

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment
Magheralin Solar Farm, County Down

Prepared by
John Cronin & Associates
Burnside
Saint Oran's Road
Buncrana
County Donegal

On behalf of
RPS Ireland
Elmwood House
74 Boucher Road
Belfast
BT12 6RZ

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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **RPS Ireland** to undertake an archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of a proposed Solar Farm site at Magheralin, County Down. The subject site is situated on the eastern outskirts of Lurgan, between the villages of Magheralin, Dollingstown and Waringstown.

This report presents summary details on the locations of recorded elements of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource within the environs of the subject site and aims to identify any previously unknown archaeological constraints. The study area for this assessment comprised the internal area of the proposed development site combined with the lands extending for approximately 1km from the outer boundary of the site. This provides a sufficient geographical scope of the surrounding landscape from which to research and assess the cultural heritage constraints and their contribution to the archaeological/built heritage potential or otherwise of the proposed development site. The assessment has been compiled by desktop research of this study area followed by an inspection of the proposed development site. This inspection was undertaken by qualified archaeologists in March 2023.



Figure 1: General location of subject site (red box) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

Statement of authority

This report was compiled by *Joseph Miller BA & Martin McGonigle BA MSc*.

Mr Miller graduated with a B.A. in Archaeology at the University of Wales, Lampeter in 2014 and subsequently attained a Postgraduate Certificate in Landscape Management and Environmental Archaeology at the same institution. Mr Miller has been a Licensed Archaeologist in NI since 2021, a full-time professional archaeologist since 2017, and has been working as a Project Archaeologist with John Cronin & Associates (JC&A) since August 2022. Mr Miller has worked on a wide variety of archaeological and cultural heritage projects in both supervisory and managerial capacities, including large scale infrastructure projects and has extensive experience in archaeological excavation and post-excavation analysis.

Mr McGonigle graduated with a B.A. in Heritage Studies from G.M.I.T in 2001, followed by an MSc in Maritime Archaeology at the University of Ulster, Coleraine in 2002. Mr McGonigle is a Senior Archaeologist with John Cronin & Associates (JC&A) and has been a full-time professional archaeologist since 2002, a Licensed Archaeologist in RoI since 2008 & NI since 2009 and is a full member of Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (MIAI). Since joining JC&A in 2008 Mr McGonigle has worked as Senior Archaeologist on numerous archaeological schemes and heritage projects, including cultural heritage assessments for environmental impact assessments, archaeological works on large infrastructure projects, etc. Mr McGonigle has also published nationally and internationally on a wide range of cultural heritage and archaeological subjects. In 2021 Mr McGonigle graduated with an MSc in Applied Landscape Archaeology from the University of Oxford, passing with distinction.

2. Methodology

Desktop study

A desktop study assessment was carried out in order to identify all known archaeological sites, designated architectural heritage structures and other undesignated cultural heritage assets within the study area. The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) and the Historic Environment Map Viewer. The Historic Environment Map Viewer provides a map-based record with data on approximately 17,000 archaeological sites recorded on the NISMR (including Scheduled Sites and those in State Care), as well as GIS layers containing the Industrial Heritage Record, Historic Buildings Register (listed buildings), Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites Register, Defence Heritage Register, Heritage at risk NI Register, Areas of Archaeological Potential, Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI), Archaeological Investigations and Historic Wrecks.

In addition, the following sources were consulted as part of the desktop study:

- UNESCO recorded World Heritage Sites and Tentative List: UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are no Cultural World Heritage Sites in Northern Ireland, and no sites are included on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites for the United Kingdom. Current data was accessed via <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb>.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports: This database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1970 to 2023. The database entries for investigations carried out within townlands in the study area are provided below. Current data was accessed via www.excavations.ie.
- Historical publications and cartographic sources: various published and unpublished sources and historical maps were consulted. The historical maps and other figures are presented in this report.
- Aerial Imagery: available current local and regional online aerial mapping of the proposed development area were consulted to determine if any traces of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological sites were evident.
- Placenames Database: this current online database (www.placenamesni.org) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records, and placename research, for townland names (and Irish translations) for Northern Ireland.

Types of impact

Impacts are categorised as either being *direct*, *indirect* or *of no predicted impact*. The criteria for determining the nature of impacts are based on the following:

- **Direct Impact** – where a cultural heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the scheme, which will result in its complete or partial removal.
- **Indirect Impact** – where a cultural heritage site or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of the scheme.

- **No predicted impact** – where the potential scheme will not adversely or positively affect a cultural heritage site.

A significance rating for these impacts is then applied; whether *profound, significant, moderate, slight, or imperceptible*

- A **profound** impact applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse effects that arise where a cultural heritage site is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.
- A **significant** impact applies when an impact, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. It applies where part of a cultural heritage site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a loss of character, integrity and data about the feature/site.
- A **moderate** impact applies when a change to a cultural heritage site is proposed that, though noticeable, does not compromise the integrity of the site and which is reversible. This arises where a cultural heritage site can be incorporated into a modern-day development without damage and where all procedures used to facilitate this are reversible.
- A **slight** impact causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect a cultural heritage site.
- An **imperceptible** impact applied where an impact is capable of measurement but does not carry noticeable consequences.

3. Context

Location

The site is situated on the outskirts of the village of Magheralin, and within the townlands of Ballymacmaine, Ballymacateer, Edenballycoggill and Tullynacross. The subject site is located across four separate land blocks, though some only divided by roads or waterways, and comprises a total of 12 individual agricultural fields (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2: Location of subject site (outlined in red) (Source: Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

Legal & Policy Framework

Archaeological Heritage

The principal basis for the protection of archaeological sites in Northern Ireland is the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order (1995). The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) identifies all known historic monuments by location and type. To date there are over 16,500 sites identified throughout Northern Ireland. The Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC: HED) have responsibility, under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, to compile and maintain a list of scheduled sites. The NISMR information is used to identify sites and monuments for statutory protection in the form of Scheduling. To date DfC: HED have listed over 2000 scheduled historic monuments (April 2022) which represents approximately 12% of the NISMR dataset¹.

¹ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/scheduled-historic-monuments>

A recorded historic monument can be classified as an SMR site and/or a Scheduled Site. A scheduled monument designation is applied often in cases where the monument(s) are of enhanced significance in terms of rarity, condition, vulnerability, and grouping value etc. (see Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6, 1999).

Scheduled monuments are protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. It is an offence to damage or alter a scheduled site in any way. No works should be planned or undertaken at the sites listed here without first consulting with DfC:HED and obtaining any necessary Scheduled Monument Consent. When sites and monuments are scheduled, they remain in private ownership but are protected from damage and unauthorised development. Most scheduled monuments are privately owned and are not normally accessible to the public.

Notwithstanding the legal designation and scheduling protocol per the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, and the requirements for on-going revisions and additions to the scheduled list by DfC:HED; those SMR sites, on the NISMR (over 17,000 sites²) and currently without scheduled monument designation, still retain unique archaeological importance and should not be interfered with in any way. The Planning Policy framework ensures that such sites still require statutory consultation with DfC:HED.

Protection of the archaeological and built heritage resource are also provided for in the Planning context through defined policies and objectives set out in Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6) (1999), (including PPS6 Addendum: Areas of Townscape Character (2005), and PPS6 Amendment to Annex C (2011)) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) (2015). Due cognisance of all relevant policies and objectives therein pertaining to the Cultural Heritage resource has been applied in the preparation of this report.

It should be noted that, a licence is required to search for archaeological objects, or to carry out an excavation, and any archaeological object found must be reported. All archaeological excavations must be carried out under the direction of a qualified archaeologist, licensed by the DfC:HED. A licence application must be submitted for every excavation by the archaeologist who will direct the work, at least three weeks before the date on which work is due to begin.

The DfC:HED are also concerned with the survival of other sites not protected under the 1995 Order and it is automatically consulted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) about every new development likely to affect a site or its setting.

There is also a separate Industrial Heritage Record of over 16,500 entries³ (April 2022), a Maritime Record, Defence Heritage Record and a Historic Parks and Gardens Register, all of which detail sites, structures, and areas of heritage significance.

Architectural Heritage

In addition to archaeological sites, the planning system has a duty towards listed buildings under Part 4 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Furthermore, under Section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) is required to compile and maintain a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. There are more than 9,000 historic buildings in Northern Ireland (as of March

² <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/scheduled-historic-monuments-of-ni.pdf>

³ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/scheduled-historic-monuments>

2023)⁴; varying from fine churches and country houses to thatched cottages and post boxes. To be selected for listing, a building must be assessed and evaluated against established criteria. Key elements include the age of a building, its condition, style, aesthetic quality, structure, and any innovatory qualities (Source: DfC:HED).

Under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, consent, known as Listed Building Consent (LBC), is required from the local council of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the demolition or any works, alteration and extension that may in any way affect the character of a listed building. Any unauthorised works to a listed building may lead to a fine(s) and /or imprisonment.

The DfI and Local Planning Authorities also have a programme of area plans for Northern Ireland. Area plans provide the primary means of reconciling conflicts between the need for development and the need to protect the natural and man-made heritage within a defined (local) geographical planning area.

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) (2015) recognises the importance of preserving the natural and built heritage features, and in doing so states the need to assess development proposals impacting listed buildings and their settings. Any proposed works to a listed building must respect the character, setting and fabric of the building. SPPS has been informed by PPS6 Planning, Archaeology, and the Built Heritage (1999) which in turn [will/is] reflected in the local council’s new Local Development Plans. (Note until the relevant LDP for the study area is adopted, PPS6 still applies).

Archaeological & historical background

There are no archaeological sites located within the subject lands. However, there are a total of ten archaeological sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the 1km study area (see **Table 1** and **Figure 3**). The nearest SMR to the site boundary is rath (DOW020:005) which is designated as a Scheduled Monument, the scheduled area for which overlaps slightly with the subject lands (**Figure 4**). Summary descriptions for all of these recorded archaeological sites can be seen in **Appendix 3**.

