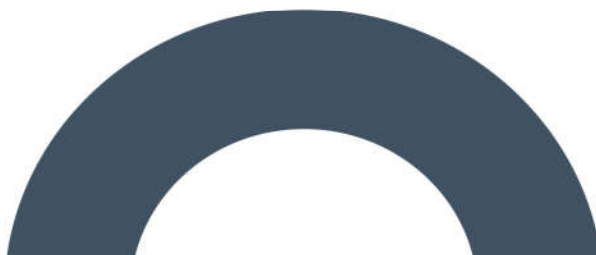
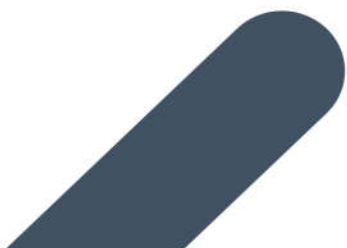


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Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Seskin Renewables Wind Farm

Chapter 13 Archaeological,
Architectural And Cultural Heritage



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Prepared By: **MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
Ireland
H91 VW84**



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Table of Contents

13.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE	13-1
13.1	Introduction	13-1
13.1.1	Statement of Authority	13-1
13.1.2	Definitions	13-2
13.1.3	Consultation	13-2
13.1.4	Guidance and Legislation	13-2
13.2	Assessment Methodology	13-3
13.2.1	Study Area Definitions	13-3
13.2.2	Desktop Assessment	13-4
13.2.3	Field Inspection	13-6
13.3	Impact Assessment Methodology	13-6
13.3.1	Sensitivity of receptor	13-7
13.3.2	Magnitude of Impact	13-7
13.3.3	Significance of Effects	13-8
13.4	The Receiving Environment	13-9
13.4.1	Summary of Archaeological Fieldwork	13-9
13.4.2	Cartographic Analysis	13-10
13.4.2.1	George Taylor and Andrew Skinner, Maps of the Roads of Ireland, 1777	13-10
13.4.2.2	First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1842, scale 1:10,560	13-11
13.4.2.3	Ordnance Survey Map, 1908, scale 1:2,500	13-11
13.4.3	County Development Plans	13-11
13.4.3.1	Archaeology	13-11
13.4.3.2	Record of Protected Structures	13-29
13.4.3.3	Architectural Conservation Areas	13-34
13.4.4	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	13-34
13.4.4.1	NIAH Buildings Survey	13-34
13.4.4.2	NIAH Garden Survey	13-34
13.4.5	Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland	13-35
13.4.6	Aerial Photographic Analysis	13-36
13.4.7	Cultural Heritage	13-36
13.4.7.1	Toponymy of Townlands	13-39
13.4.7.2	Townland Boundaries	13-43
13.4.8	Field Inspection	13-44
13.5	Likely Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	13-53
13.5.1	Do Nothing Scenario	13-53
13.5.2	Construction Phase	13-53
13.5.3	Operational Phase (Indirect Effects)	13-54
13.5.3.1	Sites of National Significance within 10km of the Proposed Wind Farm	13-54
13.5.3.2	Archaeological Heritage (AH) sites within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm	13-54
13.5.3.3	Built Heritage (BH) sites within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm	13-55
13.5.3.4	Designed Landscapes (DL) within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm	13-55
13.5.3.5	Cultural Heritage (CH) sites within 2km of the Proposed Wind Farm	13-55
13.5.4	Decommissioning Phase	13-55
13.5.5	Residual Effects	13-56
13.5.6	Cumulative Effects	13-56

13.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

13.1

Introduction

IAC Archaeology has prepared this chapter to assess the impact, if any, on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource of the Proposed Development (Seskin Renewables Wind Farm), on the border of Counties Laois and Kilkenny.

This study determines, from existing records and field inspections, the nature of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource within the Proposed Development and its environs using appropriate methods of study. The study areas for the assessment are described in Section 13.2.

Desk-based assessment is defined as a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic, and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets (CIfA 2014).

This leads to the following:

- Determining the presence of known cultural heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed project;
- Assessment of the likelihood of finding previously unrecorded archaeological remains during the construction programme;
- Determining the potential impact upon the setting of known cultural heritage sites in the study area; and
- Suggested mitigation measures based upon the results of the above research.

The study involved detailed interrogation of the archaeological and historical background of the proposed project and study area. This included information from the Record of Monuments and Places of Counties Kilkenny and Laois, the topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland, and cartographic and documentary records. Inspection of the aerial photographic and satellite imagery coverage of the proposed project held by Tailte Éireann, Bing Maps, and Google Earth has also been carried out.

A field inspection was carried out during May and November 2024 in order to identify any known archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites and previously unrecorded features, structures, and portable finds within the proposed project.

13.1.1

Statement of Authority

This chapter was prepared by Faith Bailey (MA Cultural Landscape Management, BA (Hons) Archaeology, MIAI, MCIfA) Faith is a licence eligible archaeologist, a member of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland and has over 20 years' experience working in the commercial cultural heritage sector. She has been responsible for the production and delivery of multiple archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assessments and EIAR for renewable energy projects, including The Yellow River Wind Farm (Co. Offaly), Derrysallagh Wind Farm (Co. Sligo), Derreenacrinig Wind Farm (Co. Cork) and the Robertstown Wind Farm (Co. Waterford).

13.1.2 Definitions

In order to assess, distil and present the findings of this study, the following definitions, specific to this chapter, apply:

‘Cultural Heritage’ where used generically, is an over-arching term applied to describe any combination of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage features, where the term:

- ‘Archaeological heritage’ is applied to objects, monuments, buildings or landscapes of an (assumed) age typically older than AD 1700 (and recorded as archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places).
- ‘Architectural heritage’ is applied to structures, buildings, their contents and settings of an (assumed) age typically younger than AD 1700.
- ‘Cultural heritage’, where used specifically, is applied to other (often less tangible) aspects of the landscape such as historical events, folklore memories and cultural associations.

13.1.3 Consultation

Following the initial research, a number of statutory and voluntary bodies were consulted to gain further insight into the cultural background of the proposed project and study area, as follows:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage – the Heritage Service, National Monuments and Historic Properties Section: Record of Monuments and Places; Sites and Monuments Record; Monuments in State Care Database; Preservation Orders and Register of Historic Monuments;
- National Museum of Ireland, Irish Antiquities Division: topographical files of Ireland;
- Kilkenny County Council: Planning Section;
- Laois County Council: Planning Section; and
- Historical and Ordnance Survey Maps.

13.1.4 Guidance and Legislation

The following legislation, standards and guidelines were consulted as part of the assessment.

- National Monuments Act, 1930 to 2014;
- The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended);
- Heritage Act, 1995 (as amended);
- Draft Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements), 2015, EPA;
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report 2022, EPA;
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, and Islands; and
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000 and the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000.

The National Monuments Act 1930, as amended by various acts including but not limited to, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1954, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987, the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004 (together the National Monuments Acts) make provision for the protection and preservation of national monuments, archaeological monuments and archaeological objects in Ireland. The description of the

existing environment in this chapter takes account of those statutory designations and the chapter takes account of the legislative monitoring and licencing requirements as mitigation.

The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (the 2023 Act) was enacted by the Oireachtas in late 2023 and aims to address a range of structural issues, simplify terminology, as well as provide a single accessible piece of legislation. At the date of writing many sections of the 2023 Act have yet to commence. It is not anticipated that this will result in statutory protection being extended to any potential receptors apart from those already considered in this chapter and the chapter already identifies as mitigation the various archaeological investigations and licencing requirements that will come into force when the 2023 Act is commenced. Accordingly, the EIAR conclusions are likely to be unchanged should the 2023 Act commence fully while the application is moving through the planning process.

13.2

Assessment Methodology

13.2.1

Study Area Definitions

The definition of the study areas utilised for the assessment of the proposed project are detailed in Table 13.1. The determination of study areas is based on professional judgement, given there are no national guidelines available with regards to how the development of wind farms may impact on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource. The study area for the proposed wind farm site is large, due to the potential indirect effects that may occur in the relation to the setting of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites. The study area for the Proposed Grid Connection and the Turbine Delivery Route is 50m as the footprint of these works are small-scale and confined primarily to the existing road network.

Table 133-1 Study Area Definitions

Proposed Development Element	Study area	Site Types
Proposed Wind Farm	10km	All sites of national significance, including National Monuments under state care or guardianship and any sites subject to a Preservation Order (PO).
Proposed Wind Farm	5 km	All archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assets subject to statutory protection, including sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and Record of Protected Structures (NIAH), National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) structures and Designed Landscapes (DL).
Proposed Wind Farm	2 km	All previously unrecorded sites or structures of cultural heritage merit, such as buildings of architectural heritage merit (not included in the RPS/NIAH and archaeological sites not included in the RMP.
Proposed Grid Connection	50m	All recorded and previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites.
Any interventions along the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)	50m	All recorded and previously unrecorded cultural heritage sites.

13.2.2 Desktop Assessment

The following sources were examined, and a list of heritage assets and areas of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage potential was compiled:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and those nominated for inclusion on the tentative list;
- RMP for Counties Kilkenny and Laois;
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for Counties Kilkenny and Laois;
- National Monuments in State Care Database;
- List of Preservation Orders;
- Register of Historic Monuments;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- Cartographic and documentary sources relating to the receiving environment;
- The development plans for Counties Kilkenny and Laois;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Counties Kilkenny and Laois (Architectural & Garden Survey);
- Aerial photographs;
- Excavations Bulletin (1970–2025); and
- Place name analysis

The function of a UNESCO World Heritage list is to encourage member states to protect and manage their natural and cultural heritage. Properties considered for inclusion have cultural, historical, scientific or other significance, considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are three sites inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage List on the island of Ireland. These comprise the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, Brú na Bóine and Skellig Michael, none of which lie within 10km of the proposed project. In addition, there are no sites included on the tentative list located within 10km.

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1994 (as amended) which provides that the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) shall establish and maintain a RMP where it is known that such monuments exist. The record comprises of a list of monuments and relevant places and mapping showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. Sites recorded on the RMP all receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act. All sites listed on the RMP are referred to as Archaeological Heritage (AH sites) within this assessment.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and records of field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Service as termed 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection. As a result, these are omitted from the RMP. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the DHLGH – www.archaeology.ie. All sites listed on the SMR are referred to as Archaeological Heritage (AH sites) within this assessment. It should be noted that revisions are proposed to the RMP and SMR, with some sites listed as redundant records and proposed for removal and other, newly discovered sites, proposed for inclusion. As the revisions have yet to take place, all current RMP/SMR sites are listed as AH sites within this assessment, with the relevant detail provided as to the nature and extent of each site included.

