

**Desktop Archaeological and Cultural Heritage  
Assessment**

**Battery Energy Storage System  
Shannaragh, County Tyrone**

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

*For*  
**RPS**  
Elmwood House  
74 Boucher Road  
Belfast  
BT12 6RZ

**October 2024**

### ***Document Control Sheet***

<b><i>Client</i></b>	RPS				
<b><i>Project Title</i></b>	Proposed Battery Energy Storage System, Shannaragh, County Tyrone				
<b><i>Document Title</i></b>	Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Assessment				
<b><i>Document No.</i></b>	02				
<b><i>Document Comprises</i></b>	DCS	NTS	TOC	Pages	23
	Y	N	Y	Appendices	1

<b><i>Rev</i></b>	<b><i>Status</i></b>	<b><i>Author</i></b>	<b><i>Reviewed By</i></b>	<b><i>Approved By</i></b>	<b><i>Office of Origin</i></b>	<b><i>Issue Date</i></b>
01	Draft	András Hindli	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	26/09/2024
02	Final	András Hindli	Martin McGonigle	Martin McGonigle	Buncrana	10/10/2024

© 2024 Cultural Resource Management and Planning Ltd. 'John Cronin & Associates; is a trading name of Cultural Resource Management and Planning Ltd. All Rights Reserved. Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy. Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd is not responsible for any errors or omissions, or for the results obtained from the use of information outlined in this report. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the written permission of Cultural Resource Management & Planning Ltd.

# Contents

*1. Introduction ..... 1*

*2. Methodology..... 2*

*3. Context ..... 4*

*4. Assessment of impacts ..... 19*

*5. Conclusions & recommendations ..... 20*

*6. References ..... 21*

*Appendix: SMR Inventory Descriptions ..... 22*



## 2. Methodology

### Desktop study

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

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

- UNESCO recorded World Heritage Sites and Tentative List: UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. There are no Cultural World Heritage Sites in Northern Ireland, and no NI sites are included on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites for the United Kingdom. Current data was accessed via <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb>. *Emain Mhacha* (Navan Fort), County Armagh, is part of the *Royal Sites of Ireland* grouping on Ireland's 2022 Tentative list (<https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-property/the-royal-sites-of-ireland/>). *Emain Mhacha* is located approximately 49km southeast of the proposed BESS site.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports: This database contains summary accounts of all licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1970 to 2024. The database entries for investigations carried out within townlands in the study area are provided below. Current data was accessed via [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie).
- Historical publications and cartographic sources: various published and unpublished sources and historical maps were consulted. The historical maps and other figures are presented in this report.
- Aerial Imagery: available current local and regional online aerial mapping of the proposed development area were consulted to determine if any traces of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological sites were evident.
- Placenames Database: this current online database ([www.placenamesni.org](http://www.placenamesni.org)) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records, and placename research, for townland names (and Irish translations) for Northern Ireland.

### Types of impact

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

- **Direct Impact** – where a cultural heritage site is physically located within the footprint of the scheme, which will result in its complete or partial removal.
- **Indirect Impact** – where a cultural heritage site or its setting is located in close proximity to the footprint of the scheme.
- **No predicted impact** – where the potential scheme will not adversely or positively affect a cultural heritage site.

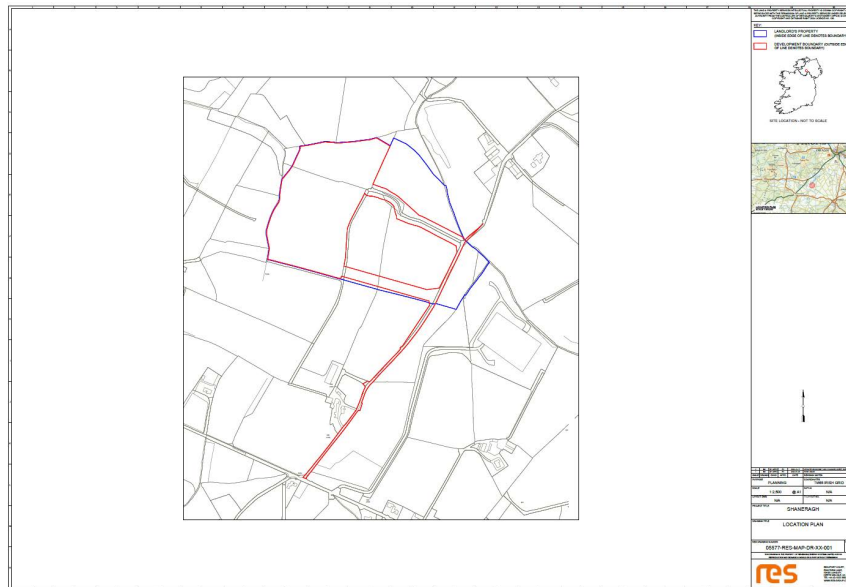
A significance rating for these impacts is then applied; whether *profound, significant, moderate, slight, or imperceptible*

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

### 3. Context

#### Location

The subject lands are located approximately 4km northeast of the town of Dromore and 9km southwest of Omagh, within the townland of Shannaragh, County Tyrone. The site consists of five plots of agricultural land accessed through a farm lane from Skreen Road, immediately northwest of the existing Dromore Main Substation (**Figure 2**).



*Figure 2: Location of subject site (red outline)*

#### Legal & Policy Framework

##### *Archaeological Heritage*

The principal basis for the protection of archaeological sites in Northern Ireland is the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order (1995). The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) identifies all known historic monuments by location and type. To date there are over 16,500 sites identified throughout Northern Ireland. The Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) have responsibility, under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, to compile and maintain a list of scheduled sites. The NISMR information is used to identify sites and monuments for statutory protection in the form of Scheduling. To date DfC:HED have listed over 2000 scheduled historic monuments (April 2022) which represents approximately 12% of the NISMR dataset<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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

Notwithstanding the legal designation and scheduling protocol per the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, and the requirements for on-going revisions and additions to the scheduled list by DfC:HED; those SMR sites, on the NISMR (over 17,000 sites<sup>2</sup>) and currently without scheduled monument designation, still retain unique archaeological importance and should not be interfered with in any way. The Planning Policy framework ensures that such sites still require statutory consultation with DfC:HED.

