from one based on hunting and foraging to one of cereal cultivation and livestock rearing. The arrival of the first farmers resulted in land clearance by burning or chopping down trees with stone axes. This clearance lead in turn to the spread of blanket bog (heath). There were no indigenous cereal crops, but the settlers brought with them wheat and barley as well as domesticated sheep, goats and cattle. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements.

Neolithic activity is apparent in the archaeological record of the region by the presence of megalithic monuments. Burial chambers in the Southeast were predominately located on glacial sands and gravels in relatively low-lying areas. There was one Megalithic structure (WA003-031----), now no longer extant to the west of the subject site in nearby Rath townland.

A portal tomb - portal tomb (WA003-049----) is located to the west at Ballyquin townland and a possible portal tomb (WA003-050----, now no longer extant) was located to the south of the site.

As stone tools were replaced by 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. In the late Bronze Age 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.

Although there is some debate about the provenance of the standing stones, it is generally accepted that they date from the later part of the Bronze Age. Stone rows or single standing stones were probably ceremonial in function, although single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories. There are a number of standing stones in the general area.

Fulachtaí fia, generally dating from the Bronze Age, consist of small, horseshoe shaped mounds, which are composed of burnt and fire cracked stones with a central pit or trough. These features, designed to heat water, were most likely multifunctional and used for cooking, bathing, and brewing. They are commonly found in river valleys or in boggy ground and are indicative of communal activity. They are common throughout the country, and many are identified each year. There are examples found throughout the general area.

The Iron Age coincides with the spread of Celtic culture and peoples and is known as a 'dark age' in Irish prehistory. This is reflected in the relative lack of artefacts from the period. As in Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland: the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period dates from 700BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th Century BC.

Hillforts, linear earthworks, rotary querns for milling; large, decorated stones and ogham stones are all associated with this period. Burial rites continued from the Bronze Age—such as ring barrows, ring ditches, mounds, and enclosures. Cremation continued to be the pre-dominant burial rite and the burnt remains were sometimes accompanied by small personal items such as beads or jewellery. There are numerous examples of these site types in the general area.

With an expansion in population, the Early Medieval Period (c.500 AD-1200 AD) witnessed the introduction of a new settlement type generally known as the ringfort. Other names for this site type include rath, lios, cashel and dun. These circular enclosures, numbering between 30,000 and 40,000 across the country, represent the homesteads of Irish Early Medieval society. Ringforts are generally circular areas surrounded by a bank(s), walls, and an external ditch. In some cases, there can be up to three sets of defences. The larger more impressive multi-vallate, raised and platform raths are generally regarded as higher status settlements and are the foci around which the smaller satellite univallate enclosures would be arranged. Ringforts are frequently found on sloped sites within lowland areas providing better access to soils and having the security of wide visibility. In some cases, they can be associated with underground chambers and passages, known as souterrains dating to c. AD 750–1250. Ringforts and enclosures represent the most numerous of the recorded archaeological monuments within the area usually occupying sloping sites on hillsides chosen for their better access to soils and

open visibility.

In the fifth century Christianity was introduced to Ireland and monastic sites began to be founded throughout the country. Between the 6th and 8th centuries the influence of the Church continued to grow and through the secular and ecclesiastical legislation, it is possible to trace the gradual assimilation of the Church into early Irish society. The impact of Christianity on subject area is indicated by the presence of the site of the parish Church of Fenough to the south, the ruins of a small oratory (WA003-051001---) at Ballynevin. A notable curve in the modern road at Fenough suggests that the earlier presence of a wider enclosure associated with the church. An early ecclesiastical site was reputedly founded at nearby Mothel (WA007-010001---). Founded by St. Brogan, succeeded by St. Cuan, in the 6th century. The foundation of an Augustinian house here may pre-date the Anglo-Norman invasion. Other relevant sites such as bullaun stones (boulders of stone or bedrock with hemispherical hollows or basin-like depressions, which may have functioned as mortars) and holy wells attest to the influence of the early Church. Two Ogham Stones from the early Medieval period (WA003-030--) located ca. 500m to the northwest and WA003-032—located ca. 700m to the southwest are also listed on the ASD.

