

## 14 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 14.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1 This chapter evaluates impacts on the cultural heritage arising from the proposed development and associated development works within the Meath Study Area (MSA) as defined in Chapter 5, **Volume 3B** of the EIS. This chapter evaluates both the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage of the MSA, as well as recommending mitigation measures and summarising the residual impacts that will persist once the mitigation has been completed. Impacts are evaluated for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed development.
- 2 The term ‘cultural heritage’ is a wide ranging concept, covering a vast breadth of knowledge and it is beyond the scope of this document to discuss it in detail. However, in summary, for the purposes of this appraisal, it includes archaeological heritage, architectural heritage, underwater cultural heritage, cultural landscapes and intangible cultural heritage such as folklore. In subsequent sections of this chapter and in line with the recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the Built Heritage and Architectural Policy Section of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG), these have been broadly divided under the headings of ‘archaeological heritage’, ‘architectural heritage’ and ‘other cultural heritage’.
- 3 Efforts have been made from the earliest stages of the project, during both constraints mapping and route selection, to minimise any direct physical impacts and impacts on the setting of cultural heritage sites in the study area.

#### 14.1.1 Legal Framework

##### 14.1.1.1 Conventions and Legislation

- 4 This appraisal is cognisant that Ireland has ratified several European and international conventions in relation to the protection of its cultural heritage, including:
  - The UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972;
  - ICOMOS Xi’an Declaration on the *Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas*, 2005;
  - Codified EIA Directive 2011/92/EU;
  - The European Landscape Convention 2000;
  - The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997; and

- The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention), ratified by Ireland in 1997.

Relevant legislation includes:

- The *Planning and Development Act 2000*, as amended;
- The *National Monuments Act 1930*, as amended; and
- The *Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act, 1999*.

#### **14.1.1.2 County Development Plans**

- 5 The provisions of the *Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020* (the Cavan CDP) and the *Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019* (the Meath CDP) are a material consideration for An Bord Pleanála (the Board) in its determination of the application for planning approval of the proposed development. The CDPs contain lists of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites including national monuments, recorded monuments, Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), protected structures and protected views, as well as baseline assessments of the landscape character of the county. The plans also outline the county's heritage policies and objectives that aim to protect and promote the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the region. This evaluation was carried out with due regard to these policies and other relevant information contained within the plans.
- 6 The following is a synopsis of how the cultural heritage consultants have addressed the archaeological and architectural policies and objectives outlined in each of the relevant CDPs.

#### **Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 – Archaeological Heritage Policies**

- 7 In order to protect the archaeology of County Cavan, all archaeological monuments in Cavan contained in the Archaeological Survey Database, available from the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website, were mapped in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to ensure that they could be avoided, thereby preserving them in-situ, as far as is practicably possible given all the constraints within the study area. Furthermore, National Monuments in State care, in the ownership of the local authority or subject to preservation orders were highlighted. During desk based evaluation, orthophotography, historic mapping and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data were referred to, to assist in identifying previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential and to assist subsequent field studies. Mitigation measures have been recommended to ensure that should any archaeology be impacted upon by the construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed development, that it is preserved by record, by suitably qualified archaeologists, in full consultation with the Archaeological Section of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland. Should previously unrecorded archaeology be

encountered during works associated with the proposed development, works in the area will immediately be suspended and that the appropriate Government agency will be informed.

### **Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 – Architectural Heritage Policies**

- 8 In order to protect and preserve the architectural heritage of County Cavan, the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) proposed have been mapped in GIS from the earliest stages of the development, to ensure that they could be avoided, as far as is practicably possible, given all the constraints within the study area, thereby reducing both potential physical impacts and impacts on their setting. Upon the release of the Cavan NIAH survey in 2012, this data was added to the GIS and reviewed to see what effect the development may have on any new sites contained in the data set. The RPS and NIAH are not a complete record of the important architectural heritage of the county, therefore during both desk based work and fieldwork a search for new, previously unrecorded sites and / or features that deserve protection, including bridges, vernacular architecture, railways, street furniture, industrial heritage etc. was carried out. A review of the ACAs contained in the Cavan CDP was carried out as part of the evaluation; however none were located in the vicinity of the proposed development.

### **Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 – Archaeological Heritage Policies**

- 9 All archaeological monuments in the archaeological Survey Database and National Monuments, in State care, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders were downloaded from the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website and other relevant inventories and were mapped in GIS from the earliest phases of the proposed development (CH Pol 6 and 7). Meath County Council also made available their Graveyard Survey in GIS format. Cognisant of the increased level of legislative protection for National Monuments, all sites with this classification were highlighted to assist the project team in the preparation of the *Preliminary Re-Evaluation Report* (May, 2011). In addition the project team were provided with a full inventory of recorded archaeological monuments in order to inform the design process. Meath County Council note that *“through policies contained in this Development Plan, [Meath County Council] seek to ensure the effective protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites, monuments and their settings.”* This chapter evaluates the impact on the setting of all archaeological monuments located within 2km of the proposed route and National Monuments in State care within 5km.

- 10 Where previously unrecorded sites of archaeological potential have come to light through the evaluation process, potential impacts are evaluated in this chapter and mitigation measures recommended. No mitigation measures will however be implemented without the guidance of the National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service of the DAHG in accordance with National Monuments legislation (CH Pol 9).

### **Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 – Architectural Heritage Policies**

- 11 The Meath CDP – Architectural Heritage Policies. All recorded architectural sites, including Protected Structures, sites from the NIAH (both building and garden surveys) and ACAs were mapped in GIS for the constraints mapping phase. Also included were structures and features identified from historic mapping (first edition 6” inch colour maps dated 1829-41). As most RPSs and NIAH sites are upstanding structures and the character of ACAs is afforded special protection in the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended), the sensitivity of these sites to impacts on setting were highlighted during initial constraints mapping. Through early identification of architectural heritage sites, it has been possible to avoid physically impacting upon any ACAs or Protected Structures and their immediate curtilages (CH POL 10). In relation to designed landscapes, historic parks, gardens and demesnes every effort was made to minimise any impacts on the principal components of these features (CH OBJ 22). However, given the scale of the proposed development and conscious of other environmental constraints avoidance of all impacts was not possible. Although not backed up by a specific objective or objective, Meath County Council also state:

*'Meath County Council acknowledges that the continued well-being of a Protected Structure may involve its adaptation for a new use. However, Meath County Council will require the maintenance of its architectural character, and its setting. Developments in proximity to Protected Structures, which would seriously detract from their character, will not normally be permitted. Further guidance is provided in this regard in Section 2.9.5.'*

#### **14.1.1.3 Other Guidelines**

- 12 The following guidelines were used in the evaluation of the Cultural Heritage in the MSA:
- Cork County Council (2006). *Guidance Notes for the Appraisal of Historic Gardens, Demesnes, Estates and their Settings*;
  - Department of the Environment Community and Local Government (DoECLG) (March 2013). *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*;
  - Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (1999). *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*;

- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) (2011). *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*;
- DoECLG (April 2009). *Code of Practice between the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and ESB Networks*;
- DoECLG (April 2009). *Code of Practice between the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and EirGrid*; and
- DAHG (July 2014). *A Draft National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2014-2024*; and
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008). *Setting Standards: A Review*.

## 14.2 METHODOLOGY

13 The following methodology was prepared to evaluate the impact of the proposed development upon the cultural heritage of the MSA. A more detailed methodology is outlined in **Appendix 14.1, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS which includes details regarding the methodology for evaluation of impacts on setting.

### 14.2.1 Summary of Methodology

14 An overhead line (OHL) has a relatively small footprint and careful placement of towers can keep physical impacts on cultural heritage sites to a minimum. However, due to the upstanding linear form of an OHL, preventing impacts on the setting of cultural heritage sites is more difficult. Mitigating such impacts is best achieved by ensuring that known designated and undesignated archaeological and architectural sites are highlighted during the constraints mapping and route selection stages of the proposed development and that sites of particular importance are brought to the attention of the project team to reduce, where possible, any impacts. Prior to undertaking this evaluation the following stages of work had been completed:

- Mapping of designated and undesignated archaeological sites, including:
  - World Heritage Sites;
  - National Monuments, be they in the ownership or guardianship of the State, in the ownership of a local authority or monuments under preservation orders; and
  - Archaeological Survey Database, including the Sites and Monuments Record and the Record of Monuments and Places.
- Mapping of designated and undesignated architectural sites, including:
  - ACAs;
  - Protected Structures;

- NIAH; and
  - Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens as indicated on the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) 6 inch historic mapping, surveyed circa 1830.
- EirGrid (May 2011). *North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Preliminary Re-Evaluation Report*;
  - EirGrid (April 2013). *North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Final Re-Evaluation Report*;
  - EirGrid (July 2013). *North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development Preferred Project Solution Report*.
- 15 In addition to the previous work listed above, this chapter has been prepared in two main phases, desk based evaluation and fieldwork. Desk based evaluation involved:
- Review of mapping in GIS compiled over the course of the proposed development;
  - Review of literature, including historical sources, guidelines and policy documents, relevant legislation, development plans and heritage plans and subsequent updating of GIS mapping where appropriate; and
  - Review of other sources including historic mapping, orthophotography and LiDAR (for more detail refer in particular to **Chapter 1, Volume 3B** of this EIS). During this phase, previously unrecorded sites of archaeological and / or architectural potential were highlighted for review during the fieldwork phase of the proposed development.
- 16 The desk based evaluation gave rise to a greater understanding of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment through which the proposed development passes, along with detailed mapping in GIS highlighting known features, sites, areas and landscapes in the vicinity which may experience impacts from the proposed development. This chapter has considered in detail an area within approximately 2km either side of the alignment, including tower locations, guarding areas, temporary access routes and stringing areas, as well as having regard to all National Monuments in State care within 5km either side of the alignment and some notable sites further afield.
- 17 Upon completion of the desk based evaluation, fieldwork was undertaken to 'ground truth' the results of the desk study. Detailed GIS mapping was used in the field to identify known archaeological and architectural sites; these included designated and undesignated archaeological and architectural sites as well as sites of archaeological and architectural potential noted from historic mapping and aerial photography. GIS mapping included base mapping of OSI Discovery Series maps as well as first edition OSI historic maps and detailed aerial photography. Where possible, with the permission of land owners, land was accessed

and where this was not possible, evaluation was undertaken from the nearest publicly accessible land, roads or adjacent land where access was granted. Consultants in the field were cognisant that the mapping supplied did not contain all sites of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage importance and any new archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites identified during fieldwork were recorded and added to the GIS. The significance of impacts that may be experienced by archaeological sites, architectural sites and other cultural heritage located in the vicinity of the proposed development was then evaluated, for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed development.

18 Mitigation measures have been recommended and residual impacts that may be expected following mitigation have been predicted.

19 The scoping opinion received from the Board (refer to Appendix 1.3, **Volume 3B Appendices** of the EIS) identified the following issues as being relevant to this chapter of the EIS:

- Identification and assessment of potential impacts on archaeological heritage, including an appraisal of all recorded monuments potentially impacted on during construction activities and an assessment of the visual impact on listed sites. This should include impacts on the character and setting of features of interest as well as the relationship between sites;
- Particular areas of social, cultural and historic interest to be considered include Bective Abbey, Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick), Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity (ZAA);
- Identify any pre-application archaeological excavations or site investigations undertaken. Describe the rationale for the approach adopted with regard to such pre-application investigations, particularly for areas of known archaeological potential;
- Identification and assessment of the effects on architectural heritage. This should include Brittas House, where the line crosses the driveway and views to and from Whitewood House;
- The indirect effects of construction activity, including construction access / routes, on structures and building should be considered; and
- The impact on longer views from sites of national importance and significance should be considered and assessed.

### 14.2.2 Consultation

- 20 The overall consultation strategy by or on behalf of EirGrid in relation to all stages and elements of the proposed development is described in a separate *Public and Landowner Consultation Report* (refer to **Volume 2B** of the application documentation). That report sets out the objectives of the overall consultation strategy, its structure, details of all consultation activities, feedback received and how such feedback was responded to.
- 21 Consultations with the DAHG, Cavan and Meath County Councils and public consultations were undertaken, during the preparation of this chapter of the EIS. All consultation responses received have been logged and considered by the project team.

## 14.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 22 The upstanding linear form of the proposed OHL supporting structures has a small physical footprint, meaning that in most cases direct, physical impacts on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features can be avoided. Such impacts are most likely during the construction phase and can be as a result of:
- Excavations associated with tower construction including site levelling, foundation excavation and any diversion of services or existing drainage that may be required, including all activities associated with modifications to existing 110kV transmission OHL's;
  - Excavations associated with the erection of temporary guarding areas;
  - Facilitating access for equipment and materials for the construction of the towers and guarding; and
  - Facilitating access for and the process of stringing the OHLs.

- 23 Given that its upstanding linear form has an influence over a wide area, the greatest potential for impacts from this type of development are impacts on the setting of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features located in the surrounding region throughout the operational phase of the development.

## 14.4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

### 14.4.1 Landscape (Cavan to Meath)

- 24 The following section is based on extracts from the *Meath Landscape Character Assessment 2007* (MLCA) and the 'Character Area' section from the Cavan CDP (Chapter 8, Section 8.19.1).

#### 14.4.1.1 Highlands of East Cavan (Area 5)

25 **Towers 237 to 239 - Clonturkan to Balloughly.** This region consists of drumlins and highlands, with Bailieborough and Kingscourt as the main towns. Much of the area is made up of shale and sandstone, an indication of a landscape forged by the movement of glaciers in the last Ice Age. This area is dotted with lakes; there are both dry and wet grasslands, some limited forest and scrub. The area around Kingscourt and Bailieborough town is described as 'areas under urban influence' as they have seen a greater demand for development in recent years.

#### 14.4.1.2 North Meath Lakelands (Landscape Character Area (LCA) 2)

26 **Towers 240 to 272 - Cavan Border, Moorlagh to Rahood.** The complex drumlin landscape is wetter and more wooded than the rest of Meath and has significantly less built development. There are small lakes and stream corridors (Kilmainham River) between the drumlins and road corridors which are often raised above adjacent fields with drainage ditches at either side. The landscape character tends to be a patchwork of small pastoral fields, dense hedgerows and areas of broadleaved woodland. The central area between Nobber and Kilmainhamwood is particularly attractive because it has more visible historic references, such as stone walls and vernacular buildings. West of Nobber along the proposed alignment, there are a number of fine country estates with period houses and associated parkland, including Brittas and Whitewood demesnes.

#### 14.4.1.3 North Navan Lowlands (LCA 3)

27 **Towers 273 to 302 - Rahood to Baile Órthaí (Oristown).** This section consists of a large area of agricultural land to the north of Navan described as being in a degraded condition. It comprises a mixture of pasture and arable fields that have been enlarged by loss or removal of old boundaries. The topography is undulating with a moderate amount of trees particularly around Gibstown where the tertiary roads are quite enclosed. Near Mountainstown Demesne there is some coniferous plantation with peaty heathland, wet Birch and Ash woodland on its fringes. Nearer Rahood the road corridors have a more open character with well-maintained hedgerows.

#### 14.4.1.4 Blackwater River Valley (LCA 20)

28 **Towers 303 to 312 - Baile Órthaí (Oristown) to Castlemartin.** The topography of the Blackwater River Valley changes from being low undulating drumlins north of Kells to being relatively flat around Navan. This is an attractive landscape rich in visible historic features including churches, earthworks and vernacular features such as stone bridges. The open farmland is characterised by a loss of internal field boundaries. Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) is a small and particularly attractive, well preserved village overlooking the banks of the river between Navan and Kells. It has a wealth of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings,

a Norman motte and a stone bridge over the river. Views from within the village are enclosed by mature trees along road corridors however from the back of the village there are good views towards the river.

#### 14.4.1.5 West Navan Lowlands (LCA 16)

29 **Towers 313 to 351 - Castlemartin to Balbrigh.** This is flat lowland / farmland landscape interspersed with many large estate landscapes with associated parkland. The landscape has a scrappy degraded character to the south-west of Navan with poorly managed but well wooded field boundaries around Robinstown, progressing to manicured estate landscape and parkland near Dunderry. Although the topography of the area is relatively flat, the wooded nature of the landscape restricts views, which are limited to those along enclosed rural road corridors.

#### 14.4.1.6 Boyne Valley (LCA 5)

30 **Towers 352 to 363 - Balbrigh to Knockstown (ED Kilcooly).** The landscape in the Boyne Valley is characterised by a steep river valley with areas of rolling lowland adjacent to the River Boyne. It is arguably one of the most significant and highly valued landscapes in the country containing the Brú Na Bóinne World Heritage Site, though this is not affected by the proposed development. Bective Abbey founded in 1147 as a daughter house to Mellifont, is located approximately 920m to the east of the proposed development. The hills alongside the valley provide good vantage points and views. Pasture farmland is predominant in the rolling lowlands.

#### 14.4.1.7 Central Lowlands (LCA 6)

31 **Towers 364 to 395 - Knockstown (E.D. Kilmessan) to Culmullin.** Large lowland landscape composed of rolling drumlins interspersed with numerous large estates and associated parkland. Thick wooded hedgerows and shelterbelts separate medium to large fields. Deep roadside drainage ditches and banked hedgerows are a common feature along the rural road corridors. Views within this area are generally limited by the complex topography and mature vegetation except at the tops of drumlins. Short range views are channelled along narrow valleys between drumlins and often along road corridors.

#### 14.4.1.8 South East Lowlands (LCA 12)

32 **Towers 396 to 407 - Culmullin to Hayestown.** This landscape comprises broad rolling hills separated by a mixture of well managed small and large fields which are enclosed by thick thorn hedgerows and mature trees. Land use is predominantly pasture with concentrations of arable land. There are some small copses within the area but commercial forestry is not present.

#### 14.4.1.9 South East Lowlands (LCA 11)

33 **Tower 408 to 410 - Hayestown to Woodland and the Woodland Substation site.** The landscape is predominantly rolling lowland with large areas dominated by attractive estate landscapes with associated parkland, particularly surrounding Dunsany, Dunboyne and the north of Dunshaughlin. The land is extensively used for pasture in the north, with arable land more prominent further south particularly in the Rathoath environs. The landscape is relatively enclosed due to the topography and wooded hedgerows although longer views are afforded at the top of many drumlins. Many of the views in the lowlands are restricted to those along the road corridors and the immediate hinterland.

#### 14.4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

34 The cultural landscapes of counties Meath and Cavan are rich and varied and many of the sites scattered across the landscape indicate widespread settlement in the area since the Mesolithic period and continuing throughout the prehistoric and historic periods into the present day. Various published sources, including local and national journals, were consulted to establish a historical background for the alignment of the proposed development. In addition archaeological and architectural information gathered as part of this report was incorporated into the background thus providing a broader understanding of the nature of settlement in the area.

##### 14.4.2.1 Mesolithic Period (8000–4000 BC)

35 In the absence of any evidence of Palaeolithic communities in Ireland our archaeological record begins in the Mesolithic period when hunter-gatherers navigated the coast and waterways of the country foraging for food and living in temporary camps. Mesolithic sites were usually set on elevated ground overlooking rivers. However, cultural remains from this period have left no lasting legible trace and have no visible dominance in the modern day landscape. Flint tools known as microliths (from Latin 'small stone') are often the best evidence for these early encampments. These tools are extraordinary in their sophistication and range of use and include scalene triangles, rods, needlepoints, scrapers and micro-awls. Excavations at Newgrange unearthed flint including a Bann Flake, characteristic of the later Mesolithic (O'Kelly et al. (1978). *PRIA Three passage graves at Newgrange, County Meath*). Supervised field walking in a pilot study to assess the potential of plough zone archaeology in the Boyne Valley area (Cooney and Brady (1998). *The Red Mountain Transect: a pilot field walking study*) recovered a number of butt-trimmed flakes from fields in Tullyallen townland, to the north of the Brú Na Bóinne World Heritage Site (WHS). A later field walking programme within the WHS produced a possible broad flake again dating to the Late Mesolithic (Brady (2007). *Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis A landscape survey of the Newgrange environs: earlier prehistoric settlement at Brú Na Bóinne, County Meath*).

36 Upriver, excavations for the M3 Motorway, recovered microliths at Blundelstown and Castletown. As part of the same scheme a series of well-preserved wooden baskets were discovered at Clowanstown, County Meath, 4km north of Dunshaughlin. The site was interpreted as a late Mesolithic mooring / fishing platform and the baskets were interpreted as conical shaped woven fish traps. A butt trimmed Bann flake was also retrieved from the site (Fitzgerald (2007). *Revolutionising Our Understanding of Prehistoric Basketry*).

#### 14.4.2.2 Neolithic Period (4000BC-2500BC)

37 The practice of farming spread from the Middle East, through eastern and southern Europe to reach Ireland via Britain around 4000BC. Ireland's Mesolithic hunters were over a period of time displaced or assimilated by the new Neolithic settlers. This transition fundamentally changed the local economy from one based on hunting and foraging to one of cereal cultivation and livestock rearing. The arrival of the first farmers resulted in land clearance by burning or chopping down trees with stone axes. There were no indigenous cereal crops but the settlers brought with them wheat and barley as well as domesticated sheep, goats and cattle. Tending of crops and animals required a more sedentary lifestyle and larger permanent settlements. Farming as a practice required new skills and more importantly new tools. This demand resulted in the development of specific crafts. Polished stone axes, ards (ploughs) flint tools for harvesting crops and stone saddle querns for grinding the grain required the exploitation of specific stone sources. Porcellanite, found throughout Ireland and Europe, was quarried at Tievebulliagh Mountain near Cushendall and at Brockley on Rathlin Island, County Antrim. Flint remained an important stone for the production of tools and weapons, objects such as javelin heads, mace heads, polished axes and fine leaf and lozenge shaped arrowheads were used for both hunting and warfare. During this period the first long distance trade networks were established. Stone axes from Britain, a flint axe from Scandinavia, pitchstone from Scotland and jadeite axes from the Alpine area of northern Europe have all been found throughout the country. Pottery also makes its first appearance in the archaeological record. The pots were handmade, coil built and fired in bonfires or pits. The earliest pots were mainly undecorated round bottomed bowls, although decoration became more common in the later part of the period. Towards the end of the Neolithic a great diversity in pottery styles existed and flat based pottery was introduced.

38 Other significant changes included the development of a ritual landscape dotted by large megalithic (from the Greek mega – large and lith – stone) monuments built as communal tombs or for ceremonial purposes. These monuments indicate status, knowledge of engineering and the ability to organise resources, including labour. These tombs are divided into four classes; court tombs, portal tombs, passage tombs and wedge tombs. Wedge tombs are so named by the distinctive manner in which the roof slopes down towards the back of the tomb and are taller and wider at the entrance. Court tombs generally consist of a long cairn with a court at one end providing access into a gallery beneath the cairn (Waddell (2000). *Prehistoric Archaeology of*

*Ireland*). Portal tombs are single chambered monuments where the entrance is flanked by two large portal stones.

- 39 The megalithic tradition in Meath is dominated by the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage site containing the three large passage tombs of Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth. The construction of this passage tomb cemetery commenced sometime around 3300BC and by this time, the area had developed into an open farmed landscape with evidence for domestic houses and occupation scattered throughout. The construction of at least 40 passage tombs displays a sophisticated knowledge of architecture, engineering, astronomy and artistic endeavour indicative of a highly organised and settled society. Indeed the Brú na Bóinne tombs, particularly Knowth, contain the largest assemblage of megalithic art in Western Europe. Other significant Megalith sites include Fourknocks, Loughcrew and the passage tomb at Tara.
- 40 Various civil engineering projects for the M1 and M3 roadways have also shed light on life in the fourth millennium in Meath. Five Neolithic buildings were found in the townlands of Kilmainham and Cookstown Great near Kells. Similar structures comprising rectangular arrangements of postholes were also discovered at Townparks and Gardenrath (McLaughtlin and Walshe, (2008). *Unpublished Report Interim Report on Archaeological Excavation of Cookstown Great 3, A029/021, E3139, County Meath*). Finds included flint scrapers and débitage, pottery and a chert Javelin head. At Phoenixtown on the M3 between Navan and Kells a circular house with a diameter of 10m was excavated along with an associated linear pit. This house was a domestic building evidenced by the amount of grooved ware pottery shards and a stone artefact interpreted as either a bowl or lamp (Lyne (2008). *Built according to plan: Two enigmatic Neolithic structures on the M3*).

