GDG
GAVIN & DOHERTY
GEOSOLUTIONS

Illaunbaun Wind Farm - Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Appendix A16-02: Baseline Information

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

1 APPENDIX A16-02: BASELINE INFORMATION

1.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.1.1 PREHISTORIC PERIOD

There are no recorded or known sites of prehistoric date within a 2km radius of the proposed wind farm. The presence of such sites in the broader area beyond this however, points to activity in this landscape from the neolithic period (c. 4500-2500 BC) onwards. This wider activity includes neolithic burial sites (e.g. unclassified megalithic tombs in Calluragh South and Illaun, CL023-007 & CL031-005). Activity appears to have intensified during the Bronze Age (c. 2500-500BC), with evidence for burial, ceremonial, and settlement activity recorded in the surrounding landscape. This includes barrows – burial monuments – in Calluragh South, Kilcorcoran, Freaghcastle, Drummin, Knockatullaghaun, and Ballyvaskin North (CL031-042, CL022-006, -008, CL023-036, -042, -060001, -060002) and *fulachtaí fia* – generally regarded as Bronze Age cooking sites – in Toor and Cloghaun More (CL023-063, CL031-037). The presence of burnt mounds or *fulachtaí fia* is often indicative of Bronze Age seasonal communal activity in river valleys, lakeshores and boggy ground. Other possible uses for these sites may include textile processing, clothes dying, leather working and brewing, or activities involving bathing, saunas and sweathouses (O'Sullivan & Downey 2004).

Standing stones are a long-lived monument type during Irish prehistory and few of the sites have been excavated. They are generally thought to be territorial markers and ritual monuments and would have been important points of mythology in local landscapes. There are numerous examples in the wider area beyond the 2km radius, including three in Kilcorcoran, one in Leagard North and one in Doonsallagh East (CL030-035, CL031-046, -047, -048, -051). There is also a stone circle in Curraghodea (CL031-052).

One possible prehistoric site located within the 2km radius is a concentric enclosure in Clooneyogan (CL031-061), c. 1.8km north-east of the proposed wind farm. The large enclosure site has an unusual situation for a ringfort, in a flat, low-lying, boggy position. Likewise its composition – bivallate enclosures with a berm between them – is unusual for Clare, though it is a site type found in southern counties. The RMP file description notes that the house site present in the interior is likely to be post-medieval in date and that the enclosure may represent a prehistoric site with ritual associations (NMS Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) record CL023-061).

1.1.2 EARLY MEDIEVAL / MEDIEVAL PERIOD

The early medieval period saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles and free farmers. Additional improvements in agriculture from the 5th century AD resulted in a further wave of settlement expansion and population increase in rural Ireland, leading to the construction of the modern landscape's most common archaeological site, the ringfort. Ringforts are circular / sub-circular enclosures, essentially habitation sites or farmsteads, comprising earthen or earth-and-stone banks or dry-stone walls. The diameter of the ringfort is normally between 25m and 50m and the most usual form consists of a single bank and outer fosse (univallate), although ringforts with two or three concentric enclosures also occur (bivallate / trivallate).

Earthen ringforts are generally termed rath or *lios* (the latter giving the placename element 'lish-'), while stone-built forts – more common in the west of the country – are also referred to as caher or cashel (from the Irish *cathair* and *caiseal*). These sites were not simple isolated homesteads and should be considered within their contemporary settlement landscape, which would have consisted of unenclosed settlements, farms and fields, routeways and natural resources (Stout 1997). They are sometimes associated with annexed external enclosures. Typically, they are sited on good, well-drained soils, usually over the 100m contour, close to a water source, and are often located in proximity to routeways (e.g. ridges, eskers, moraines; *Ibid*.).

There are numerous examples of ringforts, mostly raths but also cashels, in the wider area, with nine recorded within a 2km radius: two in Kilfarboy and one each in Drumbaun, Leeds, Aillbrack / Toor, Ballyvaskin North, Clooneyogan South, Moy More, and Silverhill (see Section 14.3.2.2 in Chapter 14).

Where ringforts were the major secular component of early medieval settlement, ecclesiastical centres became the focus of the new religion that was readily adopted in the 5th and 6th centuries. Christianity was introduced into Ireland in the 5th century AD and brought with it not only writing and recorded history, but also a range of new monuments. The earliest churches were built of wood, none of which survives above ground, but there are many early and later medieval stone churches, with associated graveyards, crosses, and round towers surviving throughout the countryside. There are also larger ecclesiastical foundations, such as abbeys and nunneries, many of which continued into the medieval period. Some of the earliest church foundations were characterised by large ecclesiastical curvilinear concentric enclosures, which represented the boundaries of the sacred or sanctuary area.

The ecclesiastical remains at Kilfarboy comprise a church, graveyard and holy well (CL031-008001 to -008003) is located almost 1km west of proposed wind farm. Although the present church ruins date to the late 15th century, it is possible that it has its origins as an early medieval ecclesiastical site, particularly given the presence here of a holy well. The well, which is dedicated to St Leachtain, was still venerated at the time of the ASI inspection in 1999. Leachtain is said to have been the founder of the church, and the son of Torben, Abbot of Achad Uir in Ossory, and of Bealach Feabrath in 662 AD. While the church of 'Kellinfearbreygy' (Kilfarboy) was named in the papal taxation of 1302, its earlier history is undocumented and is much disputed in the various sources (as cited in RMP file CL031-008001).