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area

SMR No.	Class	Townland	IG Co-ordinates	Distance from site boundary
DOW013:028	Rath	Drumo and Drumcro	313120, 357840	713m
DOW020:001	Enclosure	Ballymacateer	310540, 357480	798m
DOW020:003	Enclosure	Ballymacateer	311230, 357510	253m
DOW020:005	Rath	Ballymacateer	312500, 357220	39m
DOW020:006	Enclosure	Lismaine	312900, 357370	395m
DOW020:008	Enclosure	Lismaine	313260, 357080	780m
DOW020:009	Enclosure	Tullynacross	312710, 356500	317m
DOW020:010	Rath	Kilfullert	313480, 355740	721m
DOW020:093	Rath	Tullyherron	311510, 355530	944m
DOW020:099	A.P. Site	Edenballycoggill	311650, 355350	879m

⁴ <https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/Buildings/buildMain.aspx?Accept>

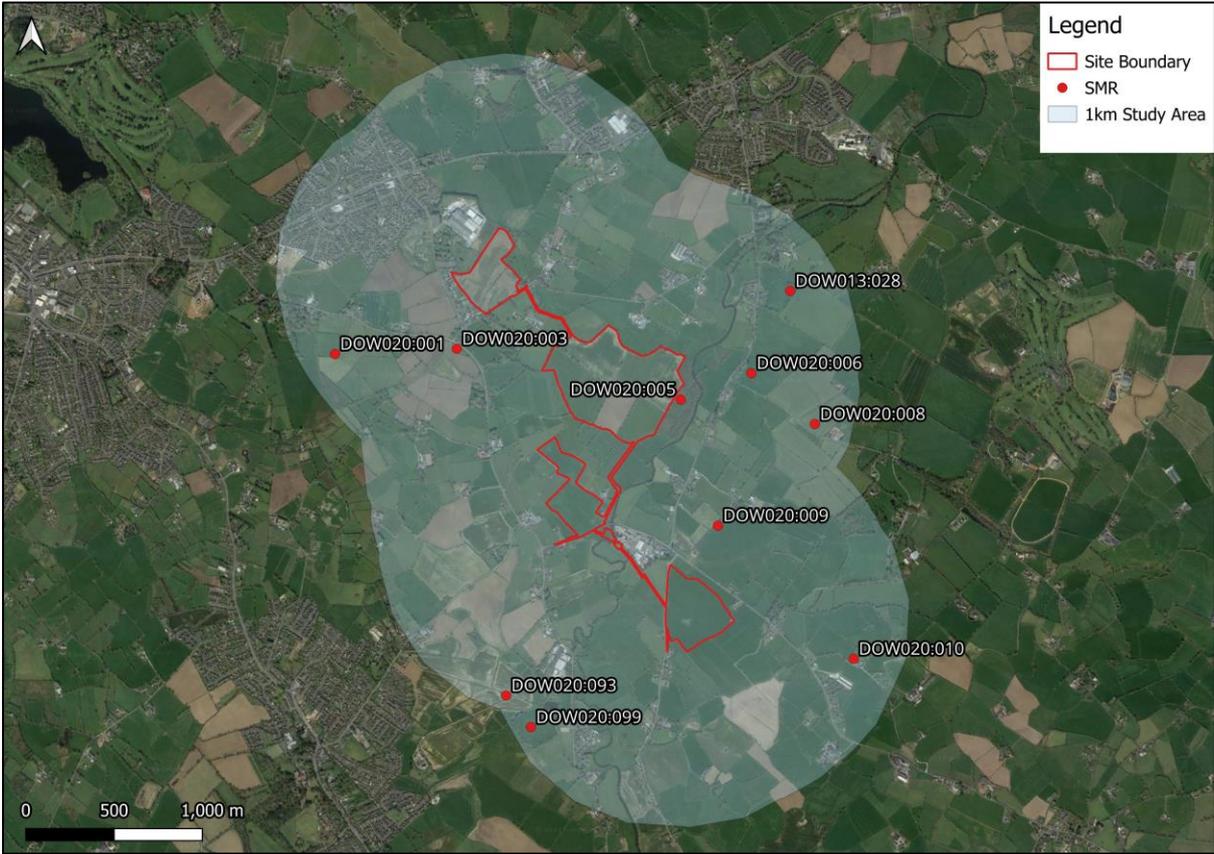


Figure 3: Recorded archaeological sites (SMR's) within 1km study area

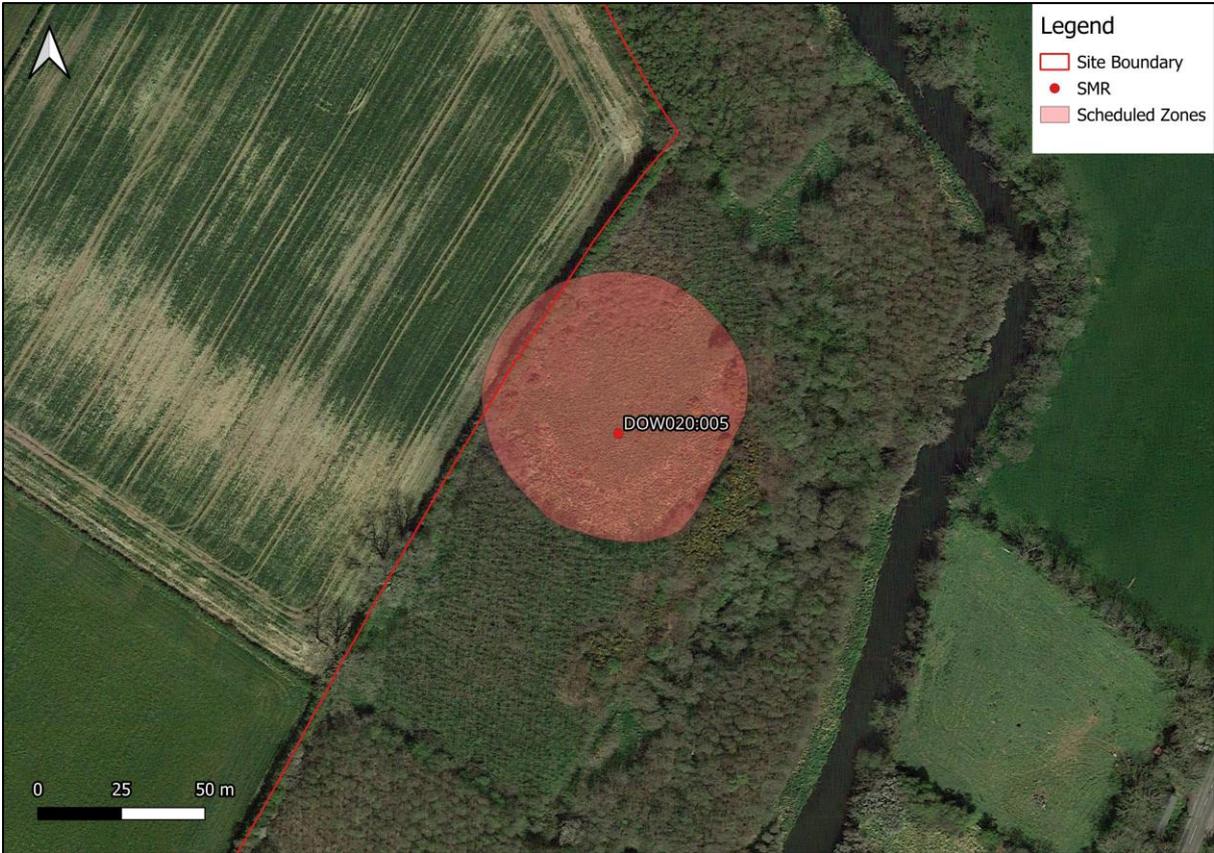


Figure 4: Scheduled site DOW020:005, showing scheduled zone interaction with site boundary

Prehistoric period

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island. However recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in Alice and Gwendoline Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden, 2016, 161). These nomadic groups appear to have favoured coastal, lake and river shores which provided a valuable transport and food resource. There are no extant above-ground monuments dating to this period, however the presence of these early groups can often be identified by scatters of worked lithics in ploughed fields, shoreline shell middens and traces of temporary occupation sites occasionally uncovered during modern ground works.

The Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns and associated societal changes. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site and artefact types, such as megalithic tombs and pottery vessels, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. This period saw the clearance of large swathes of the thick forest cover in order to create grasslands for their domesticated animals, such as cattle, sheep and pigs, and to create cultivation plots in which crops such as wheat and barley were grown. The sub-surface remains of houses built by these early farmers have been uncovered while traces of enclosed field systems of the period have also been recorded. **There are no sites which date to this period within the study area.**

Late prehistoric periods

The Bronze Age period (2400 BC – 500 BC) commenced with the introduction of mining and metal-working technology to Ireland, initially using gold and copper, and then more durable bronze objects created with an alloy of tin and copper. This period also saw the construction of new monument types, often with a ritual function, within the landscape such as wedge tombs, standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, *fulachta fiadh* and new burial practices including inhumation and cremation burials within barrows, boulder burials and stone-lined cists.