Originally invited by Diarmuid Mac Murchada as mercenaries to assist in the recovery of his Leinster Kingdom, the Anglo-Normans quickly set about making territorial claims for themselves. By 1171 King Henry II mounted a second invasion, resulting in his Lordship of Ireland. The archaeology of this period is dominated by fortresses built by the new colonists. Administration of this new order resulted in the shiring of counties, the creation of boroughs and foundation of towns, many surrounded by stone walls. Newly acquired territory was held by the construction of military powerbases in various forms – including motte and baileys, ringworks, moated sites, and later masonry castles. Tower houses were more widespread than the earlier Norman fortifications. In the succeeding centuries internecine fighting and fluctuating alliances between Anglo-Normans, native Irish and combinations of both resulted in the building of more defensive residences, particularly the ubiquitous tower house. These imposing buildings were usually rectangular towers of four or five storeys accessed by a spiral staircase leading to the battlements. Other architectural features designed for security included machicolations, bartizans, looped windows, a murder hole over a grilled entrance and a base batter. Most tower houses would have been surrounded by other buildings, often within a defensive walled enclosure known as a bawn. Medieval sites in the general area are common.

During the Munster Plantation in the 16th century, a result of the Desmond Rebellions, the English crown charged undertakers to import settlers and develop new garrisoned towns. These planters cut passes through the remaining wooded areas to enable bridge building and developed a tentative infrastructure. The opening of the countryside led to an increase in arable farming and with it the emergence of a new enclosed field pattern still visible today.

Ireland in the 16th and 17th centuries saw massive social and political upheaval a result of the Tudor plantations, Confederate Wars, the Cromwellian Conquest and finally the Wars of the Two kings. The impact on the national population was catastrophic and resulted in the forced transfer of lands from Irish Catholic ownership to English soldier-settlers and transplanners. By 1778 scarcely five per cent of Irish land was left in native hands. With their newfound wealth and status, the Protestant Ascendancy expressed their political, economic and social domination by transforming Irish towns and cities with building programmes. Rural areas were now controlled by landlords living in large mansion houses surrounded by walled demesnes e.g. Alwardstown House, Rochestown House and Frazer's Hall. Much of what is characteristic of the Irish countryside, with pasture fields enclosed by drystone walls or ditches and

hedgerows, dates from this period. The peasant and cottier class, whose labour transformed the countryside, typically lived in drystone cabins in informal clusters known as clahcáns or farm villages. Many of these, are recorded on the first edition ordnance survey map but were subsequently abandoned following the catastrophe of the Great Famine between 1845 and 1852.

13.2.2.2 World Heritage Sites

There are no World Heritage Sites or potential World Heritage Sites contained in the Tentative List of Candidate Sites within 5km of the Proposed Development.

13.2.2.3 National Monuments in State Care, Guardianship or under Protection Order

There are no National Monuments within 200m of the Proposed Development.

13.2.2.4 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database/Register of Historic Monuments

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). Archaeological monuments are general registered by the National Monuments Service using a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number.

There are no monuments recorded by the National Monuments Service (NMS) within the boundary of the subject site (**Figure 13.5**). The nearest monuments, two fulachtaí fia (WA003-094-- & 94001--) are located c. 200m to the west of the site. WA003-033----, a Burnt mound is located roughly 470m to the southeast and the find location of a bullaun stone (WA004-023----) is located 270m to the northeast. A church and graveyard (WA003-034001 and WA003-034002) are located 600m to the south.

WA003-094----

- Site Type: Fulacht fia.
- Townland: Curraghnagarraha.
- Description: Situated on the W side of a S-N valley, close to the bottom of the slope. Circular, grass-covered stony mound (diam. 15m; H 0.5m) covered with a clay mantle. Fulacht fia (WA003-094001-) is ca. 30m to the N.

