

## 13 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

### 13.1 Introduction

CycleØ (IE) Limited (the Applicant) proposes to develop a renewable biogas facility (herein referred to as the Proposed Development) on a site located in the townland of Glenloughaun, Co. Galway. Moore Group was commissioned to complete an archaeology and cultural heritage assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development.

The Proposed Development site is located approximately 3 km south of the town of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, and approximately 22 km north-east of Loughrea, Co. Galway. The site is currently used as agricultural pastureland and is bounded to the north by Torva Ireland Limited, a meat processing and preserving facility, with further agricultural pastureland to the south, east and west.

There are no NIAH- or RPS-listed structures or demesne lands within 50 m of the site. There are no recorded monuments within 200 m of the subject site. The closest recorded monument (GA087-119----), an enclosure, is located roughly 660 m to the east. The closest RPS/NIAH site is Ballinrun Bridge (RPS 3520; NIAH 30408729), which is located roughly 600 m to the south-east of the subject site.

#### 13.1.1 Scope of Work

This study aims to assess, as far as reasonably practicable from existing records and site information, the archaeological and cultural heritage environment (hereafter referred to as the cultural heritage resource), to evaluate the potential or likely impacts that the Proposed Development may have on this resource and, where appropriate, to recommend mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or ameliorate such impacts. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the policies and guidance of:

- the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- the National Monuments Acts 1930–2014 and, as commenced, the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023;
- the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028; and
- relevant best-practice guidelines for archaeological and cultural heritage assessment.

Following this assessment, the residual impact that the Proposed Development will have on the established baseline cultural heritage environment is identified and evaluated.

## 13.1.2 Terms & Definitions

### 13.1.2.1 Cultural Heritage

The phrase 'Cultural Heritage' is a generic term used to identify a multitude of cultural, archaeological, and architectural sites and monuments. The term 'Cultural Heritage', in Environmental Impact Assessment compliance with Section 2(1) of the Heritage Act (1995), is used throughout this report in relation to archaeological objects, features, monuments and landscapes as well as all structures and buildings which are considered to have historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social, or technical significance/merit. For the purposes of this report the definition of 'Cultural Heritage' is taken broadly from the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972, which considers the following to be "Cultural Heritage":

- Tangible Cultural Heritage.
- Movable Cultural Heritage (artefacts).
- Immovable Cultural Heritage (monuments, archaeological sites, etc).
- Underwater Cultural Heritage (shipwrecks, underwater ruins, and cities); and
- Intangible Cultural Heritage (oral traditions, folklore etc).

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

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

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

### 13.1.2.2 World Heritage Sites

Although not formally recognised in Irish legislation, impacts on World Heritage Sites will nonetheless be a material consideration for developments in their wider vicinity. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

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

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### 13.1.2.3 National Monuments

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

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

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

### 13.1.2.4 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database

The legislation that affords protection to the archaeology of Ireland has seen several amendments since the first National Monuments Act of 1930 and there is a legacy of several different registers and associated terminology.

A feature recorded in the 'Record of Monuments and Places' (RMP) refers to a recorded archaeological site that is granted statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The RMP is the most widely applying provision of the National Monuments Acts. It comprises a list of recorded monuments and places (resulting from the Archaeological Survey of Ireland [ASI]) and accompanying maps on which such monuments and places are shown for each county. The information contained within the RMP is derived from the earlier non-statutory Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). However, some entries were not transferred to the statutory record as they refer to features that on inspection by the Archaeological Survey were found not to merit inclusion in that record or could not be located with sufficient accuracy to be included. Such sites however remain part of the SMR. The record is a dynamic one and is updated to take account of on-going research.

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

### 13.1.2.5 Sites and Monuments Record

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

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

### 13.1.2.6 Register of Historic Monuments

Section 5 of the 1987 National Monuments Act states that the Minister is required to establish

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

### **13.1.2.7 Architectural Conservation Areas**

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides that all Development Plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, or which contribute to the appreciation of protected structures.