#### **14.4.2.3 The Bronze Age (2500BC-500BC)**

- 41 As stone tools were replaced by the use of copper and then later combined with tin to make bronze, the structure of society also changed. The copper for these tools was probably derived from Ross's Island in Killarney, County Kerry, where excavations have uncovered the earliest copper mines in the Ireland and Britain. These somewhat crude copper objects were soon replaced by more durable bronze tools including axes, swords, spears, knives, halberds and cauldrons. Gold jewellery from this period in the form of lunulae, torcs and bracelets are amongst the finest in Europe and hint at the presence of new social elites.
- 42 In a domestic context, dwellings changed from a general rectangular plan, typical of the Neolithic, to circular arrangements, evidenced on excavation by postholes and slot trenches. Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age settlements are usually located on well-drained soils suitable for agriculture and near rivers or fording points for ease of transport and communication. Lacustrine areas were also favoured, as evidenced by excavations at Moynagh Lough near Nobber (Bradley (1999). *Excavations at Monagh Lough, County Meath*). Bronze Age houses in County Meath have been uncovered in advance of road construction,

with notable examples excavated along the Kells Navan section of the M3 in the Kilmainham / Cookstown great area (McLoughlin (2008). *Unpublished Report Interim Report on Archaeological Excavation of Cookstown Great 3, A029/021, E3139, County Meath*).

- 43 Bronze Age ritual and ceremonial activity is represented by a range of monuments, including stone circles, standing stone, stone alignments, henges, tumuli, cairns, barrows and flat cemeteries. Sites belonging to these classifications are found within the wider study area. Standing stones which can mark burial sites or may indicate territorial boundaries or route-ways are recorded in the graveyard at Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) (SMR No. - ME017-034002) and in Boherlea (SMR No. - ME002-040) in the drumlin country north-west of Kilmainhamwood. Burial sites from this period are represented by mound barrows in Ballynavaddog (SMR No. - ME037-030) near Bective and examples from Bellewstown (SMR No. - ME031-005) and Ardbraccan (SMR No. - ME024-013). Barrows are circular enclosures that contain single or multiple burials. Excavated examples date from the late Neolithic through the Iron Age but are more numerous in the Bronze Age. In general they measure between 10m and 25m in diameter. Burials can also be found in cairns or cists but none are recorded along the Meath section of the MSA.
- 44 Other monuments associated with the Bronze Age include burnt mounds and Fulachtaí Fia, sites used to heat water and which consist of a low horseshoe shaped mound centred on a sunken trough. Many of these sites have been discovered on road schemes in recent years. There is an example to be found in Brittas (SMR No. - ME005-088024) near Moynagh Lough.

#### 14.4.2.4 Iron Age (c. 500BC-500AD)

- 45 The end of the Irish Bronze Age merges into the Early Iron Age almost imperceptibly. Not much is known about this period in time and it has been dubbed 'The Irish Dark Age'. It would seem, from the evidence so far uncovered, that iron use was gradually introduced into Ireland, however bronze implements were still very much in use for everyday objects and for ornamentation. Many of the finds dating to the Iron Age include objects decorated in the 'La Tène' style, such as the torc found at Broughter, County Derry. Life in Iron Age Ireland seems to have been much as it was in earlier times, with mixed farmers living in or around small defended settlements, with late Bronze Age hillforts and hilltop enclosures in use throughout this period. In Meath the primary focus of Iron Age activity is associated with the Royal site of Tara. This complex was both the seat of the kings of Meath and the High King. The site is strongly linked to myth and legend and is associated with the transformation of Ireland from paganism to Christianity. In the literary tradition, recorded by medieval monks, this period corresponds with the epic tales of the Táin as told in the Ulster Cycle.

#### 14.4.2.5 Early Medieval Period (c. 500AD-1200AD)

- 46 With an expansion in population the Early Medieval Period witnessed the introduction of a new settlement type generally known as the ringfort. Other names for this site type include rath, lios, cashel and dun. These enclosures numbering between 30,000 and 40,000 across the country represent the homesteads of the upper echelons of Irish Early Medieval society. Ringforts are generally circular areas surrounded by a bank(s), walls and an external ditch. In some cases there can be up to three sets of defences. The larger more impressive multivallate, raised and platform raths are generally regarded as higher status settlements and are the foci around which the smaller univallate enclosures would be arranged. This relationship is the physical evidence for the Tuath system characterised by petty kingdoms, sovereign in their own right that paid fealty to a larger regional / provincial state. There are numerous ringforts that are found in the MSA with a notable increase going north towards drumlin country. Classic examples include Tankardstown (E.D. Ardraccan) (SMR No. - ME017-032), Raffin (SMR No. - ME011-041), Rahood (SMR No. - ME011-007), Brittas (SMR Nos. - ME005-089, ME005-091 and ME005-092) and Lislea (SMR No. - ME002-044). These sites have in some cases huts or souterrains found in association as well as unrecorded subsurface features. Other habitations contemporary with this period include crannógs or artificial islands found in lakes and rivers. Two examples are found near the northern shores of Whitewood Lough (SMR No. - ME005-045 and 046).
- 47 Sites classified as enclosures and earthworks also occur throughout the MSA. These monuments were originally identified from 19<sup>th</sup> Century OS maps and as cropmarks with no visible above ground presence. In the absence of excavation, many of these sites are thought to be early medieval ringforts and the sheer number of them suggests that this area was settled extensively during this period. Examples of these sites are found at Balbrigh (SMR No. - ME031-017), Brittas (SMR No. - ME005-086), Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown) (SMR No. - ME005-063) and Towas (SMR No. - ME005-026).
- 48 Early Christian Ireland dates from the 400s when missionaries such as Palladius and Patrick launched their missions. In Meath this period coincides with legendary Kings such as Niall of the Nine Hostages and the Three Collas. Patrick and his disciples are closely associated with the old royal sites of the Hill of Slane, Tara and Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick). By the early 7<sup>th</sup> Century AD, Christianity had subsumed the indigenous pagan religion resulting in the development of ecclesiastical centres, a new political landscape and the creation of a literate society. Churches of potential early date are found in Tailtin (SMR No. - ME017-031) and Nobber (SMR No. - ME005-071001).
- 49 By the time the Vikings arrived in Ireland in the late 8<sup>th</sup> Century, the country consisted of a patchwork of petty kingdoms vying with each other to establish local powerbases all under the nominally rule of a High King. Meath was ruled by the Southern Uí-Neill, while Ulster was ruled

by Niall-Caille of the northern Uí-Neill. The Vikings early success was in large part due to their ability to exploit these internal conflicts.

- 50 As with monasteries throughout the country the annals record Viking attacks at Ardraccan (889, 951,993), Brugh Na Boinne (863, 935), Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) (889,951,995) Galtrim (842) and Navan (896, 970) to mention a few.
- 51 By the early 10<sup>th</sup> Century, the Vikings had established permanent trading ports at Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Waterford and Limerick and had become integrated, albeit begrudgingly, into Irish life. Many also converted to Christianity. Norse settlement in Ireland was as much about trade as it was aggression; indeed the graves of wealthy Vikings often contained a trader's scales as well as the more martial accoutrements of a warrior class. The end of the Viking Age in Ireland came with the reign of Brian Ború as leader of the Dalcassians and Malachy, the Uí Neill King of Tara. Following a number of battles including Tara in 980 and Clontarf in 1014 the Norsemen's military power was broken. They, however, continued as traders and intermarried amongst the native Irish. Ború's descendants squandered his victory and regional squabbling over territory led indirectly to an invasion by the Anglo-Normans under Strongbow in 1169.

#### 14.4.2.6 Medieval Period Onwards (c. 1200AD-1600AD)

- 52 The start of the medieval period is generally defined by the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1169. Originally invited by Diarmuid Mac Murchada as mercenaries to assist in the recovery of his Leinster Kingdom, the Anglo-Normans quickly set about making territorial claims for themselves. By 1171 King Henry II mounted a second invasion resulting in his Lordship of Ireland. Hugh de Lacy one of the Kings staunchest supporters was rewarded with a grant of Meath. De Lacy in return divided his new territory amongst his barons, who immediately began organising its colonisation and settlement.
- 53 These baronies were divided up into smaller units known as manors, many of which evolved into modern towns - for example, Navan, Rathoath, Athboy, Trim, Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin (Bradley (1988). *The Medieval Towns of County Meath*). Manors generally comprised a fortification (usually a motte or later a tower house), a church and a number of dwellings. An example of one of the most important Norman military castles in the general area is Trim, built on the site of a Motte. Examples of Mottes, the earliest examples of Norman fortifications within the MSA include Culmullin (SMR No. - ME043-018), Galtrim (SMR No. - ME043-002), Robertstown (SMR No. - ME011-004) and Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown) (SMR No. - ME005-093).
- 54 In later years constant attacks on Anglo Norman lands led by the local population provoked the English government to offer grants to build tower houses. These fortifications include the castle at Trubley (SMR No. - ME031-024), Bective (SMR No. - ME031-026002) and Cluain an Ghaill (Clongill) (SMR No. - ME017-019).

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- 55 Ecclesiastical centres representing the various orders were also prolific during medieval times. Religious houses are represented by a monastery at Ardbraccan (SMR No. - ME025-022) and a well preserved Cistercian abbey founded by Marchad O'Máeil-Sechlainn c.1150 at Bective (SMR No. - ME031-026). Churches from the Norman period within the MSA include Cruicetown (SMR No. - ME005-094).
- 56 On receipt of his land grant Hugh De Lacy divided the Kingdom of Meath amongst his principal followers who were dubbed barons. These baronies subsequently became the general name for the great divisions of the counties. The new governing class were not left unchallenged and Roderic O'Connor, King of Ireland, entered Meath at the head of a large army and laid siege to Trim. The county also suffered from the incursions of the Irish of Ulster and from an invasion of Melaghlin, King of Meath, who took and demolished Slane Castle, after its governor, Richard Fleming, had been killed in its defence. On the death of Hugh de Lacy, who was assassinated at Dermagh or Durrow, in the Kings County (Offaly), by one of his own dependants, Meath descended to his son Walter.
- 57 King John spent some time in this county during his travels in Ireland and tradition says that he held a parliament at Trim, which is very doubtful, as there are no traces of its proceedings. A tomb in which one of this King's daughters is said to have been interred was shown in the abbey of Newtown, near Trim. About the year 1220, Meath was almost ruined by the private quarrels of Hugh, Earl of Ulster and William Marshall.
- 58 In the reign of Henry VIII, the extensive church property in the county fell into the hands of the King on the dissolution of the monasteries. Typical of this was the confiscation of the lands held by Mellifont which passed into the hands of Edward Moore, an 'English soldier of Fortune'.
- 59 During the reign of Elizabeth the county was in a state of great wretchedness as appears from the report made by Sir Henry Sidney, in 1576, in which he says "*of that, of the 224 parish churches then in the diocese, the walls of many had fallen; very few chancels were covered and the windows and doors were spoiled*" (Lewis 1837).
- 60 Following the Nine Years' War the re-conquest of the country was completed by James I. After this point, the English authorities in Dublin established real control over Ireland for the first time, bringing a centralised government to the entire island and successfully disarmed the native lordships. From the mid 16<sup>th</sup> Century and into the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century, crown governments carried out a policy of colonisation known as Plantations. Scottish and English Protestants were sent as colonists to the provinces of Munster, Ulster and the counties of Laois and Offaly. These settlers, who had a British and Protestant identity, would form the ruling class of future British administrations in Ireland. However, the English were not successful in converting the Catholic Irish to the Protestant religion and the brutal methods used by crown authority to pacify the country heightened resentment of English rule.
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- 61 This resentment was unleashed with a rebellion of the Irish of Ulster in October 1641, during which thousands of Scots and English Protestant settlers were killed. The rebellion spread throughout the country and at Kilkenny in 1642 the association of 'The Confederate Catholics of Ireland' was formed to organise the Irish Catholic war effort. The Irish Confederates professed to side with the English Royalists during the ensuing civil wars, but mostly fought their own war in defence of their own landed interests.
- 62 From 1641 to 1649, the Confederates fought against Scottish Covenanter and English Parliamentary armies in Ireland. Following the death of Charles I at the hands of the victorious parliamentarians the Confederate revolt was brutally suppressed during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland. The New Model Army was paid for its campaign in Irish land that effectively ended the old Catholic landed class.
- 63 Despite the devastation wreaked on the country by the Cromwellian conquest there was still another bloody chapter to be written. The War of the Two Kings also known as the Williamite War followed the deposition of catholic King James II in 1688 when he was replaced by his daughter Mary II with her protestant husband William of Orange. In order to regain his throne James landed in Ireland in March 1689, with 6,000 French soldiers. After initial successes such as Dromore the Jacobites were able to advance northwards and occupy Belfast. At Crom Castle on 28 July 1689, near Enniskillen, the Jacobites received their first major setback. This was compounded later when William decided to take personal charge of the campaign culminating in his victory on the banks of the Boyne near the village of Oldbridge on 11 July 1690 (Simms (1986). *War and Politics In Ireland 1649-1730*).
- 64 The Williamite victory in Ireland ensured British and Protestant dominance over Ireland. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Ireland would be ruled by what became known as the 'Protestant Ascendancy', the mostly English Protestant ruling class. The majority Irish Catholic community and the Ulster-Scots Presbyterian community were systematically excluded from power, which was based on land ownership.
- 65 This legacy is evident in the many large country homes of the Anglo-Irish landed gentry in County Meath and to a lesser extent in County Cavan. These big houses and demesnes are usually encompassed by large estates with small plots rented out to the native Irish tenants. Of the many big houses built in County Meath many, like Randallstown House, are no longer standing. Others, like Slane Castle, Headfort House, Brittas and Mountainstown are still in use for various different purposes.

#### 14.4.3 Desk Based Evaluation Archaeological

- 66 Unless stated otherwise, in the tables herein distance refers to the distance from the data point indicated in the Archaeological Survey Database, downloaded from the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website, to the nearest point on the centreline of the proposed line route. The Archaeological,

Architectural and Cultural Heritage sites in the MSA are displayed in Figures 14.1 - 14.17, **Volume 3D Figures** of the EIS.

#### 14.4.3.1 World Heritage Sites

67 The closest United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage site is the archaeological ensemble of the Bend in the Boyne or Brú na Bóinne (Ref: 659) which is located approximately 15km to the east north-east of the MSA.

68 In closer proximity to the development are two Candidate World Heritage Sites, which were submitted in 2010 by the then Minister for Environment, Heritage & Local Government as part of a tentative list of sites that Ireland would be considering for World Heritage listing. The sites include the early medieval monastic site of Kells, located approximately 7km to the west of Towers 295 to 305 and the Tara Complex located approximately 6.3km to the east of Towers 350 to 360.

#### 14.4.3.2 Landscape Conservation Areas

69 Meath County Council has commenced the process of designating a Landscape Conservation Area (LCA) associated with the Tara, Skryne region and in May 2010 published the *Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area Explanatory Document*. The Meath CDP states that it is the “*policy of Meath County Council to progress this project in a timely fashion*”. The draft report includes a Map of the *Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area* which encloses an area that at its western extent is approximately 800m to the east of the proposed development, in the vicinity of Towers 352 to 356 (Figure 14.19, **Volume 3D Figures** of the EIS). The Meath CDP also discusses designating a LCA related to Lough Crew, which is located approximately 20km to the west of the proposed development.

#### 14.4.3.3 National Monuments in the Ownership or Guardianship of the State

70 Within County Cavan there are no National Monuments in the Ownership or Guardianship of the State located within 5km of the proposed development. Within County Meath eight National Monuments in State ownership and one in the guardianship of the State are located within 5km of the proposed development

71 The closest of these, Bective Abbey, is located approximately 920m to the east of the proposed development in the vicinity of Towers 352 to 355. In the vicinity of Towers 270 to 275 there are three National Monuments located to the west of the proposed development, the closest are Cruicetown Church and Cross which are approximately 1.5km away, with Robertstown Castle and the ringfort at Robertstown located approximately 2.8km and the 3.6km away respectively. The Cathedral at Newtown, St. John's Priory and the Town Defences at Sheepgate are all located in the town of Trim, approximately 4.5km to 5km to the west of the proposed

development. Dunsany Church is located approximately 4.8km to the east of the proposed development in the vicinity of Tower 372.

**Table 14.1: National Monuments in the Ownership or Guardianship of the State Located within 5km of the Proposed Development**

Name / Classification	Townland	National Monument Number	SMR No.	Grid Ref.
Town Defences, Trim	Blackfriary	679	ME036-048053-	280769/256782
St. John's Priory	Saintjohns	553	ME036-049011-	281704/256816
Ringfort	Robertstown	542	ME011-009----	277807/283363
Church	Dunsany	489	ME037-019----	291720/254910
Church & Cross	Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown)	264	ME005-094004-	279533/284523
Robertstown Castle	Robertstown	256	ME011-004----	278377/284321
Bective Cistercian Abbey	Bective	187	ME031-026001-	285950/259957
Cathedral	Newtown	110	ME036-049002-	281392/256868

#### 14.4.3.4 National Monuments in the Ownership of a Local Authority

72 Within the *National Monuments Act 1930* (as amended) archaeological monuments in the ownership of a local authority can be afforded the same level of protection as those in the ownership or guardianship of the State. The most common monuments in the ownership of local authorities consist of historic graveyards that were vested to the Burial Boards by the Church Temporalities Commission. Vesting of these sites took place during the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The modern day successor to the Burial Boards are the local authorities.

73 There are no religious sites within 2km of the proposed development in County Cavan.

74 There are 38 religious sites in the Archaeological Survey Database located within 2km of the proposed development within County Meath. Three of these sites, Cruicetown Church and Graveyard and Bective Abbey, have already been noted above (refer to **Table 14.1**) as National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the state, the remaining 35 sites are listed in alphabetical order by townland in **Table 14.2**. Meath County Council made available the results of their Graveyard Survey which contains details regarding the ownership of the graveyards surveyed, where the ownership is known it is noted in the table.

**Table 14.2: National Monuments in the Ownership of a Local Authority Located within 2km of the Proposed Development**

Classification	Owner	Townland	SMR No.	Grid Ref.
Church	Unknown	Ardbraccan	ME025-022----	282882/268316
Graveyard	Unknown	Ardbraccan	ME025-022001-	282894/268301
Church	Meath County Council	Arodstown	ME043-015----	288063/249901
Burial ground	Unknown - unlisted	Augherskea	ME043-049----	291729/251679
Church	Meath County Council	Baile Órthaí	ME017-014----	280654/275788
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Baile Órthaí	ME017-014001-	280654/275788
Church	Unknown	Balsoon	ME031-020----	286220/260565
Church	Unknown	Bective	ME031-019----	285988/260987
Church	Meath County Council	Churchtown	ME030-006----	282617/263745
Church	Meath County Council	Cluain An Ghail	ME017-018----	282561/276233
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Cluain An Ghail, Arch Hall	ME017-018001-	282561/276233
Church	Unknown - unlisted	Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown)	ME005-095----	280384/284905
Church	Meath County Council	Culmullin	ME043-017----	291444/250066
Church	Meath County Council	Derrypatrick	ME043-010----	288350/251261
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Derrypatrick	ME043-010001-	288343/251257
Graveyard	Null - Representative Church Body	Diméin Bhaile Ghib	ME017-034001-	281969/272540
Church	Representative Church Body	Drakestown	ME012-024----	283112/281402
Graveyard	Representative Church Body	Drakestown	ME012-024001-	283112/281402
Church	Unknown - unlisted	Durhamstown	ME024-012----	281250/268344
Graveyard	Unknown - unlisted	Durhamstown	ME024-012001-	281234/268346
Church	Unknown	Galtrim	ME043-001----	286108/252224
Church	Unknown - unlisted	Grange (E.D. Ardbraccan)	ME024-008----	280540/269651
Graveyard	Unknown - unlisted	Grange (E.D. Ardbraccan)	ME024-008001-	280540/269651
Church	Unknown	Kilmainhamwood	ME005-028----	278316/289731
Graveyard	Unknown	Kilmainhamwood	ME005-028004-	278316/289731
Church	Representative Church Body	Knightstown	ME012-038----	283580/278600
Graveyard	Representative Church Body	Knightstown	ME012-038001-	283571/278601
Church	Meath County Council	Martry	ME017-037----	279156/272337
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Martry	ME017-037001-	279146/272337

Classification	Owner	Townland	SMR No.	Grid Ref.
Church	Meath County Council	Nobber	ME005-071001-	282397/286468
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Nobber	ME005-071006-	282426/286454
Church	Meath County Council	Rataine	ME030-011----	282894/262473
Church	Meath County Council	Taitin	ME017-031----	280550/272926
Graveyard	Meath County Council	Taitin	ME017-031001-	280536/272927
Church	Unknown - unlisted	Trubley	ME037-001----	284778/258900

#### 14.4.3.5 Monuments Subject to Preservation Orders

- 75 There are three sites contained in the list of Monuments Covered by Preservation Orders (2010) located within 2km of the proposed development.
- 76 A Castle Motte and Bailey located just to the north of Nobber Village became the subject of a preservation order in 1978 (Preservation Order No. 1/78, SMR No. - ME005-070). The site is located approximately 1.7km to the north-east of Tower 270.
- 77 Approximately 250m to the east of the proposed development between Towers 278 and 279, is the site of Raffin Fort (SMR No. ME011—040) which became the subject of a preservation order in 1988 (Preservation Order Number 4/88). The site was subsequently excavated by Connor Newman during the early 1990s.
- 78 Approximately 850m to the north-east of Tower 260 on the southern shore of Whitewood Lough is a crannog (SMR No. – ME005-058) that became the subject of a preservation order in 1955 (Preservation Order 223/1955).

#### 14.4.3.6 Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

- 79 There are 325 recorded monuments within a 2km distance of the centreline of the proposed development.
- 80 The earliest site dating to the Mesolithic Period is a habitation site in Moynagh townland near Nobber (SMR No. ME005-088). There are relatively few Neolithic sites - the paucity of which is probably indicative of a prehistoric landscape that was heavily forested, interspersed with impenetrable bog and relatively unsuitable for settlement.
- 81 The pre-historic funerary tradition is represented by a number of sites including a portal tomb, a wedge tomb, five barrows and two pit burials. Portal tombs, sometimes called Dolmens, are constructed with two large upright stones forming the entrance or a portal to a chamber. They are covered with a massive capstone and may have originally been mounded with loose stones. Wedge tombs are characterised as having a gallery constructed with side-stones which

- decrease in height from the western to the eastern end, giving it a wedge-shaped appearance. They are roofed with large stones which sit directly on the walls of the gallery and are usually oriented north-east to south-west, and the entrance, placed at east, is often closed by a single stone. In its simplest form a barrow is a circular ditch with a small mound at its centre, with the mound being formed by material thrown up during the excavation of the enclosing ditch. They may cover or contain Linkardstown type cists of the Neolithic.
- 82 Relatively speaking the Bronze Age period is also under represented with only five Fulachtaí Fia recorded, a number of ring ditches and pit burials and a Late Bronze Age platform and habitation within 2km of the proposed development.
- 83 The majority of the sites found along the length of the alignment are classified variously as enclosures (45), ringforts (81) or earthworks (8) some of which have associated souterrains (6). These sites typically represent early medieval farmsteads (500-1100 AD) and over 45,000 have been found throughout the country. Ringforts are usually circular with a diameter of between 20 and 60m. They are defined by an earthen bank formed by material thrown up from a fosse or ditch immediately outside the bank. In many instances throughout Meath these sites are now covered in scrub and trees.
- 84 There are several sites for which the precise date cannot be determined, in the absence of archaeological excavation; many of these sites could date to either the prehistoric or early medieval period. These sites include Crannógs (7), holy wells (4), a hut site, linear earthwork and structures (2).
- 85 The introduction of Christianity to Ireland from the 5<sup>th</sup> Century onwards brought with it the development of ecclesiastical related structures and features. These Christian sites are represented by churches (22), graveyards (14), graveslabs (5) and high crosses (two at Nobber). There is one religious house along the proposed line route at Bective.
- 86 The High Medieval period ushered in with the arrival of the Normans brought substantial changes to the Irish countryside. Sites dating to this period include Motte and Baileys (three at Culmullin, Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) and Nobber), tower houses (five at Cluain an Ghail (Clongill), Arodstown, Bective and Trublely) and four unclassified castles (Drakerath, Balsoon, Balreask and Derrypatrick). There are also deserted medieval settlements at Cruicetown and Rataine.