National Monuments in the State Care Database is a list of all the National Monuments in the State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of each monument. A National Monument receives statutory protection and is described as 'a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto' (National Monuments Act, 1930, Section 2). The Minister for

the DHLGH may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than dwellings). The owners of National Monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the Local Authority as guardian of that monument if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Preservation Orders List and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, can be assigned to a site or sites that are deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction. Orders are allocated under the National Monuments Act, 1930. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the National Monuments Act, 1954. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister (DHLGH). A tower house, bawn, church and deserted settlement (KK009-037001; KK009-037003; KK009-037004; KK009-038001; KK009-038002) are recorded in the townland of Balleen Little and are subject to a Preservation Order (03/1992), c. 7.28km southwest of Turbine 8. A church (KK013-018001) in Ballylarkin Upper, c. 9.76km southwest of Turbine 8, is a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. No. 282).

Register of Historic Monuments was established under Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987 and requires the Minister to establish and maintain such a record. Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the register are afforded statutory protection under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1987. The register also includes sites under Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders. All registered monuments are included in the RMP.

The topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland are the national archive of all known finds recorded by the National Museum. This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

Cartographic sources are important in tracing land use development within the Site and its receiving environment as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the construction of buildings in the past. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape. These include current and former townland and parish boundaries.

All sites of potential archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage merit identified during the map analysis and aerial photographic analysis are listed as Cultural Heritage (CH) sites within this assessment.

Documentary sources were consulted to compile background information on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage receiving environment of the proposed project. A full list of references is given in Section 13.9

Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures, archaeological sites and Architectural Conservation Areas within every county. The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) and the Laois County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) were examined as part of this assessment. All protected structures are referred to as Built Heritage sites (BH) as part of this assessment.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. It is a government-based organisation tasked with making a nationwide record of locally, regionally, nationally and internationally significant structures dating to post-1700 AD, which in turn provides local authorities with a guide as to what structures to list within the Record of Protected Structures. Only those structures of regional importance or above are included in the Minister's

recommendations for inclusion in the RPS. The NIAH have also carried out a nationwide desk-based survey of historic gardens, including demesnes that surround large houses. All NIAH structures are referred to as Built Heritage sites (BH) as part of this assessment.

Whilst the NIAH Garden Survey was utilised as part of this assessment, this was carried out in conjunction with detailed analysis of the first edition Ordnance Survey maps and field inspection in order to identify any designed landscapes (DL) within the receiving environment of the Proposed Development.

Aerial photographic coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. Aerial photographs held by Tailte Éireann (1995–2013), Google Earth (2005–2024) and Bing Maps (2023) were examined for this assessment.

Excavations Bulletin is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is also available online (www.excavations.ie) from 1970-2025. Information from this resource is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files.

Place Names are an important part in understanding both the archaeology, history and cultural heritage of an area. Place names can be used for generations and in some cases have been found to have their roots deep in the historical past. The main references used for the place name analysis is Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870), and the Place Names Database of Ireland (www.loganim.ie).

13.2.3 Field Inspection

Field inspection is necessary to determine the extent and nature of archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage remains and can also lead to the identification of previously unrecorded or suspected sites and portable finds through topographical observation and local information.

The field inspection for the Proposed Development was carried out during May and November 2024 and entailed:

- Noting and recording the terrain type and land usage;
- Noting and recording the presence of known and previously unknown features of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance;
- Verifying the extent and condition of recorded sites and structures (RMPs/ RPS/ NIAH); and
- Visually investigating any suspect landscape anomalies to determine the possibility of their being anthropogenic in origin and of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance

13.3 Impact Assessment Methodology

The significance of potential effects has been evaluated using a systematic approach, based upon identification of the importance/value of receptors and their sensitivity to the proposed development activity, together with the predicted magnitude of the impact. This is in accordance with the approach laid out in the “Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements” (EPA 2022).

13.3.1 Sensitivity of receptor

For each impact, the assessment identifies receptors sensitive to that impact and implements a systematic approach to understanding the impact pathways, magnitude and the level of effects on given receptors.

The definitions of receptor sensitivity for the purpose of the archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage assessment are provided in Table 13-2. This is based on the presence (or not) of statutory protection and the determination by the author.

Table 133-2 Criteria for determination of receptor sensitivity

Sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	Sites of International Importance: UNESCO World Heritage Properties (including tentative list) National Monuments Monuments subject to Preservation Orders
High	RMP Proposed RMP Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Well-preserved demesne landscapes Previously unrecorded archaeological sites
Medium	SMR Sites listed on the NIAH (upstanding) Buildings not on NIAH/RPS (based on professional judgement) Moderately well-preserved demesne landscapes Townland boundaries
Low	Buildings not on NIAH/RPS (based on professional judgement) Poorly preserved demesne landscapes
Very Low	SMR – Record only or redundant record Proposed RMP – excavated Fully developed demesne landscapes

13.3.2 Magnitude of Impact

The scale or magnitude of potential impacts (both beneficial and adverse) depends on the degree and extent to which the proposed development activities may change the environment, which usually varies according to project phase (i.e. construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning).

As per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines, the nature of impacts can be categorised as follows:

- Quality: Positive, neutral or negative
- Nature: Direct, indirect
- Probability: Likely or unlikely
- Duration: Momentary, brief, temporary, short-term, medium-term, long-term, permanent, reversible
- Frequency: Once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly

The criteria used to assess the different impacts associated with the proposed development are shown in Table 13-3. The criteria has been defined by the author in consideration of the “Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements” (EPA 2022).

Table 133-3 Criteria for determination of Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude	Criteria
Very High	These impacts arise where an archaeology or cultural heritage site, either below ground or upstanding, is completely and irreversibly destroyed.
High	An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the archaeological and cultural heritage environment, including the setting of upstanding monuments. An impact like this would be where part of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about an archaeological or cultural heritage feature/site.
Medium	A medium impact arises where a change to a site/monument is proposed which though noticeable, is not such that the archaeological or cultural heritage integrity of the site is compromised. The change is likely to be consistent with existing and emerging trends. Impacts are probably reversible and may be of relatively short duration.
Low	An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment, such as a visual impact, which are not high or very high and do not directly impact or affect an archaeological or cultural heritage feature or monument.
Very Low	An impact on an archaeological or cultural heritage feature or monument capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.

13.3.3 Significance of Effects

An Impact Assessment Matrix (IAM) is used to determine the significance of an effect. In basic terms, the potential significance of an effect is a function of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact, as shown in Table 13-4.

The matrix provides a framework for the consistent and transparent assessment of predicted effects although it is important to note that the assessments are based on the application of expert judgement.

The matrix provides levels of effect significance ranging from imperceptible to profound. For the purposes of this assessment, potential effects identified to be of significant significance or above (i.e., significant, very significant or profound) are considered to be “significant in EIA terms” and additional mitigation will be required. Potential effects identified as less than significant (i.e. moderate, slight, imperceptible or not significant) significance are generally considered to be not significant in EIA terms.

Table 133-4 Impact Assessment matrix for determination of significant of effect

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Very High	Profound	Very Significant	Significant	Moderate	Slight

High	Very Significant	Significant	Significant - Moderate	Moderate Slight	Not Significant
Medium	Significant	Significant - Moderate	Moderate	Slight	Imperceptible
Low	Moderate	Moderate - Slight	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible
Very Low	Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible	Imperceptible	Imperceptible

13.4

The Receiving Environment

The Proposed Wind Farm is located within the townlands of Ballyconra, Seskin, Seskin North and Ballynaslee, County Kilkenny, and Archerstown and Tinwear, County Laois. The Proposed Grid Connection passes through Ballyconra and Moatpark in County Kilkenny. The TDR comprises existing roadways from the M7, through the towns of Abbeyleix and Durrow and reaching the wind farm site via the N77. The TDR will require minimal accommodation works to the existing road network. The Proposed Wind Farm site is primarily comprised of agricultural land set in a rural landscape (Appendix 13-4, Figure 13-1).

There are two recorded monuments within the Proposed Wind Farm (AH13 and AH43). A further 282 monuments are recorded within the 5km study area, including two which are additionally protected by a Preservation Order (AH52). There are no National Monuments within 5km of the Proposed Wind farm. The closest is a church (KK013-018001) in Ballylarkin Upper, c. 9.76km southwest of Turbine 8 (Nat. Mon. No. 282).

There are no protected structures located within the Proposed Wind Farm. Similarly, no structures listed in the NIAH are located within the development area. A large number of structures within the environs are listed in both the RPS and NIAH, with built heritage concentrated within the settlements of Durrow to the north and Ballyragget to the south, both of which are also contain Architectural Conservation Areas.

There are 14 Designed Landscapes (DL) within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm. None of these are located within the Proposed Wind Farm site, although DL1 and DL2 are located immediately adjacent.

Sites and structures described in this assessment are shown in Appendix 13-4, Figures 13-2-7. National Monuments within 10km of the Site are shown in Appendix 13-4 Figure 13-8.

13.4.1

Summary of Archaeological Fieldwork

A review of the Excavations Bulletin (1970-2025) and the available excavation reports revealed no previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the Proposed Development area boundary. There are a number of geophysical surveys and archaeological investigations which have been carried out within 2km of the overall proposed development area. These are summarised below and shown on the relevant Figure 13-2-7 as included in Appendix 13.4.

A geophysical survey was carried out prior to a road improvement scheme in the townland of Ballyconra, County Kilkenny, c. 882m east of T7 (Licence No. 18R0092). A number of anomalies of possible archaeological potential were identified, including five clearly defined archaeological sites (Gimson and Hogan 2018). An enclosure c. 28m diameter and containing a number of internal features, likely pits and ditches, was identified in the north of the survey area. A second enclosure was identified to the south, which appeared to incorporate entrances to the east and west. In addition, the extent of a recorded ring-ditch (AH32) was confirmed by the geophysical survey. An outer ditch measuring 16m in diameter and with a possible east entrance, surrounds a circular arrangement of pits. Further pit like

features were noted surrounding the monument. In the southwestern extent of the survey area, two small ring-ditches were identified and were disturbed by a series of pits.

Following geophysical survey, archaeological testing was carried out under licences 22E0847 and 22R0360, as part of the N77 Road Improvement Scheme, within the footprint of the existing N77 (which is the route of the Proposed Grid Connection (Bennett 2022:399). This identified a number of archaeological sites which were later fully excavated– Ballyconra 1 (Licence No. 23E0095), Post-medieval vernacular structures, Ballyconra 2 (Licence No. 23E0096, 23R0052), Possible ring-ditch, Ballyconra 3 (Licence No. 23E0096, 23R0052), Possible relict field system, Ballyconra 4 (Licence No. 23E0096, 23R0052), Curvilinear feature, Ballyconra 5 (Licence No. 23E0097), Post-medieval vernacular structure, Ballyconra 6 (Licence No. 23E0094), Post-medieval vernacular structure.

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Glanbia Milk Processing Facility in the townland of Ballyconra, immediately adjacent to the Proposed Grid Connection and 1.5km to the southeast of T7. (Licence No. 22E0334). The works entailed monitoring of the excavation of four pits for foundations of cooling towers. The area was heavily disturbed by modern activities and no features of archaeological potential were identified (Hurley 2022).

