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## TECHNICAL APPENDICES (VOLUME 3)

Technical Appendix 12-1 Cultural Heritage Gazetteer.....	
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Making Sustainability Happen

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACIfA	Associate of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CEMP	Construction and Environmental Management Plan
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GCR	Grid Connection Route
Grid Connection Route (GCR)	Refers to the proposed Grid Connection Route as defined in Chapter 1 of this EIAR.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
Main Wind Farm Development Site	The site where the Proposed Development is located. As defined in Chapter 1 of this EIAR.
NCAP	National Collection of Aerial Photography
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMS	National Monuments Service
NPF	National Planning Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey
PCIfA	Practitioner Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Proposed Project	Refers to the Proposed Development including the GCR.
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPO	Regional Policy Objective
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
TDR	Turbine Delivery Route
Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)	Refers to the proposed turbine delivery route as defined in Chapter 1 of this EIAR.
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

## 12.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Introduction

#### Background

- 12.1 This cultural heritage chapter was prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd and presents the results of a cultural heritage impact assessment encompassing both buried archaeological remains and above ground-built heritage, undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Proposed Project.
- 12.2 This chapter assesses the likely significant effects of the Proposed Project on the surrounding archaeological and cultural heritage landscape (for example, National Monuments and Protected Structures). The Cultural Heritage baseline includes an initial assessment based on a desktop review of the accessible archaeological and cultural heritage data, including known areas of archaeological/cultural significance that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Project. Site assessments were also undertaken in April 2023 for the Main Wind Farm Site and in August 2025 for the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) Over-run Areas to establish direct and indirect impacts upon receptors. A description of likely significant effects of the Proposed Project on the baseline is then presented, and appropriate mitigation methods are proposed along with a description of the residual effects of the Proposed Project.

#### Statement of Authority

- 12.3 This chapter of the EIAR was prepared by SLR Consulting Ireland. The chapter authors are:
- Gwynaeth McCullough, BSc, ACIfA.
  - Katja Watson, MSc, PCIfA.
- 12.4 Gwynaeth has been in archaeology and heritage for several years, having studied at Bournemouth University and working in fieldwork, post-excavation and consultancy across the UK. Gwynaeth has been involved in numerous projects of small to large scale which have required a broad knowledge of archaeology and cultural heritage. These include assessments for large scale renewable energy projects such as solar and onshore S36 wind farms, BESS sites, onshore cable routes and energy infrastructure improvements. Gwynaeth has worked on a number of projects in heritage sensitive areas, requiring a strong knowledge of statutory planning policy and guidance.
- 12.5 Katja has been involved in the archaeology and heritage sector for a number of years, holding an MSc in Cultural Heritage from University of Aberdeen and having joined SLR in 2023. She has contributed to a wide range of planning applications across global projects, including historic environment and archaeological desk-based assessments, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) chapters, feasibility studies, and due diligence reports, primarily centred on the renewable energy sector, particularly wind farms, as well as Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), solar farms, housing developments, and major infrastructure projects such as cable routes and pipelines.
- 12.6 This chapter was reviewed by John Trehy, BA Archaeology & Prehistory. John is a Technical Discipline Manager at SLR and has been an archaeologist for over 25 years with first-hand experience of, both rural and urban rescue archaeology. He previously spent 20 years with tor&co planning and design consultancy where he was heritage team leader. He is experienced in compiling and researching a variety of desktop studies, either to support

environmental impact assessments (EIAs) or to provide archaeological supporting information for planning applications.

## Scope and Consultation

- 12.7 The Main Wind Farm Site is situated within a coastal region of County Mayo and occupies a relatively condensed area of around 3 km in a northeast to southwest orientation, encompassing two cluster areas. The Main Wind Farm Site is also in proximity to several smaller settlements within a 5 km radius, with Bangor Eris located approximately 8 km away and the village of Gweesalia located approximately 0.5 km away. Further information on the Proposed Project is described in **Chapter 2** of this EIAR.
- 12.8 The assessment has included the assessment of the Main Wind Farm Site and all permutations within the turbine range of flexibility, the Over-run Areas along the TDR, and the Grid Connection Route (GCR). As the GCR will be constructed within the extent of the existing public carriageway, there are no potential archaeological or cultural heritage impacts, and it has been scoped out of this assessment.
- 12.9 The scope of the cultural heritage assessment was set out in the Scoping Report prepared for scoping consultation in August 2024 (**Technical Appendix 3-3**). This document was issued to relevant bodies (Mayo County Council, Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and The Heritage Council), none of which had comments. The assessment focuses on assets where likely significant effects were predicted to occur as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, the assessment considered the following:
- Potential Direct Impacts:
    - Crannog, Dumha Locha (MA025-004).
  - Potential Indirect Impacts:
    - Megalithic tomb – court tomb (MA026-002001-); and
    - Penal Mass station (MA026-007----).

## Legislation, guidance and policy

### National Legislation

- 12.10 Archaeological monuments and cultural heritage resources are protected through international policy and national legislation and policy, which are implemented in accordance with the requirements of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention), which Ireland ratified in 1997.
- 12.11 Archaeological monuments are primarily protected under the National Monuments Acts of 1930 to 2004 and sections of the National Cultural Institutions Act of 1997. Statutory protection is afforded at different levels to National Monuments with monuments included on the Register of Historic Monuments and on the Record of Monuments and Places.
- 12.12 Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) emphasizes the importance of maintaining inventories of archaeological and cultural heritage assets and for documentation to be prepared at the earliest opportunity in the event of a threat to these assets. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) was established to fulfil the obligations of the Granada

Convention and aims to be a central record of all architectural cultural heritage in Ireland. Article 1 of the Granada Convention defines architectural cultural heritage as:

- Monument: all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixings and fittings;
- Group of Buildings: homogenous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units; and
- Sites: the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogenous to be topographically definable and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

12.13 The NIAH forms the basis for the recommendations by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the local authority for architectural cultural heritage assets to be included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The RPS is a mechanism for the statutory protection of architectural cultural heritage, formed under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act (2000), as amended. Architectural cultural heritage assets identified by the Minister as being of Regional, National or International rating within the NIAH are included in the recommendations for each local authority's Record of Monuments and Places.

12.14 The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023) has partially or totally repealed the Architectural Heritage and Historic Monuments Act (1999) and will eventually fully repeal the National Monuments Act (1930). This act provides for a reform of monument records but also outlines the considerations for monuments during the EIA process.

## Regional Policy

12.15 Regional, Spatial and Economic Strategy for Northern & Western Regional Assembly 2020 – 2032.

## Guidelines

12.16 Relevant guidance documents have been published by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the professional archaeological body the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. These publications have been adhered to in this assessment and consist of the following:

- Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) (1999)
- Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) (2011).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA) (2014).
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency) (2022).
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ) (2018).

- Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of TII National Road and Greenway Projects (TII Publication PE-ARC-02009) (2025).

## National Planning Framework – First Revision (2025)

12.17 Relevant National Policy Objectives to Cultural Heritage and the proposals are provided as follows:

### Section 8.5 Managing our Share Environment Responsibly

*“National Policy Objective 89 Protect, conserve and enhance the rich qualities of natural, cultural and built heritage of Ireland in a manner appropriate to their cultural and environmental significance.”*

*“National Policy Objective 90 Enhance, integrate and protect the special physical, environmental, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets, including streetscapes, vernacular dwellings and other historic buildings and monuments, through appropriate and sensitive investment and conservation.”*

## Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for Northern and Western Regional Assembly 2020 - 2032

12.18 Relevant Regional Policy Objectives to Cultural Heritage and the proposals are provided as follows:

### Section 5.7 Our Built, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

*“RPO 5.13: Protect, enhance and harness the potential of the region’s cultural and heritage assets.”*

*“RPO 5.14: Support the conservation of the region’s National Monuments and built heritage, being structures that are of special architectural, historic, archaeological artistic, cultural, scientific social or technical interests that are of Regional Significance or above.”*

## Local Planning Policy and Development Control

### Mayo County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

#### Volume 1, Written Statement:

*“Objective BEO 1: To protect the archaeological heritage and sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in addition to National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.*