**Table 14.3: Summary of Archaeological Monuments Located within 2km of the Proposed Development**

	Count	Classification	Count
Architectural fragment	2	Habitation site	2
Barrow - mound barrow	4	Hearth	2
Barrow - unclassified	1	House - 16th/17th century	2
Bawn	1	House - Bronze Age	1
Bridge	2	House - early medieval	3
Building	2	House - fortified house	1
Bullaun stone	3	House - Neolithic	1
Burial	1	House - prehistoric	1
Burial ground	1	Hut site	2
Burnt spread	1	Kiln - corn-drying	1
Castle - motte	4	Linear earthwork	1
Castle - motte and bailey	3	Megalithic tomb - portal tomb	1
Castle - tower house	5	Megalithic tomb - wedge tomb	1
Castle - unclassified	4	Metalworking site	2
Church	22	Mound	2
Churchyard cross	1	Pit-burial	2
Crannog	7	Platform - peatland	1
Cross	13	Religious house - Cistercian monks	1
Cross - High cross	2	Ring-ditch	8
Cross - Wayside cross	1	Ringfort - rath	81
Cross-slab	2	Ritual site - holy well	4
Earthwork	8	Rock art	1
Embanked enclosure	1	Settlement cluster	1
Enclosure	45	Settlement deserted - medieval	2
Excavation - miscellaneous	4	Sheela-na-gig	1
Field system	6	Souterrain	6
Font	8	Standing stone	2
Font (present location)	1	Stone head	1
Fulacht fia	5	Structure	2
Furnace	3	Sundial	1
Graveslab	5	Tomb - chest tomb	2
Graveyard	14	Tomb - effigial	4
Total	182	Total	143
<b>Overall Total 325</b>			

#### 14.4.3.7 Topographical Files

- 87 The finds listed in the topographical files of the National Museum pertaining to the townlands within the vicinity of the development comprise a typical cross section of artefacts and tools spanning from the Mesolithic to the early modern period. The earliest recorded find is a relatively large Bann flake from Altmush (NMI Find No. - 1960:612). Later, Neolithic material has been found in Drakerath, a flint arrowhead (NMI Find No. - 1960:570), polished stone axeheads from Gaulstown and Hayestown (NMI Find No. - 1981.1.1600) and a hollow scraper and arrowhead from Philpotstown.
- 88 The Bronze Age is well represented with various assemblages, food vessels and decorative items. These troves include an Oval Bronze Disc and Annular Brooch retrieved from Altmush (NMI Find No. - 1960:612), two Bronze Axeheads (socketed), three Bronze Axeheads (flanged), Bronze Object (circular), Bronze Spoon and a, Bronze ring-headed Pin from Philpotstown, (NMI Find No. - 1931:353-360).
- 89 Material from the Iron Age, always underrepresented in these inventories, due to its ephemeral nature, include a bronze bridal bit and a La Tene bridle-pendant from Cluain an Ghail (Clongill) (NMI Find No. - 1963:101-2). Various other objects probably from this period but without secure dates include quern stones from Altmush, a drinking horn from Nobber and a tine of deer antler with ogham inscription from Moynagh (NMI Find No. - 1893:13).
- 90 The early medieval period is well represented due to Crannóg excavations carried out at Moynagh and Corranearry. Typical of these are querns, stone troughs, stone discs, bone combs and spindle whorls (see NMI Find No. - 1887:43-51 and NMI Find No. - 1938:9311-9392). Other significant finds include a medieval seal matrix from Dunshaughlin (NMI Find No. - 1976:609) and a stone finial from Grange (NMI Find No. - 1968:206).
- 91 In terms of human remains burials have been found at Irishtown in a stone protected grave with 3 glazed potsherds (NMI Find No. - 1964:59-62), at Martinstown from a sandpit and from a ringfort at Baile Órthaí (Oristown). All these burials were isolated finds and do not indicate extensive cemeteries.
- 92 Note: the finds from the topographical index in many instances do not record artefacts recovered from recent excavation work, which may be with conservators or individual archaeological consultancies.

#### 14.4.3.8 Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

- 93 The Excavation Bulletin is both a published annual directory and an online database that provides summary accounts of all the excavations carried out in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1970 to 2010. The Excavations Bulletin is compiled by Isabel Bennett and published by

- Wordwell, with support from the OPW and the OAHG. For the years from 1977 to 1984 the Excavation Bulletin was incorporated in the Irish Journal of Archaeology. The database gives access to almost 15,000 reports and can be browsed or searched using multiple fields, including Year, County, Site Name, Site Type, Grid Reference, Licence No., Sites and Monuments Record No. and Author.
- 94 Similarly the National Roads Authority (NRA) archaeological database (<http://archaeology.nra.ie>) contains a description of the results of excavations carried out in advance of various road schemes. In general, the database contains information on sites for which final excavation reports have been received. In a small number of cases, owing to the significance of particular sites, information from preliminary excavation reports has been included in lieu of the final report. The database can be searched using menus in one or more categories including county, townland, site type and dating period.
- 95 A search through the Excavation Bulletin database produced results for a number of townlands with significant archaeological potential. Ardbraccan was investigated along Testing Area 11 of the Navan bypass section (Contract 3) of the M3 Clonee North of Kells road scheme and exposed burnt mounds, a circular enclosure, a hut site and pits were found. Excavation was carried out in May 2002, on a site at Arodstown, County Meath, as part of the Bord Gáis Éireann Pipeline to the West project and the site revealed a large spread of burnt stone and charcoal and a Fulacht Fiadh. Bective Abbey has also been the subject of a number of excavations carried out as part of the R161 realignment and widening of the Trim–Navan Road, these investigations did not expose material of archaeological significance. There has also been a series of research excavations funded by the Royal Irish Academy within the grounds of Bective Abbey carried out between 2009 and 2012. Excavations in 2009 exposed the south western corner of a building with an external drain enclosed by a medieval ditch. The drain produced an array of medieval pottery, oyster shells and animal bones, which provide an important clue as to the probable function of this building as the monastic infirmary. Results for later seasons are pending.
- 96 More recently a test excavation was carried out on a proposed dwelling house, garage and stable block on a site overlooking the River Boyne, 500m west of Bective Abbey and c.150m to the south-east of a ringfort (SMR No. - ME031–025). Six trenches sited on the footprint of the development revealed nothing of archaeological significance (Licence no. 09E0043).
- 97 In Baltrasna townland as part of the scheme of archaeological mitigation, in advance of the N2 Finglas-Ashbourne road realignment (Site 17-18) carried out between January and March 2004, a number of sites were exposed and fully excavated. These included a Medieval Ditch, two Fulachtaí Fia and assorted pits and features dating from Prehistoric to the Early Modern period. At Betaghstown pre-development excavations and chance finds have exposed a cist, a ring ditch, a habitation site and an Iron Age Cemetery. A series of excavations in Brittas particularly

around a Crannóg at Moynagh Lough has produced a wealth of material from successive phases dating from the Mesolithic to the Late Medieval. At Dowdstown in 2004 a number of evaluations carried out in advance of the planned M3, on the Dunshaughlin to Navan section, exposed a number of sites indicating Early Medieval to Post Medieval settlement, including an enclosure complex. North of this, investigations at Fletcherstown, exposed human remains near the base of a cross. In Martry, testing in advance of a road scheme uncovered burnt-mound material, pits and a spread of stones.

- 98 Following unlicensed bulldozing work at the Knockauns in Baile Órthaí (Oristown) an excavation was carried out and samples taken to date the earthwork. Finds consisting of post-medieval pottery, flint and a fragment of bronze were recovered in the lower layers of the bank construction material, while fragments of leather, wood, a small amount of bone and one shard of glass came from contexts within the organic core. Test-trenching for a one-off house as part of further information took place near a linear earthwork, in the Teltown area, in 2008 (SMR No. - ME017–049). Mr. D. Sweetman, Archaeologist, recorded nothing of archaeological interest.
- 99 At Raffin, rescue work following the site being levelled by a bulldozer uncovered a multi-phased complex with a settlement and ritual enclosure.
- 100 The NRA database produced a single result in relation to pre-construction works associated with the development of the M3 motorway between Navan and Kells. The M3 and this proposed development intersect between Grange (E.D. Ardraccon) and Durhamstown townlands to the west, 4km west of Navan. Excavations in the area in 2006 uncovered a field ditch and lazy beds / furrows in Ardraccon townland.

#### 14.4.3.9 Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity

- 101 During discussions with the National Monuments Service of the then DoEHLG the consultants were provided with a map outlining a region referred to as the Teltown ZAA (Figure 14.18, **Volume 3D Figures** of the EIS. Located to the north of the Blackwater River, approximately halfway between Navan and Kells, the boundary encompasses the townland of Tailtin (Teltown) and parts of the neighbouring townlands of Baile Órthaí (Oristown) and Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne). This area has been identified as the core of the historic region of Tailtiu a ritual landscape with a unique wealth of folklore, literary references and associated archaeological monuments.
- 102 An extensive and detailed evaluation was undertaken to investigate the potential impacts that the proposed development would have on the Teltown ZAA. Primary literary sources were consulted and historic and contemporary mapping reviewed, as well as several sources of detailed orthophotography and satellite photography. In the absence of permission to access land along the proposed route, surveys were undertaken from publicly accessible land and roads within the Teltown ZAA and throughout the surrounding area.

- 103 Cognisant of the importance of the area, a LiDAR survey was undertaken of the entire Teltown ZAA to assist in identifying previously unrecorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development that could be impacted upon. The survey was undertaken in October 2013 and both Digital Terrain Models (DTM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) data produced at 25cm and 12.5cm resolutions. A possible ditched enclosure and the possible location of the artificial lakes referred to by O'Donovan were identified during analysis of the DTM (for further details refer to the Teltown Appraisal Report in **Appendix 14.5, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS). The possible enclosure (MSA\_CHS070) is located 120m to the west of the proposed development (Tower 304) while the possible location of the artificial lakes (MSA\_CHS073) is located 280m to the west of the proposed development (Tower 310).
- 104 The landscape of the Teltown ZAA consists, in the south, of low lying land on the banks of the Blackwater River. There is a significant bend in the Blackwater to the east and on the southern bank at this point there is a rath (SMR No. ME017-032). Further to the west, upstream, the river changes direction to the north where Teltown House (RPS No. MH017-129) is situated on the eastern bank. This is a historic demesne house with views to the west over the Blackwood River. On open ground to the rear (east) of Teltown House are the Ruins of Teltown Church and Graveyard (SMR Nos. ME017-031 & ME017-031001) which were vested to the Burial Board by the Church Temporalities Commission and are in the ownership of Meath County Council. The proposed development is located approximately 800m to the east of Teltown House and 690m to the east of Teltown Church and Graveyard.
- 105 Just to the north of the Blackwater River and at the south western extent of the Teltown ZAA is the picturesque historic town of Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick), situated around Saint Patrick's Church (RPS No. - MH017-131). Saint Patrick's Church was vested by the Church Temporalities Commission to the Representative Church Body and, although Meath County Council's Graveyard Survey does not list an owner, it is likely the ownership resides with the Church of Ireland. Within the graveyard of the church (SMR No. – ME017-034001) there is a standing stone (SMR No. ME017-034002) and over the road, to the north of the church, the impressive trivallate ringfort Rath Airthir, with its motte and bailey (SMR No. ME017-033). Also within Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) are a parochial hall (RPS No. MH017-132), sextons house (RPS No. MH017-134) and a 19<sup>th</sup> Century house (RPS No. MH017-133) and to the south of the town, spanning the Blackwater River is Donaghpatrick Bridge (RPS No. MH017-130). Rath Aithir and Saint Patrick's Church are the two closest sites to the proposed development and are located 460m and 650m respectively from the proposed development. Rath Aithir is partially covered in dense vegetation which extends along its western margin, screening views towards the proposed development. Likewise Saint Patrick's Church has a copse of woodland to the west screening views towards the proposed development.
- 106 In the west of Teltown ZAA the land rises quickly out of the Blackwater Valley and it is here that Rath Dhú (SMR No. ME017-027) is situated on a small plateau approximately 20m above the level of the river. John O'Donovan, during the time of the first edition OSI survey, highlights this

as the centre of the Teltown festivities. It was once located at the centre of a large field with commanding views over all the lands to the south. But by the time of the second edition OSI survey there was a lane down the field and it had been divided into over a dozen smaller fields with several houses along the lane. Rath Dhu is located approximately 1.4km to the west of the proposed development.

- 107 To the east of Rath Dhu is the Knockauns (SMR No. ME017-049) a linear earthwork that was partially destroyed in 1997. John O'Donovan refers to the Knockauns as the remains of 'a mound now a rabbit warren'. Many name this as the place where the Teltown Marriages took place but O'Donovan ascribes this to a hollow located to the south-east of the Kockauns. In the more recent past two houses have been built along Cromwell's Road just to the east of the Knockauns and between it and the proposed development. The Knockauns is located approximately 570m to the west of the proposed development.
- 108 The detailed evaluation report of the Teltown ZAA is published in full in **Appendix 14.5, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS.

#### 14.4.3.10 Cartographic and Aerial Features

- 109 Detailed analysis of first edition and second edition OSI mapping was undertaken as well as a review of several sources of aerial and satellite photography including LiDAR. Any sites of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage potential were noted and mapped in GIS. In all, 140 sites were recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development; these are summarised in **Table 14.4**.

**Table 14.4: Potential Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Sites noted from Cartographic and Aerial Sources**

Feature Type	Count		Feature Type	Count
Aerial Anomalies	1		Named Wood Copse	2
Aerial Anomaly	10		Old Mill Race	1
Anomalous field boundary	1		Police Station	1
Bridge	5		Pond	1
Culvert	1		Possible Clachan	1
Demesne structure	1		Possible Enclosure	1
Farmstead	19		Possible Man-made Lough	1
Ford	1		Possible Quarry	3
Gate Lodge	2		Possible standing stone	1
Gravel Pit	5		Potential archaeological site	1
House	31		Quarry	8
Mausoleum	1		R C chapel	1
Memorial Cross	1		Railway Line	2
Mill	2		Rectangular feature	1

Named Cross Roads	3	Sallow Well	1
Named demesne feature	1	Tree Copse	2
Named feature	2	Weir	3
Named house	13	Windmill stump	1
Named Wood	2	Wood copse	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>140</b>		

#### 14.4.3.11 Toponym Analysis

- 110 Townland names are useful in terms of understanding the geology, archaeology, land use, ownership and folklore of an area. The names can provide information on families, topographical features and historical incidents. In terms of the built environment many names reference churches, fords, castles, raths, graveyards, roads and passes etc. Townlands are the smallest administrative land divisions used in Ireland and are in fact the only surviving administrative structure with a continuous history of development going back to medieval times if not earlier. Irish townlands generally relate not to settlements, but land units and as such they acquired legal title at an early date. They are the basic divisions of the countryside and were carefully recorded in the maps and books that accompanied the great land transfers of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The names feature on the Ordnance Survey maps, the first edition of which was completed for the whole country circa 1842. In the compilation of the Ordnance Survey scholars, such as Eugene O'Curry and John O'Donovan, were commissioned to provide the Survey with the anglicised forms of the Irish place-names and it is these anglicised forms that have been in general use ever since. In compiling the following data a number of resources were consulted including the Placenames Database of Ireland [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) and *Irish Names of Places* by P.W. Joyce (1913).
- 111 Within the MSA many of the townland names relate to topographical features like Altmush meaning beautiful hill or Corrananagh meaning round hill of the marsh. Flora and fauna feature in townlands such as Ballynavaddog meaning town of the plovers, Creemore, the big bush, and Moynagh, the plain of the birds. Settlements and infrastructure are noted in Lislea, the grey fort, Moorlagh, the lake fort, Ballina the mouth of the ford and Boherlea the road of the fort.
- 112 The personal name element in many of the townlands e.g. Ballie na Betaghs (the town of the Betaghs), date back to the days of tribal Ireland distinguishing various septs, their divisions and context within the larger Clans. The original Gaelic landowners feature in townlands like Aghaloaghan or Rahood meaning Lohan's field or Hode's fort. Others date to a later more troubled period when the native Irish were divested of their holdings and new settlers were installed. Names like Walterstown, Baile Órthaí (Oristown), Fletcherstown and Martinstown are all of Anglo origin and date to the Plantation and Cromwellian periods. The segregation of these communities is further underlined by townland names such as Irishtown and Gaulstown

or the town of the foreigners. Significant early Christian foundations are referenced in Kilboyne and Kilmainhamwood both indicative of church's founded by St. Baithin and St. Maighneam respectively. Saint Patrick also features in Derrypatrick and Donaghpatrick meaning Patricks grove and fort respectively. In a pre-Christian context Teltown is associated with Lewy of the long hand, one of the Tuatha De Danann kings. He established a fair or gathering of the people, to be held here yearly on the first of August, in which games, pastimes and marriages were celebrated. In honour of his foster mother, Tailte, Lewy called the place Tailltenn which is now anglicised to Teltown. Martry, meaning a place where people were massacred, is also informative as it does not relate to a known battlefield or historical event. The name however survived long enough in folk memory until it was recorded and references a grim episode long since lost in time.

- 113 Refer to **Appendix 14.2, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS for a list of townland names and analysis.

#### **14.4.3.12 Townland Boundaries**

- 114 Ranging from less than a hectare up to several thousand hectares, townland boundaries are the smallest officially recognised land division in Ireland. During the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) produce the first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps, which documented in detail, for the first time, all the townlands of Ireland; numbering in excess of 60,000. Undertaken for taxation purposes, the process involved defining new townland boundaries where previously there had been none, such as in bog and mountain areas and in some instances amalgamating existing townlands. The earliest references to townland boundaries are found in pre-Norman legal documents, referring to grants of land to monasteries. More recently they may relate to demesne boundaries. Taking a variety of forms from rivers and streams to fences, banks, field walls and demesne walls they can provide an interesting insight into the past.

- 115 In a number of instances towers are located adjacent to townland boundaries but there are no towers located on townland boundaries.

#### **14.4.4 Desk Based Evaluation Architectural**

##### **14.4.4.1 Architectural Conservation Areas**

- 116 There are no ACAs located within 5km of the proposed development within County Cavan. There are a number in County Meath, including:

- Ardbraccan - this is the closest ACA to the proposed development, located approximately 600m to the east of Tower 324. During medieval times it was the home of the Catholic Bishops of Meath subsequently the Church of Ireland Bishops of Meath. It is enclosed by an imposing, high stone wall and mature trees along its western

boundary. The house itself was constructed between 1734 and 1770 along with formal and walled gardens. Within the site are also domestic and agricultural outbuildings, a detached house, St. Ultan's Church and numerous other demesne features.

- Dunsany - is located to the north and east of the proposed development as it changes course from south to south-east between Towers 371 and 387. At its nearest point the ACA is approximately 3.7km to the north and 3.8km to the east of the proposed development. The castle was built by Hugh de Lacy for the Plunkett family in the late 12<sup>th</sup> Century. The site now encompasses gates, gate lodges, demesne cottages, a bridge, walled gardens and extensive parkland. Along with several features listed in the RPS including the house, gate lodges, stables, outbuildings and an estate manager's house there is also a church which is an archaeological monument.
- Headford Demesne - located just to the west of Kells, is now home to the Headford Golf Club. The golf course itself has been in existence since 1928. The boundary of the ACA is that of the demesne landscape indicated on the Ordnance Survey Ireland first edition mapping surveyed in the 1830's. There are a number of structures located within the ACA boundary which are listed in the Meath County Council Record of Protected Structures (refer to **Table 14.5**). At its nearest point the Headford ACA boundary is located approximately 4.1km to the west of the proposed development.

**Table 14.5: Protected Structures located within Headford ACA**

RPS No.	Name	Grid Ref.
MH017-116	Headfort House	276116/276664
MH017-117	Headfort Bridge / Sedenrath Bridge	276197/275980
MH017-110	Headfort Mausoleum	274998/276400
MH017-112	Newbridge	275209/276304
MH017-120	Stables	276405/276331
MH017-119	Gates	276250/276000
MH017-115	Estate workers House	276049/276730
MH017-114	Outbuildings	276022/276723
MH017-118	Stables	276221/276647
MH017-113	Gates	275282/275902

- 117 Kilmessan – the core of Kilmessan ACA is a small oasis of parkland and its associated Church, Rectory and Glebe House. The ACA is bounded down its western side by housing developments, which are situated between the ACA and the proposed development, located approximately 2.4km to the west of the proposed line route.

118 Summerhill – the ACA centres on the designed layout of the town centre, which surrounds a village green at the entrance to the Summerhill Demesne, which is located to the south. The proposed development is located approximately 4.8km to the north-east of the ACA.

#### 14.4.4.2 Records of Protected Structures and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

119 Both Cavan and Meath County Councils made available their RPSs in GIS format from the earliest stage of the development. The NIAH survey of County Meath was one of the first to be published in 2002 and was referenced as part of this evaluation. The Cavan NIAH survey was published in 2012 and incorporated into the project GIS at that stage.

120 There are no structures that appear in the Cavan RPS or the NIAH survey for County Cavan located within 2km of the proposed development.

121 Within 2km of the proposed development there are 89 structures listed in the RPS for County Meath (refer to **Table 14.6**). As is to be expected there is a significant overlap between the RPS and the NIAH, however the evaluation was cognisant of three sites within 2km of the proposed development that appear in the NIAH which and are not contained in the RPS. The closest RPS site to the proposed development is a Balbrigh Bridge (MH031-101) located approximately 260m to the south of Tower 350.

122 Structures located within 2km of the proposed development that are contained in the RPS or NIAH for counties Cavan and Meath are summarised in **Table 14.6**. Details of all RPS and NIAH structures located within 2km of the proposed development are contained in **Appendix 14.3, Volume 3D** of the EIS.

123 The study was also cognisant of sites that were rated as being of National importance in the wider area. These included Gartlan's Public House (RPS No. - 293) and Church of the Immaculate Conception (RPS No. - 294) both of which are located in Kingscourt, County Cavan, Navan Motte (RPS No. - NT025-166) and Town Wall (RPS No. - NT025-077) and Ballinter House in County Meath (RPS No. - MH031-113).

