

Appendix 13A

Archaeological Test Excavation Report

Final Archaeological Test Excavation Report,
Glennagross,
Co. Clare

January 11th, 2023

Report prepared on behalf of: Malachy Walsh & Partners,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry

Acting for Ballycar Green Energy Ltd
Station Road,
Adare,
Limerick

Archaeological Licence No. 22E0744

Licensee: Laurence Dunne

Report written and researched by Laurence Dunne MIAI,
Katarzyna Labaj and Hubert Ficner



Contact Details:
3 Lios na Lohart, Ballyvelly,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel.: 0667120706
E-mail: lar@ldarch.ie
Web Site: www.ldarch.ie



Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Site location & Description.....	4
3. Archaeological Context.....	5
4. Results of Licensed Test Excavations.....	7
Conclusions.....	12
References.....	12

Copyright Notice: Please note that all original information contained within this report, including all original drawings, photographs, text and all other printed matter deemed to be the writer’s, remains the property of the writer and Laurence Dunne Archaeology and so may not be reproduced or used in any form without the written consent of the writer or Laurence Dunne Archaeology.

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location map.	3
Figure 2: Proposed development plans.	4
Figure 3: Test trenching layout plan (LDARCH 2022).	9

List of Plates

Plate 1: Location of proposed Turbine 2 and testing area. View from N.	5
Plate 2: Pre-ex photo of location of trenches T1-T2 with view towards Limerick City (from N).....	5
Plate 3: Cluster of three recorded monuments in proximity of proposed turbine T2.....	6
Plate 4: Standing stone CL052-064002 (from W)	7
Plate 5: Ring barrow CL052-064003 (from S).	7
Plate 6: Ongoing test excavations at Glennagross.	9
Plate 7: Test excavation (T3-T7) in progress from E.....	10
Plate 8: Wider view from N showing the recorded monuments and trenches during backfilled.....	10
Plate 9: Trench T1 from NNW.	11
Plate 10: Trench T3 from NW.	11
Plate 11: Trench T12 from SE.	12

1. Introduction

This final archaeological testing report relates to licence no. 22E0744 issued by the National Monuments Service (NMS). The targeted archaeological testing forms part of the Cultural Heritage, Chapter 13 of an EIAR being submitted as a component of a planning application by Ballycar Green Energy Ltd to An Bord Pleanála to construct a wind farm known as Ballycar Wind Farm in Co. Clare (**Figure 1**). The proposed development comprises of: (1) twelve turbines; (2) on-site substation; (3) internal access tracks / grid connection between the turbines and substation; (4) site compound and (5) borrow pit and deposition areas (**Figure 2**). Thirteen test trenches (T1-T13) were excavated in proximity of a complex of three recorded monuments situated in Glennagross townland (**Figure 3, Plate 3** & see below). Other proposed targeted test excavations in proximity to a recorded enclosure, CL053-040 at Ballycar South (T19-T23) and an earthwork CL053-049 at Ballycannan East (T14-T18), were not proceeded with.