1.1.3 POST-MEDIEVAL / EARLY MODERN PERIOD

From the post-medieval period onwards, the Irish farming landscape began to take on its present appearance, with many of the current field systems and boundaries being laid out.

The organised plantations of English and Scottish settlers into Ireland in the 17th century greatly altered the land ownership in the country. During the 16th and 17th centuries, the ownership of large areas of the country were forcefully redistributed to English 'planters' and others. The smallholders were not displaced but generally became tenants. The old order of transhumance and open cattle-breeding died out and was replaced by a structure of great landed estates, small tenant farmers (leasees) and a mass of landless labourers. In the west, co-operative, essentially subsistence, farming

was practised based on the 'Rundale' system of land-ownership and distribution, and the nucleated '*clachán'* settlement. This led to the settling and farming of former marginal lands. The potato, a nutritious food crop initially introduced as a garden crop in the mid-17th century, thrived in the poor soils and facilitated the growth in population, becoming the main food crop of the tenant and labouring classes.

In total, 80% of all farms in County Clare contained between one and fifteen acres while 22,000 families had no land of their own.

The formation of the Land League at the end of the 19th century began to bring about land reform. Between the highwater period of the landed estates and their tenants in the pre-Famine period and the creation of freeholds for former tenants by the Land Commission, a new class of strong tenant farmers emerged, many of whom were Catholic. They held long-term leases for large land-holdings, which they could 'improve' and build on with their own capital, and they represented a new entrepreneurial class of farmer (Bell & Watson, 2009). In the process of reform that ensued at the end of the 19th century, the former tenants and labourers became land owners, with the great estates being broken up into small- and medium-sized farms and smallholdings. The process continued well into the 20th century with the work of the Irish Land Commission.

The transformation of the physical landscape was largely the result of the more regular system of field enclosure that was imposed (prior to this period, the countryside comprised open (unenclosed) land and other areas with irregular field systems). The relatively symmetrical appearance of the fields in the study area and the surrounding landscape was much influenced by notions of 'improvement', and how such improvements in the physical realm mirrored improvements in society as a whole. The pattern of rectilinear fields was developed to facilitate improved farming which involved more intensive livestock rearing, crop rotations and increased individual management of consolidated holdings (Aalen *et al.* 1997).

An enquiry into the welfare of Kilfarboy in 1835 and adjacent parishes mentions that in periods between potato crops (and available casual work) many families suffered abject hunger, with labourers having to borrow at huge interest. The loans came from middle-sized farmers (those holding 10-20 acres), rather than large ones, or from farm servants who had been allowed to plant a portion of their master's ground, as they generally had the security of food rations in addition to their wages (https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/history/poverty/kilfarboy_able.htm).

Lewis, in his Topographical Dictionary published in 1837, described the parish of Kilfarboy as follows:

> "…on the western coast; containing, with the post-town of Miltown-Malbay, 6389 inhabitants. It was anciently called Kilfobrick, from the monastery of that name, founded in 741, of which Cormac, who died in 837, is said to have been bishop, but of which no traces now remain. In the reign of Elizabeth, part of the Spanish Armada was wrecked on this coast, at a place which has since been called "Spanish Point." The parish comprises 11,637 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, a considerable portion of which consists of mountain pasture and bog; sea-weed, which abounds, is in general use for manure, but the state of agriculture is rather backward. Mount Callan, which forms a conspicuous