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

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

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

There is also a separate Industrial Heritage Record of over 16,500 entries<sup>3</sup> (April 2022), a Maritime Record, Defence Heritage Record and a Historic Parks and Gardens Register, all of which detail sites, structures, and areas of heritage significance.

### ***Architectural Heritage***

In addition to archaeological sites, the planning system has a duty towards listed buildings under Part 4 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Furthermore, under Section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) is required to compile and maintain a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. There are more than 9,000 historic buildings in Northern Ireland (as of September 2024)<sup>4</sup>; varying from fine churches and country houses to thatched cottages and post boxes. To be selected for listing, a building must be assessed and evaluated against established criteria. Key elements include the age of a building, its condition, style, aesthetic quality, structure, and any innovatory qualities (Source: DfC:HED).

---

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

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

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



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

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

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

The Fermanagh & Omagh District Council *Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy* (Adopted 16 March 2023) contains the following policies relating to archaeological and cultural heritage, relevant to the study area:

**Policy HE01 – Archaeology** - (a) *Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their settings* Development proposals which would adversely affect archaeological remains of regional importance or the integrity of their settings, including those that would merit scheduling and candidate ASAs, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and where the proposal is of overriding importance in Northern Ireland. Such proposals must be accompanied by sufficient and robust information to allow an assessment and evaluation of the extent of the remains and their significance. (b) *Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Setting* Development proposals which would adversely affect archaeological remains of local importance or their settings will only be permitted where it is adequately demonstrated that the need for the proposed development clearly outweighs the value of the remains and/or their settings. Within the LPP, specific policies will be developed for each of the ASAs within the Council Area which will recognise and respond to their unique characteristics. The policies for specific ASAs will build on the Statement of Significance, which will themselves be a material consideration in assessing the impacts of development proposals on these landscapes. The Council will review existing and identify new Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) in the District in the Local Policies Plan. (c) The Council will seek all necessary information from applicants to allow well informed planning judgements, particularly where the impact of a development proposal on archaeological remains is unclear, or the relative significance of such remains is uncertain. Should an applicant fail to provide a suitable assessment or evaluation on request, the Council will adopt a precautionary approach and refuse planning permission. (d) Where the Council is minded to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known or likely to contain archaeological remains, it will ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the identification and mitigation of the

archaeological impacts of the development. The preferred treatment of archaeological remains affected by development will be considered in the following order:

- Preservation of remains in situ;
- Licensed excavation, recording, examination and archiving of archaeology by way of condition.

**Policy HE02 – Listed Buildings and their Settings** - 1. Change of Use, Alterations and Extensions to a Listed Building and development in the setting of a Listed Building The Council will only permit development proposals that affect listed buildings and their settings where it can be demonstrated that all of the following criteria are met: a) the essential character, its special architectural and/or historical interest, integrity and setting of the listed building will be protected, conserved and enhanced; b) the proposal makes use of quality materials and techniques (traditional and/or sympathetic) in keeping with architectural details of the listed building; c) the detailed design respects the character and appearance of the listed building and its setting in terms of scale, height, massing, proportion and alignment; d) where a change of use is proposed, the use is compatible with the fabric, appearance, setting and character of the building; and it secures the ongoing viability and upkeep of the listed building; and e) the alteration is desirable or necessary.

2. Demolition of a Listed Building There will be a presumption in favour of retaining listed buildings. The total or part demolition of a Listed Building will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it is demonstrated that: a) it cannot be retained in its original or reasonably modified form; and b) demolition is necessary, justified by clear and convincing evidence with conservation expertise. In such cases, appropriate arrangements must be in place for recording the building prior to demolition and for the timely redevelopment of the site. Where consent for the total demolition of a listed building, or any significant part of it, is granted, this will be conditional on prior agreement for the redevelopment of the site.

## Archaeological & historical background

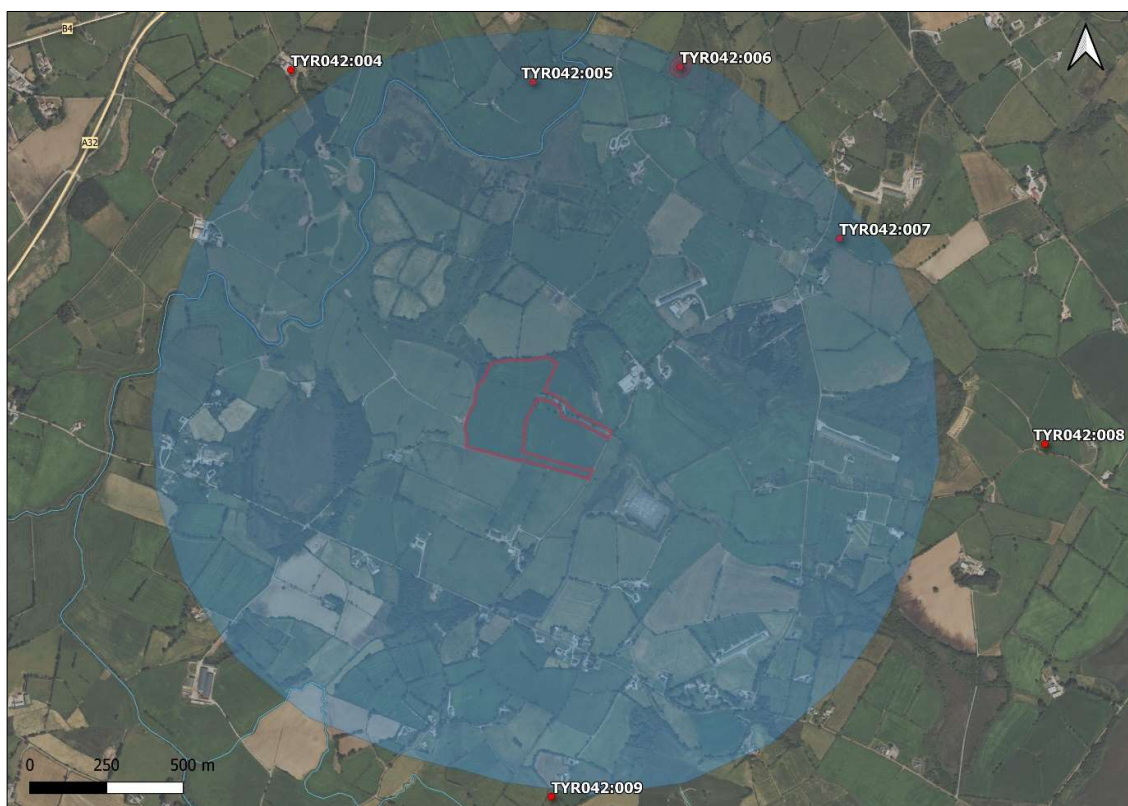
Within the 1km study area, there are four archaeological sites recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR), as shown in **Figure 3** and detailed in **Table 1**. Three of these recorded sites correspond to early medieval ringforts/ráths (TYR042:005, TYR042:006 (highlighted in table as it is a Scheduled Monument), TYR042:009) and the remaining site is a destroyed prehistoric standing stone (TYR042:007).

