



## **Chapter 10: Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment**

### **Ros an Mhil Deep Water Quay**

**Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine**

**November 2025**



## Contents

10. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment .....	10-1
10.1 Introduction .....	10-1
10.2 Methodology.....	10-1
10.2.1 Desktop Study.....	10-1
10.2.2 Field Inspection .....	10-2
10.2.2.1 Terrestrial Field Inspection .....	10-2
10.2.2.2 Marine Field Inspection .....	10-2
10.2.3 Governing Legislation.....	10-2
10.2.3.1 National Monuments.....	10-3
10.2.3.2 Preservation Orders/Temporary Preservation Orders.....	10-3
10.2.3.3 Register of Historic Monuments .....	10-3
10.2.3.4 The Record of Monuments and Places .....	10-3
10.2.3.5 Protection under the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 .....	10-4
10.2.3.6 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) .....	10-4
10.3 Baseline Environment.....	10-4
10.3.1 Study Area .....	10-4
10.3.2 Topography.....	10-4
10.3.3 Aspect .....	10-5
10.3.4 Location and Historical Background and Townland .....	10-5
10.3.5 Cartographic Information .....	10-5
10.3.6 Excavation Evidence .....	10-7
10.4 Archaeological Environment .....	10-7
10.4.1 Prehistoric Period .....	10-8
10.4.2 Neolithic Period .....	10-8
10.4.3 Chalcolithic Period.....	10-8
10.4.4 Bronze Age Period.....	10-8
10.4.5 Iron Age Period.....	10-8
10.4.6 Historic Period .....	10-9
10.4.7 Proposed Development Area .....	10-12
10.5 Description of Likely Effects .....	10-13
10.5.1 Construction Phase Effects .....	10-13

10.5.2	Operational Phase Effects.....	10-14
10.6	Mitigation Measures.....	10-14
10.7	Residual Effects .....	10-14
10.8	Cumulative Effects .....	10-16
10.9	Conclusions .....	10-16

## Tables

Table 10-1: Summary of Monuments and Heritage Resources Recorded for the local area around the proposed deep water harbour site. ....	10-10
Table 10-2: Pre-Mitigation Effects on Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage Resources .....	10-13
Table 10-3: Residual Effects.....	10-15

## Figures

Figure 10-1: Proposed Deep Water Quay Location .....	10-5
Figure 10-2: Early Cartographic Mapping with Deep Water Quay Footprint .....	10-6
Figure 10-3: Early Cartographic Mapping with Deep Water Quay Footprint .....	10-6
Figure 10-4: Recorded Archaeological Monuments in vicinity of Proposed Deep Water Quay (Discovery) .....	10-11
Figure 10-5: Recorded Archaeological Monuments in vicinity of Proposed Deep Water Quay (Aerial).....	10-12

## Appendices

Appendix 10A – Archaeological Marine Survey Information
Appendix 10B – Archaeological Marine Monitoring Report 2024

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## **10. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment**

### **10.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides an assessment of the proposed deep water quay and its effect on the receiving archaeological, architectural and cultural environment. Its primary aim is to assess the likely effect that the proposed development will have on this cultural and heritage environment, and to provide suitable mitigation measures to safeguard any monuments, features and finds which may be of cultural heritage merit within the subject site or in its immediate vicinity.

This assessment draws considerably on the baseline assessment and EIS undertaken for the Ros an Mhíl Deep Water Quay in 2017 as part of the original planning application.

### **10.2 Methodology**

#### **10.2.1 Desktop Study**

For the purpose of setting the deep water quay within its wider archaeological and architecture and cultural heritage landscape, and to assess the potential effect arising from same, a desktop assessment of available archaeological, historical and cartographic sources was undertaken. The desktop study employed a range of archival and documentary sources; the principal sources consulted being as follows:

- The Site and Monuments files with the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA);
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR);
- Underwater Unit DAHRRGA inventory of wrecks and record of piers and harbours;
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
- The County Development Plan for County Galway (2022-2028);
- Gaeltacht Local Area Plan 2008-2018 (amended 2013, pp13, 16);
- The Record of Protected Structures for County Galway;
- The Architectural Conservation Areas for County Galway;
- The Archaeological Inventory of County Galway;
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage;
- Ordnance survey mapping, current and historic;
- Ordnance survey aerial photography, current and historic;
- The Griffiths Valuation;
- Rossaveel Deep Water Quay Environmental Impact Statement, DAFM, 2002 and 2017; and
- Other published and unpublished sources.

## 10.2.2 Field Inspection

### 10.2.2.1 Terrestrial Field Inspection

A site inspection of the terrestrial aspects of the proposed development was carried out by Frank Coyne of Aegis Archaeology Limited on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2016. The purpose of the site inspection field inspection was to identify any unrecorded cultural heritage remains within the receiving environment.

