

## 8. Cultural Heritage

### 8.1 Introduction

This section describes the scope of works and methods to be applied in the identification and assessment of archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage impacts associated with the proposed development. A high level overview of the baseline conditions is included, together with the proposed methodology and a scope of work likely to be required to undertake a detailed assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage as part of the EIA.

Archaeological heritage refers to sites and areas of archaeological significance. Cultural heritage is a collective term for features/structures of architectural, archaeological or local (folklore/traditional) heritage merit. Architectural heritage refers to recorded historical buildings and designed landscapes.

#### 8.1.1 Policy & Plan Context

The assessment of the archaeological, cultural heritage and architectural heritage resource will be conducted under the relevant legislation and planning frameworks applicable to the Republic of Ireland. These include:

- National Monuments Acts (as amended), 1930-2004;
- Heritage Act, 1995;
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2000;
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000;
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Bill, 2006;
- Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1999, (formerly) Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands;

#### 8.1.2 Study Area

This proposed development covers an extensive study area that extends from Parteen Basin on the River Shannon, directly south of Lough Derg in County Tipperary, through Tipperary and the midland counties of Offaly and Kildare, and terminating in the vicinity of Peamount Reservoir and environs in South County Dublin. The extent of the proposed development, particularly the c.170km treated water pipeline component, requires crossing a significant section of the country.

The main study area, from an archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage perspective, is within the surrounding regions of the main development infrastructure - namely at the abstraction site and the water treatment plant in the vicinity of the Parteen Basin, the location of the break pressure tank in the Midlands and at the termination point reservoir in the vicinity of Peamount Reservoir and environs in South County Dublin. It also includes all areas along the proposed treated water pipeline.

It is anticipated that the archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage assessment will encompass an area up to 250m from all proposed infrastructure including the proposed abstraction point, pipeline and proposed reservoir. Any sites of particular significance that may exist outside of this area will also be included within the receiving environment assessment.

## 8.2 Baseline Information

### 8.2.1 Desktop Study

Extensive work has been completed to date in order to identify the location of the proposed infrastructure sites and preferred pipeline corridor. This was completed as part of the options appraisal which initially supported the Preliminary Options Assessment Report (POAR) and subsequently the Final Options Appraisal Report (FOAR) and assessed proposed sites and proposed pipeline corridors against a range of environmental criteria including archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage. A desktop review of all available data regarding the archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage impacts over the study area has been undertaken and will be supplemented with any additional information to support the development of the EIS.

Work as part of the FOAR, has included identification of all national monuments, recorded monuments and protected structures, which are subject to statutory protection. In addition all National Inventory of Architectural Heritage structures were identified as there is the potential that these structures may be added to the record of protected structures in the future. Designed landscapes were also identified as areas of cultural heritage significance. The identification of cultural heritage constraints from an early stage during the design process means that due consideration has been given to avoiding impacts on the same where possible. Key items of note from the FOAR include:

- At the Parteen Basin location, a number of constraints that are afforded statutory protection were identified within this area and this was partly attributed to the historic settlements of Killaloe and Ballina. The assessment also noted that to the south of Killaloe and Ballina there is a lower potential for underwater archaeological resource, as to the south of Parteen, the watercourse has been artificially constructed;
- The Termination Point Reservoir, in the vicinity of Peamount Reservoir and environs, was considered as low potential in terms of constraints with no National Monuments and only 1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) located within the area. Any Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) within the area are related to structures at the Peamount Hospital;
- In terms of heritage constraints across the pipeline corridors, the landscape context of arable and pastoral farming was broadly similar across all the pipeline corridors with a preferred corridor selected based on the lowest number of heritage constraints identified from the available data sources.

On determination of the final preferred option, the desktop study will be updated using existing data sources to present baseline environmental information relevant to the specific site locations.

### 8.2.2 Future Survey Needs

As part of an EIA associated with the proposed development, a field inspection of the proposed development study area will take place. This will look in detail at areas of significant intrusive works, where current disturbance is minimal and inspect any important cultural heritage sites identified within the receiving environment. The field survey will confirm the accuracy of the information collected during the desktop study and it will record the condition of any known sites of cultural heritage interest. It will also assess any additional previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage merit, which could be affected by the development.

It is possible that during the baseline assessment and consultations, that additional archaeological fieldwork, such as geophysical surveys and/or archaeological testing may be required in order to further define potential impacts within the EIA.

