

# Ballydermot Wind Farm
# SID Meeting Presentation
# An Bord Pleanála July 2021

# Meeting Agenda

- Introduction
- Site Selection
- Site Location
- Planning Policy Context
- Wind Farm Design Process
- Scoping and Pre-Application Consultation
- Public Consultation
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Strategic Infrastructure Development Criteria
- ‘Any Other Business’



# Bord na Móna – History of Strategic Energy Developments

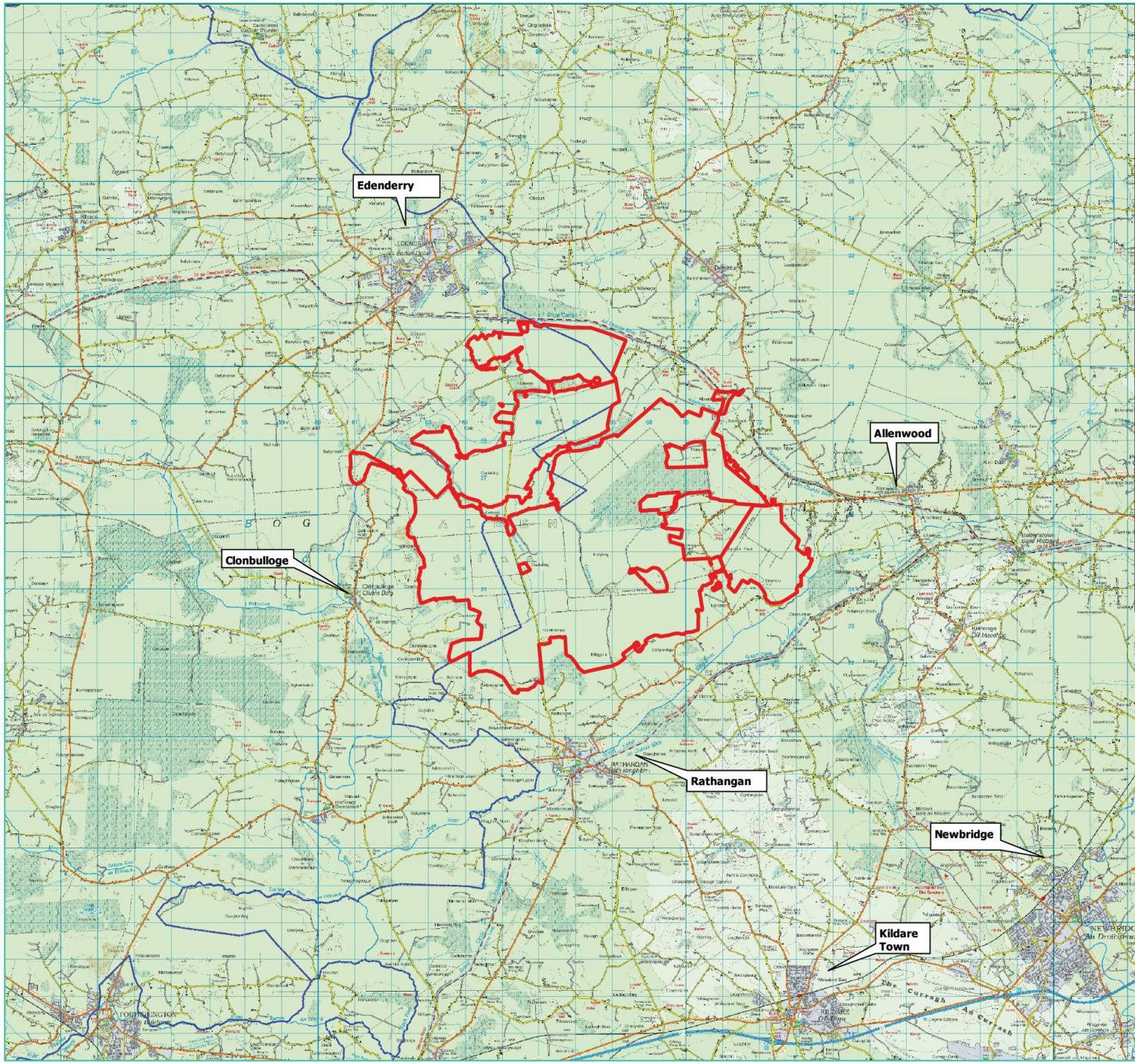
- Originally established in 1946 to develop and manage Ireland's extensive peat resources on an industrial scale, Bord na Móna has a vast land bank, totalling approximately 80,000 hectares, or 7% of the peatlands of Ireland. These lands, located mainly in the Midlands, represent one of the company's principal potential assets but are also important resources for the nation as a whole.

- In 2015, Bord na Móna published its 'Sustainability Statement 2030', which sets out the company's commitment to transition to peat-free electricity generation by 2030. A key component underpinning this transition is the on-going investment in, and development of, renewable energy generation. In 2018, Bord na Móna announced its 'Brown to Green' strategy for decarbonisation with a target of 75% of energy being generated by the company being renewable by 2020.

- Bord na Móna has a long track record of developing and managing energy generation projects. Bord na Móna currently manages a portfolio of thermal and renewable assets, namely Edenderry Power Plant, a peat/biomass generating unit, Cushaling peaking plant, Bellacorick, Mountlucas, Bruckana and Oweninny Wind Farms, and the Drehid landfill gas facility with Cloncreen and Oweninny 2 Wind Farms currently in construction and pre-construction phases, respectively.

# Site Location

The application site falls across 14 No. bogs of the Allen Bog Group located on the border of County Offaly and County Kildare, 2.2km south-southeast of Edenderry, 3.3km west of Allenwood, 2km north of Rathangan and 1.7km east of Clonbullogue Village. The total application site area measures approx. 5,581hectares.



# Site Selection

- Wind energy is a potential use of national significance that is well-suited to areas of cutaway peatland regarding their large land parcels, open topography, suitable wind speeds, relative remoteness from major residential areas and, in many cases, relatively good access to the electricity grid.

