

**Desktop Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
Assessment**

**Ballyross Battery Energy Storage System,
Ballyvallagh, County Antrim**

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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 72km southwest of the proposed BESS site.
- Database of Irish Excavation Reports: This database contains summary accounts of licensed archaeological excavations carried out in Ireland (North and South) from 1960s to present. The database entries for investigations carried out within townlands in the study area are provided below. Current data was accessed via www.excavations.ie.
- Historical publications and cartographic sources: various published and unpublished sources and historical maps were consulted. The historical maps and other figures are presented in this report.
- Aerial Imagery: available current local and regional online aerial mapping of the proposed development area were consulted to determine if any traces of unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological sites were evident.
- Placenames Database: this current online database (www.placenamesni.org) provides a comprehensive management system for data, archival records, and placename research, for townland names (and Irish translations) for Northern Ireland.

Types of impact

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

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

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

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

3. Context

Location

The subject site is located in the townland of Ballyvallagh, 1.7km southwest of Gleno and 5.7km east of Ballynure, County Antrim. It is bounded by Ballyvallagh Road to the north and Ballyvallagh Watercourse to the south/southeast, with pasture fields, farm buildings and houses to the west and east. Within the subject site boundary are two areas containing existing farm buildings that are excluded from the proposed development area. The proposed development area is set within pastureland that slopes northward towards Ballyvallagh Road, immediately northwest of Drummonds Hill (**Figure 2**).

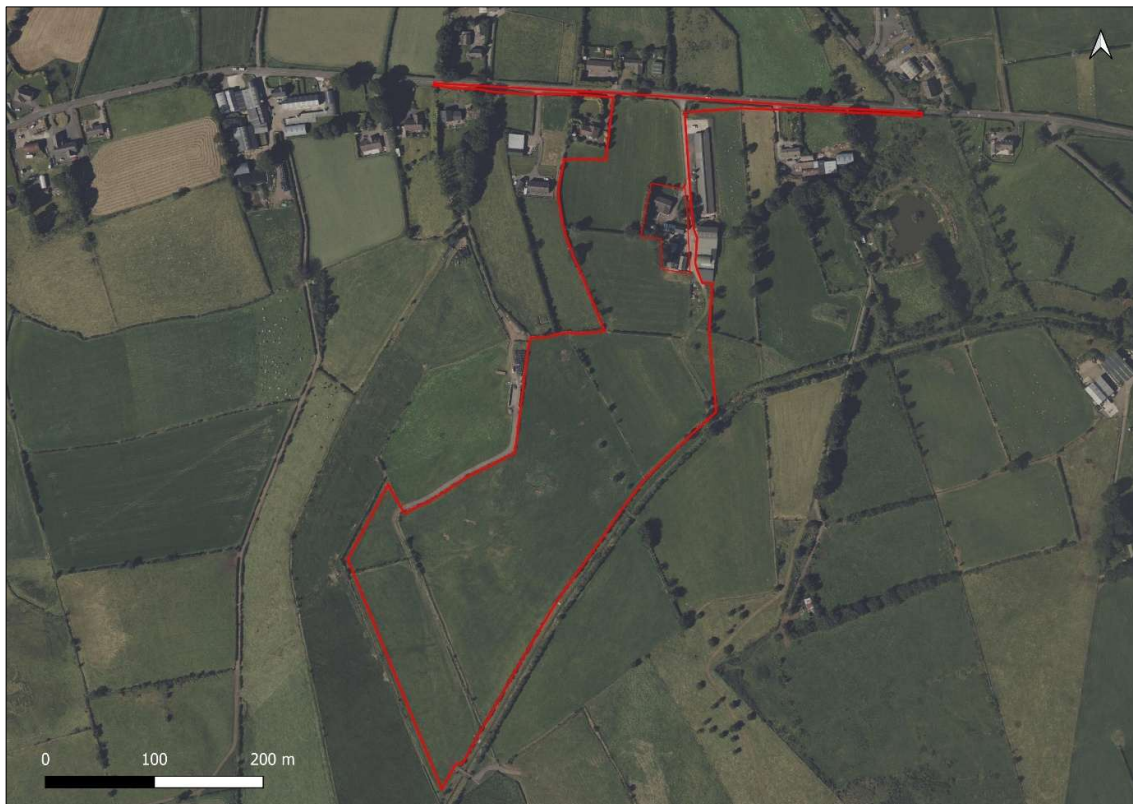


Figure 2: Location of subject site (red outline) (Source: Bing Satellite on QGIS)

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 17,000 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 (March 2024) which represents approximately 12% of the NISMR dataset¹.

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

Scheduled monuments are protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995². 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 sites³) 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). The provisions of the SPPS and PPS6 must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDP). However, where a council has adopted an LDP provisions of the SPPS and PPS6 cease to have effect. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council adopted the *Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy* on 16 October 2023.

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 to HED Excavation Licensing Team for every excavation by the archaeologist who will direct the work, at least 20 days before the date on which work is due to begin (Historic Environment Division 2024).

The DfC:HED are also concerned with the survival of other sites not protected under the 1995 Order and as a statutory consultee in the planning process 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 entries⁴ (March 2024), a record of Ship and Aircraft Wrecks, Defence Heritage Record (613 Defence Heritage sites have been

¹ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/scheduled-historic-monuments-of-ni.pdf>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1995/1625/contents/made>

³ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/scheduled-historic-monuments-of-ni.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/scheduled-historic-monuments-of-ni.pdf>

identified, with 4,595 features⁵) and a Historic Parks and Gardens Register (over 700 entries⁶), 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 January 2025)⁷; varying from fine churches and country houses to thatched cottages and post boxes. To be selected for listing, a building must be assessed and evaluated against established criteria. Key elements include the age of a building, its condition, style, aesthetic quality, structure, and any innovatory qualities (Source: DfC:HED).