landmark, is chiefly in this parish: in one of its hollows is Loughnamina, noted for its fine trout. Indications of coal and ironstone appear in several places; slate is found at Freagh; and at Bellard, near Miltown, stone of superior quality is quarried for building. At Freagh is a station of the coast-guard, having also a detachment at Liscanor. The gentlemen's seats are Miltown House, the residence of T. H. Morony, Esq.; Merville Lodge, of J. Carroll, Esq.; Seaview, of F. G. Morony, Esq.; Westpark, of J. Morony, Esq.; and Spanish Point, of J. Costello, Esq., M. D.: and there are several neat lodges in the vicinity of Miltown-Malbay (which see) for the accommodation of the numerous visiters who frequent that fashionable watering-place during the summer. The parish is in the diocese of Killaloe: the rectory forms part of the union of Kildysart; and the vicarage was episcopally united, in 1801, to that of Kilmihill or Kilmaichael, together constituting the union of Kilfarboy, in the gift of the Bishop. The tithes amount to £553. 16. 11., of which £315 is payable to the rector and the remainder to the vicar; those of the vicarial union amount to £312.13. 10. The church, at Miltown, is a small plain edifice with a square tower, built in 1802, towards which £500 was granted by the late Board of First Fruits: it is about to be repaired, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners having lately granted £104 for that purpose. The glebe-house was erected in 1813, for which a gift of £337 and a loan of £79 were granted by the late Board: the glebe comprises about eight acres. In the R. C. divisions this parish forms part of the union or district of Miltown, which also comprises the parish of Kilmurry-Ibrickane, and contains two chapels, situated respectively at Miltown and Mullogh: the former is about to be rebuilt on a larger scale. There are two public schools, one of which is partly supported by the parishioners, and the other by the R. C. clergyman, and in which about 140 children are educated; there are also five private schools, in which are about 230 children. On the shores of this parish are several springs of a chalybeate nature, but not much used for medicinal purposes. At Freagh are the ruins of the castle of that name, and there are several ancient raths or forts. At the side of Loughnamina, on Mount Callan, a very large and remarkable sepulchral stone of great antiquity was discovered, about 1784; it bears an inscription, in the ancient Ogham character, having the peculiarity of being read in five different ways, to the memory of the chief Conan, whose death is alluded to in one of the legends of the 8th century (ascribed to Ossian), as having taken place the year before the battle of Gabhra, which was fought in 296. From the hard texture of the stone the inscription, when discovered, was perfectly legible. On the south side of the mountain is a large cromlech, or druidical altar, nearly perfect, supposed to have been dedicated to the sun, and popularly called Darby and Grane's Bed; and near it are two smaller ones, and the remains of a stone rath, in which part of a covered way is still visible' (Lewis 1837, 90)."

Another significant impact upon the physical landscape was the Great Famine of 1845-1852, which is remembered as the most devastating in Ireland's history. The blight of the potato, the failure of subsequent crops and a bitter winter of 1846/47 set against a fragile economic, social and political structure became the catalyst for widespread uncontrollable disease, hunger and death recorded as the Great Hunger.

1.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

1.2.1 DOWN SURVEY MAP OF IBRICKAN BARONY, C. 1656

The map of Ibrickan barony, c. 1656, from William Petty's Down Survey of Ireland, was destroyed in 1711 and no copies have so far come to light (https://downsurvey.tchpc.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps).

1.2.2 ORDNANCE SURVEY (OS) MAPPING

The first edition OS map of 1839 is the earliest available cartographic source for the study area and is remarkably accurate and detailed. The proposed wind farm site lies within a rural landscape, one of scarce, dispersed settlement and generally small fields interspersed with larger areas of unenclosed marginal land and bog (Figure 1-1: First edition OS six-inch map (1839) showing landscape in and around the proposed wind farm (development area boundary overlaid in magenta)). The field enclosures and settlement can be seen in on the drier land surrounding the marginal land that occupies the hill slopes within the proposed development area. While the houses and farmsteads are 18th / 19th century in date, the historic map also depicts the ringforts that took advantage of the same, better agricultural land (including the substantial ringfort in Drumbaun, RMP CL031-044, on the west side of the proposed wind farm). A structure set at the corner of a small field enclosure (CH1) is depicted within the proposed development site, in an area otherwise indicated as marginal land, with the placename 'Carrickaleigh' to the east of it (Figure 1-2: Structure (CH1) depicted on the first edition OS six-inch map (1839)). Another local placename, Knockabullaunduff, annotates an area of marginal land west of Lough Abullaunduff (vicinity of WTG1 and WTG5).

The only other structures within the proposed development area are a small structure with a kiln nearby (CH2) and a farmstead (CH3) (Figure 1-3: Structures (CH2 & CH3) depicted on the first edition OS six-inch map (1839)).

The small structure at Carrickaleigh (CH1) is indicated as roofless by the time of the OS 25 inch map of 1895 and is no longer depicted on the revised six-inch map of 1921.

The landscape had also undergone significant change post-1839 as a result of land reclamation and field enclosure. Greatly reduced areas of marginal land remained unenclosed between Lough Abullaunduff (locations of WTG1, WTG5, WTG2) and Lough Keagh, and east of Lough Keagh (location of WTG6). Quarry pits depicted on the first edition six-inch map either side of the Ballynew Tooreen townland boundaries, are marked as disused by the time of the later maps.

There are no other features of cultural heritage interest depicted within the proposed wind farm on the OS historic maps.