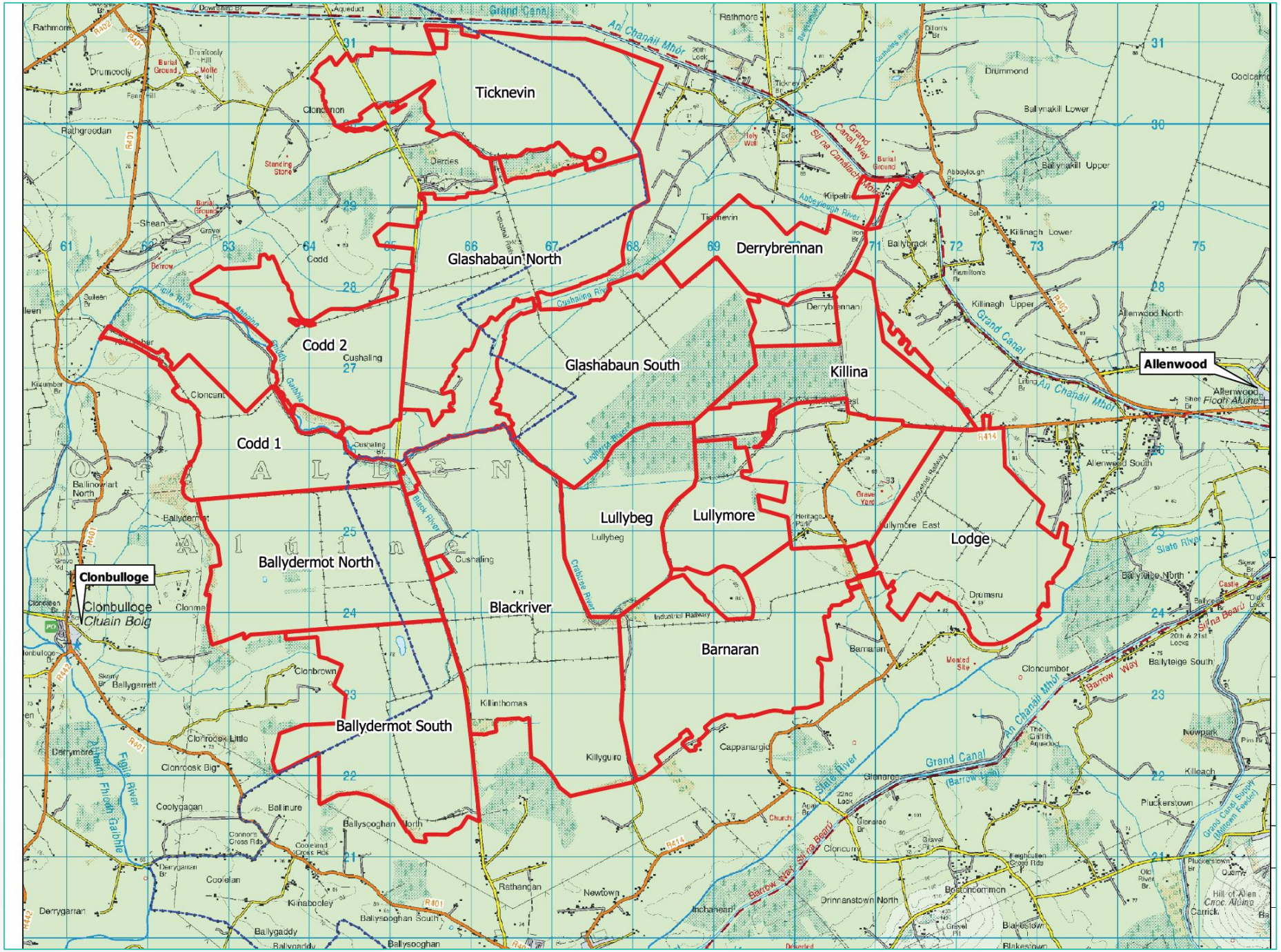
- Bord na Móna has conducted a technical review of potential candidate sites for wind energy projects on their land, historically used for peat production. Ccriteria considered as part of the site selection process is noted below:

  - Wind Resource;
  - Planning Policy Context;
  - Proximity to Sensitive Receptors;
  - Environmental/Ecological Sensitivity and Designations;
  - Grid Capacity;
  - Landscape Capacity;
  - Land-use;
  - Access and Infrastructure.

- Following the strategic identification of Ballydermot Bog Group, a more detailed review of the proposed development site has been carried out.



**Ballydermot Application Site**


Ticknevin
Glashabaun North
Derrybrennan
Codd 2
Glashabaun South
Killina
Codd 1
Lullybeg
Lullymore
Lodge
Ballydermot North
Blackriver
Barnaran
Ballydermot South
Clonbulloge
Clonbulloge
Cluain Bolg
Allenwood
Allenwood
Fiodh Aluinn
OFFALEN
Grand Canal
An Chanáil Mhór
Rathmore
Drumcooly
Rathgreedan
Clonconnon
Derries
Shean
Codd
Cushaling
Cloncant
Ballinowlart North
Ballydermot
Clonbrown
Killinthomas
Killyguire
Cappanargid
Clonrooskbeg
Clonrooskbeg Little
Coolygagan
Ballinure
Ballysoghan North
Ballysoghan South
Kilnabooley
Ballygaddy
Derrygarran
Coolelan
Rathangan
Newtown
Inchaneary
Drinnanstown North
Drummond
Ballynakill Lower
Ballynakill Upper
Killinagh Lower
Killinagh Upper
Ballybrack
Derrybrennan
Allenwood North
Allenwood South
Lullymore East
Drumsru
Cloncumber
Ballyteige North
Ballyteige South
Newpark
Killeach
Pluckerstown
Glenaree
Cloncurry
Boleconmon
Blakestown
Carrick
Hill of Allen
Cnoc Alúine
Barrow Way
Slí na Beárd
Grand Canal Way
Slí na Canálach Mór
Grand Canal (Barrow Line)
Grand Canal Supply (Milltown Feeder)
Slate River
Cushaling River
Abbeyleix River
Black River
Lugging River
Crobrose River
Gaibhle River
Figile River
Industrial Railway
R401
R402
R403
R414
R442

# Policy Context

- Strong National and International support for additional renewable energy and de-carbonization
  - Recognised future impact of climate change
  - Clear need to meet 2030 and 2050 targets
- National Planning Framework 2018-2040
  - National Strategic Outcome 8- Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society
- Climate Action Plan 2019
  - Increase electricity generated from renewable sources to 70%
  - CAP identifies a need for 8.2GW of onshore wind generation and states that in 2017 there was 3.3GW in place (currently at 4.2GW according to Wind Energy Ireland)
- Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
  - The RSES supports the transition to a low carbon, circular and climate resilient region

# Local Planning Policy Context
# Kildare

- Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023:
  - Kildare recognises that climate change is one of the biggest issues facing the environment.
  - The Plan notes that wind energy can make a significant contribution to reaching Ireland's renewable energy targets.
  - Supporting policy:
    - ER 1: Respond to the European and National Energy Programme through the County Development Plan with policies and objectives that promote energy conservation, increased efficiency and growth of locally based renewable energy alternatives, in an environmentally and socially acceptable and sustainable manner.
    - ER 2: Support infrastructural renewal and development of electricity and gas networks in the county, subject to safety and amenity requirements.
    - WE 2: Encourage the development of wind energy in suitable locations in an environmentally sustainable manner and in accordance with Government policy and the Kildare Wind Energy Strategy.
    - WE 3: Ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to:
      - the sensitivities of the county's landscapes;
      - the visual impact on protected views, prospects, scenic routes, historic demesnes as well as local visual impacts;
      - the impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas and historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;
      - local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;
      - the visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections;
      - the scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;
      - the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.
      - the county's Wind Energy Strategy (when adopted);
      - the impact of the grid connection from the proposed wind farm to the ESB network.

# Offaly  County Development Plan 2014 – 2020

The portion of the wind farm site that is located within Co. Offaly is sited in within an area considered suitable for wind farm development

## Supporting policy:

**RDP–08:** It is Council policy to support the development of renewable energy in rural areas, where it is considered appropriate i.e., where it is demonstrated that such development will not result in significant environmental effects. Such development will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**RDP–09**: It is Council policy to encourage and facilitate the development of local and community based renewable energy projects in the county, notwithstanding their suitability and additional considerations such as location, nature of use, compliance with relevant guidelines and scale, where it can be demonstrated that such proposals are feasible.

**RDP–11:** It is Council policy to encourage expansion and employment in industries such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry, peatlands, food, crafts, tourism and energy. The proposed development which constitutes the provision of a renewable energy project on cutover bog is broadly compliant with the overall objectives of the County Development Plan. Furthermore, the proposal has been designed to minimise environmental impacts and accordingly is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

# Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027:

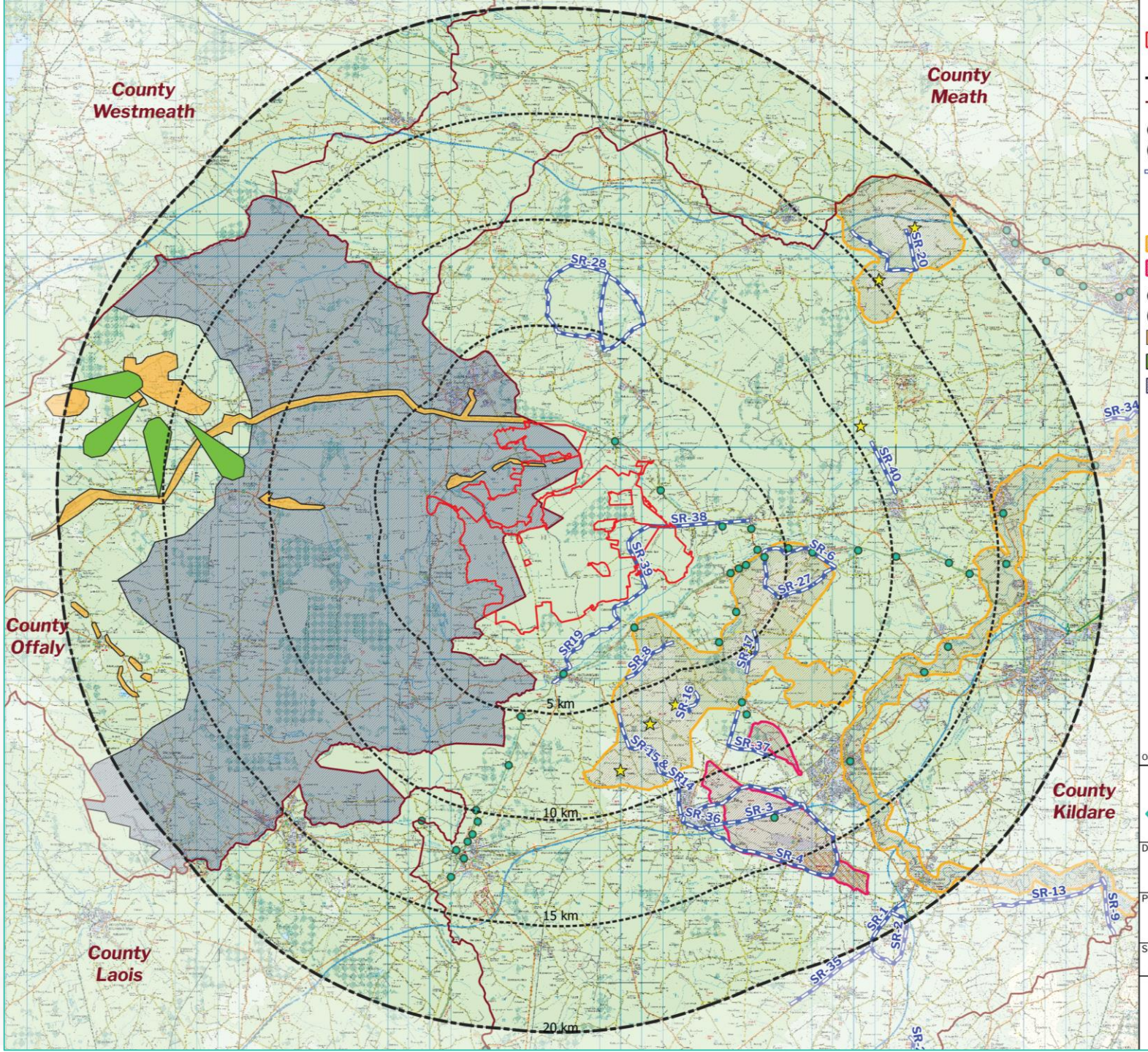
At present Offaly County Council have commenced the review of the existing Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020 and are currently at the Third Stage in the Public Consultation period on Material Alterations to the Draft Plan. It is anticipated the new plan will be adopted in Autumn 2021.

The proposed development site, as per the provisions of the draft WES is located within an area which has been designated with ‘areas deemed open for consideration for wind energy developments’.

**Supporting policy:**

**REDP–14:** It is Council policy to support the development of renewable energy in rural areas, where it is considered appropriate i.e., where it is demonstrated that such development would not result in significant environmental effects. Such development will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

# Landscape Capacity Map




## Map Legend

- Proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm Red Line Boundary
- Template- LVIA Study Boundary
- Inter-County Boundary

**County Kildare Landscape Designations (KCDP 2017-2023)**

- Kildare Scenic Routes
- Kildare Scenic Views
- Kildare Hilltop Views
- Special - Landscape Sensitivity Designation
- Unique - Landscape Sensitivity Designation

**County Offaly Landscape Designations (Draft OCDP 2021-2027)**

- Offaly High Amenity Areas
- Offaly Designated Scenic Views and Prospects
- Open to Consideration - Offaly Wind Energy Strategy

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Drawing No.

Figure 3

Drawing Title

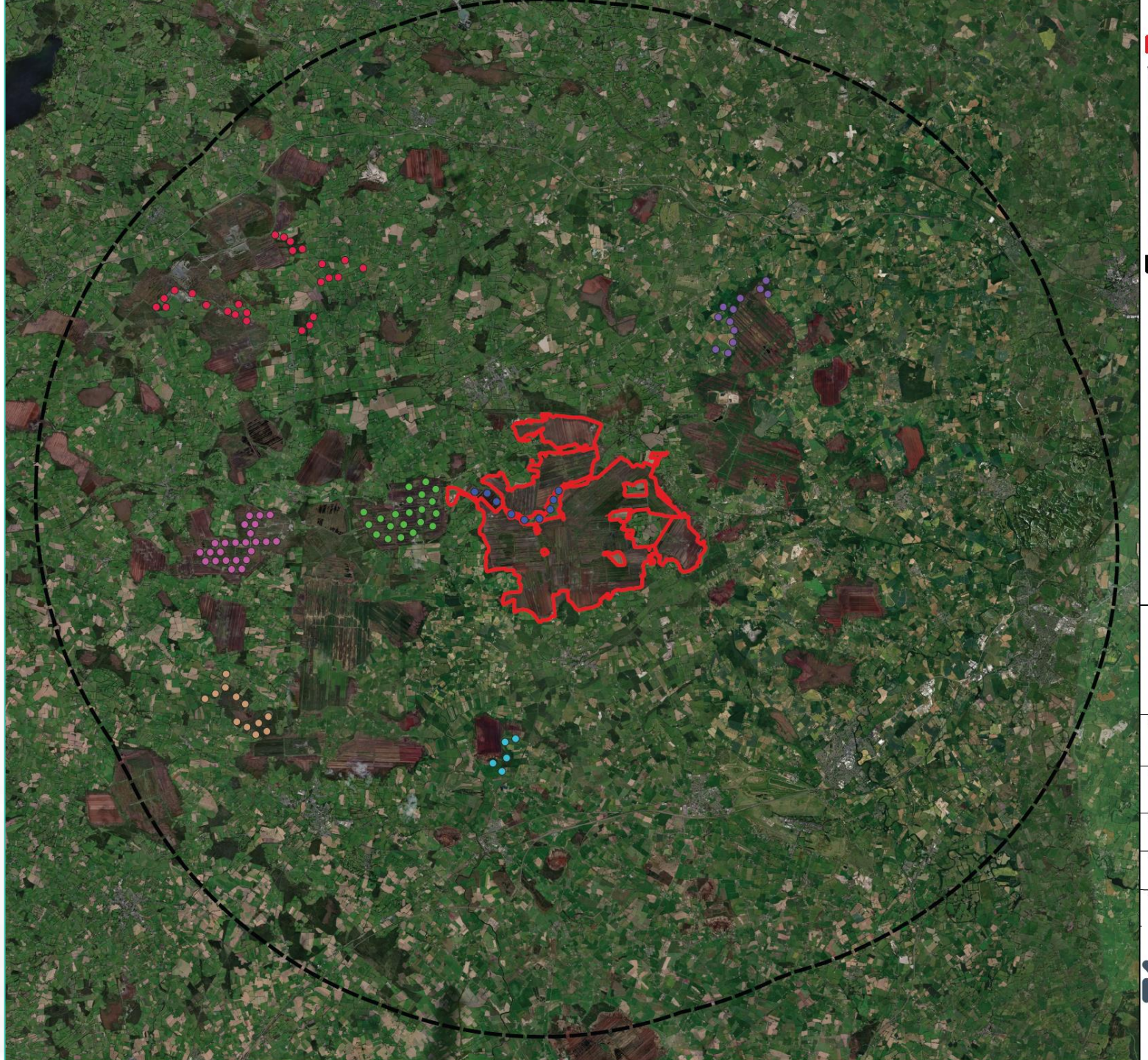
Landscape Policy Designations

Project Title

Ballydermot Renewable Energy Development

| Scale | Project No. | Date | Drawn By | Checked By |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1:175000 | 191136 | 26.03.2021 | JW | PS |