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

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

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

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council adopted the Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy on 16 October 2023. The Plan Strategy includes the following relevant policies in relation to the Historic Environment:

Policy HE1 Archaeological Remains and their Settings

The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings There is a presumption in favour of the physical preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains of regional importance and their settings. These comprise Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest, monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and other sites and monuments that would merit scheduling. Development which would adversely affect such sites of regional importance or the integrity of their settings will not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

⁵ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/dfc-defence-heritage-record-survey-project-2020-24.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-parks-gardens-and-demesnes>

⁷ <https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/Buildings/buildMain.aspx?Accept>

A development proposal which would adversely affect the integrity of these assets and their settings will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it is determined to be of overriding regional importance and there are no alternative solutions.

The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings Development proposals which would adversely affect locally important archaeological sites or monuments or their settings will only be permitted where it is clearly demonstrated that the need for the proposed development outweighs the value of the remains and/or their settings.

Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Council shall seek all necessary information from applicants particularly in cases 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, Council shall adopt a precautionary approach and refuse planning permission.

Archaeological Mitigation In exceptional circumstances where planning permission is granted for development which will affect sites known or likely to contain archaeological remains. Conditions will be attached to ensure that appropriate measures are in place for the identification and mitigation of the archaeological impacts of the development, including where appropriate the completion of a licensed excavation, recording examination and archiving of remains before development commences.

Policy HE8 Unlisted Locally Important Building or Vernacular Building

All development proposals impacting on unlisted locally important buildings and/or vernacular buildings should involve the minimum intervention and should maintain or enhance the existing character of the building and its setting.

Conversion/Re-use There will be a presumption in favour of the sympathetic conversion and/or re-use of an unlisted locally important building or vernacular building to other appropriate uses where it would secure its upkeep and retention and maintain or enhance the form, character and architectural features, design and setting of the existing building.

Proposals will be required to meet all of the following criteria:

- a) the proposal will maintain or enhance the form, character, architectural features and setting of the existing building and not have an adverse effect on the character or appearance of the locality;
- b) any extension(s) shall be subservient to the existing and adjacent buildings with regard to height, scale, form and massing; and
- c) any new extensions, alterations or adaptations should not significantly alter the integrity of the existing building or its setting and must be of high quality.

The subject site is within the Mid and East Antrim (MEA) Borough Council area and within *LCA 98 - Carrickfergus Upland Pastures* of the *Landscape Character Assessment* (September 2019) within the *Local Development Plan (LDP) 2030*. Regarding 'Historical and Cultural Influences' the

MEA portion of LCA 98 is described as ‘...sparsely populated’, with scattered archaeological sites, four Scheduled Monuments and with ‘...no significant historic defence sites...’. It also notes that ‘...industrial heritage is concentrated in the northern part of this LCA and around Straid’, including ‘...various flax mill sites, corn mill sites and disused quarries and limekilns.’

Archaeological & historical background

There are no recorded built heritage sites or features located within the subject site boundaries. Within the 1km study area, there are two archaeological sites recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), as depicted in **Figure 3** and detailed in **Table 1**. The site of Cairn ANT046:070 is depicted on the Historic Environment Viewer as within the townland of Ballyvallagh but its precise location is unknown. According to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) E. E. Evans visited this site in the townland of Carneal in 1952. The other site recorded in the SMR is ANT046:071, a bank forming a dam is considered to be a non-antiquity, located over 700m southwest of the subject site boundary.

Table 1: Recorded archaeological sites within 1km study area

SMR No.	Class	Townland	IG Co-ordinates	Distance from site boundary
ANT046:070	Cairn (Unlocated)	Carneal	339000, 395000	c.350m
ANT046:071	Non-Antiquity	Ballyfore & Ballyvallagh	337680, 394030	c.735m