In these areas, the protection of the architectural heritage is best achieved by controlling and guiding change on a wider scale than the individual structure, to retain the overall architectural or historic character of an area.

### **13.1.2.8 Record of Protected Structures/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

The importance of our built heritage is enshrined in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part II, Section 10) which places a statutory obligation on local authorities to include in their Development Plans objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special interest. The principal mechanism for the protection of these structures is through their inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). This list provides recognition of the importance of a structure, protection from adverse impacts and potential access to grant aid for conservation works.

The record of Protected Structures is an ongoing process and can be reviewed and added to. In considering additions to the Record of Protected Structures local authorities have recourse to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) which provides a source of guidance on the significance of buildings in their respective areas.

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

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

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

## 13.1.3 Methodology

### 13.1.3.1 Introduction

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

Evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon the archaeological, architectural, and Cultural Heritage resource is based on a desktop study of written, graphic, photographic, cartographic, and electronic information sources followed by a field survey. Considering, amongst other aspects, the legislative protection afforded to the Cultural Heritage resource, this report evaluates the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and historical importance of the subject area and examines the potential impacts of the Proposed Development and the effects on that resource.

The methodology used in the preparation of this assessment is broadly based on guidance provided in the Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects (TII Publication Number PE-ARC-02009. 2024), the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA 2022) and other relevant guidelines.

This impact assessment addresses Cultural Heritage under the two headings of archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

### 13.1.3.2 Desktop Assessment

Known cultural heritage sites were reviewed on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) along with aerial photography and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) mapping and other relevant sources. The following information sources, where relevant, were used for this report:

#### Archaeological Heritage

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the tentative list of candidate sites.
- National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders.
- Potential National Monuments in the ownership of a local authority.
- Walled Towns.
- Archaeological Monuments that are the subject of both Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders.
- The Register of Historic Monuments.
- Archaeological Survey Database (ASD) from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) (Sites and Monuments Record available through the Historic Environment Viewer).
- Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) for Galway County.
- National Monuments Service (NMS) Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Zones of Notification.

## Architectural Heritage

- Architectural Conservation Areas from the Galway County Development Plan (2022 - 2028).
- Protected Structures from The Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and NIAH Garden Survey.
- Demesnes Landscapes and Historic Gardens indicated on the OSI First Edition Mapping.

Where appropriate, sites considered of exceptional value or sensitivity in the broader area were also reviewed.

The Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 was reviewed to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the cultural heritage of the area. The development plans contain lists of cultural heritage sites including national monuments, recorded monuments, architectural conservation areas, protected structures, and protected views as well as baseline assessments of the landscape character of the county.

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

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

- **Excavations Bulletin:** The Excavation Bulletin is both a published directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2012. The database gives access to over 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author.
- **Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland:** The topographical files of the NMI identify all recorded finds held in the NMI archive that have been donated to the state in accordance with national monuments legislation. The files sometimes include reports on excavations undertaken by NMI archaeologists in the early 20th century. Valuable information that can be gleaned might include the exact location, ground type, depth below ground level and condition when found, of each find. However, the amount and the usefulness of the information available on each find can vary considerably. The topographical files are listed by county and townland and/or street name.
- **Cartographic Sources:** Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered, or removed over a period. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork.
- **Toponyms:** Townland names are a rich source of information for the land use, history, archaeology, and folklore of an area. The placename can have a variety of language origins such as, Irish, Viking, Anglo-Norman and English. The names can provide information on families, topographical features, and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc.

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In compiling the following data, several resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) and Irish Names of Places by P.W. Joyce (Joyce, 1913).

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

### 13.1.3.3 Field Inspection

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

### 13.1.4 Difficulties Encountered

No difficulties were encountered during the completion of this assessment. Nonetheless it should be noted that information held by public data sources can normally be assumed to be reliable, but uncertainty can arise in several ways - documentary sources are rare before the Medieval period, and as documents were not usually compiled for archaeological purposes, they are inherently biased. Primary sources, especially older records, often fail to accurately locate sites and are obviously subjective in any interpretation.