WA003-094001-

- Site Type: Fulacht fia.
- Townland: Curraghnagarraha.
- Description: Situated on the W side of a S-N valley, close to the bottom of the slope. This is a subcircular, grass-covered stony mound (dims. 8m x 6m; H 0.2m) covered with a clay mantle. Fulacht fia (WA003-094----) is ca. 30m to the S

WA004-023----

- Site Type: Bullaun stone.
- Townland: Reatagh.
- Description: Originally located at a fork in a laneway on a steep NW-facing slope. D-shaped conglomerate stone (dims. 0.8m x 0.5m; max. T 0.35m) with one oval basin (dims. 0.26m x

0.24m; D 0.9m). It is now kept at Carrick-on-Suir (TS085-024----).

WA003-033----

- Site Type: Burnt mound.
- Townland: Reatagh.
- Description: Situated in pasture at the headwaters of a S-N stream. A sample of burnt stones from a destroyed fulacht fiadh was deposited in the NMI in 1961 (NMI file). It is not visible at ground level.

WA003-034003-

- Site Type: Redundant record.
- Townland: Curraghgarraha
- Description: Situated at the N crest of the Suir escarpment. There is no evidence of an ecclesiastical enclosure at the parish church of Fenoagh (WA003-034001-).

WA003-034001

- Site Type: Church.
- Townland: Curraghgarraha
- Description: The parish church of Fenoagh is situated at the N crest of the Suir escarpment. The grass-covered foundations of a rectangular structure (int. dims. 14.7m E-W; c. 6.4m N-S) defined by a grass-covered wall (H 0.2-0.4m; T 0.5-0.7m) and cairn material are within a circular graveyard (int. diam. 42.7m N-S; 40.7m E-W) defined by a stone-faced, earth and stone bank with a hedge. Blackett (1860-61, JRSAI, 8) recorded a possible ogham stone at this site which was never interpreted and has since disappeared (Anon. 1868-9); it is unlikely to have been genuine (Macalister 1909, 295; 1945, vol. 1, 294). Burial dates from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, but there is a headstone to James Bryan dated 1701. Anon. (1868-9) Proceedings. JRSAI 10, 161-2, 348-9. Blackett, W. R. (1860-61) Letter published with 'The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kilkenny and south-east of Ireland Archaeological Society 1860. JRSAI 6, 7-9. Macalister, R. A. S. (1909) The ogham stones near Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir. JRSAI 39, 294-6. Macalister, R. A. S. (1945) (reprint 1949) Corpus inscriptionum insularum Celticarum, 2 vols. Stationery Office, Dublin.

WA003-034005-

- Site Type: Headstone.
- Townland: Curraghgarraha
- Description: Situated at the N crest of the Suir escarpment. Burial in the graveyard (WA003-034002-) of the parish church of Feonagh dates from late 18th to the mid-19th century, but there is a headstone to James Bryan dated 1701.



Figure 13.5: Nearby recorded monuments.

13.2.2.4.1 Map Regression

The primary cartographic sources consulted were the Down Survey Map of 1654-6, Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps, first, second and third editions.

The Civil Survey, so called because it was ordered by the Civil Authority, was taken from 1654-6 in order to value the lands in Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connaught assigned to satisfy the claims of soldiers for their arrears of pay during the Civil War, and of those Adventurers who made cash available in the 1640's to pay for the war and were promised land in Ireland in

return. The map records Curraghnagarraha and neighbouring Reatagh and surrounding townlands as being under the ownership of James Butler and notes 'pasture whereof rocks and mountains 25 acres.' No structures or identifiable features are depicted. The pre famine first edition map depicts the subject site as enclosed greenfield. To the south, in Curraghnagarraha townland, there is a cluster of buildings depicted. By the time of the second edition little has changed with the subject site remaining greenfield.

13.2.2.4.2 Aerial Photography

A review of available aerial photographs was undertaken to identify any previously unrecorded anomalies of historical potential. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2002-2020) and Bing Maps was completed. Nothing of potential archaeological significance was noted.

13.2.2.4.3 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

A review of the online resource www.heritagemaps.ie was completed. No finds are recorded in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. It should be noted that not all recorded finds in the Topographical Files are included in www.heritagemaps.ie. The review of www.heritagemaps.ie indicates that there are no relevant files in the vicinity.