*Objective BEO 4: To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner, avoiding adverse effects on landscape setting and context of monument.*

*Objective BEO 5: To protect all sites and features of archaeological interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monument and Places, in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record), having regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

**Objective BEO 6:** *To protect archaeological sites, monuments, underwater archaeology and archaeological objects in their setting, which are listed on the Record of Monuments and Places for Mayo.*

**Objective BEO 10:** *To protect the setting of protected structures and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures, which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.”*

**Volume 4, Renewable Energy Strategy for Co. Mayo 2011 – 2020:**

**Section 6, Paragraph 6.1: A vision for Renewable Energy:**

*“The renewable energy development vision for County Mayo is to harness the energy and economic potential of County Mayo presented by renewable technologies in order to provide benefits for both local communities and the global environment. In doing so, the elements of the natural, cultural (architectural and archaeological) and landscape heritage that define Mayo for local people and visitors alike will be protected. It is recognised, however, that change is an integral part of cultural heritage and that in order for communities and businesses to thrive Mayo needs new developments. Renewable energy projects will, therefore, be developed in ways that protect the integrity of environmentally designated sites; maximise local and regional benefits; and minimise or avoid negative impacts on the environment and society. “*

- 12.19 It is acknowledged that a Draft Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo (2026) has since been prepared and this has been considered in the assessment.

**Policy 2: The Natural and Built Environment:**

**Objective 2.3:**

*“It is an objective of the Council that all proposed renewable developments will be assessed on the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, ensuring minimal adverse environmental impact to biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; water; air and climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage; and landscape. Full account shall be taken of the presence and requirement to protect all Natura 2000 sites, natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, the national Park and Nature Reserves. Projects will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment where considered appropriate.”*

**Objective 2.4:**

*“It is an objective of the Council to ensure that renewable energy developments do not interfere with, damage, remove, or impinge on the visual amenity of, existing rights of way, public walking and cycling routes, scenic routes and scenic views, architectural heritage including protected structures and Architectural Conservation Areas, archaeological heritage including recorded monuments, Ballycroy National Park and vulnerable or sensitive landscapes in the County.”*

## Approach and Methodology

### Introduction

- 12.20 The assessment of effects considers the Proposed Project inclusive of embedded mitigation and design measures (as detailed in **Chapter 2** and the CEMP). Additional mitigation is only proposed where significant residual effects remain. The methodology used to assess the direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Project upon Cultural Heritage Significance of archaeological monument and cultural heritage assets was guided by ‘*Guidelines on the*

*Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*, published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2022.

- 12.21 In accordance with the EPA Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (2022), the assessment identifies effects as either direct or indirect, adverse or beneficial, and short-term, long-term, or permanent.
- 12.22 Direct effects are those which change the cultural heritage significance of an asset through physical alteration. For purposes of this assessment, indirect effects are those effects which cause change within the asset's setting and thereby change the cultural heritage significance of an asset.
- 12.23 Direct effects on the cultural heritage significance of an asset have been assessed on the basis of a combination of the cultural heritage significance of the asset (where known), the probability of further assets being located within the affected areas and their likely significance, and the magnitude of effect on those assets to be caused by the implementation of the Proposed Project.
- 12.24 Indirect effects on the significance of cultural heritage assets have been identified and assessed in accordance with the EPA Guidelines (2022). The assessment has been carried out in the following stages:
- initial assessment of intervisibility and other factors leading to the identification of potentially affected assets;
  - assessment of the cultural heritage significance of potentially affected assets;
  - assessment of the contribution of the setting to the cultural heritage significance of those assets;
  - assessment of the magnitude of effect of the Main Wind Farm Site on the contribution of settings to the significance of assets (by causing change within those settings); and
  - prediction of the significance of the effect.
- 12.25 Where direct effects on known archaeological features have been identified, mitigation by design has been proposed wherever possible. Where not possible, mitigation by means of a proportionate level of archaeological recording is proposed, pending agreement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the County Mayo Archaeological Advisor.

## Study Area

- 12.26 There is no guidance mandating the size of the study area required for the cultural heritage assessment of wind farms. Based upon a review of the historic landscape and the exercise of professional judgment, two study areas were implemented for purposes of the current assessment, as follows:
- A 1 km-radius study area as measured from the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary for the procurement of archaeological data, to inform the predictive model of unknown buried archaeology (an estimation of archaeological potential based on the collaboration of data available from surveys and available sources);
  - A 0.5 km study area for the TDR works areas for the procurement of archaeological data, appropriate to the scale of these sites and to inform the predictive model of unknown buried archaeology; and

- a 5 km-radius study area as measured from the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary, to inform the settings assessment, in conjunction with a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). A 5 km study area was used as it was considered sufficient to encompass assets susceptible to setting effects from the proposals.

## Effects Scoped Out

12.27 Assessment of the following has been scoped out:

- direct and indirect effects by the grid connection route (GCR), as it will be contained within the existing public carriageway, and thus no new below-ground impacts will be caused, and as no above ground infrastructure will be visible once constructed, there are no potential indirect impacts upon asset's settings. Indirect effects during the construction phase have also been scoped out, as these will be temporary and not exceed the impacts of the proposed turbines on the setting of assets.
- effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets located at a distance in excess of 5 km from the Main Wind Farm Site, unless identified as being of particular sensitivity to change by consultees; and
- effects on the setting of cultural heritage assets within the 5 km study area that are beyond the ZTV and so would not have visibility of the Main Wind Farm Development Site, and where there are no identified 'third points' (co-visibility) of the cultural heritage asset and the Main Wind Farm Development Site.

## Impact Assessment Methodology

12.28 In accordance with the relevant industry guidance outlined above in **Section 12.20**, the impact assessment process adhered to was as follows:

- determination of the Significance of the Cultural Heritage Asset affected, including the asset's significance that arises from its setting in regard to indirect effects;
- determination of the Magnitude of Effect of the Proposed Project upon that Cultural Heritage Asset; and finally
- determination of the Significance of Effect of the Proposed Project.

12.29 The first two variables – Significance of the Cultural Heritage Asset and Magnitude of Effect – are determined on the basis of the available evidence, using professional judgment. The third variable – Significance of Effect – comprises the product of the first two and is quantified using a standardised matrix (**Table 12-4**).

12.30 The concepts of Significance of the Cultural Heritage Asset, Magnitude of Effect and Significance of Effect are discussed in detail below.

## Significance

12.31 To allow for a detailed, justifiable, and intelligible determination of effect; it is necessary to establish a consistent terminology for discussing the importance of heritage assets. This is referred to variously in statute, policy, and guidance, including 'importance', 'interest', 'significance', and 'special interest'. For the purposes of this assessment, the term 'significance' has been used consistently hereafter, in line with EIA regulations which require the assessment of likely significant effects.

12.32 The Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, which relates specifically to archaeological remains, states the following:

*“Any material remains which can contribute to understanding past societies may be considered to have an element of archaeological significance... Archaeological significance or interest may also be seen in terms of the potential for sites, monuments or artefacts to enable people to experience directly the evidence for past societies and through this allow them to better understand and appreciate their own past.”*

- 12.33 A more detailed approach is provided within Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011), which conceives of heritage significance as deriving from the following categories of ‘special interest’:
- Architectural.
  - Historical.
  - Archaeological.
  - Artistic.
  - Cultural.
  - Scientific.
  - Technical.
  - Social.
- 12.34 These guidelines, which derive principally from the terms of UNESCO’s Granada Convention, makes the further point that these categories are not mutually exclusive, such that an asset might derive its significance from one, multiple or all of these interests.
- 12.35 In accordance with this guidance, the significance of the cultural heritage assets described within this assessment is discussed in terms of these contributing interests, enabling consistent, detailed, justifiable, and intelligible determinations of cultural heritage significance to be made.
- 12.36 **Table 12-1** shows the potential levels of cultural heritage significance of an asset (including archaeological assets), based upon their statutory status, protection and grading. Where non-designated, the level of significance of an asset is described with regard to a scale of significance ranging from Highest to Negligible. This table acts as an aid to consistency in the exercise of professional judgement and provides a degree of transparency for others in evaluating the conclusions reached by this assessment (EPA, 2022).