The arrival of iron-working technology in Ireland saw the advent of the Iron Age (600 BC – 400 AD). This period has traditionally been associated with a Celtic ‘invasion’ but recent archaeological evidence is suggestive of a gradual acculturation of the Irish Bronze Age communities following centuries of contacts with Celtic-type cultures in Europe. Relatively little was known about Iron Age settlement and ritual practices in Ireland until recent decades when the corpus of evidence has been greatly increased by the discovery of sub-surface sites dating to this period. **There are no sites which date to this period within the study area.**

Early medieval period

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the twelfth century (c. 400 BC – 1169 AD). While this period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Viking ports, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural-based and centred on enclosed farmsteads, known as ringforts (or *rath/lios/dun*), with livestock farming as the dominant practice. Ringforts form the visible element of much wider external agricultural landscapes that may contain unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features such as associated

field systems, stockades, barns, mills and drying kilns. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. Following the first recorded Viking raid in AD 795, the Vikings eventually began to develop substantial port (and settlement) centres particularly at Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Limerick. **All ten of the archaeological sites located within the 1km study area are likely to date to this period.**

High and late medieval periods

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the twelfth century marked the advent of the late medieval period. The following centuries saw a rapid expansion of urbanisation, with many of the major Hiberno-Norse settlements expanded into walled cities while numerous regional towns and villages were established as settlement and market centres often adjacent to newly constructed Anglo-Norman castles. Areas of the country continued to remain outside of the Anglo-Norman colony and the native Irish lords also began to construct their own castles, or tower-houses, and to develop their own settlement centres. This period also saw the development of large ecclesiastical foundations both within the environs of the towns and across the countryside. The layout of agricultural lands during this period often comprised open fields with arable farming as the dominant practice in suitable lands which also saw the development of ancillary milling centres. **There are no sites dating to this period within the study area.**

Post-medieval and early modern periods

The centuries following 1550 are referred to as the post-medieval period, which is generally considered to continue into the mid-nineteenth century and the period thereafter is described as early modern. The early part of the post-medieval period was a turbulent time in Irish history and in the later decades of the sixteenth century the Tudors, particularly Elizabeth I, sought to re-assert English control. The resultant wars between the 1560s and 1603 brought this unsettled period to an end and the following century was a time of prosperity for the newly established Protestant gentry and landowners. This period saw the widespread enclosure of fields with a shift back to livestock farming in some areas and the development of distinctive *rundale* farms in the north and west of the country. This also period saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish countryside and rural settlement clusters at this time typically consisted of single-storey thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-storey farm houses had become more common by the nineteenth century. An agricultural boom in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries saw a rise in prices for both tillage and dairy produce and this resulted in landlords investing in extensive land improvement and drainage works within their holdings. **There are no sites recorded in the SMR which date to this period within the study area. However, there are several built heritage sites recorded in the Historic Buildings Record and Industrial Heritage Record within the study area (see Tables 2 & 3 below).**

Historical context

Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published in 1837 provides historical and statistical descriptions of several of the counties, cities, boroughs, parishes, villages and post towns throughout Ireland. Lewis (1837) states the following in relation to the village of Magheralin:

MAGHERALIN, or MARALIN, a parish, partly in the barony of O'NEILLAND EAST, county of ARMAGH, but chiefly in that of LOWER IVEAGH, county of DOWN, and

province of ULSTER, 1- mile (S. W.) from Moira, on the river Lagan, and at the junction of the roads from Armagh to Belfast, from Moira to Lurgan, and from Banbridge to Antrim ; containing 5058 inhabitants. Here stood the monastery of Linn Huachuille, (one townland in the parish being yet called by that name), the remains of which are by some thought to be the massive walls on The north side of the churchyard ; it was founded by St. Colman, or Mocholmoc, who died in 699. The ancient palace of the bishops of Dromore was close to the village, on the site now occupied by the parochial school ; the last prelate who resided in it was the celebrated Jeremy Taylor. The parish contains, according to the Ordnance survey, 8293- statute acres, of which 486- are in the county of Armagh, and the remainder in the county of Down. The lands are all in tillage, with the exception of a proportion of meadow and about 200 acres of exhausted bog, which latter is fast being brought into cultivation: the system of agriculture is improved. Here are extensive quarries of limestone and several kilns, from which lime is sent into the counties of Antrim, Armagh, and Down ; this being the western termination of the great limestone formation that rises near the Giant's Causeway. There are also good quarries of basalt much used in building, which dresses easily under the tool ; and coal and freestone are found in the parish, but neither has been extensively worked. A new line of road has been formed hence to Lurgan, a distance of 2- miles, and an excavation made through the village. An extensive establishment at Springfield, for the manufacture of cambrics, affords employment for 250 persons ; and at Milltown a bleach-green annually finishes upwards of 10,000 pieces for the English market. The principal seats are Grace Hall, the residence of C. Douglass, Esq. ; Drumnabreagh, of M. Stothard, Esq. ; Newforge, of Cosslett Waddell, Esq. ; Springfield, of J. Richardson, Esq. ; Kircassock, of J. Christie, Esq. ; and the rectory, of the Rev. B. W. Dolling. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Dromore, forming the corps of the precentorship of Dromore, in the patronage of the Bishop. The tithes amount to £453. 1. 7., exclusively of a moiety of the tithes of four townlands in the parish of Donaghcloney amounting to £17. 19. ; the gross value of the precentorship, tithes and glebe inclusive, is £684. 17. There is an excellent glebe-house on a glebe of 66 acres, valued at £138. 12. 0. per annum. The church is an ancient edifice, having a tower and low spire, and has lately been repaired at a considerable expense ; it was long used as the cathedral of Dromore, and the bishop's throne yet remains in it. In the R. C. divisions this parish and Moira form the union or district of Magheralin and Moira, in each of which there is a chapel. About 280 children are educated in four public schools, of which the parochial school in the village is aided by an annual donation of £10 from the incumbent ; the school-house is large and commodious, with a residence for the master, and was erected at an expense of £350. There are also schools at Rampark and Grace Hall, the former built and supported by C. Douglass, Esq., and the latter, for females, by Mrs. Douglass. In six private schools about 220 children are educated. The late Mr. Douglass, of Grace Hall, made a charitable bequest for clothing the poor in winter ; and there are some minor charities. A sulphureous chalybeate spring on the lands of Newforge, is said to equal in efficacy the waters of Aix-la-Chapelle.

Recorded Architectural/Cultural Heritage Features

There are 22 architectural/cultural heritage structures, comprising 9 Listed Buildings and 13 Industrial Heritage Record sites, located within the study area (**Tables 2-3** and **Figures 5-6**). None of these sites are located within the subject site. The nearest site is Geehan's Bridge (HB14/06/043 & 02971:000:00), which crosses the River Lagan, located just 26m from the site boundary.

Table 2: Listed Buildings within 1km study area

Listed Building No.	Class	Address	Grade	Distance from proposed development
HB14/06/014	House	Harrymount House, 91 Dromore Road, Waringstown, Craigavon Co. Down	Record Only	458m
HB14/06/043	Bridge	Geehan's Bridge, Craigavon Co. Armagh	B1	26m
HB14/07/001	Thatched House	Moorefield, Tullynacross, Craigavon, Co. Armagh	Record Only	89m
HB14/07/002	Thatched House	98 Dromore Road, Waringstown, Craigavon, Co Armagh	B1	172m
HB14/07/003	House	15 Springfield Road, Magheralin Lurgan, Co. Armagh	B1	110m
HB14/07/011	Bridge	Forge Bridge, Lurgan, Co. Armagh	B2	766m
HB14/07/012	House	2/4 Orange Lane, Magheralin, Craigavon, Co. Armagh	B1	798m
HB14/07/021	Thatched House	180/182 Lurgan Road, Magheralin, Moira, Co Down	Record Only	935m
HB17/02/004	Bleachworks	83 Milltown Road, Banbridge, Co Down	Record Only	595m

Table 3: Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites within 1km study area

IHR	Description	Townland	Distance from proposed development
02829:000:00	Linen Weaving Factory	Taughrane	677m
02830:000:00	Weaving & Hemstitching Works	Taughrane	250m
02831:000:00	Hemstitching & Finishing Works	Ballymacmaine	134m
02833:000:00	Bleach Mill - Whiting Mill site	Drumo & Drumcro	993m
02833:001:00	Bleach Works	Drumo & Drumcro	987m
02834:000:00	2 Corn Mill sites	Drumo & Drumcro	739m
02834:001:00	Mill Buildings	Drumo & Drumcro	740m
02834:002:00	Mill Buildings	Drumo & Drumcro	802m
02835:000:00	Bridge	Drumo & Drumcro	745m
02971:000:00	Bridge	Edenballycoggill/ Tullynacross	26m
02974:000:00	Bleach Mill site	Edenballycoggill	564m
02974:001:00	Mill Buildings	Edenballycoggill	570m

<i>IHR</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Townland</i>	<i>Distance from proposed development</i>
02974:002:00	Mill Race	Edenballycoggill	690m

There are no Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites, Defence Heritage sites, sites on the Register of Heritage at risk NI, Areas of Archaeological Potential, Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) or Historic Wrecks recorded within the study area.