A geophysical survey was carried out for realignment of the N77 under licence 08R0269 in the townland of Ballynaslee, within the existing N77, which is part of the Turbine Delivery Route and 815m east of T3. The small area available for survey limited the interpretation of the results, however, a number of curved anomalies of possible archaeological significance were identified. In addition, five possible pits were noted (Gimson and Bonsell 2008).

Following geophysical survey archaeological testing was conducted which identified four sites, named Ballynaslee 1-4 (Licence No. 12E0342, Bennett 2012:335). These sites were located within the existing N77 roadway which is the Turbine Delivery Route. These sites were later subject to full excavation. Ballynaslee 1 comprised a single pit which returned a Bronze Age date (Licence No. 13E0116). Ballynaslee 2 was also a Bronze age pit (Licence No. 13E0117). Ballynaslee 3 comprises an area of burning and carbonised silt which was of unclear date (Licence No. 13E0118). Ballynaslee 4 comprises two pits, no dating evidence was retrieved (Licence No. 13E0118).

A programme of archaeological testing was carried out for a proposed single residential house, c. 662m east of the Proposed Grid Connection and 1.96km east-southeast of T7 (Licence No. 08E0368). Four trenches were excavated but no features of archaeological significance were identified (Lennon 2008).

Archaeological excavation was carried out c. 2.69km south-southeast of T7 under licence 99E0597 in the townland of Parksgrove, Co. Kilkenny. An iron-working pit and a burnt mound were discovered during monitoring for a gas pipeline. The pit was identified as a furnace bowl, and was associated with a number of iron objects, metallurgical waste and charcoal fragments. A burnt mound was discovered c. 8m north of the iron-working pit, and it was unclear if this was associated or not (Stevens 2000). This site was later added to the SMR as KK009-095-6 (AH86). As part of the same project two *fulachtaí* were uncovered further south, AH87 and AH88, excavated under licences 99E0598 and 99E0599 respectively.

13.4.2 Cartographic Analysis

13.4.2.1 George Taylor and Andrew Skinner, Maps of the Roads of Ireland, 1777

This series includes a map of the section of roadway from Ballyragget to Durrow adjacent to the overall proposed development area, a road that later became the N77. At the north end of the stretch of road, the village of Durrow is shown. Castledurrow Demesne (DL6) is shown under the ownership of Viscount Ashbrook. Ballyconra House (DL1) is shown owned by Viscount Mountgarret at this time. The ruins of a castle are marked north of Ballyconra, which may represent the ruins of Mountgarret

Castle (AH22) which is no longer visible above ground. In close proximity to the Ballyconra House demesne, a 'flowermill' is shown along the River Nore.

13.4.2.2 **First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1842, scale 1:10,560**

The first edition OS map of 1842 shows the overall proposed development area within a rural and agricultural landscape, to the south of Durrow and to the northwest of Ballyragget. AH29 is shown as a circular enclosure which traverses a field boundary. AH13 is also shown as a sub-circular enclosure within the overall proposed development area. There are a number of vernacular farmsteads shown within the mapping, including CH2 and CH3, which remain extant today. There are also a number of small quarries and lime kilns shown within the Site. There are no demesne landscapes shown within the Site, however, DL1 (Ballyconra House) and DL2 (Seskin House) border the Proposed Development to the south.

13.4.2.3 **Ordnance Survey Map, 1908, scale 1:2,500**

There is little significant change to the overall proposed development area by the time of this map of 1908. The wind farm site remains agricultural in nature, with vernacular farmsteads CH2 and CH3 remaining present. A number of the quarries in the vicinity are now marked as 'disused'. Lime kilns remain common features in the landscape.

13.4.3 **County Development Plans**

13.4.3.1 **Archaeology**

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) and the Laois County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) recognise the statutory protection afforded to all RMP sites under the National Monuments Legislation (1930–2014). The development plans list a number of aims and objectives in relation to archaeological heritage (Appendix 13-1). Monuments located within 5km are listed in Table 13-5 and shown in Figures 13-2-7 (Appendix 13-4).

There are two recorded monuments within the Site, a ringfort and an enclosure (AH13 and AH43). A further 282 monuments are recorded within the 5km study area, including a number of sites immediately adjacent to the Site (Table 13.2). Two of the recorded monuments within 5km are additionally protected by a Preservation Order (Motte and Bailey Castle AH52). There are no recorded monuments in the 100m corridor study area for the Proposed Grid Connection. There are no recorded monuments 100m study area of the interventions to the existing road network which will take place for the Turbine Delivery Route.

Within the 10km study area, for the sites of national significance, two monuments are listed. These comprise a tower house, bawn, church and deserted settlement (KK009-037001; KK009-037003; KK009-037004; KK009-038001; KK009-038002) recorded in the townland of Balleen Little, in County Kilkenny and these monuments are subject to a Preservation Order (03/1992), c. 7.28km southwest of Turbine 8. A church (KK013-018001) in Ballylarkin Upper, c. 9.76km southwest of Turbine 8, is a National Monument in State Ownership (Nat. Mon. No. 282). Sites of national significance are shown within Figures 13-8 (Appendix 13-4).

All National Monuments and sites with Preservations Orders possess very high sensitivity. Recorded monuments possess high sensitivity, whereas sites that have been reclassified as redundant records, or subject to archaeological excavation in the past, possess very low sensitivity.

Table 133-5 Recorded Monuments within the Receiving Environment

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
Proposed Wind Farm Site					
AH1	KK001-005001	Castlemarket	Church	T1	4.44km northeast
	KK001-005002	Castlemarket	Graveyard	T1	4.43km northeast
	KK001-005003	Castlemarket	Memorial stone	T1	4.45km northeast
AH2	KK001-006001	Castlemarket	Castle - unclassified	T1	4.86km northeast
	KK001-006002	Castlemarket	Castle - motte	T1	4.86km northeast
	KK001-006003	Castlemarket	Settlement deserted - medieval	T1	4.85km northeast
AH3	KK001-007	Castlemarket	Bridge	T1	4.95km northeast
AH4	KK004-001	Ballynaslee	Enclosure	T3	941m east-northeast
AH5	KK004-002	Ballynaslee	Church	T3	1.07km east-northeast
	KK004-002001	Ballynaslee	Graveyard	T3	1.07km east-northeast
AH6	KK004-003	Ballynaslee, Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Enclosure	T5	275m south
AH7	KK004-004	Ballynaslee	Enclosure	T6	444m east
AH8	KK004-005001	Ballynaslee	Megalithic structure	T7	385m north-northwest
	KK004-005002	Ballynaslee	Megalithic structure	T7	385m north-northwest
AH9	KK004-006	Ballynaslee	Enclosure	T7	443m north
AH10	KK004-007	Ballynaslee	Ringfort - rath	T7	579m northeast
AH11	KK004-008001	Ballyconra	Church	T7	1.15km northeast
	KK004-008002	Ballyconra	Graveyard	T7	1.14km northeast
AH12	KK004-009	Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Redundant record	T8	853m west
	LA035-049	Archerstown	Enclosure	T8	853m west
	LA035-049001	Archerstown	Mass-rock	T6	797m west

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH13	KK004-010	Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Ringfort - rath	T7	262m west-northwest
AH14	KK004-011	Ballyconra	Ringfort - rath	T7	630m east
AH15	KK004-012	Ballyconra	Ring-ditch	T7	1.27km east
AH16	KK004-013001	Ballyconra	Ring-ditch	T7	1.55km east
	KK004-013002	Ballyconra	Ring-ditch	T7	1.56km east
	KK004-013003	Ballyconra	Field system	T7	1.45km east
	KK004-013004	Ballyconra	Ring-ditch	T7	1.48km east
	KK004-013005	Ballyconra	Redundant record	T7	1.47km east
	KK004-013006	Ballyconra	Redundant record	T7	1.47km east
AH17	KK004-014	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.7km east
AH18	KK004-015	Tinnaslatty (Galmoy By.)	Redundant record	T8	2.52km west-southwest
AH19	KK004-016	Lisdowney	Enclosure	T8	2.24km southwest
AH20	KK004-017	Seskin North	Ringfort - rath	T8	898m southwest
AH21	KK004-018	Seskin North	Enclosure	T8	837m southwest
AH22	KK004-019001	Seskin North	Castle - unclassified	T8	488m southwest
	KK004-019002	Seskin North	Earthwork	T8	527m southwest
AH23	KK004-020	Seskin North	Ringfort - rath	T7	364m southwest
AH24	KK004-021	Ballyconra	Architectural fragment	T7	1.63km southeast
AH25	KK004-022	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T8	1.48km south
	KK004-047	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.53km south

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	KK004-048	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.56km south
AH26	KK004-031	Tinnaslatty (Galmoy By.)	Castle - unclassified	T8	3.1km west
AH27	KK004-034	Ballynaslee	Ringfort - rath	T5	446m southeast
AH28	KK004-035	Tinnaslatty (Galmoy By.)	Moated site	T8	2.98km west-southwest
AH29	KK004-036	Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Ringfort - rath	T4	240m southeast
AH30	KK004-037	Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Burnt spread	T6	779m west
AH31	KK004-038	Seskin North	Redundant record	T8	1.04km southwest
AH32	KK004-040	Ballyconra	Ring-ditch	T7	1.04km east
AH33	KK004-041	Ballynaslee	Enclosure	T1	1.03km east
AH34	KK004-042	Seskin North	House - 17th century	T8	868m southwest
AH35	KK004-043	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.29km south
	KK004-045	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.35km south
AH36	KK004-044	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.14km south
	KK004-052—	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.11km south
	KK004-053	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.12km south
	KK004-056	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.18km south
	KK004-055	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.2km south

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH37	KK004-046-	Ballyconra	Settlement cluster	T7	1.48km south
	KK004-054	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.39km south
AH38	KK004-049	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T8	1.32km south
AH39	KK004-050	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.72km south
AH40	KK004-051	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.87km south
AH41	KK004-057	Ballyconra	Enclosure	T7	1.15km east
AH42	KK004-058	Ballynaslee	Enclosure	T3	1.09km east-northeast
AH43	KK004-059	Seskin (Galmoy By.)	Enclosure	T8	289m west
AH44	KK005-001	Ballyoskill	Ringfort - rath	T1	3.67km northeast
AH45	KK005-002	Ballyoskill	Castle - ringwork	T3	4.61km east
AH46	KK005-011001	Gorteenara	Church	T7	2.77km northeast
	KK005-011002	Gorteenara	Graveyard	T7	2.76km northeast
	KK005-011003	Gorteenara	Ecclesiastical enclosure	T7	2.75km northeast
AH47	KK005-012001	Tinnalintan	Ritual site - holy well	T7	2.89km northeast
	KK005-012002	Tinnalintan	Enclosure	T7	2.89km northeast
AH48	KK005-013	Coole (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	1.93km east-northeast
AH49	KK005-014	Tinnalintan	Ringfort - rath	T7	3.05km east