**Table 12-1: Cultural Heritage Significance**

Significance	Explanation
Highest	Sites of international importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ World Heritage Sites.</li> </ul>
High	Site of National importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Monuments in State Ownership.</li> <li>○ National Monuments under a Preservation Order.</li> <li>○ Nationally Important assets recorded in the NIAH and the Record of Protected Structures.</li> </ul>
Medium	Sites of Regional importance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sites on the Record of Monuments and Places, found within the</li> </ul>

Significance	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ relevant County Development Plan.</li> <li>○ Regionally Important assets recorded in NIAH and the Record of Protected Structures.</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sites recorded within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) which are not included within the Records of Monuments and Places.</li> <li>○ Locally Important assets recorded in the NIAH</li> </ul>
Negligible	Negligible or no heritage significance.
Unknown	Further information is required to assess the significance of these assets.

## Magnitude of Effect

- 12.37 Determining the magnitude of any likely effects requires consideration of the nature of the change to the baseline cultural heritage conditions that would result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Project.
- 12.38 Effects might be direct (e.g., physical truncation of buried remains as a result of ground disturbance) and/or indirect (e.g., adverse change to the setting of cultural heritage assets, both visually, and as a result of noise, vibration, traffic movements etc.).
- 12.39 Effects may be beneficial or adverse and may be short-term, long term or permanent.
- 12.40 Magnitude of effect has been assessed with reference to the criteria set out in **Table 12-2**. The magnitude of both beneficial and adverse effect is assessed according to the same scale of effect, from high to neutral/none (EPA, 2022).

**Table 12-2: Magnitude of Effect**

Magnitude of effect	Explanatory criteria
High Beneficial	The Proposed Project would considerably enhance the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate and experience it.
Medium Beneficial	The Proposed Project would enhance to a clearly discernible extent the cultural heritage significance of the effected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate and experience it.
Low Beneficial	The Proposed Project would enhance to a minor extent the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability understand, appreciate, and experience it.
Very Low Beneficial	The Proposed Project would enhance to a very minor extent the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability understand, appreciate, and experience it.
Neutral/None	The Proposed Project would not affect or would have harmful and enhancing effects of equal magnitude on the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate, and experience it.
Very Low Adverse	The Proposed Project would erode to a very minor extent the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate, and experience it.

Magnitude of effect	Explanatory criteria
Low Adverse	The Proposed Project would erode to a minor extent the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate, and experience it.
Medium Adverse	The Proposed Project would erode to a clearly discernible extent the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate, and experience it.
High Adverse	The Proposed Project would considerably erode the cultural heritage significance of the affected asset, or the ability to understand, appreciate and experience it.

## Significance of Effect

12.41 The significance of effect levels and criteria are presented in **Table 12-3**.

12.42 **Table 12-4** provides a matrix that relates cultural heritage significance to magnitude of effect (incorporating contribution from setting where relevant), to establish the likely overall significance of the effect on the cultural heritage asset. This assessment has been undertaken separately for direct effects and indirect effects; the latter being principally concerned with effects resulting from development within the setting of cultural heritage assets (EPA, 2022). Where a significant (or greater) effect is identified using this method, it would be considered a Significant Effect for purposes of EIA.

**Table 12-3: Significance Effects Criteria**

Significance of Effect	Description
Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Significant	The Proposed Project would create an effect on a designated asset which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
Moderate	An effect which alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing or emerging trends
Slight	The Proposed Project would have an effect that causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without affecting its sensitivities
Not Significant/ Imperceptible	The Proposed Project would have an effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences

**Table 12-4: Significance of Effect Matrix**

Magnitude of Effect	Significance (excluding negligible and unknown)			
	Highest	High	Medium	Low
High beneficial	Profound	Very Significant/Profound	Significant/Very Profound	Moderate
Medium beneficial	Profound	Significant	Moderate	Slight

Magnitude of Effect	Significance (excluding negligible and unknown)			
	Highest	High	Medium	Low
Low beneficial	Very Significant	Slight/Moderate	Slight	Slight
Very low beneficial	Significant	Not Significant/Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible/Not Significant
Neutral/None	Not Significant/Imperceptible	Not Significant/Imperceptible	Not Significant/Imperceptible	Not Significant/Imperceptible
Very low adverse	Significant	Not Significant/Slight	Not Significant	Imperceptible/Not Significant
Low adverse	Very Significant	Slight/Moderate	Slight	Slight
Medium adverse	Profound	Significant	Moderate	Slight
High adverse	Profound	Very Significant/Profound	Significant/Very Significant	Moderate

### Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Analysis

- 12.43 The assessment of visual effects has been assisted by a ZTV calculation, prepared principally for landscape and visual effect assessment, and presented in Figure 12-1. The ZTV maps predict the degree of visibility from points within a study area around the Main Wind Farm Site, as would be perceivable by an observer of average height (1.70m). The ZTV model was used to inform the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Project upon cultural heritage assets within the study area as a result of change to setting.
- 12.44 The ZTV is theoretical, being based on landform only ('bare earth'), and it does not take into account the screening or filtering effects of intervening vegetation, buildings or other surface features. As such, it is likely to overestimate the actual level of visibility of the Proposed Project.
- 12.45 Assets that fall outside the ZTV are excluded from any further assessment, except where a view has been identified which includes a cultural heritage asset and the wind turbines (a 'third point') which either contributes to, or enables, an appreciation of the asset's cultural heritage significance.

### Cumulative Effects

- 12.46 A cumulative effects assessment is presented in **Section 12.136** The assessment has considered all developments identified in **Technical Appendix 2-3**. It is considered that the most likely source of any cumulative effects would arise from other wind energy developments within 10 km of the affected cultural heritage asset (depending on the cultural heritage significance of the asset), which have either been consented, are subject of an active planning application or are subject of a planning appeal.
- 12.47 Assessment of potential cumulative effects includes assets for which the Proposed Project and other developments would result in minor (or above) direct/indirect effects. The existing presence of any operational wind farms within the study areas and surrounding landscape

has been considered as part of the baseline assessment, as their direct/indirect effects are existing.

## Mitigation

12.48 A statement of mitigation measures will be proposed should there be any identified likely significant effects upon assets within the footprint of the Proposed Project. Mitigation through design has taken place, by avoiding any construction footprint within the recorded asset's Protection Zone within the Main Wind Farm Site to avoid direct effects.

## Residual Effects

12.49 A statement of the anticipated residual effects, i.e., following the implementation of the relevant mitigation measures, has been provided.

## Sources Consulted

12.50 The following sources were consulted:

- The Historic Environment Viewer as maintained by the Government of Ireland (Online) (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) from the Mayo County Development Plan 2021-2027 (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) from the Mayo County Development Plan 2021-2027 (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Database of Irish Excavation Reports (accessed 12/09/2025).
- Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources (accessed 12/09/2025).
- Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (accessed 12/09/2025).
- Irish Townlands Online Database (accessed 12/09/2025).
- Placenames Database of Ireland (accessed 12/09/2025).
- The Down Survey of Ireland (<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Kildare>) (accessed 12/09/2025).

12.51 The following Ordnance Survey Maps were consulted using the online National Townland and Historical Map Viewer:

- 1655 Down Survey Map of County Mayo.
- Larkin's 1808 Map of County Mayo.
- 1837 OS Fair Survey Map (drawn by R.Creighton).
- 18th century Barony Map by Sr William Petty.

