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ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage Report

Kilmannock 110kV Substation and 110kV Grid Connection

Great Island, Kilmokea, Co. Wexford

Report to accompany a planning application

For

Entrust Services Ltd

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11th January 2024

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report assesses the Cultural Heritage environment for the proposed Kilmannock 110kV substation and grid connection, at Great Island, Kilmokea, County Wexford.

There are no national or recorded monuments within or adjacent to the proposed development site. Lands immediately south were disturbed during the construction of the existing facility and the Greenlink Converter Station, while the construction of the rail line disturbed the nature of the lands to the north. Archaeological monitoring was previously carried out for the access road along which the grid connection will travel; no archaeological material was identified. However, the subject site for the substation is greenfield in nature. There are no associated stray finds from the Topographical Files and no increased archaeological potential was noted from cartographic or aerial photographic sources.

It is recommended that a comprehensive programme of archaeological testing be undertaken across the footprint of the proposed development in advance of construction, to detect any subsurface archaeological features, deposits and or material. While geophysical survey was successful in detecting anomalies in the adjoining site, their archaeological origin was thought to be extremely tentative. This caution proved to be founded as archaeological testing demonstrated that the steep topography of the site and the presence of weathered bedrock (fractured rock) close to the surface of the field were responsible for the anomalous readings and that the geophysical anomalies were natural in origin. It is therefore considered that further geophysical analysis would not be beneficial in determining the subsurface archaeological potential of the site and that archaeological testing is the preferred mitigation strategy.

It is further recommended that archaeological monitoring is undertaken, during site enabling and construction works that involve excavation and topsoil stripping. This will ensure that if any subsurface features of an archaeological nature are revealed, they will be identified and recorded. Further recommendations will be made based on the results of archaeological monitoring. These may include preservation by record, design or in situ.

An archaeological visual assessment was conducted to and from Dunbrody Abbey, a national monument located approx. 1.6km east of the proposed development. It was concluded that the location, and operation of the proposed development would not detract in a significant manner from the setting, experience and views from the abbey.

The landscape and visual study for the current application concludes that the magnitude of effect on the setting of the monument is predicted to be very small when viewing the proposed development from the western side of the bramble and stone wall boundary at Dunbrody Abbey (to the west of the abbey), which forms the present-day boundary that surrounds the monument. The overall significance of effect on the setting, taking the sensitivity of the site into consideration, is thus Not Significant. This assessment is made taking into consideration the distance between Dunbrody Abbey and the proposed development and the adjacent existing infrastructure at the Great Island Power Station. This effect will be mitigated by a comprehensive planting regime that includes the planting of native woodland species at the eastern end of the proposed development. The landscape plan (Figure 18) includes the planting of a native hedgerow in front of the palisade fencing that runs along the engineered slope on the northern and eastern boundaries. Further screening in the form of native woodland planting will be provided.

All recommendations made in the report and are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. General

This report assesses the existing archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage environment for the proposed Kilmannock 110kV substation and grid connection, Great Island, County Wexford (Figure 1). The main purpose of the report is to assess the potential significance and sensitivity of this environment and to identify any issues this potential may present for the proposed development.

The site is located within the townland of Great Island and lies to the east of the existing power plant facility (Figure 2). The site is greenfield and located to the south of what was historically known as the Fishguard & Rosslare Railway. The aerial image (Figure 3) shows the development on site as of 2018; since then the Great Island power facility has experienced further development with the Greenlink UK-Ireland Interconnector converter station currently being constructed immediately to the south of the proposed subject site. An archaeological monitoring condition (Condition 7, ABP 308906-20) was attached to the permission to grant the development of the new converter station and associated infrastructure by An Bord Pleanala, in order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the area and to secure its preservation (in-situ or by record).

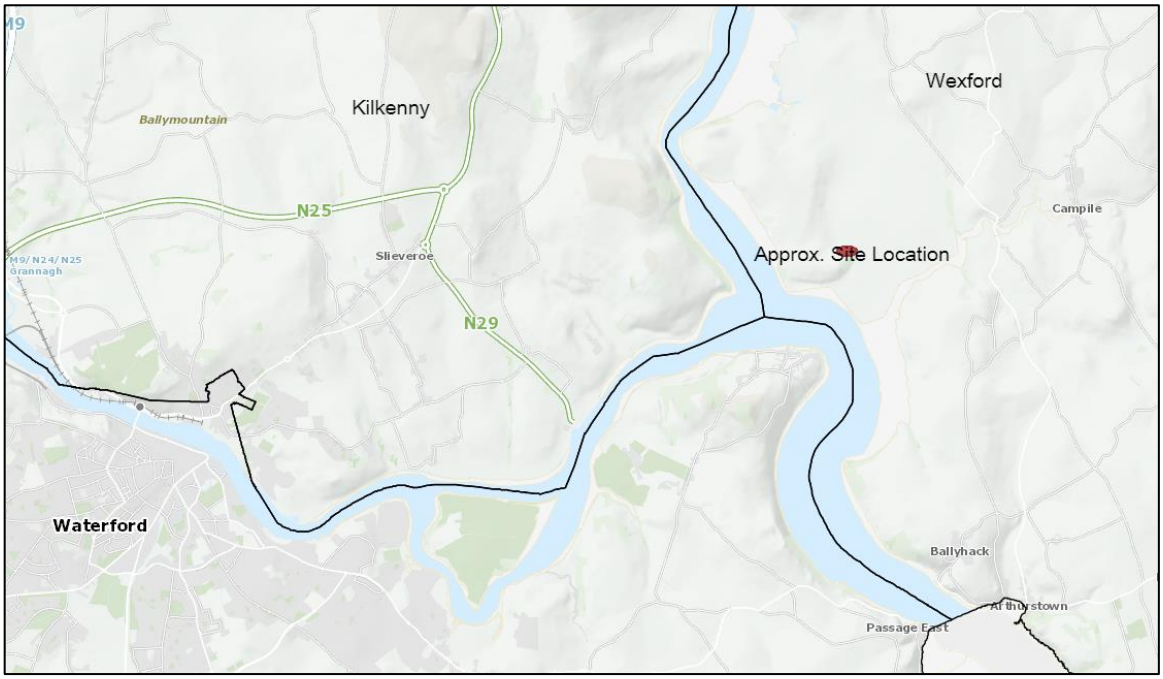

Figure 1 Site location

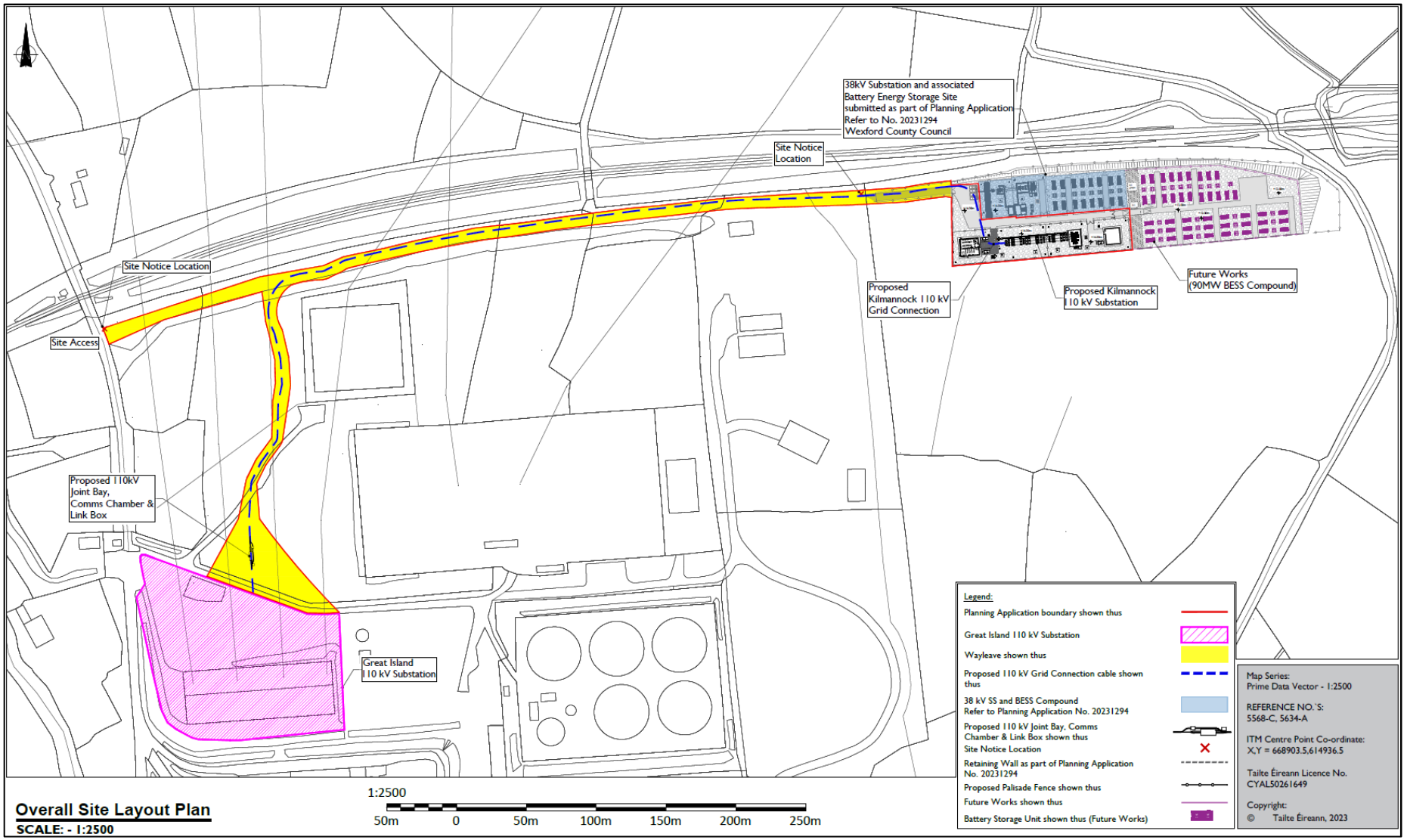

Figure 2 Proposed site layout plan (after TLI Group Ltd)