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH50	KK005-015	Tinnalintan	Ringfort - rath	T7	2.13km east
AH51	KK005-016	Ballymartin (Fassadinin By.)	Redundant record	T7	4.11km east-northeast
AH52	KK005-023001 Pres. Order 5/1983	Moatpark	Castle - motte	T7	1.99km east-southeast
	KK005-023002 Pres. Order 5/1983	Moatpark	Castle - unclassified	T7	1.99km east-southeast
AH53	KK005-024	Rathduff (Fassadinin By.)	Barrow - mound barrow	T7	2.81km southeast
AH54	KK005-025001	Garrannaguilly	Enclosure	T7	3.67km east-southeast
	KK005-025002	Garrannaguilly	Enclosure	T7	3.67km east-southeast
	KK005-093	Garrannaguilly	Redundant record	T7	3.67km east-southeast
AH55	KK005-060001	Sraleagh	Church	T7	3.49km east-southeast
	KK005-060002	Sraleagh	Graveyard	T7	3.49km east-southeast
AH56	KK005-061	Sraleagh	Enclosure	T7	3.28km east-southeast
AH57	KK005-063001	Finnan	Church	T7	4.32km southeast
	KK005-06300	Finnan	Redundant record	T7	4.32km southeast
	KK005-063003-	Finnan	Graveyard	T7	4.32km southeast

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	KK005-063004	Finnan	Ritual site - holy well	T7	4.34km southeast
AH58	KK005-080	Ballyoskill	Castle - unclassified	T7	4.49km northeast
AH59	KK005-083	Nicholastown (Kilkea And Moone By.)	Enclosure	T3	3.04km east-northeast
AH60	KK005-084	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.91km east-southeast
	KK005-092	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.94km southeast
AH61	KK005-088	Tinnalintan	Enclosure	T7	3.01km east
AH62	KK005-089	Ballyragget	Concentric enclosure	T7	3.51km east-southeast
AH63	KK005-090	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.39km east-southeast
AH64	KK005-091	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.49km southeast
AH65	KK005-094	Rathduff (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	2.45km east-southeast
	KK005-095	Rathduff (Fassadinin By.)	Field system	T7	2.51km east-southeast
AH66	KK005-096	Rathduff (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	2.63km east-southeast
AH67	KK009-011001	Lisdowney	Enclosure	T8	4.58km southwest
	KK009-011002	Lisdowney	Linear earthwork	T8	4.64km southwest
AH68	KK009-012	Seskin South	Redundant record	T8	1.99km south-southwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	KK009-012001	Seskin South	Church	T8	1.99km south-southwest
	KK009-012002	Seskin South	Graveyard	T8	1.99km south-southwest
	KK009-012003	Seskin South	Enclosure	T8	1.99km south-southwest
AH69	KK009-013	Ballyconra	Redundant record	T7	1.77km south
	KK009-013001	Ballyconra	Church	T7	1.79km south
	KK009-013002	Ballyconra	Graveyard	T7	1.77km south
	KK009-013003	Ballyconra	Redundant record	T7	1.77km south
	KK009-013004	Ballyconra	Ritual site - holy well	T7	1.85km south
	KK009-013005	Ballyconra	Earthwork	T7	1.7km south
	KK009-013006	Ballyconra	Wall monument	T7	1.79km south
	KK009-013007	Ballyconra	Graveslab	T7	1.79km south
	KK009-013008	Ballyconra	Road - hollow-way	T7	1.9km south
	KK009-013009	Ballyconra	Building	T7	1.77km south
AH70	KK009-014	Parksgrove	Ringfort - rath	T7	2.35km southeast
AH71	KK009-015	Parksgrove	Ring-ditch	T7	2.47km southeast
AH72	KK009-023	Ballyring Upper	Enclosure	T8	4.91km southwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH73	KK009-024	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T8	2.24km south
AH74	KK009-025	Parksgrove	Concentric enclosure	T7	3.43km south-southeast
AH75	KK009-026	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	3.59km south-southeast
AH76	KK009-027	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Ringfort - rath	T7	3.96km south-southeast
AH77	KK009-028	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Redundant record	T7	4.4km south-southeast
	KK009-028001	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Church	T7	4.4km south-southeast
	KK009-028002	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Graveyard	T7	4.4km south-southeast
AH78	KK009-046	Sweethill	Earthwork	T8	4.88km south
AH79	KK009-069001	Lisdowney	Castle - unclassified	T8	1.99km southwest
	KK009-069002	Lisdowney	House - 16th/17th century	T8	1.99km southwest
AH80	KK009-070	Lisdowney	Ringfort - unclassified	T8	1.89km southwest
	KK009-070001	Lisdowney	Moated site	T8	1.88km southwest
AH81	KK009-087	Lisdowney	Fulacht fia	T8	2.58km southwest
AH82	KK009-089	Parksgrove	Fulacht fia	T7	3.44km south-southeast

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH83	KK009-090	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	House - 18th/19th century	T7	4.49km south-southeast
AH84	KK009-091	Parksgrove	Enclosure	T7	3.38km south-southeast
AH85	KK009-094	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Fulacht fia	T7	3.52km south-southeast
AH86	KK009-095	Parksgrove	Burnt mound	T7	2.69km south-southeast
	KK009-096	Parksgrove	Metalworking site	T7	2.69km south-southeast
AH87	KK009-097	Parksgrove	Fulacht fia	T7	2.87km southeast
AH88	KK009-098	Parksgrove	Fulacht fia	T7	3.11km south-southeast
AH89	KK009-100	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.85km south-southeast
AH90	KK009-101	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.81km south-southeast
AH91	KK009-102	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.83km south-southeast
AH92	KK009-103	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure - large enclosure	T8	3.47km south
AH93	KK009-115	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Redundant record	T8	4.29km south
	KK009-118	Grange (Fassadinin By.)	Redundant record	T8	4.29km south
AH94	KK009-122	Lisdowney	Cross-slab (present location)	T8	2.03km south-southwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	KK009-123	Lisdowney	Cross-slab (present location)	T8	2.03km south-south west
AH95	KK010-001	Ballyragget	Historic town	T7	3.16km southeast
	KK010-001001	Ballyragget	Castle - tower house	T7	3.25km southeast
	KK010-001002	Ballyragget	Bawn	T7	3.26km southeast
	KK010-001003	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.3km southeast
AH96	KK010-002001	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.81km southeast
	KK010-002002	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.82km southeast
	KK010-002003	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.79km southeast
	KK010-002004	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.86km southeast
	KK010-002005	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.85km southeast
	KK010-002006	Ballyragget	Road - road/trackway	T7	3.79km southeast
AH97	KK010-003	Ballyragget	Ringfort - unclassified	T7	3.71km southeast
AH98	KK010-004	Ballyragget	Concentric enclosure	T7	4.02km southeast
AH99	KK010-005001	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Church	T7	4.18km southeast
	KK010-005002	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Graveyard	T7	4.18km southeast
	KK010-005003	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Tomb - chest tomb	T7	4.19km southeast
	KK010-005004	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Headstone	T7	4.18km southeast

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	KK010-005005	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Headstone	T7	4.18km southeast
	KK010-005006	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Tomb - chest tomb	T7	4.2km southeast
AH100	KK010-006	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Ringfort - unclassified	T7	4.78km southeast
AH101	KK010-027	Oldtown (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure - large enclosure	T7	4.45km southeast
AH102	KK010-029	Oldtown (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.72km southeast
	KK010-161	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.68km southeast
AH103	KK010-122	Parksgrove	Water mill - unclassified	T7	2.92km southeast
	KK010-166—	Oldtown (Knocktopher By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.86km south-southeast
AH104	KK010-139001	Ballyragget,Parksgrove	Ford	T7	2.96km southeast
	KK010-139002	Ballyragget,Parksgrove	Bridge	T7	2.96km southeast
	KK010-167	Oldtown (Knocktopher By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.7km south-southeast
	KK010-168	Oldtown (Knocktopher By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.68km south-southeast
	KK010-169	Oldtown (Knocktopher By.)	Field system	T7	4.69km south-southeast
AH105	KK010-171	Oldtown (Knocktopher By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.59km south-southeast
	KK010-159	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.77km southeast

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH106	KK010-172	Parksgrove	Ring-ditch	T7	2.56km southeast
	KK010-160	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.66km southeast
	KK010-176	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.6km southeast
AH107	KK010-177	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.65km southeast
	KK010-178	Ballyragget	Ring-ditch	T7	3.69km southeast
AH108	KK010-183	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.56km southeast
AH109	KK010-189	Donaghmore (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.86km southeast
AH110	KK010-193	Oldtown (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.35km south-southeast
AH111	KK010-194	Oldtown (Fassadinin By.)	Enclosure	T7	4.48km south-southeast
AH112	KK010-195	Oldtown (Fassadinin By.)	Ring-ditch	T7	4.32km south-southeast
AH113	KK010-196	Ballyragget	Enclosure	T7	3.57km southeast
AH114	LA029-032-	Moyne	Urn burial	T1	4.89km northwest
AH115	LA029-033	Kilbeg, Dunmore, Moyne	Bridge	T1	4.43km north-northwest
AH116	LA029-034	Swan	Redundant record	T1	4.01km north-northwest
AH117	LA029-035	Dunmore	Church	T1	4.57km north
	LA029-035001	Dunmore	Graveyard	T1	4.57km north

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH118	LA029-037	Watercastle	Ringfort - rath	T1	4.94km north
AH119	LA029-038	Fermoyle	Quarry	T1	4.2km north-northeast
AH120	LA029-042	Castledurrow Demesne, Durrow Townparks	Ecclesiastical site	T2	2.68km north-northwest
AH121	LA029-043001	Castledurrow Demesne	Ritual site - holy well	T1	2.71km north-northwest
	LA029-043002	Castledurrow Demesne	Cross	T1	2.69km north-northwest
AH122	LA029-045	Durrow Townparks	Church	T1	2.6km north
	LA029-045001	Durrow Townparks	Graveyard	T2	2.6km north
AH123	LA029-046	Course	Redundant record	T1	3.05km north
	LA029-046001	Course	Ecclesiastical site	T1	3.06km north
	LA029-046002	Course	Ecclesiastical enclosure	T1	3.05km north
AH124	LA029-047	Grenan	Enclosure	T1	3.03km north-northeast
AH125	LA029-048	Fermoyle	House - fortified house	T1	3.61km north-northeast
	LA029-048001	Fermoyle	Bawn	T1	3.62km north-northeast
AH126	LA029-056001	Durrow Townparks	Stone head	T1	2.6km north
AH127	LA029-061	Moyne	Bullaun stone	T1	4.78km north-northwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH128	LA029-077	Fermoyle	Enclosure	T1	4.48km north-northeast
AH129	LA029-078	Dunmore	Field system	T1	4.94km north
AH130	LA029-082	Castlewood	Ring-ditch	T1	3.02km north
AH131	LA029-086	Grenan	Mound	T1	3.48km north-northeast
AH132	LA030-030	Raheenduff (Clanmallyagh By.)	Moated site	T1	4.16km northeast
AH133	LA035-004	Newtown (Clanmallyagh By.)	Redundant record	T2	4.59km west-northwest
AH134	LA035-005	Derreen And Carrowreagh	Ringfort - rath	T2	4.04km northwest
AH135	LA035-006	Castledurrow Demesne	Enclosure	T2	2.79km northwest
AH136	LA035-007	Durrow Townparks	Enclosure	T2	2.37km northwest
AH137	LA035-008	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Enclosure	T2	3.49km west-northwest
AH138	LA035-009	Knocknagrally Or Killenny Beg	Enclosure	T2	3.29km northwest
AH139	LA035-010	Capponellan, Clonageera	Enclosure	T2	973m northwest
AH140	LA035-011	Tinwear	Enclosure	T2	514m north
AH141	LA035-012	Tinwear	Field boundary	T1	1.02km north
	LA035-013	Tinwear	Enclosure	T1	908m north
AH142	LA035-014	Grenan	Enclosure	T1	1.13km northeast

