

**Proposed Solar Farm Development,
Derrygrogan Little, County Offaly**

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment



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1. Introduction

John Cronin & Associates have been commissioned by **RPS/Tetra Tech** to undertake an Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment of lands ahead of a proposed Solar Farm development. The proposed development site encompasses several agricultural land parcels within the townland of Derrygrogan Little, County Offaly (see **Figures 1-2**), located approximately 8km northeast of the town of Tullamore.

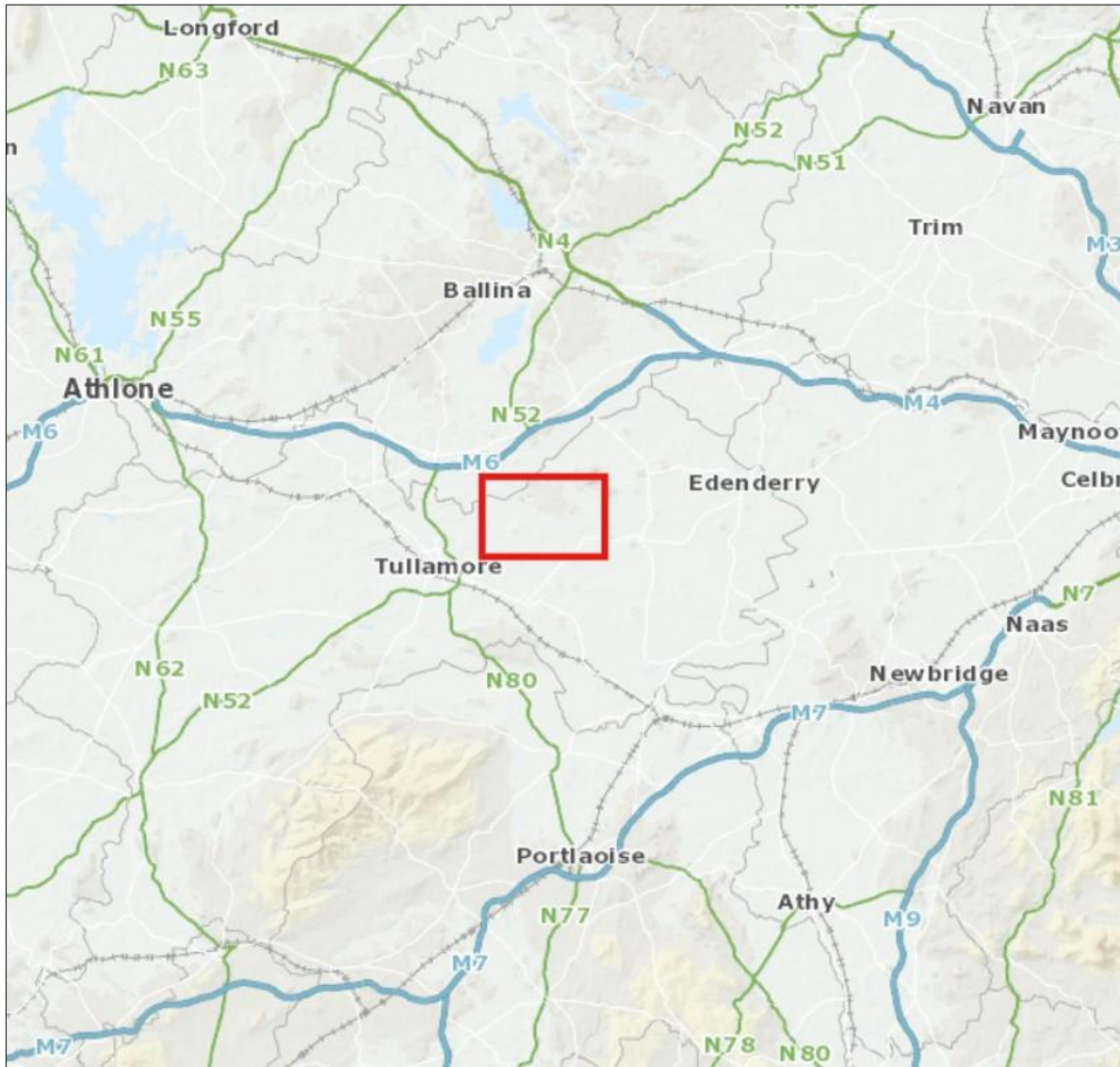


Figure 1: General location of subject site (red box) (Source: Government of Ireland)



Figure 2: Location of subject lands (red box) (Source: Google Satellite)

2. Methodology

The initial part of the assessment was based on a desktop survey which identified all known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the study area, which comprises of the subject site and extends for 500m from the boundary of the proposed development.

The principal sources reviewed for this assessment of the known archaeological resource are the files and records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI). Between 1984 and 1992, the ASI issued a series of county Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs). These county SMRs, revised in the light of further research and fieldwork, formed the basis for the statutory Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994). Similar in format to the SMRs (comprising a list and set of maps), the RMPs were issued for each county in the State between 1995 and 1998. Monuments included in the statutory RMP are legally protected and are generally referred to as 'Recorded Monuments'.

Since the publication of the original county SMRs and RMPs, the ASI has continued to record and add entries to the Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the ASI has developed an online database and web viewer known as 'Historic Environment Viewer'. This has been developed to "enhance the user's experience by facilitating access to the database of the National Monuments Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one stop point of access for both data resources" (Source: www.archaeology.ie). In addition, the following sources were consulted:

- Cartographic Sources - The detail on cartographic sources can indicate past settlement and land use patterns in recent centuries and can also highlight the impact 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 first edition of the 6-inch (1:10,560 or 6-inch to 1 mile scale) Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (1829-41) (from here on referred to as the 'first edition 6-inch OS map'), the 25-inch OS maps (1:2500 scale) (surveyed and published 1887-1913) and the 6-inch last edition (Cassini) OS map (1940s).
- Aerial photography - In parallel with the cartographic study, a review of publicly-accessible aerial photographic sources from the Ordnance Survey, Google and Bing Maps was undertaken.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports - The Database of Irish Excavation Reports contains summary accounts of all archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from the 1960s to present.
- Placenames Database of Ireland - The Placenames Branch (Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records and placenames research conducted by the State. Its primary function is to undertake research in order to establish the correct Irish language forms of the placenames of Ireland and to publish them on a public website (www.logainm.ie).

This report presents details on the potential archaeological heritage constraints within the vicinity of the proposed development area. There are no recorded archaeological sites located

within the footprint of the proposed development. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) records 19 archaeological sites within the 500m wide study area, details of which are dealt within the Archaeological and Historical section below.

Field survey

A suitably qualified archaeologist (Paul Fingleton) carried out an inspection of the proposed development site on 9 May 2024. The study area was assessed in terms of historic landscape, land use, vegetation cover, presence, and potential for undetected archaeological and architectural heritage sites/features. No difficulties were encountered during field survey. Extracts from the photographic record are presented below (**Appendix 2**).

Geophysical Survey

An archaeogeophysical survey (Licence No.: 24R0189), involving a high-resolution magnetic gradiometry survey was undertaken across all available areas at Derrygrogan Little Solar farm site by Ger Dowling (Dowling 2024). This survey revealed a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest, particularly in Fields 7, 9 and 10, as well as possible field systems, evidence for ploughing, etc. throughout the site. See **Section 5** below for further details.

3. Context

Legal & Policy Framework

The management and protection of cultural heritage in Ireland is achieved through a framework of national laws and policies which are in accordance with the provisions of the Valetta Treaty (1995) (formally the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*, 1992) ratified by Ireland in 1997; the *European Convention on the Protection of Architectural Heritage* (Granada Convention, 1985), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and the *UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, 2003, ratified by Ireland in 2015.

The locations of World Heritage Sites (Ireland) and the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites submitted by the Irish State to UNESCO were reviewed none are located within County Offaly. The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site is located approximately 73km to the northeast of the subject site. The Skellig Michael World Heritage Site is located approximately 273km to the southwest of the subject site.