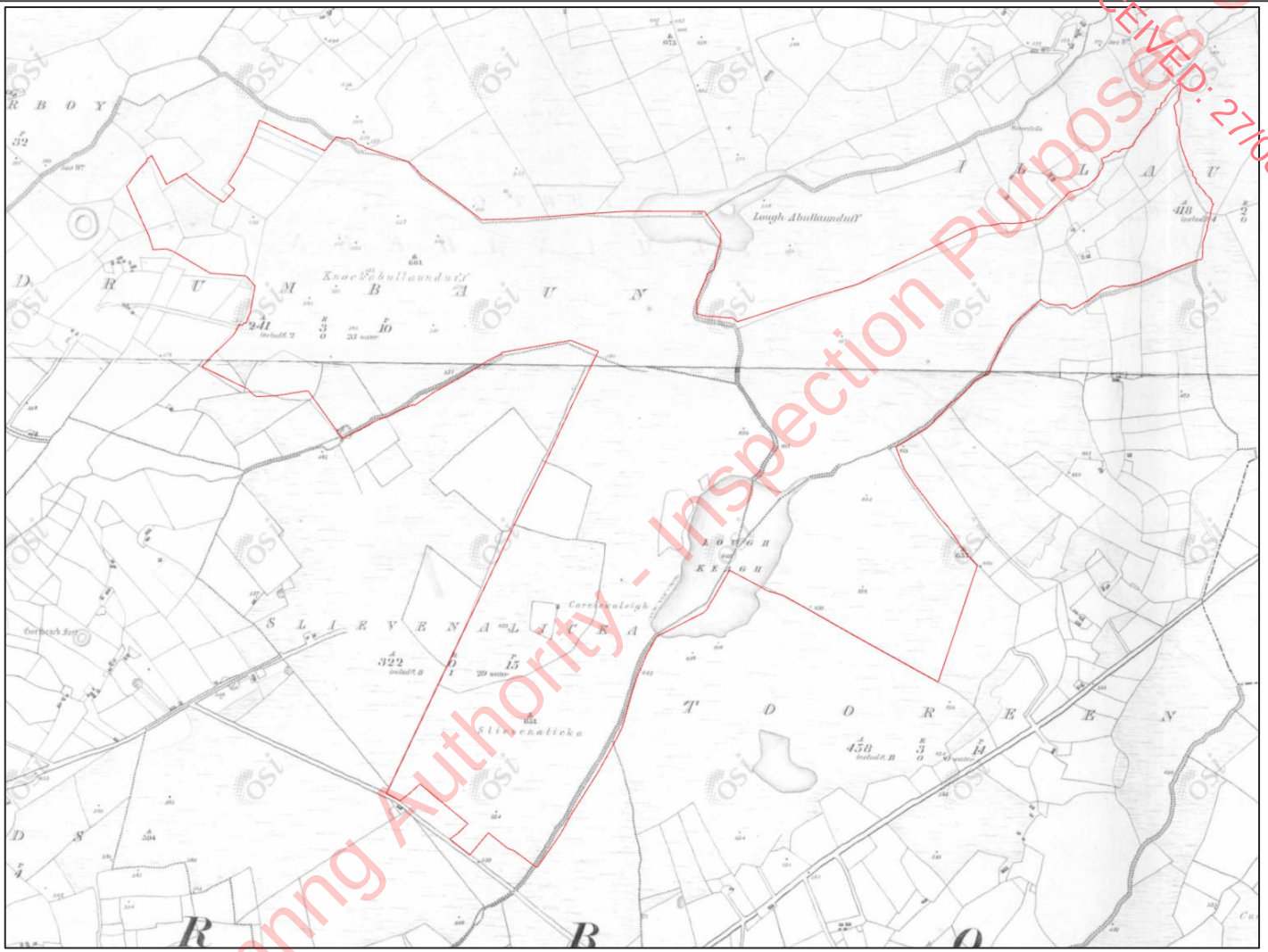


Figure 1-1: First edition OS six-inch map (1839) showing landscape in and around the proposed wind farm (development area boundary overlaid in magenta)

Figure 1-2: Structure (CH1) depicted on the first edition OS six-inch map (1839)

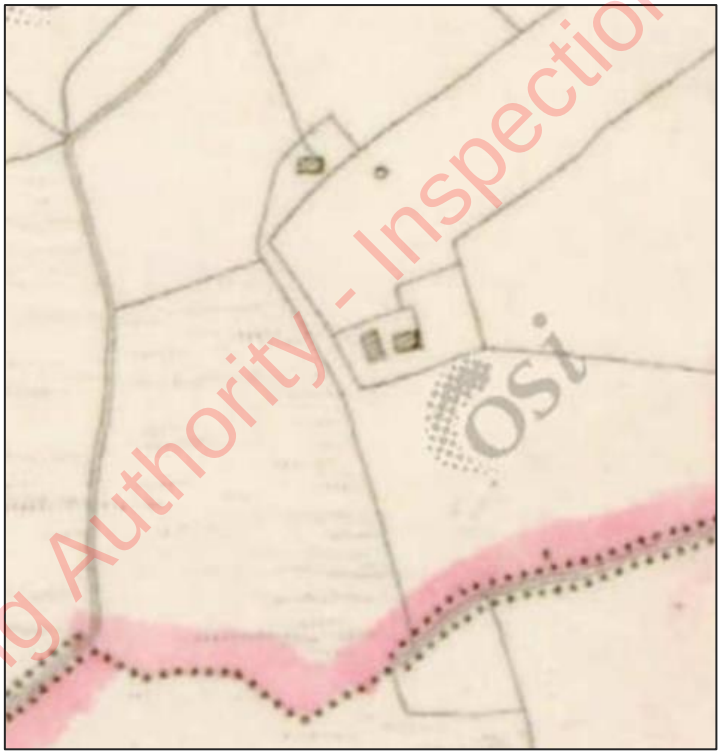


Figure 1-3: Structures (CH2 & CH3) depicted on the first edition OS six-inch map (1839)