13.2.2.4.4 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in the vicinity

There is one record of earlier work in the field to the immediate south of the subject site. This is summarised below.

Licence number: 11E0026

County: Waterford

Site name: Curraghnagarraha

Sites and Monuments Record No.: N/A

Author: Anne-Marie Lennon

Site type: No archaeological significance

ITM: E 642412m, N 619280m

Waterford County Council requested further information regarding a planning application, as the proposed agricultural development lies 25m to the east of a delisted RMP site, WA003-033, destroyed in the 1960s. Section 14 required a detailed assessment, including geophysical survey (licence no. 10R165) followed by testing, to be carried out to assess the impact of the development on any archaeological features uncovered by the geophysical survey. Eleven test trenches were opened using GPS data to investigate potential archaeological features or anomalies identified by the survey. No features or finds of an archaeological nature were uncovered.

13.2.2.4.5 Townlands, Townland Boundaries and Toponym Analysis

According to The Very Rev. P. Canon Power in 'The Place Names of Deceis' (1952) the townland name is An Réiteach means "The Cleared Land." The word can also be variously translated as deforesting, an understanding or union. Curraghnagarraha derives from the Irish 'Currach na nGarraithe, Currach meaning Marsh and Garraí meaning Court or Garden.

13.2.2.4.6 LiDAR

The Open Topographic Data Viewer built and hosted by Geological Survey Ireland does not at present cover the area of the Proposed Development.

13.2.2.5 Architectural Heritage

13.2.2.5.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)

There are no ACA's adjacent to the Proposed Development boundary or within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

13.2.2.5.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)/Industrial/Vernacular Heritage

There are no RPS sites or NIAH sites within or within the vicinity of the subject site. The nearest NIAH site are the gate lodge and gates of Curraghmore House and demesne (NIAH No.'s 22900401 and 22900404 respectively) which are located over 2km to the south.

13.2.2.5.3 Designed Landscapes-Demesnes, Historic Gardens & Country Estates

The nearest demesne landscape is the demesne lands associated with Curraghmore House (22900811) which is rated as of National significance.

13.2.2.6 Folklore, Other Cultural Heritage Features and Areas of Potential

13.2.2.6.1 Rivers, Streams, Wetlands

Rivers and streams are important cultural as well as physical features of the landscape, and archaeological sites and features are often related with waterways including features such as fulachtaí fia, fords, bridges, and mills. Riverbanks have been favoured for human occupation since prehistoric times for their proximity to food sources and fresh water and they served as routeways, boundaries, defences and as a focus for ritual. A deep cut stream flows along the eastern boundary of the subject site.

13.2.2.6.2 Townland Boundaries

No townland boundary will be directly impacted by the Proposed Development.

13.2.2.6.3 Folklore Commission

A review of the National Folklore Collection was completed on www.Dúchas.ie. The following record was retrieved from the general area.

Folklore commission entry: Curraghmagarraha

School: Scoil na mBráthar, Carraig na Siúire

Location: Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary

Teacher: An Br. Ó Mocháin

Informant: Mrs Butler

"I am living in Curragnagarraha. it is about four miles from Carrick-on-Suir. The place got its name because it is surrounded by marsh, and it has very small gardens. Curragnagarraha is southwest of Carrick. There are places near Curragnagarraha with Irish names, Curraghballintlea, (Currach Baile an Clé) means the left bog of the village. Garravoone (Garbh Mhóin) means the rough bog. Near my home there is a Lios field (Páirc-an-Leasa). About half an acre of the field is in the form of a circle. At one time the circle was walled in but now the wall has disappeared. The Carrageen is a rocky field. The Crab field got its name from the Crab hedge by which it is surrounded. Nearby in Costello's hill there is a Mass rock and on top of the rock there is a hole which is called the holy water font. because fifty weavers came out from Carrick to try and knock it down, but they failed.