## Site Visit

- 12.52 A site visit was undertaken of the Main Wind Farm Development Site on 22/05/2023 to identify potential unrecorded archaeological features within the Main Wind Farm Development Site and confirm the presence of the Crannog (MA025-004). As the crannog was located in an opening within dense forestry, assessment in person was not possible. However, a sufficiently comprehensive desk-based assessment for the purposes of determining any potential effects was carried out. Additionally, the assets scoped in for assessment for potential indirect effects were visited to assess their presence, condition and setting.
- 12.53 An additional site visit was undertaken on 13/08/2025 to identify potential unrecorded archaeological features in relevant areas of the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR). No new assets were recorded as a result of the site visit

## Limitations Encountered

- 12.54 The cultural heritage baseline has been gathered from the sources outlined in **Section 12.49**. It therefore shares the same range of limitations in terms of the comprehensiveness, completeness and accuracy of those sources.
- 12.55 The areas of the Main Wind Farm Development Site occupied by commercial forestry could not be accessed and surveyed for potential unknown archaeological features during the site visit. Whilst it is not anticipated that archaeological remains would be within these areas, they have not been comprehensively surveyed.
- 12.56 With respect to assessing indirect effects resulting from change to setting, as stated in **Section 12.42**, the ZTV is a theoretical, 'bare earth' model. As such, the results of the ZTV are likely to overestimate the actual level of visibility of the Proposed Project, as it does not take account of any intervening vegetation, built form or other surface features.

## Archaeological Baseline

- 12.57 The archaeological baseline establishes the archaeological context of the Main Wind Farm Development Site within 1 km, and establishes a predictive model for further potential archaeological remains. The Main Wind Farm Development Site is located within a coastal region of County Mayo comprising flat land, with upland land further inland to the east. The Main Wind Farm Site overlies soil types comprising lowland bog peat. The landscape within the Main Wind Farm Development Site and within 1 km has been modified due to intensive agricultural development including cultivation, land improvement, drainage, peat extraction and forestry plantations.
- 12.58 A full description of the existing environment within the Main Wind Farm Site can be found in **Chapter 2**.

## Known Heritage Assets within the Main Wind Farm Site

### Prehistoric

- 12.59 There are no known prehistoric assets within the Main Wind Farm Site.
- 12.60 There are no known prehistoric assets within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Site boundary. The Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo classifies the area in which the Main Wind Farm Development Site is located as Northwest Coastal Moorland, characterised by bog/moorland with extensive areas of pasture and peatlands. This suggests that the area surrounding the Main Wind Farm Development Site may have been less suitable for long-

term settlement compared to more fertile regions. The presence of peat at the Main Wind Farm Development Site indicates a potential for the preservation of prehistoric palaeoenvironmental remains within its layers. Though the crannog settlements mentioned later in this chapter are undated, other assets of a similar nature in Ireland have been dated to between the Bronze Age and medieval period in terms of construction, with some remaining in use up to the post-medieval period. As assets of this type are artificial islands, they indicate a wet landscape that was generally unsuitable for other types of habitation or agricultural practices in the surrounding area.

### Medieval

- 12.61 There are no known medieval heritage assets within the Main Wind Farm Development Site.
- 12.62 There are no known medieval heritage assets within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary. As noted above, the crannogs within the Main Wind Farm Development Site may indicate specific areas of occupation which may date to the medieval period, however, this also indicates the rest of the Main Wind Farm Site would have been waterlogged during this time and unlikely to have any further substantial activity outside these areas.

### Post-medieval

- 12.63 There are no known post-medieval heritage assets within the Main Wind Farm Site.
- 12.64 There is one recorded post-medieval heritage asset within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Development Site, namely MA025-002001. This asset concerns the remains of a 18th/19th century house, located c. 0.18 km to the north of the Main Wind Farm Site's north-western boundary.

### Modern

- 12.65 There are no known modern heritage assets within the Main Wind Farm Development Site.
- 12.66 There is one modern heritage asset within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Development Site, namely NIAH ref: 31302501, Saint Columkille's Catholic Church, situated within the village of Gweesalia, c. 0.63 km to the south-west of the Main Wind Farm Site's south-western boundary. The church was constructed in 1930 and comprises a detached three-bay double height building on an E-shaped plan.

### Undated

- 12.67 There is one undated heritage asset within the Main Wind Farm Development Site (MA025-004). This asset comprises the remains of a crannog, located c. 0.23 km to the northeast of proposed Turbine 11.
- 12.68 There are a further four undated heritage assets within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Development Site, two of which (MA025-003, MA025-005) comprise crannogs. Crannogs are well documented within the region's archaeological record, and though these crannogs currently remain undated, dates of habitation for crannogs across Ireland have been found to range from the late Bronze Age through to the Middle Ages, sometimes as late as the 17th century.
- 12.69 The two remaining undated assets are both recorded as enclosures. The first of these (MA025-002) lies just c. 21m to the west of MA025-002001 and c. 0.19 km to the north of the Main Wind Farm Development Site's northern boundary. The second (MA026-001001) lies c. 0.98 km to the east of the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary.

- 12.70 A full list of cultural heritage assets within the archaeological baseline can be found in **Technical Appendix 12-1 Cultural Heritage Gazetteer**.

## Known Assets along turbine delivery route

### Over-run Area 1 (Figure 12-2a)

- 12.71 Over-run Area 1 is located at grid reference: F 78396 21445 and comprises an area of moorland with drainage ditches. The bedrock geology comprises granitic orthogneiss of the Cross Point Gneiss Formation, of the Annagh Gneiss Complex, overlain by blanket peat.
- 12.72 There are no recorded heritage assets within the over-run site boundary, nor within the 0.5 km study area. A review of historic mapping and aerial photography resulted in no new heritage assets being recorded. As such there is considered to be a negligible potential for unknown archaeology within the Over-run Area.

### Over-run Area 2 (Figure 12-2b)

- 12.73 Over-run Area 2 is located at grid reference: F 97680 19544 and comprises an area of moorland with drainage ditches. The bedrock geology consists of Downpatrick Formation X-bedded sandstone overlain by blanket peat.
- 12.74 There are no recorded heritage assets within the over-run site boundary, nor within the 0.5 km study area. A review of historic mapping and aerial photography resulted in no new heritage assets being recorded. As such there is considered to be a negligible potential for unknown archaeology within the Over-run Area.

### Over-run Area 3 (Figure 12-2c)

- 12.75 Over-run Area 3 is located at grid reference: F 85434 23473 and comprises an area of moorland with drainage ditches. The bedrock geology largely consists of graphitic, semi-pelitic schists & marble of the Inver Schist Formation, with the south westernmost section comprising Ballybeg Park Limestone Formation, both overlain by blanket peat.
- 12.76 There are no recorded heritage assets within the over-run site boundary, nor within the 0.5 km study area. A review of historic mapping and aerial photography resulted in no new heritage assets being recorded. As such there is considered to be a negligible potential for unknown archaeology within the Over-run Area.

## Historic Mapping and Historic Land Use Assessment

- 12.77 A review of the online historic mapping available from the National Library of Scotland, Irish townlands and historical map viewer online was undertaken. The 18th century Barony Map completed during the Down Survey Project was also consulted.
- 12.78 The 18th Barony Map of Erris shows the area of the Main Wind Farm Development Site as being devoid of settlement, with only a few hills recorded, the largest of which is likely to be Trista Hill, located c. 1.73 km to the east of the Main Wind Farm Development Site. The Main Wind Farm Development Site sits within the boundaries of the townlands of Muingmore/An Mhoing Mhór and Dumha Locha, the parish of Kilcommon and the Barony of Erris.
- 12.79 The Statistical Survey of Mayo, published in 1800, estimates the population of the Barony of Erris to be around 15,000 inhabitants at the time it was conducted. It describes the region as consisting of small settlements, with the houses consisting of stone walls with turfed roofs, with families often sharing the only room with their livestock, and others having a separate room for humans and animals.

- 12.80 Bald's map of the Maritime County of Mayo, published in 1830, shows the area as being equally devoid of habitation, with only a few buildings outlined at Trista, near where MA026-001001 (an enclosure) and MA026-001002 (a children's burial ground) are recorded, as well as other settlements in the area such as Mungmore (Muingmore) and Geesala (Gweesalia), though this map and that of Petty are both lacking in detail.
- 12.81 The first detailed map of the area containing the Main Wind Farm Development Site is the Six-inch scale 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1837. Two out of three of the crannogs are recorded on this map, with MA025-004 appearing as a small island on a lochan which appears to have now been drained, with MA025-005 being depicted similarly. MA025-003 does not appear on the map, though the lochan is featured. Saint Columkille's Catholic Church (NIAH ref: 31302501) is also depicted on this map, situated within the town of Gweesalia.
- 12.82 The Six-Inch Edition Ireland Ordnance Survey (Mayo, Sheet 25) map published in 1900 shows more details, depicting the increase in small farmsteads in the area of Tristia, to the north-east of the Main Wind Farm Development Site, to a largely similar extent as can be seen on modern satellite imagery. Many roads still in use in the present day can also be seen on this map, including the unnamed road that runs north-west to south-east through the Main Wind Farm Development Site, between two sections of the modern L1205 (Doolough) and L1206 local roads.