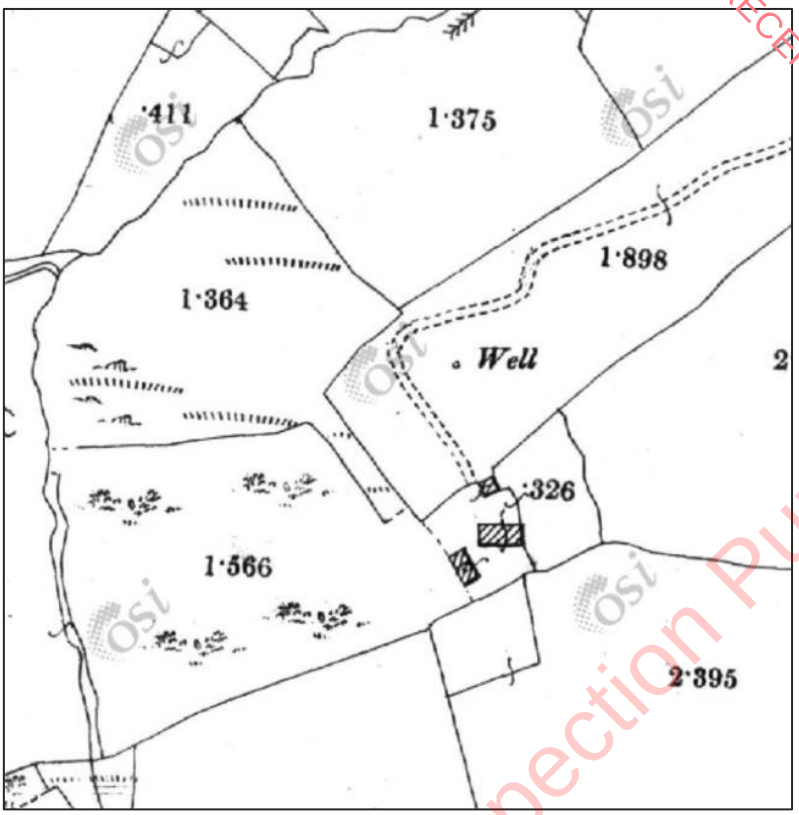


Figure 1-4: Structures (CH3) depicted on the OS 25-inch map (1895)

1.3 AERIAL IMAGERY

No features of potential archaeological interest were identified from aerial photographs. Many of the areas currently under forestry were already planted at the time of the OSi aerial imagery of 1995, with little change to the landscape in the intervening years.

1.4 STRAY FINDS

No stray finds are recorded in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) topographical files for the townlands located within or adjacent to the proposed wind farm. A search of Clare Museum's online Acquisitions Collection (www.clarelibary.ie) similarly returned no records.

1.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the proposed wind farm or in the surrounding townlands.

1.6 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

No industrial archaeology sites were identified within or near the proposed wind farm.

1.7 FOLKLORE

Much of the folklore associated with Kilfarboy parish in the 1930s Schools' Collection relates to Kilfarboy Church and the origins of its name (https://www.duchas.ie/en/src?q=Kilfarboy). Some, as

recorded by Lewis (1837), connect it with the Spanish Armada and the dead who washed ashore in the 16th century and were buried in the graveyard; *Cill Fear Bhuidhe* meaning 'church of the yellow men' (e.g. in 'My Own District', as told by Michael Flanagan, aged 65). This despite the fact that the placename is first recorded in 1302. Another story, 'Toibreacha Beannaith', records that the well ('*one of the most noted wells in Clare*') is dedicated to 'St Lactan', being called in Irish *Tobar Lachtainn*. The account notes that the '*present generation'* called the well St Josephs' Well (presumably because the patron day is March 19th, which is also the patron day of St Jospeh) but "the old people never called it any name but Tobar Lachtainn".

Another account in the Collection titled 'Storms', provides a glimpse of the vernacular architecture of the area. In describing the damage wrought by storms, it tells that

> "Ricks of hay on the houses and cabins of the peasant used to be blown down. Probably the storms were not very fierce as it was easy to blow down the houses. They were constructed of mud and the thatch tied with the "Sugain" or Straw Rope. The sugan did not hold long because it rotted after a few months and the least wind could blow off the thatch".

1.8 TOWNLAND BOUNDARIES AND PLACENAME EVIDENCE

1.8.1 TOWNLAND BOUNDARIES

Townlands are land divisions that form a unique feature in the Irish landscape, their origins can be of great antiquity and many are of pre-Norman date. They existed well before the establishment of parishes or counties. Townland boundaries can take the form of natural boundaries or routeways as well as artificially constructed earthen banks and ditch divisions. They are often formed of substantial boundaries which are usually distinguishable from standard field division boundaries. There are 62,000 townlands in Ireland, grouped into civil parishes, then counties and finally provinces. While the boundaries of many townlands may not have been clearly defined until the post medieval period or later, particularly in areas of poor-quality land such as bog and mountain, the boundaries in the areas of better land were almost certainly defined at an early date. The townland names and boundaries were standardised across the country in the nineteenth century when the Ordnance Survey began to produce large-scale maps of the country. The townland boundaries recorded by the Ordnance Survey, therefore, may well be aligned on older land divisions dating to early historic times and may physically overlie archaeological evidence for such early forms of land division.

