Killoshulan Wind Farm Pre-Application Consultation Presentation to An Bord Pleanála

13th October 2022

ABP Refs. 314186 & 314187

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Summary details of project(s)
3. Energy and climate policy
4. Site selection
5. Local policy
6. Iterative design and environmental assessment process
7. SID thresholds and criteria
8. Application timeline
9. Feedback and discussion



Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited

Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited is a subsidiary of Atlantic Infrastructure Renewables (AIR) and Atlantic Infrastructure Partners (AIP) – www.atlanticinfrastructure.ie

AIR is currently developing 10 wind farms across Ireland, the first of which will go into planning in Q4 2022, The projects span 7 counties, including Kilkenny (2), Tipperary (2), Galway (1), Laois (1), Wicklow (2), Clare (1) and Cork (1).

AIR is an early-stage developer, commencing its project development work with site ID and site assembly, and take the project through planning and into construction.

AIR is working across Ireland to build a portfolio of wind farm projects that will meet Irelands increasing demands for clean, renewable energy.

AIR's current project pipeline amounts to over 400MW of capacity, or 10% of the additional 4,000MW called for in the Government's Climate Action Plan by 2030.

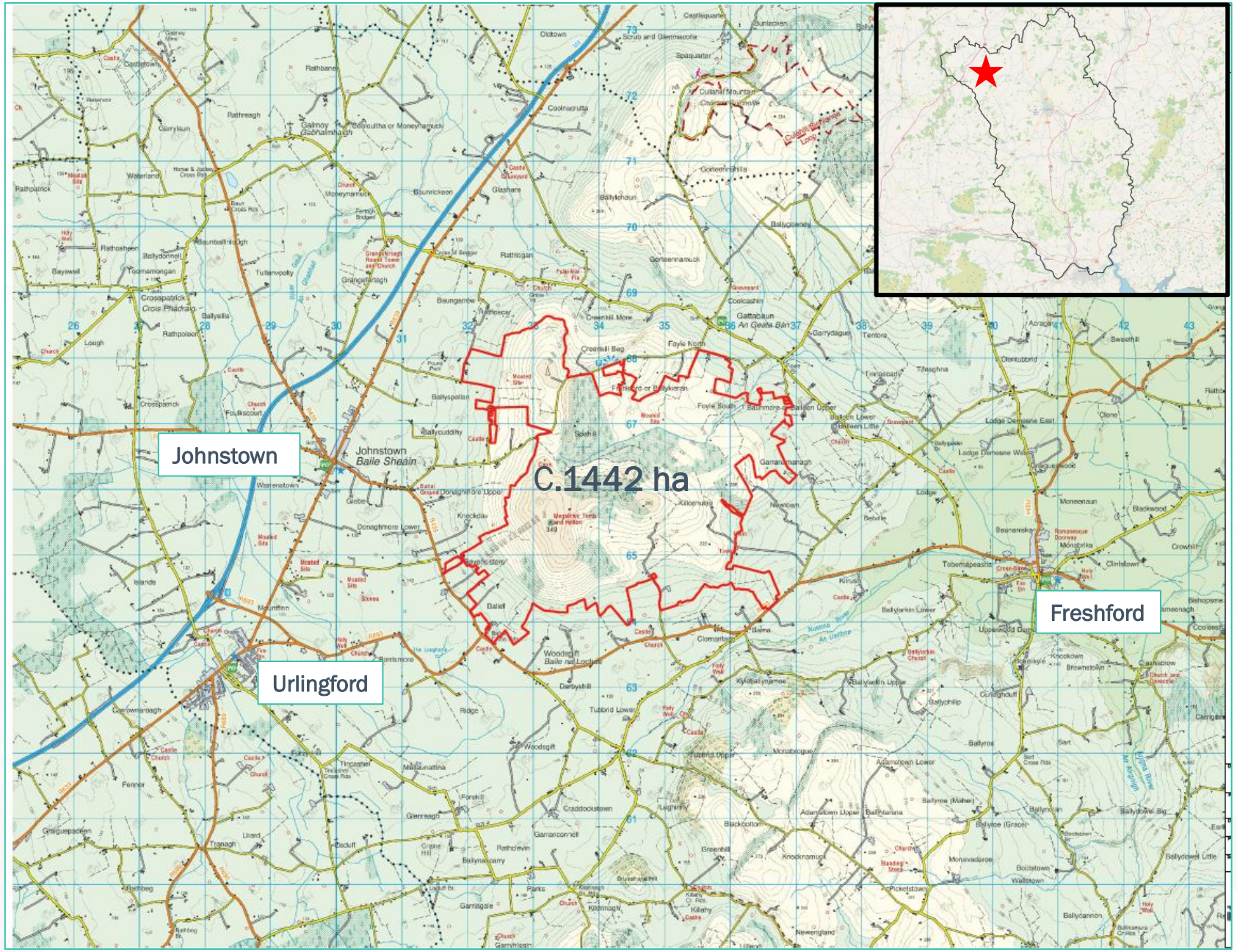






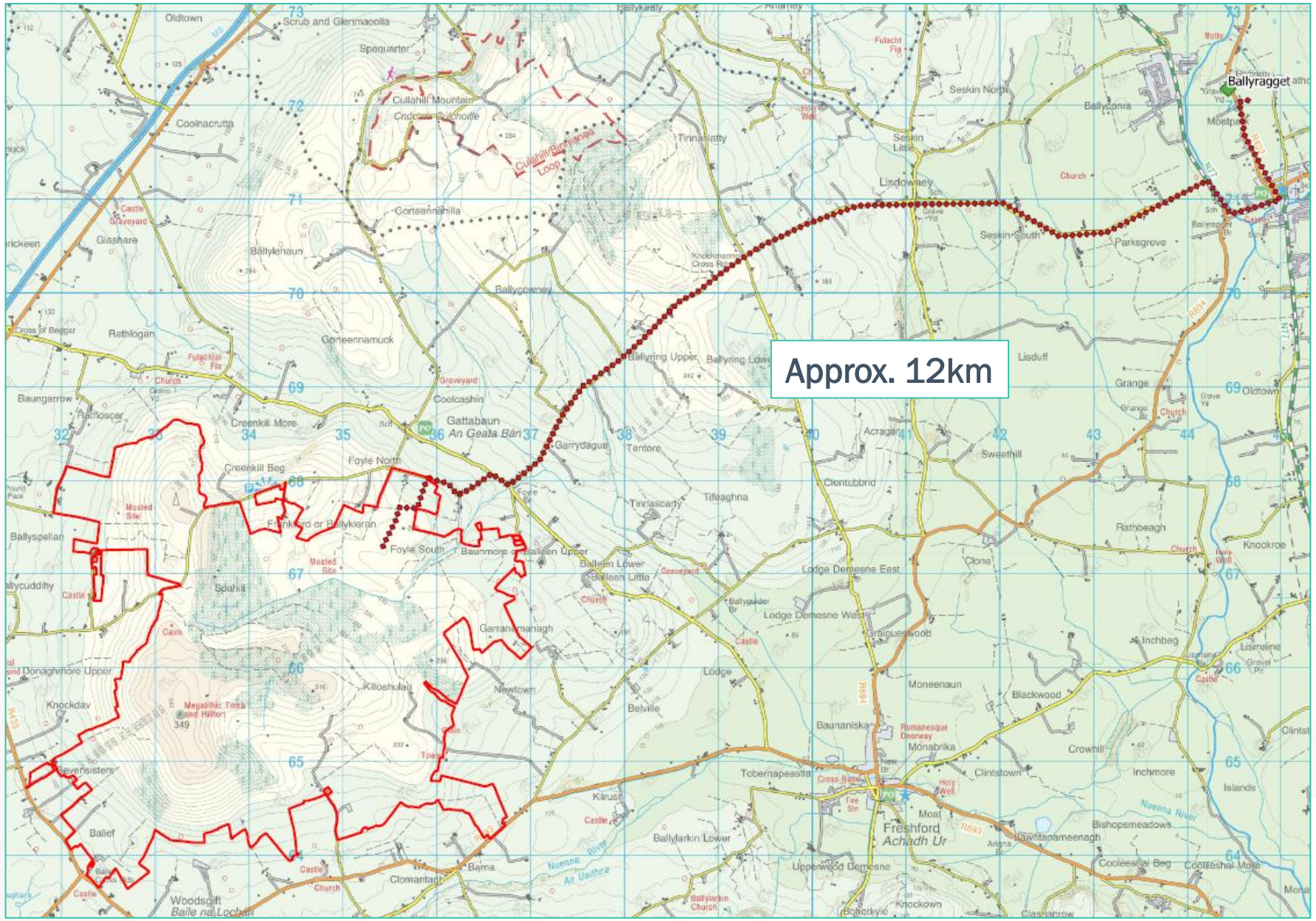
Proposed Development

- Killoshulan Renewable Energy Limited is proposing to develop a 12 no. turbine wind farm within County Kilkenny.
- The proposed wind farm is located approximately 3 km east of Johnstown and c. 5km northwest of Freshford Co. Kilkenny
- The wind farm would be connected to the National Grid via a proposed 110kV Substation and underground grid connection cabling to an existing 110kV substation in Ballyragget.
- The proposed development has an estimated 60-80MW output (based on 5-7MW per turbine)



Preferred Grid Connection Route

- On-site 110kV electricity substation
- 110kV underground cable along public road corridor



Project Context

Emissions Reduction Targets

Renewable Energy Targets

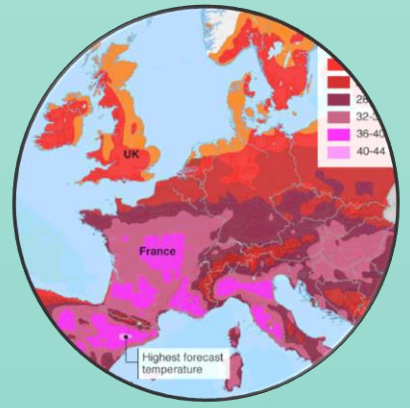
Energy Security

War in Ukraine

Supply Disruption

Energy Cost

Wind Energy has a vital role to play as our largest renewable energy resource



Climate Crisis

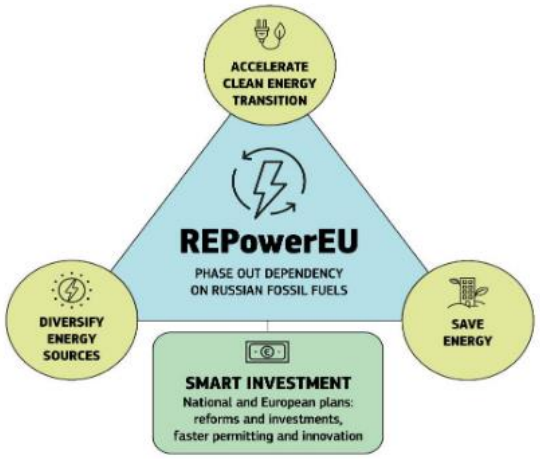


Geopolitical Crisis



Energy Crisis

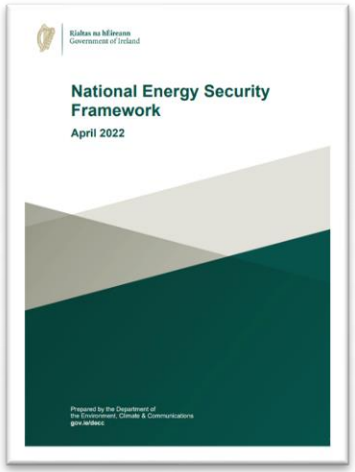
Energy Security / REPowerEU (March 2020)





*"The Commission calls on **Member States to ensure that the planning**, construction and operation of plants for the production of energy from **renewable sources**, their connection to the grid and the related grid itself are considered as being **in the overriding public interest** and in the interest of public safety **and qualify for the most favourable procedure available in their planning and permitting procedures**…In May, the Commission will publish a recommendation on **fast permitting for renewable energy projects** and will work to support the use of **all flexibilities already granted by EU legislation and the removal of remaining obstacles, whatever their origin**."*

National Energy Security Framework (April 2022)