**Table 14.6: RPS and NIAH Structures Located within 2km of the Proposed Development**

Description	Count		Description	Count
Bridge (railway)	1		Lime kiln	1
Bridge (road)	5		Mill	2
Castle	2		Monument	1
Church (C of I)	5		Monuments / church	1
Church (C of I) former	2		National School	2
Church (R C)	4		outbuilding	1
Church (RC)	1		Outbuildings	1
Church / chapel	1		Parochial Hall	1

Description	Count		Description	Count
Cloister / tower	1		Parochial House	2
Cottage (semi-detached)	4		Postbox	1
Country House	7		Public House	3
Cross	1		Railway Line	1
Demesne features	1		Railway Platform	1
Farm buildings	1		Railway Shed	1
Farm House	2		Railway warehouse	1
Farmhouse	1		Road Bridge	1
Farmyard	1		School	1
Garda Station	1		Sextons House	1
Gate Lodge	1		Stables	1
Gatelodge	1		Terraced House	1
Hall	1		Thatched house	1
House	5		Tomb	1
House (detached)	9		Vent pipe	1
house (former school)	1		Water pump	4
Kiln	1			
Total	60		Total	32
<b>Overall Total - 92</b>				

#### 14.4.4.3 Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens

124 Demesne landscapes and historic gardens appear as shaded areas on the OSI first edition mapping. In the Garden Survey on the [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) website there are 159 gardens listed in County Cavan and 308 in County Meath. A number of these landscapes have been given protection through designation as ACAs; including Ardbraccan, Dunsany, Headfort and Summerhill, all of which are located within 5km of the proposed development within County Meath (refer to **Section 14.4.4.1** ).

125 OSI first edition mapping was used in conjunction with the NIAH Garden Survey to map all demesne landscapes and historic gardens within 2km of the proposed development. During the course of this evaluation it was found that there are a number of gardens that appear in the OSI first edition mapping that do not appear in the NIAH Garden Survey and, similarly, there are a number that do not appear on the mapping but are noted in the survey. It appears that the NIAH Garden Survey was undertaken using either a more contemporary map source than the OSI first edition survey or multiple map sources. All demesne landscapes and historic gardens from both the Garden Survey and the OSI first edition mapping have been included in this survey.

- 126 There were no demesne landscapes or historic gardens noted within 2km of the proposed development in County Cavan. Within County Meath there are 51 demesne landscapes and / or historic gardens found within 2km of the proposed development, ranging in size from less than a hectare to several hundred hectares. To give an idea of the differences in scale between the gardens, almost half of the sites are 10 hectares or less, with the largest, Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne), accounting for more than 20% of the total area covered by these sites. The four largest demesnes cover an area greater than all the others combined.
- 127 Of particular note, in close proximity to or traversed by the proposed development, are Ardraccan, Brittas, Mountainstown, Philpotstown and Whitewood.

**Table 14.7: Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens within 2km of the Proposed Development**

Name	NIAH Garden Survey rating if available	Townland	Area (Ha)
Unnamed	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Ballynavaddog	5
Unnamed	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Milltown	1
Unnamed	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Knockstown (E.D. Kilcooly)	2
Unnamed	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Ongenstown (E.D. Ardraccan)	1
Unnamed	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Staholmog	15
Arch Hall	Virtually no recognisable features	Arch Hall	98
Ardraccan Glebe	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Glebe	13
Ardraccan House	Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity	Ardraccan	57
Arodstown House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Arodstown	3
Bachelors Lodge	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Scallanstown	32
Balsoon House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Balsoon	10
Baltrasna House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Baltrasna	2
Bective House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Balgill	13
Bloomsberry House	Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity	Bloomsberry	89
Brittas	Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity	Brittas	224
Churchtown House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Churchtown	7
Cruicetown House	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown)	53

Name	NIAH Garden Survey rating if available	Townland	Area (Ha)
Culmullin House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Culmullin	10
Curraghmore Cottage	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Arodstown	2
Curtistown House	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Curtistown	0
Dowdstown House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Dowdstown (E.D. Castletown)	10
Drakerath House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Staholmog	5
Durhamstown Castle	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Durhamstown	13
Ennistown House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Cooljohn	2
Galtrim House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Galtrim	31
Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne)	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne)	520
Glebe	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Galtrim	5
Glebe House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Glebe	3
Grange House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Derrypatrick Grange	42
Kilcarty	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Kilcarty	72
Kilmainham House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Kilmainhamwood	3
Knightstown House	Virtually no recognisable features	Knightstown	7
Liscartan House	Virtually no recognisable features	Liscarton	310
Lisnabo House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Lisnabo	6
Martinstown	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Martinstown (E.D. Galtrim)	4
Marvelstown House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Marvelstown	2
Milestown House	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Milestown	69
Mountainstown House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Mountainstown	198
Moydorragh House	Virtually no recognisable features	Moydorragh	17
Newtown House	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Newtown	14
Oatlands	Virtually no recognisable features	Durhamstown	38
Philpotstown	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Philpotstown (ED Bective)	54

Name	NIAH Garden Survey rating if available	Townland	Area (Ha)
Portion of Allenstown Demesne	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Faughanhill	64
Rahood	Virtually no recognisable features	Rahood	18
Rataine Cottage	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Rataine	5
Rathnally House	Main features substantially present - some loss of integrity	Rathnally	62
Robertstown	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Durhamstown	1
Teltown House	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Taitin (Teltown)	138
Tullaghmedan House	Does not appear in the Garden Survey	Tullaghmedan	6
Whitewood House	Main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable	Whitewood	102
Woodfort	Main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible	Ervey	13

#### 14.4.4.4 Cartographic and Aerial Features

128 For details refer to **Section 14.4.3.10**.

#### 14.4.5 Other Cultural Heritage

##### 14.4.5.1 Gaeltacht Areas

129 County Meath contains two Gaeltacht areas that have been officially designated by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs namely, Rathcairn, three miles south-east of Athboy and Baile Ghib, six miles east of Kells. The Gaeltacht area had a combined population of 1,591 persons in 2002, representing an increase of 13% since the 1996 Census. Of the total population of the county, the Gaeltacht areas represented 1.19% in 2002. Historically the Gaeltacht of Royal Meath has a slightly different history than that of the country's other Irish speaking regions. The two Gaeltachtaí of Baile Ghib and Rathcairn are resettled communities, where the Irish Government of the 1930s redistributed the vast estates of absentee landlords as small farm holdings to poor farmers from the Gaeltacht areas of Connemara, Mayo and Kerry. The aim was to redress a centuries old imbalance, where Irish farmers were forcibly removed from this land by the English under Oliver Cromwell, with the infamous edict to 'Hell or Connacht'. When the Irish farmers returned to the land in Meath, they brought with them their native language and culture, which today is greatly celebrated in the small Gaeltacht regions of Baile Ghib and Rath.

130 The alignment passes through the Gaeltacht region of Baile Ghib. The Meath CDP acknowledges the importance of the Irish language and its associated cultural heritage to the Gaeltacht areas. It is a goal of Meath County Council to ensure the continued survival and development of the Gaeltachtaí as an area distinct in the linguistic and cultural life of the county, whilst seeking to realise their economic and development potential in a balanced and sustainable manner over the lifetime of the Meath CDP (refer to **Chapter 2** of this volume of the EIS).

#### 14.4.6 Route Survey

131 The following route survey is a distillation of the desktop evaluation including use of detailed aerial photography, LiDAR, coupled with the vantage point surveys and field survey work undertaken.

##### 14.4.6.1 Towers: 237-254

#### **Townlands: Clonturkan, Balloughly, Boherlea, Moorlagh, Tullyweel, Lislea, Aghamore, Shancor, Towas**

132 The MSA section for the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Project proceeds north to south from the Cavan border in drumlin country approximately 5km to the north-east of Kilmainhamwood. From Clonturkan townland the line route proceeds east across the border to Moorlagh townland crossing a river and hills with elevations averaging 150m. Between Towers 237 and 242 the line passes 170m to the north of a rath (SMR No. – ME002-040001) and possible standing stone (SMR No. - ME002-040) on the western slope of a hill in Boherlea. The standing stone is described as triangular in plan and orientated north-west to south-east. The rath is a raised sub circular area (dims. 31.5m) surrounded by earthen bank and fosse with an entrance to the south.

133 Also noted along this section of the line route are two structures and a bridge that feature on the 1st edition OS map dated 1835. Proposed access for construction is on existing farm tracks and through existing gates and does not impact on any known sites in the area.

134 From Tower 242 the line angles to the south-east crossing the regional road R164 between Ervey and Carnacally Cross Roads. Tower 245 is located 170m to the south of a rath (SMR No. - ME002-044). This rath is tree lined and has been damaged by modern farm buildings along its southern arc. Temporary access routes for Towers 242 and 243 and a stringing area to the east of Tower 242 pass in close proximity to a rath (SMR No. - ME002-026), as does the proposed access for Tower 245 and associated stringing areas which skirts around the edge of rath SMR No. - ME002-044.

- 135 Further south the line passes between a number of extant raths in Aghamore townland including SMR Nos. - ME002-042, ME002-043, ME005-011, and ME005-013, and an enclosure SMR No. - ME005-012. A number of these structures are visible on the aerial photographs as tree-lined enclosures. In terms of proximity to the proposed line the ringforts are located approximately as follows; SMR No. - ME002-043 130m, SMR No. - ME002-042 254m, SMR No. - ME005-012 35m and SMR No. - ME005-013 240m. Ringfort (SMR No. - ME005-012) closest to the proposed line route is described as a circular area defined by an earthen bank (diam. 38m) and a west to north stone wall. The fort is immediately adjacent to a farmyard.
- 136 There is a notable concentration of raths in this area all sited on the upper slopes of drumlins overlooking the heavily wooded, Kilmainham River.
- 137 The line passes over the river between Towers 251 and 252 approximately 1.1km west of Kilmainhamwood. Within the village there is a concentration of protected structures; including a church (RPS No. – MH005-201), a bridge (RPS No. – MH005-203), a public house (RPS No. – MH005-202), a cross (RPS No. – MH005-206), water pump (RPS No. – MH005-204), two houses (RPS Nos. – MH005-205 & MH005-209) and parochial house (RPS No. – MH005-200). Other sites in the vicinity of the village include a rath (SMR No. - ME005-027) and church and graveyard (SMR Nos. - ME005-028 & ME005-028004) containing a graveslab, and cross-slab and Sheela na gig. The ownership of the graveyard is unknown and could therefore be a National Monument in the ownership of Meath County Council.
- 138 Two sites are recorded south of the river near Gentleman's Cross Roads - an earthwork (SMR No. - ME005-025) at Shancor of which no visible trace survives and a roadside enclosure at Towas, marked 'fort' on the 1837 OS map (SMR No. - ME005-026). These sites are 290m and 190m from the proposed line route respectively.
- 139 There are a number of finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum from the townlands evaluated including a stone ball, clay ball, saddle quern (NMI Find No. - 1942:1894), worked flint (NMI Find No. - 1942:68), stone trough (NMI Find No. - 1972:175) and a pivot stone (NMI Find No. - 1956:13:00) from Corraneary townland.

#### **14.4.6.2 Towers: 254-265**

**Townlands: Towas, Eden, Boynagh (E.D. Kilmainham), Altmush (E.D. Cruicetown), Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown)**

- 140 Proceeding south-east from Gentleman's Crossroads the proposed line route traverses elevated ground and passes within 400m of two raths in Boynagh (E.D. Kilmainham) (SMR No. - ME005-043) and Ardmaghbreauge (SMR No. - ME005-042) townlands. From an evaluation of aerial photographs it is clear that both these sites are situated in woodland. South-west of Tower 257 the proposed line route descends along the western slope of a valley that runs

parallel to a local road, west of Whitewood Lough. Situated along this road is a protected farmhouse (RPS No. - MH005-101) in Boynagh (E.D. Kilmainham) townland. The house is a detached three bay, two storey farmhouse, built c.1870 with rendered walls and pitched slate roof and projecting porch. The house is in excess of 600m from the proposed line route. On the opposite side of the road are the remains of Boynagh Hill House which first appears on the first edition OS map. The temporary access routes pass through the grounds of this old house, approximately 270m to the east of Tower 257.

- 141 Overlooking the lake on the eastern slope is Whitewood House, Lodge and farm buildings (RPS No. - MH005-104). The house is a three bay, two storey over basement house built in 1735 by Richard Castle. It was originally designed as a hunting lodge for the Preston Family. The house is approximately 1.6km to the east of the proposed line route.
- 142 Continuing south-west the line passes between a corn drying kiln discovered in 1945 during the digging of a pipe trench in Altmush (E.D. Cruicetown) and a rath in Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown) (SMR Nos. - ME005-057 and ME005-056). Also notable is a mill race (MSA\_CHS026) located to the west of the proposed line between Towers 259 and 260. This unrecorded site features on the first edition OS map.
- 143 At Tower 262 the line turns eastwards crossing a tributary of the River Dee to the west of the Brittas Estate.
- 144 There are a number of finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum from the townlands including a bone comb, drinking horn, quern stones, bones and timbers from Brittas and Moynagh Lough and a Bann flake of stone (NMI Find No. - 1960:612) from Altmush (E.D. Cruicetown).

#### **14.4.6.3 Towers: 265-280**

##### **Townlands: Altmush (E.D. Cruicetown), Brittas, Moynagh, Rahood, Raffin, Clooney**

- 145 From Tower 265 the line continues south-east over a tributary of the River Dee, through the Brittas Demesne with its associated country house (RPS No. - MH005-105) and along a valley with a local access road and higher ground to the west. Brittas Demesne was the former home of General Thomas Bligh and was built in 1732 incorporating an earlier residence from 1672. The house was later extended in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its ballroom wing, designed by Francis Johnston, was added in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The house itself is located approximately 430m to the east of the proposed development at Tower 266. The proposed development crosses the avenue between the entrance gates and Brittas House approximately 170m from the entrance into the demesne and a wire scape will be visible from the gate. Passing along the avenue, without screening, the development will be visible to the north and south where it crosses.

- 146 General Bligh was a brother of Lt. William Bligh (of Mutiny on the Bounty fame) and he took part in a number of continental wars including the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years War. To commemorate his achievements he planted a battlefield wood replicating the battle lines of his engagements with opposing armies. The 'Battlefield', a 33 acre field located centrally and extending to the south-east within the estate has lime trees laid out in the formations in which he deployed his troops at the Battle of Cherbourg (1758). The 'Battlefield' is located to the east of wooded high ground approximately 430m from the proposed development. Many of the lime trees from the north western extent of the Battlefield have vanished but most of the trees to the south-east have survived.
- 147 On this his last and most successful military engagement the General was sent by Pitt to organise a descent into France. Bligh with the support of the navy bombarded Cherbourg to cover a landing and with his army drove off the French force detailed to oppose them, captured the town and destroyed its fortifications, docks and shipping. At the brow of a hill overlooking the Battlefield stands a wooded enclosure containing a brick and stone mausoleum to General Bligh which is located approximately 750m to the east of the proposed development. This mausoleum is marked on both the historic maps, the inscription reads:
- "Mausoleum. Thomas Bligh, Lieutenant – General of his Majesty's Forces, and General of Horse who France's Arms withstood at Dettingen, at Valve, at Melle, at Fontenoy and Cherbourg. Not for his own but for his country's good he made this improvement, built all these Houses and Temples since the year 1732. Born A.D. 1695. Died Aug. 17, 1775, aged 80 years."*
- 148 There are a number of archaeological monuments within Brittas Demesne including six ringforts, an enclosure and a cross (SMR Nos. - ME005-085, ME005-086, ME005-087, ME005-089001, ME005-0089002, ME005-090, ME005-091 and ME005-092). Three of the ringforts are within 400m of the proposed line; occupy low hills, with the closest, conjoined enclosures SMR Nos. - ME005-091 and ME005-092 located approximately 210m to the east of the proposed development. All three of these monuments will have their setting impacted on by the proposed development. The stone cross (SMR No. – ME005-089001) is described in the archaeological inventory as being located within the interior of a ringfort (SMR No. - ME005-089) and is crudely made with a cross in a circle inscribed on one side.
- 149 In the south-east corner of Brittas Demesne, approximately 1.2km to the east of the proposed development, is a complex of archaeological sites including a crannog on the shores of Moynagh Lough. This site was originally identified as a crannóg (SMR No. – ME005-088001) in 1977 and was excavated for a short season each year by J. Bradley from 1980 to 1989. Excavation revealed that while the monument has had a long history of occupation the main phase of the crannóg dates to early Christian times. At that time it consisted of a mound of stones and clay c. 40m across defined by wooden piles. A circular house 11.2m in diameter is associated with this phase.

- 150 There is also an enclosure in Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown) on a hilltop to the west (SMR No. - ME005-084). This site is in excess of 400m to the west of the proposed line and is described as a sub-rectangular area (56m south-east to north-west) defined by fosse. This site is well screened by a mature tree boundary to the east.
- 151 Looking further afield, at this juncture, the proposed development passes between the National Monument at Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown) a deserted medieval settlement with a church, graveyard, font, tomb and cross (SMR Nos. - ME005-094001 to ME005-094006) 1.6km to the west and the historic village of Nobber 1.7km to the east. Cruicetown has public access and commanding views to the north and west away from the proposed development. Although there are views towards the development from Nobber there is good screening in the forms of hills and woodland along the western side of Brittas Demesne.
- 152 From Gorry's Cross roads the proposed line route continues south south-east through Rahood townland bypassing three raths all located in excess of 400m to the east (SMR Nos. - ME005-097, ME005-098 and ME011-007). Between Towers 273 and 274 the line passes through Rahood House Demesne. The house is 92m to the east of the proposed line and the NIAH Garden Survey states that virtually no recognisable features remain.
- 153 North of the N52 the line passes 240m west of the archaeological complex at Raffin (SMR No. - ME011-040). This fort is featured on the historic mapping as a substantial enclosure occupying a summit of a drumlin with views in all directions. In 1988 following unsanctioned levelling work by a bulldozer the site was archaeologically excavated over five seasons (1989-93) by the National Monuments Service (then the OPW). Six different phases of activity were apparent, including Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, later Iron Age and Early Medieval. Today little survives of the original monument. South-east of the fort on the slope of a hill approximately 400m to the east of the proposed development there is a field system recorded (SMR No. - ME011-042), consisting of the foundations of two house sites with stone walls and a rectangular field system defined by banks, scarps and ditches covering c. 20 acres.

#### **14.4.6.4 Towers: 280-298**

**Townlands: Clooney, Drakerath, Mountainstown, Dowdstown (E.D. Castletown), Fletcherstown, Cluain an Ghail (Clongill), Baile Órthaí (Oristown)**

- 154 From a point north of the N52 near Raffin Cross Roads, the proposed line route continues southwards through Clooney and Drakerath into more open and less undulating countryside. Approximately 450m to the west of Tower 282 is Drakerath House and its associated historic garden. Temporary access routes for Towers 282 and 283 is through the grounds of Clooney House which first appears on the first edition OS map and has extensive associated cut stone outbuildings. West of Tower 284 (770m) is a castle site (SMR No. - ME011-026). This site

- appears on the historic mapping as a Drakerath Castle; today it survives as a slight rise in a pasture field.
- 155 Between Towers 288 and 290 it passes through the 800 acre Mountainstown Estate. Mountainstown House (RPS No. – MH012-100) is situated approximately 1km to the east of the proposed line route. It consists of a recently restored Queen Anne style residence, six bay, two storey over basement house, with two bay breakfront and pediment, c.1720 designed by Richard Gibbons, sold to John Pollock in 1796. The demesne is described in the NIAH Garden Survey as having its main features substantially present with peripheral features unrecognisable. From an inspection of historic maps and aerial photographs the western portion of the demesne was divided into plots of forestry and pasture. A pond marked 'decoy' appears on the first edition map but is now no longer extant. The existing woodland is much as it was in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. Construction access for Tower 289 is through the grounds of Mountainstown Demesne. Construction access for Tower 290 is along the western perimeter of Dowdstown House (RPS No. - MH011-124) and historic garden. Dowdstown House is approximately 460m east of Tower 291. It is described in the NIAH Garden Survey as having its main features unrecognisable - peripheral features visible.
- 156 Within Fletcherstown townland, located approximately 280m to the west of Tower 292, is a piece of rock art (SMR No. - ME017-042) described as displaying four concentric penannular rings on a boulder (Clinton (1983). *An example of rock-art from County Meath*).
- 157 To the north-west of Tower 293 there is an irregularity along an otherwise straight field boundary; a semi-oval feature. This feature corresponds to a since cleared away tree copse indicated on the historic mapping. This site is bounded by a number of large stones in an area otherwise devoid of them and would appear to be archaeological (MSA-CHS061).
- 158 From Tower 293 to 298 the proposed line route passes over broad fields of arable land with few recorded monuments. Construction access for Tower 294 is adjacent to Glebe House and its associate historic garden. Although the temporary access route passes beside historic outbuildings associated with the house, bordering it to the south, there are modern agricultural buildings to the north and existing wide access used regularly by modern farm machinery.
- 159 There are a number of finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum from the townlands evaluated including some human remains found in a ringfort at Baile Órthai (Oristown), a La Tene bronze bridal bit and pendant (NMI Find No. - 1963:101, 2) and stone spindle whorl (NMI Find No. - 1963:67, 68) from Cluain an Ghaill (Clongill), a hone stone (NMI Find No. - 1963:68), a polished stone axe head (NMI Find No. - 1981:16:00) from Fletcherstown and a lozenge shaped flint arrowhead found in Drakerath (NMI Find No. - 1960:570).

**14.4.6.5 Towers: 298-312****Townlands: Baile Órthaí (Oristown), Cluain an Ghaill (Clongill), Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne), Tailtin (Teltown), Castlemartin**

- 160 In Cluain an Ghaill (Clongill) townland there are a number of roadside monuments including a mound, church and graveyard and souterrain (SMR Nos. - ME017-017, ME017-018, ME017-018001 and ME018-005) all in excess of 700m east of the proposed line route. There is also a Protected Structure (RPS No. – MH017-135), Lerrigh House described as a detached two storey farmhouse. The house is surrounded by woodland and located approximately 430m to the east of the proposed development.
- 161 Heading south the proposed line route passes to the west of four demesne cottages associated with the old Gibstown Estate (RPS Nos. - MH017-136, MH017-137, MH017-140 and MH017-141). All the cottages are three bay, single storey, semi-detached roadside buildings on the north western edge of Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne). This was the estate of the Gerrard family from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the family replaced their house with a very impressive 'Italianate' house designed by W.H. Lynn. It was dismantled in the 1960's leaving a few peripheral features, including a designed entrance and some outbuildings.
- 162 Between Towers 303 and 311 the proposed line route passes through a ZAA, delineated by the National Monuments Service, currently part of the DAHG, as an area of high archaeological potential relating to the Teltown assembly site. A map of this Teltown ZAA is held by the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and comprises a region defined by the River Blackwater to the south, a third class road between Oristown and Bloomsbury Crossroads to the west, the R163 Kells to Slane Road to the north and a third class road linking Crassulthan Crossroads to a point south of Donaghpatrick Bridge to the east. This area has been identified as the core of the historic region of Tailtiu a ritual landscape with a number of field monuments and a unique wealth of folklore and literary references. Much of the early literature concerning the area is historical but mainly mythological. Teltown appears to have its earliest significance as a cemetery. Tailtiu was the last Queen of the Fir Bolg and under her direction this landscape was cleared and a grassy plain replaced the original forest. On her death Lugh established a festival, Áenach Tailteann in her honour which continued to be celebrated as late as the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Teltown figures prominently in the Táin and Dunaire Finn and also in the Life of Patrick and in the Vitae of Ciaran. Many battles are also supposed to have been fought here including the final battle between the Milesians over the Tuath De Dannan. The Táin records that the defending charioteers confronted invading forces at Roi Ard in Tailtiu. Later the Uí Neill had frequent dynastic battles in the area as claimants fought for the high kingship. In the early Christian period a synod was held at Tailtiu in AD 563 in an effort to Christianise the site. Its ritual significance continued until 1168 when the last of the High Kings Ruaidhri O'Conchobair held a royal assembly here after his inauguration in Dublin.