Figure 3 Aerial image of the proposed development area

1.2. Description of Proposed Development

The proposed development is for an electrical installation that can generally be described as consisting of a 110kV electrical substation and underground grid connection that would connect the proposed substation to an existing Eirgrid substation within the SSE Power Station at Great Island. It would involve the following:

Construction of an electrical infrastructure installation and associated underground grid connection (UGC) on lands within the townland of Great Island measuring approximately 2.58Ha./25812 square metres in overall area. The installation would consist of a 110kV tailfed substation and underground grid connection measuring approximately 838m in overall length. The 110kV substation would consist of a 110kV transformer; house transformer; disconnect, individual current and voltage transformers, combined current/voltage transformer, surge arrestors; circuit breakers and cable sealing end; a blastwall measuring 8.00m in overall height; 4no. lightning masts measuring 18.00m in overall height; palisade fencing measuring 2.60m in overall height; pole-mounted security cameras and lamp posts. An Eirgrid substation building with an overall footprint of approximately 180.00sqm and overall height of 8.21m would be located at the western end of the substation area. An IPP substation with an overall footprint of 132sqm and height of overall 7 .11m would be located at the eastern end. The typical UGC installation would consist of standard ESB ducting details of the following 1no. trench (0.82m wide; 1.31m deep) measuring approximately 838m in overall length to carry 3no. 160mm power ducts and 2no. communication ducts and an ECC duct, connecting the proposed substation to an existing 110 kV Eirgrid substation at Great Island. The typical trefoil trench will need to be adapted to a flat formation to accommodate for any service crossings encountered along the route. A typical width of trench for a flat formation trench would be approx 1.60m with varying depths. A temporary construction compound would be constructed within the site boundary for construction phase of the development, after which it would be removed.

1.3. Methodology

The archaeological assessment is based on an examination of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic material and a field inspection of the proposed development area. The material sources consulted as part of the desk study are as follows:

- National Monuments: The National Monuments, Preservation Orders, Register of Historic Monuments lists were sourced directly from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH);
- Record of Monuments and Places (RMP): The primary source of information for the archaeological heritage of the study area is the RMP maintained by DHLGH. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), as revised in the light of fieldwork, formed the basis for the establishment of the statutory RMP pursuant to Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.[1] The RMP documents known upstanding archaeological monuments and original site locations in cases of destroyed monuments. It is based on a comprehensive range of published and publicly available documentary and cartographic sources including the records of the National Museum of Ireland. The information held in the RMP files is read in conjunction with constraint maps, published at reduced six-inch scale, on which recorded sites are clearly marked;
- Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) The primary source of architectural heritage information is the Wexford County Development Plan (2022-2028) which was consulted for the Record of Protected Structures in the study area. In addition, the NIAH surveys were consulted for any items of built heritage interest within the study area. The NIAH Building Survey and the NIAH Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes provide a representative sample of the architectural and designed landscape heritage around the country, with the surveys undertaken on a county basis;
- Archaeological Investigations: Archaeological excavations, testing and monitoring that took place within the environs of the proposed development site were examined to provide a greater understanding of the below- ground archaeological potential. The data was obtained from the Excavations Bulletin, an annual bulletin that contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out annually in Ireland. The online database (www.excavations.ie) contains summary accounts of all excavations carried out from 1970 to 2022;
- Documentary and Cartographic Sources: Relevant documentary and literary references were consulted as part of the compilation of this report and a review of historical maps was undertaken;
- Aerial Photography: Aerial photographs are an important source of information regarding the precise location of recorded sites and their wider extent, as well as land use and topography and the likely potential for archaeology. Aerial photographic analysis can also be used to identify cropmarks, shadow marks and soil marks, which can

[1] *The Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 was enacted in October 2023 and while this Act is now law, most of its provisions will not enter into force until the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made one or more Commencement Orders. This means that the National Monuments Acts have therefore not yet been repealed and remain in force.*

indicate the presence of previously unknown archaeological features or sites. Aerial photographic coverage of the proposed development lands from 1995 to present was consulted using Bing Maps (www.bing.com/maps), Google Earth Pro, and the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) map viewer (map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html);

- All recorded archaeological sites and monuments (RMP sites) and protected structures located within c. 1km of the proposed development site were identified in order to understand the character of the study area.

2. BASELINE STUDY

2.1. Site Context

The application site, which measures 2.58Ha. in overall area and is greenfield, is situated approximately 12.6 km south of New Ross Town and lies wholly within the townland of Great Island, being located directly east of the SSE Great Island Power Station and north of the Greenlink UK-Ireland Interconnector converter station currently undergoing construction. The village of Campile is approximately 3.1 km east of the site, as the crow flies. The site is located in a rural and sparsely populated area.

The existing power station at Great Island, where the substation is proposed, is located to the south of a medieval settlement complex consisting of two castles (WX039-028002, WX039-028003), an enclosure (WX039-028004) and a leper hospital (WX039-029005). There are no recorded monuments within the proposed development area and a large portion of the site has been previously disturbed.

2.2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1. Prehistoric Period

There are no monuments of a prehistoric nature recorded within or immediately adjacent to the proposed development area. Evidence for finds and prehistoric material is a result of archaeological investigations that have taken place in association with development. During the construction of a gas pipeline in the townland of Great Island, a stone tool assemblage (Sternke, 2012) including Neolithic struck flints and a hammer stone were retrieved, indicating Neolithic activity in the area. Work associated with the construction of the gas pipeline also revealed two pieces of prehistoric pottery and a fulacht fia (a Bronze Age cooking site), this was fully excavated (12E0392).

2.2.2. Early Medieval Period

The early medieval period in Ireland began around the 5th Century with the introduction of Christianity to the island and continued until the 12th Century AD with the arrival of the Anglo-Normans. The emergence of the new religion led to the development of numerous monastic foundations across Ireland and the production of documentary sources in both the native Gaelic and Latin languages. Large ecclesiastical enclosures were built and buildings (churches and associated buildings) within were normally wooden, later changing to stone.

Alongside this saw the development of a mixed-farming economy managed by kings, nobles and free farmers. Additional improvements in agriculture from the 5th century AD resulted in a further wave of settlement expansion and population increase in Ireland, leading to the construction of the modern landscape's most common archaeological site; the ringfort, referred to in contemporary documentary sources as *rath*, *lios* or *caiseal*. Ringforts are generally circular

enclosures, essentially habitation sites or farmsteads, typically between 30-60m in diameter. They often contain the remains of house structures, pits or internal subdivisions, while cereal-drying kilns and annexed field enclosures are frequently found immediately outside of them. There is one large scale enclosure that is located to approximately 700m northwest of the proposed development. This is marked as a circular embanked enclosure (ext. diam. c. 100m) (WX039-028004) on the 1839 ed. of the OS 6-inch map and as an oval feature (dims c. 150m N-S; c. 100m E-W) on the 1940 ed. It is situated on gentle south and west-facing slope. The site presents as an oval grass-covered area approximately 100m northeast-southwest by 60m northwest-southeast and is defined by banks of various heights ranging from half a metre to one metre. There is no visible trace of an entrance, but Major's Well, a natural spring is located inside the perimeter at the southwest and is annotated on historic OS maps.

2.2.3. Medieval Period

In 1169 the Anglo-Normans invaded Ireland and, in doing so, completely altered the pattern of settlement with an emphasis on tillage and crop production, within defined manorial centres, replacing cattle-rearing in many parts of the county. First arriving into Wexford at the behest of Dermot MacMurrough, ousted king of Leinster, they vigorously began overturning the military and political order on the island. The subinfeudation, or settling, of the conquered lands began by the establishment of a network of manorial centres, usually clustered around a military earthwork, such as a motte and bailey, or later a stone castle. These first military earthworks were usually established on strategic crossing points on rivers and at important road junctions, possibly even, in some cases in areas previously occupied.

Dermot Mac Murrough granted two cantreds to Hervey de Montmorency in 1169 'adjoining the sea between Wexford and Waterford', which included Great Island, and Hervey granted land from this to the Cistercian abbey of Dunbrody (WX039-030001-) which he founded in 1171-5 and which is c. 1.6km east of Great Island. The island became the centre a large manor, the accounts of which survive for the 1280s and 1290s (Hore 1900-11, vol. 3), and these record the repair of a castle in the 1280s, which included the digging of a moat. Located at the top of a severe west-facing slope of what was once the Great Island overlooking the River Barrow. However, the channel (Wth c. 500-600m) around the northeast and east sides of the island is long silted up and reclaimed.

An arcing earthen bank survives and this bank backs on to the steep west facing slope down to the river. If complete it would enclose a D-shaped area, approximately 250m east-west by 200m north-south, most of which would be on the slope. The interior is grass-covered but with a large number of modern buildings. This may be the last physical remnants of a ringwork castle (WX 039-028001) erected by Harvey de Montmorency shortly after the initial grant. Within the enclosure are the traditional sites of two castles (WX039-028002; WX039-028003) and the traditional site of a leper hospital (WX039-028005-).

There are references to the repair of a stone castle requiring lead, slate and timber in 1286, which also required the digging of a moat (Hore 1901-11, vol. 3). According to the Civil Survey (1654-6) 120 acres and a large castle at Great Island was the property of the Earl of Ormond in 1640 (Simington 1953). There is no reason other than the 1839 and 1940 eds of the OS 6 inch map for believing a castle to have been located exactly here within the ringwork (WX039- 028001) and adjacent to castle site (WX039-028003). There are no visible remains of a structure at ground level.