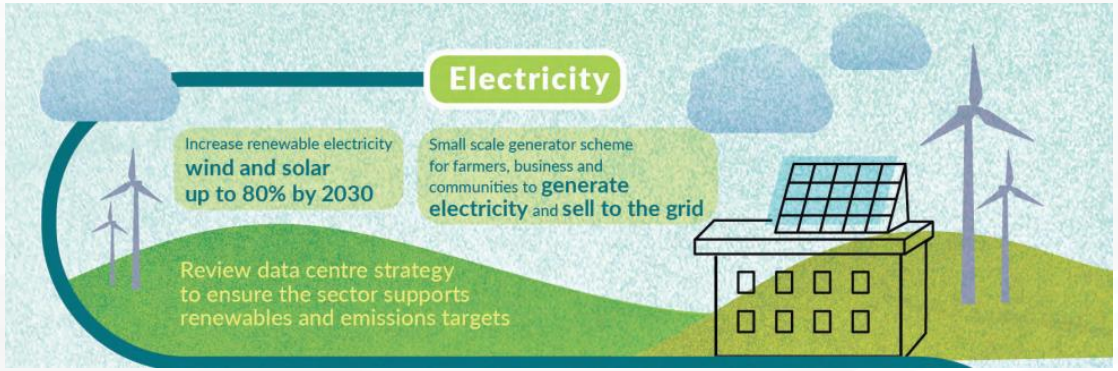
- Theme 1: Managing the Impact on Consumers and Businesses
- Theme 2: Ensuring security of supply in the near-term
- Theme 3: Reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels
- Action: Replacing Fossil Fuels with Renewables
- Response 25: Align all elements of the planning system to fully support accelerated renewable energy development

Climate Action Plan 2021

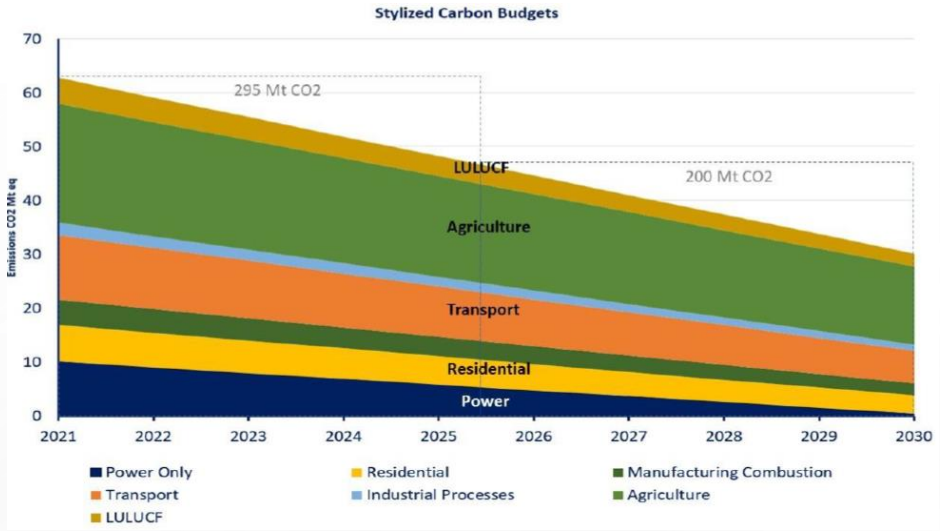


Increase renewable electricity – wind and solar up to 80% by 2030

Reduce emissions from electricity by 62% – 81% from 2018 levels



Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021

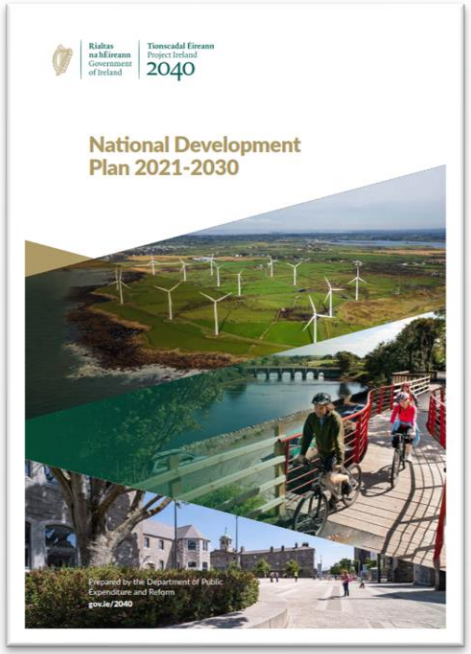


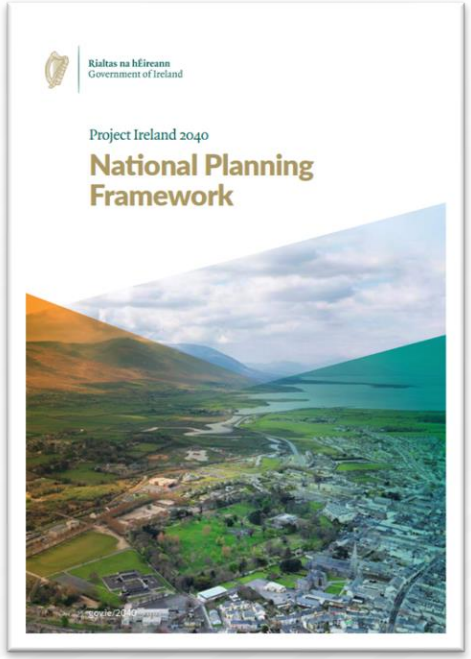
- Legislative framework for carbon emissions
- Carbon neutral by 2050
- 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- Introduces requirements for carbon budget for all of Government
- UCC MaREI study estimates power sector emissions should be 55Mt from 2021-2030. 10Mt used in 2021 alone. 45Mt left to get us from 2022-2030!
- 8.2GW of onshore wind energy by 2030 (and likely more if onshore doesn't deliver 7GW by 2030)

National Development Plan

Commits to increasing share of renewable electricity by up to 80% by 2030

'As a growing number of vehicles we drive and the homes we heat are powered by electricity, increasing renewable electricity will drive down greenhouse gas emissions right across the economy'





National Planning Framework

National Strategic Outcome 8:

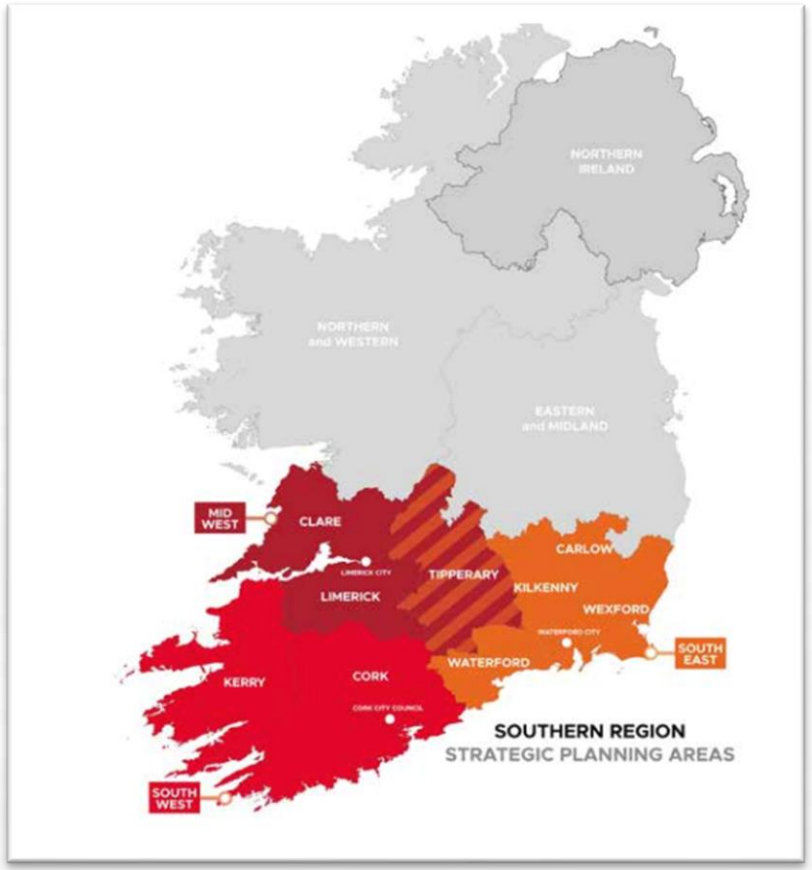
- Transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy

National Planning Objective 55:

- Promote renewable energy use and generation at the appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy 2050.

Southern Region Spatial and Economic Strategy

"The RSES recognises and supports the many opportunities for wind as a major source of renewable energy".



RPO 87 Low Carbon Energy Future

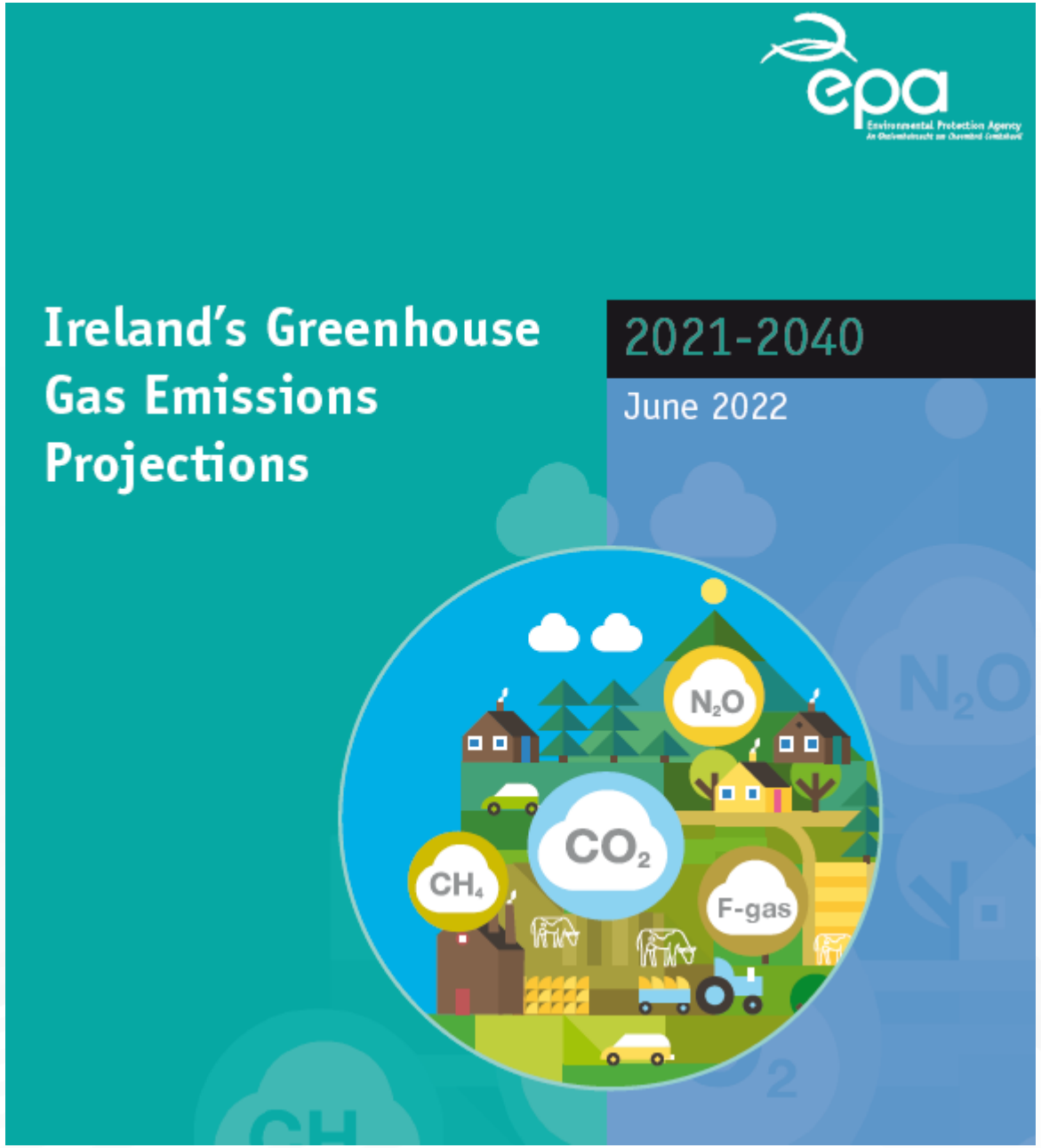
- The RSES is committed to the implementation of the Government's policy under Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-30 and Climate Action Plan 2019. It is an objective to promote change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced GHG emissions in accordance with current and future national targets, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy sources across the key sectors of electricity supply, heating, transport and agriculture

RPO 99 Renewable Wind Energy

- It is an objective to support the sustainable development of renewable wind energy (onshore and offshore) at appropriate locations and related grid infrastructure in the Region in compliance with national Wind Energy Guidelines.

Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2021-2040 (EPA)

Based on the actions in CAP21 - we will miss our 2030 emissions targets



Climate Change Advisory Council Annual Review and Report 2022

"Electricity Supply
In the context of the climate and energy emergencies, developing our vast renewable resource must be considered as being ***in the overriding public interest****. Targets for onshore wind and solar renewable electricity should be significantly increased, with faster roll out of these and the associated grid reinforcement. Strong political and policy support is needed at a national and local level for the rapid delivery of renewable energy projects."*

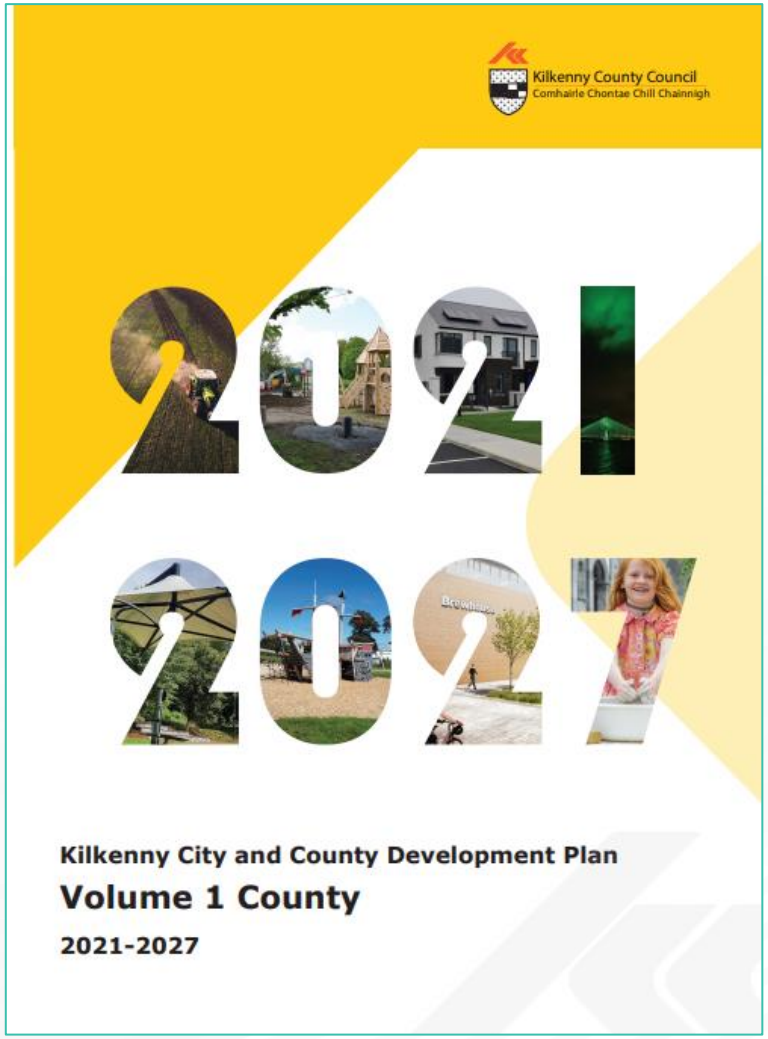


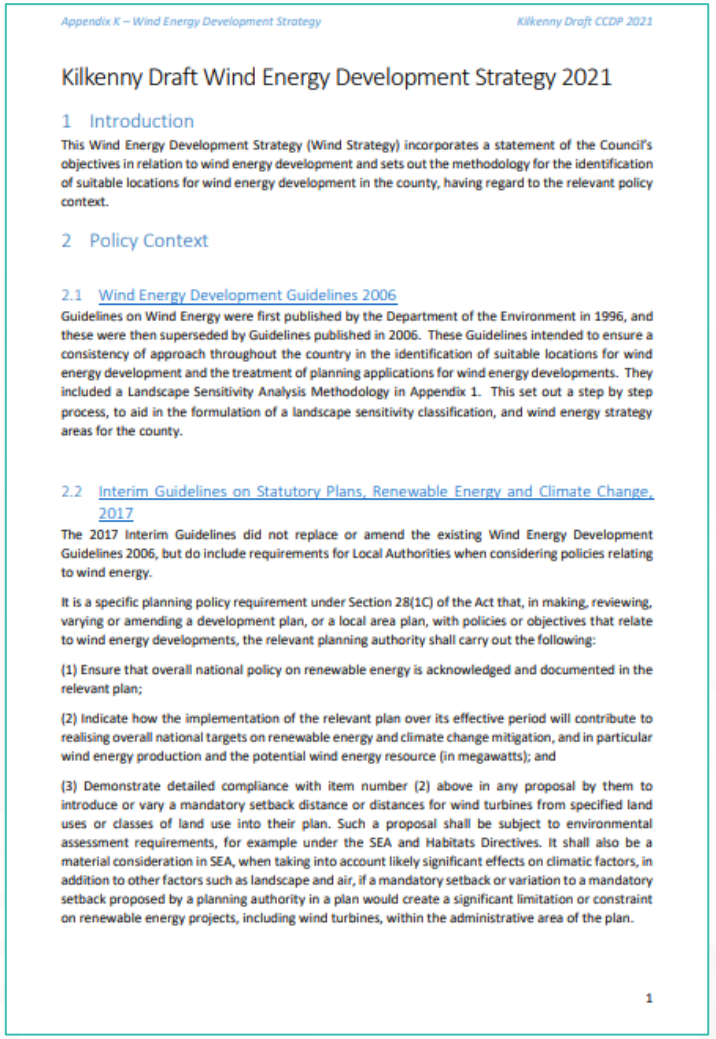
Kilkenny City and County Development Plan

Adopted 2021

Came into Effect October 2021

Kilkenny Draft Wind Energy Development Strategy 2021





Kilkenny Draft Wind Energy Development Strategy 2021

1 Introduction

This Wind Energy Development Strategy (Wind Strategy) incorporates a statement of the Council's objectives in relation to wind energy development and sets out the methodology for the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development in the county, having regard to the relevant policy context.

2 Policy Context

2.1 Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006

Guidelines on Wind Energy were first published by the Department of the Environment in 1996, and these were then superseded by Guidelines published in 2006. These Guidelines intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments. They included a Landscape Sensitivity Analysis Methodology in Appendix 1. This set out a step by step process, to aid in the formulation of a landscape sensitivity classification, and wind energy strategy areas for the county.

2.2 Interim Guidelines on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change, 2017

The 2017 Interim Guidelines did not replace or amend the existing Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, but do include requirements for Local Authorities when considering policies relating to wind energy.

It is a specific planning policy requirement under Section 28(1C) of the Act that, in making, reviewing, varying or amending a development plan, or a local area plan, with policies or objectives that relate to wind energy developments, the relevant planning authority shall carry out the following:

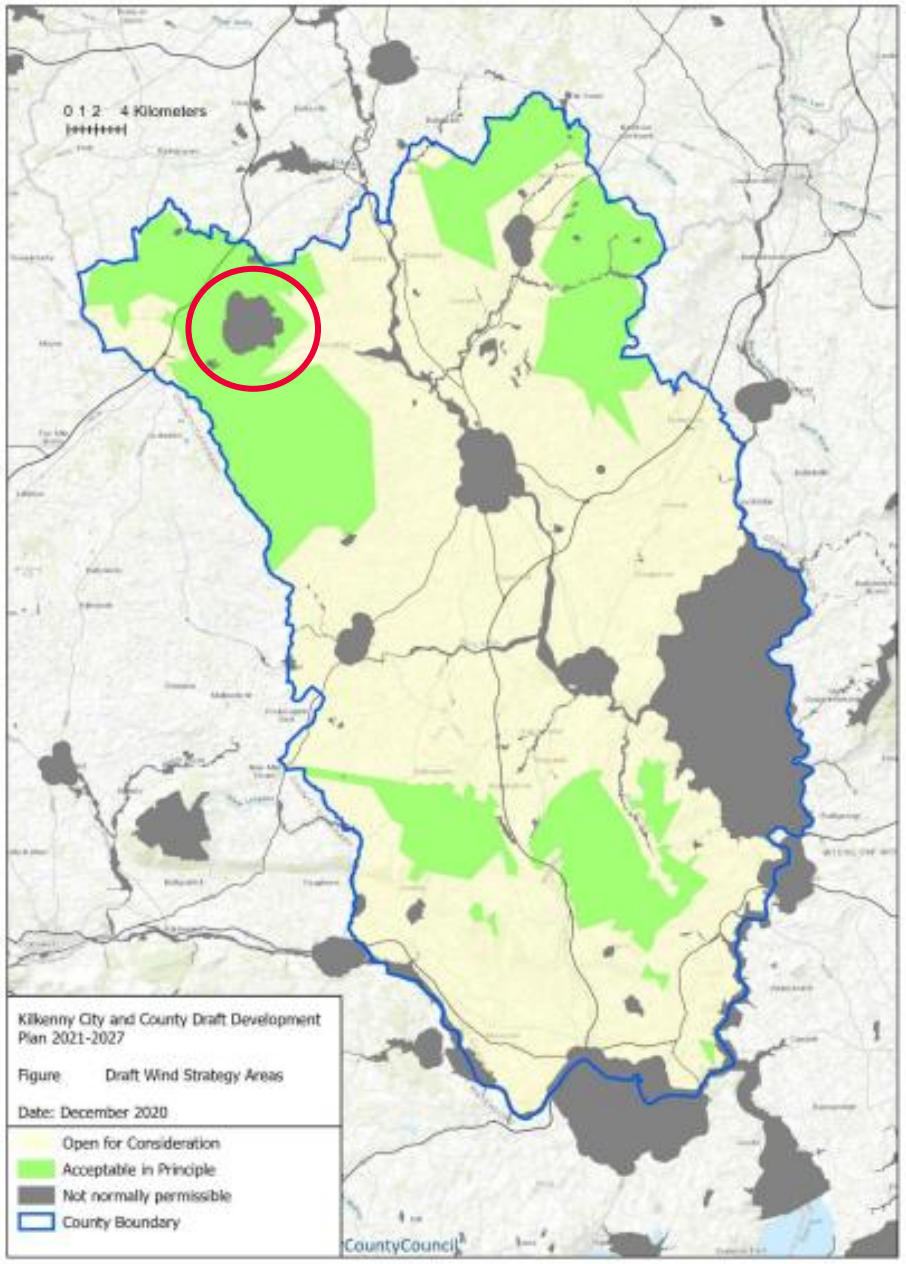
(1) Ensure that overall national policy on renewable energy is acknowledged and documented in the relevant plan;

(2) Indicate how the implementation of the relevant plan over its effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts); and

(3) Demonstrate detailed compliance with item number (2) above in any proposal by them to introduce or vary a mandatory setback distance or distances for wind turbines from specified land uses or classes of land use into their plan. Such a proposal shall be subject to environmental assessment requirements, for example under the SEA and Habitats Directives. It shall also be a material consideration in SEA, when taking into account likely significant effects on climatic factors, in addition to other factors such as landscape and air, if a mandatory setback or variation to a mandatory setback proposed by a planning authority in a plan would create a significant limitation or constraint on renewable energy projects, including wind turbines, within the administrative area of the plan.

Site Selection

- Site selection constraints & facilitators
  - ✓ Grid
  - ✓ Wind resource
  - ✓ Dwellings & other properties
  - ✓ Designated ecological sites
  - ✓ On-site habitats
  - ✓ Archaeological sites and monuments
  - ✓ Sufficient quantum of land
  - ✓ Access (for turbine delivery)
  - ❖ **Planning policy**
- Initial GIS-based exercise
- Site visits
- Landowner engagement
- Environmental assessments (started Q1 2020)
- Ecological surveys (started Q1 2020)