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH143	LA035-015	Grenan	Enclosure	T1	1.41km northeast
AH144	LA035-016001	Grenan	Enclosure	T1	1.47km northeast
	LA035-016002	Grenan	Moated site	T1	1.46km northeast
AH145	LA035-017	Glebe (Clanmallagh By., Durrow Ed)	Church	T1	2.43km northeast
	LA035-017001	Glebe (Clanmallagh By., Durrow Ed)	Graveyard	T1	2.43km northeast
AH146	LA035-018001	Newtown (Clanmallagh By.)	Enclosure	T2	4.56km west
	LA035-018002	Newtown (Clanmallagh By.)	Linear earthwork	T2	4.54km west
AH147	LA035-023	Graigueavoice	Ringfort - rath	T2	4.62km west
AH148	LA035-024	Graigueavoice	Enclosure	T2	4.57km west
AH149	LA035-025	Graigueavoice	Enclosure	T2	4.46km west
AH150	LA035-026001	Graigueavoice	Ringfort - unclassified	T2	4.26km west
	LA035-026002	Graigueavoice	Field system	T2	4.26km west
AH151	LA035-027	Graigueavoice	Enclosure	T2	4.23km west
AH152	LA035-028	Graigueavoice	Enclosure	T2	3.79km west
AH153	LA035-029	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Ritual site - holy well	T2	3.52km west
AH154	LA035-030	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Enclosure	T2	3.34km west
AH155	LA035-031001	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Church	T2	3.35km west

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
	LA035-031002	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Graveyard	T2	2.33km west
	LA035-031003	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Gateway	T2	3.37km west
	LA035-031004	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Ecclesiastical enclosure	T2	3.34km west
AH156	LA035-032	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Ringfort - unclassified	T2	3.28km west
AH157	LA035-033	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Enclosure	T2	3.16km west
AH158	LA035-034	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Mound	T2	2.75km west
AH159	LA035-035	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Enclosure	T2	3.42km west
AH160	LA035-036	Toberboe Or Killenny More	Enclosure	T2	2.81km west
AH161	LA035-037	Archerstown	Moated site	T4	843m west-southwest
AH162	LA035-038—	Grenan	Enclosure	T3	1.48km east
AH163	LA035-040001	Bunlacken	Enclosure	T2	4.67km west-southwest
	LA035-040002	Bunlacken	Field system	T2	4.71km west-southwest
AH164	LA035-041	Graigueavoice	Ringfort - rath	T2	4.39km west-southwest
	LA035-096	Graigueavoice	Ringfort - rath	T2	4.34km west-southwest
AH165	LA035-044	Ballykealy	Enclosure	T4	3.79km west-southwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH166	LA035-045001	Ballykealy	Castle - tower house	T4	2.31km west-southwest
	LA035-045002	Ballykealy	Well	T4	3.33km west-southwest
	LA035-045003	Ballykealy	Bawn	T4	3.31km west-southwest
AH167	LA035-046	Aharney	Ringfort - rath	T6	2.36km west-southwest
AH168	LA035-047	Aharney	Church	T8	2.08km west-southwest
	LA035-047001	Aharney	Graveyard	T8	2.07km west-southwest
AH169	LA035-048	Aharney	Ritual site - holy well	T8	2.02km west-southwest
AH170	LA035-050	Archerstown	Fulacht fia	T8	963m west-southwest
AH171	LA035-051	Archerstown	Ringfort - rath	T8	1.02km west-southwest
AH172	LA035-052	Grenan	Castle - unclassified	T7	1.55km northeast
	LA035-053	Grenan	Castle - motte	T7	1.66km northeast
AH173	LA035-055	Ballykealy	Enclosure	T8	4.87km west-southwest
AH174	LA035-058	Ballykealy	Ringfort - rath	T8	4.16km west-southwest
AH175	LA035-084	Durrow Townparks	Enclosure	T2	2.27km northwest

AH No.	RMP No.	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance
AH176	LA035-085	Grenan	Enclosure	T3	1.42km east
	LA035-086	Grenan	Enclosure	T3	1.37km east
AH177	LA035-087	Grenan	Field system	T5	1.47km east
AH178	LA035-088	Grenan	Ring-ditch	T3	1.34km east
AH179	LA035-089	Grenan	Enclosure	T1	1.55km northeast
AH180	LA035-090	Grenan	Enclosure	T3	1.45km east-northeast
AH181	LA035-092	Newtown (Clanmallagh By.)	Enclosure	T2	4.84km northwest
AH182	LA035-094	Newtown (Clanmallagh By.)	Ring-ditch	T2	4.03km west
	LA035-095	Newtown (Clanmallagh By.)	Ring-ditch	T2	4.04km west
AH183	KK004-024	Ballyconra	Armorial plaque (present location)	T7	1.68km southeast
	KK004-024001	Ballyconra	House - 17th century	T7	1.67km southeast

13.4.3.2 Record of Protected Structures

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) and the Laois County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) recognise the value of the built heritage to the county and are committed to the protection and enhancement of this heritage by providing measures for the protection of architectural heritage (Appendix 13-2). These include the establishment of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

There are no recorded architectural heritage sites within the Proposed Development. There are a total of 81 structures recorded within the 5km study area of the Site (Table 13-6, Figures 13-2-7 (Appendix 13-4)) Of these, 56 are both protected structures and listed in the NIAH building survey, seven are protected structures but not listed in the NIAH survey and a further 18 are listed in the NIAH only. There are no recorded architectural sites in the 100m corridor study area for the Proposed Grid Connection Route.

Table 133-6 Built Heritage Sites within the Receiving Environment

BH No.	RPS No	NIAH	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance	Status
Proposed Wind Farm Site							
BH1	C868	12303001	Parksgrove	mill (water)	T7	2.85km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C16	12303002	Parksgrove	school	T7	2.87km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C14	12303003	Ballyragget , Parksgrove	bridge	T7	2.96km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C15	-	Ballyragget	House	T7	3.07km southeast	RPS
	C540	12303004	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.07km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C539	12303005	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.14km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C11	12303006	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.16km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12303007	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.17km southeast	NIAH
	C537	12303008	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.18km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12303009	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.19km southeast	NIAH
	C536	12303010	Ballyragget	unknown	T7	3.19km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C9	-	Ballyragget	Row of 4 Houses	T7	3.21km southeast	RPS
	C12	12303011	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.21km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C541	12303012	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.22km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C6	12303013	Ballyragget	church/ chapel	T7	3.28km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C7	12303014	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.31km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	C479	12303015	Ballyragget	farm house	T7	3.33km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12303017	Ballyragget	water pump	T7	3.15km southeast	NIAH
	-	12303018	Ballyragget	outbuilding	T7	3.23km southeast	NIAH
	-	12303019	Ballyragget	gates/railings /walls	T7	3.25km southeast	NIAH
	C870	12303020	Ballyragget	presbytery/ parochial/ curate's house	T7	3.32km southeast	RPS and NIAH
BH1	-	12303022	Ballyragget	vent pipe	T7	3.37km southeast	NIAH
	C871	12303023	Ballyragget	house	T7	3.31km southeast	RPS and NIAH

BH No.	RPS No	NIAH	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance	Status
	C872	12303024	Ballyragget	bridge	T7	3.28km southeast	RPS and NIAH
BH2	-	12400101	Castlemarket	bridge	T1	4.39km northeast	NIAH
BH3	-	12400102	Castlemarket	bridge	T1	4.95km northeast	NIAH
BH4	C376	12400401	Seskin North	house	T8	867m southwest	RPS and NIAH
	-	12400403	Seskin North	gates/railings/walls	T8	1.06km southwest	NIAH
BH5	C312	12400402	Ballyconra	house	T7	1.67km southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12400404	Ballyconra	gates/railings/walls	T7	1.55km southeast	NIAH
BH6	C262	12400501	Earlsgarden	church/chapel	T1	3.88km northeast	RPS and NIAH
BH8	C347	12400901	Grange	country house	T7	4.49km south-southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12400902	Grange	bridge	T7	4.5km south-southeast	NIAH
	-	12400916	Grange	farmyard complex	T7	4.5km south-southeast	NIAH
	D147	12400917	Grange	dovecote/pigeon house/aviary	T7	4.56km south-southeast	RPS and NIAH
	-	12400918	Grange	bridge	T7	4.59km south-southeast	NIAH
	-	12400919	Grange	gate lodge	T7	4.58km south-southeast	NIAH
	-	12400920	Grange	gates/railings/walls	T7	4.57km south-southeast	NIAH
BH9	C325	12400907	Acragar	country house	T8	4.39km south	RPS and NIAH
BH10	C280	12400908	Lisdowney	church/chapel	T8	2.05km south-southwest	RPS and NIAH
BH11	425	12802942	Moyne	house	T2	4.95km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
BH12	167	12803501	Glebe	church/chapel	T1	2.43km northeast	RPS and NIAH
	169	12803502	Glebe	rectory/glebe/vicarage/curate's house	T1	2.35km northeast	RPS and NIAH
	168	12803503	Grenan	school	T1	2.39km northeast	RPS and NIAH

BH No.	RPS No	NIAH	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance	Status
BH13	525	12803505	Grenan	house	T1	1.3km northeast	RPS and NIAH
BH14	526	12803506	Durrow Townparks , Grenan, Tinwear	bridge	T1	1.26km northeast	RPS and NIAH
BH15	449	12803507	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	1.74km north	RPS and NIAH
BH16	528	12803509	Clonageera	house	T2	1.2km northwest	RPS and NIAH
BH17	448	12803512	Newtown	house	T2	4.83km northwest	RPS and NIAH
BH18	772	12900901	Castledurrow Demesne, Course, Durrow Townparks	bridge	T1	2.61km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	154	12900903	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.55km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	150	12900904	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.57km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	149	12900905	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.57km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	147	12900906	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.58km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	146	12900907	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.58km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	145	12900908	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.59km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	144	12900909	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.59km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
BH18	151	12900910	Durrow Townparks	church/chapel	T1	2.6km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	152	12900911	Castledurrow Demesne	gate lodge	T1	2.53km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	164	12900912	Durrow Townparks	church/chapel	T2	2.45km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	-	12900913	Durrow Townparks	house	T2	2.48km north-northwest	NIAH