- 163 O'Donovan examined this historic site in 1836 for the Ordnance Survey and found among the people vivid traditions of the old customs. Though the younger generation, when speaking English, called it Teltown, the older Irish-speaking people never used any name but Tailtinn. They told him that games were carried on there down to 30 years ago - i.e. to 1806, but that, on account of the increasing manufacture of 'pottheen whiskey' instead of the old native drinks, ale and mead, there were quarrels and scenes of violence, so that the magistrates at last put a stop to the meetings.
- 164 It is worth noting that O'Donovan in his 1836 Map of the significant sites associated with Teltown identified a discreet area including the northern portion of Tailtin (Teltown) and the southern portion of Baile Órthaí (Oristown) between Cromwell's road (local access road between the R163 and L3409) sweeping north-west to the R163 road between Baile Órthaí (Oristown) and Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne). The proposed line route is located approximately 400m to the east of this area.
- 165 The Teltown ZAA, which is approximately 520 hectares in size, encompasses a number of monuments including a possible embanked enclosure (SMR No. - ME017-050), a linear earthwork, known as the Knockauns (SMR No. - ME017-049), the Rath Dhu enclosure (SMR No. - ME017-027) and the impressive Motte and Bailey site of Rath Airthir (SMR No. - ME017-033). Also contained within the Teltown ZAA is Donaghpatrick Graveyard and standing stone (SMR No. - ME017-034001 & 002). The distances from the proposed line route to the monuments are 410m to the possible embanked enclosure, 560m to the Knockauns, 1.4km to Rath Dhú and 460m to Rath Airthir.
- 166 From Tower 304 to 308 the line passes through the old Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne). The NIAH Garden Survey describes the estate as having some peripheral features but the original house has been cleared away. What does survive is a circular entrance feature at Crasulthan Cross Roads (RPS No. - MH017-138). Construction access for Tower 306 passes to the north of a circular copse of trees (MSA\_CHS071), a demesne feature that appeared between the first and second edition OS surveys. At Tower 307 the proposed line route deviates to the south-west, away from Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) and passes through Tailtin (Teltown) townland. Between Towers 309 and 310 the proposed line passes between Teltown Church and graveyard (SMR Nos. - ME017-031 & ME017-031001) and house (RPS No. - MH017-129) to the west and a ringfort in Tankardstown (E.D. Ardraccon) (SMR No. - ME017-032) to the east.
- 167 Within Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) there are five protected structures (RPS No. - MH017-130 to 134) including the bridge, church, parochial house, Sexton's house and 19<sup>th</sup> Century house. The existing church built c.1896 was designed by J.F. Fuller and incorporates a former tower house to the west. It has a medieval base batter, with face corbel built in wall

and blocked windows. There is a medieval font, sundial and standing stone in the graveyard (Roe (1968). *Medieval fonts of Meath*). The church is approximately 700m from Tower 308.

- 168 West of Tower 310 just before the the proposed line route crosses the River Blackwater, lies a depression (MSA\_CHS073) which was highlighted from the LiDAR survey and may be associated with the man made loughs mentioned in the accounts of the Teltown Games. As the proposed development crosses the River Blackwater there are a number of cartographic features including a weir, corn mill and ford to the west. These sites are not visible on the aerial photographs and are located approximately 100m from the proposed line route. Other notable sites on the southern bank are Martry Mill and house (RPS Nos. - MH017-127 and MH017-128). The mill consists of a group of three adjoining two storey buildings, on an 'L' shape plan built circa 1800. The adjacent house is a three bay, two storey house with steeply pitched roof with a central projecting porch. Both these sites are in excess of 700m to the west of the proposed line route.

#### 14.4.6.6 Towers: 312 -325

##### **Townlands: Castlemartin, Tankardstown (E.D. Ardraccon), Grange (E.D. Ardraccon), Durhamstown, Neillstown (E.D. Ardraccon)**

- 169 From Tower 312 just past the N3 roadway the proposed line route passes a number of houses that appear on the first edition OS maps and a dismantled railway line and proceeds south across pastureland towards the M3. To the west of the proposed line between Towers 317 and 318 are three recorded monuments - an enclosure and a church and graveyard (SMR Nos. - ME024-007, ME024-008 and ME024-008001) in Grange (E.D. Ardraccon) townland, approximately 1040m and 900m respectively from the proposed development. The church site is a square area defined by earthen bank with no visible entrance or fosse. Between Towers 321 and 323 the line passes to the east of a fortified house (RPS No. MH024-104 and SMR No. - ME024-011) and a church and graveyard (SMR Nos. - ME024-012, ME024-012001) in Durhamstown townland. The house is described as a two storey building with an attic and four vaults at ground floor. There is tower at the south-east corner. The building was adapted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The church site appears to have been destroyed and is discernible now as a slightly raised rectangular stony area. The church and castle are located 500m and 900m from the line.
- 170 Further south and to the east of Tower 324 near the M3 is Ardraccon, a historically important site which was the seat of the Bishops of Meath since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The House and demesne are designated as an ACA and are defined by enclosed mature pasture land with formal and walled gardens. The construction of the house commenced c.1734 to the designs of Richard Castle and was completed in the 1770's to the designs of James Wyatt, Thomas Cooley and the Rev. Daniel Beaufort. The boundary of the ACA is approximately 630m from Tower 324. The site contains a number of protected structures including a County House (RPS

No. – MH024-109), two houses (RPS Nos. – MH024-101 and MH024-112), outbuildings (RPS No. – MH024-110) and a water pump (RPS No. – MH024-111), as well as a church and graveyard (SMR Nos. – ME025-022 and ME025-022001).

- 171 There are three topographical finds recorded in the townlands in the vicinity of the above section including a spudstone found in Walterstown (NMI Find No. - 1976:149), a bronze zoomorphic pennanular brooch found in Ardraccon (NMI Find No. - 1984:111) and a decorated stone finial found in Grange (E.D. Ardraccon) (NMI Find No. - 1968:206).

#### 14.4.6.7 Towers: 325-342

**Townlands: Neillstown (E.D. Ardraccon), Betaghstown (E.D. Ardraccon), Ongestown (E.D. Ardraccon), Irishtown (E.D. Ardraccon), Halltown, Churchtown, Philpotstown (ED Bective)**

- 172 From Tower 325 the line route proceeds south towards the N51 through the townlands of Neillstown (E.D. Ardraccon), Betaghstown (E.D. Ardraccon) and Ongestown (E.D. Ardraccon). At Halltown it passes 135m to the east of an earthwork (SMR No. - ME030-004). This monument has been disturbed by quarrying and only the western scarp remains. Further south it passes a rath (SMR No. - ME030-005) defined by a bank with an external fosse 260m to the east. At Towers 337 and 338 the route passes approximately 90m to the east of Churchtown house and its associated historic garden with construction access for these towers passing along the northern boundary of the demesne on an existing access to extensive agricultural buildings to the north of the house. Between Towers 339 and 342 the line crosses the demesne landscape associated with Philpotstown (E.D. Ardraccon) House (RPS No. - MH030-107), described in the NIAH Garden Survey as having its main features substantially present with peripheral features unrecognisable. Construction access for Towers 340 and 341 and its associated stringing areas, which are located within the demesne, is through an old demesne entrance to the west. The proposed development is located approximately 370m from the main house, now referred to as Dunderry House, and Towers 340, 341 and 342 have been positioned to take advantage of screening in the form of intervening woodland located between the house and the proposed development.
- 173 There are a number of finds recorded in the topographical files of the National Museum for this section. In Irishtown (E.D. Ardraccon) a human skeleton and three glazed potsherds (NMI Find No. - 1964: 59-62) were retrieved from a stone lined grave and at Betaghstown (**E.D. Ardraccon**) a food vessel, human bones, two flint flakes and mollusc shells were recorded (NMI Find No.s - 1977: 2329-2334).

**14.4.6.8 Towers: 342-363****Townlands: Philpotstown (ED Bective), Rataine, Dunlough, Balbrigh, Dunganny, Rathnally, Trubley, Knockstown (E.D. Kilcooly)**

- 174 To the west of Tower 343 the line passes approximately 700m from a deserted medieval settlement and church (SMR Nos. - ME030-011001 and ME030-011) in Rataine townland. The settlement was noted in 1814 as consisting of a considerable number of houses around the church (SMR No. - ME030-011) which have since been destroyed (Mason 1814, 91). There is now no visible trace. The church occupies a stone walled rectangular plot and is described as an undivided nave and chancel (L 23m, W 7.15m) with a double-light ogee-headed window with square hood and double belfry in the west wall.
- 175 Turning to the south-east the line route passes to the east of the Clady River passing between Robinstown to the north and Balbrigh Bridge to the south. The bridge is a single-arch road bridge over river, built c.1904. It has rock-faced walls, voussoirs and parapet and plaques to road side elevations (RPS No. - MH031-101). Between Towers 351 and 352 the line passes 120m to the north of a hillside enclosure SMR No. - ME031-017 described in the archaeological inventory as a circular area, probably a landscape feature. Construction access for Towers 351 and 352 and its associated stringing areas passes just to the north of SMR No. - ME031-017.
- 176 Between Towers 355 and 356 the line route crosses the River Boyne approximately 900m to the south-west of Bective Bridge (RPS No. - MH031-108 and SMR No. - ME 031-042) and 730m from a mill (RPS No. - MH031-105). The bridge is a 10 arch limestone, rubble bridge, c.1820, with triangular cutwaters and pedestrian refuges. Bective Abbey (RPS No. - MH031-107) is the most notable site in the vicinity. The abbey was a daughter house of Mellifont and is one of the earliest Cistercian foundations in the country dated to 1150. A National Monument in the guardianship of the State (Ref. No. 187) Bective is classified as a Religious House, with cloister and tower and adjacent castle (SMR Nos. - ME031-026, ME031-026001 and ME031-026-002). The chief features of the ruins are the combination of both church and defence. The cloister is the best preserved of the buildings and there is a pillar of a figure carrying a crozier. There are also some beautiful arches which are still intact. At its closest Bective Abbey is located 920m from the proposed line route. More recently the access to the site has been improved with the addition of a car park and widening of the L4010 to the west.
- 177 On the south side of the Boyne the proposed line passes through Trubley townland the one time site of a tower house and church (SMR No's - ME031-024 and ME037-001). The castle was blown down in a storm in the 1970s and has since been removed and the church site is survived by foundations of a divided nave and chancel with a fragment of an octagonal font. The sites are approximately 460m and 640m from the proposed alignment. The Topographic files record a copper alloy axehead found in a garden in the townland of Trubley (NMI Find No 1999:127).

- 178 Between Towers 358 and 363 there is only one monument listed in the general vicinity, a barrow (SMR No. - ME037-030) approximately 17m in diameter in Ballynavaddog townland. This site is nearly 500m from the line route.

#### **14.4.6.9 Towers: 363-382**

**Townlands: Knockstown (E.D. Kilcooly), Knockstown (E.D. Kilmessan), Creroge, Crumpstown or Marshallstown (E.D. Galtrim), Branganstown, Walterstown, Boycetown, Galtrim, Martinstown (E.D. Galtrim)**

- 179 From Tower 363 to 374 the line route passes through gently undulating pasture and arable land crossing the R154 road at Branganstown. To the north of the Boycetown River, in the vicinity of Towers 375 and 376, the route passes three recorded monuments including two raths (SMR Nos. - ME037-022 and ME037-24) and an earthwork (SMR No. - ME037-023) all of which are within 150m of the line. Of the two forts, SMR No. - ME037-022, marked on the first edition map as 'Walsh's Raheen' survives as a portion of a bank and external fosse between the south-east and west circuit. The other rath (SMR No. - ME037-024) survives as a sub-circular area defined by scarp (dims. 36m N-S, 32m E-W) with surrounding fosse. The earthwork (SMR No. - ME037-023) is visible as a raised rectangular area on the aerial photographs. A mound towards its centre may be up-cast from a small quarry.
- 180 At Tower 380 the line diverts to the south-east avoiding Galtrim House (RPS No. - MH043-104), stables (RPS No. - MH043-105), gate lodge (RPS No. - MH043-100) and demesne located to the south-west. The house is a detached three bay, two storey over basement house, built c.1802. It was designed by Francis Johnston as a glebe house for the very reverend Vesey Dawson and has a range of outbuildings around three sides of a courtyard. The Garden Survey describes the demesne as having its main features substantially present with peripheral features unrecognisable. Within the demesne there is also a Board of First Fruits Church (RPS No. - MH043-102 and SMR No. - ME043-001) built in 1800. St. Mary's Church of Ireland is described as a two-bay elevation to south nave, blank elevation with projecting porch to north nave, three-stage castellated and pinnacled tower attached. In the boundary wall of the church is also located a postbox which is a protected structure (RPS No. - MH034-101). South of this is a 7m high motte and bailey (SMR No. - ME043-002). The house and monuments are in excess of 450m from the line.

#### **14.4.6.10 Towers: 382- 402**

**Townlands: Martinstown (E.D. Galtrim), Derrypatrick, Culmullin, Woodtown (E.D. Culmullin), Curraghtown (E.D. Culmullin), Bogganstown (E.D. Culmullin)**

- 181 East of Galtrim the line route passes through Martinstown (E.D. Galtrim) into Derrypatrick, the site of a number of monuments including a church and graveyard, bawn and field system (SMR Nos. - ME043-010, ME043-010001, ME043-011 and ME043-012) respectively. All of these are

- found over 450m to the south-west of the proposed line route. The graveyard occupies a tree-lined polygonal plot accessed via a roadside gate. The SMR describes the grounds as containing two possible bullaun stones (SMR Nos. - ME043-010002, ME043-010003) although these are not listed in the archaeological survey database. Also fragments from a two-light ogee-headed window have been set in the graveyard wall on either side of the entrance. The church survives as grass-covered foundations divided into a nave and chancel. The castle to the immediate south of the graveyard is marked on the historic maps but now has no upstanding remains. The Meath inventory describes it in 1984 as *"a raised rectangular area (dims. 8.5m E-W, 6.5m N-S) situated at north-west corner of large bawn, defined on all sides except north by large earthen banks and external fosse. Entrance and causeway to bawn towards east end of south side"*. There is an associated field system nearby.
- 182 Crossing the Derrypatrick River the line passes approximately 485m to the south-west of Culmullin House which has an associated Demesne landscape, described in the NIAH as having its main features substantially present. Within the demesne are three recorded monuments including a motte, house and a font (SMR Nos. - ME043-018, ME043-018001 and ME043-018002). There is also a church to the north (SMR No. - ME043-017) described as containing foundations of an east-west building with opposing doors towards western end. There is a sacristy attached to north side of the chancel. The Galtrim font would have been originally located here and has a separate SMR entry for this location, ME043-017001. In the fields along the proposed line route to the west of the house large cultivation ridges were noted. Construction access for Towers 395 to 398 passes through Culmullin demesne.
- 183 To the east of Tower 399 is a holy well site (SMR No. - ME043-045). The well is housed in a roadside block built shed with a pump.
- 184 Between Towers 399 and 400 the line passes in excess of 450m from a treelined ringfort (SMR No. - ME043-030) in Woodtown (E.D. Culmullin). South-west of this the line diverts eastwards at Tower 402.
- 185 The following topographical finds have been recovered from this section of the subject area - a stone axe (NMI Find No. - 1930:25:00) found in Woodtown (E.D. Culmullin) townland (NMI Find No. - 1953:12-19) three food vessels, five skeletons, (NMI Find No. - 1949:22, 23,24) fragments of a Neolithic vessel, skeletal remains, (NMI Find No. - 1942:737) stone hone, (NMI Find No. - 1952:2) human remains, (NMI Find No. - 1952:2A), pottery, (NMI Find No. - 1952:2b) and a Pebble (NMI Find No. - 1950:29-30) from Martinstown (E.D. Galtrim) townland.

#### 14.4.6.11 Towers: 402 to 410

**Townlands: Bogganstown (E.D. Culmullin), Curraghtown (E.D. Culmullin), Gaulstown (E.D. Culmullin), Hayestown, Creemore, Woodland**

186 At Tower 402 the proposed development is strung on existing double circuit towers until it reaches Woodland Substation after Tower 410.

187 Topographically Tower 402 is located at a local high point, on a ridge at around 130m altitude. As the line route proceeds to the east it falls gradually in altitude as it approaches the substation which is located at less than 100m.

188 To the south, between Towers 403 and 404 are two enclosures (SMR ME043-035 and ME043-036). The closest (SMR No. ME043-035), approximately 420m to the south of the proposed development, is small, only approximately 20m in diameter and covered in dense vegetation. The second (SMR No. - ME043-036) is far more substantial, approximately 60m in diameter and 920 from the proposed development. Just to the north of existing Tower 409 is a moated site (SMR No. – ME044-016) which is evident as a raised rectangular platform approximately 140m to the north of the tower.

## 14.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

### 14.5.1 Introduction

189 Potential impacts have been considered for both known and previously unrecorded archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the development.

### 14.5.2 Evaluation of Impacts

190 In line with the EPA's *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (March 2002) and the DoECLGs *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment* (March 2013); the impact upon designated and undesignated archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features (as detailed in **Appendices 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS) have been evaluated using the following criteria:

#### 14.5.2.1 Quality of impacts

- Positive Impact: A change that improves or enhances an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structure, monument or feature or its setting;

- Neutral Impact: A change that does not affect an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structure, monument or feature or its setting; and
- Negative Impact: A change that will remove or negatively alter, whether in its entirety or not, an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structure, monument or feature, or detract from an observer's enjoyment or appreciation of its setting.

#### **14.5.2.2 Significance of Impacts**

- Imperceptible Impact: An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences;
- Slight Impact: An impact, which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities;
- Moderate Impact: An impact that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging trends;
- Significant Impact: An impact, which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment; and
- Profound Impact: An impact, which obliterates sensitive characteristics.

#### **14.5.2.3 Duration of Impacts**

- Temporary Impact: Impact lasting for one year or less;
- Short term Impact: Impact lasting one to seven years;
- Medium term Impact: Impact lasting seven to fifteen years; and
- Long term Impact: Impact lasting fifteen to sixty years.

#### **14.5.2.4 Permanent Impact: Impact lasting over sixty years. Types of Impacts**

- Cumulative Impact: The addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant impact;
- 'Do-Nothing Impact': The environment as it would be in the future should no development of any kind be carried out;
- Indeterminable Impact: When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described;

- Irreversible Impact: When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost;
- Residual Impact: The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect; and
- 'Worst Case' Impact: The impacts arising from a development in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.

### 14.5.3 Construction Phase

191 Potential construction impacts may be direct, physical impacts on known and previously unrecorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features. Care has been taken during the design stage to avoid such impacts, however, where there remains a potential for such impacts mitigation measures are recommended. In relation to the proposed development, direct, physical impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage can manifest themselves in the following ways:

- Where an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structure, monument or feature is located within an area where works takes place and the works either intentionally or unintentionally entail the alteration or removal of all or part of the site, structure, monument or feature a direct, physical impact will occur.
- Direct, physical impacts can also occur in gaining access to the site. Where archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features are intentionally or unintentionally removed or altered when transporting and / or facilitating access for machinery, equipment and / or materials to or from site for tower construction and / or stringing of OHLs and /or construction of guarding areas, a direct physical impact will occur.
- There is the potential for direct, physical impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological and architectural sites, structures, monuments or features.

192 If these impacts cannot be remediated, for example if archaeological deposits are destroyed during excavations, then the impacts will be permanent.

#### 14.5.3.1 Archaeological Impacts

#### 14.5.3.2 Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity Impacts

193 At the request of the National Monuments Service, a specific evaluation was undertaken of the potential impacts that the proposed development may have on this area. This evaluation is contained in **Appendix 14.5, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS. In summary, the evaluation reviewed known archaeological monuments within Teltown ZAA and their folkloric and historical

associations. Primary sources provided context to these sites and detailed evaluation work was undertaken to attempt to locate previously unrecorded archaeological monuments within Teltown ZAA. This included a review of OSI historic mapping, several sources of aerial and satellite photography, field survey work from publicly accessible land within the region and finally a LiDAR survey of the entire Teltown ZAA.

194 A possible enclosure (MSA\_CHS070) and the possible location of the artificial lakes (MSA\_CHS073) referred to by O'Donovan were identified during analysis of LiDAR data. Neither of these possible sites will be directly, physically impacted upon by the proposed development. The nearest previously known archaeological monuments consist of a rath (SMR ME017-032) located on the southern bank of the Blackwater River approximately 330m to the south-east of Tower 309 and an embanked enclosure (SMR ME017-50) located approximately 390m to the west of Tower 303. This site was originally identified by aerial photography as a crop mark and has no above ground expression. No known archaeological monuments will be directly, physically impacted upon by the proposed development.

195 Despite the lack of evidence of archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, the Teltown ZAA is still of high archaeological potential and previously unrecorded archaeological deposits could be encountered during excavations associated with the construction of the tower foundations and mitigation measures have been recommended.

#### 14.5.3.3 Archaeological Monuments

196 The following tables contain details of the potential direct, physical impacts that archaeological sites located within the vicinity of the proposed development may experience. To increase the clarity of this evaluation these tables also contain details of site-specific mitigation measures. Further details regarding mitigation measures are contained in **Section 14.6**. It should be noted that not all sites of archaeological importance are represented below, only those that have a potential to be directly physically impacted upon by the proposed development. For details of all archaeological sites that are located within the vicinity of the proposed development please refer to **Appendix 14.2, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS.

197 Note that:

- The tables are listed in alphanumeric order by Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) number;
- 'Distance to route' for archaeological monuments is the distance from the centre point of the data provided on the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website to the centreline of the proposed line route at its nearest point, rounded to the nearest 10m; and
- Similarly the 'Distance to Nearest Tower' is the distance from the centre point of the data provided on the [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) website to the centre point of the tower.

**Table 14.8: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-026----, Ringfort - rath**

ME002-026---- Ringfort - rath					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Tullyweel	276291,292798	370	242	370
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> Construction Access for Towers 242 and 243 passes in close proximity to this ringfort. There is the potential that construction traffic could have a negative impact on associated archaeological deposits.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will inspect the access route to see if there is any potential for impact on archaeological deposits associated with the monument. If necessary the archaeologist will either demarcate a buffer to protect the monument and / or require that bog mats are used to reduce the level of ground disturbance in the area and protect archaeological deposits associated with the monument.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> Demarcation of the site using an appropriate buffer and/or the use of bog mats will ensure the protection of the monument.</p>					

**Table 14.9: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-044----, Ringfort - rath**

ME002-044---- Ringfort - rath					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Lislea	276986,292138	200	245	200
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> Access for the construction of Tower 245 passes in very close proximity to the ringfort, there is the potential that construction traffic could have a negative impact on subsurface deposits associated with the rath.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will inspect the temporary access route in the vicinity of the ringfort and demarcate the site with an appropriate buffer, in addition bog mats may be required to ensure the protection of the monument from any potential impacts.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The use of bog mats will prevent any impacts from construction traffic on any archaeological deposits that may remain <i>in situ</i>.</p>					

**Table 14.10: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-012----, Enclosure**

ME005-012---- Enclosure					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Aghamore	277099,290570	50	250	80
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> This outer bank of the monument is located approximately 60m to the south-west of Tower 250, construction traffic for the tower will not encroach on the monument, however there is a guarding area to the south of the tower that is located in very close proximity to the monument, see <b>Section 14.6.1.3</b>. There is the potential that vegetation clearance or stringing works may impact on the site. Furthermore there is the potential that groundworks for the tower foundation could impact on archaeological deposits associated with the ringfort.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> It is recommended that archaeological testing be carried out at the proposed location of Tower 250 and the nearby guarding area under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. During the construction phase a suitable qualified archaeologist will demarcate a buffer no less than 20m from the monument to ensure that there is no inadvertent damage to the monument or associated features in its immediate vicinity.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. There will be no direct impacts on the earthwork itself.</p>					

**Table 14.11: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME031-017----, Enclosure**

ME031-017---- Enclosure					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Balbrigh	284450,260130	140	351	170
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The proposed access for Towers 351 and 352 passes along a field boundary directly to the north of this enclosure. There is a potential that construction traffic could have a negative impact on sub surface deposits associated with the site. Furthermore ground works for Tower 351, located approximately 140m to the north of the monument could impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> It is recommended that archaeological testing of Tower 351 be undertaken in advance of development, under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the temporary access routes for Towers 351 and 352 and if necessary demarcate a buffer or require the use of bog mats to ensure that associated archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity of the monument are not impacted by construction traffic.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. The use of bog mats will prevent any impacts from construction traffic on any archaeological deposits that may remain <i>in situ</i>.</p>					

**Table 14.12: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-022----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME037-022---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Branganstown	286260,254140	150	375	160
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> Tower 375 is located on the field boundary just to the east of this archaeological monument and there is the potential that during excavations associated with the construction of the tower's foundations that associated archaeological deposits could be negatively impacted on. There is also the potential that the monument itself could be inadvertently impacted on, given its proximity to the tower (approximately 100m) and the presence of a stringing area in the same field.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> It is recommended that an archaeologist undertake archaeological testing of the proposed location of Tower 375 under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG in advance of construction, in addition, during the construction phase an archaeologist will demarcate a buffer no less that 20m from the monument to ensure its protection from any inadvertent damage from traffic.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. There will be no direct impacts on the ringfort itself.</p>					

**Table 14.13: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-023----, Earthwork**

<b>ME037-023---- Earthwork</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Branganstown	286340,253910	120	376	120
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> Tower 376 is located to the east of a field boundary and at its nearest point foundations will be constructed less than 100m from the earthwork, there is the potential that ground works for the tower's foundations could negatively impact on previously unrecorded sub surface archaeological deposits. There are no construction access issues.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> It is recommended that archaeological testing be carried out at the proposed location of Tower 376 under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. There will be no direct impacts on the earthwork itself.</p>					

**Table 14.14: Potential Construction Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-024----, Ringfort - rath**

ME037-024---- Ringfort – rath					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Branganstown	286336,253847	130	376	130
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> Tower 376 is located just to the east of a field boundary less than 100m from the archaeological monument, there is the potential that during excavations associated with the construction of the tower's foundations that associated archaeological deposits could be negatively impacted on. It is proposed to access the tower location from the east meaning the monument itself will not be impacted on by construction traffic.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> It is recommended that an archaeologist undertake testing of the proposed location of Tower 376 under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. There will be no direct impacts on the ringfort itself.</p>					

198 There are also a number of tower locations where there are no impacts on specific archaeological monuments but where there is the potential of encountering archaeological deposits due to the sensitivity of the surrounding area, **Table 14.15** details these tower locations.