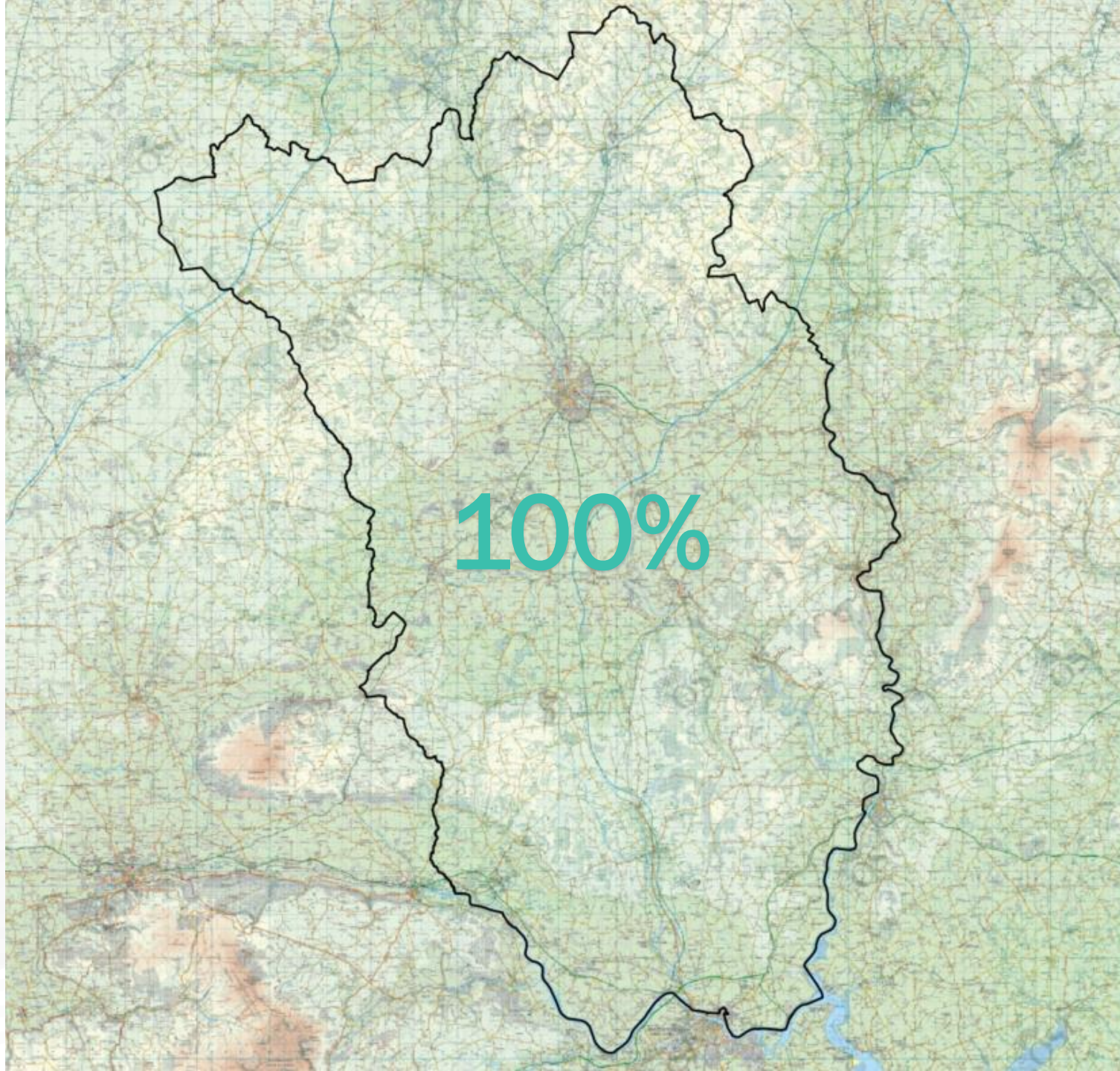


Wind Energy Capacity Assessment

Population = 103,685
(c. 2% of Ireland)

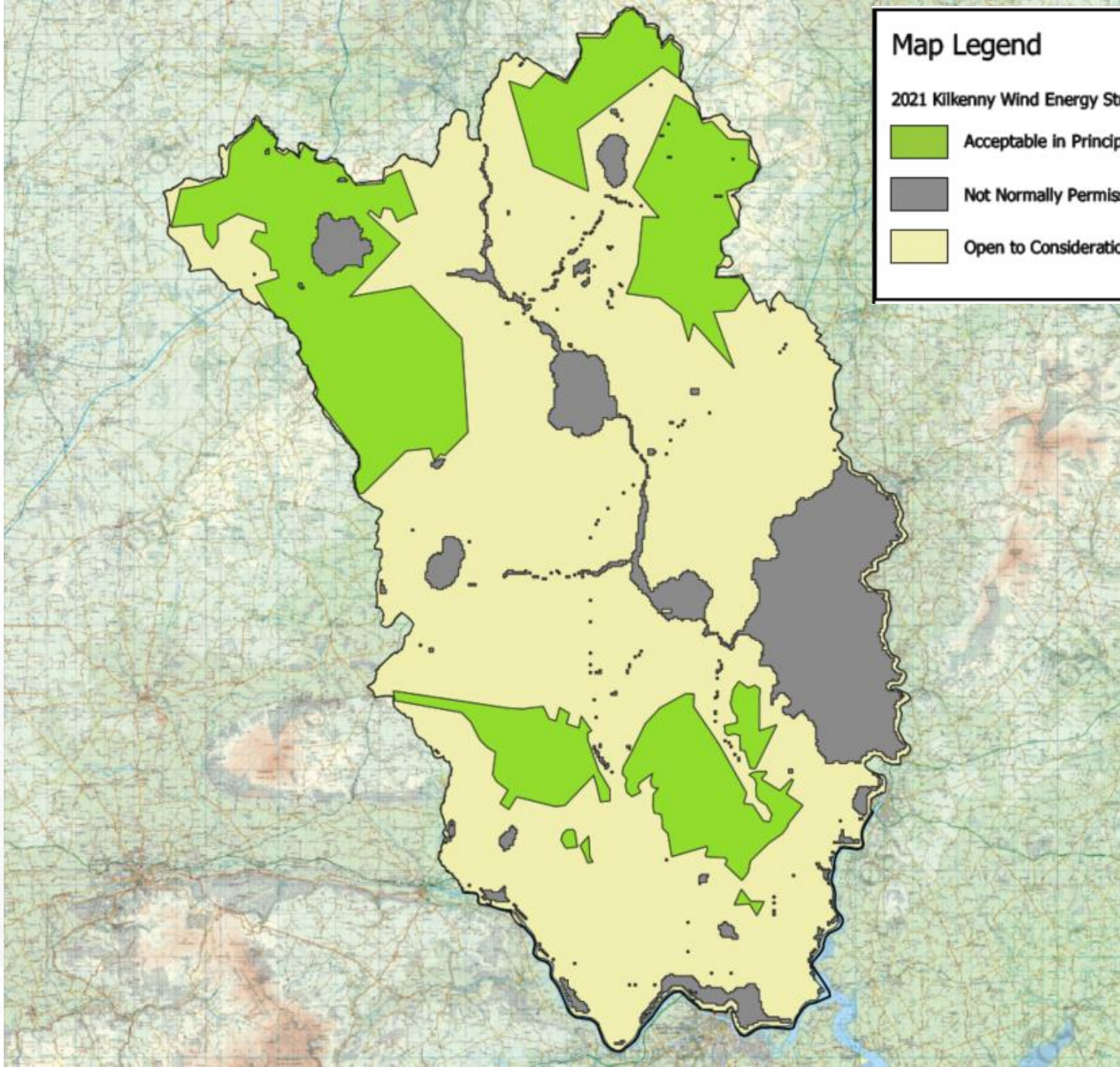
Area = 2,073km2
(c. 3% of Ireland

Renewable Energy Target = c. 225MW by 2030
(c. 2.7% of the CAP)



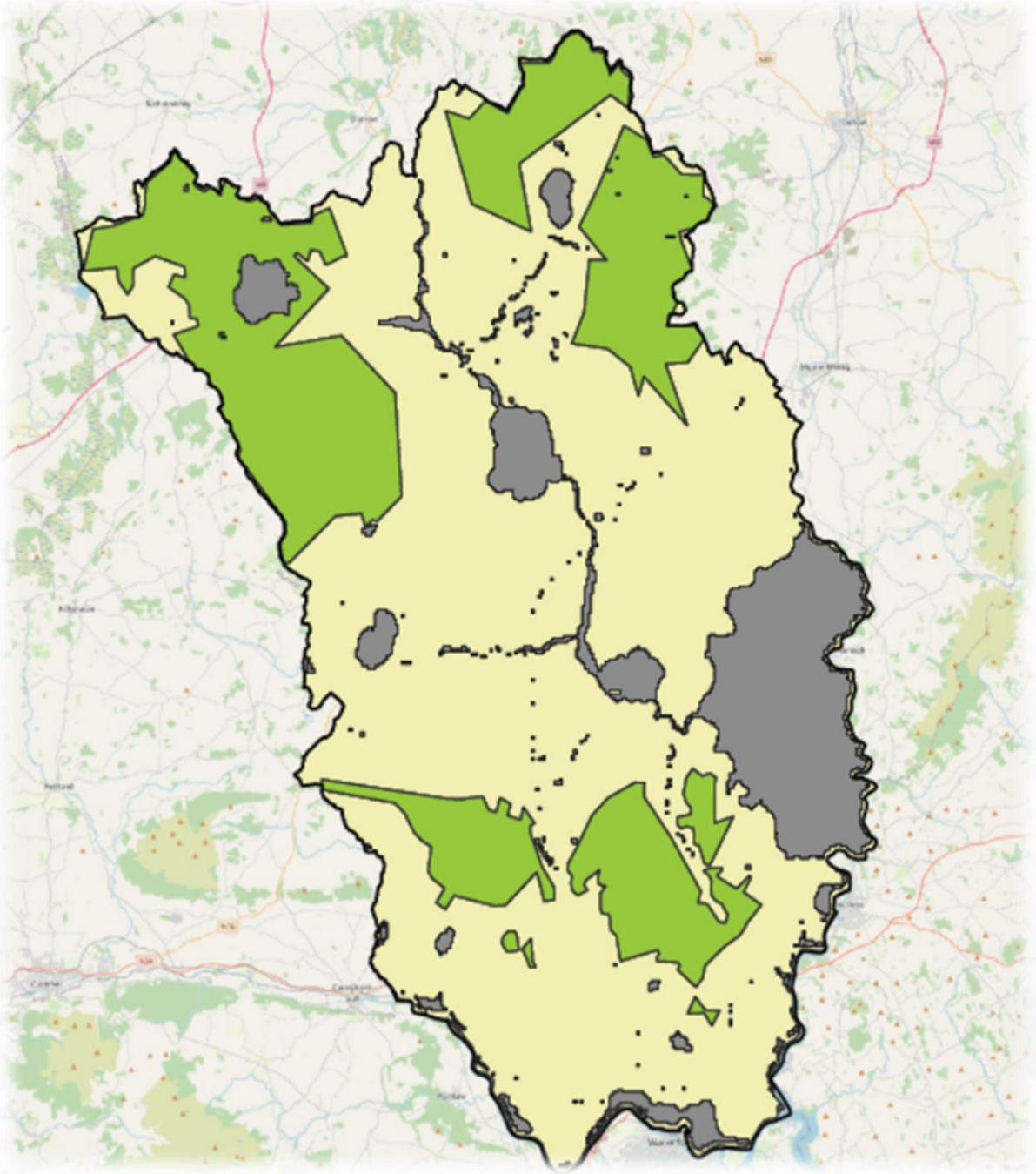
Kilkenny Wind Energy Policy Areas

	Area	% of County
Open to consideration (OTC)	1325.93 km^2	63.96%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	496.36 km^2	23.94%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	241.74 km^2	11.66%



Wind Energy Capacity Assessment using typical, project level constraints

Constraint	Buffer
Housing	700m
Exclude Designated Sites	
Overhead Lines	3.5x Rotor Diameter (420m)
Watercourses/Waterbodies	75m
Roads: Motorways/Primary/Secondary Regional Local	 250m 150m 75m
Railways	150m
Airfields	1km
Exclude sites with existing or proposed windfarms	