On the 13th of October 2023, the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023 was signed into law by President Michael D. Higgins. The new Act repeals existing legislation and institutes new provisions equipped to cater for the protection of historic heritage in a modern era.

The Act repeals the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and replaces those Acts with provisions for the protection of historic heritage, provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, provisions for the regulation of certain activities in the interests of such protection and provisions enabling the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions which relate to such protection or regulation; to give effect to the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive in relation to the carrying out of works at, on, in, under, to, or within the immediate surroundings of monuments; to give further effect to the Valletta Convention; to consequentially repeal or amend certain other enactments; to make miscellaneous amendments to the Foreshore Act 1933, the Lough Corrib Navigation Act 1945, the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Valuation Act 2001, the Local Government Act 2001, the Local Government Rates and other Matters Act 2019 and the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021; and to provide for related matters

The Act introduces the following innovative measures:

- newly discovered archaeological sites are afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration;
- a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments;
- a new ‘Register of Monuments’ will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems hitherto in operation;
- “World Heritage Property” is defined for the first time in Irish legislation;
- subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State;
- the Act provides the necessary provisions to allow for the ratification of two important international treaties, the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;

- the Act enables the State to ratify the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;
- an integrated licensing system whereby one licence can authorise a range of activities will be introduced and, for the first time, a statutory appeals process will be established to review licensing decisions, and
- a new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings.

The Act defines archaeology as “the study of past human societies of all periods, either as a whole or of various aspects of them, through the material remains of all forms, moveable and immoveable, left by those societies and the evidence of their environment, and includes the study of climatological, ecological, geological, geomorphological or pedological factors relevant to understanding the nature or context of those societies or the distribution or nature of their material remains, and “archaeological interest” shall be construed accordingly”.

Section 14 of the Act provides for the establishment of a register to be known as the Register of Monuments. The Act sets out transitional provisions applicable to Register of Historic Monuments, Record of Monuments and Places and National Monuments.

The development plan relevant to this project is the *Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027*. This Development Plan was reviewed with regard to this project in relation to archaeology and built heritage. The Development Plan includes specific Solar Energy Policy Objectives, of relevance to this study, namely:

CAEP-34 *It is Council policy to promote the development of solar energy infrastructure for on-site energy use, including solar PV, solar thermal and seasonal storage technologies subject to environmental safeguards and the protection of natural or built heritage features, biodiversity views and prospects.*

CAEP-35 *It is Council policy to ensure that the assessment of solar farm proposals will have regard to:*

- *site selection, by focusing in the first instance on developing solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value.*
- *where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays. Decommissioning and site rehabilitation plans will be required providing for the land to be restored to its previous use.*

The Offaly Development Plan also includes a number of Archaeology Policy Objectives. Of specific relevance to this project are the following:

BHP-33 *It is Council policy to support and promote the protection and appropriate management and sympathetic enhancement of the county’s archaeological heritage within the Plan area, in particular by implementing the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).*

BHP-35 It is Council policy to consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) in relation to archaeological sites within and/or adjoining a proposed development.

BHP-37 It is Council policy that any development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have implications for archaeological heritage (including both sites and areas of archaeological potential / significance) shall be subject to an archaeological assessment. When dealing with proposals for Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 Chapter 10 Built Heritage Page 335 development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features, there will be presumption in favour of the 'preservation in situ' of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with Government policy. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the Planning Authority will require the developer to have the site works supervised by a licenced archaeologist.

BHP-40 It is Council policy to require archaeological assessment, including underwater archaeological assessment where relevant, for such developments that due to their location, size or nature may have implications for archaeological heritage. Such developments include those that are located at or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (0.5 hectares or more) or length (1 kilometre or more and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement.)

Archaeological & historical background

There are no recorded archaeological sites located within the boundary of the proposed development. The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) records 19 archaeological sites within the 500m wide study area. These include the site of a destroyed cairn (OF009-027001-), a bullaun stone (OF009-027002-), a stone head which has two SMR entries as a result of being moved (OF009-028----/OF009-029003-), the site of a castle and motte (OF009-029001- and OF009-029002-) and the site of an enclosure (OF010-030----). In addition, there are several Zones of Notification (ZoN) associated with these sites which lie within the study area. The remaining 12 sites represent the locations of individual wooden artefacts or deposits discovered within the bogland to the east of the site boundary which were all recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit in 2001 (**Figure 5**). The location of all 19 sites, including the Zones of Notification can be seen in **Figures 3-4**, with further information provided in **Table 1**. For published inventory descriptions of these sites, please refer to **Appendix 1**.

Table 1: List of recorded archaeological sites within 500m of the proposed development site

Monument No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E)	ITM (N)	Distance from development
OF009-027001-	Cairn - unclassified	Rathdrum	640693	728573	240m south
OF009-027002-	Bullaun stone	Rathdrum	640693	728583	240m south
OF009-028----	Stone head (present location)	Rathdrum	641356	728435	475m south
OF009-029001-	Castle - unclassified	Rathdrum	641372	728471	465m south
OF009-029002-	Castle - motte	Rathdrum	641370	728470	465m south
OF009-029003-	Stone head	Rathdrum	641369	728475	465m south

Monument No.	Class	Townland	ITM (E)	ITM (N)	Distance from development
OF010-030----	Enclosure	Rathdrum	641679	728706	470m southeast
OF010-357----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641988	729092	478m east
OF010-358----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641995	729107	478m east
OF010-361----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641980	729113	478m east
OF010-362----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641988	729127	478m east
OF010-370----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641986	729195	484m east
OF010-371----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641989	729203	484m east
OF010-374----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641898	729042	403m southeast
OF010-375----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641979	729220	484m southeast
OF010-378----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641885	729054	380m southeast
OF010-379----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641872	729058	380m southeast
OF010-380----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641973	729276	471m east
OF010-381----	Structure - peatland	Rathdrum	641962	729290	471m east