### 10.2.2.2 Marine Field Inspection

The underwater assessment of the marine environment was undertaken in 2000 by Boland Archaeology Services Limited. The methodology used in the underwater assessment, which comprised geophysical and side sonar surveys, was as follows:

- Interpreters of geophysical data tend to concentrate on anomalies, i.e. on appreciable differences between a constant or smoothly varying background and a very strong or 'anomalous' geophysical signature. Archaeo-geophysical anomalies take many forms. For example, a concentration of iron cannon in gullies on a bedrock substrate would give rise to a sharp magnetic anomaly, but may not be imaged in a side-scan sonar survey. Conversely, a wooden vessel on a planar sand substrate may present a noticeable high-back scatter anomaly on side-scan data, but would not be imaged in a magnetometer survey. For archaeological surveys, a calm sea state is an essential prerequisite, as the majority of the geophysical interpretation requires the identification of very subtle anomalies.
- Magnetometers measure the strength of the earth's magnetic field and can detect variations in this field caused by the presence of ferrous material or ferrous objects submerged or buried in the marine environment. The magnetometer survey of the Ros an Mhíl site was conducted using an Aquascan AX2000 proton magnetometer linked to the Litton Marine LMX-400 DGPS unit. Trackline spacing followed the same 50m pattern as the side-scan sonar survey, thus ensuring adequate coverage for archaeological survey as then recommended by Duchas (now the National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA)).
- Side-scan sonar is the current instrument of choice in seafloor mapping due to its ability to cover large tracts of the seafloor in short time-periods. The most common uses of side-scan sonar include sediment mapping, shipwreck location and downed aircraft location. A basic side-scan sonar system consists of topside processing unit, a cable for electronic transmission and towing, and a subsurface unit (a towfish) that transmits and receives acoustic energy for imaging. Side-scan transmits narrow beams of acoustic energy (sound) out to either side of the towfish and across the bottom. Sound is reflected back from the bottom and from objects to the towfish. The side-scan sonar survey of the Ros an Mhíl site was conducted using a dual-frequency GeoAcoustics Model 159A side-scan sonar towfish and Model SS941 transceiver system at an operational frequency of 500 kHz.

Information pertaining to the original 2000 marine archaeological assessment is included in **Volume III, Appendix 10A** Archaeological Marine Survey Report and Data of this EIAR.

## 10.2.3 Governing Legislation

Ireland is a signatory to, amongst others, two key international conventions that aim to protect cultural heritage. These are:

- The 1985 European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage (the ‘Grenada Convention’), which aims to ‘make provision for the protection of monuments, groups of buildings and sites’ that are of ‘historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest’ (Article 1 & 3). This was ratified by Ireland in 1997.
- The 1992 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the ‘Valletta Convention’), which aims to ‘protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study’ (Article 1). This was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

Provisions made in these conventions have been transcribed into Irish law through the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (Commencement) Order 2024, (SI No. 252 of 2024 (as amended), the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1930-2004, the Heritage Act 1995 and 2018 (as amended), the Cultural Institutions Act 1997, the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations 2000-2022. Combined, these legal frameworks and associated national policies are the primary means of governing how cultural heritage in Ireland is protected and managed. Additional governing legislation in Ireland is set out in the following sections:

#### 10.2.3.1 National Monuments

Under Section 2, of the National Monuments Act 1930, a national monument 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 in the ownership or guardianship of the State or of the Local Authority cannot be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

#### 10.2.3.2 Preservation Orders/Temporary Preservation Orders

Under the original National Monuments Act 1930 any monument in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders, making any work on or in the vicinity the monument illegal. Such works can only take place with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister. These powers were extended under the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1954, such that Temporary Preservation Orders, with a time limit of six months, can be allocated to monuments deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction.

#### 10.2.3.3 Register of Historic Monuments

The National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1987, Section 5, provided for the creation of a Register of Historic Monuments. Monuments registered by this mechanism are protected by law against interference. Two months notice must be given to the Minister prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a monument on the register.

#### 10.2.3.4 The Record of Monuments and Places

Section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1994 provided for the establishment of a Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) to list, with accompanying mapping, where, in the opinion of the Minister, monuments are believed to exist. Two months notice must be given to the Minister in advance of any works being undertaken at or in the vicinity of a monument so recorded, save in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister.



#### **10.2.3.5 Protection under the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999**

This Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record, and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was duly established in 1990. While the inclusion of a site in the inventory does not in itself provide statutory protection, the survey information is used in conjunction with the Architectural Heritage Protection: guidelines for planning authorities (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government) to advise local authorities on the compilation of a Record of Protected Structures as required by the Part IV of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

#### **10.2.3.6 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)**

The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 provides for the creation of a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and for the identification of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) by local authorities for inclusion in the county development plans. The legislation stipulates that planning permission is required in cases of any works that would affect the character of a structure listed on the Record of Protected Structures. The Galway County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 has a number of architectural heritage policies and objectives outlined including to conserve and enhance the special character of the ACAs included in the plan

### **10.3 Baseline Environment**

#### **10.3.1 Study Area**

A 500m buffer area centred on the deep water quay was considered to assess the wider existing environment of the subject site. Baseline data was collated on the number, range, character, and sensitivity of sites within the existing environment. In addition, a 1km buffer centred on the deep water quay was considered for the purpose of the wider landscape assessment. This area was used to gauge the broader cultural heritage landscape context of the subject site. The site is currently accessed by a third class road, the R372.

#### **10.3.2 Topography**

The site generally lies in an area of coastal land, and water on the northwest shore of Rossaveel Hill. The local topography area is dominated by the water of Cashla or Costelloe Bay to the west and north and Rossaveel Hill (48m OD) to the south east, as shown on **Figure 10-1**.