The usefulness of aerial photographs depends upon geology, land use and weather conditions when the photographs were taken. Some types of remains do not produce crop, soil or vegetation marks. Aerial photographs necessarily involve some subjective interpretation of the nature of sites.

### 13.1.5 Description of Project

The Proposed Development at Glenloughaun will accept and treat 90,000 tonnes per annum of locally sourced agricultural manures, slurries and crop-based feedstocks to produce grid quality biomethane, also known as renewable natural gas (RNG) suitable for direct injection into Gas Network Ireland's (GNI) transmission and distribution network. The RNG produced at the Anaerobic Digestion Facility will be used as a direct replacement for conventional natural gas

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and in doing so contribute towards the Government's aspiration to develop 5.7TWh of indigenous biomethane production. In addition to RNG, the facility will produce a nutrient rich biobased fertiliser which can be used as a direct replacement for fossil fuel derived fertiliser. The Anaerobic Digestion Facility will also allow the recovery of biogenic carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

A detailed description of the processes involved at this Proposed Development are included in **Chapter 2: Project Description** of this EIAR.

**13.2 Existing Environment**

**13.2.1 Location Details**

The Proposed Development at Glenloughaun townland in east Galway, roughly 3km south of Ballinasloe. The area is characterised by gently undulating hills and enclosed fields, mainly in use for grazing. To the south and west of Kellysgrove, there are remnants tracts of bogland and marsh.

<b>County</b>	Galway
<b>Local Authority</b>	Galway County Council.
<b>Barony</b>	Clonmacnowen.
<b>Civil Parish</b>	Clontuskert.
<b>Townland (s)</b>	Glenloughaun
<b>National Monuments within 5km</b>	None.
<b>RMP's / SMR's within 200m</b>	None.
<b>Architectural Sites within 50m</b>	None.
<b>ITM</b>	Centred on 583442/727229

Table 13.1: Location details

**13.2.2 Archaeological and Architectural Baseline Data**

**13.2.2.1 Mesolithic Period (ca. 8000–4000 BC)**

The Mesolithic (middle stone age) people were the first inhabitants of Ireland, arriving about 10,000 years ago. They were a mobile society relying on wild resources for food, which was hunted and gathered using stone tools as well as boats, nets, and traps. Settlement was in temporary and semi-permanent groups of huts constructed of wood slung with hide, which may have operated as seasonal or hunting camps. Mesolithic activity to date shows a marked concentration in the north-east of Ireland this can in part be attributed to both the availability of flint and the large number of antiquarians and collectors in the region and suggests that activity in this period was widespread in the country, with settlers probably utilising the extensive coastline for fish and shellfish.

Finds from Galway include a distally trimmed chert flake from the western shores of Lough Corrib at Oughterard which is later Mesolithic in provenance. Jim Higgins and Michael Gibbons uncovered some evidence of a Late Mesolithic presence near the junction of High Street and Cross Street in Galway City. Stone artefacts of the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic times were found only a few miles away near Menlough graveyard, between Menlough Wood and Terryland castle, during the late 1970's" (Spellissy, 1999, 29). More recently excavations in advance of road schemes have unearthed lithics dating to the late Mesolithic. These finds mostly to the east of the county have been discovered at Barnacragh and Urraghy (Tierney et al. 2009, 13-5) and in large concentrations at Ballynacloough, near Aughrim (Tierney and O'Dowd 2008, 5-6). Shell middens also occur along the coastline of Galway Bay; these sites are multi-period and can date from modern times to the Mesolithic Period.

While direct evidence from Kellysgrove or Glenloughaun townlands has not been uncovered, regional studies suggest that river valleys and raised eskers – such as the Esker Riada, which runs partially through Ballinasloe would have been attractive locations for Mesolithic activity due to dry, traversable ground and access to watercourses.