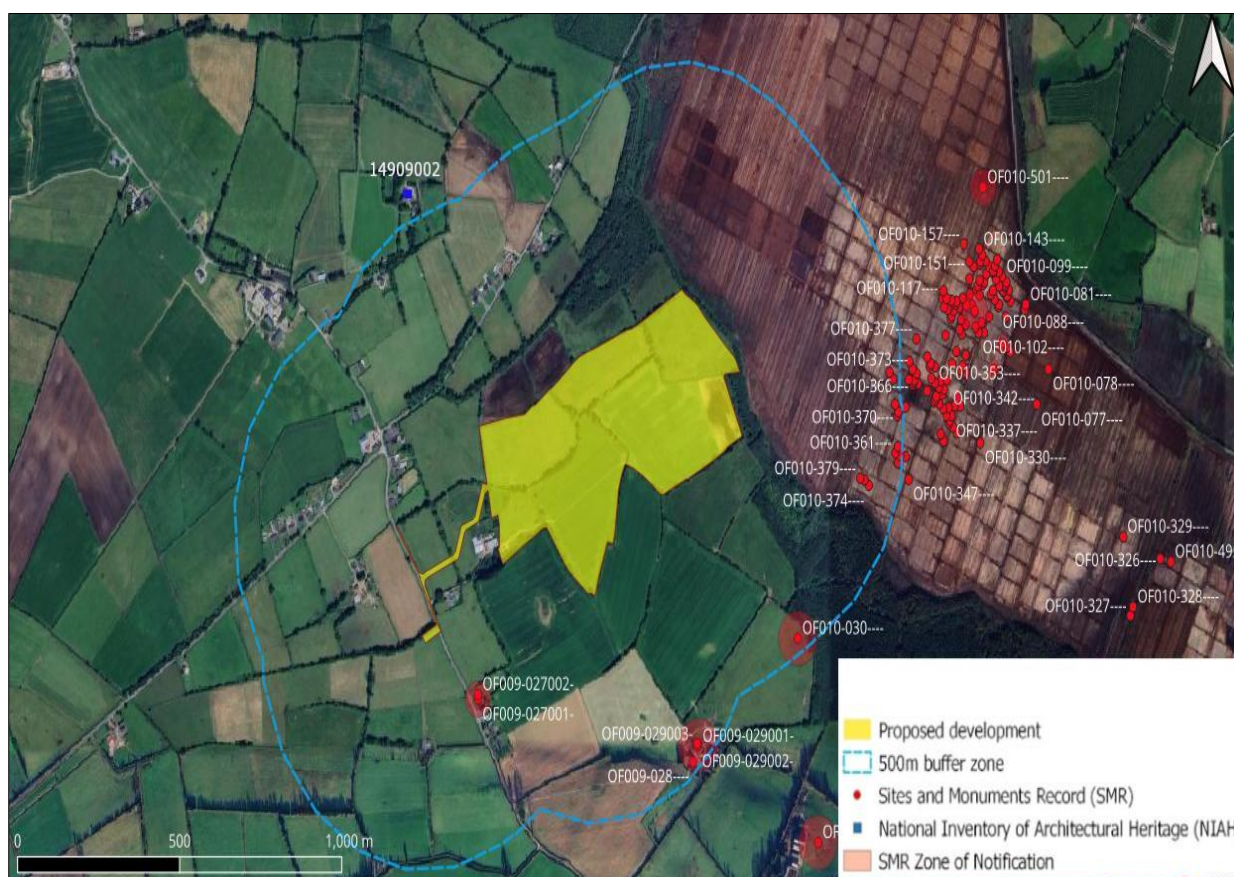
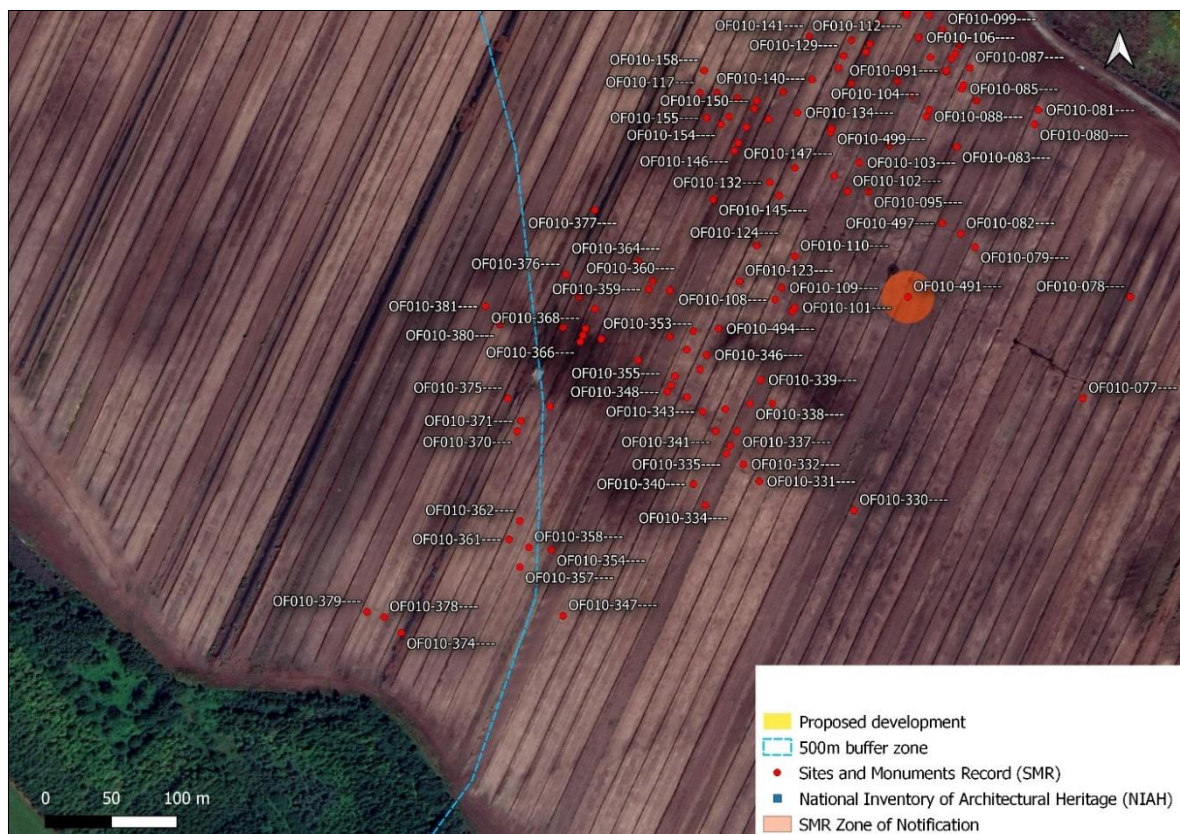
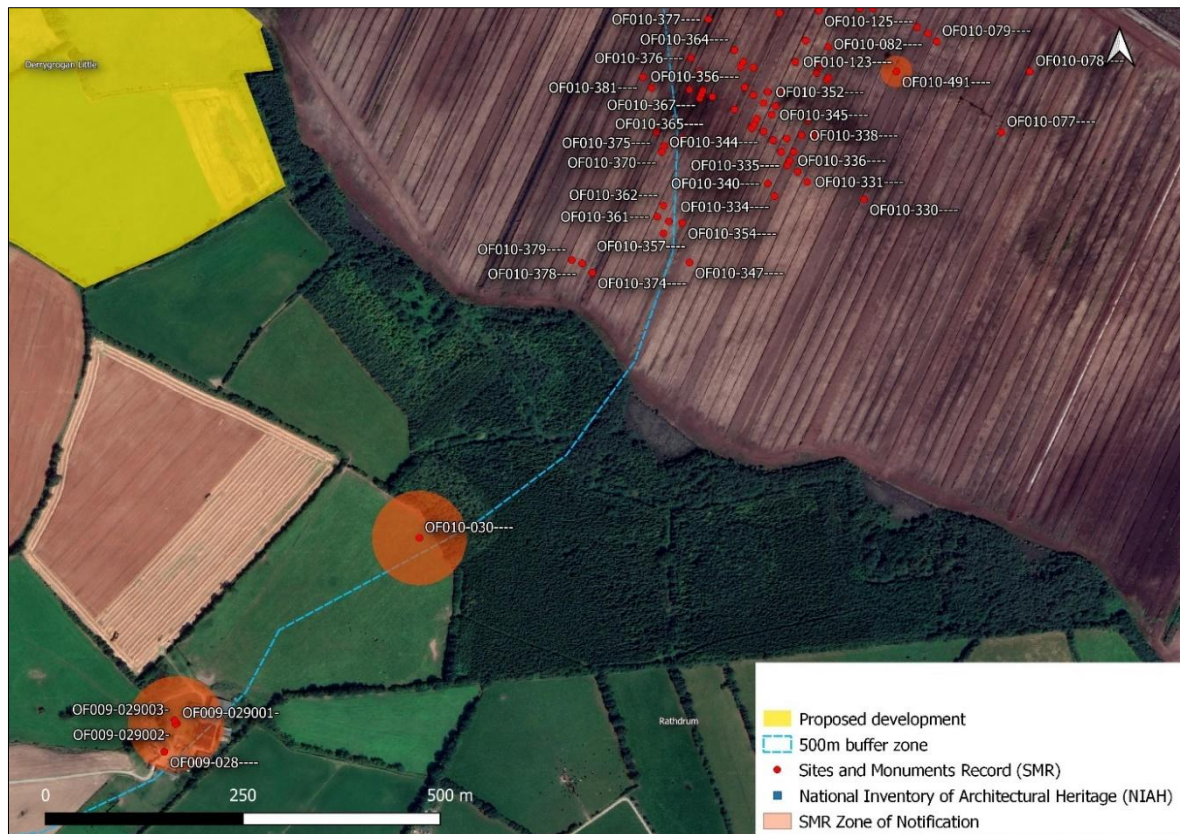


Figure 3: Location of recorded archaeological sites within 500m study area (Source: Government of Ireland)