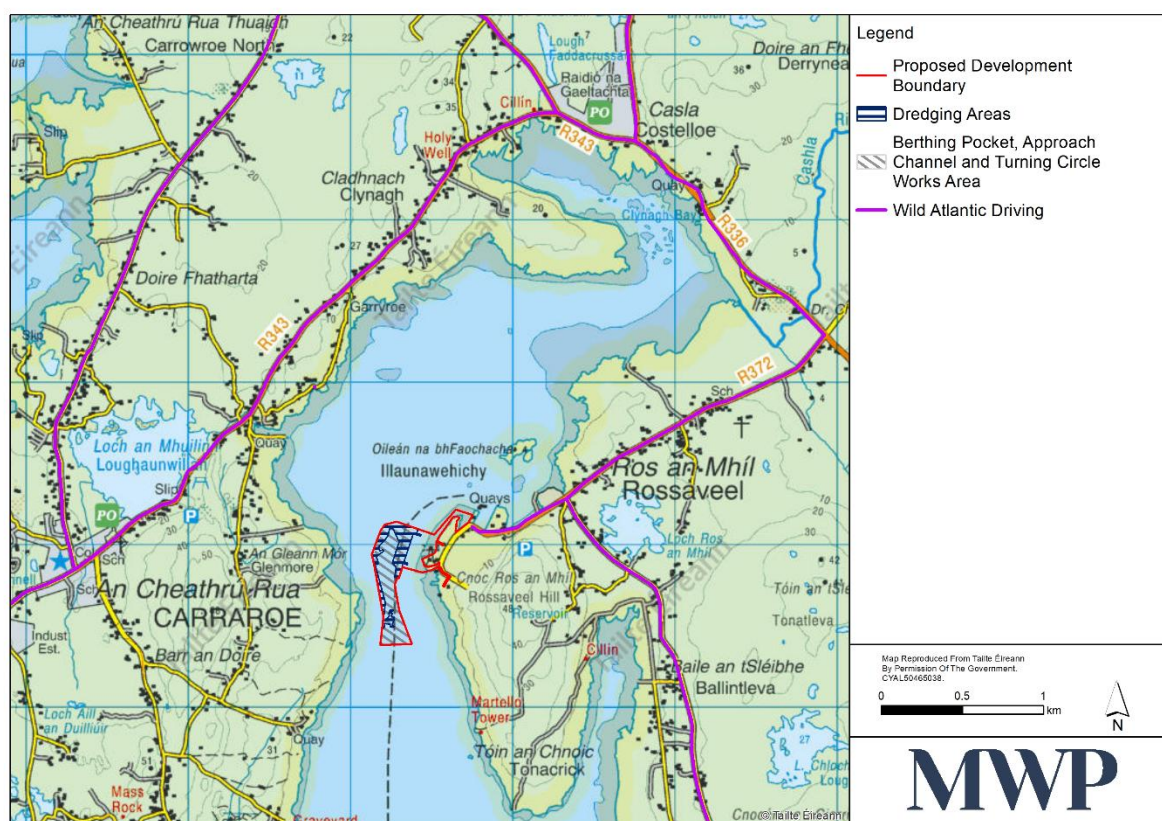


Figure 10-1: Proposed Deep Water Quay Location

### 10.3.3 Aspect

The majority of the study area is a low lying coastal strip of land on the eastern shore of Cashla Bay (<10m OD) and a stretch of seawater within the bay itself. The land to the east rises gradually to the summit of Rossaveel Hill to the southeast of the subject site.

### 10.3.4 Location and Historical Background and Townland

The subject site is located in the townland of Rossaveel, which lies in the civil parish of Kilcummin and the barony of Moycullen. It is located in the western portion of the townland, and on the western shore of a peninsula dominated by Rossaveel Hill. The name of the townland 'Rossaveel' in Irish is 'Ros an Mhíl', which when translated means the wooded height, or wooded promontory. Throughout the seventeenth century the place was variably known and spelled as Rosseville, Rosseveleagh, Rossavile, Rossarelle and Rossaveel.

### 10.3.5 Cartographic Information

Cartographic sources were examined as these sources can provide information on activities that took place on the subject site and its vicinity which have long since disappeared. **Figure 10-2** and **Figure 10-3** illustrates the subject site on mapping dating from 1840-1935.