### 13.2.2.2 Neolithic Period (4000BC–2500BC)

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

Farming as a practice required new skills and, more importantly, new tools. This demand resulted in the development of specific crafts. Polished stone axes, ards (ploughs), flint tools for harvesting crops, and stone saddle querns for grinding the grain required the exploitation of specific stone sources. Flint remained an important stone for the production of tools and weapons, objects such as javelin heads, mace heads, polished axes and fine leaf and lozenge shaped arrowheads were used for both hunting and warfare. During this period the first long distance trade networks were established. Stone axes from Britain, a flint axe from Scandinavia, pitchstone from Scotland, and jadeite axes from the Alpine area of northern Europe have all been found throughout the country. Pottery also makes its first appearance in the archaeological record. The pots were handmade, coil built and fired in bonfires or pits. The earliest pots were mainly undecorated round bottomed bowls, although decoration became more common in the later part of the period.

Other significant changes included the development of a ritual landscape dotted by large megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes. These monuments indicate status, knowledge of engineering, and the ability to organise resources, including labour. These tombs are divided into four classes: court tombs, portal tombs, passage tombs and wedge tombs.

Neolithic activity is more apparent in the archaeological record of Galway due to the presence of several known megalithic monuments. Megalithic monuments can be divided into funerary monuments, communal tombs for the burial of the dead and those with a more esoteric function such as stone circles, stone rows, or single standing stones whose function was probably ceremonial. Single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories. These monuments include the Connemara group of 31 tombs indicating intensive settlement in the area

### 13.2.2.3 The Bronze Age (ca. 2500–500BC)

The early Bronze Age is characterised by a considerable expansion of settlement in the county. The people of this period preferred well drained lightly forested upland pastures. These lightly forested slopes were easier to clear with the available technology and the cleared soil was worked until depleted. Pasture and cattle raising was the key to the Bronze Age economy in the county. The improved technology associated with the Bronze Age also assisted the farmers in improving control over their environment, by more extensive farming practices and forestry clearances. Surviving from the Bronze Age settlers are hill forts, fulachtaí fia, weaponry and ornaments.

There is also a notable concentration of Bronze Age burials known in an area roughly bounded by Athenry, Tuam and Headford, indicating that activity in this period was widespread in the

region and suggesting a significant population density. Barrows, generally dating from the Late Neolithic to the Early Iron Age, along with standing stones are quite common in the Tuam-Headford area (Gosling, 1999, 1). Although there is some debate about the provenance of the standing stones, it is generally accepted that they date from the later part of the Bronze Age. Stone rows or single standing stones were probably ceremonial in function, although single standing stones may have acted as foci or markers at the edges of territories. Burnt mounds (fulachtaí fia), which consist of small, horseshoe shaped mounds, are composed of burnt and fire cracked stones and a central pit or trough. They may have functioned as cooking places (Waddell 200-, 205-22) although other alternative functions such as dyeing or brewing have been suggested. They are common throughout the country, and many are identified each year.

#### **13.2.2.4 The Iron Age (ca. 500BC–500AD)**

The end of the Irish Bronze Age merges into the Early Iron Age almost imperceptibly. It would seem from the evidence so far uncovered that iron use was gradually introduced into Ireland; however bronze implements were still very much in use for everyday objects and for ornamentation.

Iron objects are found rarely and when discovered are often in poor condition. As in continental Europe, there are two phases of the Iron Age in Ireland: the Hallstatt and the La Tène. The Hallstatt period dates from 700BC onwards and spread rapidly from Austria, across Europe, and then into Ireland. The later Iron Age or La Tène culture also originated in Europe during the middle of the 5th Century BC. Life in Iron Age Ireland seems to have been much as it was in the early historic period – mixed farmers living in or around small, defended settlements known as ringforts or stone cashels. Hillforts, crannogs, ringforts, souterrains, cist burials, monoliths and ogham stones are all associated with this period.