There is also an old churchyard in Curragnagarraha called Tempall Fenuagh which means Saint Fenagh's Church. The old people say that if you were on the road at mid-night, you would hear a bell tinkling as if mass were going on. In the churchyard there is a ruin of an old church. It is said that a man was passing the churchyard one night and he saw an old woman who had been buried there long before sitting in the ditch smoking a pipe. Carraig Fenuagh means Saint Fenagh's rock. It is situated in Crehana. There is a large rock on the side of it facing Crehana school. It is called the Weaver's rock."

13.2.3 Site Inspection

A field inspection was carried out on the 18th of December 2023 and entailed walking the Proposed Development site and its immediate environs, noting, and recording the terrain type and land usage, the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance and visually investigating any suspect anomalies observed to determine their nature and provenance where possible. The site comprises low lying rough marshy pasture which gradually slopes from to the northwest. The site is bounded by fencing mature trees and hedgerow and by the townland boundary comprising a deep cut stream to the east. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the site inspection.



Plate 13.1: Looking N towards Proposed Development.



Plate 13.2: Looking east at Proposed Development.

13.3 Potential Effects

13.3.1 Potential Direct Effects

Direct negative impacts may occur where sites of archaeological and Cultural Heritage significance are located within the footprint of the Proposed Development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

In relation to the Proposed Development, direct, physical impacts on the archaeological and Cultural Heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological 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 effects cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

13.3.1.1 Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

The Proposed Development will have no direct physical effect on known archaeological sites and monuments.

13.3.1.2 Potential Direct Effects on Unrecorded Archaeological Monuments or Features

There is a low to moderate potential for unrecorded sub-surface deposits surviving below ground within this location, and the proposed route for the gas pipeline.

13.3.1.3 Potential Direct Impacts Architectural Sites

The Proposed Development will have no direct physical effect on known architectural sites.

13.3.2 'Do Nothing Scenario'

If the Proposed Development were not to proceed, there would be no effect upon the archaeological, architectural, or Cultural Heritage resource.

13.3.3 Potential Effects on the Setting/Operational Effects

Effects on setting are primarily visual and examine the effect of the proposed works upon the

setting of a site within the wider landscape. Impacts on Setting can be reduced with sensitive site development and screening. The impact of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to and from the extant recorded monuments and features.

13.3.3.1 Archaeological Sites

The Proposed Development will not impact the visual amenity of any known monuments.

13.3.3.2 Architectural Sites

The Proposed Development will not impact the visual amenity of these sites/features.

13.3.4 Cumulative Effects

The permitted and proposed developments within a 500m study area have been considered as part of the cumulative impact assessment. No cumulative impacts upon the archaeological resource have been identified, as any remains that may be identified within the proposed development area will be fully excavated and recorded. As the Proposed Development will not result in any impacts on the architectural heritage resource, no cumulative impacts have been identified.

13.4 Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects

13.4.1 Mitigation Measures

The mitigation strategies outlined in this section detail the measures to be adopted to ameliorate the effects that the proposed works may have on features of archaeological, architectural, or Cultural Heritage within the study area during both the construction and operational phases of the scheme. The residual effects that will remain once these mitigation measures have been implemented are also identified.

- It is recommended that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out in advance of construction. Test excavation is that form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature and extent of archaeological deposits and features present in a location which it is proposed to develop (though not normally to fully investigate those deposits or features) and allow an assessment to be made of the archaeological impact of the proposed development. It may also be referred to as 'archaeological testing' (DAHGI 1999a, 27).
- A suitably qualified archaeologist should be appointed to advise the design team on archaeological matters, liaise with the relevant authorities, prepare an archaeological licence application and method statement, and complete the archaeological testing work.
- Testing should be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH. The application for such a licence requires a detailed method statement, outlining the procedures to be adopted to monitor, record, and recover material of archaeological interest during such work.
- Should archaeological material be uncovered at any location, the feature will be summarily investigated to determine the form, age, nature, depth, and extent of the feature. The feature will be planned, photographed, and recorded to best professional standards.
- In addition, the report on the results of the test excavation and an impact statement will be submitted to the planning authority to inform the archaeological site strategy. Where archaeological material is identified, the developer will submit an archaeological mitigation strategy and a detailed method statement for written agreement with the planning authority detailing proposed mitigation including, preservation in situ by way of avoidance or redesign, and/or archaeological excavation under a Section 26 licence in advance of development.
- The agreed archaeological mitigation (preservation in situ/full excavation) shall take place under licence prior to the commencement of development. The developer shall make provision for excavation, post excavation, interpretation, and publication of the results. A preliminary report detailing the findings of the agreed resolution shall be submitted to the planning authority within four weeks of the licence expiry and a full and final report shall be submitted to the planning authority within 1 year of the licence expiry date.