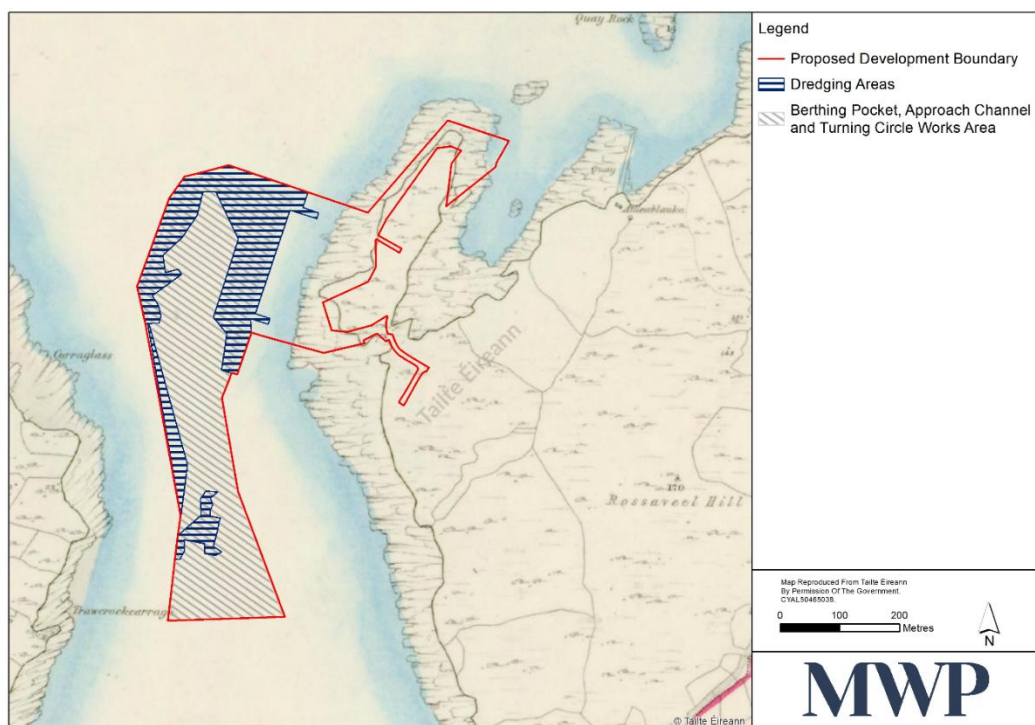


Figure 10-2: Early Cartographic Mapping with Deep Water Quay Footprint

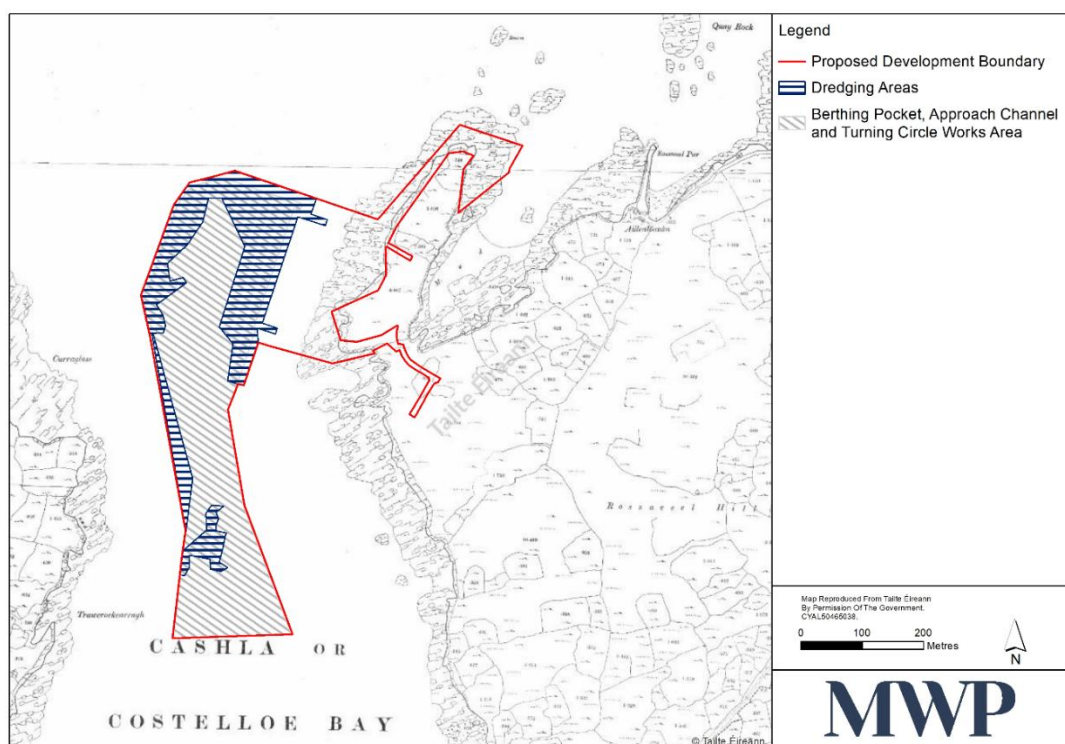


Figure 10-3: Early Cartographic Mapping with Deep Water Quay Footprint

### 10.3.6 Excavation Evidence

Annual summary reports of excavations undertaken in Ireland have been published in various forms since 1969. Reports for the period 1970-2024 are available at [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie) and from 1970-2010 additionally in printed format. These are an invaluable resource in researching the results of past excavations and investigations in Ireland, and are a good indicator as to the likely potential archaeology of adjacent development. Experience shows that the actual amount of archaeological, cultural and architectural heritage in any given area, particularly in larger areas, can be considerably greater than that which might be gleaned from existing records. In many cases archaeological sites show no above ground register and no written record and are only discovered in the course of more extensive archaeological investigations undertaken in advance of development. It is assumed, therefore, that as yet undiscovered archaeological remains may exist with the lands required for the proposed development. A search of the excavations database did not contain information on any licenced archaeological work being undertaken within the townland of Rossaveel or in its immediate vicinity.

A total of 12 No. excavation entries are recorded on lands along the South Connemara coastline of Galway Bay, spanning from Kilkieran to Spiddal (McCullough, 2003; Moore, 2008; Carey, 2016a; Carey, 2016b; O'Sullivan, 2002; O'Driscoll, 2009; Gibbons, 1991; Costello, 2013; Quinn, 2011; Walsh, 2023; Delaney, 2012; Healy, 2024). None of these excavations are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, with the nearest site situated approximately 3km to the north of the proposed development.

## 10.4 Archaeological Environment

Human occupation on the island of Ireland can be currently traced back some ten thousand years. Archaeological sites survive today as upstanding structures, earthwork monuments or subsurface remains. Landscape change in Ireland has accelerated in the second half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, and many archaeological sites have been levelled by activities associated with modern development, agriculture, industry, housing developments and infrastructural improvements. This has culminated in the current visible archaeological landscape which is not fully representative of the full span of human activity. In the case of the subject site, the archaeological environment of the land and the sea (underwater) has been considered. The archaeological timescale can be divided into the following periods, some of the periods especially those forming the prehistoric period have significant overlap in reality:

- Prehistoric Period: (c. 8000 – 700BC);
- Mesolithic (c. 8000 - 3900BC);
- Neolithic (c.3900 - 2450BC);
- Chalcolithic Age (c.2450 - 2200BC);
- Bronze Age (c. 2200 - 700BC);
- Iron Age (c. 700BC - AD400);
- Early Medieval Period (AD400 - 1169);
- Late Medieval (c.AD1169 - 1534);
- Post Medieval Period (c. AD1534 – 1700); and
- Early Modern Period (cAD1700-1900).