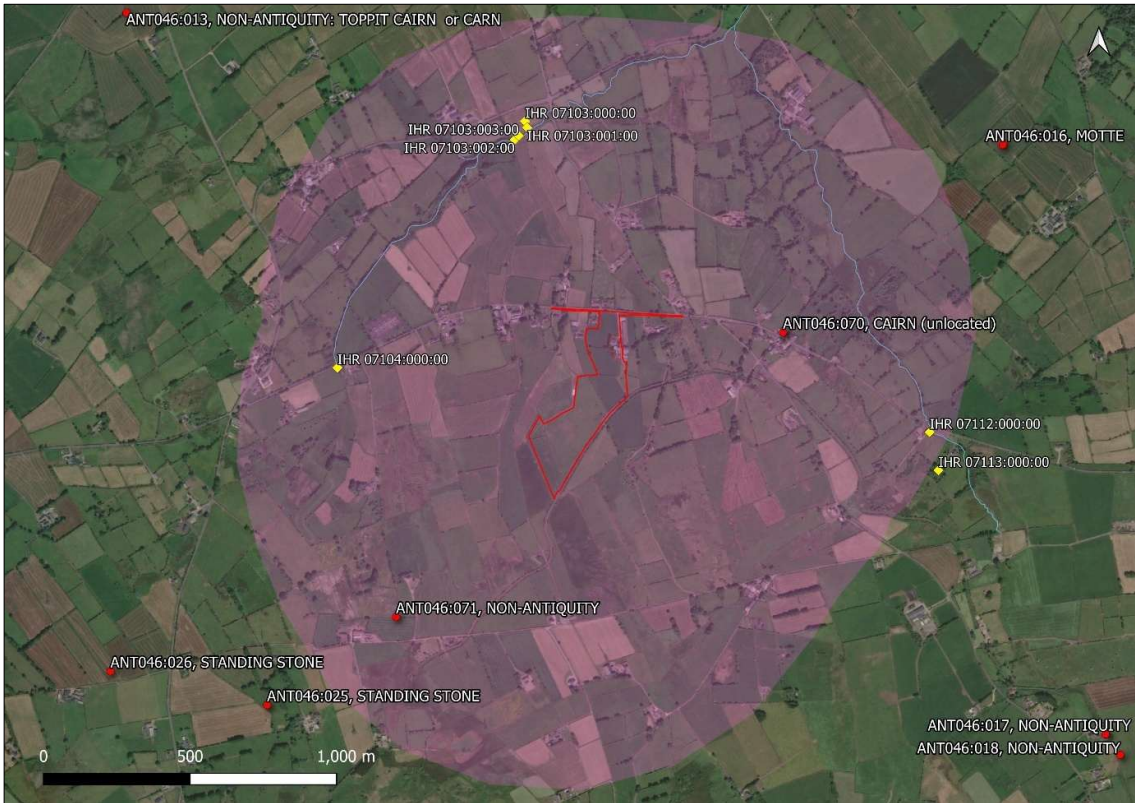


Figure 3: Archaeological sites (SMR's) and IHR sites within 1km study area (pink shading)

In the wider landscape to the north is a Motte, the historic settlements of Raloo and Gleno, a medieval church and graveyard at Rathlung or Raloo, and a raised rath (Gobbin's fort) just

northwest of Gleno, all suggestive of settlement throughout the medieval period. To the south are several A.P. sites (enclosures) as well as some standing stones, perhaps indicative of both prehistoric and early medieval settlement within that part of the landscape.

Prehistoric period

Traditionally, the earliest recorded evidence for human settlement in Ireland dates to the Mesolithic period (8000–4000 BC), when groups of hunter-gatherers arrived on the island. However new evidence in the form of a butchered reindeer femur discovered at Castlepook Cave in Cork in 1972 which underwent further analysis by Dr Ruth Carden in 2021 has been recently dated as being 33,000 years old (*The Burren: Heart of Stone*, 2021). While the Mesolithic settlers did not construct any settlements or monuments that leave any above ground traces, their presence in an area can often be identified by scatters of worked flints in ploughed fields or shell middens adjacent to the coastline.

The Neolithic period (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 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. **Cairn ANT046:070, although unlocated may date to this period.**

Late prehistoric periods

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

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

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 no sites recorded in the SMR within the study area which date to this period.**

High and late medieval periods

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

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 sites recorded in the SMR within the study area which date to this period, however, the sites recorded in the Industrial Heritage Record within the study area are likely to date to the latter part of 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 Parish of Raloo:

Raloo, or Ralloo, a parish, in the barony of Lower Belfast, county of Antrim, and province of Ulster, 5¼ miles (N.) from Carrickfergus; containing 2171

inhabitants. It comprises, according to the Ordnance survey, 6105¾ statute acres of land, of which about one-fourth is of good and one-fourth of medium quality, and the remainder boggy and mountainous. It is a rectory, in the diocese of Connor, constituting part of the union of Carrickfergus and corps of the deanery of Connor: the tithes amount to £148.12. In the R. C. divisions it is part of the union or district of Larne and Carrickfergus. At Toreagh, Ballyvallyagh, and Loughmorn, are schools under the National Board, in which about 180 children are educated; and there are three private schools, in which are about 100 children (Lewis 1837, 482).

The National School at Ballyvallyagh mentioned in the description above is depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey map to the west of the subject site (see **Figure 5** below).

Recorded Architectural/Cultural Heritage Features

There are six Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites recorded within the study area, including two bridges and a milling complex in the townland of Tureagh. All these sites are located more than 500m from the subject site boundaries (see **Figure 3** above).

Table 2: Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites within 1km study area

IHR No.	Type	Townland	IG Co-ordinates	Distance from site boundary
IHR 07112:000:00	Bridge	Ballyvallyagh / Carneal	33950, 39466	c.1000m
IHR 07104:000:00	Bridge	Ballyvallyagh / Tureagh	33748, 39488	c.720m
IHR 07103:000:00	Flax Mill - Flax Mill (in ruins) - Flax Mill (disused)	Tureagh	33812, 39572	c.640m
IHR 07103:001:00	Flax Mill - Flax Mill (in ruins) - Flax Mill (disused)	Tureagh	33381, 39569	c.620m
IHR 07103:002:00	Millrace	Tureagh	33808, 39565	c.585m
IHR 07103:003:00	Mill Dam	Tureagh	33809, 39566	c.595m

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the 1km study area. The nearest Scheduled Monument to the subject site boundary is motte ANT046:016 located c.1.2km to the northeast.

There are no Historic Building Record sites (Listed Buildings) within the 1km study area. The nearest Historic Building Record site to the subject site boundary is located c.1.2km to the north.

There are no Historic Parks, Gardens & Demesnes sites within the 1km study area. The nearest Historic Parks, Gardens & Demesnes site to the subject site boundary is Redhall (AN-071) located c.5.5km to the east.