The published inventory descriptions for all three sites are available in the **Appendix** of this report.

**Table 1:** Recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area

SMR No.	Class	Townland	IG Co-ordinates (Eastings)	IG Co-ordinates (Northings)	Distance from proposed works
TYR042:005	Rath	Aghadulla	239310	366090	880m north

<i>SMR No.</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Townland</i>	<i>IG Co-ordinates (Eastings)</i>	<i>IG Co-ordinates (Northings)</i>	<i>Distance from proposed works</i>
TYR042:006	Rath	Glennan	239790	366140	1000m north-northeast
TYR042:007	Standing Stone (Destroyed)	Skreen	240310	365580	900m northeast
TYR042:009	Rath	Drumderg Glebe	239370	363760	1000m south



*Figure 3: Archaeological sites (SMR's) within 1km study area*

### ***Prehistoric period***

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (7000–4000 BC) when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island. However recent evidence in the form of a butchered bear patella found in Alice and Gwendoline Cave near Ennis in County Clare now suggests that humans were present in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period between 12,800 to 12,600 cal BC (Dowd and Carden 2016, 161). These nomadic groups appear to have favoured coastal, lake and river shores which provided a valuable transport and food resource. There are no extant above-ground monuments dating to this period, however the presence of these early groups can often be identified by scatters of worked lithics in ploughed fields, shoreline shell middens and traces of temporary occupation sites occasionally uncovered during modern ground works. **There are no recorded SMR sites which date to this period within the study area.** However, Late Mesolithic material was identified in the townland of Shannaragh during archaeological excavations on the A32 Road (Licence no. AE/12/33).

The Neolithic period (4000-2400 BC) began with the arrival and establishment of agriculture as the principal form of economic subsistence, which resulted in more permanent settlement patterns and associated societal changes. As a consequence of the more settled nature of agrarian life, new site and artefact types, such as megalithic tombs and pottery vessels, begin to appear in the archaeological record during this period. This period saw the clearance of large swathes of the thick forest cover in order to create grasslands for their domesticated animals, such as cattle, sheep and pigs, and to create cultivation plots in which crops such as wheat and barley were grown. The sub-surface remains of houses built by these early farmers have been uncovered while traces of enclosed field systems of the period have also been recorded. **There are no recorded SMR sites which date to this period within the study area.** However, archaeological excavations on the Dromore Main Substation site, located immediately east of the subject lands (Licence no. AE/16/209), unearthed a multi-period archaeological site that included, two keyhole kilns; pits, postholes, stakeholes; a ring-ditch and associated cremations that were radiocarbon dated to the Early Neolithic, Bronze Age and the early and late medieval periods.

### ***Late prehistoric periods***

The Bronze Age period (2400 BC – 500 BC) commenced with the introduction of mining and metal-working technology to Ireland, initially using gold and copper, and then more durable bronze objects created with an alloy of tin and copper. This period also saw the construction of new monument types, often with a ritual function, within the landscape such as wedge tombs, standing stones, stone rows, stone circles, *fulachta fiadh* and new burial practices including inhumation and cremation burials within barrows, boulder burials and stone-lined cists. **There is one recorded site which might date to this period within the study area, a destroyed standing stone (TYR042:007).**

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

### ***Early medieval period***

This period began with the introduction of Christianity in Ireland and continued up to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans during the twelfth century (c. 400 BC – 1169 AD). While this period saw the emergence of the first phases of urbanisation around the large monasteries and the Viking ports, the dominant settlement pattern of the period continued to be rural-based and centred on enclosed farmsteads, known as ringforts (or *rath/lios/dun*), with livestock farming as the dominant practice. Ringforts form the visible element of much wider external agricultural landscapes that may contain unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features such as associated field systems, stockades, barns, mills and drying kilns. The early medieval church sites were morphologically similar to ringforts but are often differentiated by the presence of features such as church buildings, graves, stone crosses and shrines. Following the first recorded Viking raid in AD 795, the Vikings eventually began to develop substantial port (and settlement) centres particularly at Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Limerick. **There are three recorded SMR sites which date to this period within the study area. These sites correspond to three ringforts/ráths (TYR042:005, TYR042:006, TYR042:009).**



### ***High and late medieval periods***

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

### ***Post-medieval and early modern periods***

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

## **Historical context**

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

*'Dromore, a parish, in the barony of Omagh, county of Tyrone, and province of Ulster, 8 miles (S. W.) from Omagh, on the road from that place to Enniskillen; containing 10422 inhabitants. In the war of 1641 the insurgents were defeated in some skirmishes near this place, but revenged themselves by burning the church and killing many of the inhabitants, when the English were obliged to retire. According to the Ordnance survey, it contains 25492 ½ statute acres, the greater part of which is productive, but there are more than 4000 acres of bog and mountain land. The canal by which it is intended to connect Loughs Foyle and Erne, will pass through this parish. The village, which comprises about 100 thatched houses, is a constabulary police station, and has a penny post to Omagh, and a dispensary [...] The principal seats are Lakemount, the residence of J. Hamilton, Esq.; Fairy Hill, of A. Sproule,*

*Esq.; and the Glebe-house, of the Rev. H. Lucas St. George [...]. The church is a small plain building, erected in 1693. The R.C. Parish is coextensive with that of the Established Church, and has a chapel in the village [...]. Here are some large and perfect forts; and it is stated that St. Patrick founded a nunnery here for St. Certumbria, the first Irish female who received the veil from his hands. At Kildrum was a religious house or church, which is supposed to have been the parochial church; but no vestige of the building can be traced, and the burial-ground is partially cultivated. The townlands of Shanaragh and Agherdurlagh are called abbey lands, and are tithe-free'*