**Table 14.15: Other Tower Locations where there are Potential Archaeological Impacts**

Tower number	Potential Impacts
237	There is the potential to impact on the subsurface remains of a house (MSA_CHS002)
239	There is the potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits associated with a nearby archaeological monument, a rath (SMR No. ME002-040001-) with associated standing stone (SMR No. ME002-040----) and possible standing stone (MSA_CHS005)
245	There is the potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits associated with a nearby archaeological monument, a rath (SMR No. ME002-044-- --)
247	There is the potential to impact on the subsurface remains of a farmstead (MSA_CHS010)
261	There is the potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits associated with a nearby archaeological monument, an enclosure (SMR No. ME005-063-)
269	This region has a high archaeological potential due to the presence of several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed scheme, including 5 raths within 200m to 500m (SMR Nos. ME005-089----, ME005-091----, ME005-092---, ME005-097----, and ME005-098----)
270	This region has a high archaeological potential due to the presence of several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed scheme, including 5 raths within 200m to 500m (SMR Nos. ME005-089----, ME005-091----, ME005-092---, ME005-097----, and ME005-098----)
271	This region has a high archaeological potential due to the presence of several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed scheme, including 5 raths within 200m to 500m (SMR Nos. ME005-089----, ME005-091----, ME005-092---

Tower number	Potential Impacts
	---, ME005-097----, and ME005-098----)
272	This region has a high archaeological potential due to the presence of several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed scheme, including 5 raths within 200m to 500m (SMR Nos. ME005-089----, ME005-091----, ME005-092----, ME005-097----, and ME005-098----)
273	This region has a high archaeological potential due to the presence of several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed scheme, including 5 raths within 200m to 500m (SMR Nos. ME005-089----, ME005-091----, ME005-092----, ME005-097----, and ME005-098----)
293	There is the potential to impact on the subsurface archaeological deposits associated with a nearby potential archaeological site (MSA_CHS061)
330	There is the potential to impact on the subsurface remains of a house (MSA_CHS101)
335	There is the potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits associated with a nearby archaeological monument, an earthwork site (SMR No. ME030-004----)
352	There is the potential to impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits associated with a nearby archaeological monument, an earthwork site (SMR No. ME031-017----)
377	There is the potential to impact on archaeological remains associate with a nearby aerial anomaly (MSA_CHS126)

#### 14.5.3.3.1 Temporary Access Routes

199 There are several tower locations noted in Chapter 7, **Volume 3B** of the EIS where, depending on ground conditions, placing of temporary rubber matting or aluminium road panels may be required to facilitate access to working areas, stringing areas and guarding areas. Excavation of topsoil associated with the placement of Type 3 temporary access tracks could have a permanent, negative impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits. However, the requirement for Type 3 access tracks has not been identified. General mitigation in the event that Type 3 temporary access tracks are required is specified in **Sections 14.6.1.2** and **14.6.1.3**.

#### 14.5.3.3.2 Guarding Areas

200 Obstacles such as roads and distribution lines may have to be guarded by way of temporary guard poles and structures. There is the potential that excavation works associated with the construction of guarding areas could have a permanent, negative impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits. **Tables 14.16 - 14.45** detail locations where there may be an impact.

201 Guarding areas are referenced according to the nearest tower, for example, 'at Tower 249', or 'north of Tower 250'. Where there are multiple guarding areas between two towers a further number is added to discriminate, the first and second guarding areas encountered respectively when heading east along the alignment from Tower 262 would, for example, be referred to as 'east of Tower 262 (1)' and 'east of Tower 262 (2)'.

**Table 14.16: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding at Tower 249**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - At Tower 249 (NGR - 277150/290790)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the south side of the road is located in an area where a house was situated during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS013). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they may need to be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.17: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 250**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 250 (NGR - 277145/290750)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding area is located approximately 120m to the north of an enclosure (SMR No. ME005-012) that appears as a fort on the first edition OS map. Given the proximity of the archaeological monument there is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland. There will be no direct impacts on the enclosure.

**Table 14.18: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 250**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 250 (NGR - 277145/290600)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the south side of the road is located within approximately 10m of an enclosure (SMR No. - ME005-012) and there is the potential that excavations associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated archaeological remains. There is also the potential that the monument could be inadvertently impacted upon during construction of the guarding or that facilitating access could negatively impact on subsurface archaeological remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A regime of archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG has already been recommended for the adjacent tower location (250) and this testing regime will be expanded to include the proposed guarding area. Also a suitably qualified archaeologist will demarcate of buffer of not less than 10m from the enclosure during the construction phase and monitor works associated with both the construction and dismantling of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological testing they may need to be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.19: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South and Adjacent to Tower 261**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South and adjacent to Tower 261 (NGR - 279105/287135)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding area is located approximately 140m to the east of an enclosure (SMR No. ME005-063) that appears as a fort on the first edition OS map. Given the proximity of the archaeological monument there is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland. There will be no direct impacts on the enclosure.

**Table 14.20: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding East of Tower 262 (1)**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - East of Tower 262 (1) (NGR - 279275/286945)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - Access to this guarding area is through a possible quarry site first surveyed during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS032). The antiquity of this site is not known and there is the potential that facilitating access through this area could negatively impact on associated archaeological remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor access through the possible quarry (MSA_CHS032) for both construction and dismantling of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.21: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding East of Tower 262 (2)**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - East of Tower 262 (2) (NGR - 279400/286930)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the western side of the road is located in an area where a possible quarry was surveyed during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS032). The antiquity of this site is not known and there is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on archaeological remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland. There will be no direct impacts on the enclosure.

**Table 14.22: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 267**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 267 (NGR - 280360/286350)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is located within Brittas Demesne, straddling a road in close proximity to the location of a no longer extant gate lodge that is indicated on the first and second edition OS maps. There is the potential that the proposed guarding could negatively impact on features associated with the gate lodge or the demesne entrance. This is not the main entrance currently in use for accessing Brittas House.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding, subsequent to demarcation of vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.23: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 268**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 268 (NGR - 280530/286060)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding straddles the main entrance avenue into Brittas and will be accessed through the main entrance gates into Brittas Estate. There is the potential that in gaining access and constructing the guarding that demesne features could inadvertently be negatively impacted upon.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor access for the construction and dismantling of the guarding, subsequent to demarcation of vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - No predicted residual impacts.

**Table 14.24: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 270**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 270 (NGR - 280900/285510)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - There are several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the guarding area and there is, therefore, a high potential that groundworks in the area could encounter associated archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.25: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 271**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 271 (NGR - 280940/285460)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - There are several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the guarding area and there is, therefore, a high potential that groundworks in the area could encounter associated archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.26: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 273**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 273 (NGR - 281205/284735)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - There are several archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the guarding area and there is, therefore, a high potential that groundworks in the area could negatively impact associated archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.27: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 273**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 273 (NGR - 281250/284585)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - Access to this guarding area is through the historic landscape associated with Rahood House. There is the potential that in gaining access historic structures could inadvertently be negatively impacted upon.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access and demarcate any vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - Following mitigation there would be no predicted residual impacts.

**Table 14.28: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 282**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 282 (NGR - 281745/281655)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - Access to this guarding area is through the grounds of Clooney House which predates the first edition OS maps. There is the potential that in gaining access historic structures could inadvertently be negatively impacted upon.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access and demarcate any vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - Following mitigation there would be no predicted residual impacts.

**Table 14.29: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 288**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 288 (NGR - 281950/279195)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is to be constructed in very close proximity to structures that are indicated on both the first and second edition OS maps. A ruin relating to one of the structures is discernable in the LiDAR orthophotography. There is the potential that construction of the guarding area could negatively impact on ruins or sub-surface remains associated with these structures.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding and demarcate any vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.30: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South and adjacent to Tower 293**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South and adjacent to Tower 293 (NGR - 281480/277700)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is located less than 100m from a potential archaeological site (MSA_CHS061). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated archaeological remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.31: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 303**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 303 (NGR - 281565/274450)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the south side of the road is to be located within the Teltown ZAA, highlighted by the National Monuments Service of the DAHG as an area of high archaeological potential. There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A regime of archaeological testing will be undertaken at the location of the nearby Tower 303, this regime will be amended to include the guarding area.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.32: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 304**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 304 (NGR - 281595/273885)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is to be located within the Teltown ZAA, highlighted by the National Monuments Service of the DAHG as an area of high archaeological potential. There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A regime of archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG will be undertaken.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.33: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding at Tower 309**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - At Tower 309 (NGR - 281215/272755)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is to be located within the Teltown ZAA, highlighted by the National Monuments Service of the DAHG as an area of high archaeological potential. There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on archaeological deposits.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A regime of archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG will be undertaken.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.34: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North-West of Tower 314**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North-west of Tower 314 (NGR - 281160/271305)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the South side of the road is located in an area where a house was situated during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS085). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding on the south side of the road.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.35: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 317**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 317 (NGR - 281405/269995)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding on the North side of the road is located in an area where a house was situated during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS089). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding on the north side of the road.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.36: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South of Tower 321**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South of Tower 321 (NGR - 281625/268865)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is located in an area where a farmstead and house were situated on either side of the road during the first edition OS survey (MSA_CHS091 & MSA_CHS092). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could negatively impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.37: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North of Tower 341**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North of Tower 341 (NGR - 281875/262945)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding straddles one of the entrance avenues which passes through the historic demesne landscape associated with Philpotstown / Dunderry House (RPS No. - MH030-107). There is the potential that in gaining access and constructing the guarding that associated historic structures or features could be negatively impacted on.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the access, monitor groundworks associated with the erection of the guarding and demarcate any vernacular or demesne features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.38: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South-East of Tower 349**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South-east of Tower 349 (NGR - 284005/260595)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - Access to the guarding is through the yard of a farmstead (MSA_CHS112) that predates the first edition OS survey. There is the potential that in gaining access, structures or features of historic potential could be negatively impacted upon.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access and demarcate any vernacular features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - Following mitigation there would be no residual impact.

**Table 14.39: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding North-West and adjacent to Tower 350**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - North-west and adjacent to Tower 350 (NGR - 284095/260535)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - Access to the guarding on the west side of the road is through the yard of a farmstead (MSA_CHS112) that predates the first edition OS survey. There is the potential that in gaining access structures or features of historic potential could be negatively impacted upon.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access and demarcate any vernacular features.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - Following mitigation there would be no residual impact.

**Table 14.40: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding South-East of Tower 366**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - South-east of Tower 366 (NGR - 286155/256410)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is located in an area where a farmstead consisting of a number of structures was situated during the first and second edition OS surveys (MSA_CHS123). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding on the north side of the road.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

**Table 14.41: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Guarding East of Tower 402**

<b>Location of guarding</b> - East of Tower 402 (NGR - 292280/248055)
<b>Potential Impacts</b> - The guarding is located in an area where a number of structures were situated during the first edition OS surveys (MSA_CHS138, MSA_CHS139 & MSA_CHS140). There is the potential that groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding could impact on associated remains.
<b>Mitigation Measures</b> - A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the guarding.
<b>Residual Impacts</b> - In the event that there are archaeological deposits discovered during archaeological monitoring they will be excavated in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

#### 14.5.3.3.3 Changes to existing 110kV Overhead Line Infrastructure

202 Between Towers 307 and 308 the proposed 400 kV OHL crosses the Arva - Navan 110 kV OHL and in order to facilitate this crossing two existing polesets will have to be replaced. These works are located within the Teltown ZAA and although there are no known archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed works, the area has a high archaeological potential. There is the potential that groundworks associated with the replacement of the polesets could have a permanent, negative impact on previously unrecorded archaeological deposits, refer to **Section 14.6.1.4** in relation to mitigation measures.

#### 14.5.3.4 Architectural Impacts

203 The following tables contain details of the potential direct, physical impacts that architectural sites located within the vicinity of the proposed development may experience. To increase the clarity of this evaluation these tables also contain details of site-specific mitigation measures. Further details regarding mitigation measures are contained in **Section 14.6**. It should be noted that not all sites of architectural importance are represented below, only those that have a potential to be directly physically impacted upon by the proposed development. For details of all architectural sites that are located within the vicinity of the proposed development please refer to **Appendix 14.3, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS.

204 Note that:

- The tables are listed in alphabetical order by townland;
- 'Distance to route' for architectural sites is the distance from the centre point of the data provided by the County Council or the NIAH surveys on the [www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie) website to the centreline of the proposed line route at its nearest point, rounded to the nearest 10m; and
- Similarly the 'Distance to Nearest Tower' is the distance from the centre point of the data provided to the centre point of the tower.

**14.5.3.4.1 RPS and NIAH Structures**

205 The following tables are listed in the order in which they are encountered when following the route from north to south.

**Table 14.42: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Brittas, RPS Ref: MH005-105**

<b>Brittas, NIAH Rating - Regional RPS Ref: MH005-105 / NIAH Ref: &lt;Null&gt;</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	280533,286777	430	266	430
<b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The temporary access route for Tower 267 passes through the historic demesne landscape associated with Brittas. The temporary access route for Tower 268 passes through the main entrance gates for Brittas and along the entrance avenue. There is the potential that in gaining access for the construction of these towers that structures or features associated with Brittas could inadvertently be impacted upon.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the proposed access route in consultation with the construction team and if necessary highlight features or demarcate buffers to ensure the protection of sensitive structures and / or features.					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> Following mitigation there will be no impacts on any features or structures associated with Brittas.					

**Table 14.43: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Mountainstown House, RPS Ref: MH012-100**

<b>Mountainstown House, NIAH Rating - Regional RPS Ref: MH012-100 / NIAH Ref: &lt;Null&gt;</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Mountainstown	282999,278938	1040	289	1040
<b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The temporary access route for Tower 289 passes through the main gates, down the entrance avenue and past Mountainstown House. There is the potential that in gaining access for the construction of this tower that structures or features associated with Mountainstown House could inadvertently be impacted upon.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the temporary access route in consultation with the construction team and if necessary highlight features or demarcate buffers to ensure the protection of sensitive structures and / or features.					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> Following mitigation there will be no impacts on any features or structures associated with Mountainstown House.					

**Table 14.44: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Dowdstown House, RPS  
Ref: MH011-124**

Dowdstown House, NIAH Rating - Regional RPS Ref: MH011-124 / NIAH Ref: <Null>					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Dowdstown (E.D. Castletown)	282365,278306	500	290	510
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The temporary access route for Tower 290 and one of its associated stringing areas passes through the curtilage of Dowdstown House. There is the potential that in gaining access for the construction of this tower and stringing associated OHLs that structures or features associated with Dowdstown House could inadvertently be impacted upon.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the proposed access route in consultation with the construction team and if necessary highlight features or demarcate buffers to ensure the protection of sensitive structures and / or features.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> Following mitigation there will be no impacts on any features or structures associated with Dowdstown House.</p>					

**Table 14.45: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Philpotstown / Dunderry House, RPS Ref: MH030-107**

Dunderry House, NIAH Rating - Regional RPS Ref: MH030-107 / NIAH Ref: <Null>					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Philpotstown (ED Bective)	282271,262906	390	341	400
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The temporary access route for Tower 340 and Tower 341 and its associated stringing areas pass through the historic demesne landscape associated with Dunderry House. There is the potential that in gaining access for the construction of these towers and associated stringing areas that structures or features associated with Dunderry House could inadvertently be impacted upon.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> During the construction stage a suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the temporary access route in consultation with the construction team and if necessary highlight features or demarcate buffers to ensure the protection of sensitive structures and / or features.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> Following mitigation there will be no impacts on any features or structures associated with Dunderry House.</p>					

**14.5.3.4.2 Demesnes and Historic Gardens**

206 The following tables are listed in alphabetical order by townland.

**Table 14.46: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Brittas, NIAH Garden Survey**  
**Ref: ME-35-N-806867**

<b>Brittas</b>					
<b>Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-806867</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	281024,286295	0	268	0
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The line route will directly impact on this demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present-with some loss of integrity. The demesne contains five towers running north-west to south-east to the west of the property, crossing over the entrance to the principal buildings. To facilitate the proposed development there will be some clearance of existing woodland along the route, some of which is old deciduous woodland and some more recent plantation woodland (refer to, <b>Chapter 6</b> of this volume of the EIS). The proposed route will have a significant negative impact on Brittas Demesne.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Several attempts were made to find alternative routes that would not impact on the demesne. In attempting to move the route further to the west, it was found that there was the potential for significant impacts on the setting of the nearby National Monument of Cruicetown, which has expansive views to the north, west and north-east. The proposed route is screened from Cruicetown by elevated ground to the west. In attempting to move the route to the east, it was found that the development would have significant impacts on the setting of the Historic Town of Nobber with its numerous designated archaeological and architectural sites. Routes further to the east were also investigated but when all constraints were taken into account these were also found to have a greater potential for impact.</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a significant, negative, direct, physical, impact on the demesne.</p>					

**Table 14.47: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Gibstown, NIAH Garden**  
**Survey Ref: ME-42-N-831736**

<b>Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne)</b>					
<b>Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-831736</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Diméin Bhaile Ghib (Gibstown Demesne)	282614,273704	0	305	0
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The proposed route traverses the demesne near its far western extent. The portion of demesne that the development passes through is separated from main body of the demesne by a road that links Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) to Crasulthan Cross Road and the only demesne feature present in the area is a circular copse of trees. There is little of the former splendour of this extensive demesne that remains, the entrance gate at the Crasulthan Cross roads give some idea but the house itself vanished following a fire and only the outbuildings survive. The direct, physical impact of the proposed development on the demesne was deemed to be slight.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a slight, negative, direct, physical impact on the demesne.</p>					

**Table 14.48: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Mountainstown, NIAH Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-829790**

<b>Mountainstown House</b> Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-829790					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Mountainstown	282263,278963	0	289	0
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The region of the demesne that the proposed development traverses is removed from the house, almost 1km to the west, with demesne entrance avenues and gateways located to the east of the house away from the proposed development. The demesne boundary consists of an impressive mix of large deciduous and evergreen trees that will have to be trimmed to facilitate the proposed development. The demesne survives largely intact. The significance of the direct, physical impact of the proposed development on the demesne was deemed to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a moderate, negative, direct, physical impact on the demesne.</p>					

**Table 14.49: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Philpotstown, NIAH Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-823629**

<b>Philpotstown</b> Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-823629					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Philpotstown (ED Bective)	281981,262886	0	341	0
<p><b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The line route will directly impact on the demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present - with peripheral features unrecognisable. The demesne will contain two towers running north south through the middle of the property, the main house is to the east and is well screened by woodland. The direct impacts will consist of excavations for tower foundations and trimming of vegetation to facilitate required clearances. The significance of the direct physical impacts on the historic landscape was deemed to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a moderate, negative, direct, physical impact on the demesne.</p>					

**Table 14.50: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Rahood, NIAH Garden**  
Survey Ref: ME-35-N-814844

Rahood Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-814844					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Structure (m)
Meath	Rahood	281409,284219	0	274	0
<b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The proposed development will traverse the demesne to the rear of the main house, the demesne described in the NIAH garden survey as having virtually no recognisable features, will contain two towers running north south along its western extent.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a moderate, negative, direct, physical impact on the demesne.					

**Table 14.51: Potential Construction Phase Impacts Relating to Teltown, NIAH Garden**  
Survey Ref: ME-42-N-804728

Teltown House Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-804728					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Tailtin (Teltown)	280691,272893	0	309	0
<b>Potential Direct Physical Impacts:</b> The proposed development crosses a small section of the eastern extent of this historical demesne. There are no demesne features of note in the vicinity of the proposed development. Teltown House itself is located at a remove, approximately 800m to the west of the proposed development. The land in the area is low lying with the Blackwater River forming over half of the demesnes boundary winding around its southern perimeter. The over significance of the direct physical impact of the proposed development was deemed to be slight.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a slight, negative, direct, physical impact on the demesne.					

#### 14.5.4 Operational Phase

207 The majority of potential operational effects will be impacts on the setting of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features. As has been noted previously, the greatest threat to the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the region from this type of development consists of potential impacts on setting throughout the operational phase. Given the upstanding linear form of the proposed development, it has the potential to alter a person's appreciation or enjoyment of a site, structure, monument, feature or cultural heritage landscape even when these are located at a remove from the development. Impacts on setting are best mitigated through sensitive routing of the proposed development

during the earliest stages of constraints mapping, preliminary corridor selection and route selection. During the earlier stages of this project, sites where there was a high potential for impacts on their setting were highlighted so that they could be avoided as far as was practicably possible taking into account all the other constraints within the study area.

- 208 In line with the recommendations of the EPA's *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (2002), only sites where it was considered that the significance of the impact on their setting would be moderate or greater are included in this section. An exception is the Tara Complex, which is discussed, given its level of importance and elevated topography, even though the significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the area was found to be less than moderate.
- 209 In most instances it is not feasible to mitigate impacts on setting; however in some instances, such as Brittas Demesne, County Meath, mitigation measures have been recommended. These mitigation measures are outlined in **Section 14.6.2.1** and details of residual impacts are included in the tables below.
- 210 The methodology applied for the assessment of impacts on setting is provided in **Appendix 14.1.5, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS.