# Cumulative Wind Farm Study



**Map Legend**

- Ballydermot Site Boundary

Wind Farms within 20km

- Cloncreen Under Construction
- Cushaling Consented
- Drehid Consented
- Moanvane Consented
- Mountlucas Operational
- Ummeras Proposed
- Yellowriver Consented
- 20km study area

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| | |
|---|---|
| Drawing Title | Cumulative Study |
| Project Title | Ballydermot Wind Farm |
| Drawn By: Karen Mulryan | Checked By: Paul Sweeney |
| Project No.: 191136 | Drawing No.: Figure x |
| Scale: 1:180,000 | Date: 2021.03.11 |

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# Project Design/Constraints

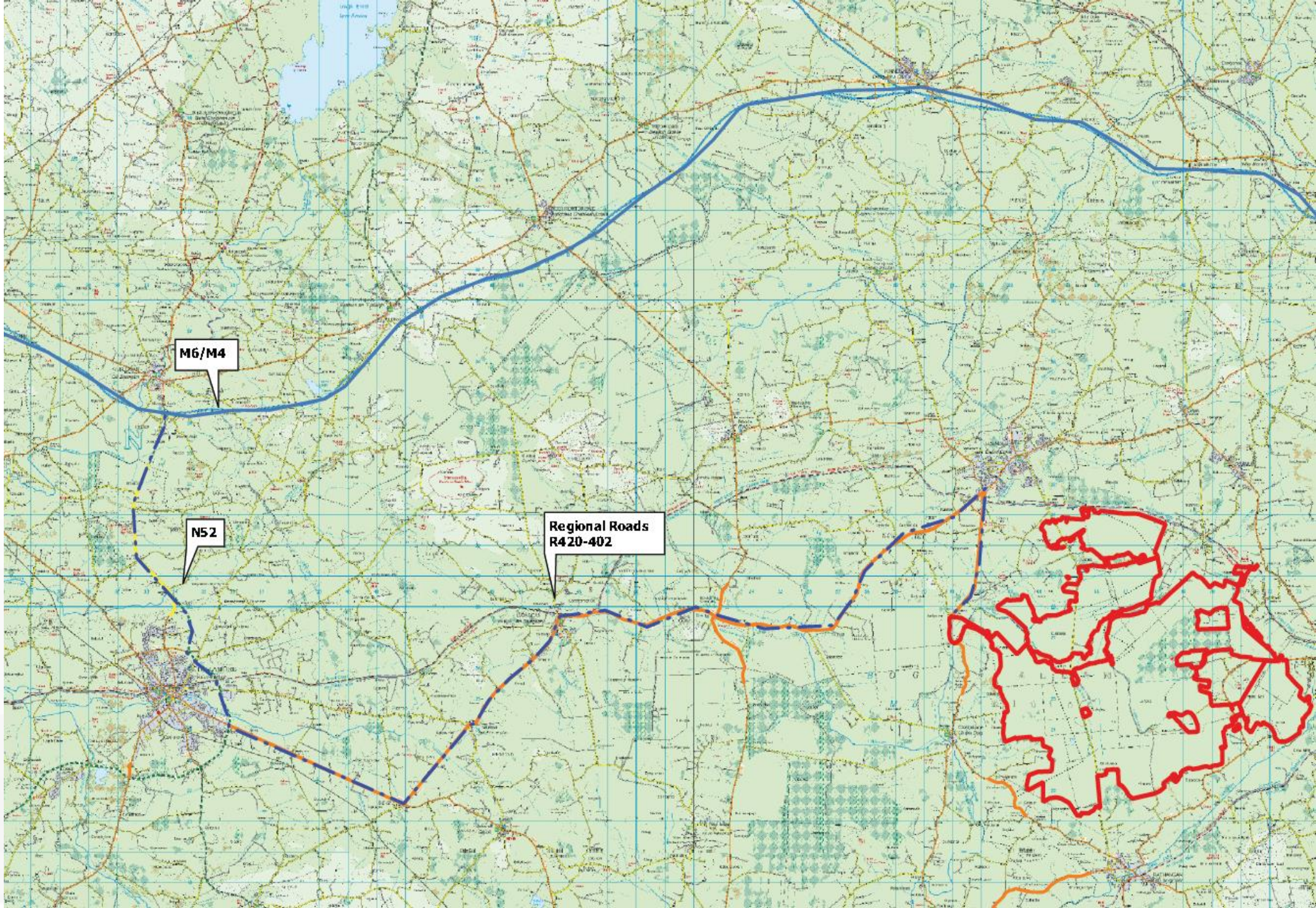
The design of the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm is constraints and facilitators-led, thereby avoiding the most environmentally sensitive parts of the site. The design and layout will reference the recommendations and guidelines set out in the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019* (and revisions thereof) and the '*Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry*' (Irish Wind Energy Association, 2012).

- The Project design has been informed through the application of a site constraints process which considers the following set back/buffer distances:

  - Dwellings buffer design to four-time tip height;
  - Designated sites plus 200-metre buffer;
  - Rivers plus 50-metre buffer;
  - Streams plus 50-metre buffer;
  - Telecommunication links plus operator-specific buffer;
  - Neighbouring existing or permitted wind turbines plus 5 x rotor diameter buffer.

- Application of the above constraints results in the viable area for the provision of turbines and other infrastructure.
- Grid: Options are being reviewed; however, it is proposed to connect the proposed development site into the national grid infrastructure in Co. Kildare.
- Haul Route: Options are currently under review including the existing Cloncreen route which can facilitate large component delivery.

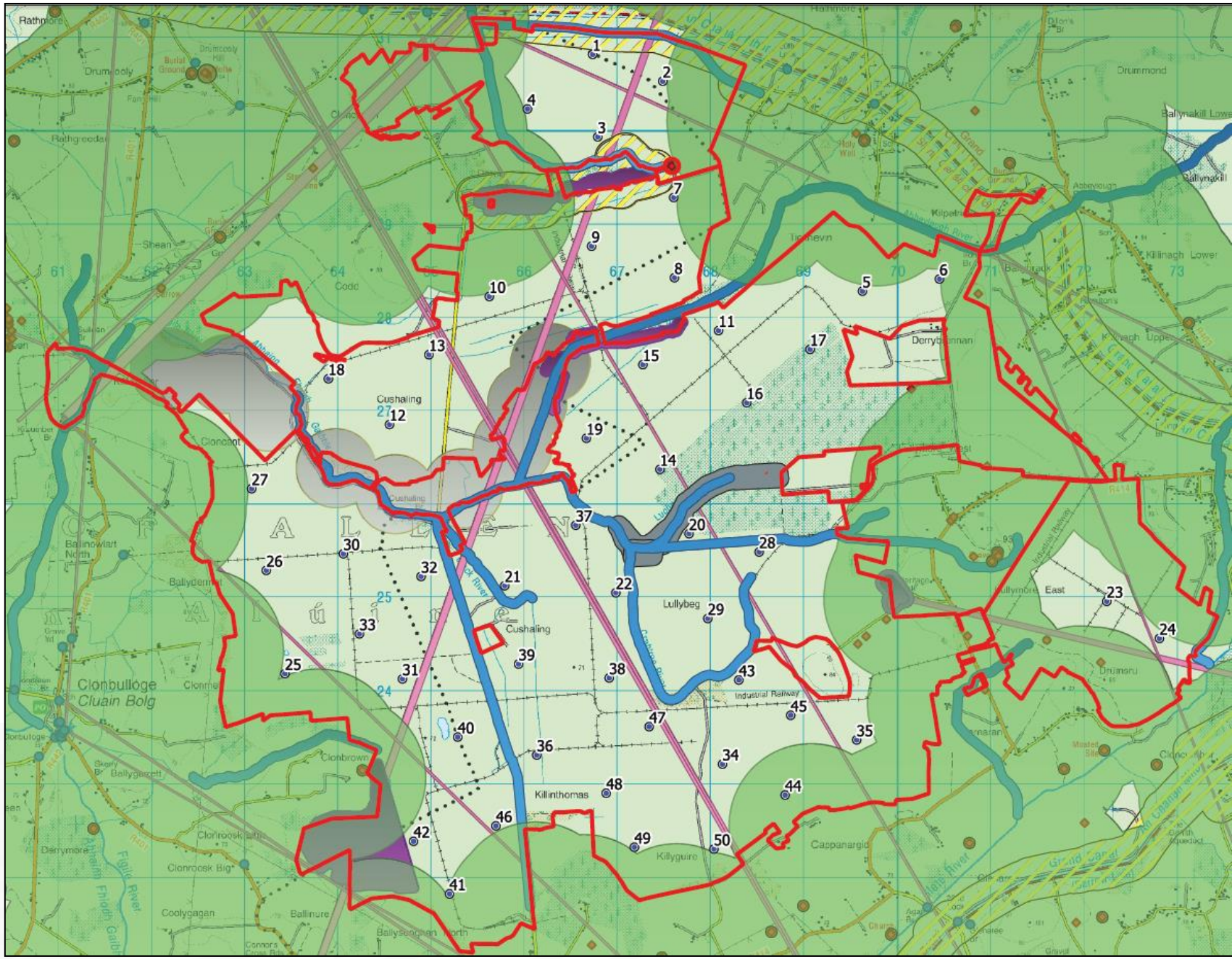
One of the proposed haul routes under review