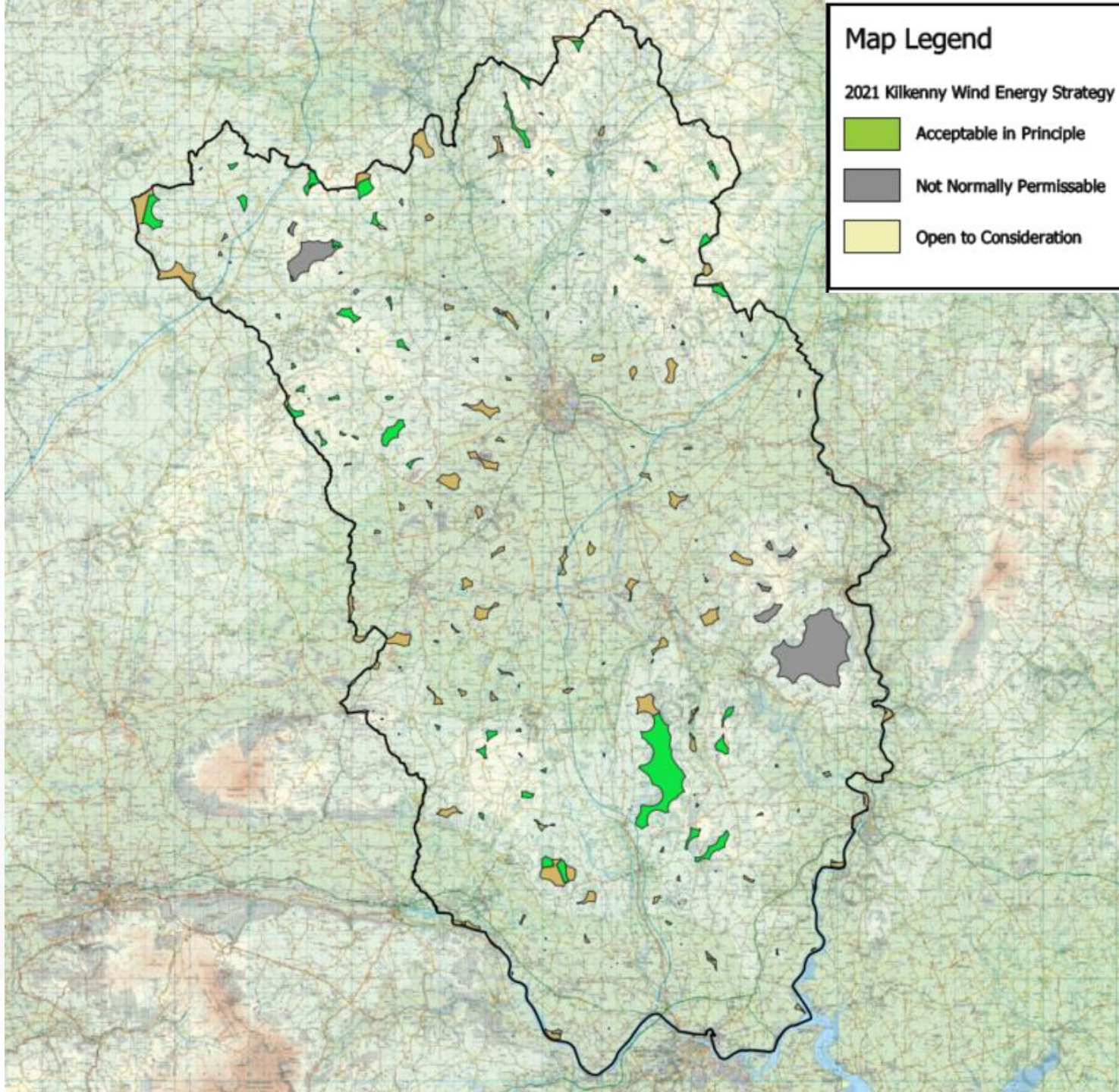
2. Exclude Housing plus 700m buffer

	Area	% of County Remaining	WES Total Area
Open to consideration (OTC)	29.59km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.43%	63.96%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	26.4km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.27%	23.94%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	23.36km^2 (241.74 km^2)	1.13%	11.66%



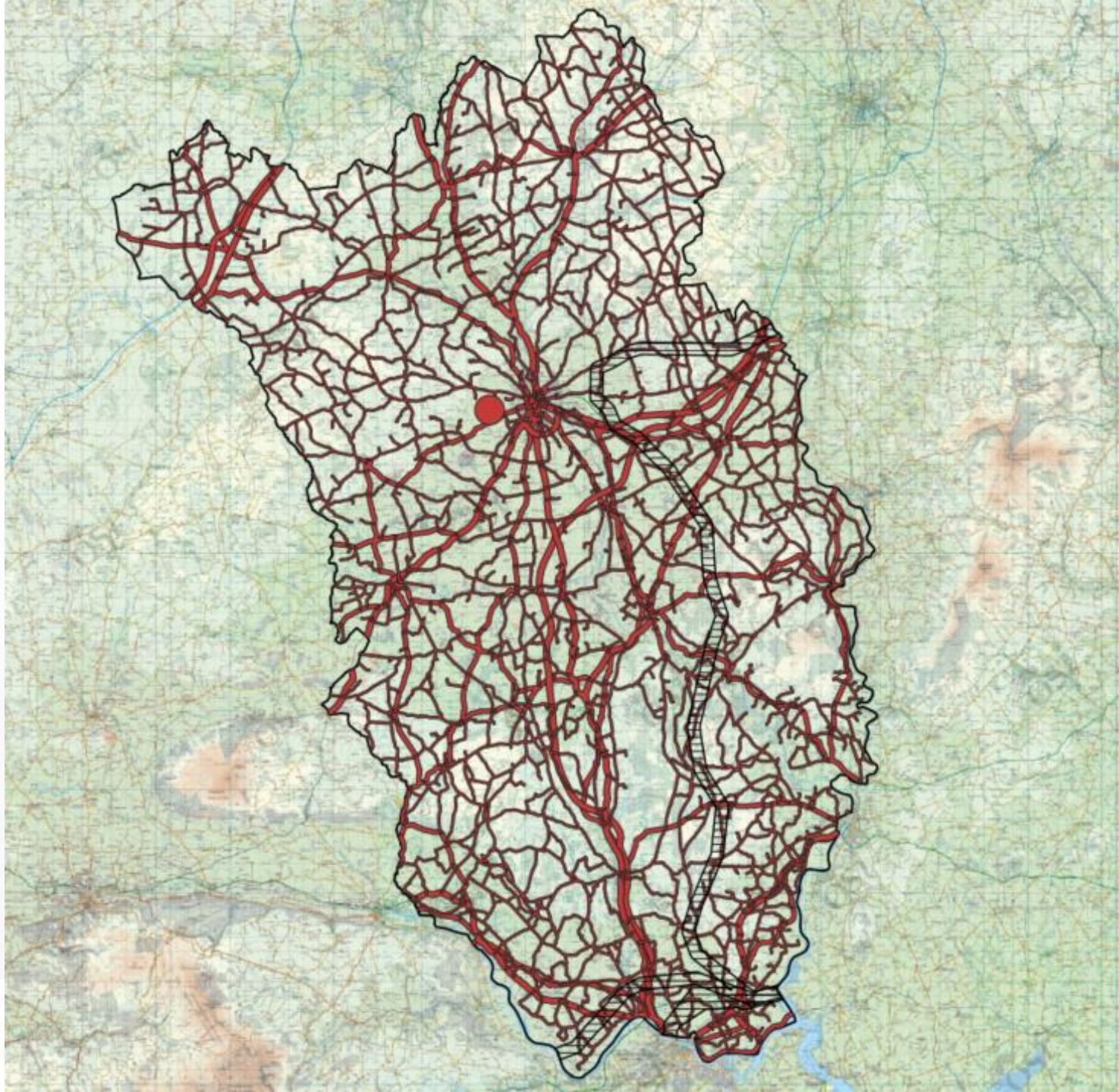
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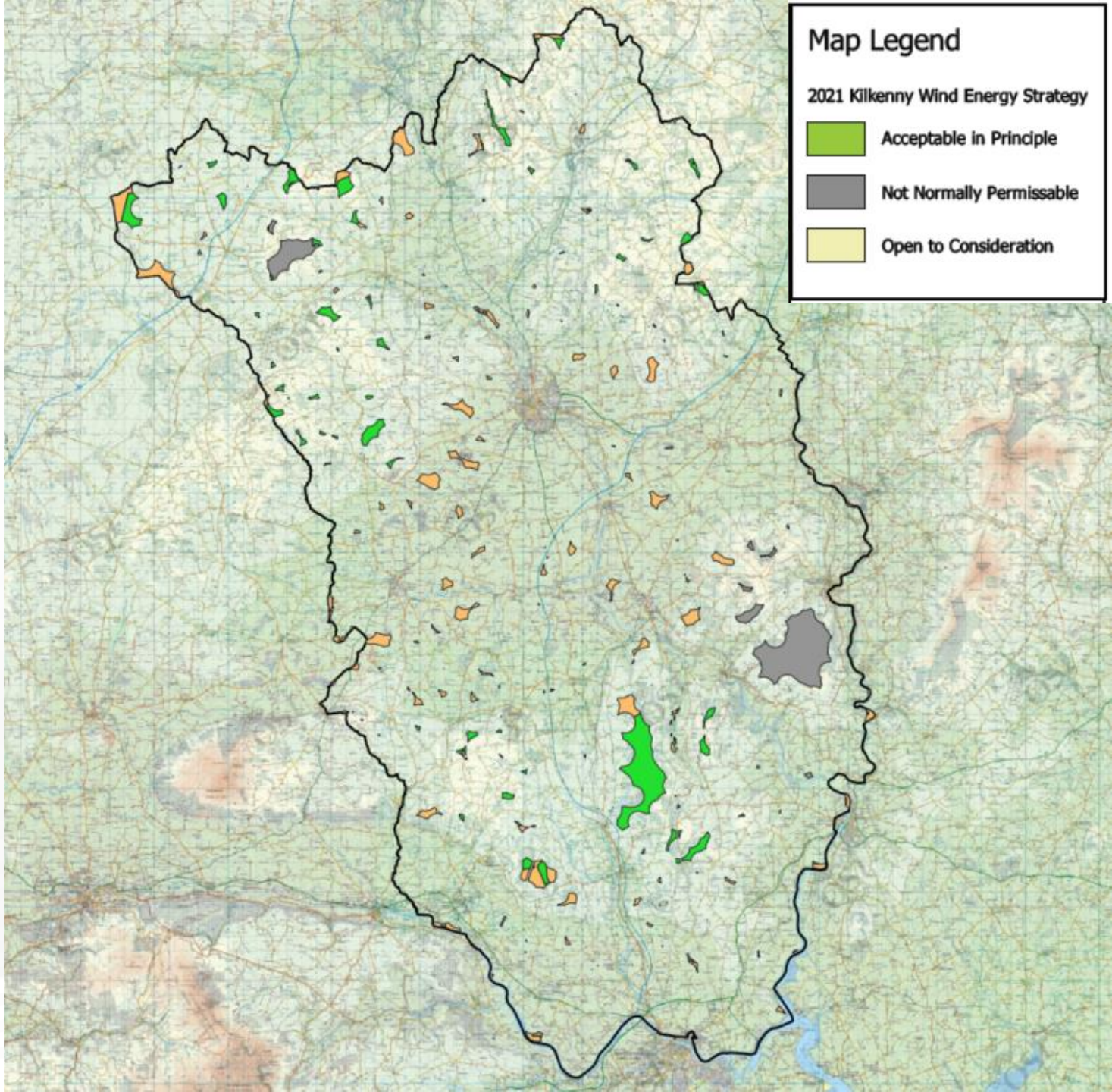
3. Exclude transport corridors and grid constraints

	Area	% of County Remaining
Open to consideration (OTC)	28.35km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.37%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	25.80km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.24%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	23.24km^2 (241.74 km^2)	1.12%



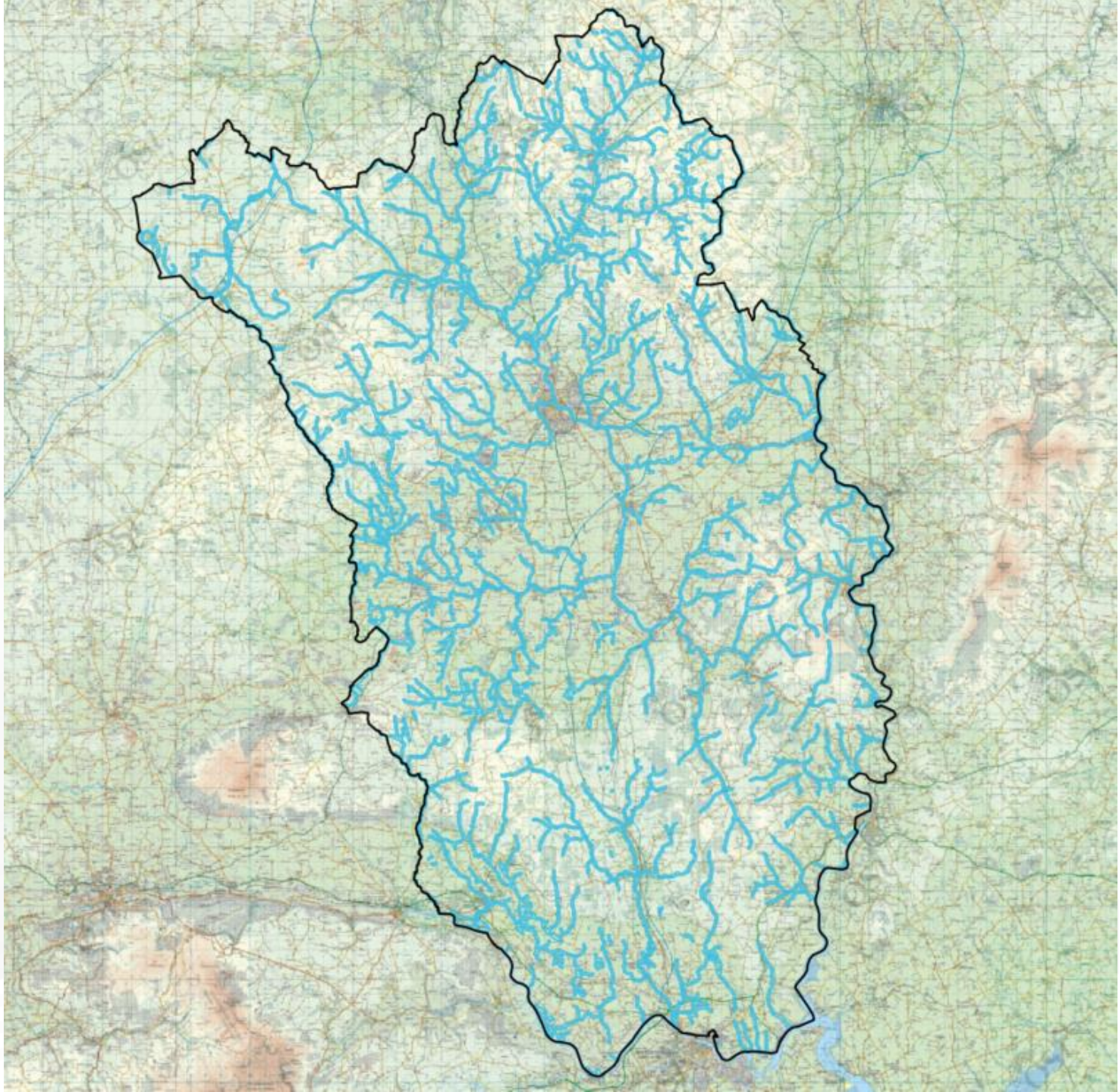
3. Exclude transport corridors and grid constraints