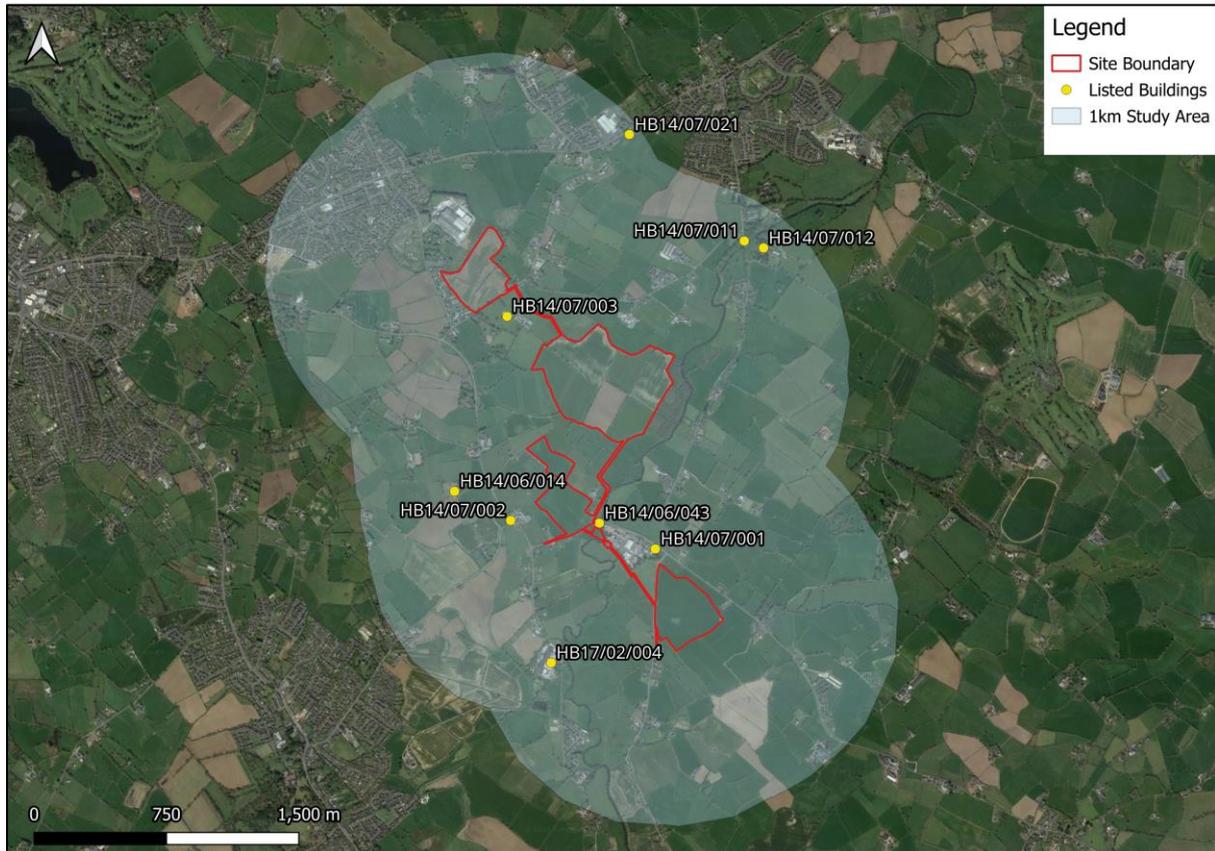


Figure 5: Listed Buildings (HB) within 1km study area

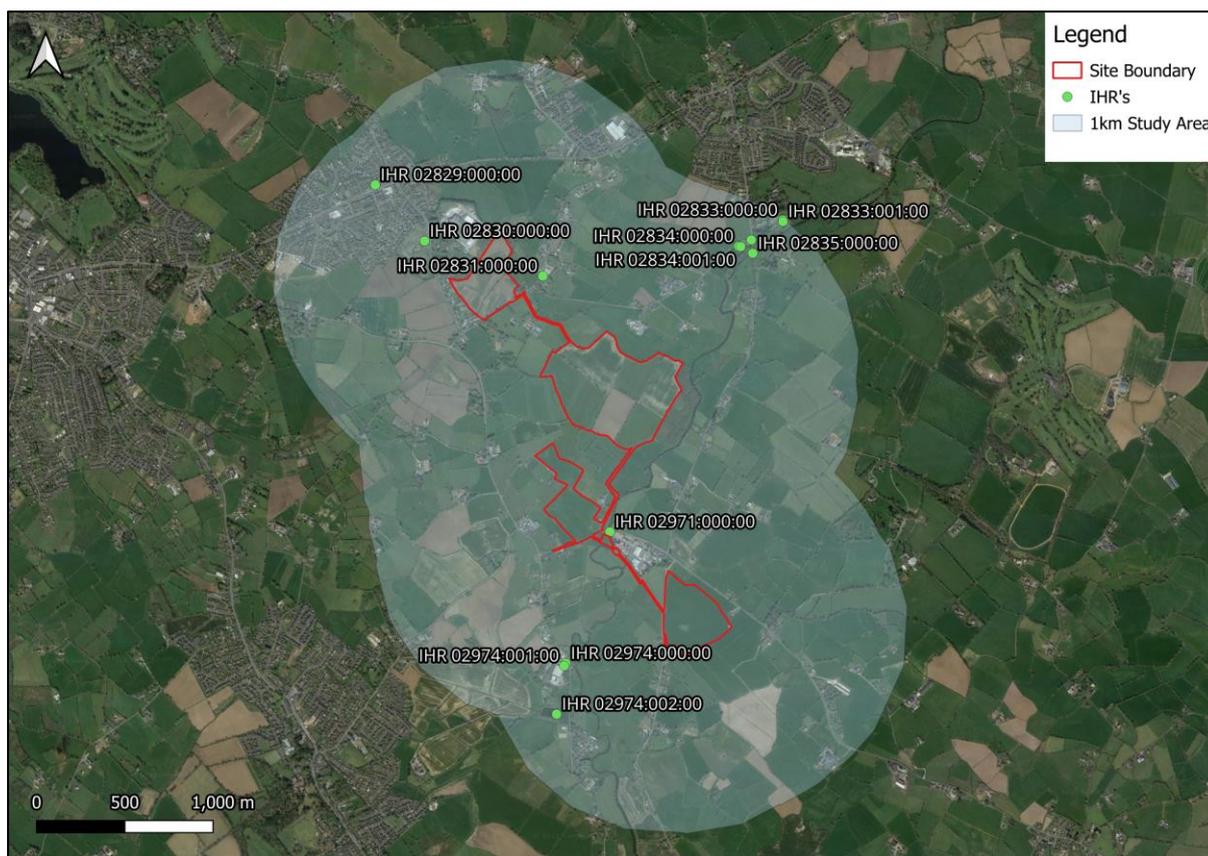


Figure 6: Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites within 1km study area

The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of archaeological excavations undertaken in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to present. No recorded excavations have taken place within the subject site, and only one archaeological excavation has been undertaken within the 1km study area. The results of this investigation were of no archaeological significance. A summary description of this investigation can be seen in **Appendix 2**.

Ulster Museum Topographical Files

The Ulster Museum were consulted in relation to findspots within the townlands associated with the study area. A single flint blade is recorded, likely to represent prehistoric activity in the area (**Table 4**).

Table 4: Findspots within the study area

Name/number	Description	Townland
BELUM.A6865	Flint blade	Tullynacross

Cartographic review and aerial imagery

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impacts of modern developments and agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the Down Survey map (c.1655)

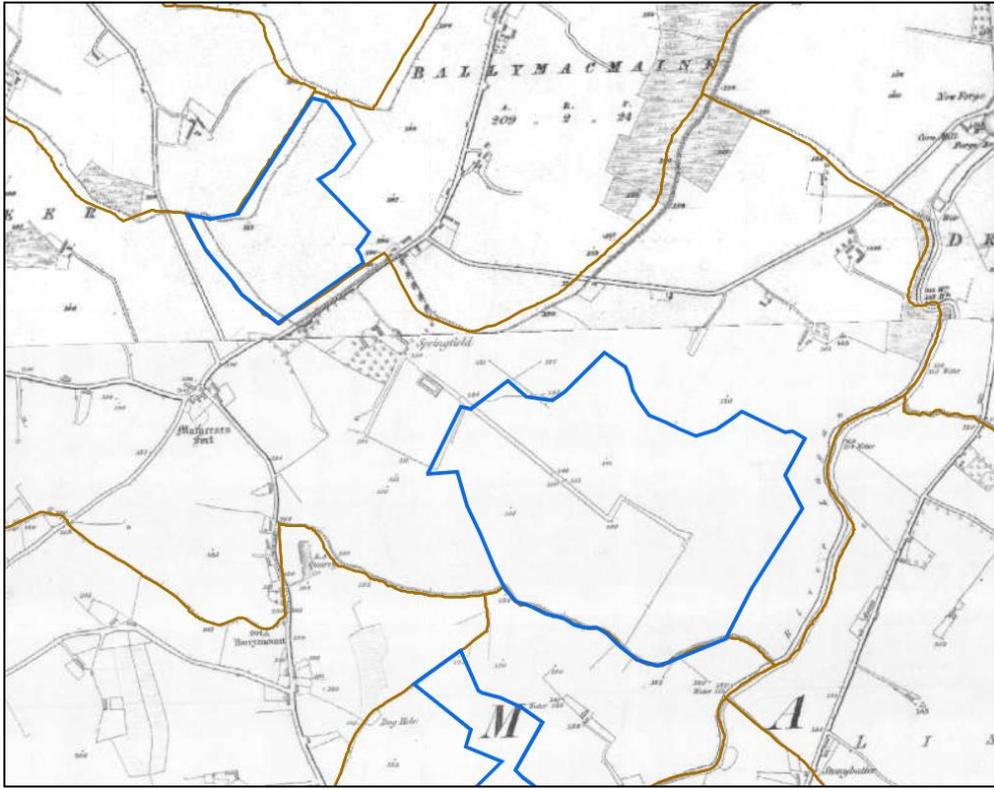


Figure 8: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map (1832-1846) showing the northern half of the subject site (blue outline) (Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland)

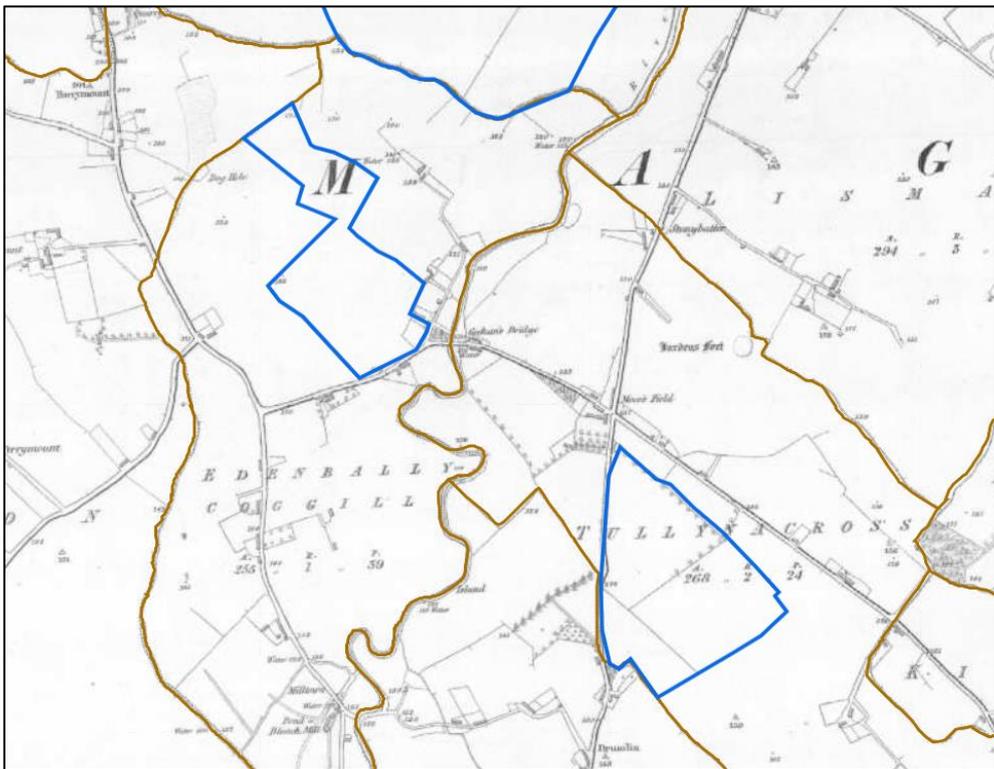


Figure 9: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map (1832-1846) showing southern half of the subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