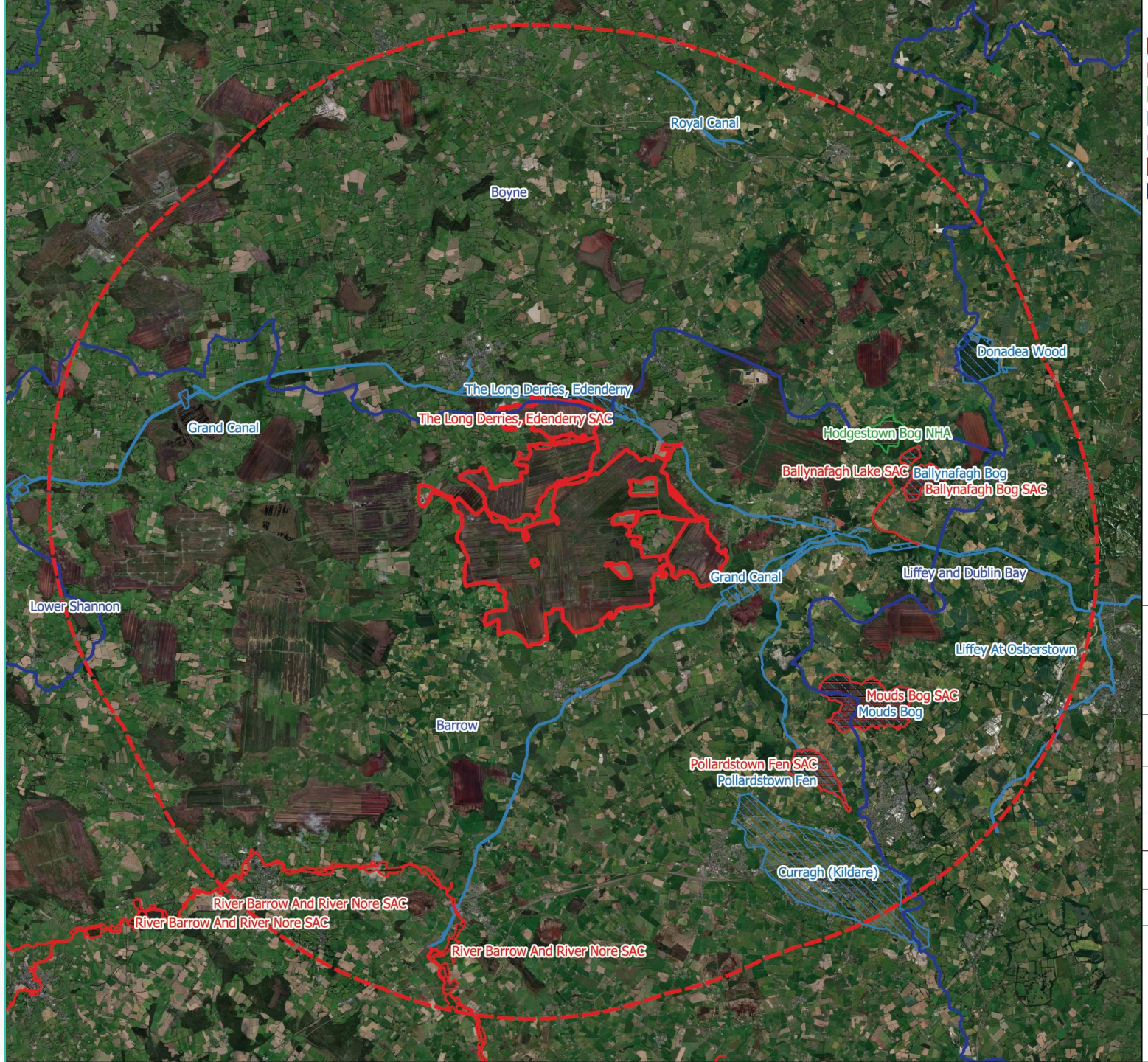
# Site Constraints

## Map Legend

- Ballydermot Site Boundary
- Article 17 Annex I Habitats
- Residential Receptor Buffer (4x Tip Height)
- Designated Sites Buffer 200m
- Watercourse buffer 50m
- Broadleaved woodland 100m buffer
- Telecoms Links buffers
- Cushaling WF 5x RD buffer



# Designated Sites




## Map Legend

- Ballydermot Site Boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Natural Heritage Area
- proposed Natural Heritage Area
- Special Protection Area
- 15km Study Area
- Hydrological Catchments

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Drawing Title
Environmental Designations

Project Title
Ballydermot Wind Farm

| Drawn By | Checked By |
|---|---|
| Karen Mulryan | Paul Sweeney |
| Project No. 191136 | Drawing No. Figure 2 |
| Scale 1:150,000 | Date 2021-03-01 |