## Recorded Architectural/Cultural Heritage Features

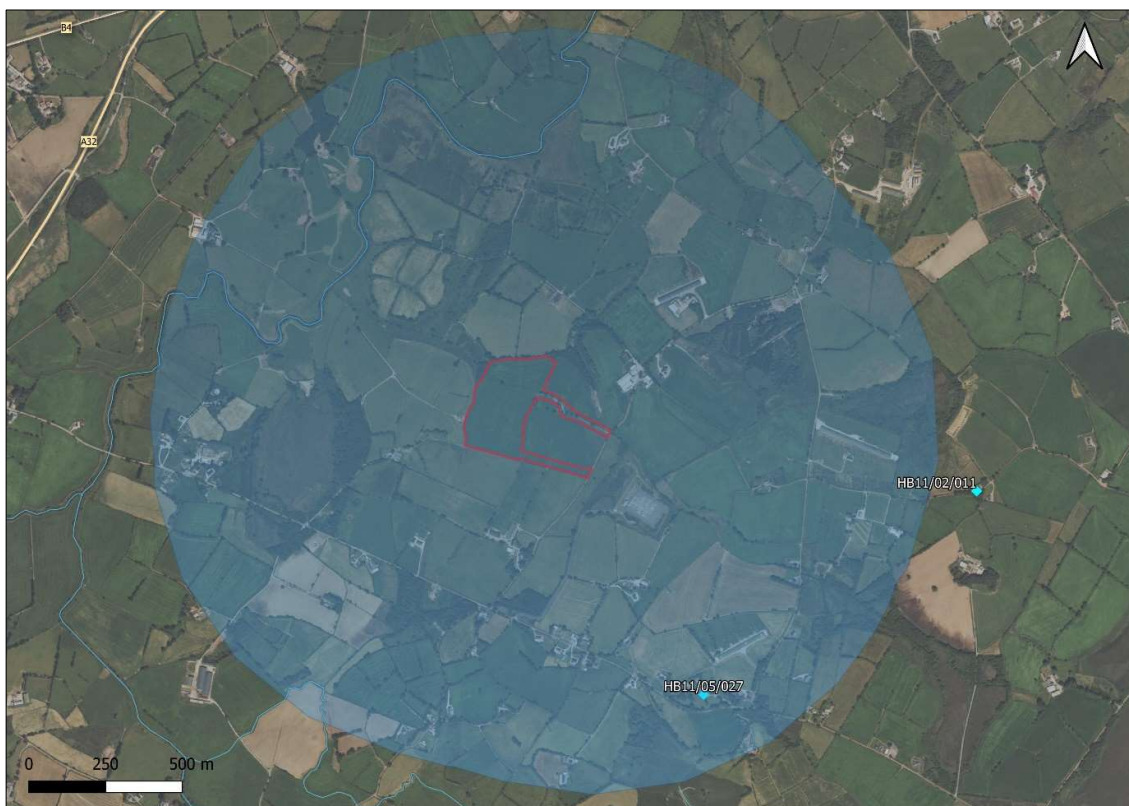
Within the 1km study area, there is one Historic Building (**HB11/05/027**), which consists of a house built between 1820-1839. The location is depicted in **Figure 4** and detailed in **Table 2**. In addition, three Industrial Heritage Record sites are recorded within the study area. These consist of two corn kilns (IHR 04959:000:00, IHR 04961:000:00) and a corn mill site (IHR 04965:000:00). Their locations are depicted in **Figure 5** and **Table 3**.

**Table 2:** Historic buildings within 1km study area

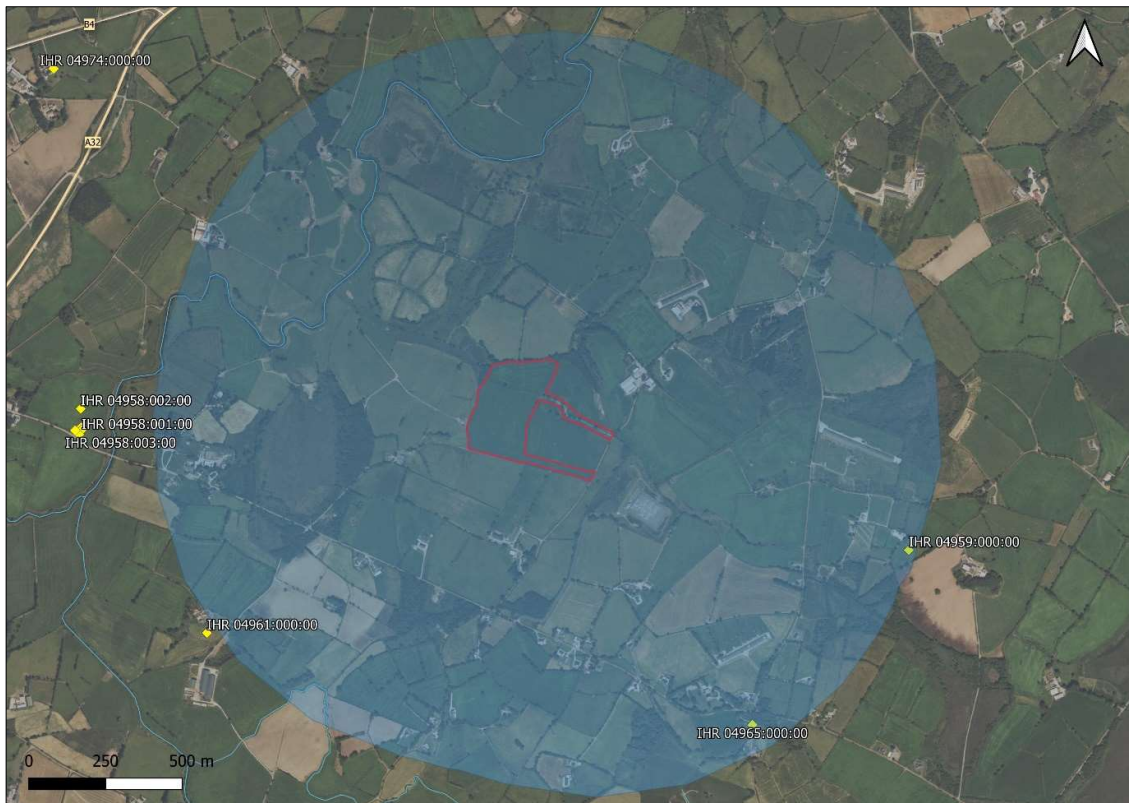
<b>HB Ref No.</b>	<b>Former use</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>IG Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Distance from proposed works</b>
HB11/05/027	House	Cavan	239870, 364090	Record only	820m southeast