There are no Areas of Archaeological Potential within the 1km study area. The nearest Areas of Archaeological Potential to the subject site boundary is at Ballycarry located c.6.2km to the east-southeast.

There are no Defence Heritage sites within the 1km study area. The nearest Defence Heritage site to the subject site boundary is a generator building (00111:007) within Ballysnod Anti-Aircraft Battery (this is also a scheduled site) located c.5.5km to the north.

There is no Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) within the 1km study area. The nearest ASAI to the subject site boundary is Knockdhu, located c.11.3km to the north-northwest. There are no Battle Sites within the 1km study area. The nearest Battle Site to the subject site boundary is Mounthill (AD1315), located c.2.8 km to the north-northwest.

There are no UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Sites within the 1km study area. The nearest UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Sites to the subject site boundary is Brú na Bóinne, located c.125km to the south-southeast.

The Excavations Database

The Excavation Database contains summary accounts of archaeological excavations undertaken in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1960s to present. The Historic Environment Map Viewer also contains information regarding archaeological investigations in Northern Ireland. A review of the townland of Ballyvallyagh and the adjacent townlands of Ballyfore, Carneal, Middle Division (Detached Portion), Tureagh show that no licenced archaeological excavations have taken place within these townlands. One excavation is recorded in the townland of Middle Division (Main Portion) further to the south, but that townland is separated from Middle Division (Detached Portion), by the townland of Commons.

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 4**), the second edition OS maps (surveyed and published 1846-1862) (**Figure 5**), the third edition OS maps (surveyed and published 1900-1907) (**Figure 6**) and the 25 Inch Irish Grid map (1952-1979) (**Figure 7**). Extracts from recent orthophotography sources have also been reviewed (**Figures 8-10**).

Inspection of the first edition of the 6-inch OS map (**Figure 4**) indicates that Ballyvallyagh Road and a number of the farmsteads and associated laneways that lead off the road were extant in the first half of nineteenth century. Of note is that the north-south farm lane that leads from Ballyvallyagh Road southward to a small, isolated building, and which forms the current entrance to the subject site is in existence at that time. The subject site and its immediate environs are depicted as mostly unenclosed farmland, although the southeast boundary of the subject site is depicted in much the same alignment as it currently exists.

The second edition OS map (**Figure 5**), which was surveyed and published only a few decades after the first edition map shows vast changes to the enclosure of the landscape, which are either indicative of improvements in cartographic survey or in land management in the second half of the nineteenth century. The current boundaries of the subject lands can be traced on this map, although there is some evidence of internal sub-division that no longer exists.

The third edition OS map (**Figure 6**), which was surveyed and published at the very beginning of the twentieth century shows that the building at the southern end of the farm lane has been

extended into an L-shaped building. The boundaries of the subject site remain unchanged, save for the fact that the southeastern boundary (the only one depicted on the first edition map) is now part of the Ballyvallagh Watercourse, labelled 'Belfast & District Water Works' further to the east on this mapping edition. This feature was presumably constructed in the latter part of the nineteenth century at the same time as North Woodburn Reservoir and Copland Reservoir, and the conversion of Lough Mourne to a reservoir for the distribution of fresh water throughout the district.

The 25 Inch Irish Grid map from the second half of the twentieth century shows relatively little modification of the subject site boundaries and little change to the wider landscape beyond. However, the farmstead at the southern end of the farm lane now contains additional buildings.