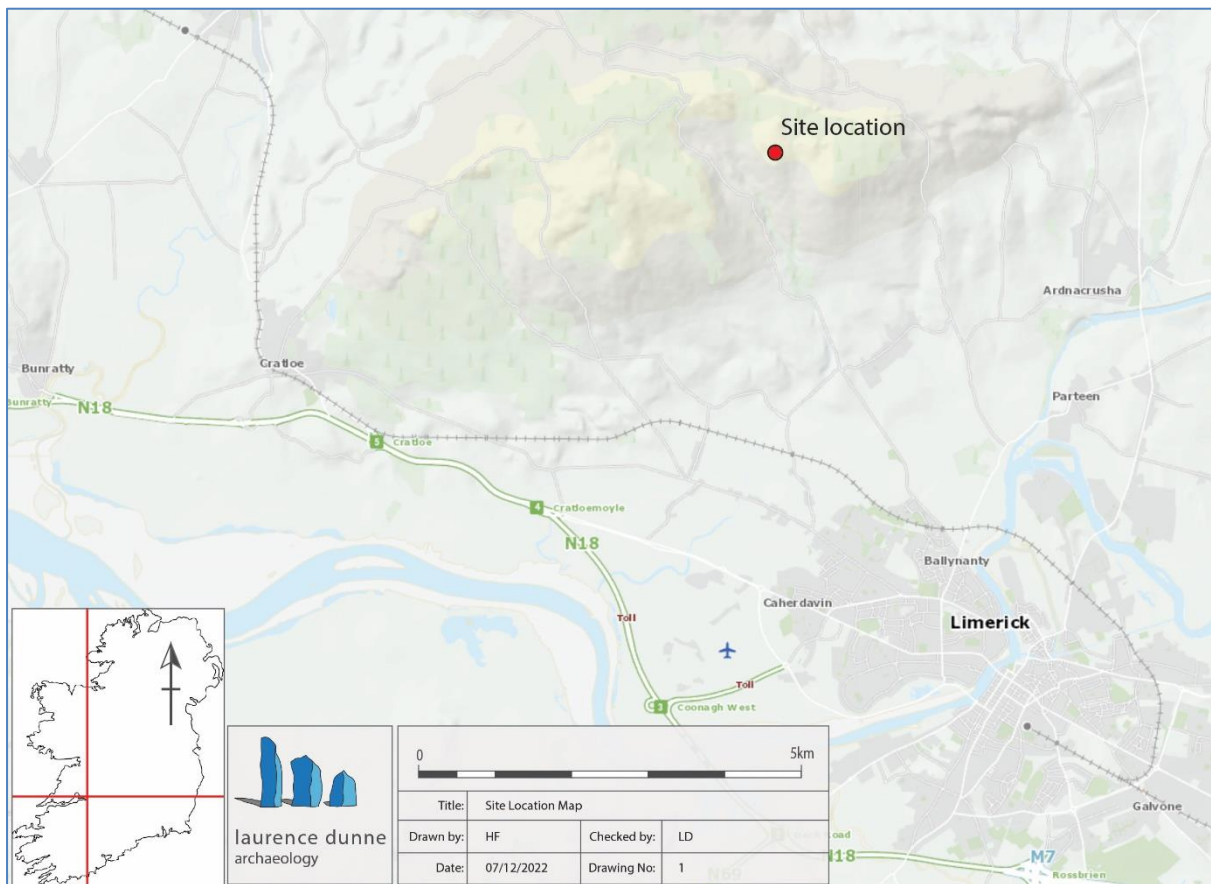


Figure 1: Site location map.