#### **10.4.1 Prehistoric Period**

This period spans a considerable period of time, from the initial colonisation of the island (c. 8000 BC) in the Mesolithic. People at this time are thought to have been nomadic using seasonal camps in the coastal zone, lakeshore and riverine locations, following a hunter gathering lifestyle. The nature of the archaeological evidence relating to this period is ephemeral and difficult to identify. Many coastal middens may date to this period, although without dating evidence this cannot be confirmed, and some have been found to date as late as the post-medieval period. Two examples in the vicinity of Ros an Mhíl have not been dated (GA090-009--- An Caorán Beag, GA091-012--- Kerraunngark South).

#### **10.4.2 Neolithic Period**

The Neolithic period brought a transformation of lifestyle to a more sedentary way of life and farming practices introduced – although gathering and hunting likely continued also. Monumental structures for dead were first constructed at this time (portal, passage, and court tombs. Wedge tombs were built at the very end of the period and continued into the Bronze Age). The Galway Bay area has several examples of megalithic tombs, indicating human presence in the Neolithic period at Inishmór (GA110-053---; -098---; -141---), Inishman (GA119- 036---; -077---; and -078---), Inis óirr (GA120-015--- and -020---) and other sites on the main land (Garraun South, Propect Hill, Oughtdarra and Ballynahown).

Radio carbon dating of bark from tree stumps from the north shore of Galway Bay returned Neolithic dates dates of 6500-5400BP (before present), or approximately 4,500-3,400BC. In 2002 a pine logboat was discovered near Bearna and was dated to c. 3,500BC showing that prehistoric peoples used boats and likely constructed them.

#### **10.4.3 Chalcolithic Period**

The monumentality of the Neolithic wanes in the Chalcolithic, although wedge tombs are used, and Bronze Age. This period is represented in the archaeological landscape by burnt mounds and fulachta fiadh. There is one on Inishmór and another on Inishmean (GA110-173--- and GA119-090--- respectively). The greatest concentration is on the northern and eastern fringes of Galway Bay. Fulachta fiadh, were used, it is thought, for heating water for a variety of purposes for example cooking, bathing, saunas or dyeing.

#### **10.4.4 Bronze Age Period**

Bronze Age activity is more easily identified in the landscape by standing stones, as an alignment, stone row, stone pairs, or singly. Single standing stone examples are recorded in Roscam (GA094-071---), and Inishmór (GA110-026; -062---; -085001-). They may have functioned as burial markers or territorial boundary markers to denote the extent of tribal or familial boundaries.

#### **10.4.5 Iron Age Period**

Iron Age monuments are generally less common than those of previous periods. Those occurring in the Galway Bay area include four promontory forts on the Inis Mór. It is known from Ptolomey's Map that mariners were voyaging and trading along the western Atlantic coast by this time, beyond the Mediterranean Sea and Ireland appears in maps and writings at this time.



#### 10.4.6 Historic Period

The historic period spans the early medieval period, through the late medieval, post-medieval and early modern period, right up to the present day. Much of Ireland's identity as a predominantly Catholic nation stems from the arrival of Christianity into Ireland in the early medieval period. Equally, the strong cultural affinity to sovereignty and self-rule stems from the turbulent and protracted periods of struggle and conflict, beginning with the resistance to the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland in the late medieval period and continuing through the Tudor conquest and the War of Independence. The location and nature of the various sites and buildings of archaeological interest almost all reflect aspects of social control and resource exploitation.

Early medieval settlement in the landscape is evidenced by the many ringforts and cashels. Many of the coastal townlands in the Galway Bay area contain ringforts. It is thought they were occupied by relatively wealthier extended family units and were likely self-sufficient. The interior would have contained features such as domestic dwellings, outhouses, animal pens, food processing structures, craft areas, hearths and souterrains. A mixed economy would have been practised which would have involved cereal growing and animal husbandry, in particular, dairying. The enclosure located on the shoreline at Clynagh (GA078-007---) no longer has any above ground register but early mapping shows it as a circular enclosure indicating that it may have been an early medieval ringfort. Its location next to the sea is unusual in a national context, but given the topography of the region around Galway Bay, it may have been considered a suitable location for an extended family farmstead.

Early Medieval sites are also manifest in the wider coastal area by a small number of ecclesiastic enclosures. An early monastic site was reputedly founded by St. Odhran in the sixth century at Roscam in Galway Bay (GA094-072---). This early ecclesiastic monastery, including a round tower, was attacked by Viking raiders in AD807 who also burned Inishmurray off Sligo the same year. Significant ecclesiastical sites were founded on several islands in Galway Bay, some becoming important pilgrimage centres. Several were established on the Aran Islands including those founded by St. Enda, St. Ciarán and St. Breacan. Seafaring and voyaging was a theme in the lives these early Irish saints, the most famous being St Brendan the Navigator.