The proposed access tracks between WTG3, WTG2 and WTG5 cross two townland boundaries: Drumbaun / Illaunbaun and Illaunbaun / Slievenalicka. All will follow existing farm and forest access tracks or public road.

1.8.2 PLACENAME EVIDENCE

Townland names are a valuable source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. While most place names were anglicised or translated relatively accurately, some were corrupted

virtually beyond recognition. The placenames in and around the proposed wind farm are of Irish origin and indicate topographical or natural features (Table 1-1: Townlands within the proposed wind farm).

Table 1-1: Townlands within the proposed wind farm

Placename	Type	Origin	Meaning*	Additional Notes
Carrickaleigh	Local name	Irish *carraig* and *liath*	Grey rocky land	n/a
Drumbaun	Townland	Irish *Drom bán*	White back, or ridge	Descriptive remark from OS Parish Name Book (1830-40): '*there is a large fort called Drumbaun Fort close to its western boundary. A fort in this townland called Lissdrumbaun, a hill called Knockabullaneduff*'.
Fahanlunaghta Beg	Townland	Irish *faithche* and *lug*	A 'level green' and 'hollow'	n/a
Illaunbaun	Townland	Irish *oileán* and *bán*	Grassy, or white, island	n/a
Knockabullaunduff	Local name	Irish *cnoc, bullán, dubh*	Hill of the black rock well	Close to the lake named Lough Abullaunduff
Slievenalicka	Townland & local name	Irish S*liabh na lice*	Mountain of the flag[stone]	Descriptive remark from OS Parish Name Book (1830-40): '*A lake on the boundaries of this townland & Thoreen called Loughkeaght. At the lower end there are 2 rocks called Carrigaleigh, which Fuan brought there for protection. A large slate quarry called Collear Sleivnalicka'*
Tooreen	Townland	Irish *tuairín*	Small bleach, or green field	Descriptive remark from OS Parish Name Book (1830-40): '*Nothing remarkable* [in the townland] *but a small lough called Loughtrim*'.
*Sources: www.logainm.ie, Joyce 1920				

1.9 BUILT HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

1.9.1 VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

There are many rural buildings in Clare, as throughout the country, that have served varied purposes, domestic, agricultural, educational, religious and industrial. In particular, the expansions of agriculture and population in the late 18th and early 19th centuries led to the construction of the familiar 'cottage' in farmyards and along roadsides throughout the countryside, what is now

commonly referred to as vernacular architecture (McCullough & Mulvin 1987). Not all interesting structures or buildings of an architectural heritage merit have a formal designation. The term 'vernacular' applies to traditional structures made of local materials and often to a 'well-tried' design normally considered in three categories - agricultural, industrial and domestic. Vernacular buildings can vary with countries or regions, as the geography and landscape often determined the vernacular design, style and build.

There are two main forms of vernacular house plan in Ireland, the direct-entry and the lobby-entry. Direct-entry, where the main doorway of the house enters directly into the main room, is characteristic of the western half of Ireland. It is often associated with a gabled roof, a robust design allowing thatch to be secured to the gable walls. This form of house is also termed a gable-end hearth house; dwellings with exposed gable-ends, frequently with their hearths on or near the gables, were typical in the west where stone was the customary walling material. Direct-entry houses are derived from the simplest house forms, long-houses or byre-dwellings, where the human inhabitants of the house shared with the milk cows, a drain running across the floor dividing the two halves (this practice was widespread in the west until the 19th century and even into the early 20th century in more remote parts; Aalen *et al.* 1997).

Originally thatched, remaining vernacular houses are now largely roofed with corrugated iron, slates or tiles. The visual impact of these buildings, or their associated outhouses in many cases, is often reinforced by the custom of whitewashing the walls. Additions were accompanied by other changes, thatched roofs replaced with slate, doors and windows symmetrically arranged. In some cases houses were elongated or only part of the structure was raised. Houses usually remained one-room wide, and the location of the main chimney and upper storey layout was often dependent on the vernacular plan of the ground floor. Over the years, the developed vernacular style emerged as the prominent farmstead in the country (Aalen *et al.* 1997).

The proposed wind farm lies within an area once dominated by small-scale family farms, common to the western fringes and the Atlantic littoral, in contrast to those areas of proto-industrialisation or commercialised tillage or dairy farming. This was a novel phenomenon that was partly in response to, and partly creating, the surge in population between 1700 and 1845; this explosion in population generated intensive land reclamation, subdivision and expansion into previously unsettled areas, helped by the potato's ability to flourish in wet, thin nutrient-poor soils (Aalen *et al.* 1997).