There is only one reference in 1607-08 to a second castle at Great Island (Hore 1900-11, vol. 3) with the 1839 ed. of the OS 6-inch map providing the only evidence of its location within the

ringwork (WX039-028001) and adjacent to the castle site (WX039-028002). There are no visible remains of a structure at ground level.

There is one reference to a leper hospital in a partial survey of Great Island in 1607-08 (Hore 1910-11, vol. 3), with the 1940 ed. of the OS 6-inch map providing the only evidence of the location towards the top of a steep slope to the east of the river. Shaw Mason (1816, vol. 3) records that a large collection of human bones was found at 'Greatisland'. Burials in a disturbed state were uncovered along a north-south trench in 1979 within the ringwork approximately 80m to the southeast of the leper hospital. The burial of two adults in a stone compartment (WX039-028006) was investigated close to this location (Cahill 2011). The grave had mortared stone sides covered by one or two slabs and slabs also formed the floor, creating a form of sarcophagus. The skeletal material was sparse, but neither showed evidence of leprosy. This site is not indicated on the first edition 6-inch OS but is shown on the revised edition.

2.2.4. Post-Medieval Period

This period is characterized by the decline of Gaelic influence in the country and the integration of the island into the political and economic structures of the emerging British Empire. The conflicts and rebellions of the 16th century led to the effective defeat of any residual Gaelic powers and successive waves of plantation preceded several decades of economic development. Further tumult associated with the mid-17th century conflict between the King and his parliament resulted in huge upheaval and a massive transfer of land from Catholic to Protestant in Ireland. The large estates of the Ascendancy were evolving from the medieval nobleman's or chieftain's lands. Some of our best evidence from this period comes from the mid-17th century Civil and Down Surveys (Figure 4). Great Island, at this time, was shown as an island within the River Barrow/ Nore forming part of the boundary between Wexford, Kilkenny and Waterford. A single stone castle was shown to be located on these lands.

Figure 4 Extract from Down Survey barony map of Wexford

2.3. Cartographic Sources

2.3.1. Down Survey Maps, c. 1656

The Down Survey maps are the first depictions of the general area containing the subject site. Little can be gleaned from the representations on both the baronial (Figure 5) and parish (Figure 6) maps for the area. On the barony map of Sheelbourne shows Great Island with a fortified house and a large residence (possibly the leper hospital) beside it. An enclosure around a church site is shown to the north of this. The parish map of Ardcavan does not afford any detail of the island (Figure 6).

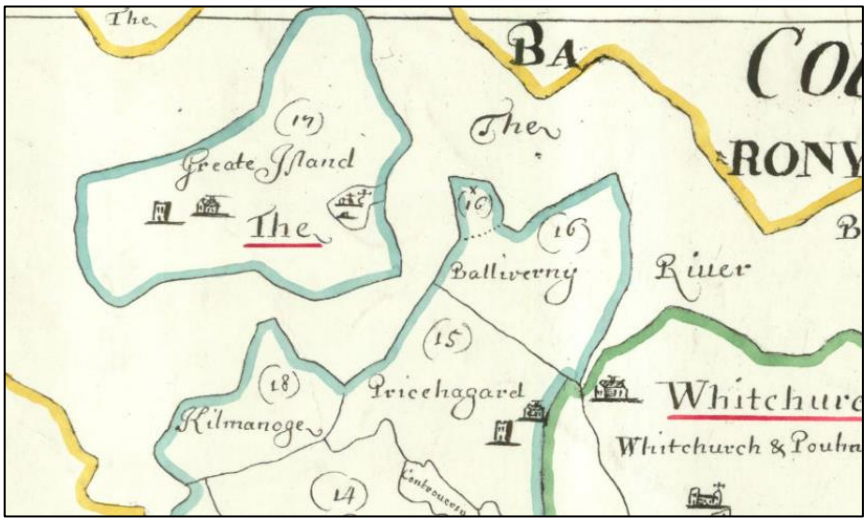

Figure 5 Down Survey map of Sheelbourne Barony (1656)

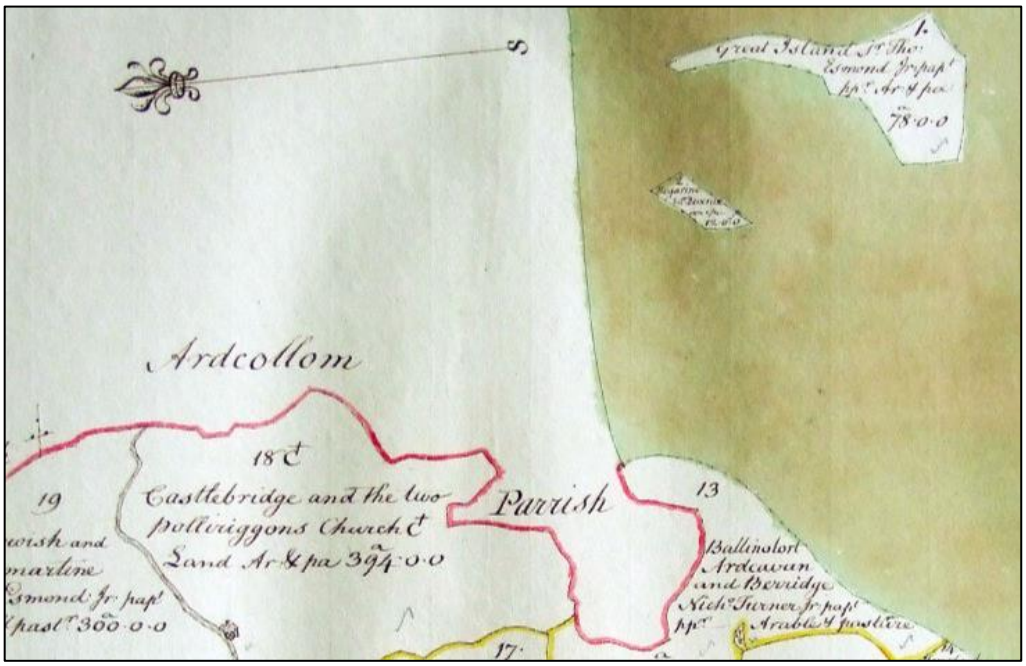

Figure 6 Down Survey Parish map (1656)

2.3.2. 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey Maps

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch map was published in 1841 (Figure 8). It clearly shows Great Island as a peninsula surrounded on three sides by water. The large enclosure is easily recognisable to the north as a circular hachured feature and a cluster of structures are shown in and around the medieval stronghold. Where the power plant facility is now located is shown as a series of fields and the proposed development is located in an area shown as one large field bounding the channel carved by the River Barrow and the River Nore. The subject site comprises a series of agricultural fields with no buildings, features or structures depicted within the site.

The 1905 25-inch OS map (Figure 9) shows little change and is not as detailed as the previous 6-inch map. The significant changes shown on the map are the construction of the Fishguard and Rosslare railway line (this section was opened in 1906) and the reclamation of land to the east. The line of the railway on this map is outlined rather than detailed. The reclaimed fields to the east are large in size, surrounded by wide drainage ditches. Even with these significant changes, the subject site is still depicted as a relatively featureless series of agricultural fields.

The later revised 6-inch OS map of 1944 (Figure 10) shows the railway line completed and thus in greater detail. The railway crosses Great Island in an east-west direction and essentially cuts off the lands to the south of it, there is one level crossing and one bridge site that afford access. Again, the subject site is still depicted as two agricultural fields

Figure 7 OS first edition six-inch map, 1841, showing proposed development boundary