From the thirteenth century the O'Flaherty family controlled most of the lands to the west of Galway City including the area around Ros an Mhíl. Galway developed into a significant trading centre establishing extensive trading networks across Europe thus increasing shipping traffic in the bay. The staple imports were wine, iron and salt. Goods exported included salted fish, hides, cloth, wool and excess agricultural produce which merchants obtained through a system of barter from the Gaelic-Irish community. However, the most clearly datable evidence for later medieval settlement on the shores of Cashla Bay is the medieval church at Teampall Inis Mac Adhaimh with its associated burial places, which is thought to date from the fourteenth century (GA090-002---, GA090-003001- and -002-, Barraderry), which Gosling describes of simple rectangular type and likely used a parish church. The holy well at Clynagh (GA078-006---) may also indicate ritual activity in the early medieval or later periods. It is thought that holy wells may have already been ritual places in the later historic period, which were then Christianised to incorporate them into the new religion. Furthermore, holy wells have a post-medieval and early modern phase to their use, as many were re-activated as part of parish patterns and local saints' feast days. The children's burial ground at Derrynea (GA078-009---) could originate in the medieval period and was likely in use to modern time (see Ros an Mhíl children's burial ground).

The establishment of the Commonwealth in 1649, facilitated Cromwell to lead a Parliamentary invasion of Ireland. Cromwell's campaign was a success in the east of the country and by the end of 1650 only the fortified towns of Limerick, Galway and territory west of the Shannon remained in Irish control. The O'Flahertys and the Galway merchants first united against Cromwell's forces but were ultimately defeated surrendering in 1652.

Later at the turn of the nineteenth century, as a response to the threat of a Napoleonic invasion a series of Martello towers were constructed along the Irish coastline including Rosaveel Tower, in Cashla Bay. The Martello Tower is on the national inventory of architectural heritage (NIAH reg. No. 30409010). The Martello tower is sited

at the coastline and was constructed in 1811- 1814 and dates to the early modern period. It is a coastal defence tower, usually circular in plan with a first floor entrance and was erected as part of the anti-invasion defences during the Napoleonic Wars (1804-1812). The tower had a complement of thirty men and a single cannon mounted on its roof. According to Gosling, this cannon platform is one of only two pieces of original military ordnance still *in situ* in the Martello towers of Ireland. In 1822, a quay at Ros an Mhíl was begun by Alexander Nimmo, who also planned other piers and quays and Connemara's road network.

The unclassified mill in the same townland (GA090-008---) functioned as a corn mill in the nineteenth century and a mill was recorded there in the 1780s. The origin of this site as a mill may be earlier than this date, and mills of late medieval and early medieval date have been excavated in other parts of the country. The two closest recorded archaeological monuments to the development site lay 1km to the southeast and relate to human activity in the historic period. They are classified as a Martello Tower (GA090-018---) described above, and a Children's Burial Ground (GA090-017001-) as shown in **Figure 10-4** and **Figure 10-5**.

The children's burial ground is an area of unconsecrated ground for the interment of unbaptised or stillborn children (who were by the circumstance of their death, not permitted at that time to be buried in consecrated ground). The burial places are often known under various Irish names: Cillin, Cladragh, Ceallunach or Calluragh. In coastal locations these places were used to bury strangers who had drowned at sea. The graves were generally marked by simple, low upright stones or slabs, almost invariably without inscription or other carving. This burial practice may be medieval in origin, and continued as a practice in Ireland until the 1960s. The monument in the townland of Rossaveel is on an east facing hillslope close to the seashore and lies immediately north of the townland boundary. Many of these types of sites are located at boundaries or liminal locations. It is known locally as Garraí na bPáistí and manifests as a few small upright stones in the western portion of a field. Local tradition records that it was in use until the 1940s, and that famine victims from the 1840s had been buried to the south of the townland boundary in the adjacent townland of Tonacrick. This townland also contains the ruins of a deserted post-medieval village called 'seanbhaile'. Its inhabitants are thought to have been cleared in the nineteenth century by the Blakes, landowners in the region since the seventeenth century.

There is one recorded wreck in the vicinity of Ros an Mhíl in Cashla Bay. It was a trawler 'the Lively Lady', which sank in 1970. This is not of archaeological interest and is outside the proposed development site. There are twenty four wrecks recorded for the Connemara coast in the National Monuments Service Shipwreck Inventory, none is definitely located within or near the subject site at Ros an Mhíl, though a number on the list do not have any precise location.

**Table 10-1: Summary of Monuments and Heritage Resources Recorded for the local area around the proposed deep water harbour site.**

Distance	Monument Code	ITM	Townland	ASI Classification
< or = 1km	GA090-01701-	496416, 724335	Rossaveel	Children's burial ground
	GA090-180-	495769, 723883	Rossaveel	Martello lower
<3km	GA090-008-	494261, 725844	Clynagh (Cladhnach)	Mil unclassified
	GA078-006-	495594, 727388	Clynagh (Cladhnach)	Ritual Site Holy Well
	GA078-007-	496640, 726864	Clynagh (Cladhnach)	Enclosure

Distance	Monument Code	ITM	Townland	ASI Classification
	GA078-009-	496090, 727693	Derrynea (Doire an fhéich)	Children's burial ground
	GA090-002-	494604, 723251	Barraderry (Bar an doire)	Burial ground
	GA090-003001-	494641, 723148	Barraderry (Barr an doire, an caorán beag)	Church
	GA090-003002-	494641, 723148	Barraderry (barr an doire, an caorán beag)	Burial



Figure 10-4: Recorded Archaeological Monuments in vicinity of Proposed Deep Water Quay (Discovery)