	Area	% of County Remaining	WES Total Area
Open to consideration (OTC)	28.35km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.37%	63.96%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	25.80km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.24%	23.94%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	23.24km^2 (241.74 km^2)	1.12%	11.66%



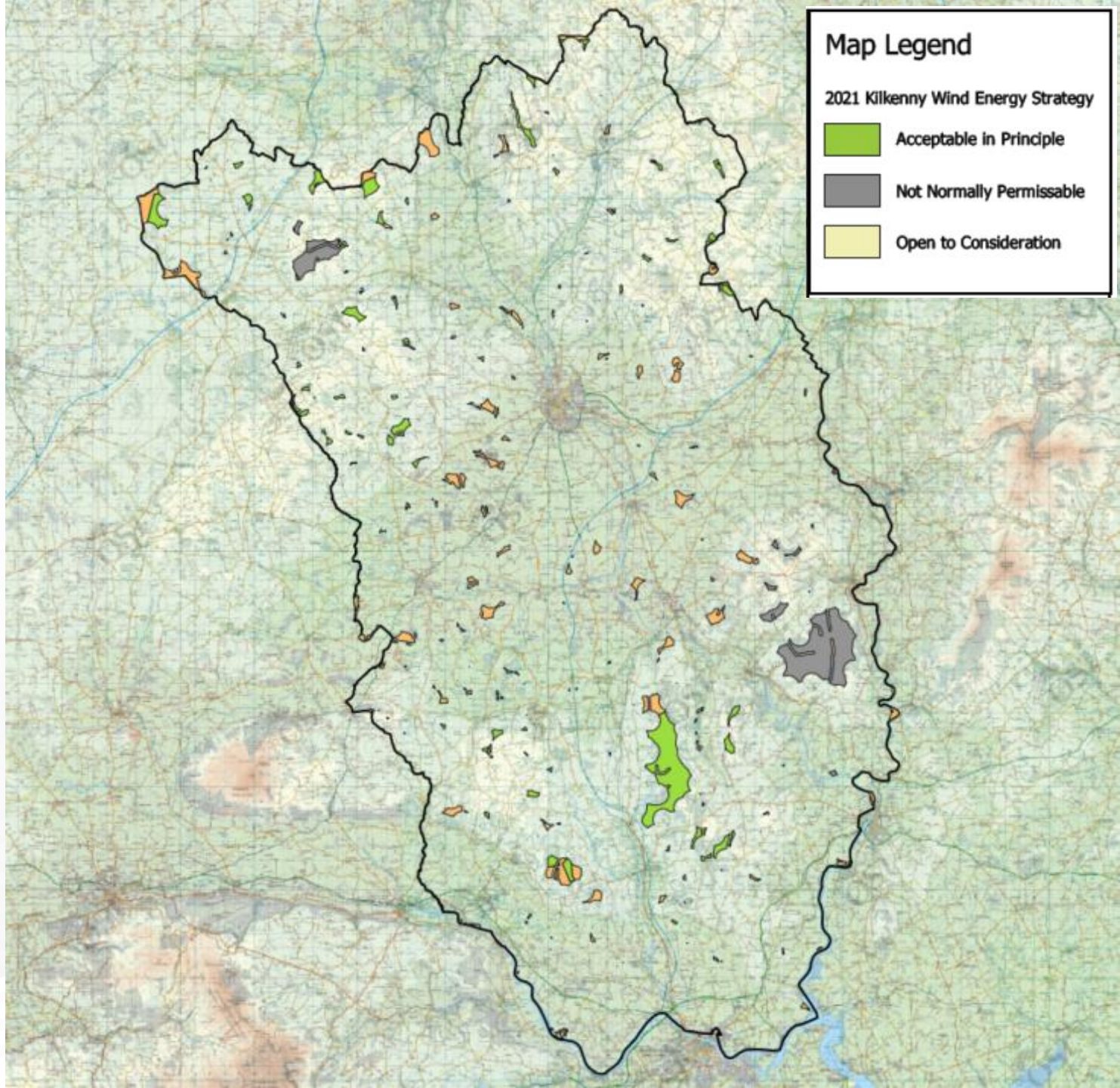
4. Exclude Watercourses and Waterbodies

	Area	% of County Remaining
Open to consideration (OTC)	23.82km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.15%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	24.24km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.17%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	21.21km^2 (241.74 km^2)	1.02%



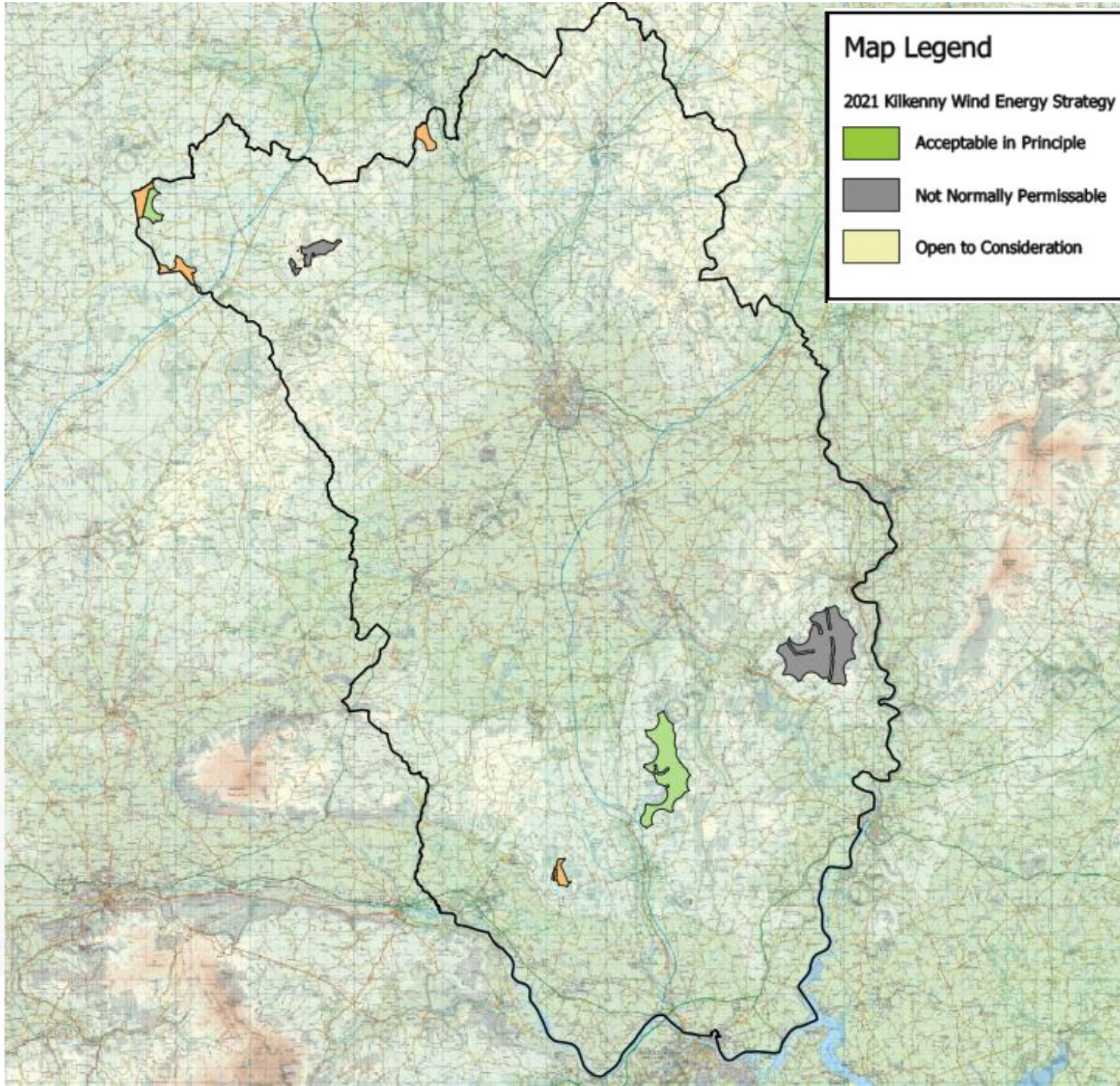
4. Exclude Watercourses and Waterbodies

	Area	% of County Remaining	WES Total Area
Open to consideration (OTC)	23.8km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.15%	63.96%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	24.24km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.17%	23.94%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	21.21km^2 (241.74 km^2)	1.02%	11.66%



5. Exclude all areas Designated sites

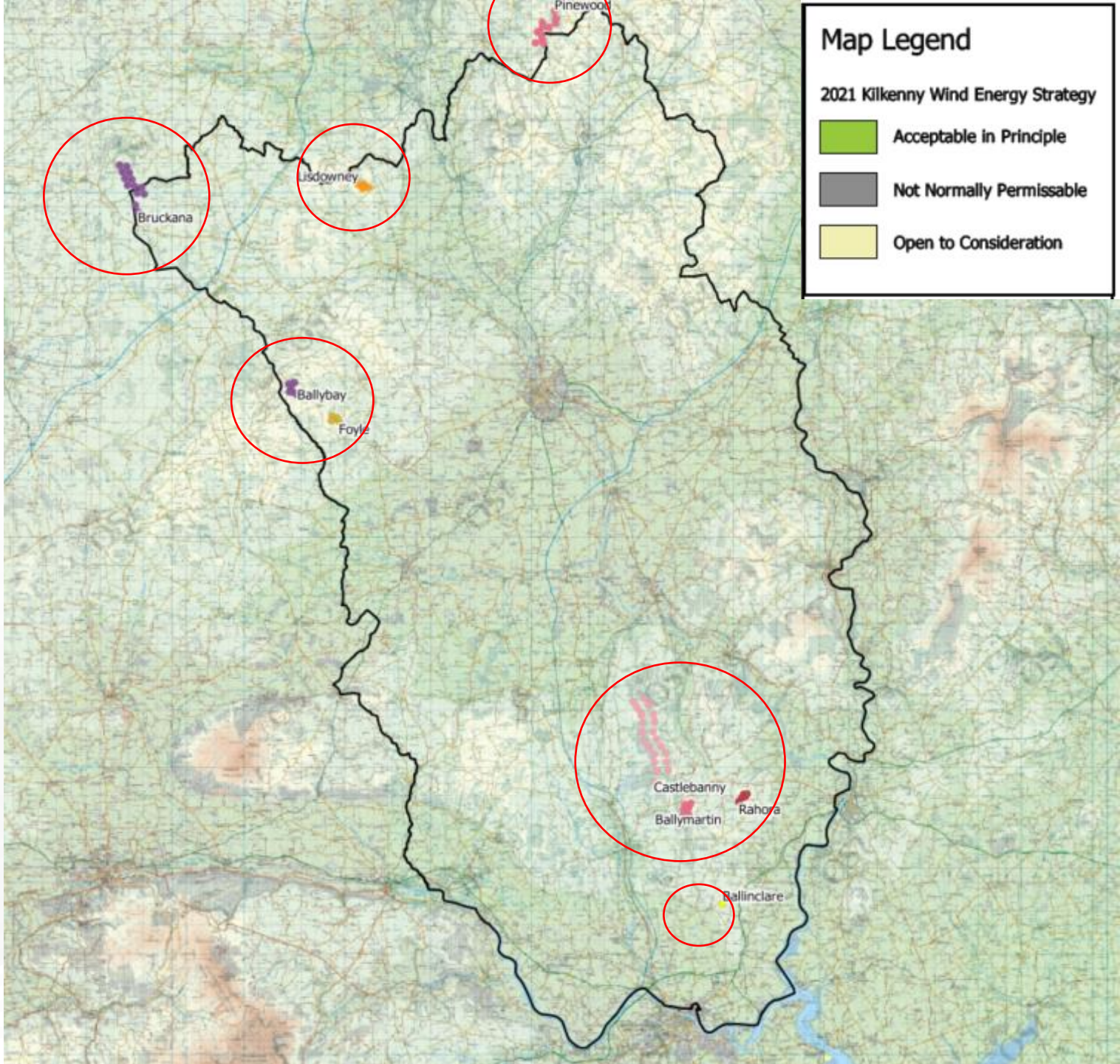
	Area	% of County Remaining	WES Total Area
Open to consideration (OTC)	22.82m^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.1.%	1325.93k m^2
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	23.86km^2 (496.36 km^2)	1.15%	241.74km^2
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	13.07km^2 (241.74 km^2)	0.63%	496.36 km^2