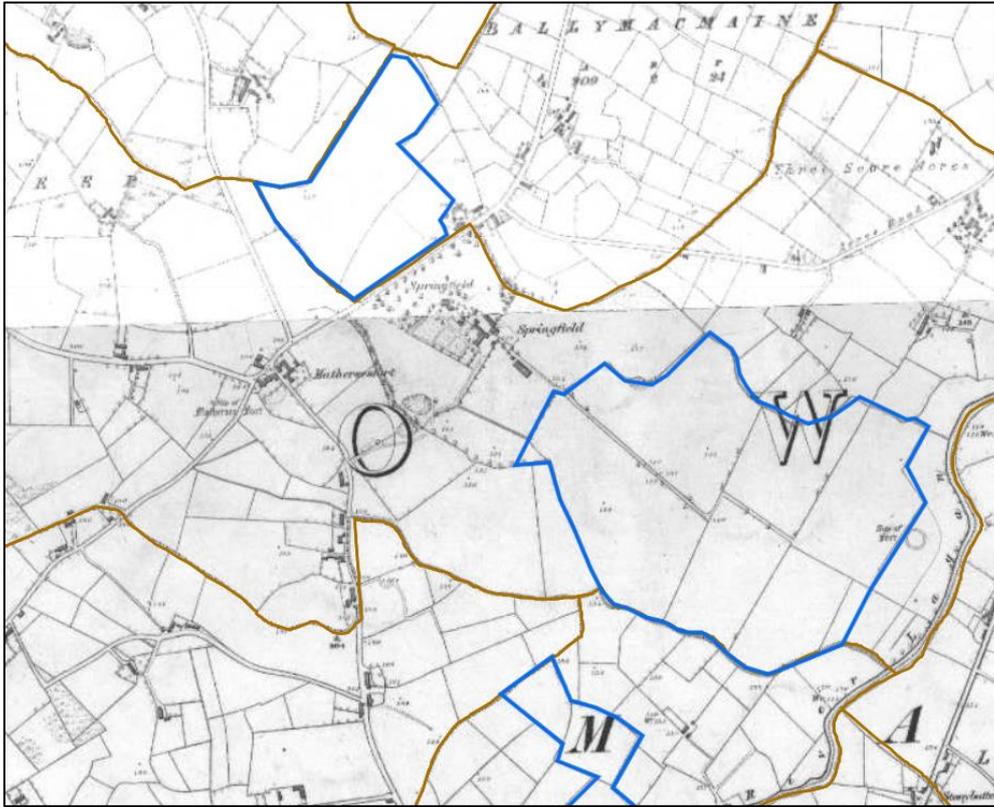


Figure 10: Extract from the second edition OS map (1846-1862) showing northern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

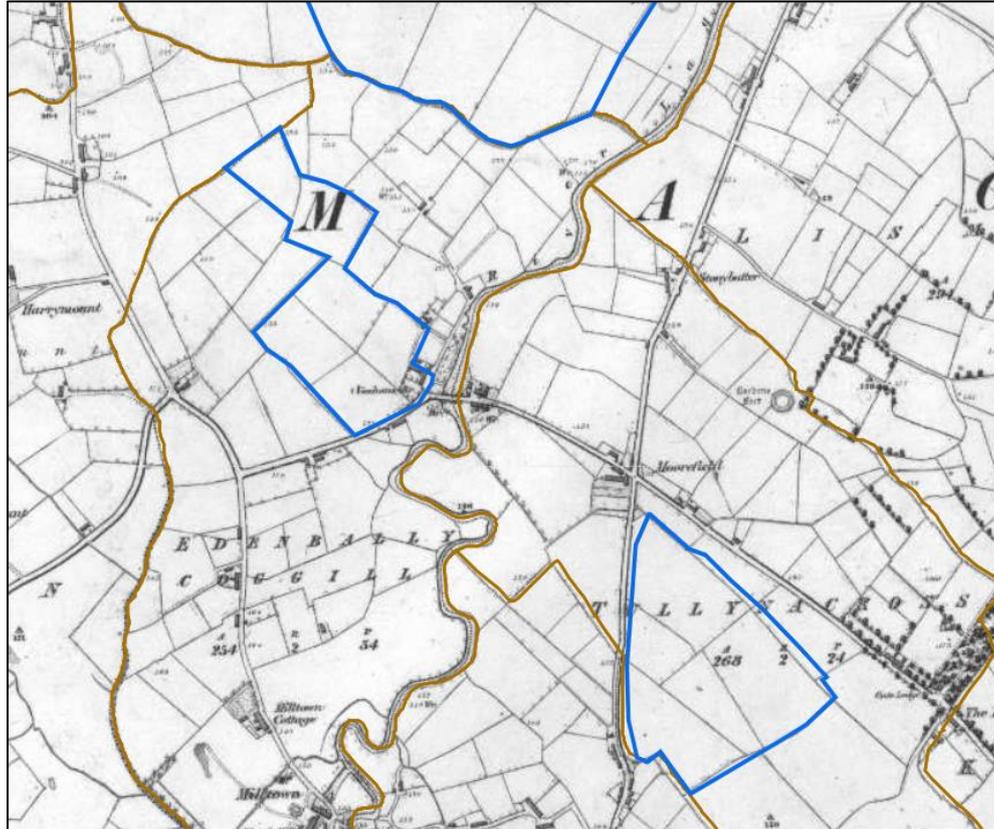


Figure 11: Extract from the second edition OS map (1846-1862) showing southern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

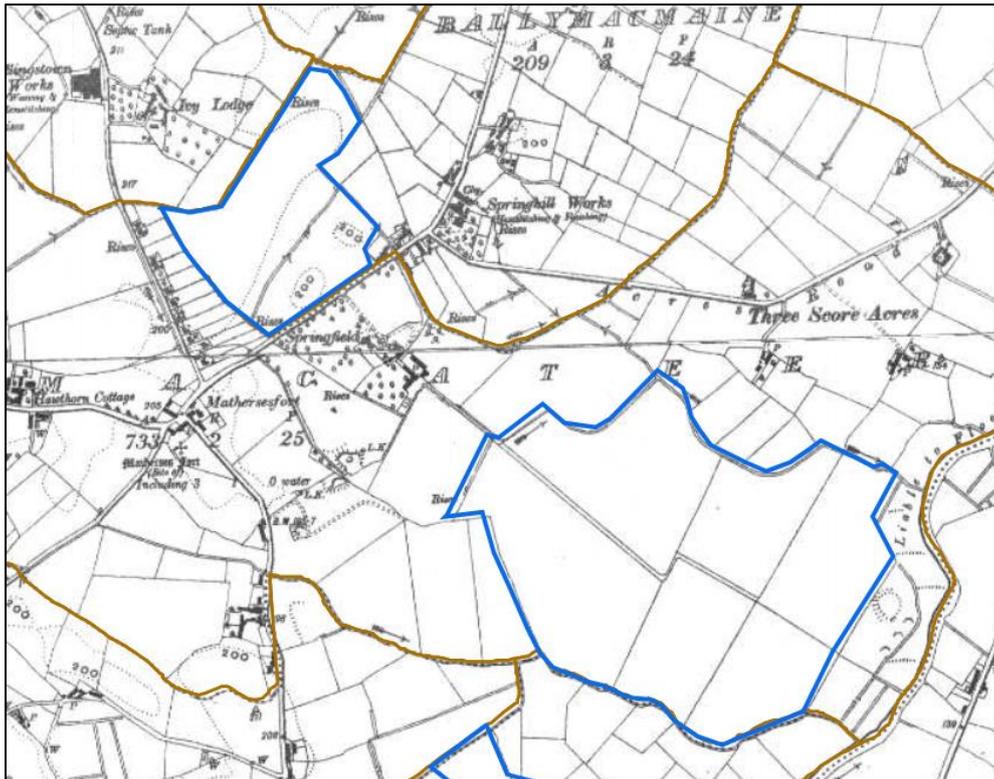


Figure 12: Extract from the fourth edition OS map (1916-1957) showing northern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

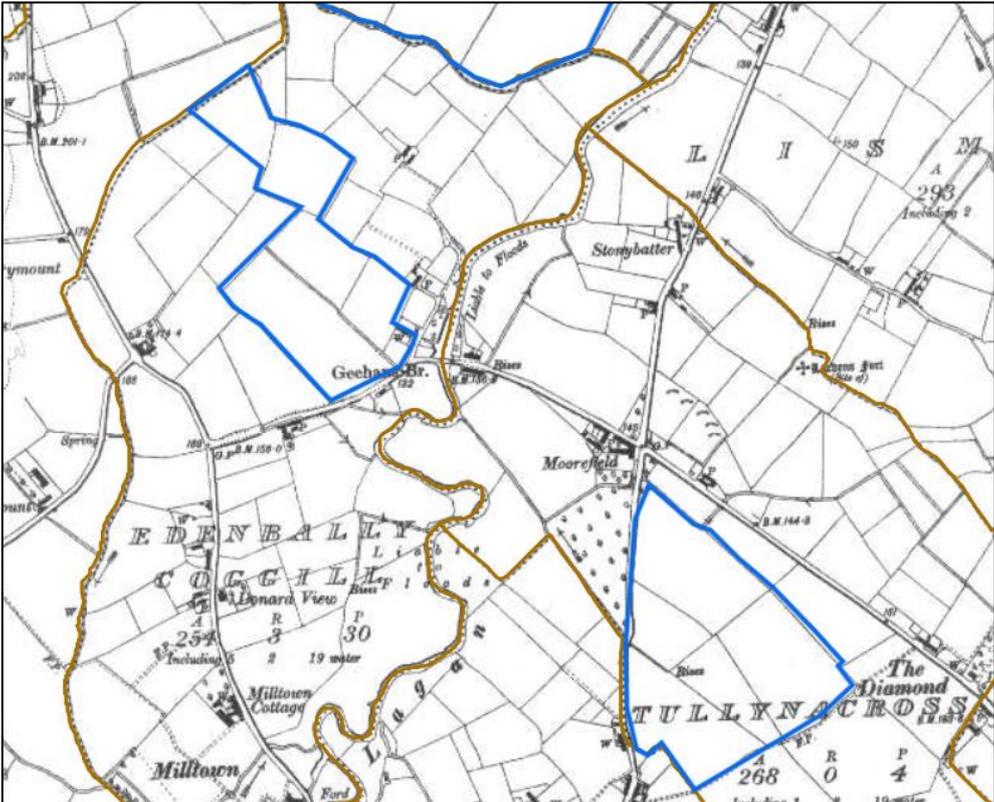


Figure 13: Extract from fourth edition OS map (1916-1957) showing southern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