Ringforts, hilltop enclosures and other large enclosures are common across County Galway, both as raths (defended settlements defined by an earthen bank) and cashels (defined by a bank of stone). The smaller ringfort settlements are the most common monuments in Galway and are thought to be small farmsteads, enclosing houses, farm buildings and animal pens, enclosed as protection against raiders or wild animals. Excavations of the interiors suggest that the houses were small circular huts, built of stakes with a double skin of wattle and a thatched roof. Their distribution in the region is dispersed and widespread. The Archaeological Inventory of North Galway lists 1104 examples while the Archaeological Inventory of Galway (west) lists 135.

The larger hillforts and enclosures are either large secular settlements, dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, linked to large 'royal' sites, or may be associated with pre-Norman monastic settlements. Limited fieldwork has been carried out on these monuments. The Iron Age is less well represented archaeologically in western Ireland. However, artefactual evidence such as La Tène-style metalwork found elsewhere in Connacht suggests interaction with continental traditions. It is likely that early Gaelic polities were established during this period, setting the stage for the complex socio-political landscape of the early medieval period.

#### **13.2.2.5 Early Medieval Period (400AD–1100AD)**

By the early medieval period the Tuam region had become a significant ecclesiastical centre. The monastic foundation at Tuam, attributed to St. Jarlath in the 6th century, reflects Tuam's early importance within the Christian landscape. Ringforts – circular earthen enclosures serving

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as farmsteads for elite families – are common in the region and are indicative of rural, kin-based settlement patterns. Examples are recorded throughout County Galway.

**13.2.2.6 Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods**

Clonfert Monastery, located around 13km miles southeast of Ballinasloe, was one of the most significant early Christian monastic sites in the area. Founded by Saint Brendan of Clonfert (ca. 484–577), a famous Irish abbot and missionary, Clonfert became a major centre of learning and pilgrimage. Clonfert was located along an important route used by early Christian pilgrims, and Ballinasloe, though not a primary monastic centre itself, would have benefited from the religious influence of Clonfert.

By the 12th century Ballinasloe came under the control of the de Burgh family, who established a stronghold in the west of Ireland. The de Burghs were instrumental in shaping Galway's medieval landscape, building castles and fortifications. Ballinasloe itself was founded as a medieval settlement and grew rapidly in the 13th century due to its strategic location.

Although no dedicated entry for Kellysgrove or Glenloughaun appear in Samuel Lewis's 1837 Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Ballinasloe is described as follow: 'This town is situated on the river Suck, which divides it into two unequal parts, of which the larger is in the county of Galway. It appears to have arisen under the protection of its castle, which in the reign of Elizabeth was one of the strongest fortresses in Connaught, and the ruins of which are situated on the Roscommon side of the river and is now one of the most flourishing towns in the south and west of Ireland.'

Kellysgrove townland is named Tuaim Catraí as Gaeilge, Tuaim meaning '(grave-)mound, burial-place' which may be a reference to recorded monument GA087-121001--, a childrens burial ground which is located in the north of the townland. The townland name Glenloughaun derives from the Irish Gleann an Locháin, meaning 'the Glen of the small lake'.

**13.2.3 Archaeological Heritage**

**13.2.3.1 World Heritage Sites**

There are no World Heritage Sites or potential World Heritage Sites contained in the Tentative List of Candidate Sites within 20km of the Proposed Development.

**13.2.3.2 National Monuments in State Care, Guardianship or under Protection Order**

There are no National Monuments in State Care (Ownership or Guardianship) or Monuments that are subject to a preservation order within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

**13.2.3.3 Record of Monuments and Places/Archaeological Survey Database/Register of Historic Monuments**

The following sections contain information relative to the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM), the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Archaeological Survey Database (ASD). Archaeological monuments are general registered by the National Monuments Service using a Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number.