Early prehistoric period

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (c.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 Co. 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). While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or shell middens adjacent to the coastline. The Neolithic period (c.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. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site-types, such as more substantial rectangular timber houses and various types of megalithic tombs, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. **There are no recorded sites within the study area that date to this period.**

Late prehistoric period

Metalworking arrived in Ireland with the advent of the Bronze Age period (c. 2400–500 BC). This period was also associated with the construction of new monument types such as standing stones, stone rows, stone circles and *fulachta fia*. *Fulacht fia* translates as cooking places of the wild (or of deer), they are often interpreted as the remains of cooking sites and are the most numerous archaeological site type in Ireland, radiocarbon dating of excavated examples has generally produced dates in the Bronze Age (c.2400-500BC). The development of new burial practices saw the construction of funerary monuments such as cairns, barrows, boulder burials and cists. The later first millennium BC and the early centuries AD comprise the Irish Iron Age, which is the most obscure period in the Irish archaeological record. While there is general agreement that the introduction of an iron technology was a significant factor in the eventual demise of bronze working on a large scale, but how, why and when this came about in Ireland is far from clear. **The site of a cairn (OF009-027001-), now destroyed, located within the study area likely dates to this period.**

Early medieval

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the 12th-century (c. 400–1169 AD). The establishment of the Irish church was to have profound implications for political, social and economic life and is attested to in the archaeological record by the presence of church sites, associated places for burial and holy wells. 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. This period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Hiberno-Norse ports. However, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural based in sites such as ringforts, which comprise roughly circular enclosures delimited by roughly circular earthen banks formed of material thrown up from a concentric external ditch. Ringforts are one of the most numerous monuments in the Irish landscape and the early medieval terms for these sites – rath/lios/dun still form some of the most common place-name elements in the country. Archaeological excavations indicate that the majority of ringforts were early medieval farmsteads with internal timber buildings and were surrounded by associated field systems. **The sites of a castle and motte (OF009-029001- and OF009-029002-), bullaun stone (OF009-027002-), stone head (OF009-028----/OF009-029003-) and enclosure (OF010-030----), are all likely to have originated in the early medieval period.**

Later and post-medieval

The arrival and conquest of large parts of Ireland by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12th-century broadly marks the advent of the Irish late medieval period, which continued up until the beginning of the post-medieval period in c.1550. Within the late medieval period, towns, markets, and fairs were established and change and reform was attempted in the Irish church. By the 15th-century the native Irish chieftains and lords began to establish tower houses and smaller castles as centres of territorial control. There are a number of likely late medieval recorded archaeological sites within the study area including an Ecclesiastical enclosure and church site, a number of moated sites, and a tower house and bawn. The post-medieval period (1550+) saw the development of high and low status stone houses throughout the Irish country. During this period any given settlement cluster is likely to have consisted primarily of single-story thatched cottages with associated farm buildings while two-story farmhouses became more common in the 19th-century. In the latter half of the 20th-century, there was a radical change in the nature and character of Irish domestic architecture manifested by the replacement of older stone-built structures with modern bungalows of concrete blockwork construction. **There are no recorded sites within the study area that date to this period.**

The townland of Derrygrogan Little is within the parish of Ballycommon, County Offaly. The parish of Ballycommon was described in 1837 in Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland as follows:

BALLYCOMMON, a parish, in the barony of LOWER-PHILIPSTOWN, KING'S county, and province of LEINSTER, 3½ miles, (W.) from Philipstown, on the road from Dublin to Tullamore, containing 1226 inhabitants. It comprises about 6730 statute acres, of which 4244 are apportioned under the tithe act: about 2503 acres are pasture, and 1743 arable land; and there are 2430 acres of bog, 50 of waste, and 5 or 6 of woodland. The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Kildare, and in the patronage of the Crown; the tithes amount to £138. 9. 2¾. The church has been lately repaired by a grant of £335 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The glebe-house was built by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £160, in 1817, from the late Board of First Fruits; the glebe comprises 3a. 1r. 15p. In the R. C. divisions the parish forms part of the union or district of Philipstown. There is a school aided by private subscriptions, also a hedge school, in each of which are about 40 children.

Excavations database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological investigations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from the 1960s to present. The database can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including year, county, site type, grid reference, license number, Sites and Monuments Record number and author. A review of the database found that no licenced archaeological investigations have taken place within the 500m study area. However, following a survey by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (IAWU) in 2001, several archaeological investigations have subsequently taken place within the bogland directly east of the subject site, partly extending into the eastern side of the study area. These excavations have resulted in the recovered of many wooden artefacts and deposits from across the wetland area, the summary description of these investigations is described as follows:

Daingean South Bog was surveyed by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (IAWU) during the 2001 Archaeological Survey of Ireland Peatland Survey. In 2004 seven sites were excavated by Sinclair Turrell as part of the Bord na Móna

Mitigation Project. A Re-Assessment survey was carried out on behalf of Bord na Móna in 2013 by the author under licence 13E0230 and subsequently twelve sites were excavated in August 2014 by IAC Ltd during the 2014-2017 BnM Mitigation Project.

Cartographic Evidence

The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries and highlights the impact of modern development 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 first edition of the 6-inch (1:10,560 or 6-inch to 1 mile scale) Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (1829-41) (from here on referred to as the 'first edition 6-inch OS map') (**Figure 6**) and the 25-inch OS maps (1:2500 scale) (surveyed and published 1887-1913) (**Figure 7**). Furthermore, aerial imagery of the subject lands from August 2022 has been included (**Figure 8**), illustrating the current ground condition.

Inspection of the historic OS maps indicate that the agricultural use of the subject land has remained largely unchanged except for the continued sub-division of fields. It also shows that the proposed development may interact with the historic townland boundary of Derrygrogan Little. Additionally, a small circular feature was observed within the area on the 25-inch OS map, specifically within what was later designated as Field #9 during the survey (refer to **Figure 9**). Upon closer inspection during the site visit, this feature was determined to be a natural depression in the terrain, lacking any significant archaeological importance. The maps and aerial imagery do not reveal any previously unknown or undocumented archaeological sites or structures.

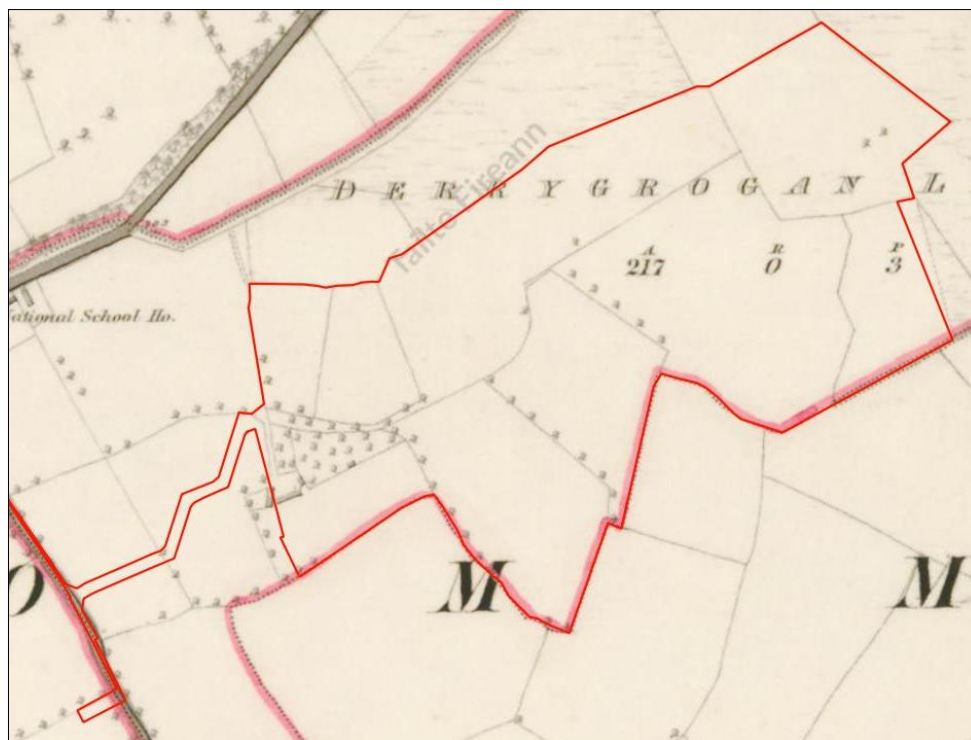


Figure 6: Extract from the first edition 6-inch OS map showing subject lands
(Source: Government of Ireland)

