

Appendix 11.1

Glossary of Impacts and Assessment Criteria

1.1 Types of Impacts

Potential impact on the receiving archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage environment can be classified in three categories: direct physical impacts; indirect physical impacts and impacts on setting.

Direct physical impacts describe those development activities that directly cause damage to the fabric of a heritage asset. Typically, these activities are related to construction works.

Indirect physical impacts describe those processes, triggered by development activity, that lead to the degradation of heritage assets.

Impacts on setting of heritage assets describes how the presence of a development changes the surroundings of a heritage asset in such a way that it affects (positively or negatively) the heritage significance of that asset. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered but other environmental factors such as noise, light or air quality can be relevant in some cases. Impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development from construction to decommissioning but they are only likely to be considered significant during the prolonged operational life of the development.

Types of impact, as defined by the Draft EPA Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (hereafter referred to as the EPA Guidelines) (EPA 2017):

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 impact.

‘Worst case’ Impact – The impacts arising from a development in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.

Indirect or Secondary Impacts – Impacts that arise off-site or are caused by other parties that are not under the control of the developer. Impacts which are caused by the interaction of impacts, or by associated or off-site projects.

1.2 Quality of Impacts

Impacts on the receiving built heritage environment are assessed in terms of their quality, i.e. positive, negative, neutral:

Negative Impact: A change that will detract from or permanently remove, for example, an archaeological monument, protected structure, architectural structure of significance or cultural heritage feature from the landscape;

Neutral Impact: A change that does not affect the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage; and

Positive Impact: A change that improves or enhances the setting of an archaeological monument, architectural structure of significance or cultural heritage feature.

1.3 Duration of Impacts

The duration of an impact can be as follows:

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

1.4 Significance Criteria

These criteria have regard to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assessment criteria as per the draft EPA Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (2017).

Archaeological, architectural heritage and cultural heritage sites are a non-renewable resource and cultural heritage material assets are generally considered to be location sensitive. In this context, any change to their environment, such as construction activity and ground disturbance works, could adversely affect these sites.

In accordance with EPA Guidelines (EPA 2017), the context, character, significance and sensitivity of each archaeological, architectural heritage and cultural heritage asset requires evaluation and the significance of the impact is then determined by considering the significance / sensitivity of the asset and the predicted magnitude of the impact.

An evaluation of the significance / sensitivity of heritage assets is based on its designation and the extent to which these assets contribute to the archaeological or built heritage environment, though their individual or group qualities, either directly or potentially. **Table 1** presents the scale of significance / sensitivity together with criteria.

Table 1: Significance/ Sensitivity Impact Criteria

Sensitivity / Value	Criteria
High	Sites of international significance: World Heritage Sites National Monuments Protected Structures of international and national importance Designed landscapes and gardens of national importance Architectural Conservation Areas Undesignated archaeological, architectural and/ or cultural heritage sites.
Medium	Recorded Monuments (RMP sites & SMR sites scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP) Protected Structures of regional importance NIAH – Building and Garden Survey Newly identified archaeological sites, confirmed through archaeological investigation or research, to be added to the SMR. Undesignated archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage sites.
Low	Sites listed National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) Building for which there are no upstanding remains. Undesignated archaeological, architectural and/or cultural heritage sites. Undisturbed greenfield areas and riverine environs, which have an inherent archaeological potential.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological architectural and cultural heritage interest.

1.5 Magnitude of Impact

When considering the impact magnitude, the following criteria need to be considered:

- Extent – size, scale and spatial distributions of the impact;
- Duration – period of time over which the impact will occur;
- Frequency – how often the impact will occur; and

Context – how will the extent, duration and frequency contrast with the accepted baseline conditions (ie the character, integrity and data of a site). **Table 2: Magnitude of Impact Criteria**

Criteria	Impact Magnitude
These impacts arise where an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development. A change such that the value of the asset is totally altered or destroyed, leading to a complete loss of character, integrity and data about the site.	High
An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity alters an important / significant aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage asset would be impacted upon leading to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the site. Or an impact which by its magnitude results in the partial loss of a historic structure (including fabric loss or alteration) or grounds including the part removal of buildings or features or part removal of demesne land (e.g. severance, visual intrusion or degradation of setting and amenity).	Medium

Criteria	Impact Magnitude
A permanent positive impact that enhances or restores the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site or upstanding archaeological and architectural heritage site in a clearly noticeable manner.	
A low impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable is not such that the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage character / integrity of the site is significantly compromised, and where there is no significant loss of data about the site. A positive impact that results in partial enhancement of the character and / or setting of a cultural heritage site, upstanding archaeological architectural heritage site in the medium to long-term.	Low
An impact which causes very minor changes in the character of the environment and does not directly impact an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage asset, or affect the appreciation or significance of the asset. There would be very minor changes to the character and integrity of the asset and no loss of data about the site.	Negligible

1.6 National Monuments

The National Monuments Act (1930, Section 2) defines a ‘National Monument’ as

‘a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto’.

The National Monuments legislation legally protects access to and the visual amenity associated with National Monuments and requires consent from the Minister for invasive works in their vicinity.

1.7 Recorded Monuments

The primary source of information for archaeology is the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The RMP documents known upstanding archaeological monuments, their original location (in cases of destroyed monuments) and the position of possible sites in rural areas identified as cropmarks on vertical aerial photographs dating to before 1700 AD (with some later ones also being included). It is based on a comprehensive range of published and publicly available documentary and cartographic sources.

1.8 Zone of Archaeological Potential

Zone of Archaeological Potential can be defined as parts of the urban and rural landscape that possess the potential to contain archaeological remains due to the settlement history of a place and or to the presence of topographical features such as rivers, lakes and high, defensible ground.