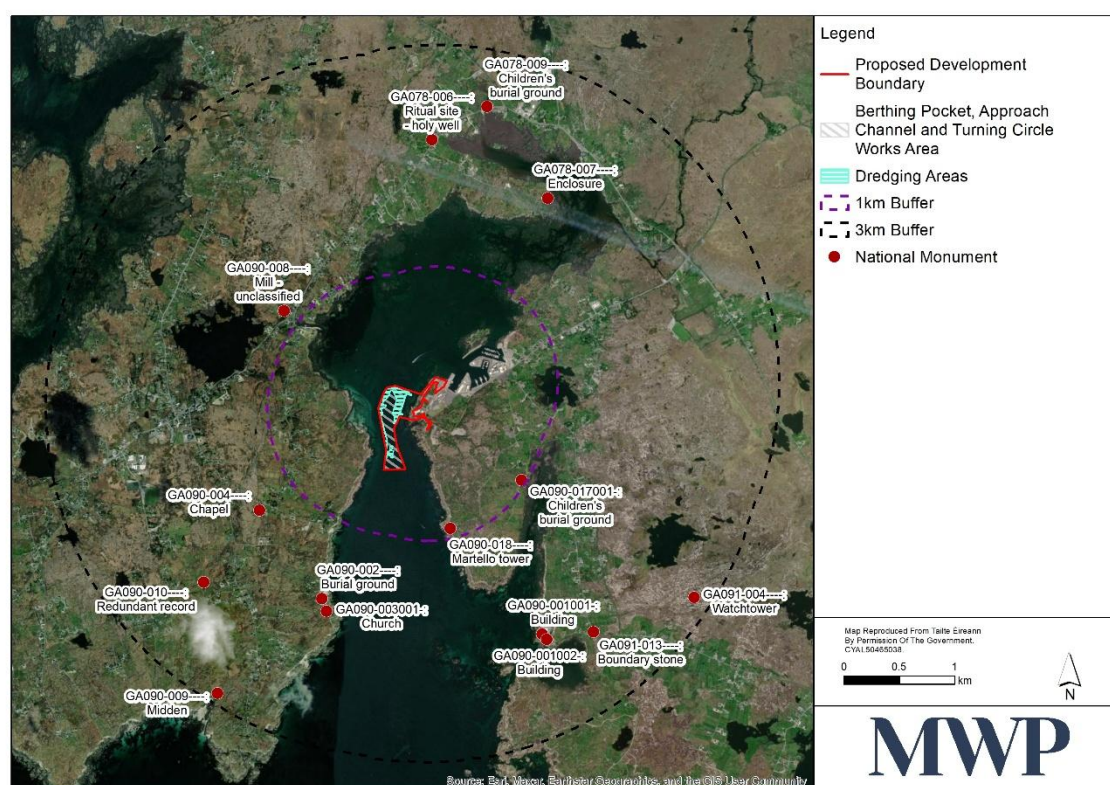


Figure 10-5: Recorded Archaeological Monuments in vicinity of Proposed Deep Water Quay (Aerial)

#### 10.4.7 Proposed Development Area

No previously unrecorded archaeological monuments, architectural or cultural heritage features were identified within the footprint of the proposed deep water quay development. The terrestrial components of the deep water quay currently comprises a partially reclaimed area of hardcore and rock armouring along the shoreline. The access roadway is of tarmac through boggy ground with frequent occurrences of earth fast boulders and rock outcrop. The roadway accessed subject site from north and there are modern structures, a large shed and offices in use to the west. The inter-tidal area is rocky shoreline and bedrock. Ros an Mhíl is referred to in the inventory of piers and harbours maintained by the Underwater Unit of the DAHRRGA. However, the deep water quay lies outside and to the southwest of the older Ros an Mhíl quays which are being referred to. There are no protected structures within the footprint of the proposed development.

In relation to the turning circle and vessel approach channel, an underwater archaeological assessment was undertaken in 2002. The results of this study were used and incorporated into this report. That assessment undertook underwater geophysical (magnetometer) survey, sidescan sonar survey and used a differential global positioning system for positional data. A number of features were found within Cashla Bay but outside the area proposed for the turning circle and vessel approach channel.

These features were flagged as potentially archaeological, but have not been confirmed, and are not recorded archaeological monuments. They were considered in the original underwater assessment to be a sufficient distance from the turning circle and vessel approach channel as not to be effected. Mitigation is proposed to protect these from inadvertent damage.

The proposed development lies within the Gaeltacht region of county Galway, where the predominant language and culture is Irish. This is considered a cultural heritage feature and is treated as such. The Gaeltacht region of

county Galway is subject to its own Local Area Plan (2008-2018) (Galway County Council 2008, amended 2013). It has six cultural heritage policies (page 21) which cover architectural, archaeological and cultural aspects of the place. In particular PCH1 promises to ‘protect and promote the Irish language as the primary cultural expression of the community’. Mitigation has been proposed to comply with this policy.

## 10.5 Description of Likely Effects

### 10.5.1 Construction Phase Effects

Nothing of cultural heritage interest was found within the proposed footprint during the walkover inspection or underwater assessment and monitoring of the previous works in 2023 and 2024 (see **Appendix 10A** for Archaeological Survey Report and **Appendix 10B** Archaeological Marine Monitoring Report, 2024).

All effects, unless otherwise stated are considered likely to be long term and of permanent duration. Overall the proposed development is unlikely to have an effect on any potential unrecorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage, and there will be no effect on known features of cultural heritage interest within the development footprint or in proximity to the site. Cultural heritage features, including archaeological monuments that are known outside the entire development footprint have been deemed to be sufficiently distant and effects are predicted to be insignificant or imperceptible.