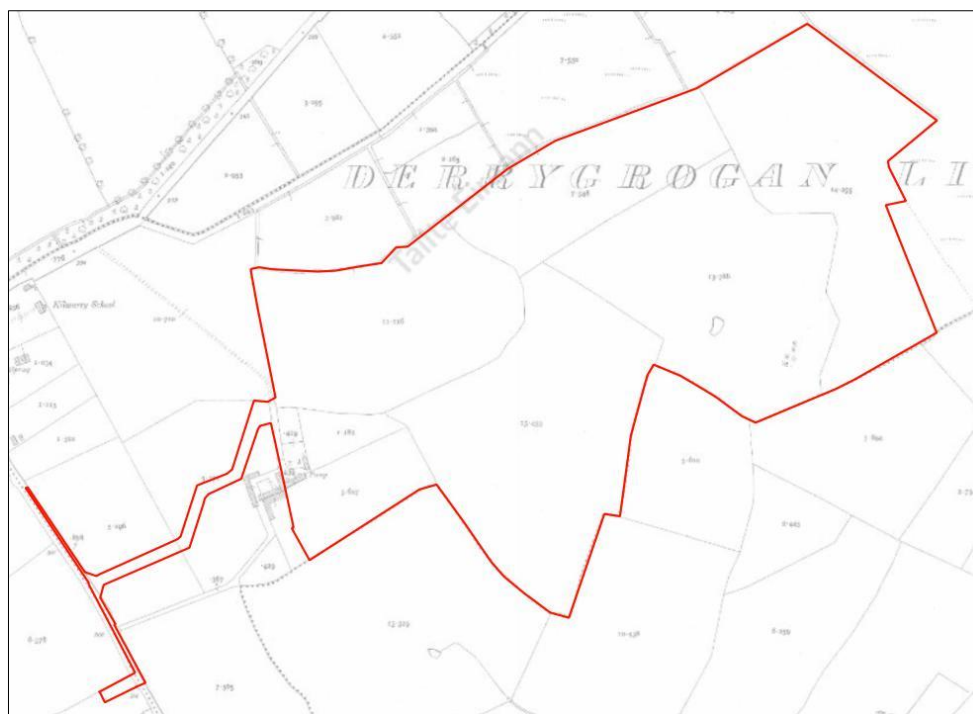


Figure 7: Extract from the 25-inch OS map showing subject lands
(Source: Government of Ireland)



Figure 8: Aerial image of subject lands taken in December 2024
(Source: Google Satellite)

Placenames

Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape, and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The boundaries and nomenclature of the Irish townlands were recorded and standardised by the Ordnance Survey in

the 19th-century. The Irish roots of townland names often refer to natural topographical features, but some name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland, e.g., *dun*, *lios* or *rath* indicate the presence of a ringfort while *temple*, *saggart*, *termon* or *kill* record an association with a church site.

The Placenames Database of Ireland (available at www.logainm.ie) which provides translations of the Irish origins of townland names was consulted for the townlands within the 500m study area. **Table 2** below details the four townlands within the study area and their Irish translations. The townland of Rathdrum indicates the existence of an enclosure, this is likely referring to the known archaeological site of a castle and motte (**OF009-029001-** and **OF009-029002-**), located within the study area. The translations of these townlands do not directly indicate the presence of previously unrecorded archaeological sites or deposits.

Table 2: Translations of townland names (source: logainm.ie)

Townland Name	Irish Language Name	Translation note
Derrygrogan Little	<i>Doire Uí Ghruagáin Beag</i>	The oakwood of Ó Gruagáin
Derrygrogan Big	<i>Doire Uí Ghruagáin Mór</i>	The oakwood of Ó Gruagáin
Rathdrum	<i>Ráth Dromainne</i>	Ring-fort of the ridge
Kilmurry	<i>Cill Mhuire</i>	Mary's church

Architectural Heritage

There are no sites listed by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage within the 500m study area. The nearest NIAH site is that of a house (Reg No: **14909002**), located on the northern edge of the study area, as shown in **Figure 3**. It is envisaged that the proposed development will have no effect on the architectural heritage within the area.

4. Description of site

A walkover survey of the subject lands undertaken on 9 May 2024. The weather during the inspection was dry and bright, allowing for good landscape visibility.

In the site assessment, all subject lands were accessible and thoroughly examined. The assessment focused on various factors including landscape characteristics, land use patterns and vegetation cover, as well as the presence or absence of both known and potential archaeological sites. To document the findings, a comprehensive photographic record of the site inspection was compiled. An extract of this photographic record, representing the site assessment, can be found in the **Appendix 2** of this report.

The surveyed area is part of a single farm used for both cattle and tillage. Farm buildings and an unused house are located centrally but are not part of the proposed development area. The site runs northeast to southwest, bordered by farmlands to the north and south, Derrygrogan Little Road to the west, and peat bog to the east. Ground conditions are generally good, softer towards the eastern side near the peat bog. The terrain is mostly flat towards the west and southwest, sloping up gradually to the east. The area near the bog has slight undulations. Several land drains run west-east, marking field boundaries. There is no direct sightline between the subject land and the archaeological sites within the 500m buffer zone. **No potentially unrecorded archaeological features or sites were noted during the site visit.**

For the purposes of this site survey, all fields within the proposed development area were numbered from 1-10. **Figure 9** below shows the field numbering system, and **Table 3** provides individual descriptions of each field.



Figure 9: Aerial image of subject lands taken in December 2024
(Source: Google Earth Pro)

Table 3: Field Descriptions from Site Inspection

Field Number	Field Description
#1	Located on the western side of the proposed development area. The field is rectangular in shape and is orientated roughly northwest-southeast. The field was in grass pasture and bordered by hedgerows made up of mature trees and/or bushes on each side. Beyond the western boundary of the field is the main road. This field was accessible from the south via the farm access road from the main road. The western edge of the field contained a small number of dead trees, obviously from clearance at some point recently. The field itself was a flat, level area of land. Recorded monuments of a cairn (OF009-027001-) and a bullaun stone (OF009-027002-) located to the south of the surveyed area were not visible from Field 1 (the closest field) or any other field. This field contained nothing of archaeological significance.
#2	Located to the east of Field 1, on the western side of the survey area. The field was accessed from Field 1 via a break in the hedgerow which on that western side consisted of a sparse thin line of small bushes. The field has a similar northwest-southeast orientation to Field 1 and is sub-rectangular in shape, tapering sharply to a point at the northwest end. The north, south and west sides of this field were bordered by mature hedgerows, with the eastern side of the field being demarked by a post and wire fence within the northern portion and farm buildings within the southern portion. The field was in grass pasture and contained livestock which was moved by the landowner to facilitate the survey. The field was relatively level throughout. This field contained nothing of archaeological significance.
#3	Located to the east of Field 2. This field is sub-rectangular in shape and orientated roughly east to west, on the western side of the survey area. The field was bordered by mature hedgerows on the north and east side with the western border with Field 2 consisting of post and wire fencing. The southern side of the field is bordered by the side of a stone-built farm building. This stone building consisted of dressed stone bonded with mortar. The field was a very flat area that was sown with a crop at the time of surveying. Overhead powerlines ran northwest to southeast within this field. Beyond the eastern side of this field and between the hedgerow forming the western side of Field 4 was an avenue leading to the disused house and associated farm buildings. This avenue area was heavily overgrown. This field contained nothing of archaeological significance.
#4	Located to the east of Field 3. This field is sub-rectangular in shape and at the centre of the surveyed area, orientated north to south. The field itself was subdivided into smaller areas by temporary fencing much of which was on the ground, though for the purposes of these notes the field is being treated as one. The field was in grass pasture and contained areas of heavy scrub throughout. The topography of the field was relatively flat with a heavily rutted farm track being observed towards the south and southeastern side of the field. The south-western side of this field contained the farm buildings with the north, northwest and south sides bordered by mature hedgerows made up of trees and bushes. The eastern border of this field was marked by a post and wire fence. The ground conditions were firm within this field. A land drain was observed on the northern edge. This drain ran roughly east to west from this point across the entire survey area. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.
#5	Located north of Field 4, on the northern side of the surveyed area. The field is a large sub-rectangular field, orientated east to west. The field was in heavy grass