6. Exclude all areas with existing and planned wind farms

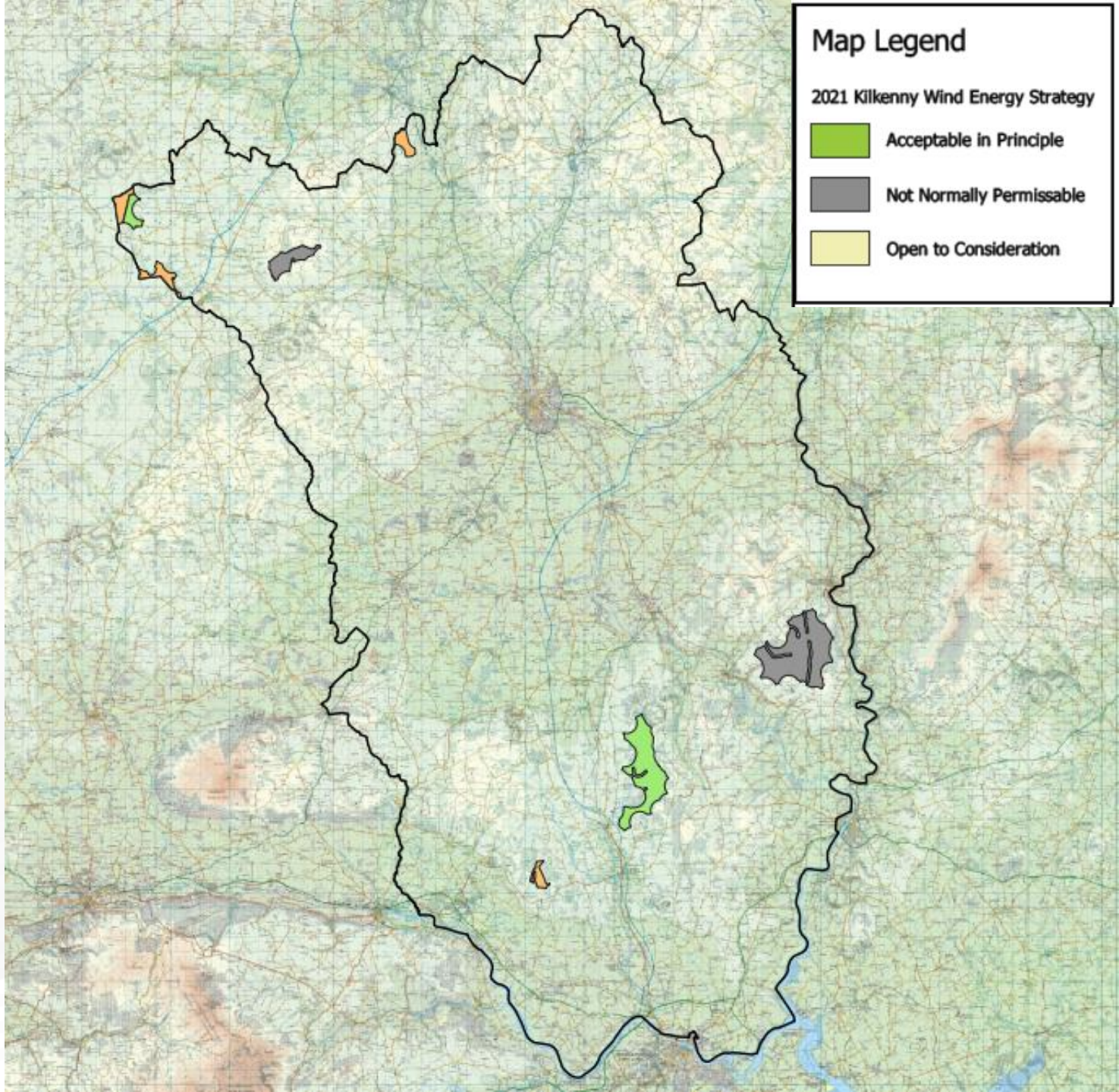
	Area	% of County Remaining
Open to consideration (OTC)	21.39km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	1.03%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	16.72km^2 (496.36 km^2)	0.80%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	13.07km^2 (241.74 km^2)	0.63%

Castlebanny is granted



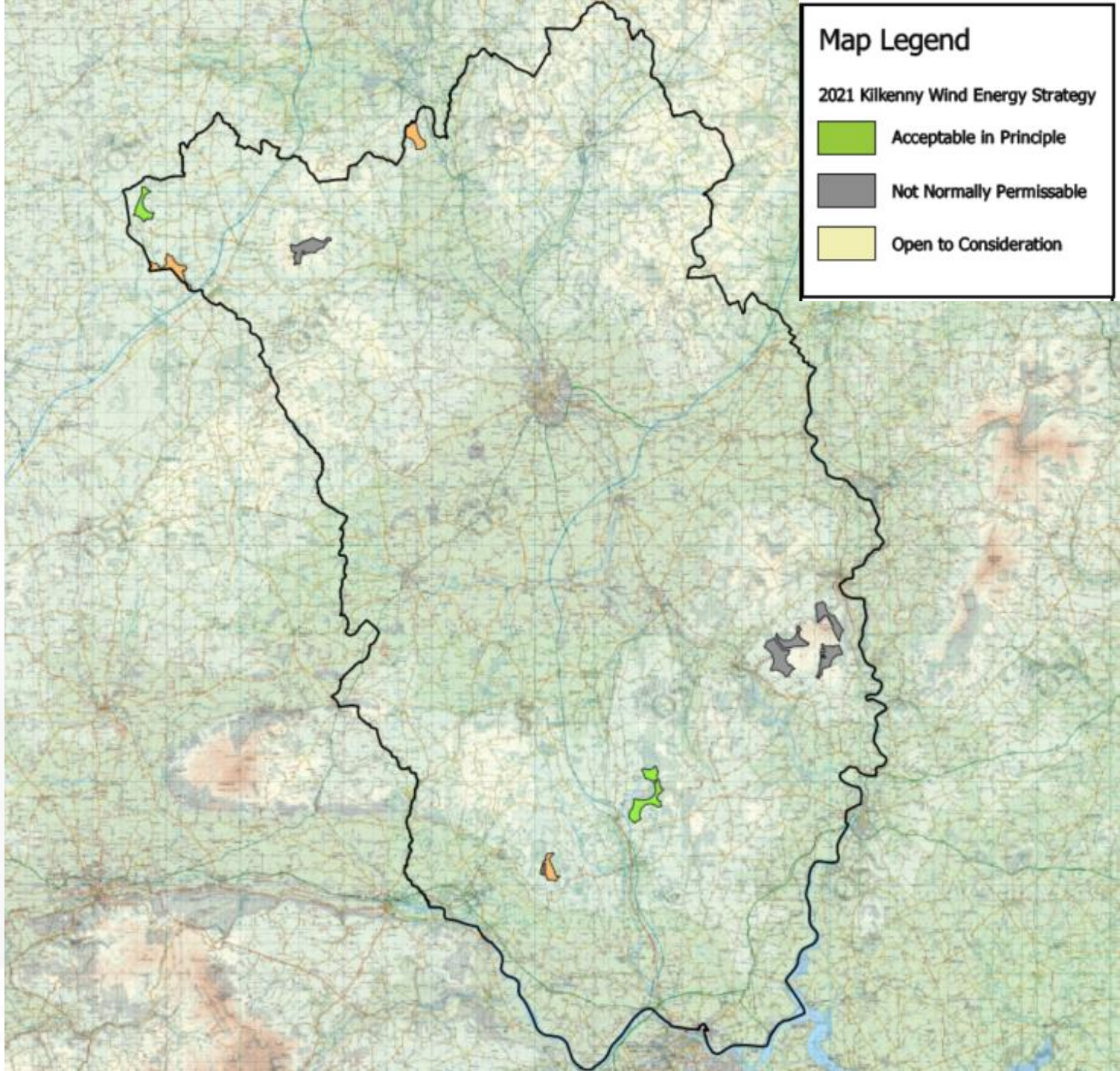
7. Exclude all areas <1 sq. km

	Area	% of County Remaining
Open to consideration (OTC)	4.07km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	0.19%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	8.55km^2 (496.36 km^2)	0.41%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	18.263km^2 (241.74 km^2)	0.19%