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# Proposed Development

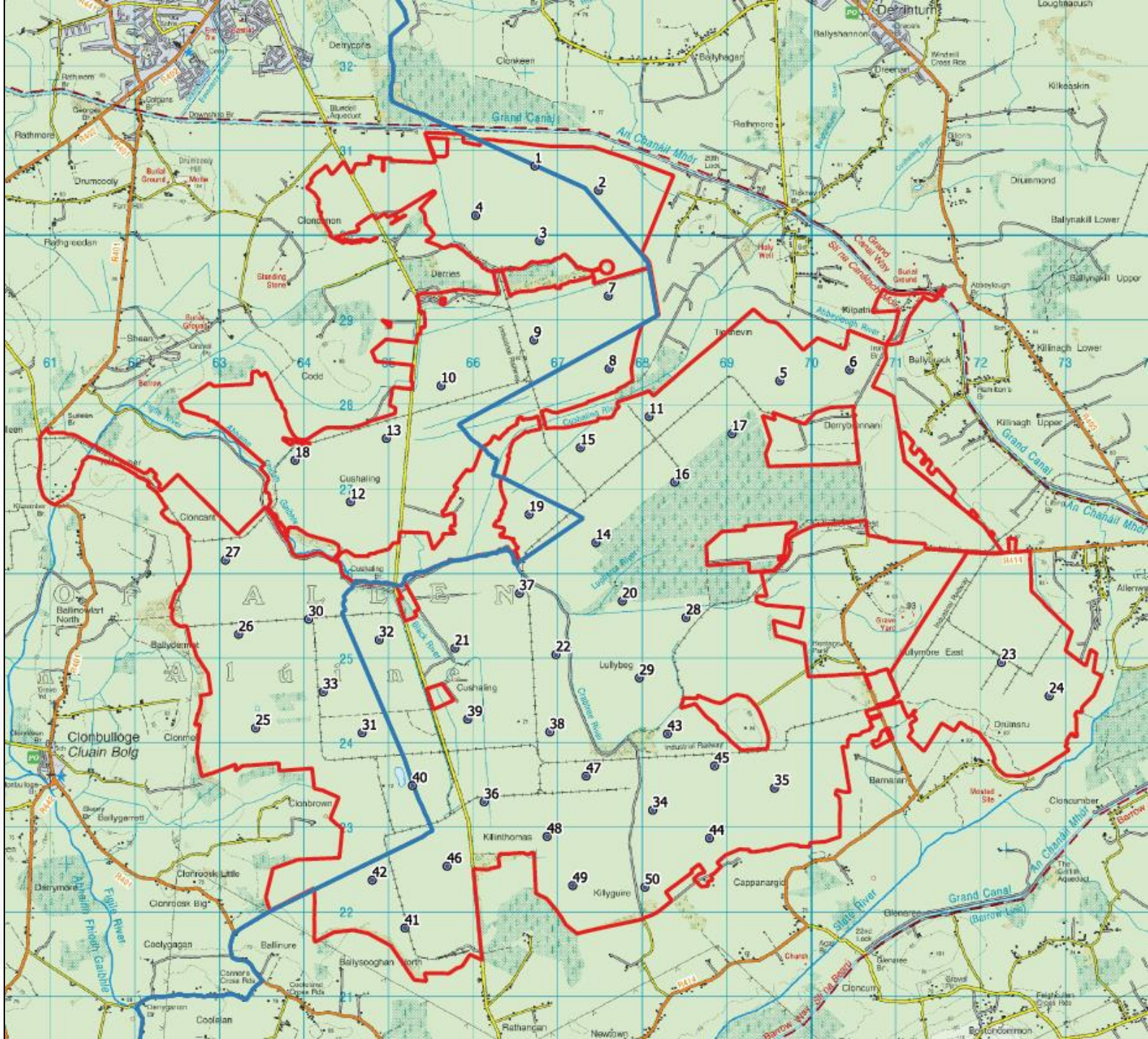
- Although the optimal layout of the proposed development is still being finalised, it is anticipated that the proposed wind energy development will comprise 40-50 no. wind turbines (4.8MW- 6MW) with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 220m and all associated works, including: access roads and entrance(s), 220 kV substation, borrow pits, electrical cabling for grid connection, temporary construction compounds and an anemometry mast.

- The siting of all on-site infrastructure will have regard to the constraints identified. All wind farm site cabling, including connection to the proposed on-site substation, will be laid underground. The proposed project will have a total output of c.240MW (based on a 50 turbines by 4.8MW).

- It is proposed to connect the onsite 220kV substation to the national grid east of the site near Clane, Co. Kildare. The grid connection will be fully assessed as part of the EIAR.



**Initial Layout**:
16 No. Turbines in Co. Offaly
34 No. Turbines in Co. Kildare



# Scoping and Pre-Application Consultation

- A Scoping Document, providing details of the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm project and the proposed development site, was prepared and circulated to prescribed statutory bodies in February 2021. MKO requested the comments of the relevant personnel/bodies in their respective capacities as consultees with regards to the EIA process.

- Pre-application Consultations were undertaken with Offaly County Council and Kildare County Council in April 2021. The pre-application consultation meeting was conducted under several broad headings as summarised below:
    1. *Introduction*
    2. *Site Location & Site Selection Process*
    3. *Wind Farm Design Process, Turbine Delivery, Grid Connection*
    4. *Policy Context*
    5. *Strategic Infrastructural Development and On-going Planning Consultations*
    6. *Public Engagement and Consultation*
    7. *Environmental Impact Assessment*
    8. *Any Other Business*

# Public Consultation

**Website**

The Ballydermot Wind Farm project website is currently live on **www.ballydermotwindfarm.ie**. The website provides information on the Project in addition to further information on Bord na Móna's on-going community engagement and relevant statutory and regulatory obligations. It also has a virtual consultation room.

**Public Engagement**

- **October / November 2020** – the website went live, and Community Liaison Officers (Niall and James) started a door-to door engagement with local residents, providing information on the project, how to contact the team and information on public consultation events.

- **Public Consultation 1 2021**: Appointment only clinics were organised for first two weeks in December, postponed until January 2021 – COIVD Restrictions. Online virtual consultation were organised through Zoom during January and February 2021

- **Public Consultation 2 2021**: Community Liaison Officers (Niall and James) started in June 2021 going door-to-door, providing updated information on the project. During this consultation appointment only clinics are offered and are ongoing at present. This consultation will continue to gain feedback on the finalised site layout and looking towards finalise design by the end of 2021.

# Environmental Impact Assessment Report

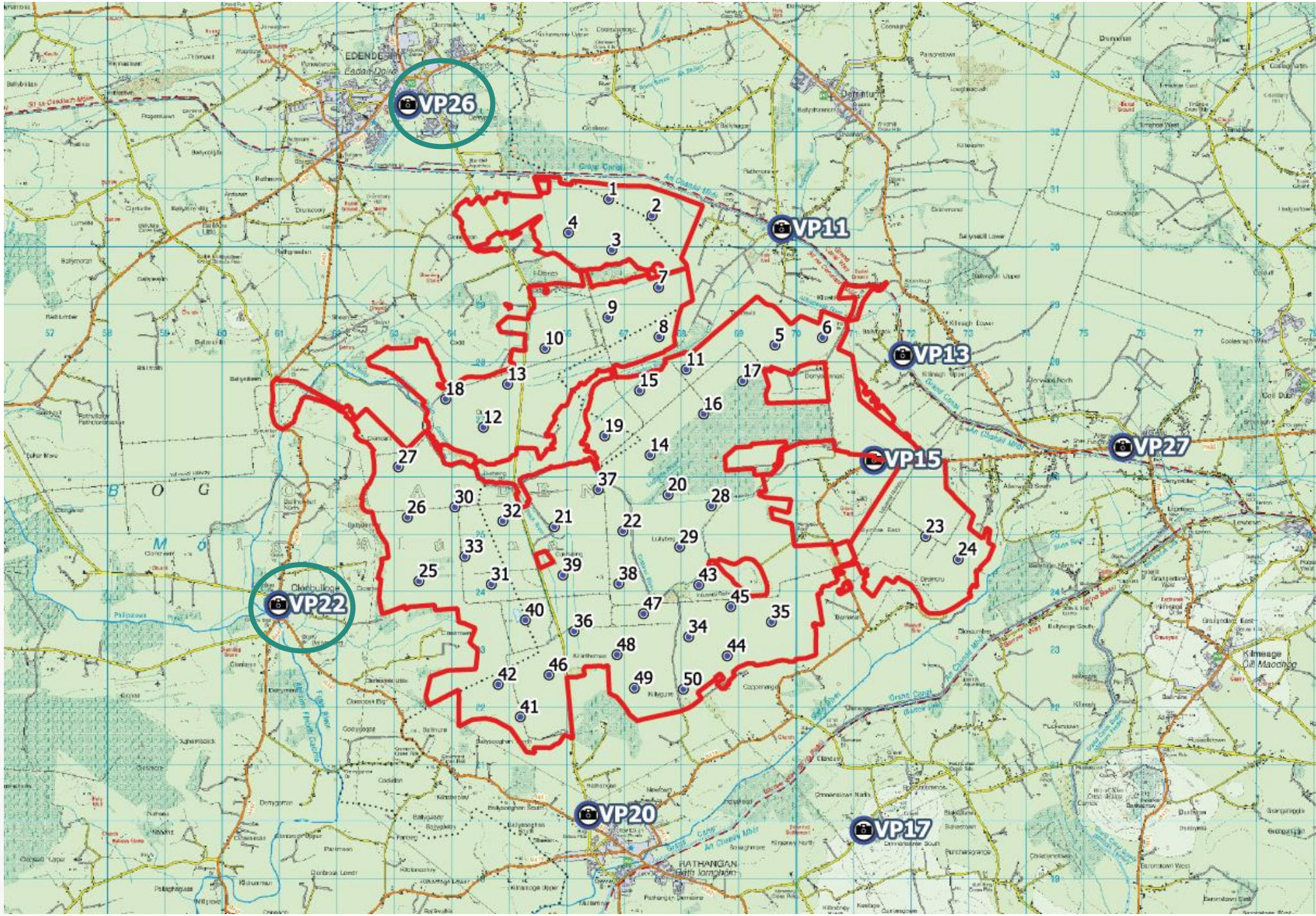
- Volume 1: Main EIAR, including all figures