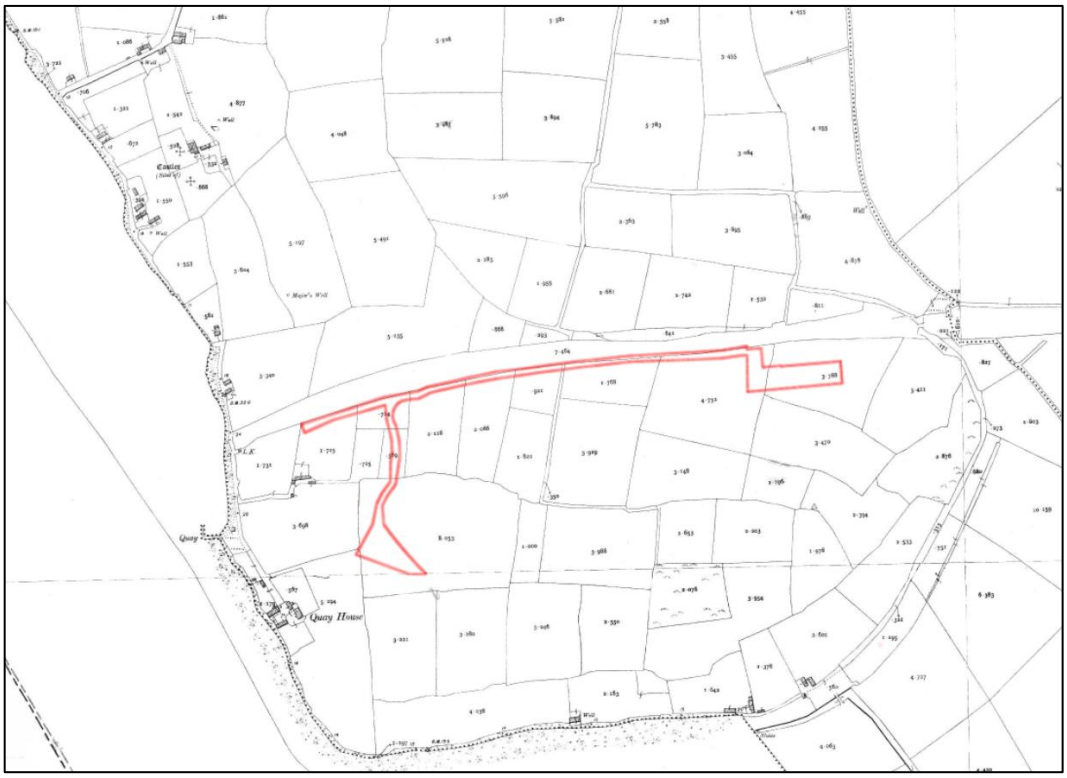

Figure 8 OS 25-inch map, 1905, showing proposed development boundary

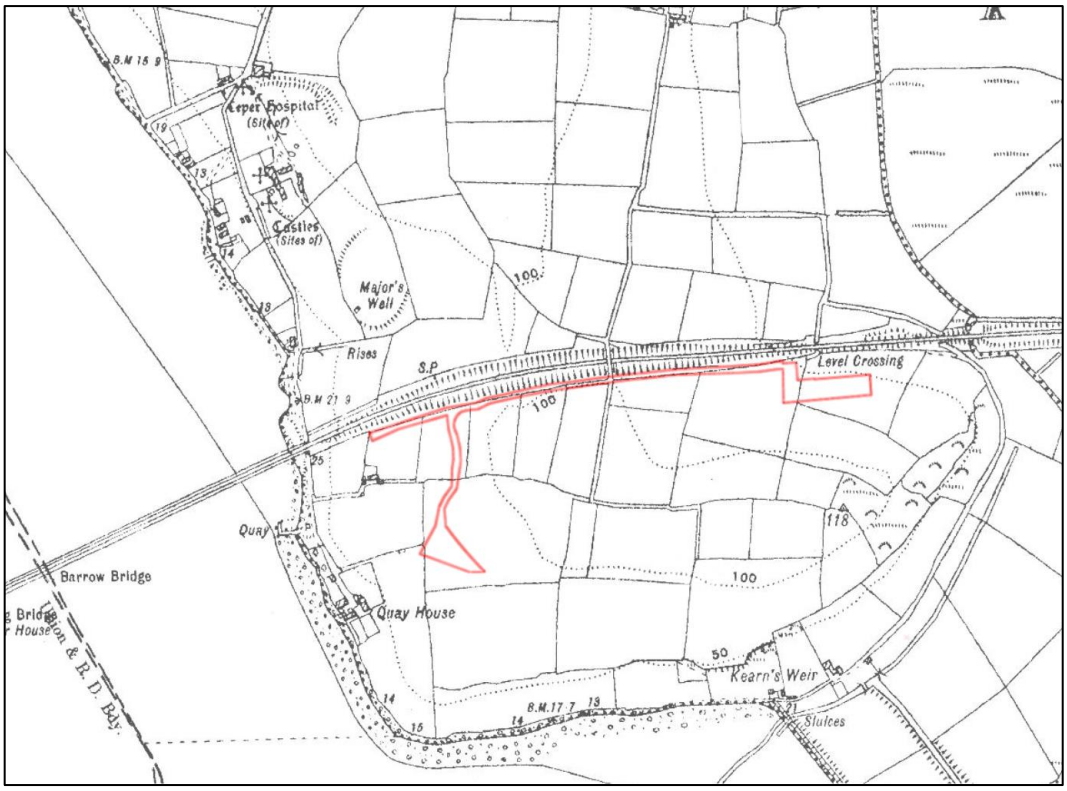

Figure 9 OS revised six-inch map, 1944, showing proposed development boundary

2.4. Aerial Photographic Analysis

No potential archaeological features were identified on aerial imagery (Google Earth 2013-2018 & 1996-2000) (Figures 11 & 12). The area proposed for the substation is shown as greenfield, agricultural lands with scrub, gorse and tree boundaries and the railway embankment to the north. Large-scale development has taken place to the west of this with the development of the Great Island power facility. The grid connection cable travels through this brownfield environment.

Figure 10 Google Earth Aerial (2013-2018), showing proposed development area in red

Figure 11 Google Earth Aerial (1996-2000)

2.5. Previous Archaeological Investigations

Archaeological investigations have taken place in Kilmokea located at the northern end of Great Island townland but no archaeological features were revealed (Licence Number 10E126). In 2002 a ditch and a bank appeared to represent the enclosure earthworks at Kilmokea (Licence Number 02E0071). Further testing was carried out as predevelopment work for a proposed gas pipeline in 2011 (Licence Number 11E0342 and 11E0339) and no features of potential archaeological significance were apparent in the trenches.

Monitoring of topsoil stripping for the Bord Gáis Networks Gas to Great Island scheme took place in 2012-2013. The pipeline construction commenced at an existing above ground installation at Baunlusk, Co. Kilkenny and extended to the Endessa Power Station at Great Island, Co. Wexford. The pipeline was 46km long and numerous sites were revealed including a Neolithic stone assemblage, burnt stone spreads, troughs, pits and twenty stake holes (sites 34-3 and 3), a prehistoric hearth, post hole and eight stake holes (site 34-1), two pits, one with prehistoric pottery pieces (Roche and Grogan 2012) and two post holes (site 33-1) and burnt spreads and a fulacht fiadh (site 33-2) in Great Island townland (Licence Numbers 12E0356, 12E0395, 12E0393 and 12E0392).

In 2012 archaeological monitoring (Licence Number 12E0122) took place within the confines of the existing power facility which occupies an area of 58ha, no archaeological features, finds or material were revealed (McCarthy 2012). Groundworks associated with the development were undertaken in three main areas: the entranceway and access road to the development site, a large area to the north-east of the existing power plant to be used for storage and an area of reclaimed ground to the immediate east of the existing plant where the new CCGT plant was constructed. The works were largely within brownfield areas of the site and the archaeological monitoring results are detailed below at the following locations:

2.5.1. The entranceway and access road to compound

Topsoil removal commenced at a new entranceway created at the north-west corner of the plant. The access road extended from here along the northern boundary of the site towards the temporary compound. All topsoil and overburden was either stockpiled on the site or was used to construct earthen banks around the site boundaries. Across the site the topsoil varied in depth from 0.35m to 0.5m and it overlay the natural subsoil which consisted of friable orange/brown clay with small and medium sized stones. No features or deposits of archaeological merit were noted on the underlying surface.

2.5.2. Storage area at northern end of development

This area of the site had previously been planted with a considerable expanse of coniferous and deciduous trees. Its development as a storage area for the new power plant necessitated tree felling and the removal of a disturbed topsoil horizon to the natural clay. The area of the compound had previously been developed by Endessa Ireland Ltd, but a large area to the south was monitored. The preparation of the ground for tree plantation clearly caused significant damage to the soil horizons and trenching and subsequent mounding is likely to have obliterated any traces of archaeological features that may have been present. An archaeological presence was maintained for the entire duration of the works here and no features or finds of archaeological significance were uncovered in any of the investigated areas.

2.5.3. Area for new CCGT plant adjacent to the existing facility

The new CCGT plant was constructed to the immediate east of the existing facility in an area of infilled ground that has been subjected to considerable disturbance since the construction of the operational plant in the 1960s. The engineering test pits indicated that the infill measured between 2-3m in depth and this in turn overlay the natural bedrock. Monitoring was carried out on an intermittent basis in this area of the site given the very low risk of encountering deposits of archaeological significance. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.

In addition, to the investigations above the most recent and closest archaeological work took place in 2021 and 2022 at the site of the converter station immediately to the south of the proposed development. A geophysical survey was carried out by Wessex Archaeology (Licence Ref 21R0315) and detected several pit and ditch like anomalies suggestive of an archaeological origin. The results of the gradiometric survey were used to finalise the layout of the archaeological test trenches. Seventeen test trenches were proposed but due to ground conditions, the presence of overhead lines and a gas pipeline wayleave, this was altered on site and fourteen trenches were dug (Licence Ref. 21E0854) (Figure 13). The test excavation did not encounter any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site. Neither is there any evidence to suggest any medieval domestic or industrial activity associated with any known settlement on Great Island, it was concluded that historically the site had been used for pasture. The geophysical anomalies were found to be degraded and weather rock outcrop, natural and not archaeological in origin.