Farmsteads can have different layouts (Cf. O'Reilly & Murray 2005), the first and most common type being the courtyard farm. Here the farmhouse forms one side of a rectangular enclosure with one or more buildings forming the others. In a second type, the outbuildings are built onto the house in a linear fashion. A third type is the parallel farmstead with house and outbuildings located opposite each other across a narrow yard or street. Outbuildings typically comprise one or more spaces or units, each with its own entrance and often closed by a half-door. They are frequently similar to dwelling houses, though of rougher construction. Windows are scarce except for narrow slit openings splaying inwards to maximise the light. The most typical functions of traditional farm buildings were as byres, stables, barns and stores. Nowadays most old outhouses are likely to be

used for storage. An earlier wave of mass-produced farm buildings came in the early decades of the 20th century with the introduction of the Dutch Barn – the familiar red barrel-roof iron hayshed.

The farmhouses, farm buildings, and field patterns of the post-plantation period remain the backbone of the cultural landscape of rural Ireland to this day. It has always been difficult to date farm buildings because of the simplicity of their decoration, and the continuity of the building tradition from which they emerge. An examination of the first edition OS maps of the 1830s and 1840s shows that some of the locations of existing farmsteads in the land surrounding the wind farm had buildings at that date, although even at that time, this particular area (now heavily forested) was relatively sparsely populated. While many of these may date to the rural economic boom that accompanied the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815), a growing number are recognised as being older (O'Reilly & Murray 2005).

The mid-19th century Griffith's Valuation shows that much of the land in the townlands in and around the wind farm was owned by Sir Edward Fitzgerald and leased to small-holders. In Ballynew, an adjoining townland, the majority landowner was Francis Goold Moroney, whose land was also leased to multiple small-holders, as well as one plot to the Board of National Education for the school house and yard. The small building depicted in Slievenalicka on the first edition OS map (CH1) is not mentioned in the valuation, which describes only land for this plot with no structures associated. Although a large plot, under lease by Fitzgerald to two different tenants (Anthony Kennelly and Michael Curtin), much of it is shown as marginal land.

In Ilaunbaun, the buildings shown on the first edition OS map within the proposed development area, were houses occupied by Margaret Mulquinny (CH3) and Margaret Guane (CH2). Only the house was leased in each case, the attached land remained in the use of the landowners Andrew Clancy senior and junior, who lived in a house further east / south-east.

1.10 FIELD SURVEY

A non-invasive field inspection of the proposed wind farm was carried out on 24th August 2023. A further inspection took place on 10th June 2024. The weather was predominantly dry and bright. Ground conditions throughout were found to be wet and boggy once off-track.

There was no visible surface trace of the buildings depicted on the historic OS maps, CH1, CH2 and CH3.

Turbines WTG2 and WTG5 are both located within forestry, the former in a Coillte owned plantation and the latter in a private plantation.

The site for WTG1 was accessed from an existing track that approaches from the west. The proposed access will be from the east / north-east where it will run through the forestry plantation from WTG5. WTG1 is located within an area of rough, boggy, overgrown pasture, in a relatively enclosed site (Figure 1-5: Site of WTG1 facing north-east), with rising ground to the north-west and forestry to the north, east and south-east. A large quarry is visible to the south / south-east (Figure 1-6: View south / south-east from WTG1). Extensive views west to the sea (Figure 1-7: Views west at site of WTG1). Cell tower / mast on the high ground to the north-west.

Proposed WTG3 is located within an area of rough, boggy land on the west side of an existing access track, very uneven and wet underfoot (Figure 1-9: View of proposed WTG3 site, facing north). The site overlooks Lough Keagh to the east (Figure 1-10: View north-east from proposed WTG3 site across Lough Keagh, towards site of WTG2 in forestry), with views restricted by the natural topography and / or forestry to the north and west. There are good views to the south. Turbines of an existing wind farm to the south-east are visible along the hill ridge. A cell tower is visible on the hill ridge to the north-west.

Proposed WTG4 is located within an area of relatively young forestry plantation (Figure 1-11: View of proposed WTG4 site, facing north-west), with more mature forestry on the rising ground to the north-east. It is located at the lower slope of the hills that rise to the east and south-east.

The ringfort in Drumbaun townland (RMP CL023-044; see images in Chapter 14, Section 14.2.3.3), c. 315m west of the proposed site for WTG4, is located in a relatively level area of pasture land with rising ground immediately to its east and south-east and good views westwards to the coast. It is possible that the views out to sea and towards the other ringforts in the landscape to the west and north-west – though the undulating topography would indicate that very few of these would have been visible – may have influenced the siting of the monument and have been more significant in the context of its setting. These views, which are considered to contribute most to the setting of the monument, would not be interrupted by the proposed windfarm.

Proposed access to WTG6 follows an existing access track, which narrows considerably as it progresses. The site of WTG6 (Figure 1-12: View south-east at WTG6 site towards existing wind farm to Figure 1-14: View east / south-east from WTG6) is located within an area of rough boggy land, very uneven and wet underfoot on the south-west side of an existing access track. The site overlooks Lough Keagh to the west. Views are restricted by the natural topography and / or forestry to the north and west. There are good views to the south and east. Existing wind farm visible to south-east.