  - Non-Technical Summary
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development
  - Chapter 3: Site Selection and Reasonable Alternatives Considered
  - Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development
  - Chapter 5: Population and Human Health (including Shadow Flicker)
  - Chapter 6: Biodiversity: Flora and Fauna
  - Chapter 7: Biodiversity: Birds
  - Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology
  - Chapter 9: Hydrology and Hydrogeology
  - Chapter 10: Air and Climate
  - Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration
  - Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual
  - Chapter 13: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
  - Chapter 14: Material Assets (Transport, Telecoms & Aviation, Waste Management)
  - Chapter 15: Interaction of the Foregoing
  - Chapter 16: Schedule of Mitigation

- Volume 2: Photomontages

- Volume 3: EIAR Appendices

# Preliminary LVIA:
*Viewpoint Locations*



## VP Location 26 180 degrees  From Edenderry



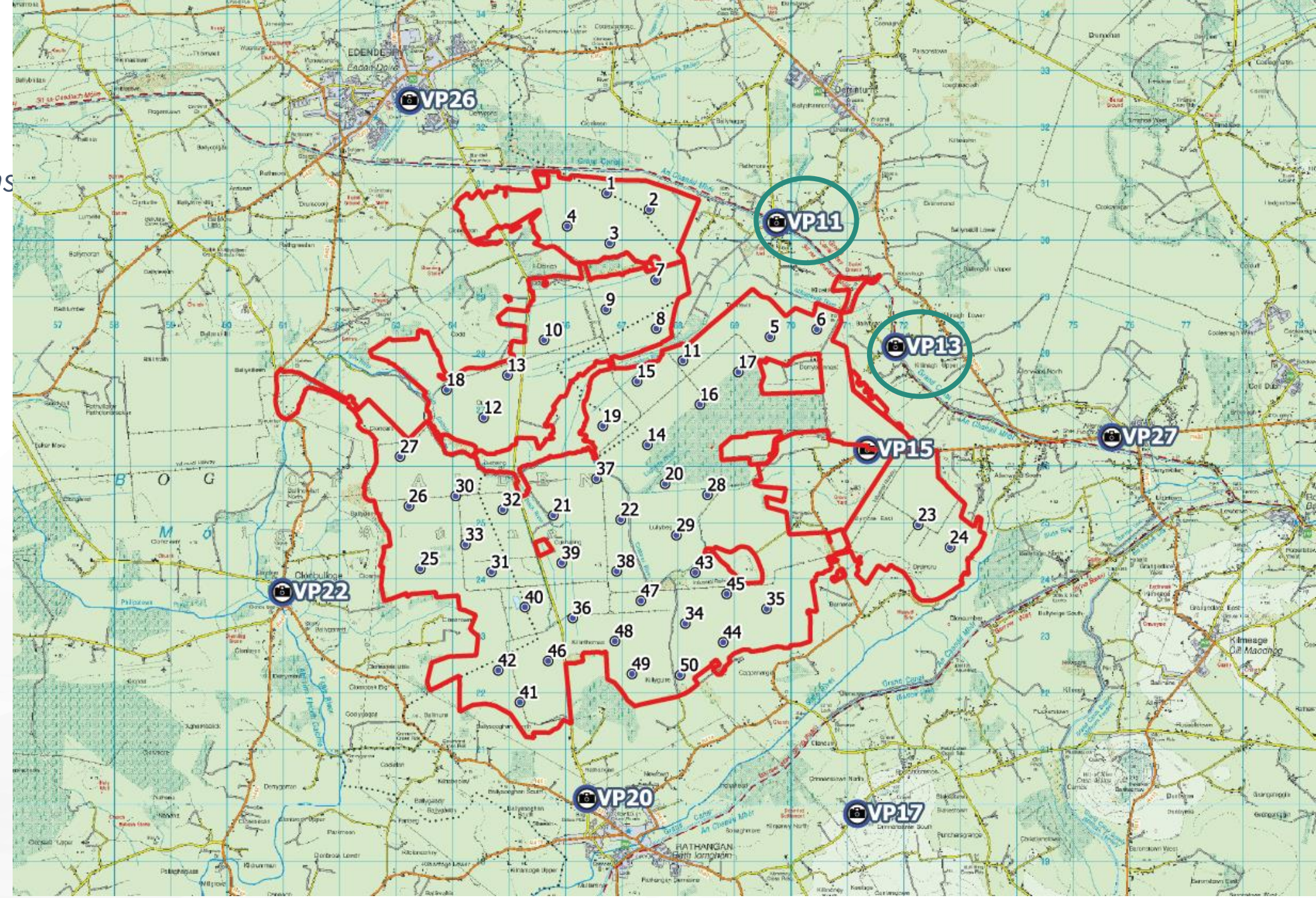
## VP location 22 180 degrees  From Clonbulloge