BH No.	RPS No	NIAH	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance	Status
	166	12900914	Durrow Townparks	house	T2	2.48km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	155	12900915	Durrow Townparks	court house	T1	2.43km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	157	12900916	Durrow Townparks	house	T2	2.43km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	156	12900917	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.42km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	-	12900918	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.28km north-northwest	NIAH
	790	12900919	Durrow Townparks	Group of houses	T1	2.25km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	162	12900920	Durrow Townparks	church/chapel	T1	2.22km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	165	12900921	Durrow Townparks	school	T1	2.14km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	158	12900922	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.41km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	159	12900924	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.48km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	796	12900925	Durrow Townparks	House	T1	2.46km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	798	12900927	Durrow Townparks	house	T1	2.48km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	409	12900931	Castledurrow Demesne	country house	T2	2.67km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
	163	-	Durrow	Community Hall	T1	2.14km north northwest	RPS
	148	-	Durrow	House	T1	2.58km north-northwest	RPS
BH19	802	12900932	Castledurrow Demesne	obelisk	T2	2.95km north-northwest	RPS and NIAH
BH20	880	-	Newtown	Thatched House	T2	4.2km northwest	RPS

BH No.	RPS No	NIAH	Location	Classification	Nearest Turbine	Distance	Status
BH21	820	-	Dunmore	Gazebo At Dunmore Estate	T1	4.63km north	RPS
BH22	851	-	Castlewood	Bridge	T1	3.56km north	RPS
BH23	-	12400903	Grange	house	T8	4.9km south-southeast	NIAH

13.4.3.3 Architectural Conservation Areas

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) and the Laois County Development Plan (2021 – 2027) recognise the value of the built heritage to the county and are committed to the protection and enhancement of this heritage by providing measures for the protection of architectural heritage (Appendix 13-2). These include the establishment of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).

There are two Architectural Conservation Areas within the 5km study area of the proposed wind farm site. These are the Durrow ACA, c. 2.13km north of T1 and the Ballyragget ACA c. 788m south of the Proposed Grid Connection. The TDR will traverse the Durrow ACA along The Square, Mary Street and Carrigan Street in Durrow Town centre.

13.4.4 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

13.4.4.1 NIAH Buildings Survey

A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey of Counties Laois (2001) and Kilkenny (2004) was undertaken as part of this assessment. A total of 74 structures are listed in the NIAH within the 5km study areas of the proposed wind farm site, which includes 56 which are also protected structures. This includes three structures which are considered to be of national significance- a church in Ballyragget (BH1), a house in Grenan (BH13), and a country house in Castledurrow Demesne (Castledurrow House BH18). Structures are included in Table 13-6 above (Appendix 13-4, Figures 13-1-7).

13.4.4.2 NIAH Garden Survey

The first edition Ordnance Survey maps of Counties Kilkenny and Laois (1842) show the extent of demesne landscapes as shaded portions of land within the 5km study area. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry.

There are 14 designed landscapes shown on the first edition OS map of 1842 within 5km study area of the proposed wind farm site, including 11 gardens recorded within the NIAH Garden Survey. These designed landscapes have been assigned DL reference numbers for the purposes of this assessment (Table 13-7, Appendix 13-4, Figures 13-2-7).

Table 133-7 Designed Landscapes in the Receiving Environment

DL No	NIAH Garden ID	Name	Townland	Nearest Turbine	Distance
DL1	1683	Ballyconra House	Ballyconra	T7	786m south
DL2	1677	Seskin House	Seskin North	T8	126m south

DL No	NIAH Garden ID	Name	Townland	Nearest Turbine	Distance
DL3	-	Aharney House	Aharney	T8	1.48km west-southwest
DL4	-	Archerstown House	Archerstown	T2	802m west-southwest
DL5	254	Grenan House	Grenan	T1	961m east
DL6	246	Castledurrow House	Castledurrow Demesne	T2	1.62km northwest
DL7	-	Ballyragget Lodge	Ballyragget	T7	2.9km southeast
DL8	1684	Grange House	Grange	T7	4.1km south
DL9	1681	Beechhill House	Sweethill	T8	4km south
DL10	1678	Brookville House	Acragar/ Sweethill	T8	3.5km south
DL11	1674	Tinnaslatty House	Tinnaslatty	T8	2.37km southwest
DL12	244	Moyne House	Moyne/ Kylebeg	T1	3.55km north-northeast
DL13	249	Dunmore House	Dunmore/ Coolcorberry	T1	3.7km north
DL14	255	Attanagh House	Glebe/ Grenan	T1	1.99km east

13.4.5 Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland

Information on stray archaeological finds from the study area in Counties Laois and Kilkenny has been recorded by the National Museum of Ireland since the late 18th century. Location information relating to these finds is important in establishing prehistoric and historic activity in the study area. The recorded finds from the study area of the proposed wind farm site are detailed below in Table 13.8.

Table 133-8 Stray Finds listed in the National Museum's Topographical Files

NMI Ref	Find	Townland	Description
RSAI218	Horse tooth	Lisdowney	One horse tooth found March 1850 in a cist in parish of Lisdowney, Co. Kilkenny.
RSAI285	Vase Urn	Coole	Ceramic vase urn found in cist at Ballyouskill, Co. Kilkenny.

NMI Ref	Find	Townland	Description
IA/26/2009, 2009:18	Polished stone axehead	Coole	Polished stone axehead, extensive signs of wear and chipping, especially on the butt and on one long side. L8.9, W 4.8, T2.7. Found on bed of a stream.
SA1928:622	Irin flax hackle	Durrow	Wooden handle, 3 rows of iron teeth. Found Durrow, Co. Laois.

13.4.6 Aerial Photographic Analysis

Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the proposed wind farm site and Proposed Grid Connection held by *Tailte Éireann* (1995–2013), Google Earth (2005–2024), and Bing Maps (2023) revealed that the proposed development area and its surroundings have remained rural in nature and in use as agricultural land.

CH1, refer to Section 13.4.7 below, is visible on the satellite imagery as a heavily vegetated sub-circular anomaly (Table 13.9). While local knowledge suggests this may be the site of an enclosure, no conclusive evidence of such can be discerned from the available aerial photography.

No additional previously unknown features of archaeological potential were identified within the proposed project boundary from the available satellite imagery.

13.4.7 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage (CH) assets can incorporate both archaeological and built heritage remains, which do not have statutory protection, or which have not been previously recorded as heritage assets in any known datasets. Cultural heritage can also incorporate more ephemeral aspects of the heritage environment, including folklore. A number of sources were reviewed in order to identify cultural heritage assets within the 2km study area of the proposed wind farm site and the 50m study area of the Proposed Grid Connection and Turbine Delivery Route (as laid out in Table 13-9 and shown on Figures 13-2-7). These included the historic Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photographic coverage and field inspection.

Table 133-9 Cultural Heritage Sites within the Receiving Environment

CH No	Townlands	Description	Nearest Turbine	Distance from development
CH1	Seskin	A sub-oval stand of vegetation which is believed locally to be an enclosure. It does not appear in the historic OS mapping and field inspection could not confirm if this feature is of archaeological potential.	T4	59m north
CH2	Seskin	A ruined farm house and outbuilding which appear on the historic OS mapping of 1842. Four-bays, two storeys masonry structure with collapsed internal floors. Pitched roof with slates removed. Outbuildings to	T5	0m west of access road

CH No	Townlands	Description	Nearest Turbine	Distance from development
		the west. Principal elevation faces to the south.		
CH3	Ballyconra	A vernacular farmyard complex which is shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. The main house and outbuildings survive in good condition with additional modern agricultural structures.	T7	711m south-southeast
CH4	Ballynaslee	Ruined vernacular building that is marked on the first edition OS map of 1842. Today a number of overgrown masonry walls remain.	T3	23m south of temporary construction compound
CH5	Seskin	Remains of a lime kiln, located adjacent to the site of a quarry, both of which are marked in the historic mapping.	T5	26m west of access road
CH6	Durrow Townparks	Single-storey four-bay vernacular house shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Appears to be incorporated into a larger house.	T1	1.78km north-northwest
CH7	Durrow Townparks	Ruined vernacular building shown on the first edition OS map of 1842 within a complex of buildings and with a lime kiln located along a lane to the east.	T1	1.43km north
CH8	Tinwear	Ruins of a vernacular farmstead shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, now incorporated into a modern farmyard. The modern farmyard sits on the site of a former brickworks shown on the OS map of 1908.	T1	1.08km north
CH9	Capponellan	A small group of buildings shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, complete with a possible orchard. It is not shaded as a demesne landscape but is labelled as 'Capponellan House'.	T2	1.54km northwest
CH10	Capponellan	A small vernacular farmstead shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, expanded to three buildings by the 1908 map. Now forms part of a modern farmyard. .	T2	1.71km northwest

CH No	Townlands	Description	Nearest Turbine	Distance from development
CH11	Archerstown	A group of three ruined structures now overgrown, shown on the historic OS mapping as a farmyard complex.	T2	497m northwest
CH12	Archerstown	Ruins of a vernacular structure shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Only one gable remains upstanding.	T4	1.51km west
CH13	Archerstown	An L-shaped vernacular structure shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, now forming part of a modern farmyard.	T6	1.03km west
CH14	Aharney	Vernacular cottage shown on the first edition OS map of 1842.	T8	1.67m west-southwest
CH15	Lisdowney	Group of vernacular structures and lime kiln shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. It is unclear from the satellite imagery how much of these structures remain.	T8	1.82km southwest
CH16	Seskin Little	Vernacular farmstead, group of three structures shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Now incorporated into a modern farmyard.	T8	1.71km southwest
CH17	Seskin North	Group of three vernacular structures, arranged in a linear pattern along a local road. Shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, the easternmost structure is labelled as a Smithy in the 1908 mapping.	T8	1.42km south-southwest
CH18	Seskin South	A vernacular farmstead shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Now incorporated into a modern farmyard.	T8	1.91km south
CH19	Ballyconra	A vernacular farmstead shown on the first edition OS map of 1842, now forms part of a modern farmyard.	Proposed Grid Connection	410m east of the Proposed Grid Connection
CH20	Ballyconra	A group of vernacular structure shown on the first edition OS map. Now forms part of a modern farmyard.	Proposed Grid Connection	0m east of the Proposed Grid Connection
CH21	Grenan	Two groups of vernacular structures shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Both groups together form a modern farm complex.	T1	1.72km northeast

CH No	Townlands	Description	Nearest Turbine	Distance from development
CH22	Ballynaslee	L-shaped vernacular structure shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. A modern farmyard sits on the site today and it is unclear how much of the structures are upstanding based on the available satellite imagery.	T1	547m east
CH23	Ballynaslee	Vernacular cottage shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. Now incorporated into a modern farmyard.	TDR	320m north of intervention
CH24	Ballynaslee	Vernacular farmstead shown on the first edition OS map of 1842. It is unclear if any of the vernacular structures remain upstanding as the site is currently occupied by a modern farmyard.	Proposed Grid Connection	81m west

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13.4.7.1 Toponymy of Townlands

Townland and topographic names are an invaluable source of information on topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape. They also provide information on history; archaeological monuments and folklore of an area. A place name may refer to a long-forgotten site and may indicate the possibility that the remains of certain sites may still survive below the ground surface. The Ordnance Survey surveyors wrote down townland names in the 1830's and 1840's, when the entire country was mapped for the first time. Some of the townland names in the 5 km study area of the proposed wind farm site are of Irish origin and through time have been anglicised. The main references used for the place name analysis is Irish Local Names Explained by P.W Joyce (1870) and logainm.ie. A description and possible explanation of each place name in the 5km study area of the proposed wind farm site are provided in Table 13-10 below.