The protected structure and recorded monument Kilfarboy Church, Graveyard, and Holy Well (RMP No. CL031-008001 to -008003 & RPS No. 635) is located just under 1km west of the nearest proposed turbine WTG1 (Figure 1-15: Kilfarboy Church and Graveyard (RMP CL031-008 & RPS 635) facing south-west at entrance to Figure 1-17: View west towards proposed wind farm location from inside Kilfarboy Graveyard (RMP CL031-008 & RPS 635)). The immediate surrounds of the church and graveyard are relatively open, with a stone graveyard wall and no trees along the boundary. The topography restricts the views somewhat to the west, north and east, where flat pastureland gives way to hills. The proposed wind farm is located on the hills to the west. Although the turbines will be visible from this site, churches and graveyards commonly have an enclosed aspect (as is partly the case here) and insular focus and are not designed to take in views of the surrounding landscape. Where such views exist, they are accidental rather than planned.

Figure 1-5: Site of WTG1 facing north-east

Figure 1-6: View south / south-east from WTG1

Figure 1-7: Views west at site of WTG1

Figure 1-8: View north along proposed access track to WTG1

Figure 1-9: View of proposed WTG3 site, facing north

Figure 1-10: View north-east from proposed WTG3 site across Lough Keagh, towards site of WTG2 in forestry

Figure 1-11: View of proposed WTG4 site, facing north-west

Figure 1-12: View south-east at WTG6 site towards existing wind farm

Figure 1-13: View west at WTG6 site

Figure 1-14: View east / south-east from WTG6

Figure 1-15: Kilfarboy Church and Graveyard (RMP CL031-008 & RPS 635) facing south-west at entrance

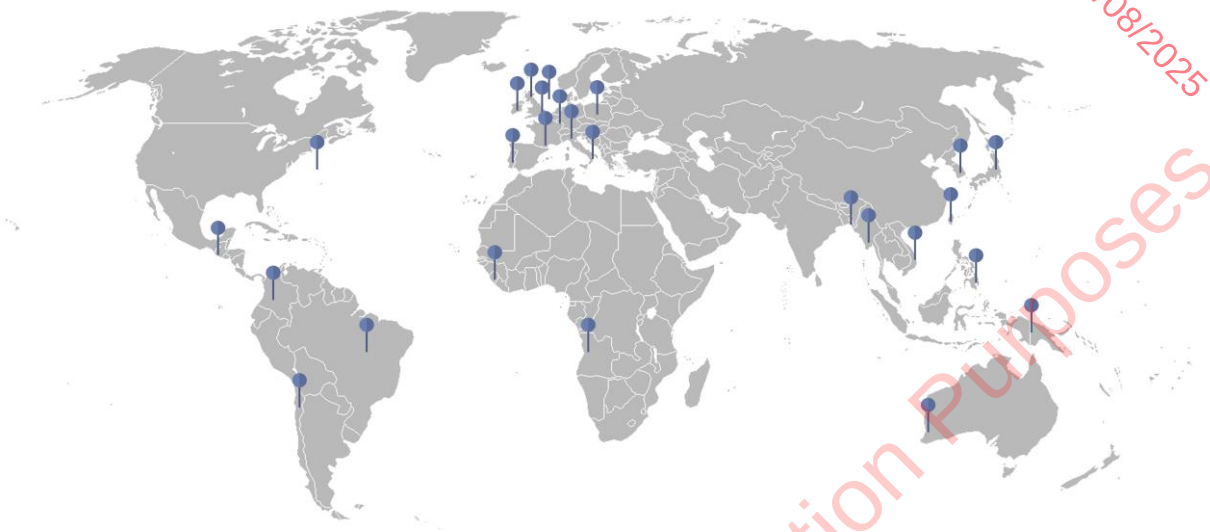
Figure 1-16: Kilfarboy Church from inside graveyard (RMP CL031-008 & RPS 635) facing south-west

Figure 1-17: View west towards proposed wind farm location from inside Kilfarboy Graveyard (RMP CL031-008 & RPS 635)

JC MONT-FORT
Green Power Generation

GDG
GAVIN & DOHERTY
GEOSOLUTIONS

GLOBAL PROJECT REACH



Offices

Dublin (Head Office)
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions
Unit A2, Nutgrove Office Park
Rathfarnham
Dublin 14, D14 X627
Phone: +353 1 207 1000

Cork
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions
First Floor, 12 South Mall
Cork
T12 RD43

London
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (UK) Limited
85 Great Portland Street, First Floor
London
W1W 7LT

Utrecht
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions
WTC Utrecht, Stadsplateau 7
3521 AZ Utrecht
The Netherlands

Belfast
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (UK) Limited
Scottish Provident Building
7 Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JH

Edinburgh
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (UK) Limited
22 Northumberland Street SW Lane
Edinburgh
EH3 6JD

Rhode Island
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions Inc.
225 Dyer St, 2nd Floor
Providence, RI 02903
USA

GDG
GAVIN & DOHERTY
GEOSOLUTIONS

Website: www.gdgeo.com
Email: info@gdgeo.com

A Venterra Group Plc
Member Company