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There are no recorded sites within a 200m radius of the subject site. The nearest recorded archaeological sites are located beyond this distance and include ecclesiastical remains, ringforts and earthworks. The closest monument is located 660m to the east and comprises an Enclosure (GA087-119----). The ASD describes the monument as follows:

'In gently undulating grassland, marked on 3rd ed. of OS 6-inch map (1946) as an oval enclosure (NW-SE c. 50m, NE-SW c. 35m); all that survives is a tear-shaped area defined by a scarp and much disturbed by quarrying. A shallow depression evident from NNE through E to SE may indicate an external fosse. Traces of a bank are visible beyond a field boundary which lies c. 1m to NW of the enclosure. A series of banks, possibly the result of quarrying, extend off the enclosing element at SE.'



Figure 13.5: Nearby recorded monuments and RPS/NIAH Sites.

### 13.2.3.4 Map Regression

Analysis of historic mapping shows how the landscape has changed over time. The comparison of editions of historic maps can show how some landscape features have been created, altered or removed over a period of time. Sometimes features that appear on these early maps are found to be of potential archaeological significance during fieldwork. For this study, the following historic maps were consulted:

- Taylor and Skinner's Road Map of 1778;
- William Larkin's County Galway map of 1819;
- First edition Ordnance Survey 6" Maps circa 1830;
- Griffith's Valuation, 1855;
- Second edition Ordnance Survey 25" Maps circa 1900 and,

- Cassini 6" map circa 1930's

Glenloughaun appears on Taylor and Skinner's Road Map of 1778, which charts key routes across Ireland rather than focusing on granular settlement. While Glenloughaun is not specifically named, the broader area is depicted as sparsely settled, with minimal built environment and a landscape dominated by moorland and agriculture. Roads connecting Roscommon, Ballinasloe, and Eyrecourt define the regional infrastructure but offer little detail on internal townland composition. This suggests a pre-enclosure landscape that had not yet been formally parcelled or extensively developed.

By 1819, William Larkin's County Galway map reflects a subtle transition. Though still largely schematic, the map introduces administrative divisions such as baronies and civil parishes, identifying Glenloughaun within Clontuskert parish. This early nineteenth-century phase marks a prelude to more systematic mapping and hints at increasing formalisation of rural governance and land ownership.

The first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch maps (1838–1846) mark a significant leap in cartographic precision. Glenloughaun is now clearly delineated, with townland boundaries, field systems, roadways, and farm structures identified. The maps reveal a well-defined agrarian landscape of enclosed fields and scattered dwellings.

This is corroborated by Griffith's Valuation (1855), which identifies Robert Sinclair as the principal occupier of Glenloughaun, holding 51 acres from the Earl of Clancarty. The valuation includes a house and associated buildings, confirming the presence of a working farmstead. This combination of sources points to a landscape increasingly dominated by managed agriculture and tenancy systems under landlord control.

The second and third edition OSI maps (1890–1915) refine earlier depictions, offering detailed representations of boundary lines, built structures, internal roads, and topographic features. The overall morphology of Glenloughaun remains consistent, suggesting stability in land use and ownership during this period. However, minor adjustments in field boundaries, hedgerow placement, and infrastructural elements such as laneways indicate the ongoing maintenance and slight reconfiguration of the agricultural landscape.

The presence of nearby Kellysgrove House, to which Glenloughaun was historically linked through tenancy, is evident on these maps, including its gate lodge and tree-lined avenue. These features underscore the integration of rural farms within broader estate systems characteristic of late-Victorian and Edwardian Ireland.

Estate maps and aerial survey data from the early to mid-twentieth century reflect a marked decline in estate architecture and landscaping. By 1948, following the ownership of Glenloughaun and Kellysgrove by successive landlords – including Elder, Rothwell, Donnelly, and eventually the Bank of Ireland – key landscape features such as the beech avenue to Kellysgrove House had been removed, and the gate lodge largely vanished from cartographic record.

These changes correspond with the broader disintegration of the landlord system and the redistribution of estate lands following Irish independence and land acts. The rural landscape thus began to shift from estate-centered agrarian management to more fragmented, locally held agricultural units.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted at the subject site.