## Topographical dictionary of Ireland

- 12.83 The parish which contains the Main Wind Farm Development Site, Kilcommon, is noted in 'A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' by Samuel Lewis and is described as containing 13,667 inhabitants at the time of writing, 1837. The entry states that the parish comprises 211,906 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, valued at £8674 per annum, with 8519 acres described as 'waste' and 1844 as water. Lewis considered the Parish to be backwards in terms of agricultural practices, mainly consisting of spade husbandry, with much of the land being mountainous, with extensive tracts of bog and bleak and exposed lands towards the sea, with crops often destroyed by strong westerly winds.
- 12.84 The Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo classifies the character of the area containing the Main Wind Farm Development Site as Northwest Coastal Moorland. It is described as having a uniform bog/moorland appearance. The area contained within the Main Wind Farm Site comprises modern forestry plantation to the northwest and south, as well as peat with drainage ditches.

## Placenames

- 12.85 Muingmore, or An Mhoing Mhór in Irish, may reflect the openness of the area, which is relatively flat, lying between higher hills, with 'mór' meaning great or big. The closest town, Gweesalia, is derived from 'gaoth', meaning inlet of estuary, reflecting its coastal location.

## LiDAR

- 12.86 A LiDAR drone survey of the Main Wind Farm Site was carried out in February 2025. A review of this data did not result in any further archaeological sites being identified.

## Aerial Photography

- 12.87 The online aerial imagery of the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) and the National Irish Imagery Dashboard were examined for evidence of archaeological sites. No oblique aerial imagery was found. No further archaeological sites were therefore identified.

## Excavation History

- 12.88 There have been no previous archaeological-related investigations within the Main Wind Farm Site. No archaeological investigations within 1 km of the Main Wind Farm Site have identified and classified any archaeological deposits or features.
- 12.89 Excavations which took place prior to recording methods may have taken place, but no excavation records are available for any such activity within the Main Wind Farm Site.

## Archaeological Potential

- 12.90 The analysis of the archaeological baseline and environment indicates that the Main Wind Farm Development Site has had limited activity potentially as early as the prehistoric period. Although there is no dating evidence for the asset within the Main Wind Farm Site, the presence of the crannog (MA025-004) inside the boundary, as well as two more recorded within 1 km (MA025-003, MA025-005) indicates a sporadic pattern of settlement as early as possibly the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. There is therefore a moderate potential of unknown contemporary remains of the crannog within the Main Wind Farm Site outside the known/recorded extent, comprising archaeological materials such as post holes of former structural remains, and potential evidence of land cultivation or improvements for agriculture.
- 12.91 The potential for archaeological remains within the Main Wind Farm Development Site dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval outside of the recorded crannog (MA025-004) is considered low. The crannog is an example of a type of settlement within the Main Wind Farm Development Site and its wider environs which took advantage of a wetland landscape, of which other types of settlement would not occupy due to the poor drainage. Therefore, should there be other potential archaeological remains, these would comprise further crannogs, however none have been recorded. At most, it is anticipated that potential archaeological features would be limited to within the proximity of the recorded crannog within the Main Wind Farm Site.
- 12.92 Though the area around the Main Wind Farm Development Site is primarily bog/peatland, a landscape type that often lends itself to good preservation of archaeological assets, the Main Wind Farm Development Site itself has been subject to modern forestry planting, as well as peat-cutting, which suggests that any remains are likely to have been destroyed or truncated by roots and peat cutting activities. The potential for unknown prehistoric remains to be discovered within the Main Wind Farm Development Site is therefore considered to be low.
- 12.93 There is no evidence of post-medieval activity within the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary within known archaeological records, and no further post-medieval assets were identified during examination of historic mapping. Though the remains of a dwelling (MA025-002001) and a possibly associated undated enclosure are recorded c. 0.18 km from the Main Wind Farm Development Site boundary, analysis of historical mapping indicates that habitation and agricultural practices from this period were primarily focused in areas still inhabited today, such as the nearby villages/townlands of Tristia, Gweesalia and Mount Jubilee, with a number of detailed Ordnance Survey maps showing the region as relatively well documented in the post-medieval period. At most, later post-medieval activity likely comprised peat extraction and drainage for grazing purposes although these features would now be embedded in the existing agricultural landscape within the Main Wind Farm Development Site today. There is therefore considered to be a negligible potential for unknown post-medieval remains to be present.
- 12.94 There are also no heritage assets of a modern date recorded within the Main Wind Farm Site. There is no evidence of settlement within the Main Wind Farm Site from this period,

and no evidence for any further activity, other than potential wild grazing, drain and peat cutting, and commercial forestry. No further assets were discovered during analysis of historic and modern mapping. There is therefore considered to be a negligible potential for unknown modern heritage assets to be contained within the Main Wind Farm Site. Potential for archaeological remains within the Main Wind Farm Site from the prehistoric period is considered to be low, with all other periods having a negligible potential for remains. The wet, bogland condition of the landscape would have clearly discouraged any long-term settlement or development activity, and the later peat cutting and forestry activities would have truncated any unknown archaeology present on the Main Wind Farm Site.

## Future Baseline

- 12.95 As archaeological remains are a finite material which do not fluctuate but only remain preserved or degrade over time, in the absence of the proposals little would change. In the case that the currently conditions and land-use continue within the Main Wind Farm Site, further commercial forestry and land cutting for drainage would continue to avoid the recorded assets and their protective zones as they would likely maintain their protections into the future.

## Archaeological Potential of Over-run Areas

- 12.96 All Over-run Areas were identified as having a negligible potential for unknown archaeological remains.

## Construction Effects of the Proposed Project

- 12.97 All ground-intrusive activities during the construction phase can result in direct impacts upon archaeological features. This includes soil stripping, track laying, installation of hardstanding areas and cable laying. These activities can truncate or completely remove unknown archaeological remains.
- 12.98 Assessment of the potential direct effects on heritage assets is based on the maximum likely effect that could be caused by the Proposed Project, presuming the entire footprint of the proposals would require ground intrusive works. As outlined in the previous section, the potential for further archaeological remains associated with the crannog outside the Zone of Protection is low and would likely only be proximate to the crannog.
- 12.99 The crannog and any potential related features have the potential to provide dating evidence and further information on the use of the crannog and therefore would be considered to be of medium significance. This asset is not listed under a Preservation Order as of the published list in June 2019 (National Monuments Service). Turbine 11, the closest turbine, is located c. 0.23 km away from the crannog's zone of protection (MA025-004) and as such is not predicted to cause direct effects to the asset. Any unknown remains related to the crannog would also not be anticipated to extend outside the Zone of Protection and within the footprint of the development. Therefore, no direct impacts are predicted upon the asset or potential associated remains. Therefore, no magnitude of effect is predicted, resulting in no significance of effect.
- 12.100 A negligible potential for unknown heritage assets to be present was identified in all Over-run Areas, as such there is no direct impact predicted upon archaeological remains.
- 12.101 Should any palaeoenvironmental materials within the Main Wind Farm Site be preserved within the peat, it is unlikely to comprise substantial materials due to the likely low level of activity across the Main Wind Farm Site, and the disturbances caused by the extensive

modern drainage ditches, peat cutting and commercial forestry. At most, the magnitude of impact would be low adverse, resulting in a slight significance of effect.

### Operational Effects of the Proposed Project

12.102 Assets outlined in **Table 12-5** were scoped in for further assessment for potential setting impacts. All other assets were concluded to have no potential impacts upon their setting by the Proposed Project during the scoping exercise (**Technical Appendix 3-3**).