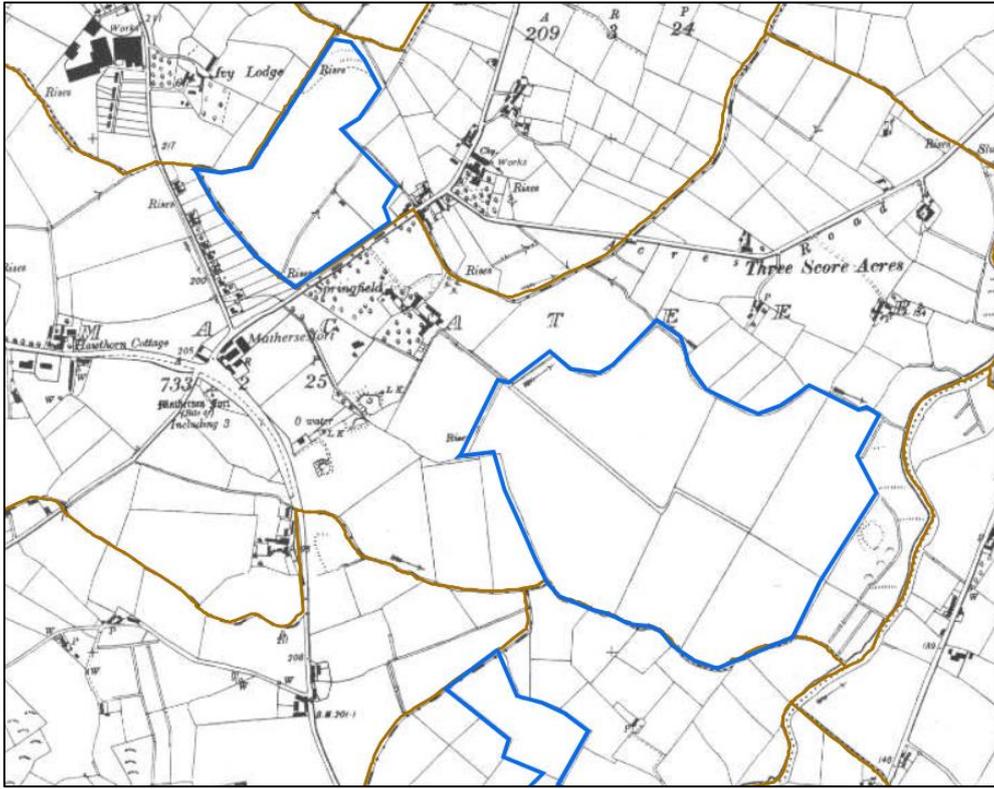


Figure 14: Extract from six-inch to one-mile historic mapping showing northern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

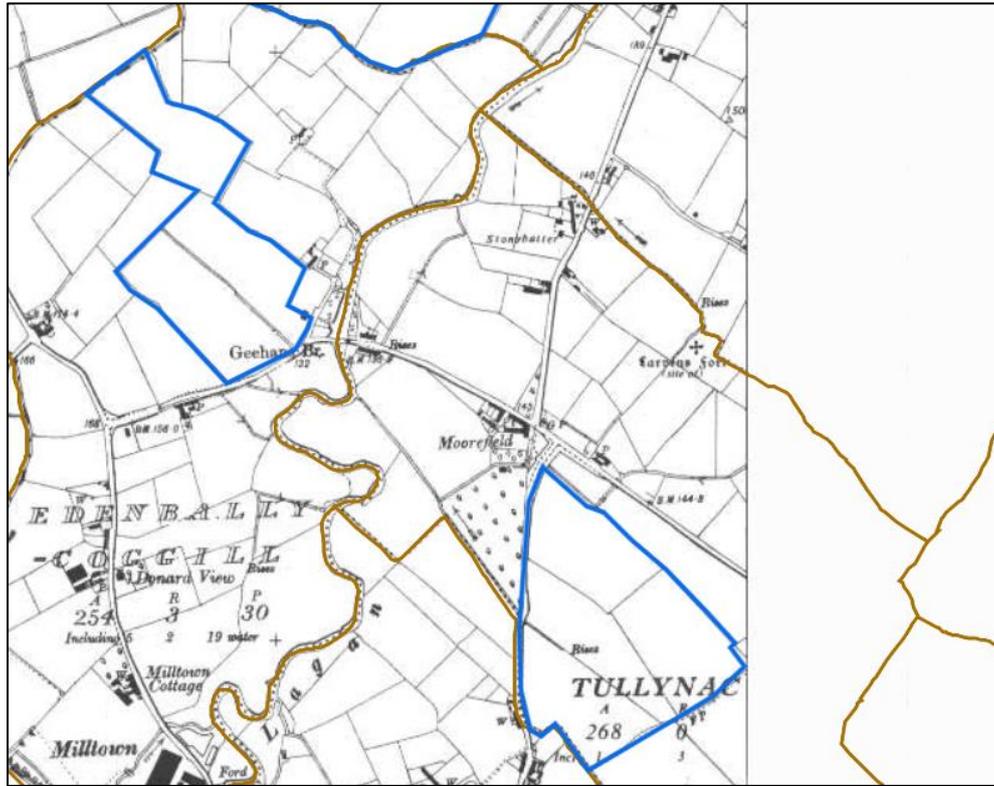


Figure 15: Extract from six-inch to one-mile historic mapping showing southern half of subject site (blue outline) (Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)



Figure 16: Extract from July 2021 orthophotography showing potential subterranean archaeology (red box)
(Source: Google Maps)

Placenames

Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout and nomenclature of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the nineteenth century. The Irish translations of the townlands names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland, e.g. *dun*, *lios* or *ráth* indicate the presence of a ringfort while *temple*, *saggart*, *termon* or *kill* record an association with a church site.

The Irish origins and translations for the townlands and adjacent townlands of the subject site (**Table 5**) were sourced from PlacenamesNI.org. The ‘cross’ in the townland name Tullynacross may relate to the crossroads (B2 & B9 Roads), which is depicted on the first edition OS map of this area (**Figure 17**). This would indicate the long antiquity of these roads and the importance of the crossroads as a nodal point in the local landscape, close to an established fording point on the River Lagan. None of the other placenames are indicative of previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage interest.

Table 5: Translation of townland name (Source: placenamesNI.org)

Townland	Irish Root	Translation
Ballymacmaine	<i>Baile Mhic Mhiacháin</i>	'McMain's / McMechan's townland'
Ballymacateer	<i>Baile Mhic an tSaoir</i>	'McAteer's townland'
Edenballycoggill	<i>Éadan Bhaile Chogail</i>	'Hill face of the townland of corn-cockle (a weed)'
Tullynacross	<i>Tulaigh na Croise</i>	'Hillock of the cross'

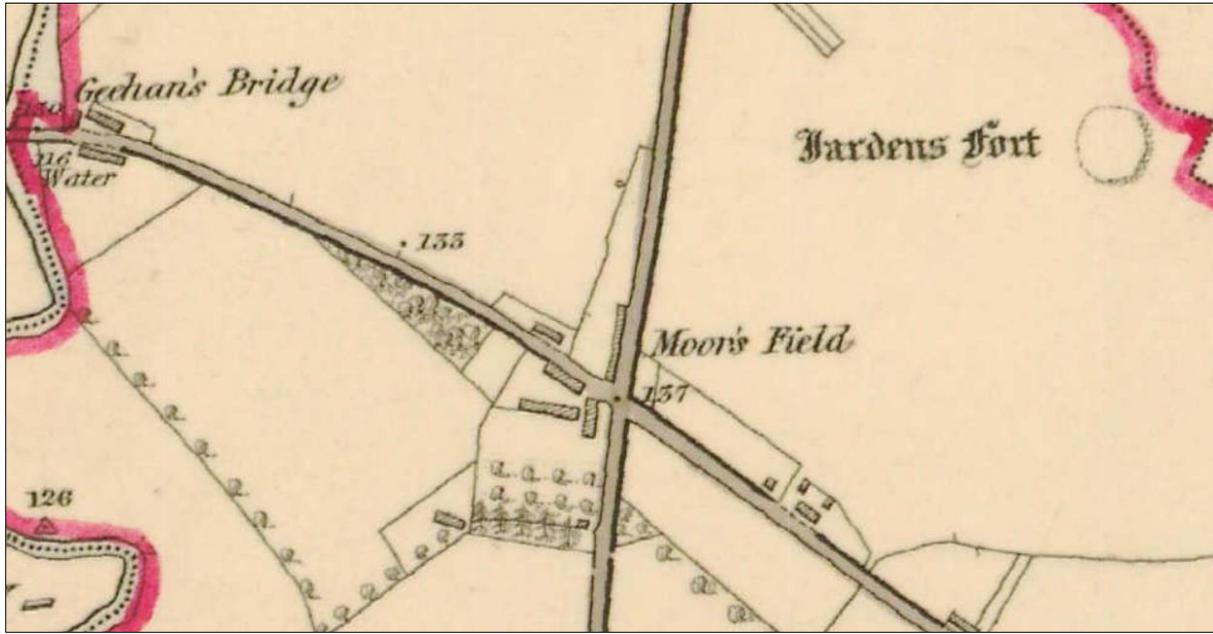


Figure 17: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map depicting the crossroads at Tullynacross (Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland)

4. Description of subject site

The subject site was inspected by suitably qualified archaeologists in March 2023. The weather during the inspection was dry and bright, allowing for good landscape visibility. The fields were numbered prior to inspection for ease of reference (**Figure 18** and **Table 6**).