**Table 3:** Industrial Heritage Record sites within 1km study area

<b>IHR No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>IG Co-ordinates</b>	<b>Distance from proposed works</b>
IHR 04959:000:00	Corn Kiln	Mullawinny	240530, 364570	1000m east
IHR 04961:000:00	Corn Kiln	Shannaragh	238240, 364300	1000m southwest
IHR 04965:000:00	Corn Mill site	Cavan	240020, 364000	945m southeast



**Figure 4:** Historic Buildings within 1km study area



**Figure 5:** Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites within 1km study area

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

## The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of archaeological excavations undertaken in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to present. Four licenced archaeological excavations are recorded within the study area. One of the excavations (Licence No. AE/16/209) included the excavation of a multi-period site on the footprint of the Dromore Main Substation site, adjacent to the proposed development site. The excavation produced archaeological features from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and early and late medieval periods, including postholes, hearths, a burial site associated with a ring-ditch, cremations and ceramic urns, and corn-drying kilns. Additional archaeological excavations within the townland of Shannaragh produced evidence of Mesolithic, Bronze Age and medieval settlement activity associated with the Owenreagh River. The summary results of these excavations are outlined in **Table 4** below.

**Table 4:** Summary results of excavations within 500m study area

<b>Licence No.</b>	<b>Summary</b>
AE/11/81	The proposed A32 Shannaragh Realignment project is located within the townlands of Shannaragh and Mullaghbane, approximately 11km to the south of Omagh. The A32 route lies within an archaeologically sensitive area with one recorded site, a rath (TYR042-002), in close proximity. A desktop assessment of the project area highlighted three areas of archaeological potential that warranted further investigation. These three areas were tested in September 2011 via an agreed series of test trenches, one of which revealed two deposits of archaeological potential: a linear feature and the remains of a small shallow pit. These deposits were investigated, but nothing was recovered that could have suggested a possible function or date for these features.
AE/12/33	A series of excavations were carried out as part of the 2.3km realignment of the A32 Shannaragh Road in Co. Tyrone. The four areas subject to excavation were identified during the monitoring of topsoil stripping and subject to excavation between 2 April and 10 May 2012. Shannaragh 1a was characterised by a trackway formed by a poorly-preserved arrangement of roundwoods, roughly orientated east-west and located c. 10m south-west of Area 1b. [...] This trackway may have been used to access the platform and burnt mound excavated in Area 1b to the south-west. Shannaragh 1b was characterised by a portion of a burnt mound and a wooden platform. Part of a wooden-lined trough was exposed at the eastern limit of the area. This trough lining was composed of nine radially split timbers and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the east. [...] A second similar deposit of burnt mound material was located in the north-east of the site. A thick layer of peat separated these burnt mound layers suggesting a significant temporal gap between phases of use. A wooden platform was identified to the west of this burnt mound activity, which was formed from brushwood overlying stakes and roundwood. Seven worked elements were recovered from the roundwood at the bottom of the platform. Of these one had a wedge point while the remainder had chisel points. Five of the timbers showed



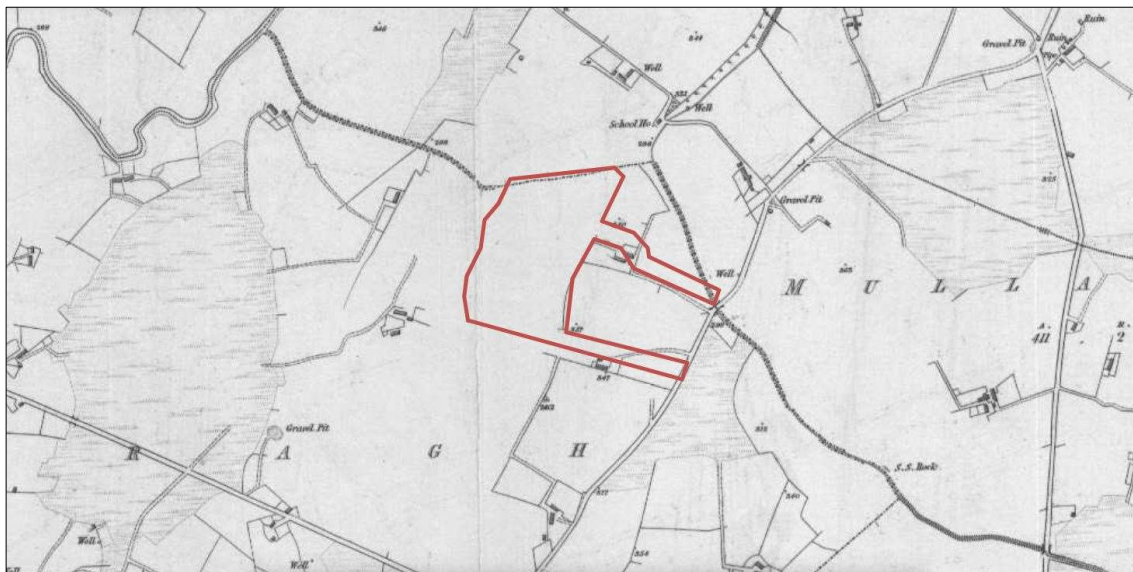
<b><i>Licence No.</i></b>	<b><i>Summary</i></b>
	<p>evidence of heavy charring, possibly indicating a use prior to being incorporated into the platform. A broken wooden paddle or shovel was also recovered.</p> <p>Shannaragh 2 consisted of two areas of disturbed burnt mound spreads. In the south-west of the site a layer of burnt mound material was covered by a light grey clay. These spreads had been truncated to the south by a rectangular pit which contained compact pink gravel. The second area of spreads was located c. 10m to the north-east. Two layers of burnt mound material and a white yellow silt clay had been truncated by a thin spread of compact pink gravel. The two deposits of burnt mound material may have originally been a single spread.</p> <p>Shannaragh 3 was characterised by prehistoric occupation located along the southern bank of the Owenreagh River, a tributary of the Foyle. The archaeological remains consisted of a series of spreads, pits, a mettled surface and two hearths. Activity in the west of the site was formed by a hearth containing charred hazelnut shells associated with a short tapered gully and a spread. A further hearth was excavated nearby as was a pit containing charcoal-rich deposits which may have represented the base of a temporary structure. A spread to the east of this was cut by eight small pits. Two pits located towards the north and north-east of the site were covered by a spread of brown clay silt. In the east of the site several spreads of silt clay were excavated, one of which contained a late Mesolithic siltstone Moynagh Point. In the north-west of the site a line of stones that continued beyond the limit of the excavation and a possible mettled surface up to 1.7m in diameter were excavated on top of two spreads of material and underneath a further spread. A small pit truncated the later spread. Flint artefacts were recovered from a number of features at the site and a late Mesolithic butt-trimmed flake was recovered during monitoring works nearby.</p> <p>Shannaragh 4 consisted of a single kiln, which was uncovered on a south-facing slope, close to TYR042-002, a rath. This is registered as a counterscarp rath, overlooking the Owenreagh River. A thin layer of scorched clay and charcoal was noted at the base of the kiln which was covered by a mottled brown sandy clay. A possible flu was located to the south. The purpose of this kiln is unclear but it is possible that it is associated with the rath.</p>
AE/16/209	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the substation sites at Drumquin Main (townland of Curraghmulkin) and Dromore Main (townland of Shannaragh) associated with the Curraghmulkin OHL project County Tyrone. The topsoil stripping associated with the Drumquin Main substation site did not produce any features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance. A number of features and deposits of archaeological significance were identified during monitored topsoil stripping at the Dromore Main site, including two keyhole kilns; pits; stakeholes and a ring-ditch and associated cremations. All of the archaeological features were fully excavated and recorded on site.</p>
AE/17/190	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the location of the 12 pole sets, six towers and an access road to tower 133, works associated with the Curraghmulkin Overhead Power Line project. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during these works.</p>