<i>Field Number</i>	<i>Field Description</i>
	cover throughout and bordered by mature hedgerows containing trees and bushes on the east, west and south sides with the northern boundary consisting of post and wire fencing with some bushes. This field was relatively flat with slight undulations observed. The ground conditions were dry throughout. Field drains were observed on the east, south and north sides of this field. The drains were quite substantial in size (approximately 2.5m in depth). Nothing of archaeological significance was observed.
#6	A rectilinear field which was located within the center of the survey area that was orientated southwest to northeast, which opened up to a wider end on the northeast side. The field was bordered by mature hedgerows, on the north and northeast sides with post and wire fencing forming the west and south sides. This field had a drain running on its northern side which divided it from Field 5. The field was in grass pasture throughout and was relatively flat with a slight rise in the topography from the west to east. This was a small narrow field with good well-draining ground. There was nothing of archaeological significance in this field.
#7	This field was a large, irregular shaped field located south of the center of the surveyed area. The field was sown in a low crop at the time of visit – like that seen in Field 3. The northern and western side of this field were bordered by post and wire fencing while the eastern and south sides were bordered by similar mature hedgerows seen throughout. This was a large field that had a gradual slope down from west to east. The field contained areas of undulation, which appeared to begin east of the center of the surveyed area and continue eastwards to where the survey area ends. The undulations within this field were all very gradual and presented as non-archaeological in nature. The recorded sites of a cairn (OF009-027001-), a castle (OF009-029001-), a motte (OF009-029002-), and stone head (OF009-029003-/OF009-028---) were not visible from this field (closest) or any other field within the survey area. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.
#8	A narrow rectangular shaped field located within the northeast of the survey area. The field was grass-covered pasture and bordered by mature hedgerows on the south, west and east side with the border on the northern side made up of a post and wire fence and sparse young trees and bushes in parts. This field boundary was also marked by a west to east running field drain that was also seen in Field 5. The southern and western sides of this field also contained similar sized field drains. This field had slightly softer ground conditions and was considerably more marked and potted by the livestock that had been within it than other fields. Areas of rushes were more evident in this field also, suggesting wetter marshy conditions. The field undulated slightly and sloped from the center to the northeast corner where a concentration of rushes marked a softer area of ground. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.
#9	A sizable sub-rectangular field which is located at the southeastern portion of the survey area. Field 9 appears divided into grass and crop-covered sections on aerial photographs due to its mixed use, but no physical boundaries were evident on the ground, so it was treated as a single unit. Mature hedgerows flank its west, south, and east sides, while a land drain runs roughly west to east along its northern edge, connecting to the bog beyond the survey area. The field is mostly pasture, with undulating terrain sloping gradually from west to east, more sharply rising on the north and northeast sides. A portion of exposed peaty clay and remnants of crops

<i>Field Number</i>	<i>Field Description</i>
	mark the softer eastern section. Beyond lies a large tract of mature forestry, obstructing views of the bog with its recorded monuments. The site of an enclosure (OF010-030----) isn't visible from this field or any others in the survey area. A circular feature noted on historic maps was identified as a large depression. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.
#10	Located in the northeast corner of the survey area. A sub-rectangular field that was bordered by mature hedgerows made up of trees and bushes on the north and west sides. The northern boundary containing a continuation of the same west to east land drain see on the north side of Field 8. The southern side of Field 10 was demarked by another field drain which separated this field from Field 9 and was observed to continue towards the bog to the east. The eastern side of Field 10 was bordered by thick bushes and contained a large, deep land drain. The field undulated throughout and generally sloped from west to east. The edge of this field and the edge of the bogland to the immediate west were at the same level. However, it should be noted that there is a steep drop off from the edge of the bog eastwards to where the historical processing of peat has taken place. While this drop off is visible within the overall landscape a clear view of the recorded monuments to the southeast of the eastern side of the proposed development site was not possible due to forestry and other vegetation. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.
#11	A small area of a wider sub-rectangular field located within the southwest corner of the survey area. The field was in grass pasture and bordered by hedgerows made up of mature trees and/or bushes on each side. Beyond the eastern boundary of the field is the main road. This field was accessible from northeast side via an entrance from the main road. The field itself was a flat, level area of land. Nothing of archaeological significance was observed in this field.

5. Geophysical Survey

An archaeogeophysical survey (Licence No.: 24R0189), involving a high-resolution magnetic gradiometry survey was undertaken across all available areas at Derrygrogan Little Solar farm site. This survey revealed a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest (see **Figures 10 - 12**). The most extensive anomalies were identified in Field 7, including a possible c.25m-diameter ditched enclosure [1] and a possible c.5m-diameter penannular ring-ditch [2] (**Figure 11**). In Field 9, a possible ring-ditch, c.5m in overall diameter, a curving line of discrete pits/spreads [4] that could represent part of a larger feature/structure and two separate clusters of ‘pit-type’ responses [5] and [6] that may be of archaeological interest were identified. In Field 10, two anomalies of potential archaeological interest [7] and [8], which may be burnt spreads were identified (**Figure 12**).

The geophysical survey identified other features throughout the site, including possible field systems, evidence for ploughing, etc. (**Figures 11 & 12**).



Figure 10: Greyscale geophysical plot (this **Figure 6** of geophysical survey (Dowling 2024))

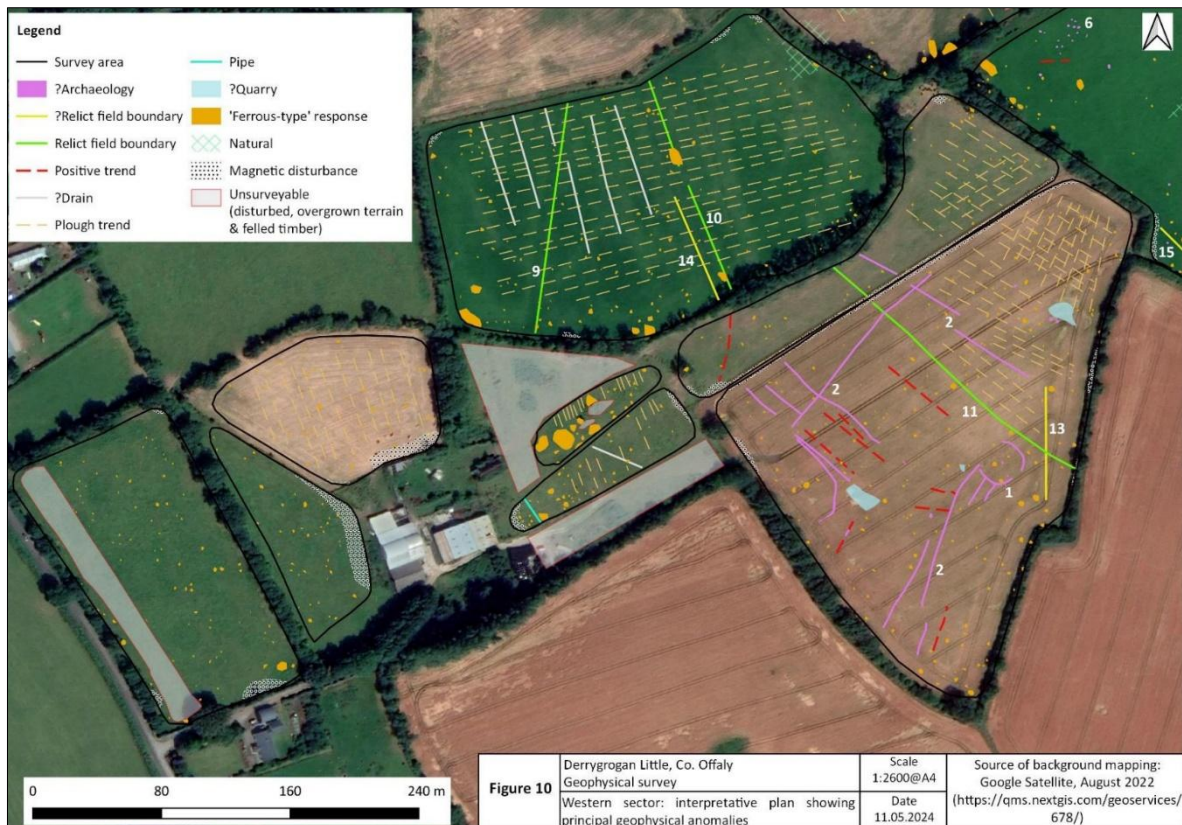


Figure 11: Interpretative plan showing principal geophysical anomalies (this **Figure 10** of geophysical survey (Dowling 2024))