The above recommendations are subject to approval by the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH and other relevant authorities.

13.4.2 Residual Impact Assessment

This section assesses potential significant environmental impacts which remain after mitigation measures have been implemented.

13.4.2.1 Construction Phase

If the above-described mitigation is implemented there will be no significant residual impacts on the archaeological resource.

13.4.2.2 Operational Phase

Not applicable to the archaeological and architectural resource.

13.4.2.3 Summary of Post-Mitigation Effects

If the above-described mitigation is implemented there are no predicted residual impacts on the archaeological and architectural resource.

13.4.2.4 Cumulative Residual Effects

No cumulative impacts have been identified upon the archaeological and architectural resource and as such there will be no residual cumulative effects.

Appendix 13.1 – References & Bibliography

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Electronic Sources

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- <https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>
- <http://www.logainm.ie/>
- <http://www.museum.ie/>
- <https://www.townlands.ie/>
- <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/>
- <http://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-list/>

Appendix 13.2 – Conventions, Directives and Legislation

Conventions

Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage. This section summarises Ireland's obligations as a signatory to several International and European conventions relating to the protection and conservation of Cultural Heritage sites. Also included is a synopsis of existing national legislation governing the care and protection of our Cultural Heritage resources.

ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration, 2005

Ireland is a signatory to an international declaration sponsored by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas, 2005, that endeavours to ensure the safeguard and conservation of the World's Cultural Heritage as part of its sustainable and human development.

EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.

To assist planning and other consent authorities in deciding if significant effects on the environment are likely to arise in the case of development below the national mandatory EIS thresholds, the DHLGH published a Guidance document in August 2003.

The European Landscape Convention 2000

In 2002 Ireland ratified the European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, which promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscape.

Valletta Convention, 1997

In 1997 the Republic of Ireland ratified the Council of Europe, European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the 'Valletta Convention'). Obligations under the Convention include provision for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas.

Granada Convention, 1997

Under the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), 1997, the Republic of Ireland is obliged to maintain inventories of architectural heritage, to protect the architectural heritage and adopt conservation policies as integrated planning objectives.

UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972

This Convention provides for the identification, conservation, and preservation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value for inclusion in a world heritage list. The World Heritage status is a non-statutory designation, and no additional statutory controls result from this designation. However, the impact of Proposed Development upon a World Heritage Site will be a key material consideration in determining planning applications.

Legislation

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 ensures the protection of the archaeological heritage resource by requiring that all applications under this Act are accompanied by an EIAR including information on material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage.

The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004

Irish legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage is based on the National Monuments Acts 1930 and amendments of 1954, 1987, 1994 and 2004. These acts are the principal statutes governing the care of monuments in Ireland. They provide for the protection of national monuments using preservation orders. The overall state archaeological service is provided by the DHLGH and delivered through the Planning and Heritage Section of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) on behalf of the Minister.

Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts in several ways:

- National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority.
- National Monuments, which are subject to a preservation order.
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; and
- Monuments recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).

The Planning and Development Act 2000

Under arrangements which came into operation on 1 January 2000 (The Planning and Development Act 2000), the system of listing buildings was replaced with strengthened procedures for the preservation of protected structures and structures in architectural conservation areas (ACA).

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage which forms the basis for recommendation from the Minister to local authorities of sites for inclusion in the local authorities Record of Protected Structures