## **Cartographic review and aerial imagery**

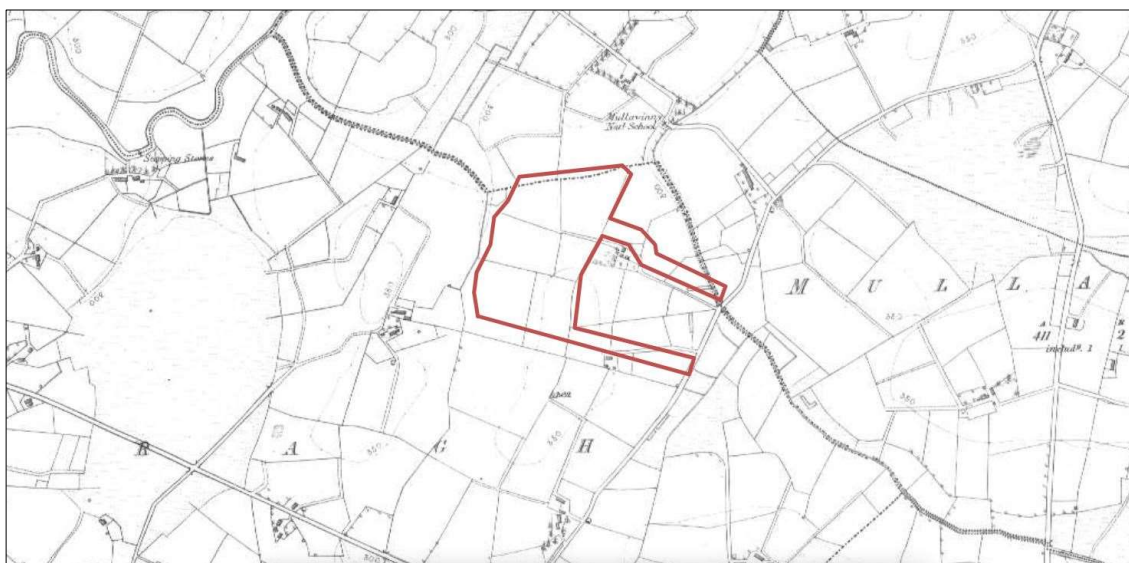
The detail on historic cartographic sources demonstrates the nature of past settlements and land use patterns in recent centuries. It also highlights the impacts of modern developments and

agricultural practices. This information can aid in the identification of the location and extent of unrecorded or partially levelled features of archaeological or architectural heritage interest. The cartographic sources examined for the study areas include the first edition of the 6-inch OS map (surveyed and published in the 1830s-40s) (**Figure 6**), the second edition OS maps (surveyed and published 1846-1862) (**Figure 7**), the 25-Inch OS maps (surveyed and published 1952-1979) (**Figure 8**). An extract from current orthophotography from 2021 has also been included (**Figure 9**).

Inspection of the historic OS maps reveals that the agricultural use of the subject land has slightly changed from the first edition of the 6-inch OS map, which consisted of a large portion of unenclosed land. The later second edition OS maps depict the subject area with numerous small plots subdivisions, which mostly remained unchanged throughout the last edition of the 25-inch OS map. The northwest-southeast farm lane dividing the plots of land within the development boundary is depicted in all editions, along with the presence of likely farm related structures. The most recent available aerial imagery of the subject site shows that the earlier smaller plot subdivisions were dismantled and now comprises of five larger plots of agricultural fields. **No previously unknown or undocumented archaeological sites or other structures were identified on the maps.** The nearest evidence of a feature was depicted on the first edition of the 6-inch OS map and was labelled as a 'well'. This well is shown to be adjacent to Skreen Road, immediately east-northeast of the proposed development red boundary. Two more wells were depicted to the north, along with a school and gravel pit. With the exception of the school, the other features are not shown within the second edition OS maps, or later maps.



**Figure 6:** Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands  
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)



**Figure 7:** Extract from the second edition Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands  
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)



**Figure 8:** Extract from 25-Inch Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands  
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)



**Figure 9:** Extract from current orthography (2021) showing subject lands  
(Source: Google Maps)

## Placenames

Townlands are the smallest unit of land division in the Irish landscape and many preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout and nomenclature of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the nineteenth century. The Irish translations of the townlands names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activity within the townland, e.g. *dun*, *lios* or *ráth* indicate the presence of a ringfort while *temple*, *saggart*, *termon* or *kill* record an association with a church site. Ó Gallachair has suggested that the townland Shannaragh comes from the Irish *Sean fhéarach*, which means ‘the old grazing place’ (Ó Gallachair 1977, 278).