#### **14.5.4.1 Archaeological Impacts**

##### **14.5.4.1.1 Tara Complex**

- 211 The Tara Complex, also commonly referred to as the Hill of Tara is located approximately 6.3km to the east of the proposed development at an elevation of approximately 160m. This site is one of the Royal sites of Ireland and appears on the UNESCO Tentative List for World Heritage status. From the Tara Complex there are views over lowlands to the west where the proposed development is to be located. Given the expansiveness of this vista the lattice framework of the proposed development will blend into the patchwork of fields that make up the landscape. This is one of Ireland's premier archaeological sites and tourist attraction and given its elevated position and expansive views its sensitivity to impacts on setting is very high.
- 212 Within approximately 1.25km to the west of the Tara Complex is an existing 220 kV OHL which passes south south-west to north north-east at the foot of the hill. The presence of this OHL development provided a useful reference to evaluate how the proposed development would impact on the setting of the Tara Complex. It was found that the magnitude of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Tara Complex would be minor. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Tara Complex was considered to be slight.

#### 14.5.4.1.2 Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity

- 213 The proposed development passes from north to south through the area highlighted by the National Monuments Service of the DAHG as the Teltown Zone of Archaeological Amenity (ZAA). A detailed evaluation of the impact of the proposed development was undertaken separately and the report is contained in **Appendix 14.5, Volume 3D Appendices** of the EIS.
- 214 The evaluation highlighted three areas of particular importance within the Teltown ZAA, Rath Dhu (SMR No. ME017-027), Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) and the Knockauns (SMR No. ME017-049). Also of note is the site of Teltown Church and Graveyard (SMR Nos. ME017-031 and ME017-031001), the ruins of a small church and its associated graveyards located to the east of Teltown House (RPS MH017-129).
- 215 John O'Donovan, in his notes that accompanied the first edition survey by the OSI, highlighted Rath Dhu (SMR No. ME017-027) as being located at the centre of the Teltown Festival. The impressively banked enclosure discussed by both O'Donovan and William Wilde in his book *The Boyne and the Blackwater* (1849), was located in an elevated position in the centre of a huge field with extensive views to the south all the way to Tara and the Hill of Ward. Now the field has been divided into a dozen fields, with a laneway located to the east of Rath Dhu, between the monument and the proposed development. Also adjacent to the monument, between it and the proposed development are several houses and agricultural buildings. Given the historical associations of the site, its sensitivity to impacts on setting was found to be high, despite the changes that have taken place in its vicinity. The proposed development is located approximately 1.4km to the east of the monument, where it runs from north to south through the Teltown ZAA. The lane beside Rath Dhu and the nearby houses and agricultural buildings screen many of the views towards the proposed development. The magnitude of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of Rath Dhu was considered to be minor with the overall significance of the impact on the setting of the monument deemed to be slight.
- 216 Domhnagh Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) is a picturesque village located at the eastern extent of the Teltown ZAA. There are a number of protected structures and archaeological monuments associated with the town including Rath Aithir Motte and Bailey (SMR No. ME017-033), Donaghpatrick Church (RPS No. MH017-131) and Graveyard (SMR No. ME017-034001), Parochial Hall (RPS No. MH017-132) Stewards House (RPS No. MH017-133) and Sextons House (RPS No. MH017-134). Nearby, just to the south, is Donaghpatrick Bridge (RPS No. MH017-130). The village itself is encapsulated with dense stands of vegetation to the west of Donaghpatrick Church and Rath Aithir that screen the town from the proposed development which would be located approximately 500m to the west of Rath Aithir. From within the town itself the only view of the proposed development will be that of a wirescape that crosses the road to the west, but dense woodland on either side of the road will constrain this to a very limited view. There is the potential that a small portion of the proposed development may be visible from the south-east corner of the graveyard. On approaches to the village from the

- west, where the development is to be located, the vegetation screens views towards these designated sites as well. The sensitivity of Domhnach Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) to impacts on setting was found to be high to but the magnitude of the impacts of the proposed development upon that setting was found to be minor and the overall significance of the impact slight.
- 217 The site known as the Knockauns is classified as a linear earthwork (SMR No. ME017-049) and consists of two parallel earthen mounds approximately 3m apart. These mounds extended roughly EW for upwards of 65m. The monument was partly destroyed by machinery in 1997, when the northern bank was completely demolished, the ditch was filled with re deposited material and part of the southern bank was removed. Subsequently the site was the subject of two excavations by the National Monuments Service. The Knockauns was thought to have been the site of the Teltown Marriages; details of this custom are contained in the Teltown Assessment Report. However John O'Donovan in his Ordnance Survey Letters attributes this marriage ritual to an alternate site known as Luganeany, a hollow approximately 200m the south-east of the Knockauns.
- 218 In recent times two new dwelling houses have been constructed approximately 120m to the east of the Knockauns, between it and the proposed development. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be moderate to high and the magnitude of the impact of the proposed development modest. The overall significance of the proposed development on the setting of the site was deemed to be slight.
- 219 Teltown Church consists of the ruins of a small church surrounded by a number of gravestones and a low, rectangular enclosing bank. Located as it is, in a large field, there are unobstructed views from the church across the surrounding landscape. Although indicated on one of O'Donovan's maps he has little to say on the site, only acknowledging its existence. Wilde expands little upon this, but only telling us that it was plundered twice in the 12th Century. To the west, Teltown House (RPS No. - MH017-129) with its extensive cut stone outbuildings compliments the historic setting of the church and views to the house and the lands to the south and south-east are unobstructed. To the north there are a number of more modern houses located along the Domhnach Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) Baile Órthaí (Oristown) Road and a cul-de-sac that extends off it to the south. The only reason that locations of Rath Airthir and St. Patricks Church are evident is due to the amount of vegetation surrounding them, screening them from any intervisibility. There was no intervisibility noted between the church and any of the other archaeological sites in the area. Approximately 75m to the north of the monument, extending from east to west is an existing 110 kV OHL. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be high. Although located at almost 700m from Teltown Church a number of the towers associated with the proposed development will be visible as it passes to the east. This is all the more evident as there is little in the way of screening or other development between the proposed development and the church. The magnitude of the impact of the proposed development was found to be substantial and cumulative to the existing 110 kV OHL

to the north. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of Teltown Church was found to be moderate negative.

220 Although, within the Teltown ZAA, there was only a single archaeological monument where there was found to be a moderate impact on its setting, there is no doubt that the proposed development will have an impact on the setting of the region as a whole. Given the historical associations that the region has with the Teltown Games and the Teltown Festival it holds a special place in the folklore of the country and as such must be considered sensitive to impacts on the general setting of the region. Evaluation deemed the significance of this impact on the setting to be moderate.

#### 14.5.4.1.3 Archaeological Monuments

221 The following tables contain details of archaeological sites, structures, monuments or features that will experience impacts on their setting throughout the operational phase of the proposed development. As it is impractical to mitigate these impacts they will persist throughout the operational phase of the development and this is reflected in the residual impacts listed in the tables.

**Table 14.52: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-027----, Enclosure**

<b>ME002-027---- Enclosure</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Tullyweel	276670,292720	510	243	510
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This ringfort is well defined with a stone face along its scarp; the fort is situated in good pastureland to the rear of a farmhouse with good views of the monument from the road 275m to the east. Despite the presence of an existing 220 kV OHL approximately 120m to the north of the monument, the sensitivity of the monument to impacts on setting was found to be high. The development will be seen on the skyline passing to the rear of the monument. The impact will be cumulative to an existing 220 kV line which passes east west approximately 120m to the north of the site. The magnitude of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument was found to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development. The impact will be cumulative to that of the existing 220 kV line.</p>					

**Table 14.53: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-039----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME002-039---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Boherlea	274924,292049	570	239	590
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This well preserved rath, with a tree and gorse covered enclosing bank, is located on the western slope of a hill and is visible from a number of locations. Due to its prominence, the sites sensitivity to impacts on setting was found to be high. The proposed development is located approximately 600m to the north of the monument and there will be views to the interconnection scheme from neighbouring roads to the north and south. The magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument was found to be moderate to significant.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, moderate to significant impact on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.54: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-040----, Standing stone**

<b>ME002-040---- Standing stone</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Boherlea	275167,292428	170	239	180
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see SMR No. ME002-040001.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.55: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-040001-, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME002-040001- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Boherlea	275167,292428	170	239	180
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The site consists of a well-defined rath and standing stone located on the north-west slope of an elevated platform (140m). There are a significant number of forts in the locality, all on drumlins overlooking small streams. The fort lies in the east corner of a field surrounded by hedgerows with mature trees and has good screening but there will be intervisibility towards the development and Tower 239 in particular. In the field to the north is a stone associated with the ringfort that is noted in the SMR description. This upright stone is located 125m from the centre of tower 239 and can be seen from the road to the north. The sensitivity of this area is considered high and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The line route passes 150m to the north and based on its proximity, the impact on the setting will be moderate / significant.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.56: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME002-044----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME002-044---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Lislea	276986,292138	200	245	200
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This ringfort consists of a tree-lined, raised circular area with an agricultural track running to its immediate west and south. Both the first and second edition maps indicate a farm yard to the sites south-east which impacted on its enclosing bank. This farmstead has since been cleared away. The site lies 173m north of Tower 245 in good pasture. There is some screening between the monument and the OHL provided by trees ringing the monument and intervening hedgerows. The sensitivity of the site was found to be moderate and given the proximity of the proposed development the magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the monument was found to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.57: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-012----, Enclosure**

<b>ME005-012---- Enclosure</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Aghamore	277099,290570	50	250	80
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This ringfort is featured on both first and second edition OS mapping. The site is situated to the immediate east of a farm house and yard which significantly impacts on the original setting of the monument. Access to this property is via a lane to the east that runs along the northern and western edge of the enclosure. The ringfort has reasonable screening and its bank is ringed with mature bushes and trees to the south. Views from the monument will be impacted particularly by the OHL to the east; southwards there will be restricted views to Tower 251. Views to the north will be limited as the line route passes over the crest of the hill and mature hedgerows restrict the view to Tower 250. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be low and the magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial to major. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.58 Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-013----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME005-013---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Aghamore	277388,290498	240	250	280
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This heavily overgrown ringfort is situated on the downward slope of a ridge with good views westwards towards the line route. The fort which can be seen from a nearby access road has relatively good intervening screening with mature hedgerows bounding roads and fields. Approaching the monument from the road from the north-west there is a field boundary and the site is not readily evident. Approaching the monument from the south-east the vegetation that encloses the monument restricts views of the sites defining features. From within the monument views will be entirely screened by surrounding vegetation. From the southern edge of the fort there will be views to the south towards the proposed development as it crosses the Kilmainham River Valley. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be moderate and the magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial to major. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the site was found to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.59: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-041----, Enclosure**

<b>ME005-041---- Enclosure</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Ardmaghbreague	277134,288477	830	255	840
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The site is on an elevation with expansive views of the surrounding area. The SMR classifies the site as an enclosure however it appears on the first edition OSI maps as 'Lisbane'. The site is easily viewed from the road to the west. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be high. The proposed development passes from north-west to south-east approximately 780m to the north-east of the monument and will form a prominent feature on the horizon where a number of towers will be visible. The magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact was found to be moderate to significant.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.60: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-089----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME005-089---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	281055,285894	340	270	360
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This fort occupies a summit on the edge of mature hedgerow within Brittas Demesne. Within the centre of the monument is a crudely made stone cross with cross in circle inscribed on one side. The fort enjoys good views to the east, south and west. The fort has a group value because of a number of raths to the north, south and east, and the archaeological complex at Moynagh Lough approximately 1km to the east. To the north SMR ME005-085 is located within woodland and will not be impacted on by the proposed development. However approximately 165m to the south are SMR Nos. ME005-091 and ME005-092 - two well preserved raths. Approximately 270m to the south-east, behind a hedgerow is another rath SMR No. ME005-090. There are intermittent views of these monuments from the road to the west which become more restricted during the summer months due to dense vegetation. The sensitivity of this complex of raths to impacts on setting was considered to be high. The proposed development is located approximately 300m to the west of the monument where it passes from north north-west to south south-east. The line does not pass between these monuments but to the west of the group. The magnitude of the impact was deemed to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the area was found to be moderate to significant. This region was highlighted as being particularly sensitive and attempts were made to find alternative routes that would not impact on the demesne, however local topography, Cruicetown National Monument on high ground to the west and Nobber to the east along with other constraints restricted alternative options.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.61: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-089001-, Cross**

<b>ME005-089001- Cross</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	281055,285894	340	270	360
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see SMR No. ME005-089.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.62: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-090----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME005-090---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	281366,285867	580	270	590
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see ME005-089.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.63: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-091----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME005-091---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Brittas	281070,285679	230	270	240
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see ME005-089.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.64: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-092----, Ringfort - rath**

ME005-092---- Ringfort - rath					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Brittas	281137,285680	290	270	300
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see ME005-089.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.65: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-096----, Enclosure**

ME005-096---- Enclosure					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Cruicetown (E.D. Cruicetown)	280299,284532	930	273	940
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This site is described in the archaeological survey database as 'probably a tree ring' but appears on the first edition OSI maps as a 'Fort'. Given its elevation and good state of preservation with views of a wide area, the sites sensitivity to impacts on setting was found to be high. The development passes from north to south at a lower elevation, approximately 900m to the east of the monument. Even though there is no public access, there will be views of the development over a wide area with several towers visible. There is a view of the monument from the road approaching from the east and the development will be in the foreground. The magnitude of the impact on the site was found to be moderate to substantial. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument was found to be moderate.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.66: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME005-098----, Ringfort - rath**

ME005-098---- Ringfort - rath					
Designations – Archaeological Monument					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Rahood	281610,284820	410	273	410
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This monument is in good condition and the bank, which is ringed with trees, is partially visible on a rise beside the road. Elsewhere from neighbouring roads there are no distant views towards the site. Given its elevated position its sensitivity to impacts on setting was found to be moderate to high. The development passes from north to south approximately 360m to the west of the monument. The line route is at a slightly lower elevation than the monument and several towers will be visible. The magnitude of the impact was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the monument was considered to be moderate.					

**Mitigation Measures:** None

**Residual Impacts:** There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.

**Table 14.67: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME017-031-, Church**

<b>ME017-031---- Church</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower(m)</b>
Meath	Tailtin (Teltown)	280550,272930	690	309	690
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Teltown Church consists of the ruins of a small church surrounded by a number of gravestones and a low, rectangular enclosing bank. Located as it is, in a large field, there are unobstructed views from the church across the surrounding landscape. Although indicated on one of O'Donovan's maps he has little to say on the site, only acknowledging its existence. Wilde expands little upon this, only telling us that it was plundered twice in the 12th Century.</p> <p>To the west, Teltown House (RPS No. - MH017-129) with its extensive cut stone outbuildings compliments the historic setting of the church and views to the house and the lands to the south and south east are unobstructed. To the north there are a number of more modern houses located along the Domhnach Phádraig (Donaghpatrick) Baile Oraí (Oristown) Road and a cul-de-sac that extends off it to the south. The only reason that locations of Rath Airthir and St. Patricks Church are evident is due to the amount of vegetation surrounding them, screening them from any intervisibility. There was no intervisibility noted between the church and any of the other archaeological sites in the area. Approximately 75m to the north of the monument, extending from east to west is an existing 110 kV OHL. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be high.</p> <p>Although located at almost 700m from Teltown Church a number of the Towers associated with the proposed development will be visible as it passes to the east. This is all the more evident as there is little in the way of screening or other development between the proposed development and the church. The magnitude of the impact of the proposed development was found to be substantial and cumulative to the existing 110kV OHL to the north. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of Teltown Church was found to be moderate negative.</p>					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.68: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME031-017----, Enclosure**

<b>ME031-017---- Enclosure</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Balbrigh	284450,260130	140	351	170
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This tree lined, circular enclosure is described in the inventory as possibly a landscape feature, on the first edition mapping however it is referred to as a 'fort'. The site is located to the north-west of a field with mature trees bordering it to the immediate north and east. The line route dog legs within 180m to the north and east of this site. The enclosure has no public access but the development will impact on an appreciation of the site from the surrounding fields. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be moderate. Due to the proximity of the site to the line route the</p>					

magnitude of the impact on the monument was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact of the development on the site was found to be moderate.
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.

**Table 14.69: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME031-026----, Religious house - Cistercian monks**

<b>ME031-026---- Religious house - Cistercian monks</b>					
<b>Designations – National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the State</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Bective	285966,259951	950	356	950
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Bective Cistercian Abbey and tower house is a National Monument in state care with recently improved access. The site is a well-known amenity with good signage directing visitors and has a very high sensitivity to impacts. In order to reduce these impacts the line route was located as far to the east as possible without compromising existing constraints provided by Trim Airfield to the west and the Draft Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area to the east. The abbey occupies a site to the north of the River Boyne in good pasture land. Approaching the abbey from the car park, the principal view is towards the western range of the Abbey and the Bridge to the south. From the abbey looking west there will be as distant view towards the proposed development approximately 950m away. This view contains a house, agricultural buildings and existing overhead lines to the foreground with the proposed development in the background. The magnitude of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be modest. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be moderate.</p>					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.70: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME031-026001-, Castle - tower house**

<b>ME031-026001- Castle - tower house</b>					
<b>Designations – National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the State</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Structure (m)</b>
Meath	Bective	285950,259957	940	356	940
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate for details see SMR No. ME031-026.</p>					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.71: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME031-026002-, Castle - tower house**

<b>ME031-026002- Castle - tower house</b>					
<b>Designations – National Monument in the ownership or guardianship of the State</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Bective	285963,259950	950	356	950
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate for details see SMR No. ME031-026.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.72: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-022----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME037-022---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Branganstown	286260,254140	150	375	160
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The ringfort is located 250m to the south of the R154, set one field back from the road with adjacent field boundaries to the north and west, restricting any passing views. The monument itself is quite degraded with only a portion of the bank surviving to the south. The sites sensitivity to impacts on setting was found to be low to moderate. The proposed development passes approximately 110m to the east of the monument and tower 375 is located in the same field on the field boundary with no intervening screening. The magnitude of the impact on setting of the site was found to be substantial to major. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be moderate.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.73: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-023----, Earthwork**

<b>ME037-023---- Earthwork</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Branganstown	286340,253910	120	376	120
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This earthwork is just over 100m to the west of Tower 376 and is located along a field boundary approximately 30m to the north of rath SMR No. - ME037-024. There is no public access to the site and it cannot be viewed from neighbouring roads. There is good screening from the field boundary to the north which will limit views of the tower from this direction, looking southwards however; the tower and wirescape will be prominent. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be low to moderate. The magnitude of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be substantial to major and the overall significance of the impact on the site is considered to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.74: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME037-024----, Ringfort - rath**

<b>ME037-024---- Ringfort - rath</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Branganstown	286336,253847	130	376	130
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This ringfort is located in relatively open pastureland and appears as a scarp in the field just to the north of the Boycetown River. The site is set back from surrounding roads and there are no views of it from any publicly accessible areas. The sensitivity to the site impacts on setting was found to be low to moderate. The development is located just over 100m to the east of the monument with Tower 376 located just to the east of the field boundary. The magnitude of the impact of the proposed development on the site was found to be substantial to major. The overall significance of the impact on the setting of the site was considered to be moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

**Table 14.75: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME043-018----, Castle - motte**

<b>ME043-018---- Castle - motte</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Culmullin	291500,249850	490	396	500
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> The significance of the impact on the setting of this site was found to be moderate to significant for details see SMR No. ME043-018002.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

**Table 14.76: Potential Operational Phase Impacts on Archaeological Monument SMR No. ME043-018002-, House - 16th/17th century**

<b>ME043-018002- House - 16th/17th century</b>					
<b>Designations – Archaeological Monument</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Culmullin	291510,249815	480	396	500
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This site has a group value containing a possible motte, a font and a 16th / 17th century house all located within a site that appears on the first edition OSI maps as Culmullin Demesne. The nearby church (SMR No. ME043-017) and font (SMR No. ME043-017001) are also included within the demesne landscape, however it is noted that the font now located in Culmullin House was originally situated in the nearby graveyard (SMR No. ME043-017001). The house and its setting along with the castle motte and bailey have a general aspect towards the proposed development. However the church and graveyard are located in a well screened setting with no views towards the line route. The proposed development is located approximately 460m to the west of the house, where it crosses a ridge as it passes from north north-west to south south-west. Vegetation will screen much of the development as it approaches from the north but Tower 396 and the wirescape will be clearly visible from the house. The sensitivity of the site to impacts on setting was found to be high. The magnitude of the impact on the site was found to be substantial. The overall significance of the impact on the site was found to be moderate to significant.					
<b>Mitigation Measures:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the development.					

#### 14.5.4.2 Architectural Impacts

222 The following tables contain details of the potential impacts that the proposed development could have on the setting of designated architectural sites during the operational phase of the proposed development. In addition the tables contain mitigation measures that could reduce the significance of these impacts and detail the residual impacts to be expected.

## 14.5.4.2.1 Demesne Landscapes and Historic Gardens

Table 14.77: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Whitewood, Garden Survey

Ref: ME-35-N-801886

Whitewood House Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-801886					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Whitewood	280150,288450	850	259	1000
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Moderate, the line route will not directly impact on the demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present-peripheral features unrecognisable. The main house faces east along a tree lined avenue, however the rear of the house overlooks Whitewood lough to the west and beyond towards the line route. There is some screening in the form of woodland to the rear of the house. The sensitivity of the demesne to impacts was considered high and the magnitude of the impact modest to substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate to significant.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> none</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the development.</p>					

Table 14.78: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Brittas, Garden Survey Ref:

ME-35-N-806867

Brittas Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-806867					
County	Townland	NGR	Distance to Route (m)	Nearest Tower (No.)	Distance to Tower (m)
Meath	Brittas	281024,286295	0	268	0
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Significant, the line route will directly impact on the demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present-with some loss of integrity. The demesne will contain five towers running north-west / south-east to the west of the property, crossing over the entrance to the principal buildings. The main house is well screened by woodland. The sensitivity of the demesne to impacts was considered very high and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as significant. The impact on Brittas Demesne was the result of a number of constraints including the general topography, the presence of Cruicetown National Monument to the south-west and Moynagh lough and Nobber to the east.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> none</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will directly impact on the demesne; the sensitivity of the demesne was considered high and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as significant.</p>					

**Table 14.79: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Rahood, Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-814844**

<b>Rahood</b>					
<b>Garden Survey Ref: ME-35-N-814844</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Rahood	281409,284219	0	274	0
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Moderate, the line route will traverse the demesne to the rear of the main house, the demesne described in the NIAH garden survey as having virtually no recognisable features, will contain two towers running north south along its western extent. The proposed development will have a direct impact on the setting of the demesne; the sensitivity of the demesne was considered low and the magnitude of the impact major. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> none</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be direct physical impacts on the demesne. The residual impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate during the operational life of the interconnection scheme.</p>					

**Table 14.80: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Mountainstown, Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-829790**

<b>Mountainstown House</b>					
<b>Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-829790</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Mountainstown	282263,278963	0	289	0
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Moderate, the line route will traverse the demesne to the west of the main house, the demesne described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present - peripheral features unrecognisable will contain a single tower, with two towers flanking its boundary to the north and south. The proposed development will have a direct impact on the setting of the demesne; the sensitivity of the demesne was considered high and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate.</p>					
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> none</p>					
<p><b>Residual Impacts:</b> The proposed development will have a direct impact on the setting of the demesne; the sensitivity of the demesne was considered high and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate.</p>					

**Table 14.81: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Churchtown**

<b>Churchtown House</b>					
<b>Garden Survey Ref: None</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Churchtown	281750,264061	90	337	110
<p><b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Moderate, the line route will not directly impact on the demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present-peripheral features unrecognisable. The sensitivity of the demesne to impacts was considered moderate and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate.</p>					

<b>Mitigation:</b> none
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational life of the proposed development.

**Table 14.82: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Philpotstown, Garden Survey**  
**Ref: ME-42-N-823629**

<b>Philpotstown</b> <b>Garden Survey Ref: ME-42-N-823629</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Philpotstown (ED Bective)	281981,262886	0	341	0
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Moderate, the line route will directly impact on the demesne, described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features substantially present - with peripheral features unrecognisable. The demesne will contain two towers running north south through the middle of the property, the main house is to the east and is well screened by woodland. The sensitivity of the demesne to impacts was considered moderate and the magnitude of the impact substantial. The overall impact on the setting of the demesne was appraised as moderate.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> none					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the site during the operational life of the proposed development.					