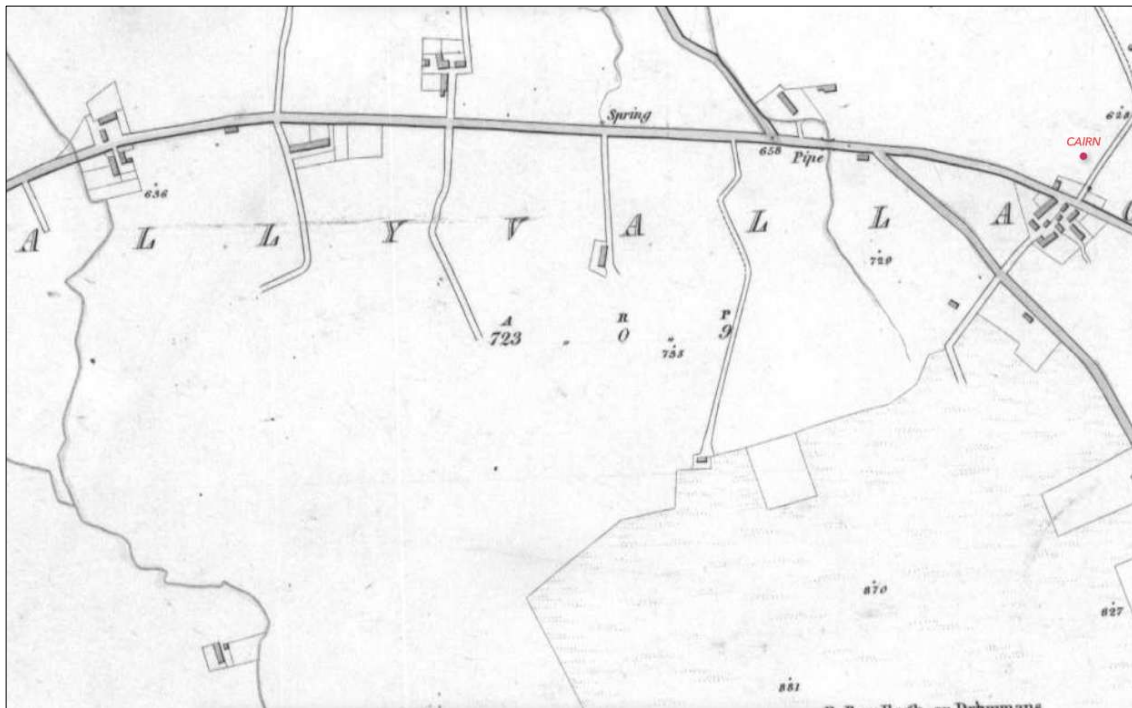


Figure 4: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

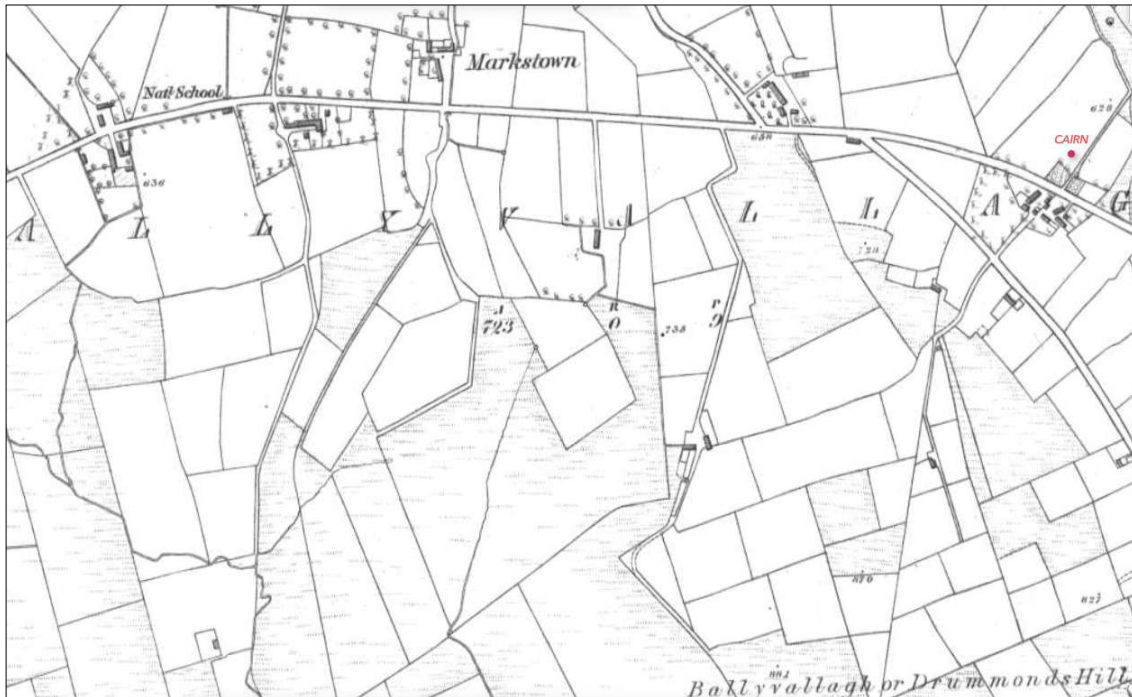


Figure 5: Extract from the second edition Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

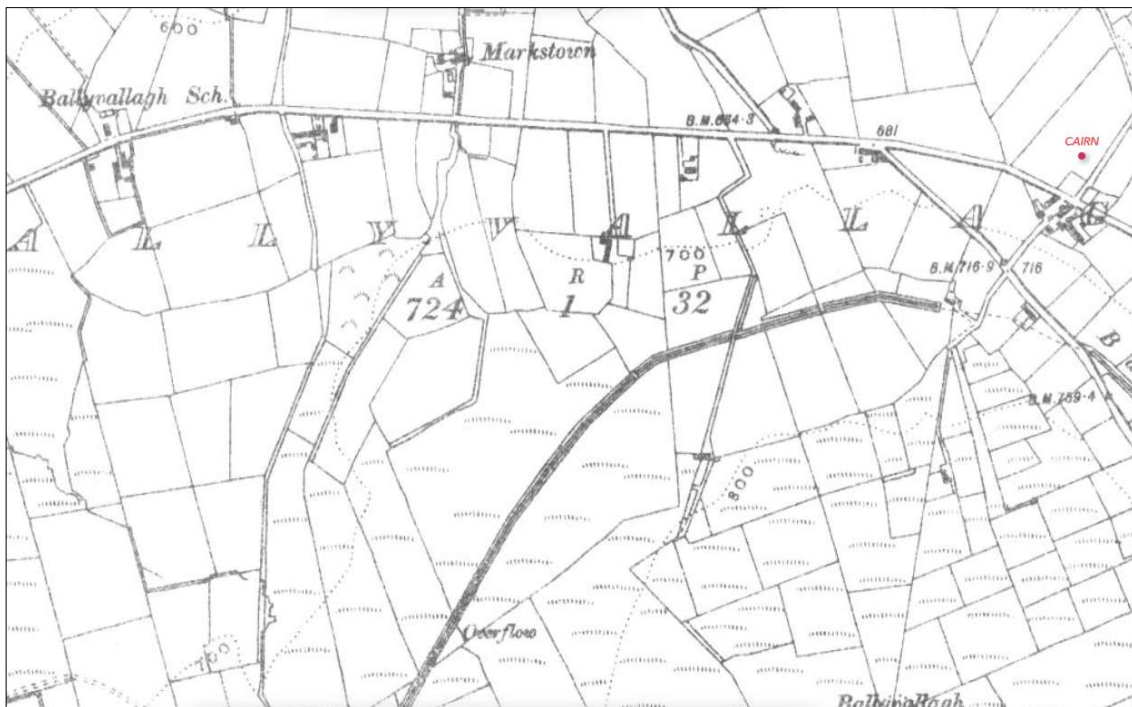


Figure 6: Extract from third edition Ordnance Survey map showing subject lands
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