### 8.2.3 Consultation

The following bodies/organisations will be consulted as part of the EIS:

- Local Authorities where infrastructure will be sited;

- The National Monuments Services (Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DoAHRRGA)); Architectural Advisory Unit (DoAHRRGA);
- Underwater Archaeological Unit (DoAHRRGA National Museum of Ireland);
- Relevant Local Authorities;
- An Taisce; and
- The Heritage Council.

Archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage related comments arising during the consultation phases of the project will be reviewed and considered within the EIA as relevant.

## 8.3 Potential Impacts

### 8.3.1 Potential Construction Phase Impacts

It is envisaged that there will be some direct or indirect negative impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resources as a result of the construction of the proposed development.

Direct negative impacts may occur where sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance are located within the footprint of the proposed development, which would potentially be impacted upon by ground disturbances.

Indirect negative impacts may occur where sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance are located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, which are visually impacted upon during the construction of the proposed development.

### 8.3.2 Potential Operational Phase Impacts

There is not expected to be any direct or indirect impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage resources as a result of the operational stage of the proposed development.

## 8.4 Proposed Methodology & Assessment Scope

It is proposed that an assessment of archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage will be carried out in accordance with the EPA's current EIS guidance documents and established best practice, and will be tailored accordingly based on professional judgement and local circumstance.

The assessment will cover potential impacts from archaeology, cultural heritage and architectural heritage and will describe the existing conditions and the likely potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development. The impact assessment process will involve:

- Assigning the receptor sensitivity;
- Identifying and characterising the magnitude and significance of any potential impacts;
- Incorporating measures to avoid and mitigate (reduce) these impacts; and
- Assessing the significance of any residual effects after mitigation.

An assessment will consist of an evaluation of the impact of the proposed development by considering a comprehensive study of the potential direct, indirect, residual and cumulative impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding environment. This will include, where applicable, visual impacts on cultural heritage assets.

A systematic search will be undertaken of all readily available and relevant documentary sources.

These will include, but are not exclusive to the:

- RMPs for the respective counties subject to the proposed development;
  - This record provides a list of all monuments that are subject to protection under the National Monuments Act.
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for the respective counties subject to the proposed development;
  - This record provides a list of monuments that may have been excavated in the past or possess no definite locational detail. These sites may not be subject to statutory protection.
- Monuments in State Care Database;
  - This record provides a list of all national monuments that are owned or cared for by the state and are subject to protection under the National Monuments Act. These sites are considered to be of national significance.
- Preservation Orders;
  - This record provides a list of all monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Act. These sites are considered to be of national significance.
- Register of Historic Monuments (RHM);
  - This record pre-dates the Record of Monuments and Places and is reviewed to ensure that all entries into the RHM are included within the RMP.
- Respective County Development Plans for the respective counties subject to the project;
  - Development Plans contain the Record of Protected Structures for each county, along with designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA). Both designations are subject to statutory protection under the Planning and Development Act.
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage;
  - The NIAH building survey has been carried out nationwide by the DAHG in order to assist County Councils in the compilation of the record of protected structures. Inclusion within the record does not result in statutory protection, but the structure may be added to the RPS in the future.
- Topographical files of the National Museum of Ireland;
  - This record provides information on stray archaeological artefacts recorded by the National Museum that may have been recovered from the receiving environment of the proposed scheme and may indicate archaeological activity in any one area.
- Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;
  - This includes all historic mapping, aerial photographic coverage and relevant documentary sources relating to the receiving environment of the proposed scheme. Analysis of these resources may result in the identification of previously unrecorded sites, areas and structures of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance. This includes designed landscapes, which are clearly indicated within historic OSi mapping.
- Excavations Bulletin (1970-2015);
  - This record provides information on every licenced archaeological investigation carried out between 1970 and 2015. As such, a review of this resource can result in the identification of previously unrecorded archaeological heritage within the landscape that has yet to be added to the RMP or SMR.

The desktop assessment will be followed by a field inspection of the proposed development area. The field survey will confirm the accuracy of the information collected during the desktop study and will also assess any additional previously unrecorded sites of archaeological, cultural heritage or architectural heritage merit, which

could be significantly affected by the proposed development. A series of mitigation measures to minimise any foreseen impacts for the construction phase of the project will be proposed as required.

As the proposed development area becomes transparent once the final infrastructure sites and preferred treated water pipeline corridor are selected, it will better inform the full study area for the EIA.