All fields were accessible, and the site was assessed in terms of landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, or lack of both known and potential archaeological sites. The following section provides descriptions of the lands of the subject site. A photographic record of the site inspection was compiled, a representative extract of which is presented in **Appendix 1**.

The field survey did not identify any previously unrecorded archaeology but did identify potential intervisibility between the subject site and the site of a rath DOW020:005.



Figure 18: Location of subject site (red outline) with field numbers
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

Table 6: Description of lands within subject site

Field ID	Description
1	Large parcel of relatively flat pastureland. Bounded to the northeast by the Dromore Road, to the west by the Drumlin Road, and to the south by a mixture of hedgerows and wire fencing. The townland boundary also interacts with the perimeter of this field at the southwest.

<i>Field ID</i>	<i>Description</i>
2	Relatively flat pastureland, wet under foot at the time of survey. Bounded on all sides by a mixture of hedgerows, treelines, and wire fencing.
3	Relatively flat pastureland, wet under foot at the time of survey. Bounded on all sides by a mixture of hedgerows, treelines, and wire fencing, with some agricultural buildings at the southeast of the field.
4	Relatively flat pastureland which slopes gradually downwards towards the northwest. Surrounded by agricultural land on all sides. Bounded by a mixture of small waterways and hedgerows with occasional mature trees, with the townland boundary running along the north-western edge.
5	Flat pastureland, wet under foot at the time of survey. Bounded to the east by the river Lagan (townland boundary), to the west by a small waterway and hedgerow, to the north by an area of planted woodland and to the south by a single dwelling and associated laneways.
6	Relatively flat pastureland, wet under foot at the time of survey. Bounded to the south by a small waterway and hedgerow (townland boundary), to the northeast and northwest by a mixture of hedgerows, wire fencing and mature trees, and bounded to the east by an area of planted woodland.
7	Large parcel of well drained, drumlin-like pastureland which rises gradually to a slight plateau near the centre of the field and not far from DOW020:005. The location of Scheduled Monument DOW020:005 is clearly visible from this field. Bounded on the east by planted woodland, and to the north, west and south by a mix of sparse hedgerows, wire fencing and mature trees. A possible circular enclosure identified in this field during a review of aerial photography (see Figure 16) does not have surface expression.
8	Flat pastureland. Surrounded on all sides by agricultural land. Bounded to the south by a small waterway and hedgerow (townland boundary), and bounded to the north, east and west by a mixture of sparse hedgerows, wire fencing and mature trees.
9	Relatively flat pastureland but rising to a slight plateau at the centre of the field. Wet under foot at the time of survey. Surrounded entirely by agricultural fields and bounded on all sides by a mixture of sparse hedgerows, wire fencing and occasional mature trees, and a laneway across the southern boundary.
10	Relatively flat pastureland, sloping gradually downwards to the southwest. Surrounded by agricultural land on all sides. Bounded to the south by a small waterway and hedgerow (townland boundary), and bounded to the north, east and west by a mixture of hedgerows, wire fencing and mature treelines.
11	Large parcel of relatively flat, pastureland. Surrounded by agricultural fields and bounded on all sides by a mix of sparse hedgerows, wire fencing and mature tree lines.
12	Pastureland which slopes gradually towards the south, wet under foot at the time of survey. Bounded on the northwest by a low hedgerow with a wire fence (townland boundary), to the east by mature trees and hedges, to the south by the Springhill Road (townland boundary) and to the west by residential gardens (townland boundary) of houses along Inn Road. The field is bisected by a northeast to southwest running former field boundary drain, lined by sparse hedging.

5. Assessment of impacts

There are a total of 10 archaeological sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the 1km study area. There is **no predicted impact** on these archaeological sites.

There is a ráth (**DOW020:005**) located close to the site boundary, which is designated as a Scheduled Monument, the scheduled area for which overlaps slightly with the subject lands. An exclusion area has been proposed in the adjacent field (Field 7), which will mean that no works will occur within the scheduled area that extends into this field (**Figure 19**). The exclusion zone will also allow for the preservation *in situ* of a potential archaeological site noted in aerial photography (**Figure 16**) and will also ameliorate potential visual impacts on views from ráth DOW020:005 immediately west towards the potential archaeological site. Therefore there are **no predicted impacts** on recorded archaeology.

There are 22 architectural/cultural heritage structures, comprising nine Listed Buildings and 13 Industrial Heritage Record sites, located within the study area. None of these sites are located within the subject site, and for most, there will be **no predicted impact**. However, the bridge (**HB14/06/043** also **IHB 02971:000:00**) which crosses the River Lagan, located just 26m from the site boundary, is close enough for there to be a potential indirect impact of a visual nature. A photomontage (Viewpoint **VP11**) produced for the visual impact assessment showed that with the addition of hedge planting the solar farm infrastructure would be barely perceptible from the bridge. Therefore the predicted impact could be considered **imperceptible**.

A former thatched house (**HB14/07/001**), which was de-listed in 1985 is also in close proximity to the site boundary but there is **no predicted impact** on this feature.

HB14/06/014 and **HB17/02/004** (also **IHR02974:001:00**) are Record Only sites, having been replaced with modern structures, therefore, there is **no predicted impact** on these features.

HB14/07/002 is a thatched house located close to Field 2. A complex of farm buildings to the rear (north and east) of the house screen views towards the proposed development site, resulting in **no predicted impact** on this feature.

HB14/07/003 is located in close proximity to Field 12. Views from this house towards the proposed development are partially screened by long-established hedges along Springhill Road and a mature tree-lined avenue that leads north-westward from the house to Springhill Road. A photomontage (Viewpoint **VP 3**) taken from the roadside along Springhill Road showed that with the addition of hedge planting the solar farm infrastructure would be barely perceptible from that location. Given the current level of screening provided by the existing hedges and trees and the additional screening that further hedge planting would provide, the **potential indirect visual impact** may be considered to be **imperceptible**.

A map regression study identified **one** potential previously unrecorded archaeological feature, visible on an aerial image, within the subject site. This may represent the subterranean remains of an enclosure or settlement potentially associated with the ráth site DOW020:005. As noted above, an exclusion area has been proposed around the potential archaeological feature to preserve it *in situ* and to maintain intervisibility with ráth DOW020:005.

The townland boundaries of Ballymacmaine, Ballymacateer, Edenballycoggill and Tullynacross intersect with the subject site at various points. These boundaries have been in existence since at least 1840 and possibly earlier and are therefore noteworthy due to their antiquity. The project designs do not require the removal of these cultural heritage features. However, should localized removal be required to create access, this would result in a **direct impact**, albeit of a low magnitude and the significance of effect could be considered to be **imperceptible**.

The subject site covers an area of undeveloped agricultural land which is set within a wider landscape that contains a number of archaeological monuments, mostly dating to the early medieval period. As noted above, evidence from a review of orthorectified aerial images indicates the potential for further such sites to exist subsurface. The identification of a flint blade in the townland of Tullynacross suggests that there is potential that further previously unrecorded prehistoric features, finds and deposits exist subsurface. Therefore, the archaeological potential of the subject site may be **moderate to high** and further archaeological mitigation will be required to ameliorate the potential impacts on hitherto unrecorded archaeology.

6. Mitigation measures

Conclusions

This assessment has been compiled in order to examine the potential impacts on cultural heritage sites and features as a result of the development of a solar farm at the subject site. The assessment has concluded that there will be **no predicted direct impacts** on recorded cultural heritage sites as a result of the proposed development. There is a potential for **indirect impacts** on a small number of cultural heritage sites, however the significance of effect is considered to be **imperceptible**. The removal of portions of townland boundaries within the subject site would result in a **direct impact**, albeit of a low magnitude and the significance of effect could be considered to be **imperceptible**.

The subject site is set within a large, undeveloped parcel of agricultural land, which contains previously unrecorded archaeological features (as identified during the current assessment) and is set within a wider landscape that contains several other recorded archaeological sites and find spots. For these reasons the subject lands are considered to possess a **moderate to high potential** to contain previously unrecorded archaeology sub-surface. Further archaeological investigation of the subject site would be required to identify the existence of any previously unrecorded potential sub-surface archaeological deposits.

Recommendation and mitigation measures

Given the undisturbed, greenfield nature of the subject area and its moderate to high archaeological potential, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological geophysical survey followed by targeted archaeological testing is implemented across all viable areas of the subject site. This programme of archaeological investigation may be undertaken post grant of planning permission but should be undertaken well in advance of construction to allow sufficient time to adequately mitigate any impacts on previously unrecorded archaeology within the areas to be developed.

A buffer/exclusion zone will be established in Field 7 in the area that contains a possible circular enclosure identified during a review of aerial photography and a small portion of the scheduled area associated with a rath (**DOW020:005**) (see **Figure 19** below). This will ameliorate the potential direct and indirect impacts on the Scheduled Monument and the potential direct impact on previously unrecorded archaeology that may exist subsurface.

The buffer/exclusion zone should be appropriately fenced-off prior to construction works and should remain as undeveloped greenspace throughout the lifespan of the proposed solar farm. Fencing-off is required to prevent any vehicular movements, dumping of spoil, storage of material or inadvertent ground reduction or damage to these sites.



Figure 19: Image showing potential buffer/ exclusion zone around archaeological site (red outline)

It is also recommended that the undesignated and unrecorded cultural heritage features within the subject site, including the townland boundaries of Ballymacmaine, Ballymacateer, Edenballycoggill and Tullynacross are retained within the development designs. Should the development necessitate the removal or partial removal of these features, a written and photographic record of same should be documented by a qualified archaeologist prior to removal.