Figure 12: Interpretative plan showing principal geophysical anomalies (this **Figure 11** of geophysical survey (Dowling 2024))

6. Conclusions and recommendations

This assessment sought to assess the archaeological and cultural heritage environment of lands that are proposed for the development of a solar farm, and to assess the impact of the proposed development on that heritage. As outlined in previous sections, there are no recorded archaeological sites located within the boundary of the proposed development, there are however, a total of 19 archaeological sites within the 500m wide study area surrounding the subject lands. These include the site of a destroyed cairn (**OF009-027001-**), a bullaun stone (**OF009-027002-**), a stone head which has two SMR entries as a result of being moved (**OF009-028---/ OF009-029003-**), the site of a castle and motte (**OF009-029001-** and **OF009-029002-**) and the site of an enclosure (**OF010-030---**). The remaining 12 sites represent the locations of individual wooden artefacts or deposits discovered within the bogland which were all recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit in 2001. The numerous wooden artefacts or deposits discovered on the peat milling site to the east of the proposed solar farm suggests a potential for similar archaeological deposits within peat deposits throughout the landscape, including the proposed solar farm site.

There are no sites listed by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage within the 500m study area. The nearest NIAH site is that of a house (Reg No: **14909002**), located on the northern edge of the study area. There is no potential indirect impact of a visual nature on this structure.

A review of the excavations database found that no licenced archaeological investigations have taken place within the 500m study area. However, following a survey by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (IAWU) in 2001, several archaeological investigations have subsequently taken place within the bogland directly east of the subject site, partly extending into the eastern side of the study area. These excavations have resulted in the recovery of many wooden artefacts and deposits from across the wetland area, 12 of which are recorded archaeological sites located within the study area.

Inspection of the historic OS maps and shows that the proposed development may interact with the historic townland boundary of Derrygrogan Little. The analysis of these historic maps in combination with the analysis of modern aerial imagery did not reveal any previously unknown or undocumented archaeological sites or structures.

The archaeological site inspection did not result in the identification of any potential unrecorded archaeological features or sites. Furthermore, it was found that there is no direct line of sight between the proposed development site and the recorded archaeological sites within the 500m buffer zone, and therefore there is no potential indirect impact of a visual nature on these sites.

The archaeogeophysical survey (Licence No.: 24R0189) revealed a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest, particularly in Fields 7, 9 and 10. Further investigation in the form of archaeological testing is required to elucidate the archaeological potential of these anomalies. Should the proposed archaeological testing uncover archaeological deposits the proposed development would result in a direct impact on previously unrecorded archaeological material. However, this potential impact can be avoided by preserving the anomalies *in situ* by leaving these areas undeveloped or can be ameliorated through a programme of archaeological excavation and recording (preservation by record).

Recommendations

It is recommended that ***a programme of pre-construction archaeological test trenching*** should be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, under a licence issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS). The archaeological testing should target the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, as well as a representative sample of the overall proposed solar farm site. As mentioned above, should archaeological deposits be uncovered during archaeological testing, a decision regarding the best course of further action (preservation by record through a programme of archaeological excavation or preservation *in situ* by avoidance) will need to be made in consultation with the NMS and the planning authority. The appropriate mitigation measure will depend on the level of archaeological material revealed.

In addition, it is recommended that, where possible, the historical townland boundary of Derrygrogan Little should be retained within the project designs, should development proceed. However, should this level of preservation be unobtainable, **it is recommended that a photographic and descriptive record is undertaken at the location of where the townland boundary is to be breached prior to the works, and that the sections of the townland boundary to be removed are archaeologically recorded.**

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Appendix 1: SMR Descriptions

OF009-027001-

Rathdrum

Cairn – unclassified

Modern bungalow located on site of destroyed cairn situated on top of high ground with good extensive views with bullaun stone (OF009-027002-) immediately to the N. According to the landowner two skeletons were uncovered while digging the foundation of the house. He was also told by a diviner that there was another burial in the area where his front garden is now. This site may have been a burial mound with multiple burials. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF009-027002-

Rathdrum

Bullaun stone

Large bullaun stone located on top of high ground with good extensive views with destroyed cairn (OF009-027001-) immediately to the S. According to the landowner people from all over Ireland come to visit this stone because of its curative powers. The stone is embedded in a flower bed, the visible portion of the stone (H 0.5m; top diam. 0.8m) has a hollow depression (Wth 0.3m; D 0.3m) which contains several votive offerings. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF009-028----

Rathdrum

Stone head (present location)

Located on the front wall of a Rathdrum House which has been recently plastered. As a result it was impossible to say if this carved head (OF009-029003-) was part of a Sheela-na-gig, however the farmer informed us that there was a carved figure on the exterior of the house. The site of Rathdrum Castle (OF009-029001-) is situated on top of a circular mound which may be the remains of an Anglo-Norman motte (OF009-029002-). Rathdrum House which is located immediately to the SW of the castle site may have been built with stone taken from the levelled castle (OF009-029001-). A stone head incorporated into the fabric of the house may have originally come from the castle. This stone head (OF009-028----) was described in 1944 as 'over the door of Rathdrum House adjoining is a very crude oval head with features only just shown. The work seems so bad that I doubt if it is older than XVIIIc [18th century]; but it might have stood in the castle' (ITA Survey 1942, SMR File). This stone head was listed in the SMR as a possible sheela-na-gig that was originally incorporated into the fabric of Rathdrum Castle (SMR file). Today there is not enough of the carving visible to classify this carved head as a sheela-na-gig, although it is possible that this carving may originally have been carved as a sheela-na-gig. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Compiled by Caimin O'Brien Date of upload/revision: 22 December 2011