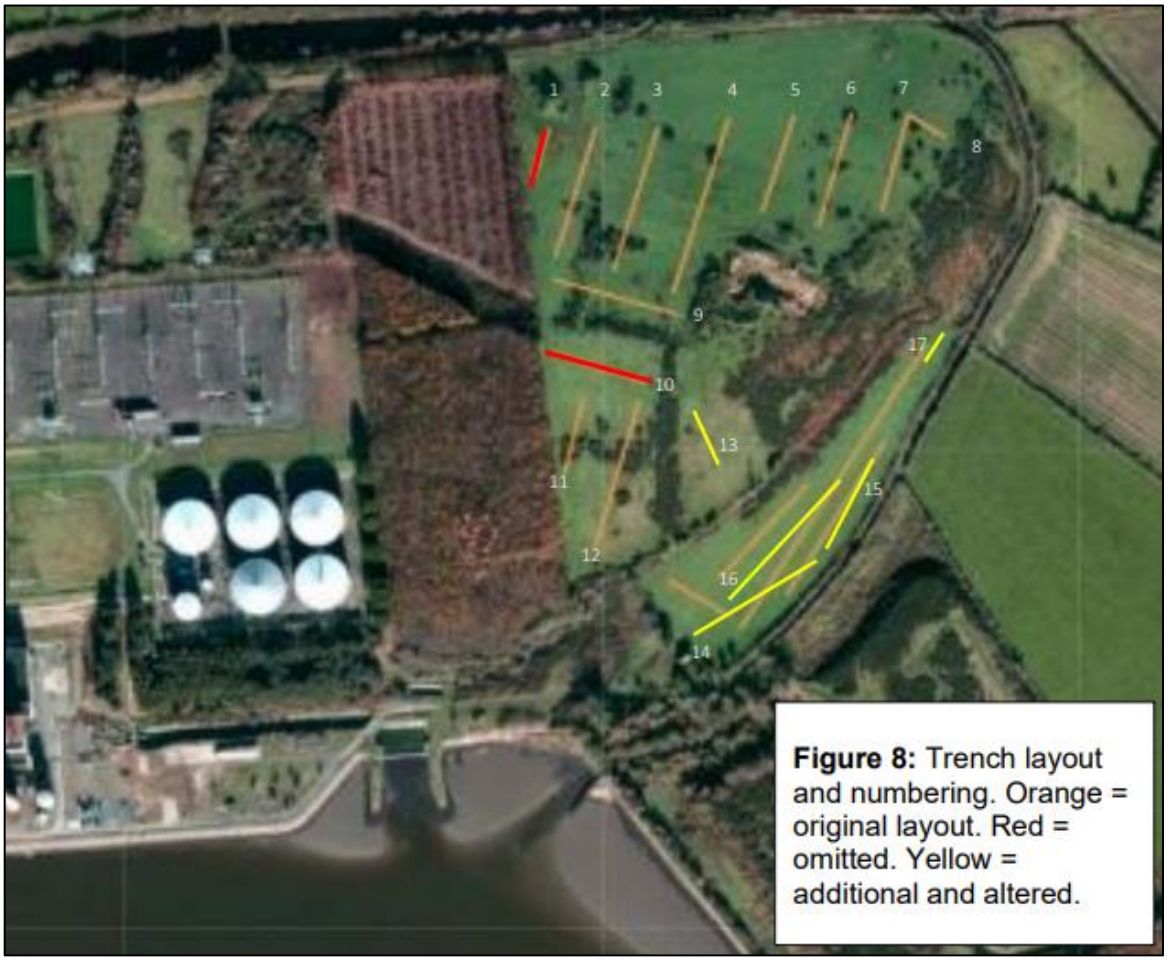

Figure 12 Site Investigations at the Converter site

2.6. Topographical Files

A search of the Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland revealed only one entry for the townlands of Great Island or Kilmannock Co. Wexford. This relates to the cist burial that was investigated by the National Museum of Ireland in 1979 in Great Island (Licence Number E1185) (Cahill and Sikora 2011) and is recorded as a recorded monument (WX039-028006 – Burial). This feature is discussed in section 3.2.3 of the report.

2.7. Townland Names and Boundaries

Townlands are land divisions that form a unique feature in the Irish landscape, their origins can be of great antiquity and many are of pre-Norman date. They can take the form of natural boundaries or routeways as well as artificially constructed earthen banks and ditch divisions. They are predominantly formed of substantial boundaries which are usually distinguishable from standard field division boundaries. Townland names are a valuable source of information, not only on the topography, land ownership and land use within the landscape, but also on its history, archaeological monuments and folklore. While most place names were anglicised or translated relatively accurately, some were corrupted virtually beyond recognition. By the time the Ordnance Survey collected place names in the area in the 1830s, both the native Irish and introduced English forms would have been simultaneously in use in the area. Information on the townland names discussed below was sourced from www.logainm.ie.

The two townlands of the subject site are Greatisland and Kilmannock both located in the barony of Shelburne and the civil parish of Kilmokea, Co Wexford. Great Island is known as an tOileán Mór when translated into Irish. It had various names and during the 16th and early 17th centuries it was known as Durbertes or Dunbards Island, before this, at an earlier period in the 14th century, it was referred to as *Insula Henri* (Henry's Island), commemorating Henry de Montnorency, uncle of Strongbow and one of his associates in the conquest and founder of Dunbrody Abbey. Full records of its history are given in Hore's History of County Wexford, Vol. III., where he refers '*the Great Island… was known in past times by many names. The Island, the Great Island, Henry's Island and Du Darry's or Durbard's Island. Its insular character no longer exists, the channel at Campile having silted up many years ago and the land have been embanked and reclaimed.*'

The Irish of Kilmannock is *Cill Mosheanóg* possibly meaning St Mannock's church. The townland has been recorded from Anglo Norman times onwards and is represented in the Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register of 1199 (McNeill 1950) as 'Chelmehhenoc'.

2.8. Designated Cultural Heritage Sites

2.8.1. Archaeological Heritage

2.8.1.1. National Monuments

There are no national monuments within or in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The closest national monument is Dunbrody Abbey (National Monument Number 192 and WX039-030001), a Cistercian house located just over 1.6km to the east of the proposed development. It sits on low-lying land, on a spur of land overlooking the River Campile.

The monument is an impressive complex of stone buildings centred around a cloister with the church (nave, crossing tower, transept and chancel) to the north, while the eastern range, houses the sacristy, chapter room, parlor, undercroft with dormitories above and the southern range the refectory, kitchen and lay brother's quarters. The original entrance to the abbey would have been

through the western gate (now blocked up). The buildings represent many different phases of building from the 12-17th centuries.

2.8.1.2. Recorded Archaeological Sites and Monuments (RMP / SMR Sites)

There are no recorded monuments within or adjacent to the subject site. The closest recorded monument is WX039-028004, a large enclosure that lies *c.*650m to the north-west. This and other recorded monuments in the surrounding area are discussed in section 3.2 and are shown in Figure 14 below.

Figure 13 Surrounding RMP/SMR sites with Zones of Notification

2.8.2. Architectural Heritage

2.8.2.1. Record of Protected Structures (RPS) & National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

There are no RPS or NIAH sites located within the proposed development site or immediately adjacent to it. The closest structure on the RPS is Kilmokea House (RPS ref. WCC0882) and it is located c. 1.5km to the north of the subject site.

Within Great Island townland, Kilmokea House is recorded as a protected structure (RPS WCC0882) and is also recorded on the NIAH (15703907). This structure is located 1.5km to the north of the proposed development within the early ecclesiastical hamlet of Kilmokea which was

founded in the early 8th century. This glebe house represents an important component of the early nineteenth-century built heritage of south County Wexford. The architectural value is attributed to Francis Johnston (1760-1829) of Armagh and Dublin (O'Dwyer 1998), and confirmed by such attributes as the deliberate alignment maximising the scenic vistas overlooking the landscaped grounds with the meandering River Barrow in the near distance. The structure is a near square plan form centred on a restrained doorcase; and diminishes in scale producing a graduated visual impression. Having been well maintained, the original form and massing survive intact together with substantial quantities of the original fabric, both to the exterior and to the interior. Furthermore, adjacent outbuildings; gardens planned and planted by Colonel David Price (1907-94); and a folly-like "columbarium" or dovecote, all contribute positively to the group and setting values of a self-contained ensemble. Historically the structure has connections with the Whitechurch parish Church of Ireland clergy including Reverend Thomas Hancock (d. 1836); Reverend Joseph Miller (d. 1838); Reverend John Keefe Robinson (d. 1862), 'Clerk late of Kilmokea Glebe County Wexford' (Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1862, 282); Reverend Edward Moore (d. 1865), 'Clerk late of Kilmokea Rectory New Ross in the County of Wexford' (Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1865, 246); and Reverend Robert Gordon Stowell Greer (1871-1929), 'Rector of [Whitechurch] Parish for 29 years' (cf. 15703901).

The Barrow Bridge (NIAH 12404401 (Kilkenny) (Plate 1), 15703910 (Wexford)) located to the west of the existing energy plant is considered to be of national importance and has been identified as an important component of the built heritage of south County Wexford and Kilkenny on account of the connections with the development of the Fishguard and Rosslare Railway (FRR). The bridge was erected c. 1902-1906 by Sir William Arrol and Company which was established in 1873 in Glasgow. It was designed by Sir Benjamin Baker (1840-1907). It is a Pratt-type lattice girder "swing span" construction and was in operation with passenger traffic until 2010.

Plate 1 The Barrow Bridge located to the west of the power plant

At the time of completion (1906) Barrow Bridge was the third longest bridge spanning entirely across water in Great Britain and Ireland, after Tay Bridge (1883-7) and the Sir Benjamin Baker-

designed Forth Bridge (1882-90) and was until 1984 the longest bridge of any kind in Ireland. This bridge which runs of the River Barrow and straddles the county boundary between Wexford and Kilkenny will not be affected by the proposed development. The railway runs to the north of the existing energy plant and all development associated with the energy plant is confined to the south of the railway line in Great Island townland. A tunnel associated with the railway infrastructure is recorded on the NIAH in Co Kilkenny (NIAH 12404403) in Drumdowney Upper townland, this is located just over 1km to the west of the proposed development activities on the western bank of the River Barrow.

Figure 14 Built Heritage Sites within or just over 1km of the proposed development

No sites listed in the NIAH Historic Gardens Survey are recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

There are three structures listed on the NIAH Building Survey that are located over 1km of the proposed development (Table 1). These are as follows:

Table 1 Built Heritage Sites over within 1km of the proposed development

NIAH no.	Townland	Name	Description
15703913	Kilmannock	Kilmannock House: walled garden	A 19th century, square plan, walled garden that contributes to the setting of Kilmannock House.
15703912	Kilmannock	Kilmannock House	Detached late 18th century Country House. Five bay, three storey over basement, based on a T shaped plan.
15703909	Great Island	Graveyard	Cemetery in Kilmokea with grave markers dating from 1739-1959.

All structures of an architectural heritage interest located to the south in Cheekpoint townland, Co. Waterford are located at least 1.4km from the proposed development and will not be impacted by the proposed development. The collection of structures includes a pier (NIAH 22901008), the Mount (NIAH 22901016), a post box (NIAH 22901014), a road fronted refuge (NIAH 22901007) and Daisybank House, a former hotel (NIAH 22901006).

2.9. Non-Designated Cultural Heritage Sites

No undesignated sites of cultural heritage interest were identified during the course of this study.

2.10. Site Assessment

The proposed development site is located in the townland of Great Island, in Co. Wexford. The site is located in south Wexford where the River Barrow provides a boundary to the counties of Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. It is located 5km north of Passage East where the River Barrow issues into the Irish Sea. Situated within the lands of Great Island Power Station, the subject site comprises both greenfield and previously developed areas within an existing industrial facility.