#### 14.5.4.2.2 RPS and NIAH

**Table 14.83: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Whitewood House, Lodge and farm buildings, RPS Ref: MH005-104**

<b>Whitewood House, Lodge and farm buildings</b> <b>NIAH Rating - National</b> <b>RPS Ref: MH005-104 / NIAH Ref: None</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Whitewood	280044,288627	1630	259	1630
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> Whitewood Lodge and farm buildings are within a demesne described in the NIAH garden survey as having its main features present, the lodge is an impressive 18th century structure complete with outbuildings. The aspect of the front of the house is to the east with views along a tree lined avenue. To the rear of the house there are views westward across Whitewood Lough. The line route runs north north-west to south south-east approximately 1.6km to the west of the house. From a review of the first edition map, the house was originally surrounded by forestry, with two paths cleared to take advantage of views, one west towards the lough and the other to the south-west. The towers between 257 and 260 climb a ridge as the proposed development rises out of the Dee River Valley and into the hills of north Meath and into Cavan. There will be intervisibility between the house and the line route. Vegetation will limit some of the view from ground level but there will be significant views of the development from the windows of the upper floors of the house. The sensitivity of this property to impacts on setting was considered high and the magnitude of the impact modest. The impact on the setting was adjudged moderate.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the site during the operational life of the proposed development.					

**Table 14.84: Potential Operational Phase Impacts relating to Bective Abbey, RPS Ref: MH031-107**

<b>Bective Abbey</b>					
<b>NIAH Rating - National</b>					
<b>RPS Ref: MH031-107 / NIAH Ref: None</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>Townland</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Distance to Route (m)</b>	<b>Nearest Tower (No.)</b>	<b>Distance to Tower (m)</b>
Meath	Bective	285964,259953	950	356	950
<b>Potential Impacts on setting:</b> This national monument comprises a 12th century Cistercian abbey and a tower house on the banks of the River Boyne. The site is well sign-posted locally and has good access for visitors. Bective Abbey is a site of national importance and a significant local amenity. The site lies along a river valley and is 950m to the east north-east to the line route. There will be limited intervisibility between the abbey and the line route due to intervening screening provided by hedgerows and mature trees along field boundaries. This area has a high sensitivity to impacts and the magnitude of the impact of the OHL was considered modest.					
<b>Mitigation:</b> None					
<b>Residual Impacts:</b> There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the site during the operational life of the proposed development.					

#### 14.5.4.3 Other Cultural Heritage

##### 14.5.4.3.1 Baile Ghib Gaeltacht Area

223 The alignment passes through the Gaeltacht region of Baile Ghib. The Meath CDP acknowledges the importance of the Irish language and its associated cultural heritage to the Gaeltacht areas. The proposed development will have a neutral impact on the Gaeltacht region of Baile Ghib.

##### 14.5.4.3.2 Operational Phase – Maintenance / Upgrade Works

224 There is the potential that archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, monuments, structures or features in the vicinity of the line could be impacted on during maintenance or upgrade works that may be required throughout the operational phase of the proposed development.

##### 14.5.4.4 Decommissioning Phase

225 The proposed development will become a permanent part of the transmission infrastructure. The expected lifespan of the development is in the region of 50 to 80 years. This will be achieved by routine maintenance and replacement of hardware as required. There are no plans for the decommissioning of the OHL. In the event that part of, or the entire proposed infrastructure is to be decommissioned, all towers, equipment and material to be decommissioned will be removed off site and the land reinstated. Impacts would be expected to be less than during the construction phase and would be of short term duration.

### 14.5.5 Indirect Impacts

226 No indirect impacts are predicted in the evaluation of impacts for the proposed development.

## 14.6 MITIGATION MEASURES

### 14.6.1 Construction Phase – Direct Physical Impacts

227 The best form of mitigation, preservation in situ, is achieved by routing to avoid direct, physical impacts upon archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage site, structures monuments and features. All designated archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features have been avoided by the design team as far as was practicably possible, taking into account all the environmental constraints within the MSA.

228 The National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 require that in the event of the discovery of archaeological finds or remains that the relevant authorities, the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland, should be notified immediately. Allowance will be made for full archaeological excavation, in consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG, in the event that archaeological remains are found during the construction phase.

229 In areas where there is the potential that archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structures, monuments or features could be impacted on during the construction phase, one or more of the following mitigations measures have been recommended in the EIS:

- Archaeological monitoring – in areas of moderate archaeological potential, excavations associated with construction works and / or facilitating access to the construction site and / or stringing areas will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. In the event that archaeological deposits are discovered, work in the area will cease immediately and the archaeologist will liaise with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.
- Archaeological testing – best practice in areas of high archaeological potential demands caution, to ensure that archaeological deposits are identified as early as possible, thereby ensuring that any loss from the archaeological record is minimised. Under a monitoring remit, an archaeologist will observe normal construction works, usually undertaken with a toothed excavator bucket. During archaeological testing a licensed eligible archaeologist supervises excavations undertaken with a toothless grading bucket, under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG, thereby ensuring the early identification of archaeological deposits and minimal loss to the archaeological record. Undertaking this confirmatory surveying, will ensure that sufficient time can be allowed within the construction schedule for the excavation of any archaeological deposits discovered.

- Demarcation – where it has been identified that there is the potential that an archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage site, structure or monument could be impacted upon in gaining access to construct the proposed development, then demarcation has been recommended to prevent any inadvertent damage. A suitably qualified archaeologist will access the site prior to the commencement of construction works in the area and demarcate a buffer around the monument that will remain in place throughout any construction works in the vicinity.
- Confirmation of temporary access routes – at a number of locations confirmation of the proposed temporary access routes will take place, in consultation with the construction team and prior to commencement of construction works, to ensure that the surviving historic fabric of buildings is not impacted on in gaining access for construction activities. To this end the temporary access routes may be revised, sensitive features highlighted and demarcated or different construction machinery or methods as identified in the EIS) may be used that can access the site without impacting on the historic fabric.
- Monitoring of tree surgery – in a couple of instances there is dense vegetation that will have to be trimmed in the vicinity of upstanding remains of buildings that are indicated on historic mapping. This work will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist to ensure that the historic fabric of the buildings is not impacted upon by the works.

230 It is recommended that a suitably qualified cultural heritage consultancy / consultant be appointed to oversee the effective implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this chapter for the construction phase of the proposed development. The consultancy / consultant should maintain continuing liaison with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG throughout the construction phase of the development.

231 In line with the *Code of Practice Between the National Monuments Service of the DoEHLG (now DAHG) and ESB Networks* (2009), a project archaeologist will be appointed to oversee the effective implementation of the recommended archaeological mitigation during the proposed works. Appendix I of the Code of Practice defines the role of the project archaeologist and Appendix II sets out the relationship between the project archaeologist and the consultant archaeologist.

#### 14.6.1.1 Teltown ZAA Mitigation

232 The following mitigation strategies have been formulated for the Teltown ZAA:

- Test pits for other environmental and engineering disciplines will be subject to archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist;

- Archaeological testing – best practice in areas of high archaeological potential demands caution, to ensure that archaeological deposits are identified as early as possible, thereby ensuring that any loss from the archaeological record is minimised. During archaeological testing a licence eligible archaeologist supervises excavations undertaken with a toothless grading bucket, under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG, thereby ensuring the early identification of archaeological deposits and minimal loss to the archaeological record. Undertaking this work preconstruction will ensure that sufficient time can be allowed within the construction schedule for the excavation of any archaeological deposits discovered. All tower and guarding locations within the Teltown ZAA will be subject to a regime of preconstruction archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. The National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland will be consulted immediately should archaeology be discovered and allowance will be made for full archaeological resolution;
- During the construction phase a suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor site access and construction works. Ensure that where appropriate low ground pressure vehicles or panel tracks are used to minimise ground disturbance. Type 3 temporary access tracks will not be used within the Teltown ZAA. Low ground pressure vehicles and Type 2 temporary access tracks (i.e. temporary rubber matting or aluminium road panels) will be used to minimise ground disturbance. The Derrick Pole Methodology (see **Volume 3B Section 7.3.4.3.2** of the EIS) will be used for tower construction; mobile cranes will not be used; and
- A suitably qualified archaeologist will monitor access and construction of any guarding areas required within the ZAA.

#### 14.6.1.2 Tower Locations and Associated Temporary Access Routes

233 For clarity, detailed site specific mitigation measures that relate to designated archaeological and architectural sites are contained in the tables in **Section 14.5**. A summary of the mitigation measures is contained in **Table 14.92**. The mitigation measures are listed by tower number, providing a summary of mitigation measures that apply to the construction of each tower and or works that are associated with facilitating access to the tower. Towers where no mitigation is required are not contained in the table.

**Table 14.85: Summary of Mitigation Measures Listed by Tower Number**

<b>Tower Number</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
237	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
239	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
242	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
243	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
245	Archaeological monitoring and confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist and demarcation of nearby archaeological monument (SMR No. - ME002-044) along proposed access route and use of bog mats if necessary
250	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and demarcation of nearby archaeological monument (SMR No. - ME005-012)
257	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
261	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
267	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
268	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
269	Archaeological monitoring of excavations associated with the construction of the tower by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
270	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
271	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
272	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
273	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
274	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
278	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
279	Archaeological testing of the tower location under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG. No topsoil stripping or other excavation work will be carried out in order to access this tower for construction, other methods of access will be used and ground disturbance will be kept to a minimum.
280	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
282	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
283	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
289	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
290	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
293	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
303	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG

Tower Number	Mitigation
304	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
305	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
306	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
307	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
308	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
309	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
310	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
312	Archaeological monitoring by suitably qualified archaeologist.
330	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
331	Confirmation of temporary access track by suitably qualified archaeologist
335	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist
340	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
341	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
349	Confirmation of temporary access route by suitably qualified archaeologist
351	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and demarcation of nearby archaeological monument (SMR No. - ME031-017)
352	Archaeological monitoring by suitably qualified archaeologist and demarcation of nearby archaeological monument (SMR No. - ME031-017)
354	Archaeological testing by suitably qualified archaeologist. and demarcation of potential archaeological monument to the south-east
355	Archaeological testing by suitably qualified archaeologist and demarcation of potential archaeological monument to the north-west
375	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and demarcation of nearby archaeological monument (SMR No. - ME037-022----)
376	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG
377	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks by suitably qualified archaeologist

### 14.6.1.3 Guarding Areas and Associated Temporary Access Tracks

234 A summary of the mitigation measures is contained in **Table 14.91**. The mitigation measures are listed by guarding area location and NGR with a summary of mitigation measures that apply to construction works associated with each guarding area. Guarding Areas where no mitigation is required are not contained in the table.

**Table 14.86: Guarding Areas Mitigations**

<b>Guarding Area Location</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Mitigation Summary</b>
At Tower 249	277150/290790	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 250	277145/290750	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South of Tower 250	277145/290600	Archaeological testing of guarding site, demarcation of adjacent enclosure (SMR No. - ME005-012) and monitoring of construction and dismantling of guarding
South and adjacent to Tower 261	279105/287135	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
East of Tower 262 (1)	279275/286945	Monitoring of access in the vicinity of the possible quarry site (MSA_CHS032) for the construction and dismantling of the guarding
East of Tower 262 (2)	279400/286930	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service of the DAHG of possible quarry site (MA_CHS032) on the west side of the road
South of Tower 267	280360/286350	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South of Tower 268	280530/286060	Monitoring of access for the construction and dismantling of the guarding
South of Tower 270	280900/285510	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 171	280940/285460	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 273	281205/284735	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South of Tower 273	281250/284585	A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access
At Tower 278	281710/282895	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 280	281835/282420	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 282	281745/281655	A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access
South of Tower 288	281950/279195	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South and adjacent to Tower 293	281480/277700	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 303	281565/274450	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service DAHG
South of Tower 304	281595/273885	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service DAHG
At Tower 309	281215/272755	Archaeological testing under licence to the National Monuments Service DAHG
North-west of Tower 314	281160/271305	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South of Tower 317	281405/269995	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
South of Tower 321	281625/268865	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
North of Tower 341	281875/262945	A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm the access and monitor ground works

Guarding Area Location	NGR	Mitigation Summary
South-east of Tower 349	284005/260595	A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access
North-west and adjacent to Tower 350	284095/260535	A suitably qualified archaeologist will confirm access
South-east of Tower 366	286155/256410	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist
East of Tower 402	292280/248055	Archaeological monitoring of ground works by suitably qualified archaeologist

#### 14.6.1.4 Existing 110kV Overhead Line Infrastructure

235 It is recommended that a suitably qualified archaeologist monitor all groundworks associated with the replacement of polesets at the crossing of the Arva – Navan 110kV OHL. In the event that archaeological deposits are discovered then the National Monuments Service will be notified immediately and time allocated within the construction schedule to allow for excavation of any archaeological material in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

#### 14.6.2 Operational Phase

236 As has been noted previously in this chapter, impacts on setting are best mitigated through sensitive routing of the proposed development to avoid impacts on particularly sensitive archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments, features or landscapes. From the earliest phases of this project every attempt has been made to minimise the impacts that it will have on the setting on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the region. Despite this, it has not been possible, given the large influence that an upstanding linear development such as has been proposed and other competing environment and social factors to avoid all impacts on setting. In most instances it is not possible to further mitigate the impacts on setting that have been predicted in the **Section 14.5**.

##### 14.6.2.1 Brittas

237 The proposed development passes through the demesne landscape associated with Brittas House (RPS No. - MH005-105) and in so doing traverses the entrance avenue to the main residence (approximately 175m from the main gates). It has been noted that the most significant impact will be on the visibility of the OHL entering or leaving the demesne. The clearance of existing vegetation will be minimised in this area and in consultation with the landowner appropriate screening will be planted on either side of lane to limit the views towards the proposed development.

### 14.6.3 Operational Phase – Maintenance/Upgrade Works

238 Potential impacts on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, monuments, structures or features during maintenance or upgrade works that may be required during the operational phase of the proposed development are best mitigated through ongoing liaison with the National Monuments Service and the Architectural Heritage Advisory Unit at the DAHG and local heritage and conservation officers within the County Councils.

### 14.6.4 Indirect Impacts

239 No indirect impacts were predicted in the evaluation of impacts for the proposed development.

## 14.7 RESIDUAL IMPACTS

### 14.7.1 Archaeological

#### 14.7.1.1 Construction Phase

240 Following mitigation there will be no direct physical impacts on the upstanding remains of any known archaeological monuments during the construction phase of the proposed development. There is the potential that archaeological deposits in the vicinity of known archaeological monuments or in areas of high archaeological potential may be encountered during the excavation associated with the construction of tower foundations, guarding areas or other excavation works associated with the proposed development. Following mitigation these will be dealt with in accordance with best practice and in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

#### 14.7.1.2 Operational Phase

241 There will be ongoing impacts on the setting of archaeological monuments throughout the operation phase of the development. **Table 14.92** lists archaeological monuments that are located in the vicinity of the proposed development and the impact that they will experience on their setting. Only sites where the significance of the impact was considered to be moderate or higher are included in the table. Other sites / areas of note are dealt with individually below.

#### 14.7.1.3 The Teltown ZAA

242 It was found that in each instance, the impacts on the setting of known archaeological or architectural sites within the Teltown ZAA would have a significance less than moderate. However, mindful of the unique mythological, historical and folkloric associations of the ZAA the region has a group value and it is considered that the proposed development will have an impact on the region as a whole. The significance of this impact was deemed to be moderate.

#### 14.7.1.4 National Monuments in State Care

243 It was found that there will be an impact on the setting of Bective Abbey a National Monument in State care throughout the operation phase of the proposed development. The significance of the impact on the setting of the site was found to be moderate; given the proposed lifetime of the development the impact will be permanent.

#### 14.7.1.5 Archaeological Monuments

244 There will be ongoing impacts on the setting of archaeological monuments throughout the operation phase of the development. **Table 14.92** lists archaeological monuments that are located in the vicinity of the proposed development and the impact that they will experience on their setting during the operational phase of the proposed development. Only sites where the significance of the impact was considered to be moderate or higher are included in the table.

**Table 14.87: Residual Impacts on Archaeological Monuments**

SMR No.	Classification	Residual Impact
ME002-027-- --	Enclosure	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME002-039-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, moderate to significant impact on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME002-040-- --	Standing stone	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME002-040001-	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME002-044-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-012-- --	Enclosure	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-013-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-041-- --	Enclosure	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-089-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-089001-	Cross	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.

SMR No.	Classification	Residual Impact
ME005-090-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-091-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-092-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-096-- --	Enclosure	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME005-098-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME017-031-- --	Church (Ruins)	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME031-017-- --	Enclosure	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME037-022-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME037-023-- --	Earthwork	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME037-024-- --	Ringfort - rath	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME043-018-- --	Castle - motte	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.
ME043-018002-	House - 16th/17th century	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the archaeological monument during the operational phase of the proposed development.

245 Impacts on any archaeological sites, monuments, structures or features as a result of maintenance or upgrade works during the operational phase will be mitigated through ongoing liaison the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and local heritage officers.

## 14.7.2 Architectural

### 14.7.2.1 Construction Phase

246 There were four areas noted where there is the potential that construction traffic could inadvertently impact on structures associated with designated protected structures. These include Brittas (RPS No. - MH005-105), Mountainstown House (RPS No. - MH012-100), Dowdstown House (RPS No. – MH011-124) and Philpotstown House (RPS No. – MH030-107).

247 There are a number of sites where there is the potential that construction traffic could inadvertently impact on the surviving fabric of structures that appear in the historic maps and in such instances the access routes will be reviewed to ensure that such fabric is not impacted upon.

248 There will be an impact on some demesne woodland, demesne boundaries and field boundaries within demesne landscapes to achieve clearances required for the OHL. These include Brittas, Mountainstown House and Philpotstown House.

### 14.7.2.2 Operational Phase

249 There will be ongoing impacts on the setting of architectural sites throughout the operational phase of the proposed development.

250 Demesne landscapes and Protected Structures that are located in the vicinity of the proposed development and the impact that they will experience on their setting during the operational phase of the proposed development are as outlined in **Table 14.93** and **Table 14.94**. Only sites where the significance of the impact was considered to be moderate or higher are included in the table.

**Table 14.88: Residual Impacts on Demesnes Landscapes**

Site Name	Residual Impact
Whitewood	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate to significant significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.
Brittas	There will be a permanent, negative impact of significant significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.
Rahood	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.
Mountainstown House	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.
Churchtown House	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.

Philpotstown	There will be a permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the demesne during the operational phase of the proposed development.
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**Table 14.89: Residual Impacts on the Setting of Protected Structures**

Site Name	Site Number	Residual Impact
Whitewood House	MH005-104	There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the site during the operational life of the proposed development.
Bective Abbey	MH031-107	There will be permanent, negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of the site during the operational life of the proposed development.

251 Impacts on any architectural sites or structures as a result of maintenance or upgrade works during the operational phase will be mitigated through ongoing liaison with the architectural heritage advisory unit at the DAHG and the local authority conservation officer.

## 14.8 INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

252 There are potential interaction with the following environmental topics:

- **Chapter 4** - Human Beings – Tourism and Amenity some of the more prominent archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features may also be tourist attractions. The proposed development may be perceived as reducing the attractiveness of these sites by having an impact on their setting.
- **Chapter 6** - Flora and Fauna - the proposed development can impact on demesne boundaries or planted landscape features within a demesne. The proposed development may be perceived as reducing the attractiveness of these sites by having an impact on their setting.
- **Chapter 9** - Noise and Vibration - noise from high voltage OHLs can impact on the setting of archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures, monuments or features. The proposed development may be perceived as reducing the attractiveness of these sites by having an impact on their setting;
- **Chapter 11** – Landscape - the proposed development will form a new feature in the environment and impact visually on sites which are of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage importance, some of which will be prominent landscape features and may contain important views or prospects.

## 14.9 CONCLUSIONS

253 The archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage appraisal for the MSA evaluates both the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological, architectural

and cultural heritage resource in the vicinity of the proposed development. In accordance with the relevant legislation and DAHG policy, the main mitigation measures involves preservation in situ, thereby avoiding direct, physical impacts on known cultural heritage sites. All designated cultural heritage sites have been avoided as far as was practicably possible, with due regard to other disciplines and constraints. Recommendations to prevent or mitigate impacts include demarcating appropriate buffers around sites, supervision of vegetation clearance and / or archaeological pre-development testing or monitoring of ground works. These mitigation measures will be implemented at the construction phase to minimise and / or eliminate impacts.

254 The proposed development passes through the Teltown ZAA. Although there are no designated archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the proposed development, it is an area of high archaeological potential and specific mitigation is proposed to limit the amount of ground disturbance and to ensure that, in the event that archaeological deposits are discovered during the construction phase, they are dealt with in accordance with professional best practice in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

255 The appraisal found that there will be no direct, physical impacts on the upstanding remains of previously recorded archaeological monuments. The closest monument to proposed ground works, an enclosure (SMR No. - ME005-012), is located approximately 50m from Tower 250 and 10m from a guarding area to the south of the tower. It was noted that there is the potential that subsurface archaeological remains associated with this site could be impacted on by the proposed development. The next closest recorded archaeological monument is located approximately 100m from the proposed development, with a total of 12 monuments located within approximately 200m of the proposed development. It was found that there is a potential that archaeological deposits associated with seven archaeological monuments could be directly, physically impacted upon during the construction of the 400kV towers. These impacts relate to construction traffic passing in close proximity to archaeological monuments and / or archaeological monuments that are located in close proximity to proposed ground works (<150m) where there is the potential that associated archaeological remains could be impacted upon. A further 15 tower locations are noted where there is the potential to impact on archaeological deposits due to them being located in areas of high archaeological potential or being associated with cartographic or aerial anomalies. Appropriate mitigation has been proposed and will ensure there are no physical impacts on upstanding archaeological remains, that subsurface archaeological remains associated with previously recorded monuments are protected from construction traffic and inadvertent impacts, and that in areas of high archaeological potential, archaeological deposits discovered during construction are dealt with in accordance with professional best practice in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

256 A total of 26 guarding areas have been noted where there is a potential for direct physical impacts during the construction phase, mostly relating to features that appear in historic

mapping. Following mitigation there will be no impacts on the upstanding remains of any designated archaeological monuments. Mitigation measures proposed will ensure that in sensitive areas, should any archaeological deposits be discovered, they will be dealt with in accordance with professional best practice in full consultation with the National Monuments Service of the DAHG and the National Museum of Ireland.

- 257 With regard to architectural heritage, potential direct impacts may occur at four sites that are listed in the Record of Protected Structures for County Meath. These impacts all relate to construction traffic and appropriate mitigation will ensure there are no direct, physical impacts. Similarly construction work and access will be required within six demesnes that are listed in the NIAH garden survey and appropriate mitigation has been recommended to ensure that demesne features are not impacted. There will be a negative impact on sections of treelines and woodland associated with Mountainstown and Brittas.
- 258 Given the upstanding linear form of the proposed development it is acknowledged that the greatest potential for impacts constitutes negative impacts on the setting of cultural heritage sites during the operational phase. In most instances it is not practical to mitigate these impacts, therefore efforts have been made from the earliest phases of the proposed development to ensure that impacts on setting are kept to a minimum, through sensitive routing. Sites where it was considered that the significance of the negative impact on their setting would be moderate or greater include 25 SMR's, six demesnes listed on the NIAH garden survey and two protected structures. The evaluation also found that there will be a negative impact of moderate significance on the setting of a region highlighted by the National Monuments Service as the Teltown ZAA.