OF009-029001-

Rathdrum

Castle - unclassified

Situated on well drained pasture land with good views of the surrounding countryside. The site of Rathdrum Castle is situated on top of a circular mound which may be the remains of an Anglo-Norman motte (OF009-029002-). Alternatively this circular flat-topped mound may have been a natural hillock which was scarped and flattened on top to provide a flat surface for the construction of Rathdrum Castle. A lime-kiln appears to be indicated immediately to the NE of the mound on the 1838 ed. of the OS 6-inch map. There are no surface remains of Rathdrum Castle and part of the mound may have been formed from the collapsed debris of the castle. This monument is depicted as a circular platform or mound on the 1838 edition of the OS 6-inch map. The revised 1908 ed. OS 6-inch map shows that the mound or motte was damaged on the S side by the construction of a building which had been built into the base of the mound on the S side. the OS 25-inch map of 1908 shows that the castle mound had by that time been damaged or cut into on the W side as well as the S side of the mound. This building is not indicated on the 1838 ed. OS 6-inch map. Described in 1942 as, 'A prominent mound of boulder-clay in undulating countryside with good view; good pasture around. No fosse visible. The mound sides have been scarped vertically to 5-7' [1.5-2.1m] high; on the faces no habitation earth and little humus are visible. The top is oval, 26 [23.5m] x 40 [36m] yds. a little encroached on by modern buildings in a few places. There are signs of modern walls on the top' (ITA Survey 1944, SMR File). In 1977 the monument was recorded and described as 'a large circular earthwork now partly destroyed. The eastern side has been bulldozed away to make space for a modern silage pit, while farm buildings cut into the southern side of the site. The earthwork is outlined by a fairly steep embankment with a fosse outside it on the west and north sides. A laneway cuts through the fosse on the western side. Beyond the fosse there is an outer bank on west and north. The farmyard occupies the fosse on the south side. The interior is fairly even and is featureless. There is no visible trace of a castle or wall footings. The interior measures approx. 40m NW-SE. This earthwork closely resembles a ringfort' (ASI file 1977). Today the castle site is situated on top of a mound with extensive views of flat land in all directions. Nothing remains of this castle which was located on what looks to be an artificial mound, possibly a motte (top diam. 29.5m N-S; 32.5m E-W; H 3.5m), but could be a natural hillock. There is evidence of a fosse encircling the base of the mound at N. No evidence of wall footings or dressed stone on top of the mound. Rathdrum House which is located immediately to the SW of the castle site may have been built with stone taken from the levelled castle. A stone head (OF009-029003-) incorporated into the fabric of the house may have originally come from the castle. This head was described in 1944 as 'over the door of Rathdrum House adjoining is a very crude oval head with features only just shown. The work seems so bad that I doubt if it is older than XVIIIc [18th century]; but it might have stood in the castle' (ITA Survey 1942, SMR File). The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Compiled by Caimin O'Brien Date of upload/revision: 22 December 2011

OF009-029002-

Rathdrum

Castle - motte

Situated on well drained pasture land with good views of the surrounding countryside. The site of Rathdrum Castle (OF009-029001-) is situated on top of a circular mound which may be the remains of an Anglo-Norman motte. Alternatively this circular flat-topped mound may have been a natural hillock which was scarped and flattened on top to provide a flat surface for the

construction of Rathdrum Castle. A lime-kiln appears to be indicated immediately to the NE of the mound on the 1838 ed. of the OS 6-inch map. There are no surface remains of Rathdrum Castle and part of the mound may have been formed from the collapsed debris of the castle. This monument is depicted as a circular platform or mound on the 1838 edition of the OS 6-inch map. The revised 1908 ed. OS 6-inch map shows that the mound or motte was damaged on the S side by the construction of a building which had been built into the base of the mound on the S side. the OS 25-inch map of 1908 shows that the castle mound had by that time been damaged or cut into on the W side as well as the s side of the mound. This building is not indicated on the 1838 ed. OS 6-inch map. Described in 1942 as, 'A prominent mound of boulder-clay in undulating countryside with good view; good pasture around. No fosse visible. The mound sides have been scarped vertically to 5-7' [1.5-2.1m] high; on the faces no habitation earth and little humus are visible. The top is oval, 26 [23.5m] x 40 [36m] yds. a little encroached on by modern buildings in a few places. There are signs of modern walls on the top' (ITA Survey 1944, SMR File). In 1977 the monument was recorded and described as 'a large circular earthwork now partly destroyed. The eastern side has been bulldozed away to make space for a modern silage pit, while farm buildings cut into the southern side of the site. The earthwork is outlined by a fairly steep embankment with a fosse outside it on the west and north sides. A laneway cuts through the fosse on the western side. Beyond the fosse there is an outer bank on west and north. The farmyard occupies the fosse on the south side. The interior is fairly even and is featureless. There is no visible trace of a castle or wall footings. The interior measures approx. 40m NW-SE. This earthwork closely resembles a ringfort' (ASI file 1977). The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Compiled by Caimin O'Brien Date of upload/revision: 22 December 2011

OF009-029003-

Rathdrum

Stone head

Situated on well drained pasture land with good views of the surrounding countryside. The site of Rathdrum Castle (OF009-029001-) is situated on top of a circular mound which may been the remains of an Anglo-Norman motte (OF009-029002-). Rathdrum House which is located immediately to the SW of the castle site may have been built with stone taken from the levelled castle (OF009-029001-). A stone head incorporated into the fabric of the house may have originally come from the castle. This head (OF009-028---) was described in 1944 as 'over the door of Rathdrum House adjoining is a very crude oval head with features only just shown. The work seems so bad that I doubt if it is older than XVIIIc [18th century]; but it might have stood in the castle' (ITA Survey 1942, SMR File). This stone head was listed in the SMR as a possible sheela-na-gig that was originally incorporated into the fabric of Rathdrum Castle (SMR file). At present times there is not enough of the carving visible to classify this carved head as a sheela-na-gig, Today there is not enough of the carving visible to classify this carved head as a sheela-na-gig, although it is possible that this carving may originally have been carved as a sheela-na-gig. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Compiled by Caimin O'Brien Date of upload/revision: 22 December 2011

OF010-030----

Rathdrum

Enclosure

Not visible at ground level. Aerial photographs (GSI, N 578/9) shows faint outline of circular enclosure. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Offaly' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research. Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-357----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A single piece of brushwood (diam. 0.052m) in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with occasional Eriophorum. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-358----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

Eight slightly disturbed pieces of heavy brushwood (L 2.06m min.; Wth 0.74m; D 0.55m) in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with frequent Eriophorum and fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-361----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A single vertical stake (L 0.23m min.; diam. 0.031m). Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-362----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

Four dispersed pieces of heavy brushwood (Wth 1.21m; D 0.16m) with further material in the vicinity. The site is in moderately humified Sphagnum peat with some Eriophorum. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-370----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A regular deposit (Wth 0.83m; D 0.17m) of twelve pieces of brushwood (diam. 0.015-0.04m), predominantly orientated N-S. The wood is in good condition and in moderately humified Sphagnum peat with some Eriophorum and occasional fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-371----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A single piece of brushwood (L 1.3m; diam. 0.03m) in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with fibrous and occasional Eriophorum. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-374----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A dense deposit of seven pieces of light brushwood (Wth 0.31m; D 0.09m), predominantly orientated E-W. The wood is in moderate condition and in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with Eriophorum and some fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-375----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A dispersed deposit (Wth 0.6m; D 0.02m) of two pieces of light brushwood and a twig in moderately humified Sphagnum peat with some ericaceous remains. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-378----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A single piece of brushwood (L 0.2m min.; diam. 0.05m) in moderately humified Sphagnum peat with Eriophorum directly overlying a dense layer of fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey

description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin).
Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-379----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

An irregular deposit of three pieces of mixed brushwood (Wth 0.33m; D 0.1m), with further material in the vicinity. The wood in poor condition and in moderately humified Sphagnum peat. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-380----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A single piece of brushwood (diam. 0.045m) in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with some fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

OF010-381----

Rathdrum

Structure - peatland

A regular deposit (L 1.35m min.; Wth 0.41m; D 0.035m) of four pieces of light brushwood, predominantly orientated NW-SE. The wood is in good condition, with metal toolmarks evident and occurs in poorly humified Sphagnum peat with Eriophorum and some fibrous roots. Recorded by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin) in 2001. The evidence is not sufficient to warrant its acceptance as the remains of an archaeological monument. The original survey description was compiled by the Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit (University College, Dublin). Assessed and revised by: Caimin O'Brien, Paul Walsh Date of upload: 23 May 2011

Appendix 2: Extracts From Photographic Record



Plate 1: Taken from northwest corner of Field 1, looking east



Plate 2: Taken from north end of Field 2, looking southeast



Plate 3: Taken from northwest corner of Field 3, looking southeast



Plate 4: Taken from centre of Field 4, looking southwest



***Plate 5:** Taken from southwest corner of Field 5, looking northeast*



***Plate 6:** Taken from western side of Field 6, looking northeast*



Plate 7: Taken from eastern side of Field 7, looking southwest



Plate 8: Taken from southeast corner of Field 8, looking west



Plate 9: Taken from southeast corner of Field 9, looking north



Plate 10: Taken from western side of Field 10, looking southeast