Table 133-10 Placename Analysis

Townland	Origin	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Ballyconra	Irish	<i>Béal Átha Conrátha</i>	Mouth of the ringfort/ford
Ballynaslee	Irish	<i>Baile na Slí</i>	The homestead path
Coole	Irish	<i>An Chúil</i>	The corner/nook
Lisdowney	Irish	<i>Lios Dúnaigh</i>	Ringfort of Dunaigh
Moatpark	English	-	Makes reference to a nearby moat
Parksgrove	English	-	Parks grove
Russellstown	English	-	Russells town
Seskin	Irish	<i>An Seisceann</i>	The swamp

Townland	Origin	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Seskin Little	Irish	<i>An Seisceann</i>	The swamp - likely later subdivided into multiple adjacent townlands)
Seskin North	Irish	<i>An Seisceann</i>	The swamp likely (later subdivided into multiple adjacent townlands)
Seskin South	Irish	<i>An Seisceann</i>	The swamp likely (later subdivided into multiple adjacent townlands)
Aharney	Irish	<i>Áth Charna</i>	The ford of the heap
Archerstown	English	-	Archer's town
Capponellan	Irish	<i>Ceapach Niallán</i>	Tillage-plot of Niallán
Castledurrow Demesne	English	-	Castledurrow Demesne
Castlewood	English	-	Castle wood
Clonageera	Irish	<i>Cluain na gCaorach</i>	The pasture of the sheep
Durrow Townparks	English	-	Durrow townparks
Glebe	English	-	Glebe
Grenan	Irish	<i>An Grianán</i>	The eminent place
Tinwear	Irish	<i>Tigh an Mhaoir</i>	The house of the steward
Toberboe or Killenny More	Irish	<i>Tobar Baoith nó Cill Fhinnche Mhór</i>	The well of Baoith or the church of Finneach
Acragar	Irish	<i>An tAcra Gearr</i>	The short acre
Ballyboodin	Irish	<i>Baile Uí Bhuadáin</i>	The town/homestead of Ó Buadáin
Ballygarvan Glebe	Irish	<i>Baile Uí Gharbháin</i>	The town/homestead of Ó Garbháin
Ballygauge Beg	Irish	<i>Baile Dhabhag Beag</i>	The town/homestead of Dabhag (likely subdivided into Mor and Beg at a later date)
Ballygowney	Irish	<i>Baile Uí Ghamhna</i>	The town/homestead of O' Gaffney
Ballykealy	Irish	<i>Baile Uí Chaollaí</i>	The town/homestead of the O' Caollai
Ballymartin	Irish	<i>Baile Uí Mháirtín</i>	The town/homestead of the Martins
Ballynafunshin	Irish	<i>Baile na Fuinseann</i>	The town/homestead of the ash tree
Ballynalacken	Irish	<i>Baile na Leacan</i>	The town/homestead on the hillside
Ballyoskill	Irish	<i>Baile Oscail</i>	The town/homestead of the hallow

Townland	Origin	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Ballyragget	Irish	<i>Béal Átha Ragad</i>	Mouth of the ford
Ballyring Lower	Irish	<i>Baile Rinn</i>	The town/homestead on the headland (likely sub-divided into Lower and Upper at a later date)
Ballyring Upper	Irish	Baile Rinn	The town/homestead on the headland (likely sub-divided into Lower and Upper at a later date)
Barrackquarter or Ross	Irish	<i>An Ros</i>	The wooded height/promontory
Brandra	Irish	<i>Branra</i>	Fallow land
Bunlacken	Irish	<i>Bun Leacan</i>	The bottom of the hillside
Castlemarket	English	-	Castle market
Castlemarket East	English	-	Castle market
Castlemarket West	English	-	Castle market
Castleview	English	-	Castle view
Clone	Irish	<i>Cluain</i>	Meadow
Clontubbrid	Irish	<i>Cluain Tiobraide</i>	The meadow of the spring
Clorhaun	Irish	<i>An Cloichreán</i>	The stoney place
Coolcorberry	Irish	<i>Cúil Chairbre</i>	The corner of Cairbre
Coolnabehy	Irish	<i>Cúil na Beithe</i>	The corner of birch
Course	English	-	Course
Craigueavoice	Irish	<i>Gráig an Bhúisigh</i>	The hamlet of An Búiseach
Cullahill Mountain	Irish	<i>Sliabh na Cúlchoille</i>	The hill of the back wood
Curraghacronacon	Irish	<i>Curach Uí Chrónagáin</i>	The wet land/marsh of Ó Crónagáin
Derreen and Carrowreagh	Irish	<i>An Doirín agus An Cheathrú Riabhach</i>	The little oak wood and the grey quarterland
Donaghmore	Irish	<i>Domhnach Mór</i>	The big church
Dunmore	Irish	<i>An Dún Mór</i>	The big fort
Earlsgarden	English	-	Earl's garden
Fermoye	Irish	<i>Formaoil</i>	The round hill

Townland	Origin	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Finnan	Irish	<i>Fionnán</i>	The white land
Galesquarter	English	-	Gael's quarter
Garrannaguilly	Irish	<i>Garrán na nGiollaí</i>	Grove of the servants
Gorteenara	Irish	<i>Gort an Arbha</i>	Field of the (?)
Gorteennahilla	Irish	<i>Goirtín na hUille</i>	The little field of the corner-hill
Grange	English	-	Grange
Curraun	Irish	<i>An Garrán</i>	The grove
Knockanoran	Irish	<i>Cnoc an Fhuaráin</i>	The hill of the spring
Knocknagrally or Killenny Beg	Irish	<i>Cnoc na Greallaí nó Cill Fhinnche Bheag</i>	The hill of the miry ground or church of Finneach
Kylebeg	Irish	<i>An Chill Bheag</i>	The small church
Lisbigney	Irish	<i>Lios Bhigne</i>	The ringfort of Bigne
Lisduff	Irish	<i>An Lios Dubh</i>	The black ringfort
Loughnamuck	Irish	<i>Loch na Muc</i>	The lake of the pigs
Monphole	Irish	<i>Móin Phóil</i>	The bog of (?)
Moyne	Irish	<i>An Mhaighean</i>	The homestead
Newtown	English	-	New town
Nicholastown	English	-	Nicholas town
Oldtown	English	-	Old town
Raheenduff	Irish	<i>An Ráithín Dubh</i>	The little black ringfort
Raheenleagh	Irish	<i>An Ráithín Liath</i>	The little grey ringfort
Rath	Irish	<i>Rath</i>	The ringfort
Rathduff	Irish	<i>An Ráth Dhubh</i>	The black ringfort
Rosconnell Glebe	Irish	<i>Ros Chonaill</i>	The wooded height of Conall
Skinstown	English	-	Skins town
Sraleagh	Irish	<i>An tSraith Liath</i>	The grey valley or the valley of the grey horse
Stewartsgrove	English	-	Stewart's grove

Townland	Origin	Derivation	Possible Meaning
Swan	English	-	Swan
Sweethill	English	-	Sweet hill
Tifeaghna (Mt Garrett)	Irish	<i>Tigh Fiachna</i>	The house of Fiachna
Tinnalintan	Irish	<i>Tigh na Liantán</i>	The house of the nets
Tinnaslatty	Irish	<i>Tigh na Slaite</i>	The house of the rod
Watercastle	English	-	Water castle

13.4.7.2 Townland Boundaries

The townland is an Irish land unit of considerable longevity as many of the units are likely to represent much earlier land divisions. 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. It is possible that the word is derived from the Old English tun land and meant 'the land forming an estate or manor' (Culleton 1999, 174).

Gaelic land ownership required a clear definition of the territories held by each sept and a need for strong, permanent fences around their territories. It is possible that boundaries following ridge tops, streams or bog are more likely to be older in date than those composed of straight lines (ibid. 179).

The vast majority of townlands are referred to in the 17th century, when land documentation records begin. 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. Therefore, most are in the context of pre-17th century landscape organisation (McErlean 1983, 315).

In the 19th century, some demesnes, deer parks or large farms were given townland status during the Ordnance Survey and some imprecise townland boundaries in areas such as bogs or lakes, were given more precise definition (ibid.). Larger tracks of land were divided into a number of townlands, and named Upper, Middle or Lower, as well as Beg and More (small and large) and north, east, south and west (Culleton 1999, 179). By the time the first Ordnance Survey had been completed a total of 62,000 townlands were recorded in Ireland.

Although not usually recorded as archaeological monuments in their own right, townland boundaries are important as cultural heritage features. It remains unclear how old some of these land units actually are, though it has been convincingly argued that many may date to at least the medieval period and, in some cases, may be significantly older than this (McErlean 1983; MacCotter 2008).

The Proposed Wind Farm is located within the townlands of Ballyconra, Seskin, Seskin North and Ballynaslee, County Kilkenny, and Archerstown and Tinwear, County Laois. The Proposed Grid Connection passes through Ballyconra and Moatpark in County Kilkenny. The townland boundaries within the overall development area are retained in the landscape as field boundaries as shown on Figure 13-1. Of the most significant among is the townland boundary between Archerstown and Tinwear to the north and Seskin and Ballynaslee to the south, as this boundary also functions as the county boundary between County Laois to the north and County Kilkenny to the south.

Field Inspection

A field inspection of the Site was carried out on the 28th May 2024 and the 5th November 2024. It is noted that the Proposed Wind Farm is located within good quality pasture for the most part and therefore the potential exists that previously unrecorded archaeological remains survive within the footprint of the proposed development, which have no upstanding remains. This is especially pertinent to areas such as borrow pits, the substation site and compound (Plates 13-1 to 13-9). One potential enclosure was identified located c. 59m north of T4 (CH1). This comprises an oval area of woodland occupying a moderate north facing slope (Plate 13-8). No obvious remains of an enclosure were noted, but the landowner notes that this may be the site of an enclosure.

The field inspection did identify a number of built heritage sites within the proposed development area, which although are not listed as protected structures or listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, do possess architectural heritage merit. This includes a vernacular farmstead at the very southern extent of the development area (CH3, Plate 13-10) and an early 19th century house (in ruins)(CH2) and lime kiln (CH5) between T5 and 6 (Plates 13-11-13).

The very overgrown ruins of a small vernacular farm are located to the immediate south of a proposed temporary construction compound (CH4, Plate 13-14). The built remains are heavily overgrown but some masonry remains visible.

