

Appendix 8C

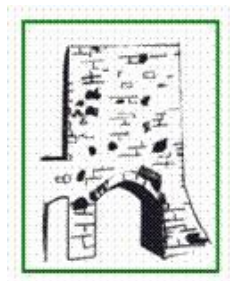
Archaeology Report for Peat Deposition Areas  
(Through Time) 2023

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY  
IN THE TOWNLANDS OF  
BARRYBROOKE & DERRYGREENAGH,  
CO. OFFALY**

**AUGUST, 2023**

**FIONA ROONEY BA MIAI**

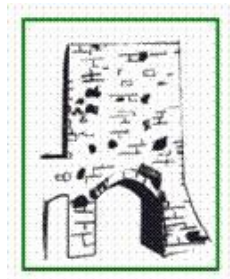


**Through Time Ltd.**  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report was compiled by Fiona Rooney at the request of Irish Drilling Ltd. on behalf of Bord na Móna. It is concerned with the results of an archaeological field survey in four areas in the bogs of Drumman, Derryarkin, Ballybeg (Figs. 1 & 2). Area 1 is located in Drumman Bog in the proposed site of the 220kV PDA(s). Area 2 is located in Derryarkin Bog in the proposed site of the 400kV PDA. Area 3 is located in Derryarkin Bog and Area 4 is located in Ballybeg Bog and both are areas of proposed replanting.

The results of this report will be included in the EIAR presently being prepared by AECOM. The field survey was undertaken by 2 archaeologists, over a period of 2 days on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

### Site Location

**Townlands**                      Barrysbrooke, Derrygreenagh, Knockdrin

**ITM**                                649087                      737600

The site is located approximately 2.2 km south of the M6 motorway junction 3 for Rhode and Rochfortbridge, on the R400 road and extends S to the Royal Canal.



**Fig. 1:** General Site Location





**Fig. 2:** Layout of the three bogs.



**Fig. 3:** Aerial view of Areas 1 and 2.



**Fig. 4:** Aerial view of Areas 2 and 3.



**Fig. 5:** Aerial view of Area 4 outlined in red.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The field walkover survey was undertaken by 2 archaeologist in the area of the proposed new turbine locations. This entailed an examination of the surface of the bog (were possible) for possible archaeological features and/or finds. The field survey also included the examination of the drains (where possible) in order to identify possible archaeological features and/or finds in the section faces.

Prior to going on-site, the Archaeological Survey of Ireland, Historic Environment Viewer, was examined to identify Recorded Monuments in the different areas. No Recorded Monuments will be directly impacted.

### *Limitations to the survey*

Some areas are heavily overgrown and/or underwater, and this prevented an examination of these areas. It is possible that hitherto unrecorded archaeological features and/or finds still survive in these areas.

## **3. RESULTS OF FIELD SURVEY**

The archaeological field survey for the most part recorded no features and/or finds of archaeological significance. One timber was identified in Area 1 in the townland of Derrygreenagh. The timber was partially buried and appeared to extend for a length of 15m. It is recommended that pre-development testing be carried out in this area. Some areas were heavily overgrown and or underwater, thus preventing an examination. Other areas were partially overgrown and examination of drains in these areas revealed no features and/or finds of archaeological significance.

### **Description of Areas**

#### **Area 1**

Area 1 is located in Drumman Bog in the townland of Derrygreenagh and Knockdrin, to the E of the BnM compound. Orientated NW-SE, it was defined by a raised bank/ accessway in W and S. The area incorporates a number of roughly E-W running milled peat fields with drainage ditches on either side. Some of the fields are overgrown or partially overgrown. All accessible fields were walked. A number of natural timbers were recorded on the surface. In the E of the area (ITM 0649929 0738100 ) one timber was identified, partially buried and extends for length of 15m in length (Fig. 6). No archaeological features and/or finds were recorded in the rest of the area.



**Plate 1:** View of tract of peat used as accessway in W of Area 1.



**Plate 2:** View of tract of peat, used for access, in S of Area 1, with overgrown field to immediate N.



**Plate 3:** View of peat fields in N of Area 1.



**Plate 4:** View of timber identified in Area 1.



**Fig. 6:** Location of possible archaeological feature identified in Area 1.

## Area 2

Area 2 is located in Derryarkin Bog, in the townland of Derrygreenagh, to SW of the Compound off the R400 and to SE of a railway track. The area was defined by an embankment to the immediate E of track and areas of thick vegetation to NE and SW. A large area of the site in centre is under water and either side of this was field walked. There is a second area of water located in SE of site. Occasional pieces of unworked timber on surface. No archaeological features and/or finds were recorded in the area.



**Plate 5:** General view of scrub/vegetation in the NE of Area 2.



**Plate 6:** View of area from NE with large area under water in centre of Area 2.



**Plate 7:** View from N with embankment shown.



**Plate 8:** Looking SW from NE of Area 2.



**Plate 9:** Waterlogged area in E and SE of Area 2.

### **Area 3**

Area 3 is located in Derryarkin Bog, in the townland of Derrygreenagh, adjacent to Area 2, orientated NW-SE, it is defined along the E boundary by the roadway into Kilmurry Sand and Gravel. Much of this area is overgrown and inaccessible, however there are a number of NW-SE running access ways and these were walked. No archaeological features and/or finds were recorded in the area.



**Plate 10:** General view of Area 3, taken in the SW looking E.



**Plate 11:** View of the Area 3 from the NW looking S.



**Plate 12:** View of areas overgrown with grass in Area 3.

#### **Area 4**

Area 4 is located in Ballybeg Bog in the townland of Barrybrook, comprised of an area orientated E-S to the W of a N-W running railway. The area incorporates a number of roughly E-W running milled peat fields with drainage ditches on either side. A number of natural timbers were recorded on the surface. Examination of the drains and field surface recorded no features and/or finds of archaeological significance.



**Plate 13:** View of the access into Area 4, taken from the SE.



**Plate 14:** General view of Area 4 taken from the SE.



**Plate 15:** General view of Area 4 from the W.



**Plate 16:** View of Croghan Hill from the middle of Area 4, taken from the E.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The field walkover survey of four areas in the bogs of Drumman, Derryarkin and Ballybeg recorded for the most part no features and/or finds of archaeological significance. A timber was recorded in Area 1 and it is recommended that pre-development testing be carried out in this area in order to ascertain the nature and extent of the possible archaeological feature. In Areas 1-3 there was sections that were inaccessible due to dense vegetation and/or



underwater. It is possible that hitherto unrecorded archaeological features and/or finds still survive in these areas.