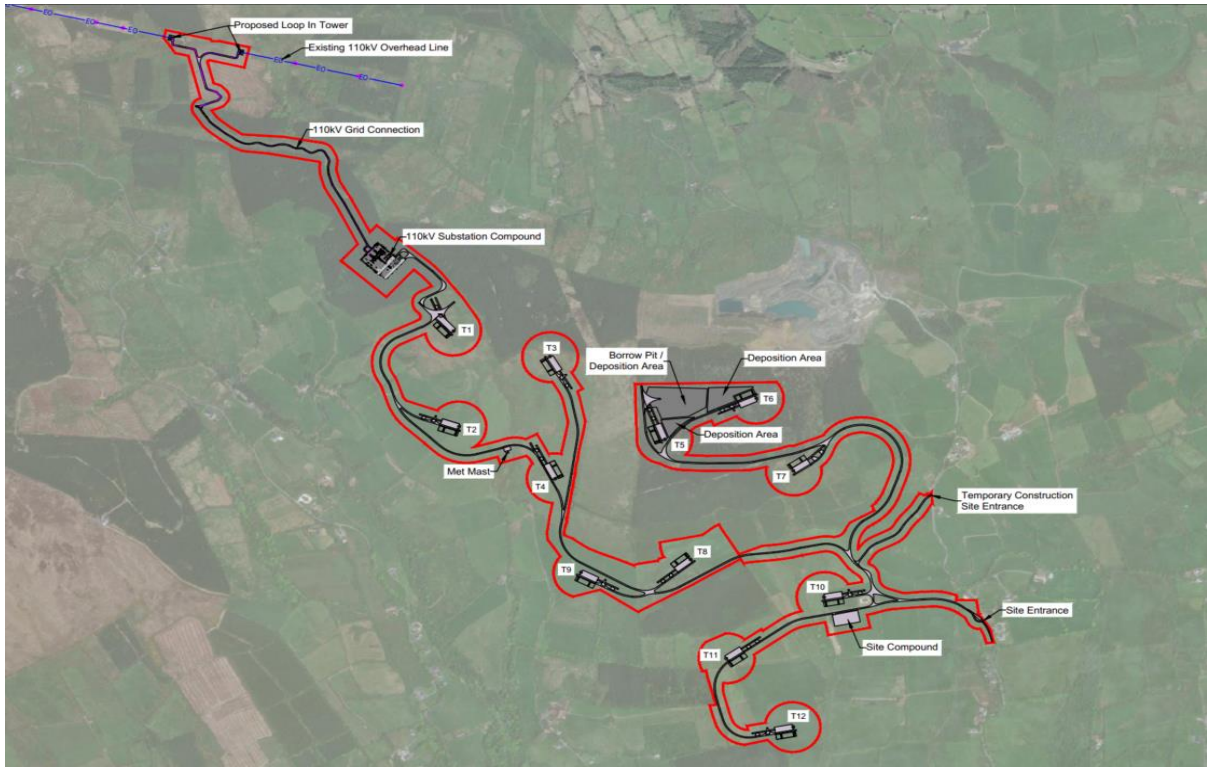


Figure 2: Proposed development plans.

2. Site location & Description

Archaeological testing was undertaken on the footprint of proposed Turbine 2 (T2) and also partially on the footprint of the proposed internal access track / grid connection to T2. The testing area extended across the southern limits of two greenfield pastures located in the townland of Glennagross in Co. Clare with views towards Limerick City located c.6km to the SE (**Plate 2**). The fields gently slope to the south and consequently were wetter along the southern boundary (**Plate 1**).



Plate 1: Location of proposed Turbine 2 and testing area. View from N.



Plate 2: Pre-ex photo of location of trenches T1-T2 with view towards Limerick City (from N).

3. Archaeological Context

Licensed archaeological testing was undertaken in proximity to a complex of three recorded monuments viz: - cairn CL052-064001, standing stone CL052-064002 and ring barrow CL052-064003 (**Plate 3**). The three monuments appear to comprise of a prehistoric ritual complex.



Plate 3: Cluster of three recorded monuments in proximity of proposed turbine T2.

The sub-oval cairn, CL052-064001 is recorded as unclassified by the National Monuments Service (www.archaeology.ie). The close location to the ring-barrow and the standing stone suggests a prehistoric origin for the cairn which is not depicted on any of the historic OS maps.

The small, amorphous, somewhat squat standing stone, CL052-064002 is located in close proximity to the ring-barrow CL052-064003 and cairn CL052-064001 (**Plate 3**). It is not depicted on any of the historic OS maps. The standing stone is in good order and no damage was noted (**Plate 4**).

The ring-barrow, CL052-064003 could be regarded as a paradigm example of the monument type as its extant morphological features includes a bank with an external and internal fosse / ditch and flat platform in the centre. There is a small depression approximately in the middle of the barrow which may represent a grave or cremation (**Plate 5**). The monument itself is in a good state of preservation and is depicted on all historic OS maps. One small tree/bush is growing in the northern limits of the bank.



Plate 4: Standing stone CL052-064002 (from W)



Plate 5: Ring barrow CL052-064003 (from S).

4. Results of Licensed Test Excavations

Archaeological testing (licence no. 22E0744) was undertaken over two dry overcast days in October 2022. A series of thirteen test trenches (T1-T13) was excavated on the footprint of the proposed Turbine 2 (T2) and part of the internal access track / grid connection to T2 in the vicinity of the three recorded monuments: ring barrow CL052-064003, cairn CL052-064001 and standing stone CL052-064002 at Glennagross (**Figure 3, Table 1**). The test trenches were set out using a global navigation

satellite system (GNSS) to <50mm accuracy and excavated with an 8-ton back acting track machine utilising a 1.6m wide grading bucket (**Plate 6**). Excavated topsoil, with an average depth of between 0.20-0.30m, was similar in each trench and varies from mid to dark greyish brown material. Subsoil exposed beneath topsoil comprised of light grey to dark orange to silty sandy clay with frequent small stone inclusions and natural bedrock exposed in some parts. No archaeology was recorded in any of the trenches and no artefacts were recovered.