The Proposed Gird Connection will follow the national road network to the east of the development area. The eastern section of the route will cross three fields of pasture that slopes gently to the west before travelling beneath the River Nore via horizontal directional drilling. No previously unrecorded archaeological or cultural heritage features were noted in this area (Plates 13.15-16).

The proposed TDR will travel along the established road network. None of the inventions within the road that are proposed contain any recorded or previously unrecorded sites of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage significance.



Plate 13-1 Site of T7, facing west



Plate 13-2 Site of T8, facing southwest



Plate 13-3 Site of T6, facing east



Plate 13-4 Site of T5, facing north-northwest



Plate 13-5 Site of borrow pit, facing east



Plate 13-6 Site of compound, facing east



Plate 13-7 Site T2, facing northeast

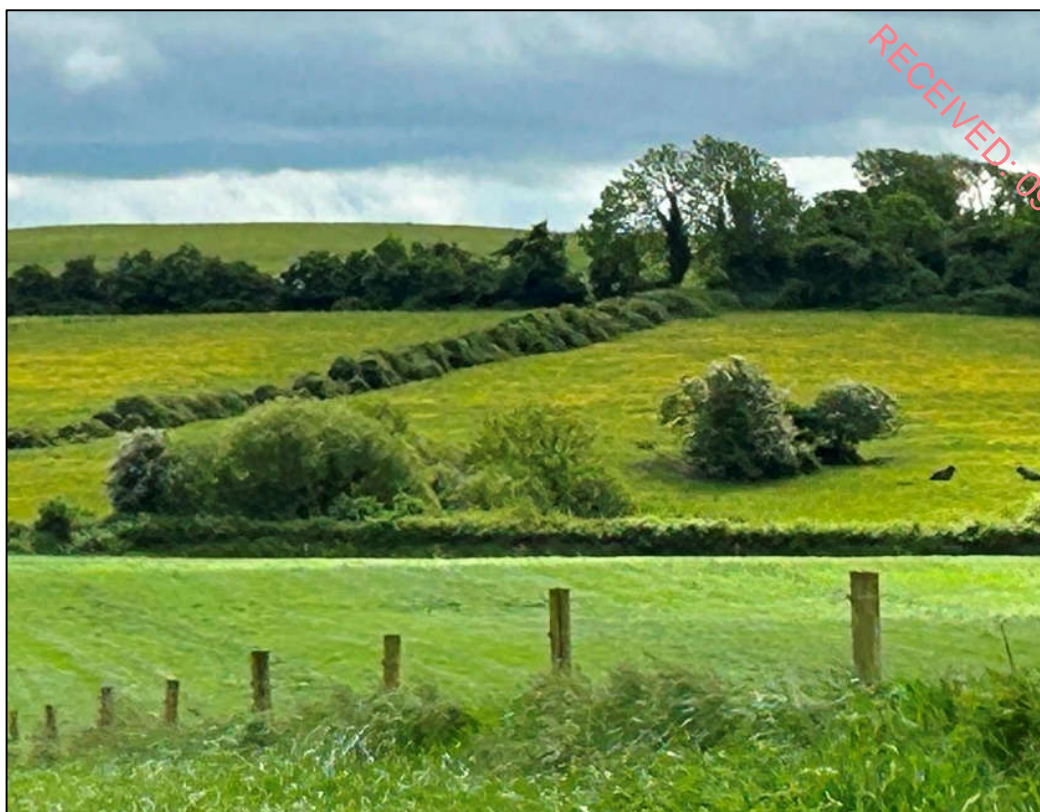


Plate 13-8 Site T4, facing southeast (CH1 in mid-ground)



Plate 13-9 Site T1, facing northeast



Plate 13-10 Vernacular farm (CH3), facing north



Plate 13-11 Ruined house (CH2), facing northwest



Plate 13-12 Ruined house (CH2), facing south



Plate 13-13 Lime kiln (CH5), facing west



Plate 13-14 Ruined structure at CH4, facing southwest



Plate 13-15 Route of cable, facing northeast towards Ballyragget substation



Plate 13-16 Route of cable, facing west-southwest

13.5 Likely Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures

13.5.1 Do Nothing Scenario

There will no impact on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource if the Proposed Development were not to proceed.

13.5.2 Construction Phase

The construction of the Proposed Development will not result in any direct, negative effects on the recorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as none of these sites are located within the footprint of the development that requires excavations and ground works.

It is possible that the construction of the wind farm and the cable route, in greenfield area, will result in direct, negative (permanent) effects on previously unrecorded archaeological remains that may survive within these areas with no surface expression. Construction effects comprise topsoil stripping and excavations associated with the installation of turbines, crane pads, cable routes, access roads, temporary construction compound and borrow pit. Effects, dependent on the sensitivity of any remains identified and prior to the application of mitigation, have the potential to be moderate to very significant.

The construction of the development will not result in any effects on the CH sites identified during the course of this assessment. There will be a number of direct, negative effects on sections of townland boundaries that will be crossed by the access road or where sections will be removed due to ecological constraints. One small section will be removed between Seskin and Ballycrona; three short sections will

be removed between Seskin and Ballynaslee; two small sections will be removed between Seskin and Tinwear and three small sections between Archerstown and Tinwear. The townland boundaries are of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impact is low. Overall, the significance of effect is considered slight in each case.

Prior to the commencement of construction, a programme of archaeological test trenching will be carried out at the location of the proposed turbine hardstands, compound, borrow pit and along the access roads. This work will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH. Dependent on the results of the testing assessment, further mitigation may be required, such as preservation by record or in-situ and/or archaeological monitoring. Any further mitigation will require agreement from the DHLGH.

All inventions that are required along townland boundaries, as part of the construction of the proposed development, will be subject to archaeological monitoring, to include a full record of the sections of townland boundaries that are removed. This work will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH.

All topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development, including site investigation, will be subject to archaeological monitoring. This work will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH. If archaeological remains are identified during the course of these works further mitigation may be required, such as preservation by record or in-situ. Any further mitigation will require agreement from the DHLGH.

13.5.3 Operational Phase (Indirect Effects)

A full assessment of the potential, indirect operational phase effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource has been carried out and is included in Appendix 13.3. This has been carried out utilizing the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping and photomontages for the development, produced as part of the Landscape and Visual assessment (Chapter 14). It should be noted that the ZTV is a bare-earth model and does not take account of any potential screening from vegetation or buildings. Where no impact is defined in Appendix 13-3, this is due to the fact that the site is either no longer extant, or the ZTV mapping indicates no turbine visibility from this location. The assessment assumes long term effects based on the proposed operational life of 35 years.

13.5.3.1 Sites of National Significance within 10km of the Proposed Wind Farm

With regards to sites of national significance, no significant negative operational impacts have been identified. One indirect, negative impact has been identified of moderate significance of effect, which relates to the site of a castle (AH52) c. 1.99km east-southeast of Turbine 7.

13.5.3.2 Archaeological Heritage (AH) sites within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm

Two significant negative operational impacts have been identified in relation to recorded Archaeological Heritage sites due to the proximity of the proposed turbines. These sites consist of two upstanding ringforts (AH13 and 29). AH13 is located 235m west-northwest of Turbine 7; 400m northeast of Turbine 8 and 410m west-southwest of Turbine 6. Turbine 5 is located 810m to the north-northwest. The only view of the monument that will remain unaffected by the turbines, is the view to the northeast.

AH29 occupies an elevated position in the landscape and is 215m southeast of Turbine 4; 440m southwest of Turbine 3 and 485m northwest of Turbine 5, with further turbines located to the north and

south. The only view of the monument that will remain unaffected by the turbines, is the view to the southwest.

Moderate negative effects are predicted on a further seven sites (AH 6, 7, 10, 14, 23, 43, 69) due to the proximity of the proposed turbine layout within the landscape.

The remaining operational effects vary between not significant and slight negative, with a number of sites not subject to any effects due to the fact that the Theoretical Zone of Visibility mapping indicates that the turbines will not be visible from certain portions of the study area.

13.5.3.3 **Built Heritage (BH) sites within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm**

No significant or moderate negative operational effects are predicted upon Built Heritage sites within the 5km study area.

The remaining operational effects vary between imperceptible and slight negative, with a number of sites not subject to any effects due to the fact that the Theoretical Zone of Visibility mapping indicates that the turbines will not be visible from certain portions of the study area.

13.5.3.4 **Designed Landscapes (DL) within 5km of the Proposed Wind Farm**

No significant negative operational effects are predicted upon the Designed Landscapes within the 5km study area. Moderate effects are predicted in relation to five Designed Landscapes (DL2, 4, 5, 6, 14) due to the proximity of the proposed turbine layout within the landscape.

The remaining operational effects vary between imperceptible and slight negative.

13.5.3.5 **Cultural Heritage (CH) sites within 2km of the Proposed Wind Farm**

No significant negative operational effects are predicted upon the Cultural Heritage sites within the 2km study area. Moderate effects are predicted in relation to four Cultural Heritage sites (CH1, 2, 3, 5) due to the proximity of the proposed turbine layout within the landscape.

The remaining operational effects vary between imperceptible and slight negative.

It is not possible to mitigate indirect effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource, due to the nature and scale of the proposed turbines within the landscape. It is noted that effects are not permanent and would be removed following the decommissioning and removal of the turbines.

13.5.4 **Decommissioning Phase**

The decommissioning of the proposed development will not have any negative effects on the archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resource as no new ground disturbances will be introduced that may affect buried archaeological remains.

No mitigation is required for the decommissioning phase, as no effects are predicted.

13.5.5 Residual Effects

Following the completion of all construction mitigation measures, there will be no significant residual effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource.

There will be residual effects on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource, due to indirect effects on the setting of a number of recorded sites and structures. Two sites (AH 13 and 29) will be indirectly significantly affected and whilst this is a long-term effect, it is not permanent.

13.5.6 Cumulative Effects

A review of the proposed and permitted, non-wind energy developments within 5km of the proposed project has been carried out in order to identify any potential construction cumulative effects. The study area reflects the 5km study area assessed for the Proposed Wind Farm, in terms of sites subject to statutory protection. Given that any archaeological remains identified within the footprint of the proposed project will be preserved in-situ or by record, no negative cumulative construction effects have been identified.

The following proposed or permitted wind farms, listed in Table 13-11, within 20km of the Proposed Wind Farm have been assessed for potential negative operational cumulative impacts upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resource.

- > Permitted Foyle Extension Wind Farm (c. 18.5km south-southwest)
- > Permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm (c. 14.5km northeast)
- > Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (c. 5.8km east)
- > Permitted Cullenagh Wind Farm (c. 14km northeast)
- > Proposed Coolglass Wind Farm (c. 18km northeast)
- > Proposed White Hill Wind Farm (c. 20km southeast)
- > Proposed Briskalagh Wind Farm (c. 18km south)

No negative cumulative effects have been identified. Whilst the wind farms will be visible in the wider landscape, their presence would not increase the significance of effect that is predicted to occur on any one site (AH, BH, CH, DL) as part of the Seskin Renewables Wind Farm.