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# Preliminary LVIA

*Viewpoint Locations*



## VP Location 11 180 degrees  Ticknevin Bridge

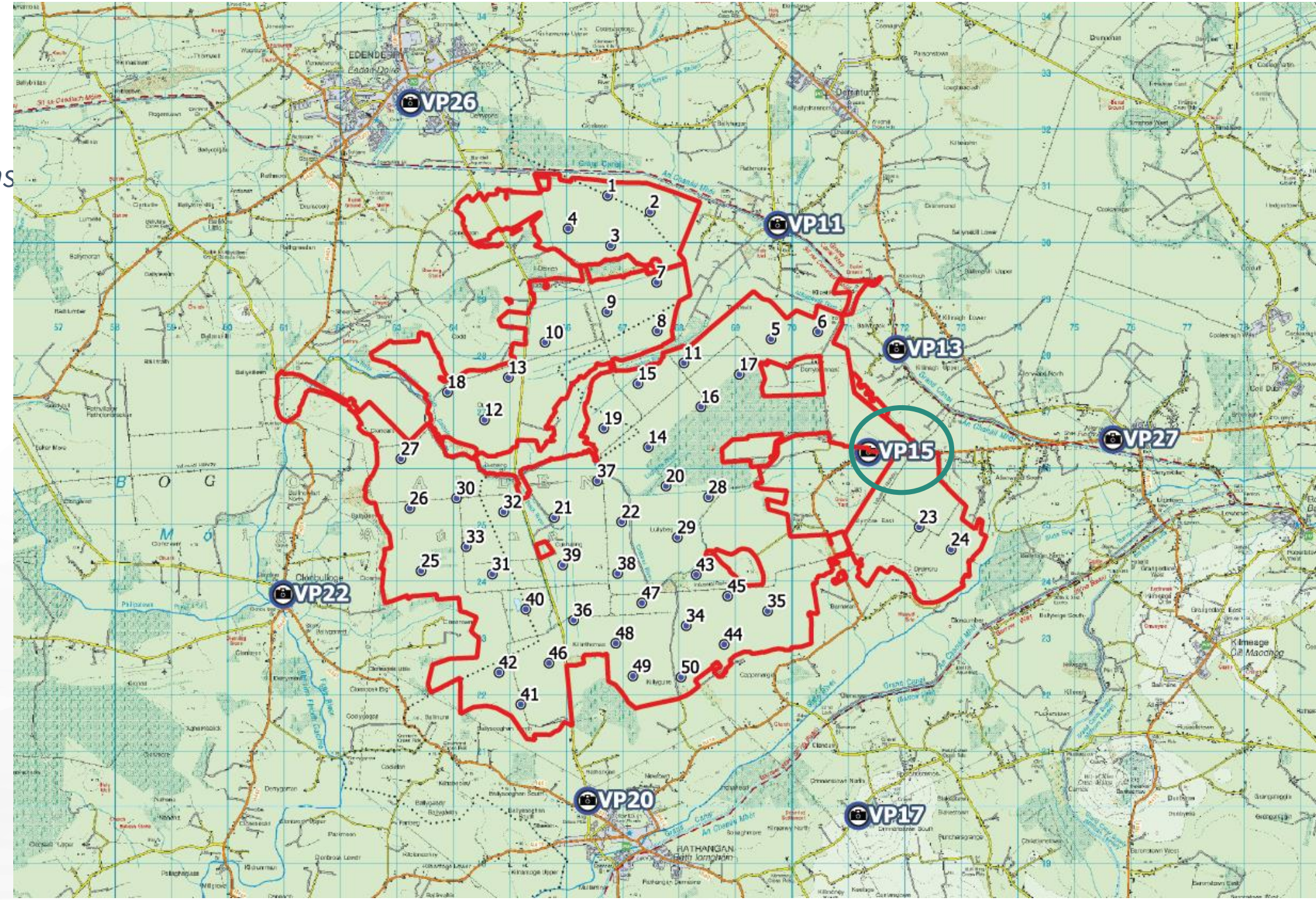


## VP Location 13 180 degrees, Hamilton Bridge



# Preliminary LVIA

*Viewpoint Locations*



## Viewpoint Location 15 West 180 degrees R414 Lullymore

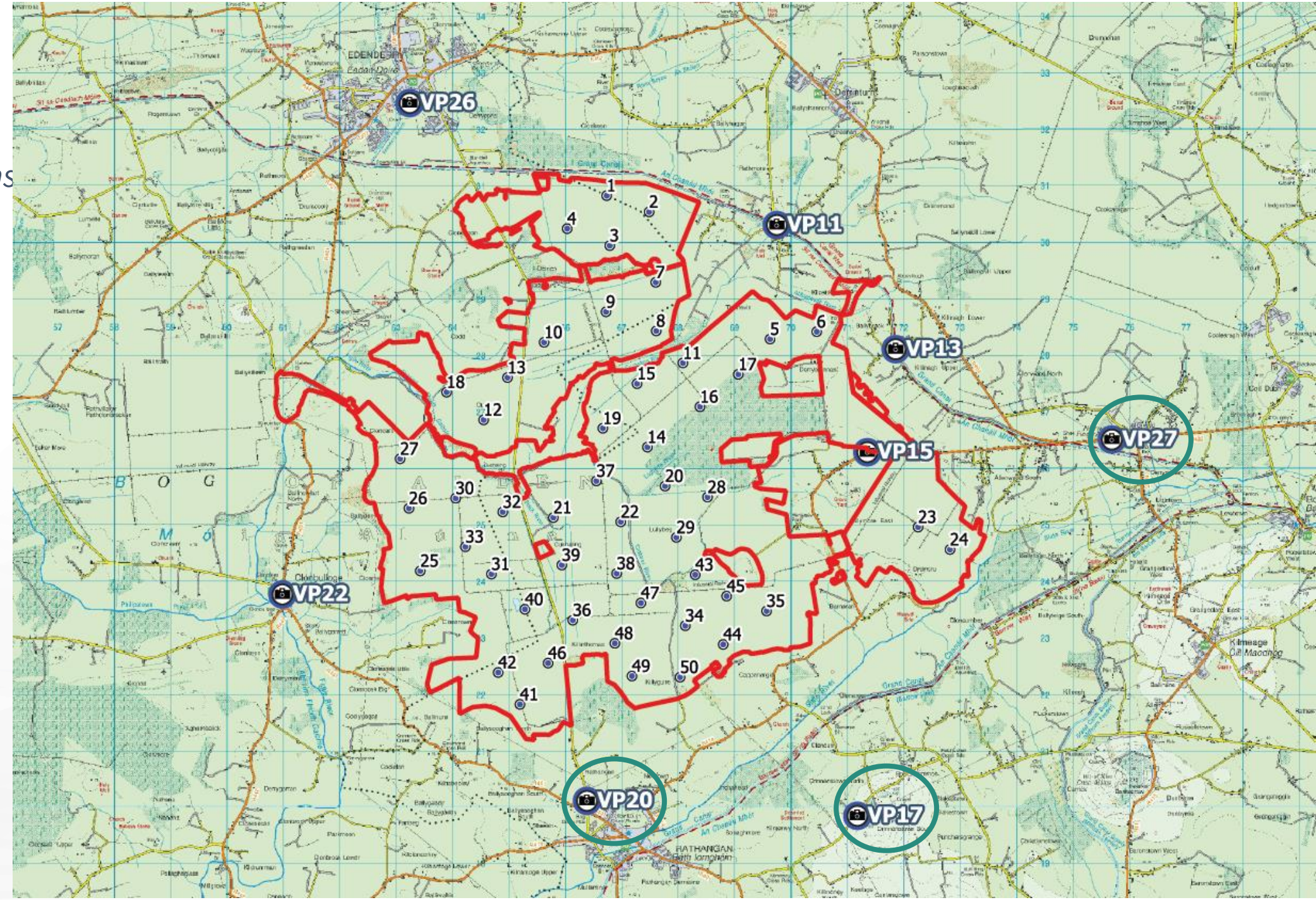


## Viewpoint Location 15 East 180 degrees R414 Lullymore



# Preliminary LVIA

*Viewpoint Locations*



Viewpoint 27 180 degrees From Allenwood



Viewpoint 17 180 degrees from Boston Hill



# Viewpoint 20 180 degrees From Rathangan



# Strategic Infrastructure Criteria

| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | SID Determination Criteria | Proposed Ballivor Wind Farm |
|---|---|---|
| 7th Schedule | An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total power output greater than 50MW | The proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm is expected to comprise **40-50 no. wind turbines** with a minimum installed capacity of approximately **192MW** (based on 40 turbines at a capacity of 4.8MW). As such, the proposal exceeds both turbine quantity and generating capacity thresholds specified in the 7th Schedule. |
| Section 37A(2)<br><br>One (or more) of which must be satisfied | The development must be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the Region in which it would be situate | Due to the scale of the proposal, it is our opinion that the project is of strategic economic and social importance to the Eastern and Midland Region and the state. The capital investment required for a project of this scale will cumulatively represent a significant economic contribution to the Region and the State as a whole. |
| | The development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy in force in respect of the area in which it would be situate | The proposed wind energy infrastructure is in accordance with the promotion of sustainable energy development as set out in provisions of the *Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012 – 2020 (2012), Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030 (2015)*, *Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework (2018)* and the *Climate Action Plan (2019)*. The proposal will significantly contribute towards meeting sustainable renewable energy targets and objectives at Local, Regional and National levels. |
| | The development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority | As shown on the Site Location Plan, the study area boundary comprises lands within both County Offaly and County Kildare, with project infrastructure being proposed within the functional area of both these local authorities. |

# Proposed Project Timeline

**Summer 2021**

- On-going public consultation
- Baseline and detailed environmental site surveys

**Autumn 2021**

- Finalised turbine layout and design proposals
- On-going public consultation

**Winter 2021**

- Engineering design (Internal Infrastructure)
- Final environmental site surveys
- Commencement of EIAR and NIS

**Spring 2022**

- On-going public consultation
- Completion of EIAR and NIS
- Submission of planning application (Q2 2022)



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