**Table 12-5: Assets scoped in for potential operational effects**

Name	Designation ID (SMR / NIAH)	Record of Protected Structures Number	Direction from Site	Distance from nearest Turbine (km)	Within ZTV
Megalithic Tomb – court tomb : TROISTE	MA026-002001	N/A	2 East	13 1.5	12.114 Yes
Penal Mass Station	MA026-007----	N/A	8 East	19 1.8	12.120 Yes

#### Penal Mass Station (MA026-007----

- 12.121 Penal mass stations were places for Roman Catholics to gather when the Reformation in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century replaced the religion with Protestantism, enforced by Penal Laws. These penal mass stations were sometimes in people’s homes but more often outdoors, marked by stones sheltered by trees, bushes or dug in shelters. People were often positioned in lookout spots near the mass station to alert those celebrating Mass of any oncoming authorities. This penal mass station comprises a rural dwelling located on the bottom of the south slopes of Mount Jubilee, enclosed within a garden wall, approached by a modern rural single-track road from the south. There are no records which indicate whether the existing dwelling was the contemporary building used as a mass station, or whether it was built in the same location.
- 12.122 The position of the Penal Mass Station takes advantage of the only hill within the nearby flat landscape, located approximately 100 m above the surrounding landscape. The mass station’s location provides a hidden position on the south of the hill, which would have been concealed upon approaches from the northeast, which would have been the only approach to the mass station from inland due to the Oweninny River preventing any approaches from the south or east. A lookout at the top of the hill would have been able to spot any approaches from the surrounding landscape and alerted the people at the mass station.
- 12.123 The Proposed Project would introduce six turbines c. 1.8 km to the west of the asset, within peatland and forestry. These turbines would be in views to the west of the asset and from the top of the unnamed hill to the north of the asset. Whilst the turbines to the west would be prominent due to their proximity to the asset, the ability to understand, experience and appreciate the sense of concealment due to the position of the asset on the south side of the hill would remain, particularly from the northeast approach, being the main approach from the mainland without crossing the Oweninny River. From the top of the hill to the north, the turbines would also not affect the ability to understand, experience or appreciate the role of the hill as a vantage point of the mass station, where any approaches toward the asset would be visible in plenty of time, with the Oweninny River providing a natural barrier to prevent approaches from the south and east. The turbines presence within west views

from the asset and the top of the hill would therefore not be considered to cause a magnitude of impact that would affect the ability to understand, experience and appreciate the asset within its concealed position. This would result in a **not significant** effect in the context of the EIA regulations.

## Megalithic Tomb – court tomb (MA026-002001)

- 12.124 Court cairns, previously classified as ‘Gapped-partition Graves’, have a number of typologies depending on their regions. The court tomb comprises a rectangular shape forming the upper lid, supported on rocks below. The gallery, which would normally be with defined courts of oval, circular or U-shaped approaches, is no longer extant. The court tomb is located on the west facing slopes of unnamed hillsides to the west of Mount Jubilee. To the east, hills rise above the view level, while the asset’s position provides views outward over the flat landscape to the west.
- 12.125 The position of court cairns would typically focus on the upland and coastal landscapes proximate to coastal access where settlements would be preferred, avoiding areas with poor drainage and woodland, with the entrance side of the court cairns typically facing east to northeast. Although some impressive examples face west, which is suspected to be relevant to the rising and setting positions of the sun.
- 12.126 This particular court tomb is aligned approximately northeast to southwest, with the northeast views facing upper hills, and the southwest views focused on the flat wetlands. This cairn was likely positioned to align with the rising of the sun over the hills to the east, and southwest over the flat wetland and waterways toward the coastal region to the southwest where there was coastal access.
- 12.127 The Proposed Project would introduce 13 turbines within views c. 1.5 km to the west and southwest of the asset, located within the flat wetland and forestry. These turbines would be in the southwest and west facing views which contribute to the asset’s setting, comprising the relationship between the cairn and the direction of the setting sun, wetland and coastland. Whilst the turbines would significantly change the views within these southwest and west directions from the asset, they would be not completely prevent views outward. Whilst the presence of turbines would detract from the ability to experience and understand their aspect of the asset’s setting, the ability to understand the cairn’s position and its intended views would still remain intact.
- 12.128 The ability to still understand, experience and appreciate the slight elevated position of the cairn, and its intended view over the landscape to the west, would be depreciated due to the distraction of turbines, but otherwise the ability to understand the relationship of the cairn with the views of the landscape and the setting position of the sun would remain unaltered. As a fairly well-preserved example of a court cairn, its significance is considered high. The magnitude of impact upon the contributing aspect of the asset’s setting within west and southwest views is considered a low adverse magnitude of impact. Using professional judgement, having completed a settings assessment of the asset, the significance of effect is considered slight. This is due to the turbines being an intermittent presence within the landscape, preserving much of the remaining views, and therefore the Proposed Development is not considered to result in a moderate impact, as in **Table 12-4**. This would result in a **not significant effect** in the context of the EIA regulations.

## Design Flexibility

- 12.129 Due to the varying dimensions of candidate turbines, design flexibility has been sought. Any variation in the predicted impacts for each turbine type has therefore been assessed.

- 12.130 As the extent of the turbine footprint would not change for each type of turbine, there are no potential changes to the direct impacts outlined within the report.
- 12.131 Whilst the turbines hub heights and rotor diameters may change, the overall tip height may change up to one metre at most. The indirect impacts upon the setting of assets within the Operational Effects section of this report are based upon the turbines being 180 m in tip height. The potential variation of indirect impact caused by the change to the setting of turbines, whether at a tip height of 179 m or 180 m, would not be considered to change. The extent of turbines within the views from the Penal Mass Station (MA026-007----) and the Megalithic Tomb – court tomb (MA026-002001) would not change to such a degree that would change the resulting effects.

## Decommissioning Effects

- 12.132 The decommissioning of the Proposed Project would not cause any additional direct impacts upon archaeological remains, as it would only occur within the existing footprint of the Main Wind Farm Site.
- 12.133 The removal of the wind farm would remove the turbines from intermittently being present within the landscape to the west of the Megalithic Tomb – court tomb (MA026-002001), thereby undoing the moderate impact upon the asset.

## Residual Effects

- 12.134 There are no identified residual effects.

## Further Survey Requirements and Monitoring

- 12.135 No further surveys are required in relation to the current assessment.
- 12.136 Should archaeological remains be identified during the construction phase, construction should immediately cease, and the Mayo County Council Heritage Officer contacted. Should human remains be identified, under the Coroner's Act 1962, a coroner must be contacted, and the remains should be handled in accordance with legal and guidance procedures. Should any materials of an archaeological nature be identified, including those of rare metals, in accordance with the legal requirements of the National Monuments Act (1930 – 2014) requires that it will be reported to the relevant authorities. If any previously unknown features are uncovered, any further archaeological mitigation will be determined by the relevant Government Department.

## Cumulative Effects

- 12.137 Cumulative effects have been considered with regard to the information detailed in **Chapter 2, Section 2.25**. Where cumulative developments are already in operation/existing, these have been assessed as part of the baseline during the indirect setting assessments, as their visual effects are currently existing.
- 12.138 Where assets have been identified as having the potential to give rise to cumulative effects that are minor significance of effects or above, they are considered for cumulative assessment where other developments also have potential effects upon them. No assets assessed have met the criteria to be brought forward for cumulative assessment, as no assets have been assessed as having the potential for a minor or higher significance of effect and have additional potential effects caused by another development within the scope of cumulative assessment.
- 12.139 The existing presence of any operational wind farms within the study areas and surrounding landscape has been considered as part of the baseline assessment.

## Summary of Predicted Effects

- 12.140 This assessment has considered data from a diverse range of sources in order to identify any heritage assets which may be affected by the Proposed Project. The potential effects on the identified assets, mitigation measures for protecting known assets during construction and the residual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Project have been considered.
- 12.141 In summary, the assessment has found that the Proposed Project would cause no significant direct or indirect effects to heritage assets within or outside the Main Wind Farm Site, or along the TDR or GCR.
- 12.142 Potential construction effects, resulting from direct impact upon archaeological remains, were only identified upon potential unknown palaeoenvironmental materials which survive in peat. The potential for these remains to survive considering the level of land-use is low, and therefore a slight, at most, significance of effect was identified. No potential impacts were identified upon the crannog within the Main Wind Farm Site or its potential unknown associated remains (**no significance effects** in the context of the EIA regulations).
- 12.143 Potential indirect impacts from the operational phase of the wind farm were assessed. A slight significance of effect was identified to Megalithic Tomb – court tomb (MA026-002001), and **no significance effects** in the context of the EIA regulations were found upon the Penal Mass Station (MA026-007000).