The proposed substation will be located to the south of the existing railway embankment on sloping ground. To compensate for the sloping nature of the site, the area will be levelled (cut) and filled to provide a platform to build upon. The area is overgrown with vegetation and no archaeological sites or features are discernible. The subject site is located immediately north of the Greenlink UK-Ireland Interconnector converter station that is currently being constructed (Figure 16). This site was subject to an EIAR (Arup 2020), prior to construction a geophysical survey and archaeological testing was conducted and no archaeological material and / or sites were revealed.

Figure 15 Located of the converter Station (under construction) to the south of the proposed subject site

The highest point on the site is the southwest, from there the site has extensive views to the east (Plate 2) and northeast while the views to the west and south are curtailed by existing infrastructure associated with the power station (Plate 3). Flat fields of pasture and crop, formerly wet land now reclaimed, extend to the east and the Campile River where Dunbrody Abbey is located on its eastern banks (Plate 2).

At the railway line on the southern side of the railway the scrub has been cut back affording a view of the railway line and leaving a sway of 30-40m of disturbed ground and brambles. A railway bridge is located outside the northeast corner of the site and will not be affected by the proposed development (Plate 4).

The gird connection cable will be located within the existing power facility within internal tracks and roads. As it emerges from the proposed substation location, it will be placed in previously disturbed land along a roadway and through an area previously disturbed due to the installation of waterpipes (Plates 5 and 6).

Plate 2 View to the east, with Dunbrody Abbey in the centre far distance

Plate 3 View to the north and the under-construction generator site

Plate 4 View towards the railway bridge located outside the northeast corner of the site

Plate 5 Cable route looking west

Plate 6 Route of proposed cable looking south

As Dunbrody Abbey is a national monument the views towards the proposed development from the monument were assessed. This was carried out in order to understand if the proposed development would detract from the setting of the monument. The Abbey is a Cistercian monastery and is known as the Port of St Mary of Dunbrody, it was built in 1201 and was

consecrated by Hervey's nephew Herlewyn, bishop of Leighlin. The wave of reforms that swept across Ireland and Britian during the 1530s was one of the reasons for the dissolution of many monasteries and one of the first to be closed in Ireland was Dunbrody, in May 1536. In 1545, the Abbey was granted to Sir Osborne Etchingham and his successors went about converting the eastern part of the church to a Tudor manor. New floors were added, and flat hooded window frames and chimneys are recognisable features from this time.

The Abbey is located on a low east-west spur above the floodplain of the estuary of the meandering east-northeast / west-southwest Campile River that is located c.120m to the north and west. This provided direct access to the river for travel, trade and fishing. Today visitors approach the Abbey from the east via a laneway located in between flat open fields (Plate 7). However, during the medieval period the original approach would have been from the western side, this often-facilitated visitors arriving by boat. A doorway in the western façade (now blocked up) was the original and main entrance into the nave of the church. Above this is the large three-lit lancet window which collapsed in 1852. Also on the western side of the monastery was the main entranceway into the abbey buildings. Sometimes called the porter's lodge, it was a narrow porch protected by an inner and outer doorway, which provided the monks with their own private access in and out of the cloister.

As you approach the monument, the chimneys associated with the power station are clearly discernible to the south of Dunbrody Abbey. However, the other elements and structures blend into the distant hill side. At the eastern side of the Abbey, the monument blocks any views out and within the Abbey all views are of the interior with no clear views out. At the west side of the monastery, a scrub boundary along with a stone wall which is collapsing in places, obstructs any clear view out to the Campile River and further afield (Plate 8). While traveling around the monastery, a person's focus is on the building to the east (Plate 9).

The only clear view is located at the northwest corner of the site where the stone wall has been replaced with a fence line and there are no brambles. From this view point, the substation will be visible but it will not dominate the skyline or detract from the setting or experience of the monastery. This view is located outside the Abbey buildings to the west (Plate 10). Given the distance, existing hedge rows, and the focus on the internal aspect of the monument (Plate 11 and Figure 16), it is not expected that the proposed development (Figure 19) will have a significant effect on the setting or amenity value of Dunbrody Abbey and will not visually detract from the monument.

This is supported by the conclusions of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that was undertaken for the project by Douglas Harmon Landscape Planning (DHLP) for Entrust (DHLP 2024), and which forms part of this application for the proposed development. A photomontage was taken from the west side of Dunbrody Abbey (Entrust, December 2023), at the north-western edge of the abbey grounds, towards the proposed development site (Viewpoint 6).

The LVIA concludes that the magnitude of effect on the setting of the monument is predicted to be very small when viewing the proposed development from the western side of the bramble and stone wall boundary (to the west of the abbey) that forms the present-day boundary that surrounds the monument.

The overall significance of effect, taking the sensitivity of the site into consideration, is Not Significant. This assessment is made taking into consideration the distance between Dunbrody Abbey and the proposed development and the adjacent existing infrastructure at the Great Island Power Station:

> *From this location, visitors would experience views of the Proposed Development in direct association with the large Greenlink Interconnector building and the cluttered appearance of nearby infrastructure associated with the power station. The Proposed Development would only result in a small increase in visible industrial development, appearing much less noticeable than the interconnector building, power station and nearby pylons. Of particular note, views towards the rising backdrop of Pointe na Sige and the highly scenic composition of the Barrow River corridor (to left of view) would remain uninterrupted. Overall therefore, the Proposed Development fits the existing visual composition, with very little of the view affected.* (DHLP 2024, p.31)

This effect will be by mitigated by a comprehensive planting regime that includes the planting of native woodland species at the eastern end of the proposed development. The landscape plan (Figure 17 and Figure 18) provides for the planting of a native hedgerow in front of the palisade fencing that runs along the engineered slope on the northern and eastern boundaries. Further screening in the form of native woodland planting will be provided.

Plate 7 Dunbrody Abbey from the east looking west

Plate 8 View to the west from the western side of the monastery

Plate 9 The western elevation of the monastery showing the former doorway into the nave

Plate 10 View to the proposed development site from the northwest boundary of Dunbrody Abbey