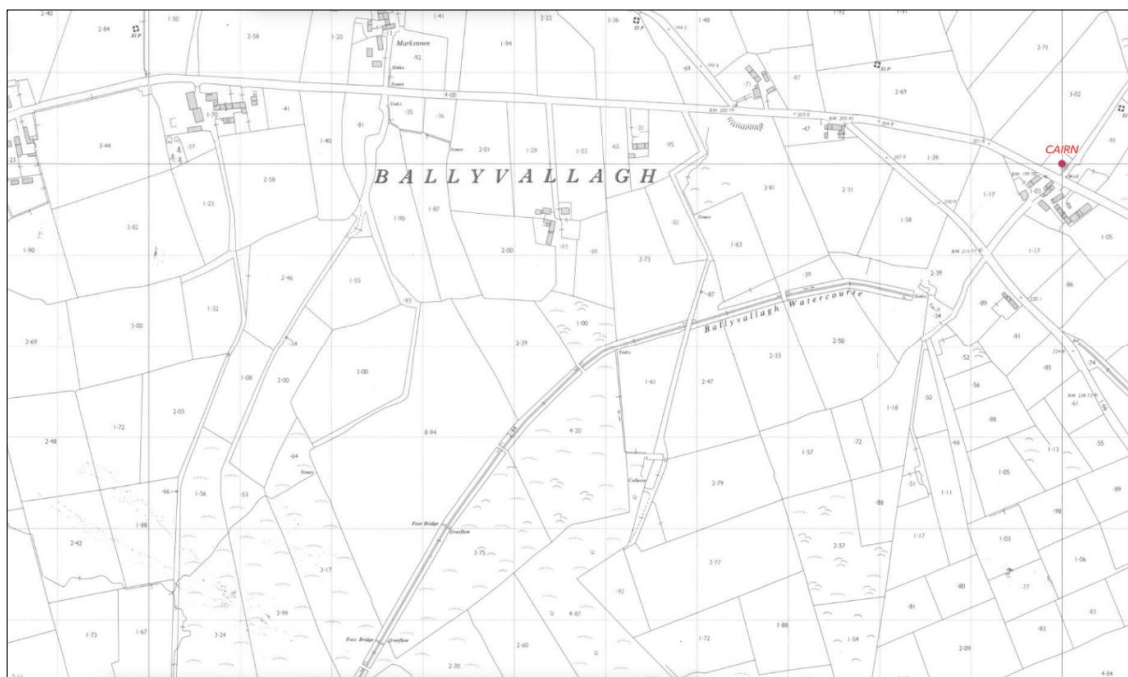


Figure 7: Extract from 25 Inch Irish Grid map (1952-79) showing subject lands
(Source: DfC: Historic Environment Map Viewer)

There are no potential archaeological features depicted within the subject site on any of the historic cartographic sources reviewed. A review of available orthorectified photography has not revealed any potential archaeological features within the subject site boundaries (**Figures 8-10**). Some linear and curvilinear features evident on aerial photographs, particularly in the southern portion of the subject site (**Figure 10**) appear to represent drainage features and modern disturbance rather than potential archaeological features. A site visit may help to clarify this.



Figure 8: Extract from recent orthography showing subject lands (Source: ESRI Satellite from QGIS)



Figure 9: Extract from recent orthography showing subject lands (Source: Google Satellite from QGIS)

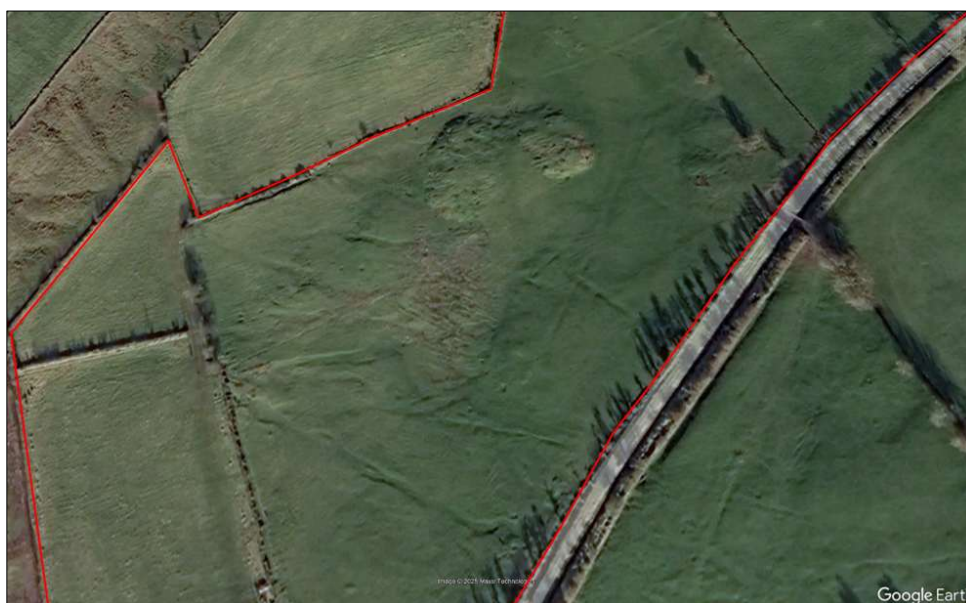


Figure 10: Close up of southern portion of the subject lands (Source: Google Earth 02/2021)