1.9 Protected Structures

A protected structure is a structure that is considered to be of ‘special interest’, which is broadly defined by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as structures of architectural,

historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point interest. The 2000 Act requires each planning authority to compile and maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The RPS is a mechanism for the statutory protection of the architectural heritage and is listed in every County Development Plan and Town Development Plan.

By definition, a protected structure includes the land lying within its curtilage and other structures within that curtilage and their interiors.

The notion of curtilage is not defined by legislation, but according to Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) it is that parcel of land immediately associated with the structure and which is (or was) in use for the purpose of the structure.

The attendant grounds of a structure are the lands outside the curtilage of the structure, but which are associated with the structure and are intrinsic to its function, setting and/or appreciation.

1.10 NIAH

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) places a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The NIAH's role is to identify record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland. It aims to promote the appreciation of, and contributes to the protection of, the built heritage by systematically recording a representative sample of that built heritage on a nationwide basis. The surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

1.11 Significance of Impact

The significance of the impact is determined by considering the significance of the asset and the predicted magnitude of the impact.

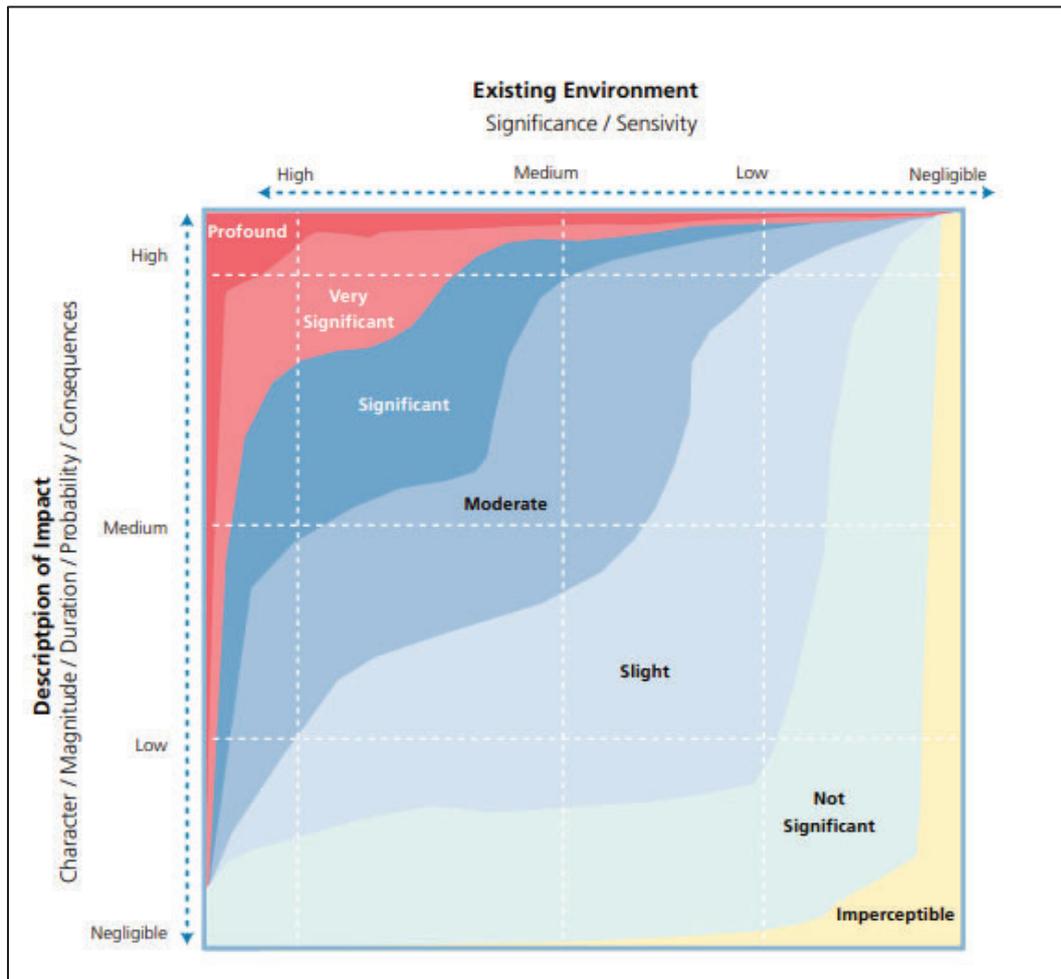


Figure 11.1.1: taken from **Description of Impacts from the Draft EPA Revised Guidelines on Information to be Contained in EIS (EPA 2017, Figure 3.5)**

The likely significance of impacts is determined in consideration of the magnitude of the impact and the baseline rating upon which the impact has an effect. The impact significance is defined as imperceptible, slight, moderate, significant, very significant and or profound.

Table 3: Defining Significance of Impacts

Impact	Definition
Imperceptible	An impact capable of measurement but without noticeable consequences.
Not Significant	An impact which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Slight	An impact which causes changes in the character of the environment which are not significant or profound and do not directly impact or affect an heritage asset.
Moderate	A moderate impact arises where a change to the site is proposed which though noticeable, does not lead to a significant loss of character, integrity and data about the heritage asset.
Significant	An impact which, by its magnitude, duration or intensity, alters an important aspect of the environment. An impact like this would be where part or all of a site would be permanently impacted upon, leading to a

Impact	Definition
	significant loss of character, integrity and data about the archaeological / cultural heritage asset.
Very Significant	An impact which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Profound	Applies where mitigation would be unlikely to remove adverse impacts. Reserved for adverse, negative impacts only. These impacts arise where an archaeological / cultural heritage asset is completely and irreversibly destroyed by a proposed development.