Plate 11 Aerial image showing the enclosed nature of the Dunbrody Abbey

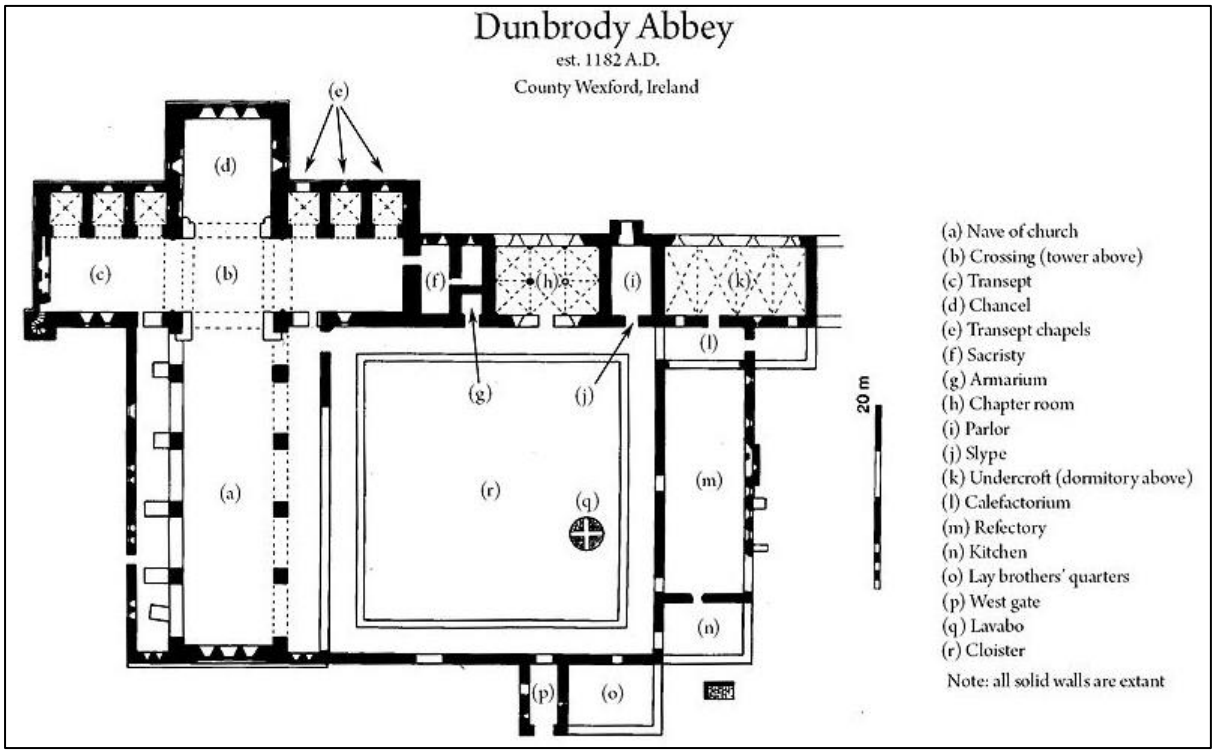

Figure 16 Plan of Dunbrody Abbey

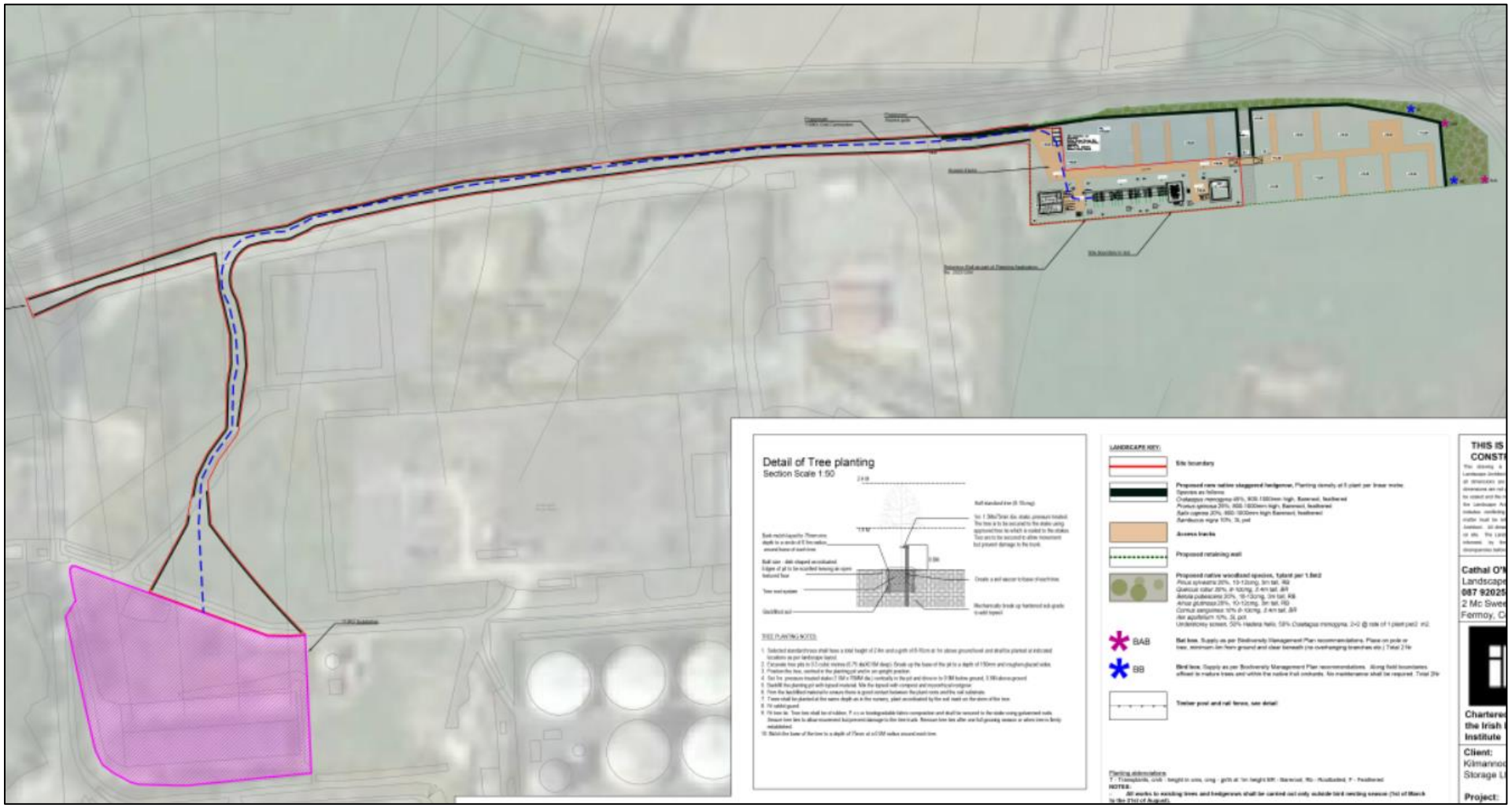

Figure 17 Proposed landscaping plan (overview) (after Cathal Meara Landscape Architects)

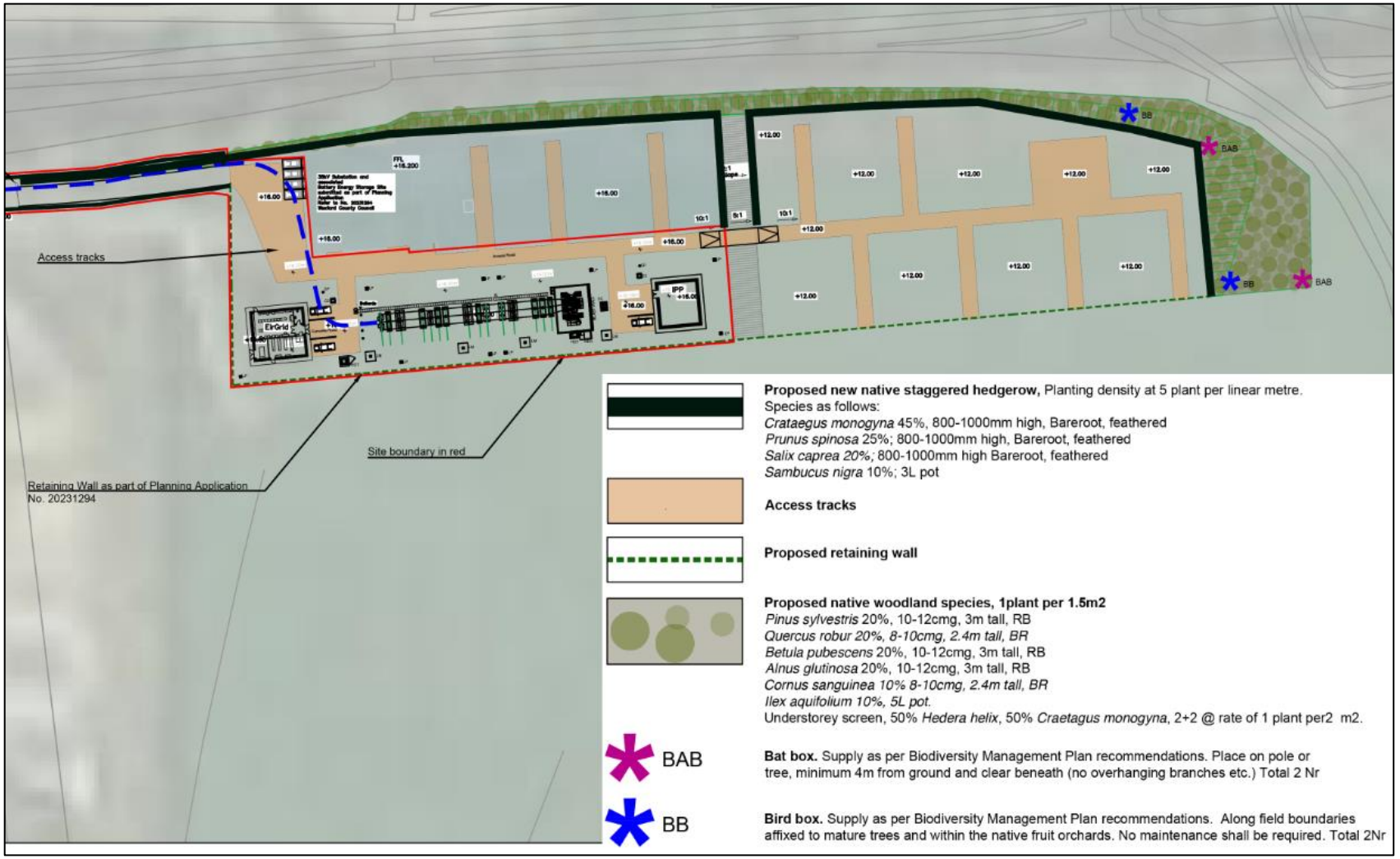

Figure 18 Proposed landscaping plan (detail) (after Cathal Meara Landscape Architects)

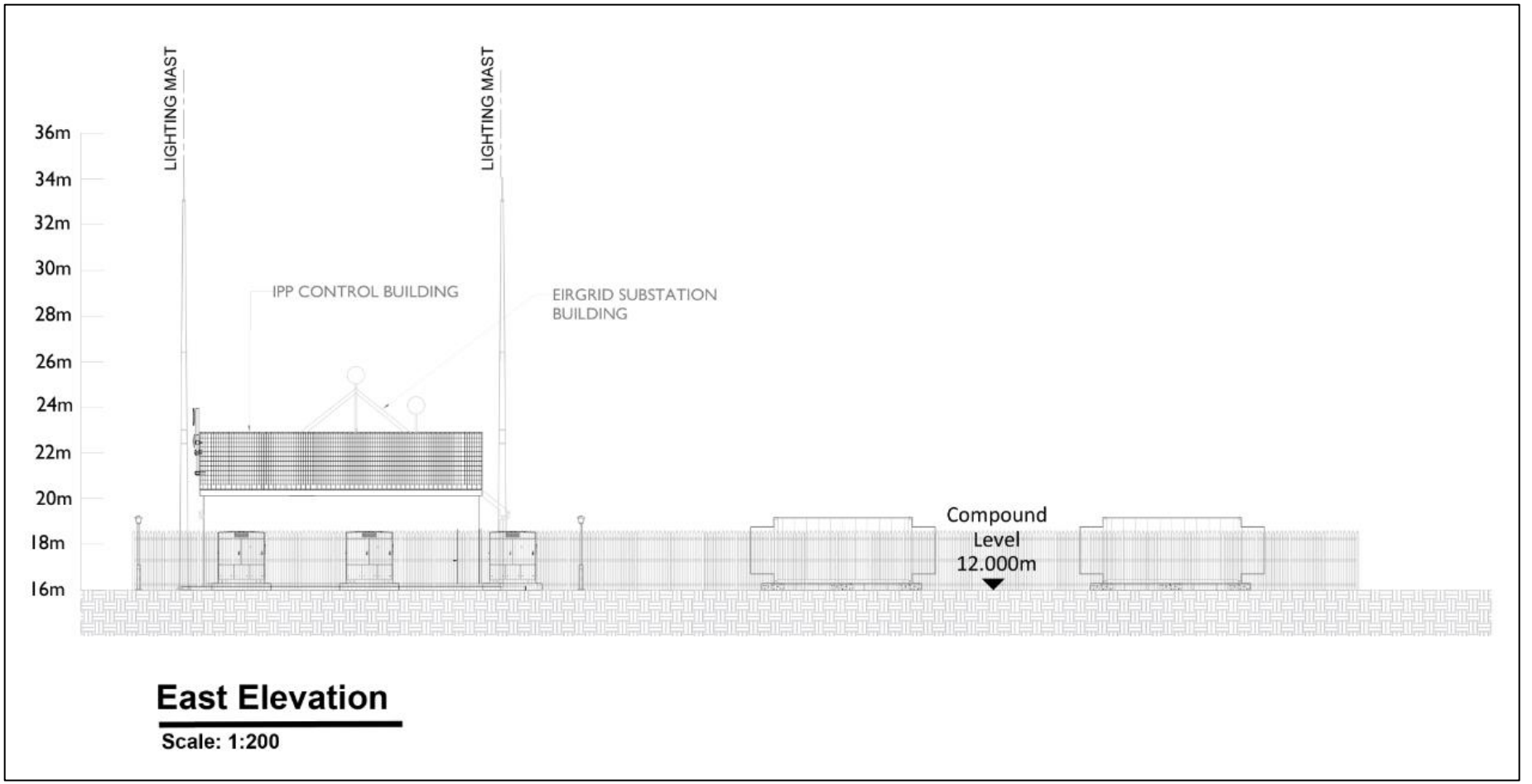

Figure 19 Proposed site elevation (east)

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage

There are no national monuments or recorded archaeological monuments within the proposed development site.