## Statement of Significance

- 12.144 Overall, **no significant** residual direct or indirect adverse effects would occur as a result of the Proposed Project in the context of the EIA regulations.

## References

### Legislation

- Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1985)
- Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) (Valetta, 1992)
- Cultural Institutions Act (1997)
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- National Monuments Acts (1930, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2004); and
- Revised General Scheme for the Monuments and Archaeological Heritage Bill (2021).
- Planning and Development Act (2000), as amended.

### Policy and Guidance

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- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1908) Historic 25-Inch First Edition. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html>
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1909) Historic 6-Inch Last Edition. Available at: <https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html>
- The Down Survey of Ireland (1655-56) Available at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/index.html>



## Figures

Figure 12-1: Cultural Heritage Assets

Figure 12-2a: Cultural Heritage Assets Over-run Area 1

Figure 12-2b: Cultural Heritage Assets Over-run Area 2

Figure 12-2c: Cultural Heritage Assets Over-run Area 3



## Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix 12-1 Cultural Heritage Gazetteer

**(Refer to EIAR Volume 3 for Technical Appendices)**

470000

475000

480000

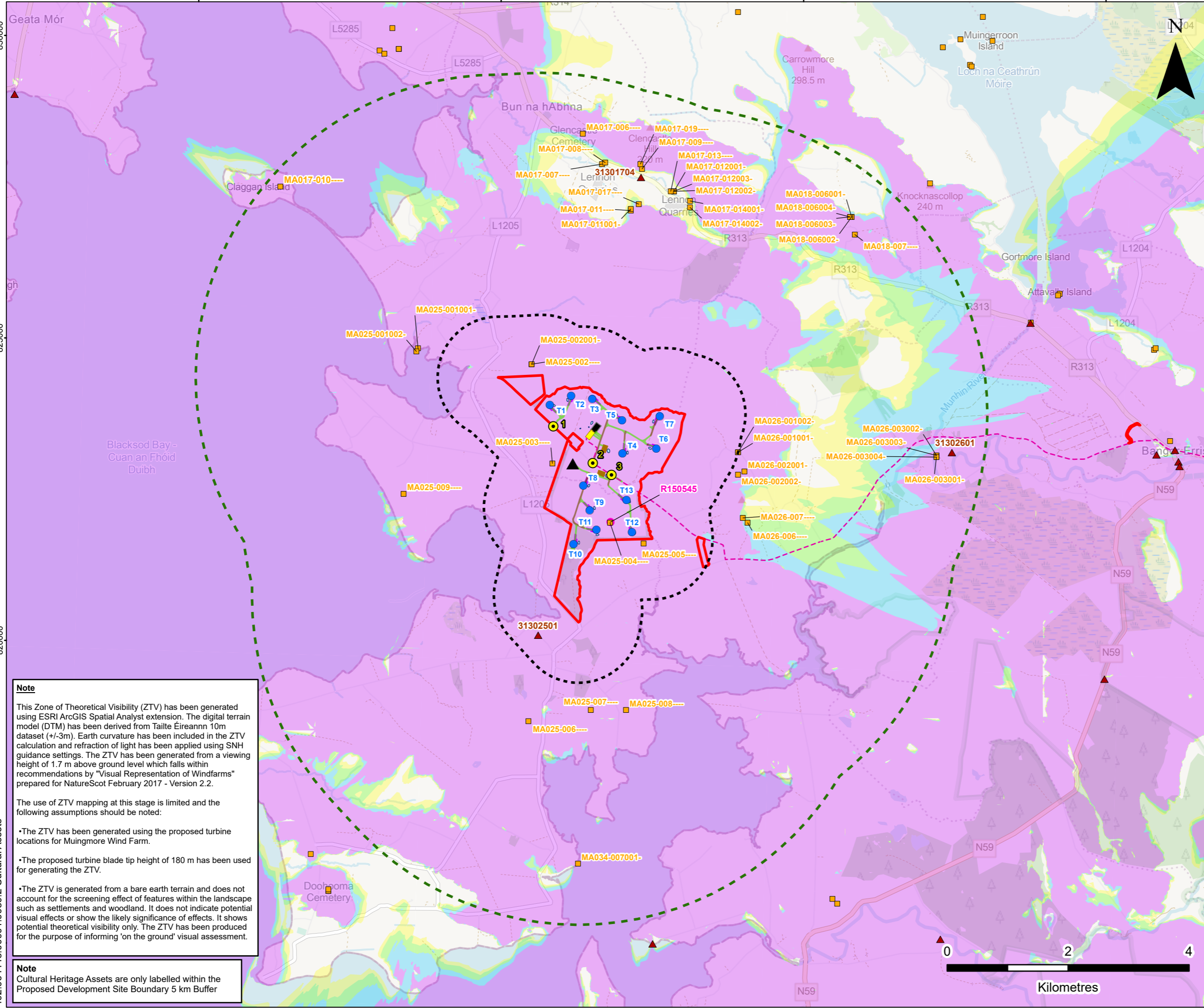
485000

830000

825000

820000

402.064443:00001.0080.2 Cultural Assets



**LEGEND**

- Proposed Development Site Boundary
- Proposed Development Site Boundary 1 km Buffer
- Proposed Development Site Boundary 5 km Buffer
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Proposed Site Access Location
- ▲ Proposed Met Mast Location
- Proposed New Access Track
- Proposed Upgraded Access Track
- Proposed Grid Connection Route (Subject to Separate Planning Application)
- Proposed Crane Pad
- Proposed Substation
- Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Compound
- Proposed Temporary Construction Compound
- Proposed Attenuation Basin
- ▲ National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Location
- National Site and Monument Location
- National Site and Monument Zone

**Zone of Theoretical Visibility (Bare Earth): Number of Turbine Blade Tips Visible**

- 1 - 3
- 4 - 6
- 7 - 9
- 10 - 13



**Note**

This Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated using ESRI ArcGIS Spatial Analyst extension. The digital terrain model (DTM) has been derived from Tailte Éireann 10m dataset (+/-3m). Earth curvature has been included in the ZTV calculation and refraction of light has been applied using SNH guidance settings. The ZTV has been generated from a viewing height of 1.7 m above ground level which falls within recommendations by "Visual Representation of Windfarms" prepared for NatureScot February 2017 - Version 2.2.

The use of ZTV mapping at this stage is limited and the following assumptions should be noted:

- The ZTV has been generated using the proposed turbine locations for Muingmore Wind Farm.
- The proposed turbine blade tip height of 180 m has been used for generating the ZTV.
- The ZTV is generated from a bare earth terrain and does not account for the screening effect of features within the landscape such as settlements and woodland. It does not indicate potential visual effects or show the likely significance of effects. It shows potential theoretical visibility only. The ZTV has been produced for the purpose of informing 'on the ground' visual assessment.