The retention of long-established and mature hedging, particularly along the subject site boundaries can help to ameliorate the potential visual impact of the proposed development. Consideration should be given in the development designs to the boundary treatments, which may include augmentation of localised sections of the subject site boundaries to visually screen the development. For example, screening in the form of tree planting along a section of Springhill Road would help to ameliorate the indirect visual impact on **HB14/07/003**.

All recommendations are subject to approval of the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) and the planning authority.

7. References

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Appendix 1: Photographic record



Plate 1: View from northern corner of Field 12, looking south



Plate 2: View from southern boundary of Field 12, looking northwest



Plate 3: View from centre of southern boundary of Field 11, looking east towards Rath (DOW020:005)



Plate 4: View from northeast corner of Field 10, looking south



Plate 5: View from southwest corner of Field 9, looking northeast



Plate 6: View from centre of Field 7, looking east towards Rath (DOW020:005)



Plate 7: View from northwest corner of Field 6, looking south



Plate 8: View from southern edge of Field 5, looking north towards Rath (DOW020:005)



Plate 9: View from southern corner of Field 4, looking north



Plate 10: View from southern corner of Field 2, looking north



Plate 11: View from southern end of Field 5 towards bridge (HB14/06/043), looking south



Plate 15: View from centre of Field 1, looking north

Appendix 2: Excavation Database Entries

Site Name	Licence No. & Author	Summary
134 Dromore Road, Kilfullert, Donaghcloney	AE/16/89 Chris Long, Gahan & Long	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead of the proposed conversion and extension of an existing barn on lands 25m north-west of 134 Dromore Road, Donaghcloney.</p> <p>The adjacent area of monument DOW 020:010 was fenced off and two test trenches were excavated using a back-acting machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Both trenches had to be reduced in length from their south-western ends due to a live water main which supplies the current farm buildings.</p> <p>Trench 1 was approximately 32m in length and ran approximately north-east/south-west along the north-west boundary of the site and closest to the area of the rath. Following the removal of sod, a single layer of compacted stone was removed from the trench. This has a maximum depth of 0.3m and directly overlay naturally occurring subsoil which consisted of a compact, orange glacial clay. A modern refuse pit was identified towards the north eastern end of the trench. This extended across the width of the trench and measured approximately 1.2m north-east/south-west. It was cut directly into subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.9m and contained a single fill which consisted of a compact grey/brown gritty clay with frequent inclusions of modern brick, glass and metal. Trench 2 was approximately 27m in length and extended parallel to Trench 1, approximately 7m to its south-east. Following the removal of sod, a single layer of compacted stone was removed from the trench. This has a maximum depth of 0.3m and directly overlay naturally occurring subsoil which here consisted of a compact, orange glacial clay with occasional patches of gravel.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits were identified during the course of the evaluation.</p>

Appendix 3: Archaeological Inventory Entries

<i>SMR Number</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>
DOW013:028	Rath	<p>This site is a rath reused as a landscaping feature. It lies in rolling countryside, with excellent views to NE & SE-W-NW. It consists of an eroded rath incorporated into a tree ring, probably associated with Drumcro House. The interior is visible as a roughly circular depression, approx. 31m across E-W. This is enclosed by a bank 1m high internally, 0.35m externally and 2.5m wide. The bank may have been modified as part of the landscaping and is planted with mature hawthorn and holly trees. To NE, the landscaped platform extends 10.8m beyond the rath bank and stands 1.6m above a partially infilled ditch which can be traced around most of the perimeter and is 1.7m wide & 0.5m deep. An entrance at NNE runs from the edge of the platform to the rath interior and may occupy the site of the original entrance. This site lies in rolling countryside, with the ground falling from west-north-west through north to north-east and rising gently to the south-south-west. Despite the localised impact of mature trees there are excellent views to the north-east and from east-south-east through west to north-west. The monument appears to consist of an eroded or partially levelled rath, incorporated within a more recent landscaping feature, possibly associated with Drumco House, some 200m to the north. The interior of the rath is visible as a roughly circular depression, difficult to measure accurately because of tree and bush debris, but some 31m east-west. It is somewhat domed and slopes gradually to the north-west. The interior is enclosed by a bank, 1m high above the interior, 2.5m wide and 35cm above the level of the landscaped surroundings on the south. The bank itself may have been modified to some extent as part of the landscaping and has supports mature hawthorn and holly trees. On the north-east, where the ground falls away, the landscaped platform extends 10.8m beyond the rath bank and stands 1.6m above a partially-infilled external ditch. This can be traced around most of the rest of the perimeter although on the south-west it is only around 1m below the platform, 1.7m wide and 50cm below the external ground level. An entrance or avenue, 9-10m wide and 40cm deep runs from the edge of the landscaped platform into the interior on the north-north-east and may occupy the site of the original entrance. Most of the trees on the landscaped platform are dead although one mature beech survives on the south-west. The site appears to have changed little since the 1966 description, which recorded 'a small ring bank' set 'concentrically on a thinly tree-planted platform about 180ft (55m) across' and a maximum of 5ft (1.52m) above the surrounding land. Although 'ASCD' notes that the site was simply shown as an oval tree-planted area on the 1835 OS 6-inch map it also concluded that this was probably a rath 'levelled and planted with trees in more recent times'. Archaeological survey of Co Down (1966), 163-4 October 1994</p>

<i>SMR Number</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>
DOW020:001	Enclosure	The site appears on the 1834 OS 6" map as a convention designated "Fort"; on the 1860 edition as the fort convention marked "Site of Fort" & is not shown on later editions. Situated on a natural height, the site of the enclosure straddles the 200ft contour. It survives as a slight amorphous height in the field surface, and it is possible that the SE-S perimeter may survive in the field boundary. This would be an excellent position for a rath.
DOW020:003	Enclosure	The site appears on the 1834 OS 6" map as a fort convention designated "Matherses Fort" & on all subsequent editions as "Matherses Fort (site of)". It is set on moderately high ground with good views SE-S-SW. From N-NE the site perimeter has been truncated by a road. The NW third of the enclosure marked on the 1932 OS map survives in remnant form, with no bank or ditch remains extant. At SW it stands 1m above the exterior, while the interior is very uneven. The other 2 thirds of the site are located in the improved field surface at SE; although the perimeter can barely be traced here, the SW curve of the site has been incorporated into the field boundary. The enclosure would have had an original diameter of c.35m & at WSW stands 1.5m above a ditch which is 3.5m wide & 0.5m deep.
DOW020:005	Rath	The site is not shown on the 1834 OS 6" map but appears on the 1860 map as "site of Fort" with a fort convention, & on later editions as an undesignated oval shape, defined by hachures suggesting a ditch. The site is roughly circular in shape, has a diameter of c.40m, and occupies a hilltop position overlooking the river Lagan. Except for a portion to the north east, this feature is surrounded by a ditch approximately 1-2.5m deep and 8m wide. No inner or outer banks exist, and the feature is not noticeably raised above ground level. A linear area of marshland below a steep natural slope immediately to the east of this feature may be of some significance. The rath is in fair condition.
DOW020:006	Enclosure	The site is shown on the 1834 OS 6" map as a convention marked "Fort"; on the 1860 map as "Site of Fort" & does not appear on later editions. It is set on a natural height with good views N-SSE and to SE lies DOW 020:008, a possible rath. There are no visible remains of this enclosure in the improved field surface, apart from an amorphous platform area. This is not well defined and is just traceable SSE-SE where it stands 0.5m above the field.
DOW020:008	Enclosure	Situated on quite level ground with good-fair views NW-N-NNE, E & NE. The local topography rises gradually upwards across the roadway to SW. There are no surface remains of this site in the improved field surface which is marked on the 1834 OS 6" map as an undesignated arc of field boundary. There may be a slight amorphous height in the former area of this feature, but this is not defined. It is possible that this may have been the surviving remains of a rath bank & the location is favourable for a rath.
DOW020:009	Enclosure	The site is situated on the S of a NW-SE drumlin ridge. It is difficult to locate the exact position of the site, as the field surface was very much improved & all the surrounding field boundaries have been removed to

<i>SMR Number</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>
		make a 30-acre field. However, there were no visible remains at all in the field surface & there was no local knowledge of a fort. The site is named on the OS 6" maps of 1834 & 1860 as "Larden's Fort" & on the 1932 map as "Lardens Fort (site of)". This would be an excellent location for a rath.
DOW020:010	Rath	Set on moderately high ground with good views SW-W, DOW 020:011 would have overlooked this site, although it is now built over. This platform rath survives as an amorphous platform, c.35m in diam., just W of the farm & a shed has been constructed on the SSW edge of the site. The curve of the site perimeter can be traced NW-N-ENE; at NE it stands 0.5m high. A local informant relates that many years ago there was a waterlogged 'sheugh' all around the outside of the site, but that this was filled in as it was a danger to children. Another informant relates that this site was taken away with one of the first Ferguson tractors in the area. The site is marked 'Fort' on the 1834 OS map and on the 1932 ed., shows a continuous ditch around the site with an entrance at E.
DOW020:093	Rath	On a height with excellent views all round; to E & SE is a broad level area of land with a small river. Just over half of this site survives as marked on the 1932 OS 6" map, though the field boundary running approx. NW-SE through the site has been removed. The interior of the site, 35m across, slopes gradually to NNW. The bank survives in some form ESE-W-NW, as does the outer ditch. At NW, the bank is 0.6m high internally, while at SSE it is 0.3m high, 6m wide & 1.95m above the ditch, which is 2.5m wide & 0.5m deep. The existing site half stands 0.3m above the N field, where there are no visible traces of it.
DOW020:099	A.P. Site	A circular enclosure c.70m in diam. seen primarily as a cropmark, although it is in relief on its left-hand side. The feature consists of an incomplete inner ditch & a flanking outer ditch which falls away where the land level dips (the left-hand side). These two ditches are separated by a possible bank & there is within the inner ditch another bank. It is situated on lowland W of the River Lagan. Not visited.