3.1.1. General Archaeological Potential

Archaeological investigations that have taken place as part of the previous expansion of the facility have not revealed any features of an archaeological significance (McCarthy 2012, Wessex Archaeology 2021, RedArc 2022). This includes archaeological monitoring of the access road along which the grid connection will travel; no archaeological material was identified. However, as part of the substation will be located in a greenfield environment to the east of the existing facility, there is a potential to reveal subsurface archaeological features. This potential must be measured against the fact that no features have been noted from cartographic or aerial photographic sources and that no stray finds are recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum.

A visual assessment was conducted to and from Dunbrody Abbey, a national monument located approx. 1.6km east of the proposed development. It was concluded that the location, and operation of the proposed development would not detract in a significant manner from the setting and views from the abbey.

3.2. Architectural Heritage

The proposed development will not directly impact on any protected structures or sites of architectural significance or of built heritage interest. The historic Fishguard and Rosslare Railway (FRR) forms the northern boundary of the site but it and any of its associated infrastructure will not be affected by the proposed development.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Archaeological Testing and Monitoring

4.1.1. Prior to Construction

It is recommended that a comprehensive programme of archaeological test excavation be undertaken across the footprint of the proposed development in advance of construction in order to detect any subsurface archaeological features, deposits and or material. With the adjoining site, while the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2021) was successful in detecting anomalies, their archaeological origin was thought to be extremely tentative. This caution proved to be founded as archaeological testing (RedArc 2022) demonstrated that the steep topography of the site and the presence of weathered bedrock (fractured rock) close to the surface of the field were responsible for the anomalous readings and that the geophysical anomalies were of a natural derivation. Due to this, it is considered that further geophysical analysis would not be beneficial in determining the subsurface archaeological potential of the site and that archaeological testing is the preferred mitigation strategy.

4.1.2. During Construction

It is recommended that archaeological monitoring is undertaken, during site enabling and construction works that involve excavation and topsoil stripping. This will ensure that if any

subsurface features of an archaeological nature are revealed, they will be identified and recorded. Further recommendations will be made based on the results of archaeological monitoring. These may include preservation by record, design or in situ.

All recommendations made in the report and are subject to the approval of the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH and the National Museum of Ireland.

4.2. Landscape Screening

In order to mitigate against any visual changes and to assist with the proposed development blending into the existing hillside location, it is proposed that a comprehensive planting regime that includes the planting of native woodland species at the eastern end of the proposed development and the planting of a native hedgerow in front of the palisade fencing that runs along the engineered slope on the northern and eastern boundaries will take place (Figure 18). This will assist in mitigating any change in view from the western extent of Dunbrody Abbey towards the proposed development.

4.3. General

It should be noted that the client is:

- Aware of the archaeological potential of the lands and its implications for the proposed development;
- Aware of the national policy for the protection of archaeological heritage and the Minister's stated preference for preservation *in-situ* and avoidance of impacts to archaeological heritage through design mitigation;
- Aware of the Local Authorities policies in relation to archaeological heritage as outlined in the development plan 2022-2028 and their obligations in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts (as amended);
- Aware of their obligations in relation to the further investigation of the site, if it is conditioned as such;
- Committed to fund whatever archaeological works are required in accordance with the National Monuments Acts (as amended) (including excavation, post-excavation analysis, conservation, and publication); and
- Aware that the National Monuments Service, DHLGH will adjudicate on the results of the archaeological monitoring and will make recommendations to ensure the protection of the archaeological heritage;
- Statutory Obligations.

The attention of the developer is drawn to the relevant portions of the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004; Appendix 1), which describes the responsibility of the site owners to report the finding of archaeological items if any should be discovered during construction works to the National Museum of Ireland (Irish Antiquities Division) and the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH who will determine the nature and extent of archaeological work to be carried out on site. This legislation also outlines the developer's obligation to facilitate and fund all archaeological works that may be considered necessary by the National Monuments Service or the National Museum in respect of development proposals.

5. REFERENCES

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5.1. Online Resources:

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www.census.nationalarchives.ie

APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

National Monuments Legislation (1930-2004)

The National Monument Act, 1930 (as amended) provides the formal legal mechanism to protect monuments in Ireland. Protection of a monument is provided via:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP);

National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs or a Local Authority;

National Monument subject to a Preservation Order (or temporary Preservation Order);

Register of Historic Monuments (RHM).

The definition of a monument is specified as:

any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections;

any artificial cave, stone or natural product, whether forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position;

any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or (ii) ritual, industrial or habitation site; and

any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site.

Under Section 14 of the Principal Act (1930):

It shall be unlawful...

to demolish or remove wholly or in part or to disfigure, deface, alter, or in any manner injure or interfere with any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance with the consent hereinafter mentioned (a licence issued by the Office of Public Works National Monuments Branch),

or

to excavate, dig, plough or otherwise disturb the ground within, around, or in the proximity to any such national monument without or otherwise than in accordance...

Under Amendment to Section 23 of the Principal Act (1930):

A person who finds an archaeological object shall, within four days after the finding, make a report of it to a member of the Garda Síochána...or the Director of the National Museum...

The latter is of relevance to any finds made during a watching brief.

In the 1994 Amendment of Section 12 of the Principal Act (1930), all the sites and 'places' recorded by the Sites and Monuments Record of the Office of Public Works are provided with a new status in law. This new status provides a level of protection to the listed sites that is equivalent to that accorded to 'registered' sites [Section 8(1), National Monuments Amendment Act 1954] as follows:

The Commissioners shall establish and maintain a record of monuments and places where they believe there are monuments and the record shall be comprised of a list of monuments and such places and a map or maps showing each monument and such place in respect of each county in the State.

The Commissioners shall cause to be exhibited in a prescribed manner in each county the list and map or maps of the county drawn up and publish in a prescribed manner information about when and where the lists and maps may be consulted.

In addition, when the owner or occupier (not being the Commissioners) of a monument or place which has been recorded, or any person proposes to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such monument or place, he shall give notice in writing of his proposal to carry out the work to the Commissioners and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Commissioners, commence the work for a period of two months after having given the notice.

The National Monuments Amendment Act enacted in 2004 provides clarification in relation to the division of responsibilities between the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Finance and Arts, Sports and Tourism together with the Commissioners of Public Works. The Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue directions relating to archaeological works and will be advised by the National Monuments Section and the National Museum of Ireland. The Act gives discretion to the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to grant consent or issue directions in relation to road developments (Section 49 and 51) approved by An Bord Pleanála and/or in relation to the discovery of National Monuments.

14A. (1) The consent of the Minister under section 14 of this Act and any further consent or licence under any other provision of the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004 shall not be required where the works involved are connected with an approved road development.

14A. (2) Any works of an archaeological nature that are carried out in respect of an approved road development shall be carried out in accordance with the directions of the Minister, which directions shall be issued following consultation by the minister with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

Subsection 14A (4) Where a national monument has been discovered to which subsection (3) of this section relates, then the road authority carrying out the road development shall report the discovery to the Minister subject to subsection (7) of this section, and pending any directions by the Minister under paragraph (d) of this subsection, no works which would interfere with the monument shall be carried out, except works urgently required to secure its preservation carried out in accordance with such measures as may be specified by the Minister.

The Minister will consult with the Director of the National Museum of Ireland for a period not longer than 14 days before issuing further directions in relation to the national monument.

The Minister will not be restricted to archaeological considerations alone, but will also consider the wider public interest.

Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999

This Act provides for the establishment of a national inventory of architectural heritage and historic monuments.

Section 1 of the act defines "architectural heritage" as:

(a) all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,

(b) groups of such structures and buildings, and,

(c) sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 2 of the Act states that the Minister (for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) shall establish the NIAH, determining its form and content, defining the categories of architectural heritage, and specifying to which category each entry belongs. The information contained within the inventory will be made available to planning authorities, having regard to the security and privacy of both property and persons involved.

Section 3 of the Act states that the Minister may appoint officers, who may in turn request access to premises listed in the inventory from the occupiers of these buildings. The officer is required to inform the occupier of the building why entry is necessary, and in the event of a refusal, can apply for a warrant to enter the premises.

Section 4 of the Act states that obstruction of an officer or a refusal to comply with requirements of entry will result in the owner or occupier being guilty of an offence.

Section 5 of the Act states that sanitary authorities who carry out works on a monument covered by this Act will as far as possible preserve the monument with the proviso that its condition is not a danger to any person or property, and that the sanitation authority will inform the Minister that the works have been carried out.

The provisions in the Act are in addition to and not a substitution for provisions of the National Monument Act (1930–94), and the protection of monuments in the National Monuments Act is extended to the monuments covered by the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1999).