Table 1: Test trenches description

Test Trench No	Length	Average depth	Orientation	Archaeology
1	13m	0.3m	NW-SE	No
2	18m	0.2m	NW-SE	No
3	35m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No
4	42m	0.25m	WNW-ESE	No
5	50m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No
6	56m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No
7	53m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No
8	47m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No
9	18m	0.2m	WNW-ESE	No
10	19m	0.2m	WNW-ESE	No
11	19m	0.2m	WNW-ESE	No
12	20m	0.2m	WNW-ESE	No
13	20m	0.3m	WNW-ESE	No

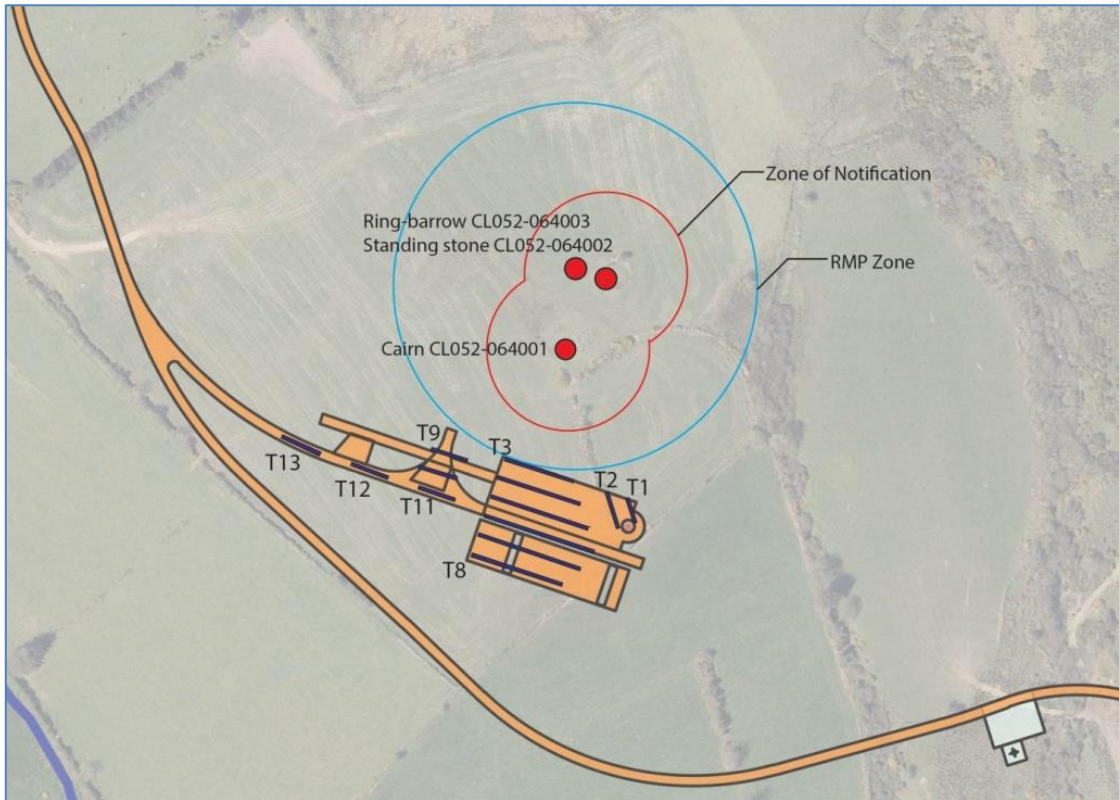


Figure 3: Test trenching layout plan (LDARCH 2022).



Plate 6: Ongoing test excavations at Glennagross.



Plate 7: Test excavation (T3-T7) in progress from E.



Plate 8: Wider view from N showing the recorded monuments and trenches during backfilled.



Plate 9: Trench T1 from NNW.



Plate 10: Trench T3 from NW.



Plate 11: Trench T12 from SE.

Conclusions

- No artefacts were recovered and nothing of archaeological interest was noted or recorded in any of the thirteen test trenches (T1-T13) excavated at the proposed location of Turbine 2 at Glennagross, Co. Clare.

References

National Monuments Service online monuments Sites & Monuments Records, www.archaeology.ie

Google Earth aerial imagery

Laurence Dunne Archaeology Ltd low flown UAV imagery