

SECTION 8 ARCHAEOLOGY

8.1 SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The site was inspected on the 30th of April 1991. The Sites and Monuments Record (S.M.R) of the Office of Public Works was consulted.

No archaeological features, monuments or stray finds were noted in the fields where the plant would be sited, or in the immediate vicinity. The area was examined for evidence of Fulachta Fiadha (prehistoric cooking places), but none were apparent. The existence of Fulachta Fiadha in the area is known from the occurrence of at least one at Mayfield or Rocketcastle (S.M.R. ref. WA 008 045, at National Grid 24771/11568), less than half a mile to the east.

The only other apparent archaeological site or monument in the vicinity is the tower house (castle) of Rocketcastle or Mayfield approximately 500m. to the east (S.M.R. ref. WA 008 004, at National Grid 24798/11660). The monument was examined, even though the field had been ploughed to almost the foot of the castle, no stray finds or signs of associated settlement were apparent in the ploughed soil.

Other monuments in Killowen townland are ecclesiastical remains. These are located at approximately half a mile from the site of the proposed development (S.M.R. ref. WA 004 010). The townland may derive its name from this site. The proposed development is unlikely to have an effect on the environments of either site as both are located at considerable distances (Rocketcastle is approximately 1 mile and Killowen ecclesiastical site is about half a mile).

8.2 IMPACT & MITIGATION

The development should not have any effect on any known archaeological site or monuments. Any proposed future expansion in the immediately adjacent area would also be unlikely to affect the archaeological sites or their environment.

The greatest danger of encountering buried archaeological remains is in the vicinity of the river. This is because Fulachta Fiadha are often located close to water.

Although no known archaeological sites will be affected by the construction of the plant at this site, it is possible that undetected archaeological remains will be disturbed. For this reason, it will be necessary for an archaeologist to be present during stripping of the topsoil. If any remains are unearthed, these can then be described and collected.