**Note**

Cultural Heritage Assets are only labelled within the Proposed Development Site Boundary 5 km Buffer

**MUINGMORE WIND FARM**

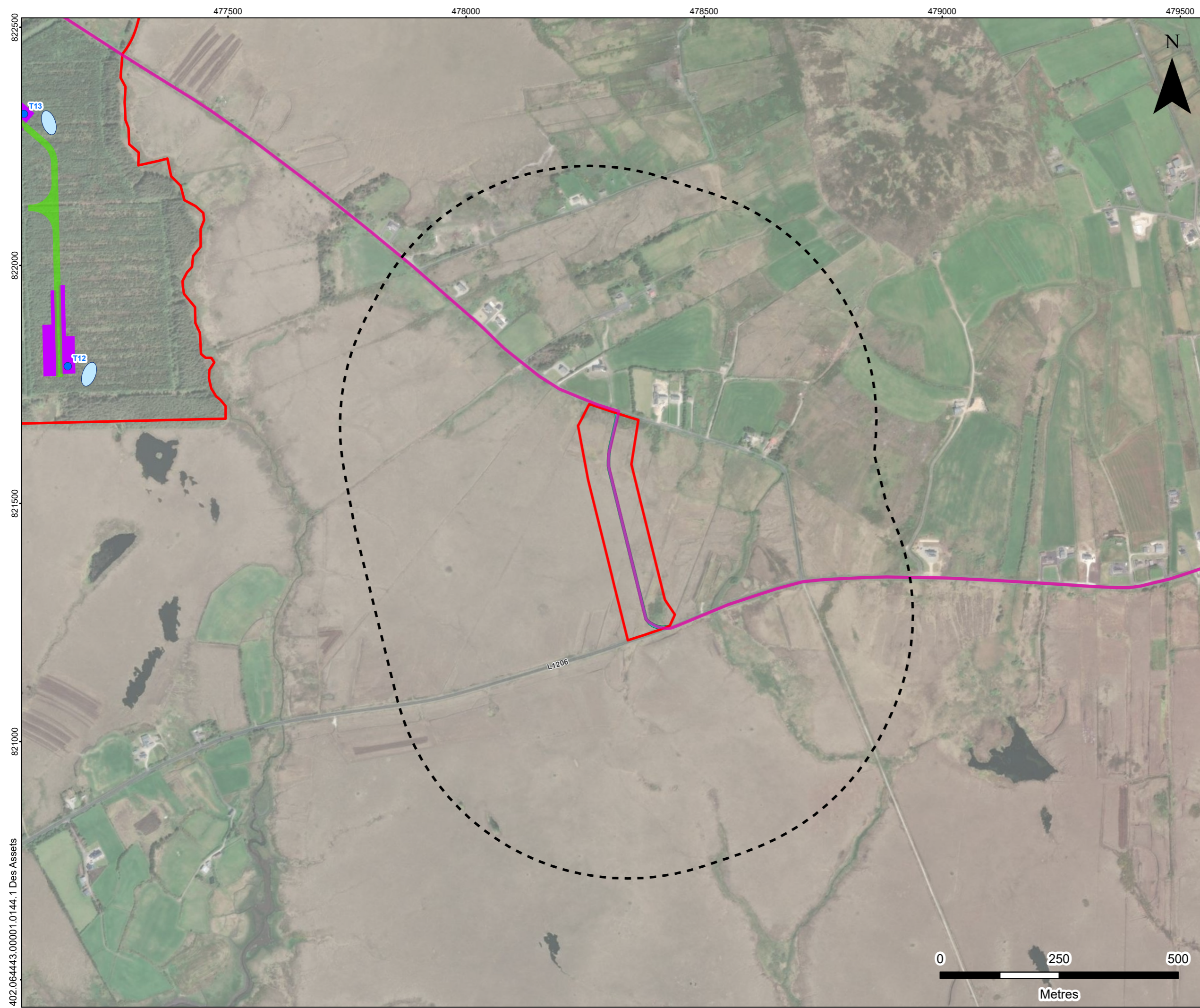
**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS**

**FIGURE 12-1**

Scale 1:60,000 @ A3

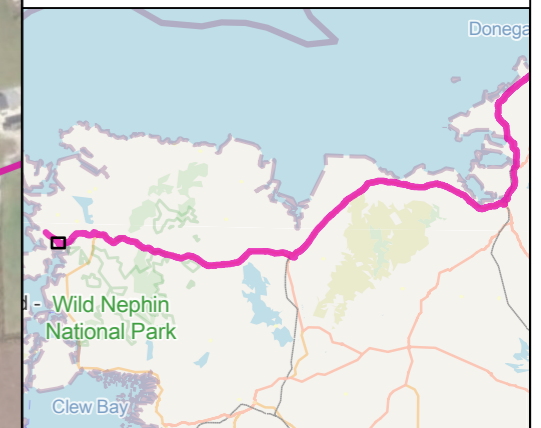
Date MARCH 2026



**LEGEND**

- Proposed Development Site Boundary
- Proposed Over-run Area Boundary 500 m Buffer
- Proposed Turbine Location
- Proposed New Access Track
- Proposed Crane Pad
- Proposed Attenuation Basin
- Proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)
- Proposed Over-run Area Access Track

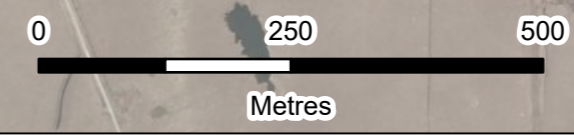
**Note**  
No Scheduled Monument Records are Within the Over-run Area Boundary Buffer.



**MUINGMORE WIND FARM**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS**  
**OVER-RUN AREA 1**

**FIGURE 12-2a**

Scale 1:7,500 @ A3	Date MARCH 2026
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402.064443.00001.0144.1 Des Assets





497000

497500

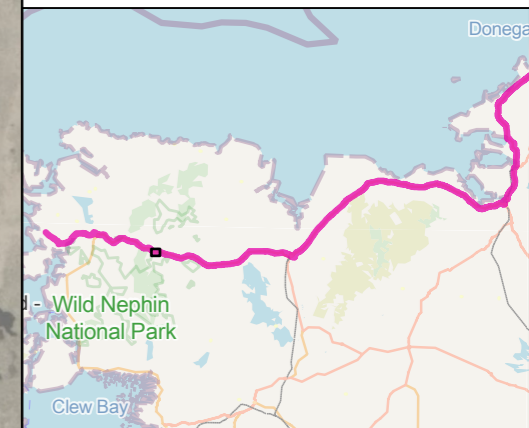
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LEGEND

-  Proposed Development Site Boundary
-  Proposed Over-run Area Boundary 500 m Buffer
-  Proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)
-  Proposed Over-run Area Access Track

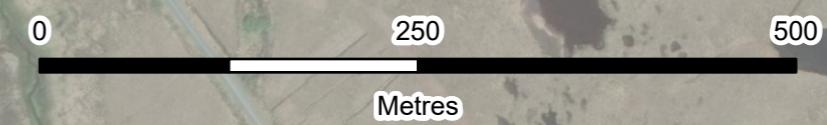
**Note**  
No Scheduled Monument Records are Within the Over-run Area Boundary Buffer.



MUINGMORE WIND FARM  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS  
OVER-RUN AREA 2

**FIGURE 12-2b**

Scale 1:5,000 @ A3 Date MARCH 2026



820000

819500

402.064443:00001.0144.1 Des Assets

484500





485000

485500

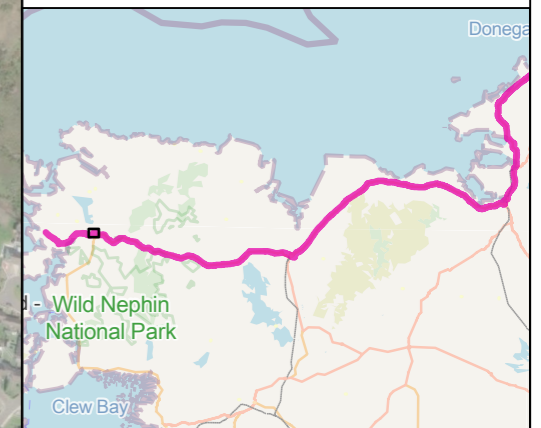
486000



LEGEND

-  Proposed Development Site Boundary
-  Proposed Over-run Area Boundary 500 m Buffer
-  Proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR)
-  Proposed Over-run Area Access Track

**Note**  
No Scheduled Monument Records are Within the Over-run Area Boundary Buffer.



MUINGMORE WIND FARM  
CULTURAL HERITAGE  
CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS  
OVER-RUN AREA 3

**FIGURE 12-2c**

Scale 1:6,000 @ A3 Date MARCH 2026

824000

823500

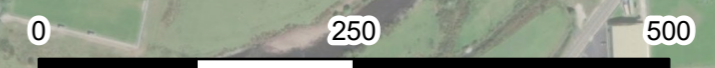
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402.064443.00001.0144.1 Des Assets

R313

L1206

N59



Metres