Placenames

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

The review of placenames within the study area included the townland of Ballyvallyagh and the adjacent townlands of Ballyfore, Carneal, Middle Division (Detached Portion), Tureagh. The translations and notes on the origins are provided in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Placename review of townlands within the study area (taken from PlacenamesNI.org)

Name	Irish	Translation and Notes	Indicative Potential
Ballyvallyagh	Uncertain, possibly Baile an Bhealaigh 'townland of the path or pass'	There are three townlands in Ulster named Ballyvally, which derive from <i>Baile an Bhealaigh</i> 'townland of the path or pass'. Note however, the anglicisation of <i>-aigh</i> to <i>-y</i> in these forms. There is no evidence for this ending in any of the historical forms of <i>Ballyvallyagh</i> . If the qualifying element <i>bealach</i> were to appear in the plural we would observe the form <i>Baile Bealach</i> 'townland of the passes' and although consistent with the 1640 form <i>Ballyballagh</i> , this form lacks the [v] consonant that appears in the historical forms and in the modern form. The element <i>ballach</i> means 'spotted' and a form such as <i>Baile Ballach</i> 'spotted townland' might refer to some element of the local topography, however, this form again is lacking the medial [v] consonant. The earliest form that features the <i>-te</i> ending might be a scribal error. It might however more accurately represent the correct original form. The <i>-t-</i> consonant might be attributed to <i>mallacht</i> 'curse' in the form <i>Baile Mallachta</i> 'townland of the curse' or <i>Baile</i> (c.f. <i>Béal Átha na Mallacht</i> 'ford-mouth of the curses' in Co. Tyrone and <i>Droim na Mallacht</i> 'ridge of the curses' in Co. Antrim).	Likely to be indicative of a natural topographic feature
Ballyfore	Baile Fobhair 'townland of the well/spring'	Previous proposals have attributed the original form <i>Baile Fuar</i> for this townland name. Although this form appears in the Scots place-name <i>Calhame</i> , literally 'cold home', which is interpreted as 'poor or marshy farm' (McKay 2009, 3), the form <i>Baile Fuar</i> is not attested as a place-name anywhere in Ireland (logainm.ie). There are two other Irish townlands named <i>Ballyfore</i> , one of which is in Co. Meath, its origin unconfirmed. The other Ballyfore is in Co. Offaly and derives from <i>Baile Fobhair</i> 'townland of the well/spring' (logainm.ie). OSNI maps reveal a spring within the townland and so the name <i>Baile Fobhair</i> is fitting for the origin of Ballyfore in Raloo.	
Carneal	Carn Aoil 'Cairn of lime'	The first element in this townland name is <i>carn</i> 'a heap, a cairn, a pile of stones' (<i>Dinneen</i>). The element <i>carn</i> often makes reference to a stone-built mound, especially a burial monument (HDGP, 60). The second element could be one of two possible derivations: <i>Carn Néill</i> 'Neill's cairn' and <i>Carn Aoil</i> 'Cairn of lime'. The latter is more likely given the absence of any burial ground in the townland (OSNI). Further evidence in support of this form comes from the	A cairn (unlocated) ANT046:070 is recorded within this townland on the SMR.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Irish</i>	<i>Translation and Notes</i>	<i>Indicative Potential</i>
		'extensive beds of white limestone which are found in the east and centre of the parish (OSM 32, 80).	
Middle Division (Detached Portion)	English name	This is an English name. Carrickfergus is a small parish, containing only seven townlands. Five of these are named divisions; North-East Division, West Division and three named Middle Division. In earlier sources these divisions were referred to as <i>Quarters</i> .	None
Tureagh	Possibly An Teamhair Riabhach 'the fallow elevated place'	The morphology of the modern form of this name indicates that the first element is <i>torr</i> 'a pile, heap or roll, a tor, a tower (<i>Dinneen</i>). This is further supported by the form in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs, <i>Toreagh</i> . However, the earliest historical form <i>Taverreagh</i> (1640) might indicate that the original initial element here is <i>teamhair</i> 'a conspicuous and elevated place in plain or house' (<i>Dinneen</i>), which is also the origin of the well-known place-name <i>Tara</i> , and is often anglicised as <i>turra</i> (c.f. townland of <i>Teamhair</i> 'Turra', Co. Laois). The adjective <i>riabhach</i> is translated 'streaked, striped; brindled; (speckled) grey; dun, drab' by Ó Dónaill but the meanings 'swarthy, fallow' (Mac Gabhann 1997, 34) may be more suitable in the present context (see also Ballyreagh in the parish of Culfeightrin). There is another townland named <i>Tureagh</i> in the parish of Armoy which derives from <i>Tuar Riabhach</i> 'fallow cattle-field'.	Likely to be indicative of a natural topographic feature

4. Description of subject site

The following description of the subject lands was undertaken through a study of desktop sources and does not include a field survey. As shown on the proposed development design (**Figure 11**), much of the development is set within the southern half of the subject site, with the only development in the northern fields being the western access track.