### **13.2.3.5 Aerial Photography**

A review of available aerial photographs was undertaken to identify any previously unrecorded anomalies of historical potential. Inspection of the aerial photographic coverage of the area held by the Ordnance Survey (1995-2013), Google Earth (2002-2020), the Tailte Éireann Aerial Imagery Archive, National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) and Bing Maps was completed.

These platforms offer access to orthophotography and historical image sequences that provide an overview of land-use evolution and potential subsurface features. The aerial photographic record consistently depicts the area as actively cultivated or grazed agricultural land. No cropmarks, soil marks, shadow features, or potential enclosures of archaeological interest were identified in the imagery examined across all date ranges.

Findings from the Tailte Éireann and NCAP sources further support the interpretation of the Proposed Development Area as undisturbed greenfield land. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

### **13.2.3.6 LIDAR**

A review of the Geological Survey Ireland Open Topographic Data Viewer was carried out. The GSI's Open Topographic Data Viewer provides access to processed LiDAR data in raster format, including Digital Terrain Models (DTMs) and Digital Surface Models (DSMs).

There is no tile available for the subject site.

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

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

### **13.2.3.8 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork in the vicinity**

A review of the Excavations Bulletin database ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) and other relevant sources identified no archaeological investigations in the vicinity.

## **13.2.4 Architectural Heritage**

### **13.2.4.1 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA)**

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

### **13.2.4.2 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)/National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)/Industrial/Vernacular Heritage**

The Record of Protected Structures from the Galway County Council Development Plan and the NIAH inventory list the following sites within the vicinity of the PDA.

**RPS Number** 3520  
**NIAH Number** 30408729  
**Townland** Kellysgrove

Ballinure Bridge - 3-arch limestone road bridge, built ca. 1800, carrying road over Ballinure River.

**NIAH Description:** Three-arch limestone road bridge, built c.1800, carrying road over Ballinure River. Rubble stone walls and parapet walls with rubble stone vertical coping stones. Round arches with dressed stone voussoirs. Ballinure Bridge is robustly constructed albeit small in scale and retains its original character. It is a subtle landmark on the road between Portumna and Ballinasloe. The small arches are typical of early bridges. It is rated as of regional significance.

### **13.2.5 Folklore, Other Cultural Heritage Features and Areas of Potential**

#### **13.2.5.1.1 Rivers, Streams, Wetlands**

Rivers and streams are important cultural as well as physical features of the landscape, and archaeological sites and features are often related with waterways including features such as fulachtaí fia, fords, bridges, and mills. Riverbanks have been favoured for human occupation since prehistoric times for their proximity to food sources and fresh water and they served as routeways, boundaries, defences and as a focus for ritual. No watercourse will be affected by the works. The proposed development is located directly to the north of the Ballinure River (which also marks the townland boundary) but will not be directly impacted.

#### **13.2.5.1.2 Folklore Commission**

A review of the National Folklore Collection was completed on [www.Dúchas.ie](http://www.Dúchas.ie). Nothing of note is recorded for Kellysgrove or Glenloughaun townlands.

#### **13.2.5.1.3 Townland Boundaries**

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

### **13.2.6 Site Inspection**

A field inspection was carried out on the 15th of May 2025 which entailed walking the Proposed Development area noting, and recording the terrain type and land usage, the presence of features of archaeological or historical significance and visually investigating any suspect anomalies observed to determine their nature and provenance where possible. The site could be fully accessed and was inspected throughout. The weather conditions were dry and crisp with bright sunshine.

The northeastern corner of the landholding is dominated by a modern light industrial complex. Beyond the yard, the terrain shifts into rough pasture. The western portion of the site stretches out as a single field, sloping south to wetter ground and rushes along the Ballinure River, bordered by hedgerow and intermittent mature trees. No features of cultural heritage significance were noted.

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Plate 13.1: Looking S along western field.