The subject site also shares its northern boundary with the historic townland boundary between Shannaragh and Mullawinny. The Irish origin of Mullawinny is perhaps Ir. *Mullach Mhuine* ‘summit of the thicket’ or *Mullach Mhónaidh* ‘summit of the bog’.

## Description of subject site

The proposed development consists of the construction of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and is located in the townland of Shannaragh, approximately 9km southwest of Omagh, County Tyrone. The site occupies a landscape dominated by rural and agricultural plots of land east of the Owenreagh River. The area within the development boundary comprises five plots of agricultural land and a former farm lane sloping down east towards Skreen Road.



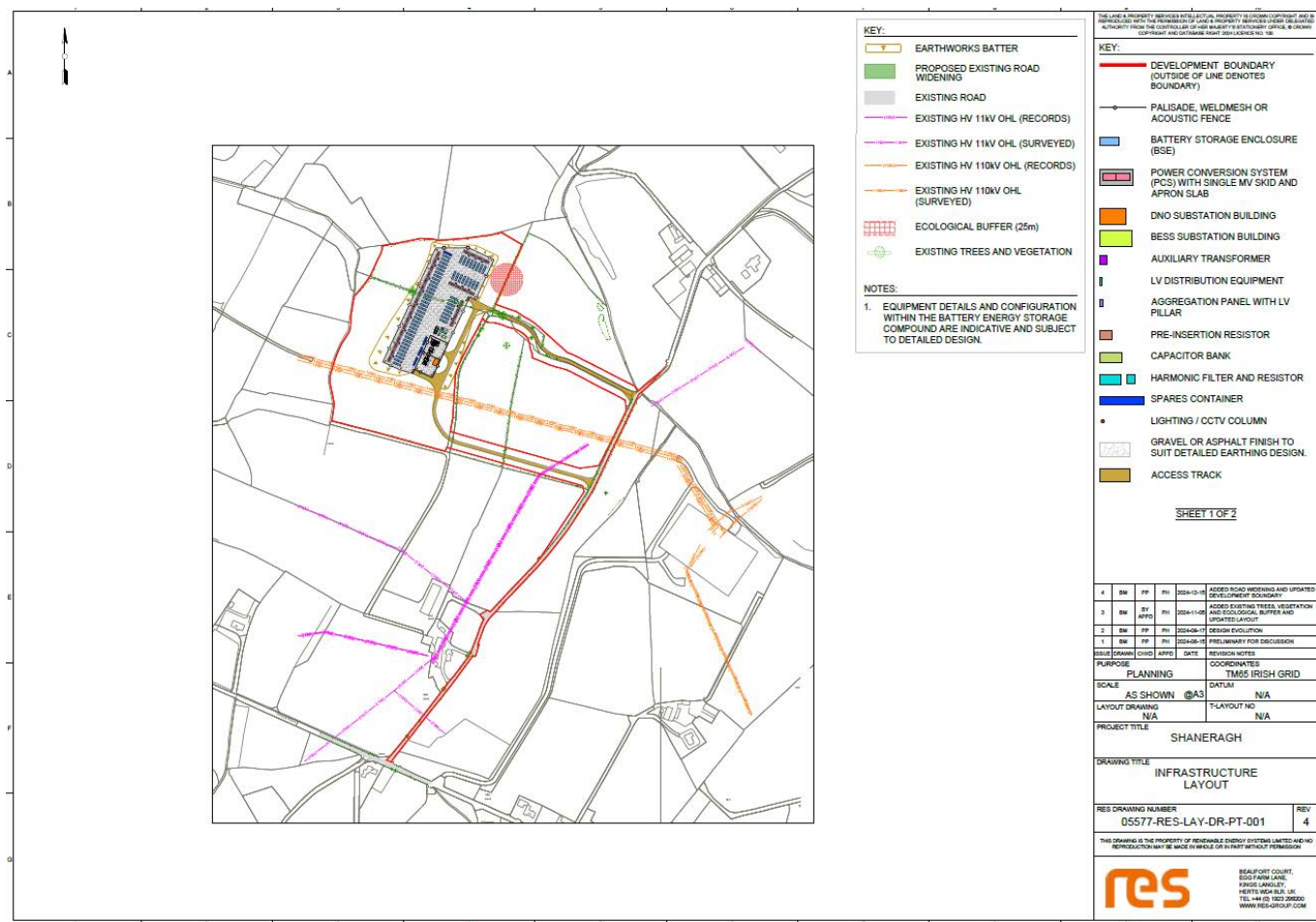


Figure 10: Shannaragh BESS draft layout (Source: Client)

## 4. Assessment of impacts

Within the 1km study area, there are four archaeological sites documented in the Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR): three of early medieval ringforts/*ráths* (**TYR042:005, TYR042:006, TYR042:009**) and a destroyed prehistoric standing stone (**TYR042:007**). The closest one to the development is **TYR042:005**, located approximately 880m north, across the Owenreagh River, in the townland of Aghadulla. There is **no predicted impact** on the abovementioned recorded archaeological sites.

In addition, one Historic Building (record only) and three Industrial Heritage Record sites are also located within the 1km study area. These consisted of an early-nineteenth-century house (**HB11/05/027**), two corn kilns (**IHR 04959:000:00, IHR 04961:000:00**), and one corn mill site (**IHR 04965:000:00**). Given the distance between these sites and the subject site and the lack of intervisibility due to the intervening natural topography, etc., there is **no predicted impact** on the abovementioned built heritage sites.

The subject site is also bounded to the north by the historic townland boundaries between Shannaragh and Mullawinny. These boundaries have been in existence since at least 1840 and are therefore noteworthy due to their antiquity. It is expected that these boundaries will be retained during the proposed development, and therefore there is **no predicted impact** on this undesignated landscape feature.

The proposed development is located in the vicinity of the existing Dromore Main Substation, which is set approximately 130m southeast. The site of Dromore Main Substation was subject to archaeological monitoring which identified a number of archaeological features including, two keyhole kilns; pits; stakeholes and ring-ditch and associated cremations, etc. Subsequently, all features were fully excavated and recorded on site. Radiocarbon dating has shown that there had been activity on this site from the Early Neolithic period, Bronze Age and early/late medieval period (see McGonigle 2020; 2022). Additionally, the excavations database showed that archaeological activity was identified at other locations within the townland of Shannaragh, including a site that produced Late Mesolithic material. As such, the subject site has the **potential to contain previously unrecorded subsurface archaeological deposits**, and subsequently the **possibility of direct impact if mitigation measures are not undertaken in advance**.