As the proposed development is located in a Gaeltacht region of county Galway, and many of the contractors and employees may not be Irish speaking, there is the potential for signs written in English to detract from or not acknowledge that Gaelic is the predominant language in this area. Without mitigation this is considered a slight negative, local and short-term effect.

**Table 10-2: Pre-Mitigation Effects on Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage Resources**

Impact	Quality of Effect	Significance	Spatial Extent	Duration
<b>Construction Phase</b>				
Known archaeology in development footprint	Neutral	No Effect	Site Specific	Long Term
Known archaeological monuments and heritage resources outside the development site.	Neutral	Imperceptible	Locality	Long Term
Dredging and Excavation Works on unknown underwater archaeology	Negative	Unlikely but Slight	Site Specific	Long Term
Language and Cultural Heritage Effects	Negative	Slight	Site Specific & Locality	Short Term

### 10.5.2 Operational Phase Effects

Given that the approach channel and turning circle will have already been dredged during the construction phase, it is predicted that there will be no effects on unknown cultural heritage, architectural or archaeological features as a result of maintenance dredging after the deep water quay becomes operational.

As the proposed development is located in a Gaeltacht region of county Galway, and many of the contractors and employees may not be Irish speaking, there is the potential for signs written in English may detract from or not acknowledge that Gaelic is the predominant language in this area. Without mitigation this is considered a slight negative, local and long term effect.

Impact	Quality of Effect	Significance	Spatial Extent	Duration
Maintenance Dredging	Neutral	No Effect	Site Specific	Long Term
Language and Cultural Heritage Effects	Negative	Slight	Site Specific & Locality	Long Term

### 10.6 Mitigation Measures

This assessment has found that there is no risk of negative effects on known archaeological and cultural heritage features as a result of the proposed development. However, there remains a very low possibility of the discovery of isolated underwater cultural heritage features or archaeological artefacts within the turning circle and approach channel that is proposed to be dredged. This risk can never be entirely eliminated. Therefore, attention is drawn to the developer's responsibility under the National Monuments Acts 1994-2004 in regard to the discovery and reporting of archaeological features or objects.

During the dredging of the turning circle and approach channel the marine archaeological environment should be monitored and managed in accordance with the Underwater Unit of the National Monuments Service requirements. It is proposed that an Archaeological Method Statement be produced, in advance of works taking place, by an underwater archaeologist in consultation with and approved by the Underwater Unit of the National Monuments Service, DAHRRGA. This method statement should include (but not be limited to) methodologies, such as restricted areas or buffer zones, for ensuring that the potential cultural heritage features identified outside the development footprint are protected from inadvertent damage from dredging works.

No additional mitigation is recommended for proposed works as no cultural heritage features were identified or found either within the proposed footprint or in its immediate vicinity, and as such, it has been predicted that no negative effects will occur.

In relation to the proposed development being located in a Gaeltacht region of county Galway, it is proposed that mitigation be put in place to ensure that the Irish language is maintained as the primary cultural expression of the community. Signage will be in Irish, and where bilingual signs are required, Irish will be the predominant language. In addition, when awarding construction contracts DAFM will seek to ensure that Contractors employ Irish speaking workers from within the Gaeltacht area. An Irish speaking Liaison Officer will be employed to the project during this phase of development to facilitate this.

### 10.7 Residual Effects

No residual effect is predicted on any of the potential cultural heritage features discussed above following the proposed development's completion. Sites identified during the underwater assessment lie outside the

development footprint and will be preserved in situ and left in place. Such sites will be subject to natural processes, unless otherwise maintained. Mitigation for maintenance dredging of the turning circle and vessel approach channel has been proposed in **Section 10.6**.

**Table 10-3: Residual Effects**

Impact/Activity/ Receptor	Quality of Effect	Pre-Mitigation Significance Rating	Mitigation Measures	Post-Mitigation/ Residual Significance Rating
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Known archaeology in development footprint	Neutral	No Effect	N/A	No Effect
Known archaeological monuments and heritage resources outside the development site	Neutral	Imperceptible	N/A	Imperceptible
Dredging and Excavation Works on unknown underwater archaeology	Negative	Unlikely but Slight	Monitoring and management in accordance with NMS requirements	Unlikely but Significant
Language and Cultural Heritage Effects	Negative	Slight	Irish / Bilingual Signage. Irish speaking construction workers employed. Irish Speaking Liaison Officer	No Effect
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>				
Maintenance Dredging	Neutral	No Effect	N/A	No Effect
Language and Cultural Heritage Effects	Negative	Slight	Irish / Bilingual Signage	No Effect

## **10.8 Cumulative Effects**

No cumulative effects are predicted for the proposal should the following mitigation measures be put in place.

## **10.9 Conclusions**

There are no known features of cultural heritage interest within the development footprint. The construction works previously undertaken between January 2023 and 20 May 2024 did not unearth/reveal any unrecorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resources. Consequently, the construction of the remaining works are not expected to have any effect on any potential underwater sub-surface archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage resources. If any unknown underwater archaeological and heritage resources are encountered during the dredging this can effectively be mitigated by adhering to the mitigation measures in the proposed and approved pre-construction Archaeological Method Statement.

Cultural heritage features, including archaeological monuments that are known outside the entire development footprint have been deemed to be sufficiently distant that any potential effects from the remaining works would be insignificant or imperceptible.