Plate 13.2: Looking southwest.



Plate 13.3: Looking S along western field.

## 13.3 Potential Effects

### 13.3.1 Potential Direct Effects

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

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

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

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

#### 13.3.1.1 Potential Direct Effects on Recorded Archaeological Monuments

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

#### 13.3.1.2 Potential Direct Effects on Unrecorded Archaeological Monuments or Features

There is a low potential to impact on previously unknown archaeological sites.

#### 13.3.1.3 Potential Direct Impacts Architectural Sites

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

### 13.3.2 'Do Nothing Scenario'

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

### 13.3.3 Potential Effects on the Setting/Operational Effects

Impacts on Setting can be reduced with sensitive site development and screening. The impact of the development is usually proportional to the extent to which that development is visible to

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and from the extant recorded monuments and features.

### **13.3.3.1 Archaeological Sites**

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

### **13.3.3.2 Architectural Sites**

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

## 13.4 Mitigation Measures and Residual Effects

### 13.4.1 Mitigation Measures

A suitably qualified archaeologist should be appointed to advise the design team on archaeological matters, liaise with the relevant authorities, prepare an archaeological licence application and method statement prior to the commencement of the works.

. 'Test excavation is that form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature and extent of archaeological deposits and features present in a location which it is proposed to develop (though not normally to fully investigate those deposits or features) and allow an assessment to be made of the archaeological impact of the proposed development. It may also be referred to as archaeological testing' (DAHGI 1999a, 27).

Testing will be carried out under licence to the National Monuments Service at the DHLGH. The application for a licence requires a detailed method statement, outlining the procedures to be adopted to excavate, record, and recover material of archaeological interest during such work.

Should archaeological material be uncovered at any location, the feature will be summarily investigated to determine the form, age, nature, depth, and extent of the feature. The feature will be planned, photographed, and recorded to best professional standards. Adequate funds to cover excavation, post-excavation analysis, and any testing or conservation work required should be made available if required. Upon completion of the works dissemination of the results will take the form of a stratigraphic report and full report to publishable standard lodged with the licensing section (NMS) and the Planning Section (NMS) and the National Museum of Ireland. A summary of the report will also be submitted to the Excavations Bulletin within six weeks of the end of fieldwork. Should results warrant it, wider dissemination in the form of a full publication may be recommended.

Where archaeological material is identified, the developer will make provision for excavation, post excavation, interpretation, and publication of the results or avoidance, where possible. Any such additional mitigation will be agreed in advance with the relevant authorities. The agreed archaeological mitigation (preservation in situ/full excavation) shall take place under licence prior to the commencement of development. A preliminary report detailing the findings of the agreed resolution shall be submitted to the planning authority within four weeks of the licence expiry and a full and final report shall be submitted to the planning authority within 1 year of the licence expiry date.

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

### 13.4.2 Residual Impact Assessment

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

#### 13.4.2.1 Construction Phase

There will be no significant residual impacts on the archaeological resource.

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## **13.4.2.2 Operational Phase**

Not applicable to the archaeological and architectural resource.

## **13.4.2.3 Summary of Post-Mitigation Effects**

There are no predicted residual impacts on the archaeological resource.

## **13.4.2.4 Cumulative Residual Effects**

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

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## Appendix 13.2 – Conventions, Directives and Legislation

### Conventions

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

#### **ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration, 2005**

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

#### **EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended.**

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

#### **The European Landscape Convention 2000**

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

#### **Valletta Convention, 1997**

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

#### **Granada Convention, 1997**

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

#### **UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972**

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

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## Legislation

### **The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006**

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

### **The National Monuments Act 1930 to 2004**

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

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

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

Section 12(3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 provides for the protection of monuments and places in the record, stating that “When the owner or occupier (not being the Minister) of a monument or place which has been recorded under subsection (1) of this section or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Minister and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence work for a period of two months after having given the notice”.

### **The Planning and Development Act 2000**

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

### **The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999**

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