## 5. Conclusions & recommendations

### Conclusions

There are no recorded archaeological or other cultural heritage sites or features within the subject site. However, there are three archaeological sites recorded on the Sites and Monuments Records (NISMR), three Industrial Heritage Record sites, and one Historic Building recorded within the 1km radius study area which surrounds the subject site. **There is no predicted impact on these recorded cultural heritage sites.**

The desktop study and the consultation of the licenced excavations database showed evidence of archaeological activity within the townland of Shannaragh. Moreover, a multiperiod archaeological site, was identified and excavated at the footprint of the existing Dromore Main Substation, 130m to the southeast of the subject site. As such, the subject site has **a moderate to high potential to contain previously unrecorded subsurface archaeological deposits. In the absence of mitigation measures, the construction of Shannaragh BESS could impose a direct impact on potential, previously unrecorded archaeological features, should these exist subsurface within the subject site.**

### Recommendations

Given the abovementioned archaeological potential and the apparent relatively undisturbed nature of the fields within the subject site, it is recommended that if feasible a **programme of archaeological test trenching** be carried out **in advance of the construction phase**. This will allow time to devise a **mitigation plan in the event of archaeological deposits being found**.

Alternatively – taking into account the sloping nature of the lands and unknown ground conditions, it may not be feasible to archaeologically test the lands – it is recommended that a **programme of archaeological monitoring be undertaken at the initial stages of ground reduction works during the development of the site**. In the event that archaeological deposits are found, the area containing archaeological deposits will be cordoned off and ground works will cease at that location until a mitigation plan is agreed with the Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division (DfC:HED) and implemented on site.

*All recommendations are subject to approval by the DfC:HED and the planning authority.*

## 6. References

- Database of Irish Excavation Reports. Available at: <https://excavations.ie/>. [Accessed: September 2024].
- Department for Communities. 2023. *Historic Environment Map Viewer*. Available at: <https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6887ca0873b446e39d2f82c80c8a9337>. [Accessed: September 2024].
- Dowd, M. and Carden, R. 2016. First evidence of a Late Upper Palaeolithic human presence in Ireland. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 139, 158–63.
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. 2023. *Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy* (October 2018). Available at: [Layout 1 \(fermanaghomagh.com\)](https://fermanaghomagh.com/layout1) [Accessed October 2024].
- Google Earth Pro. Available at: <https://www.google.com/earth/versions>. [Accessed: September 2024].
- Government of Ireland. 2022. *Historic Environment Viewer*. Available at: <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>. [Accessed September 2024].
- Lewis, S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, 2 vols. London: Samuel Lewis & Son.
- Ó Gallachair P. 1977. Notes on Dromore parish, County Tyrone. *Clogher Record*. vol. ix no. 2, 261 – 93.
- McGonigle, M. 2020. *Archaeological Excavation at Dromore Main substation at Shannaragh, County Tyrone, Licence No. AE/16/209*. Unpublished report for John Cronin and Associates.
- McGonigle, M. 2022. The biography of a barrow. Excavations revealed a Bronze Age barrow with an unexpected afterlife at Shannaragh, Co. Tyrone. *Archaeology Ireland*, Vol 36:1, pp 44-49.
- Placenames NI. Available at: [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9b31e0501b744154b4584b1dce1f859b/page/Place-Name-Info/?data\\_id=dataSource\\_1-PlaceNames\\_Gazeteer\\_No\\_Global\\_IDs\\_3734%3A16407](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9b31e0501b744154b4584b1dce1f859b/page/Place-Name-Info/?data_id=dataSource_1-PlaceNames_Gazeteer_No_Global_IDs_3734%3A16407). [Accessed: September 2024].
- UNESCO. 2022. *Tentative List of World Heritage Sites for the United Kingdom*. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb>. [Accessed: September 2024].
- World Heritage Ireland. 2022 *Tentative List of World Heritage Sites for Ireland*. Available at: <https://www.worldheritageireland.ie/tentative-property/the-royal-sites-of-ireland/>. [Accessed: September 2024].



## Appendix: SMR Inventory Descriptions

**TYR042:005:** Rath

**Townland:** Aghadulla

**Description:** On the back of a ridge with a drop to the Owenreagh R. at E & intervisible with another rath, TYR 042:006, to E. The W half of the site survives while the E half has been destroyed, but is still traceable on the ground. The remaining portion consists of a large bank & silted ditch SW-W-N. The banks is 4.5m wide, 1.9m high internally & 3m above the ditch which is 3.2m wide & 1m deep. There is a gap at W 3m wide, which is probably modern. The townland boundary crosses the site.

**TYR042:006:** Rath

**Townland:** Glennan

**Description:** On the back of a narrow ridge with extensive views all round. This is an impressive rath. The central area is flat & densely overgrown & only the N-S diam., 26m, was measurable. A well-preserved perimeter bank is 4m wide, 2m high internally & 3.2m above the ditch. It is lower at W. At SE, an entrance gap 3.2m wide leads to a causeway over the ditch. The E side is revetted by a row of large boulders. The ditch is 4.5m wide & c.1m deep & is well preserved all round the site.

**TYR042:007:** Standing stone (destroyed)

**Townland:** Skreen

**Description:** There are no visible remains of this site which was first shown on the 1857 OS 6" map. It was on flat terrain at the bottom of a small valley, enclosed by higher ground on 3 sides. Local information related that the stone was destroyed for road metalling 30-50 years ago. There is an interesting folk tradition explaining the origin of the stone: 2 giants had a competition on the top of Pigeon Top to see who could throw a stone furthest. The 1st landed at Skreen, but the 2nd went further, to Aghaboe.

**TYR042:009:** Rath

**Townland:** Drumderg Glebe

**Description:** This circular enclosure shown on all OS 6" map eds. & designated "Fort" on 3 of them, was destroyed in agricultural reclamation c.30 years ago. A local informant remembers it as a well-preserved, circular bank enclosing a space c.30 yards across. A low, circular platform c.25m diam. is still discernible & is likely to have been a rath. It was on slightly sloping ground at the end of a ridge with fine views. According to local informants, the owner was dogged by bad luck after destroying the site & died young