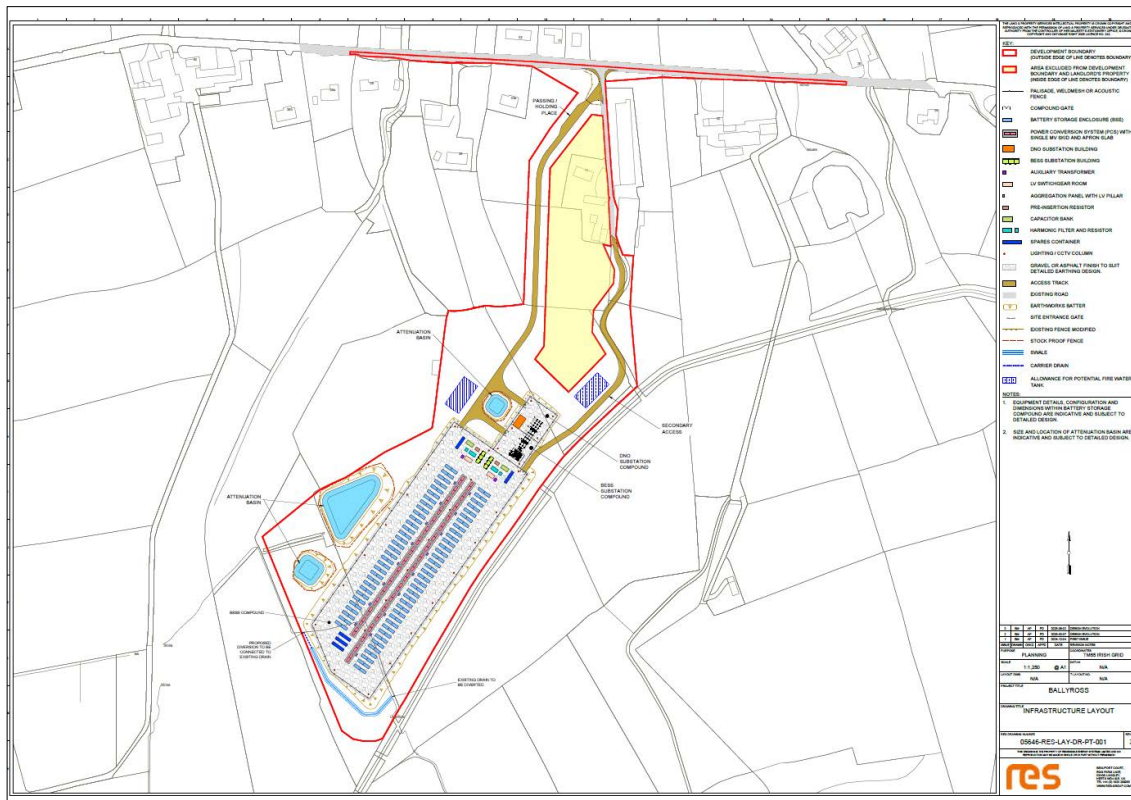


Figure 11: Extract from (Source: Client)

The subject site is wholly located within the townland of Ballyvagh and is set within pastureland immediately northwest of Drummonds Hill that slopes northward towards Ballyvagh Road. It is bounded by Ballyvagh Road to the north and Ballyvagh Watercourse to the south/southeast, with pasture fields, farm buildings and houses to the west and east. Within the subject site boundary are two areas containing existing farm buildings that are excluded from the proposed development area. These buildings include farm sheds, a dwelling house and a long, narrow building resembling a poultry shed. Google Streetview images show a series of cables on wooden poles running parallel with Ballyvagh Road, with one diverting towards the farm. Powerlines on steel towers are also visible within the fields to the north.

No potentially unrecorded archaeological features or sites were noted on historic cartographic sources or orthorectified photography.

5. Assessment of impacts

There are no recorded archaeological or built heritage sites or features located within the subject site boundaries. Within the 1km study area, there are two archaeological sites recorded, Cairn ANT046:070 whose precise location is unknown and ANT046:071, a non-antiquity. There is **no predicted impact** on these recorded archaeological sites.

There are six Industrial Heritage Record (IHR) sites recorded within the study area, including two separate bridges and a milling complex in the townland of Tureagh. All of these sites are located more than 500m from the subject site boundaries. There is **no predicted impact** on any of these recorded industrial heritage sites.

The subject site slopes northward and does not contain any recorded archaeological sites. There are no potential archaeological features depicted within the subject site on historic maps or discernible on recent aerial photographic images. However, the site is large and is set within a wider landscape that contains recorded archaeological sites potentially dating to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods, therefore it may be considered to have a moderate potential to contain previously unrecorded archaeological deposits subsurface.

6. Conclusions & recommendations

Conclusions

The subject site slopes northward and does not contain any recorded archaeological sites or other built heritage features or sites. There is **no predicted impact** on these recorded cultural heritage sites. There are no potential archaeological features depicted within the subject site on historic maps or discernible on recent aerial photographic images. The site is considered to have a moderate archaeological potential.

Recommendations

Given the size of the site and the moderate archaeological potential of the site it is recommended that a programme of evaluation by way of test trenching is carried out on the site prior to construction to seek evidence of archaeological deposits within the portions of the subject site that will be developed. This is in line with **Policy HE1** of the Plan Strategy. The compilation of a Programme of Works for the archaeological testing licence would involve a site visit to establish the best locations to set the test trenches and to seek evidence for any potential archaeological features that have surface expression. The results of the archaeological testing and site visit would culminate in an archaeological impact assessment.

These recommendations are in line with HED Planning Team's response to LA02/2024/0877/PAD, which required the compilation of an Archaeological Impact Assessment, field inspection to assess the archaeological potential of the site and ground testing.

All recommendations are subject to approval by the DfC:HED and the planning authority (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council).

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