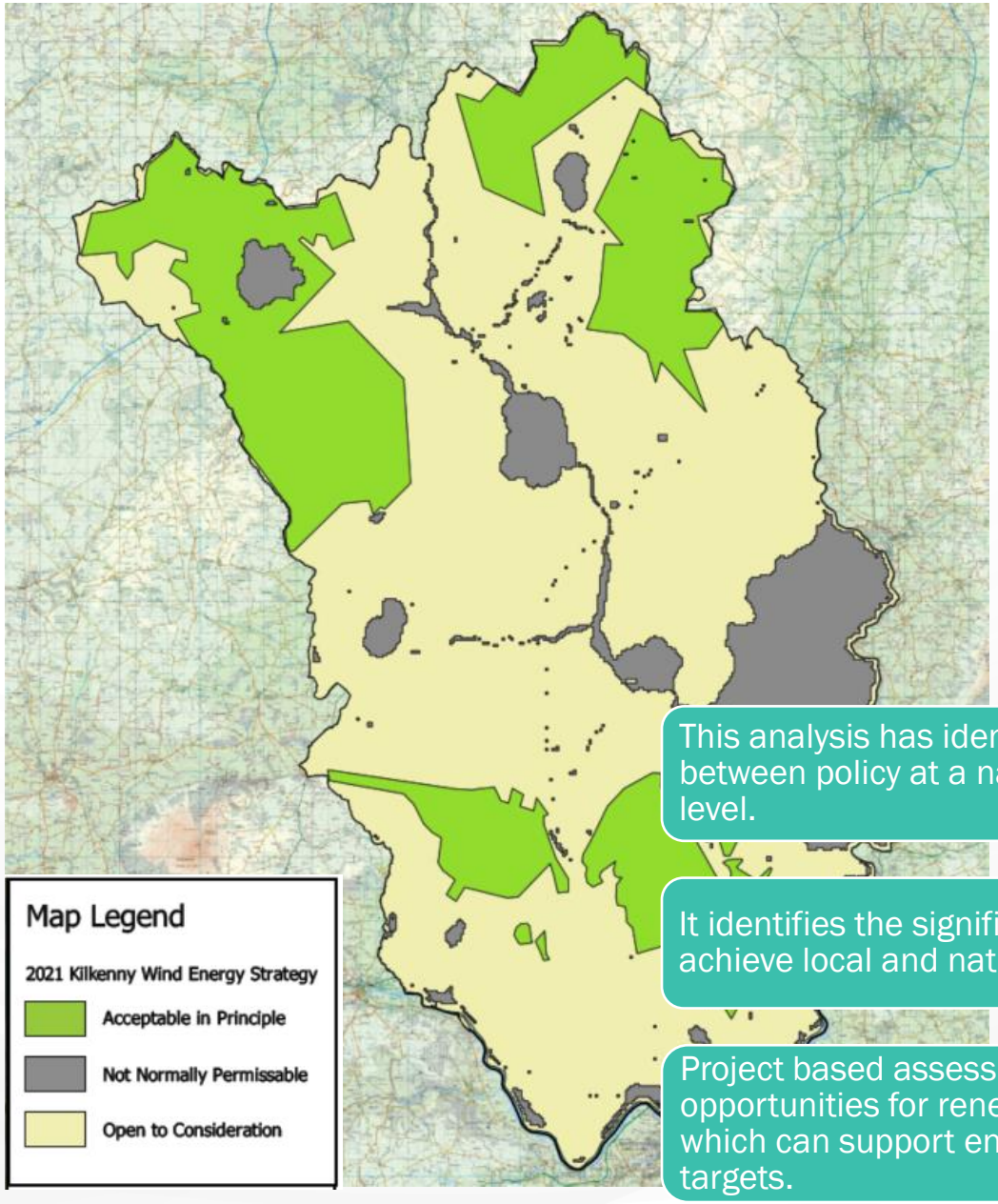


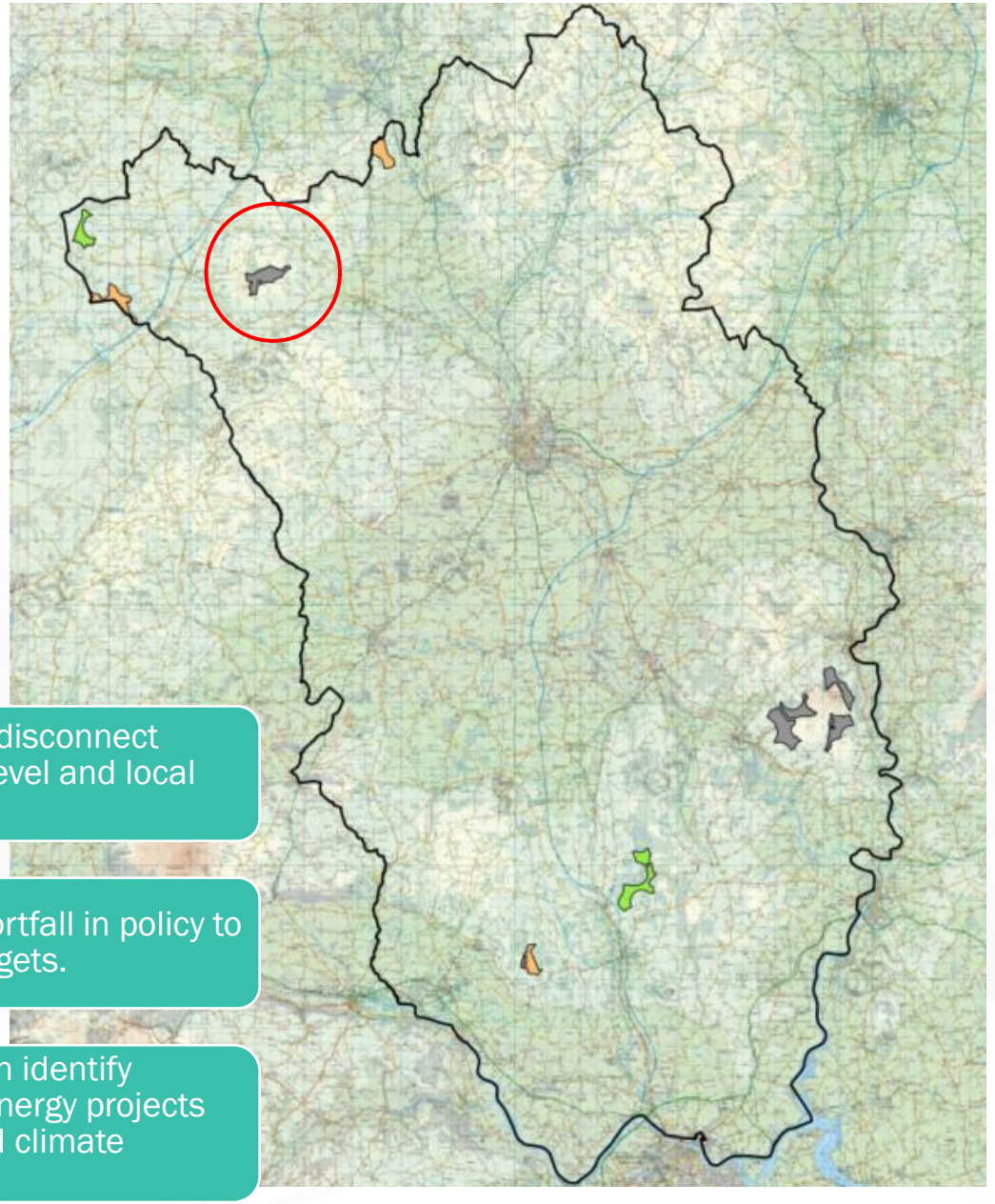
8. Actual Viable Area

	Area	% of County Remaining	WES Total Area
Open to consideration (OTC)	4.07km^2 (1325.93 km^2)	0.21%	63.96%
Acceptable in Principle (AIP)	3.87km^2 (496.36 km^2)	0.25%	23.94%
Not Normally Permissible (NNP)	8.55km^2 (241.74 km^2)	0.84%	11.66%



Policy Vs. Actual Viable Areas





This analysis has identified a disconnect between policy at a national level and local level.

It identifies the significant shortfall in policy to achieve local and national targets.

Project based assessment can identify opportunities for renewable energy projects which can support energy and climate targets.

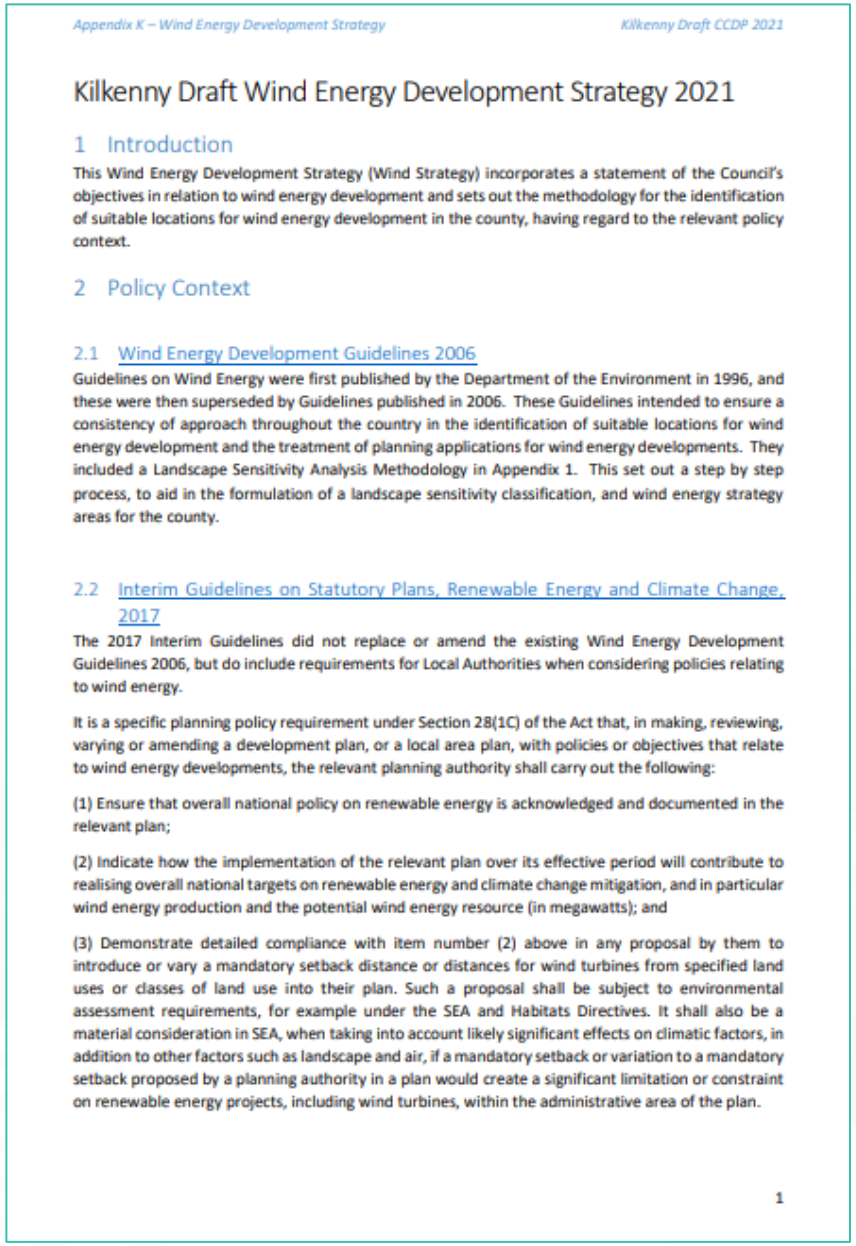
Kilkenny Draft Wind Energy Development Strategy 2021

"It is Kilkenny's objective to exceed the 70% target and generate 100% renewable energy generation by 2030".

"Recognize the importance of wind energy as a renewable energy source and ensure the security of energy supply by supporting, in principle and at appropriate scales and locations, the development of wind energy resources in the county"

It is a key objective to...
*"Promote the development of wind energy and other renewable energy sources in the county to meet national renewable energy targets (supplying a **minimum** of 100% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030).*

This local policy ignores national policy and is doomed to fail.
The AIP/OTC policy areas cannot accommodate what C.A.P. requires.



Appendix K – Wind Energy Development Strategy *Kilkenny Draft CCDP 2021*

Kilkenny Draft Wind Energy Development Strategy 2021

1 Introduction

This Wind Energy Development Strategy (Wind Strategy) incorporates a statement of the Council's objectives in relation to wind energy development and sets out the methodology for the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development in the county, having regard to the relevant policy context.

2 Policy Context

2.1 Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006

Guidelines on Wind Energy were first published by the Department of the Environment in 1996, and these were then superseded by Guidelines published in 2006. These Guidelines intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments. They included a Landscape Sensitivity Analysis Methodology in Appendix 1. This set out a step by step process, to aid in the formulation of a landscape sensitivity classification, and wind energy strategy areas for the county.

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(1) Ensure that overall national policy on renewable energy is acknowledged and documented in the relevant plan;

(2) Indicate how the implementation of the relevant plan over its effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts); and

(3) Demonstrate detailed compliance with item number (2) above in any proposal by them to introduce or vary a mandatory setback distance or distances for wind turbines from specified land uses or classes of land use into their plan. Such a proposal shall be subject to environmental assessment requirements, for example under the SEA and Habitats Directives. It shall also be a material consideration in SEA, when taking into account likely significant effects on climatic factors, in addition to other factors such as landscape and air, if a mandatory setback or variation to a mandatory setback proposed by a planning authority in a plan would create a significant limitation or constraint on renewable energy projects, including wind turbines, within the administrative area of the plan.

1

Ministerial Direction

Kilkenny County Development Plan was adopted on the 3rd of September 2021 and came into effect on the 15th October 2021.

On 15th October 2021, the Minister notified KCC of his intention to issue a Direction in relation to the adopted Development Plan

a. *Reinstate sections 11.4 and 11.5.1 of the draft Development Plan, including the identification of 201 MW renewable energy to meet the objective for the generation of 100% of electricity needs from renewable sources for the county by 2030 consistent with the Climate Action Plan.*

b. *Amend the adopted wind energy strategy map (reference Figure 11.4) to ensure consistency with the renewable energy target at (a) above as follows: (Reinstatement of several areas as Acceptable in Principle)*

In its Statement of Reasons, the Draft Direction states that the Development Plan **fails to identify renewable energy targets (in megawatts) which Kilkenny can contribute in delivering its share of overall Government targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation over the plan period.**

Similar Directions issued to Donegal Co Co, Kerry Co Co, Westmeath Co Co...

Ministerial Direction – Statement of Reasons

I. *The Development Plan as made is inconsistent with Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act, specifically item 2 of the Specific Planning Policy Requirement contained in the Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change (July 2017), which sets out the requirement for the Planning Authority to comply with the aforementioned Specific Planning Policy Requirement under section 28(1C). In particular, the Development Plan fails to identify renewable energy targets (in megawatts) which Kilkenny can contribute in delivering its share of overall Government targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation over the plan period.*

II. *The Development Plan contains conflicting objectives on renewable energy sustainable development and climate action such that the adopted Plan, without providing sufficient compensatory measures, significantly reduced the extent of the areas indicated as 'acceptable in principle' that were identified in the draft Development Plan as being necessary to achieve the target of 201MW required to ensure that 100% of electricity demand for Kilkenny is met from renewable sources by 2030 and to ensure consistency with the climate action plan.*

Ministerial Direction – Implications and Next Steps

In accordance with Section 31(4) of the Act, those parts of the Development Plan referred to in the notice **shall be taken not to have not come into effect**, been made or amended; namely; Chapter 11 Renewable Energy, Section 11.4 Kilkenny Targets, Section 11.5.1 Current status and targets Figure 11.4 Wind Strategy areas." (KCC)

As such, there is currently no Wind Energy Strategy for the County.

Chief Executive has prepared a report in response to the Draft Direction which has been furnished to the Elected Members of the Planning Authority, the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the Minister.

Next Steps:

- OPR shall consider the CE Report, and the submissions and make a recommendation to the Minister
- If the Minister agrees with the Recommendation, then he shall issue the direction with or without minor amendments
- The direction issued by the Minister is deemed to have immediate effect and its terms are considered to be incorporated into the Plan,

Local Wind Energy Policy

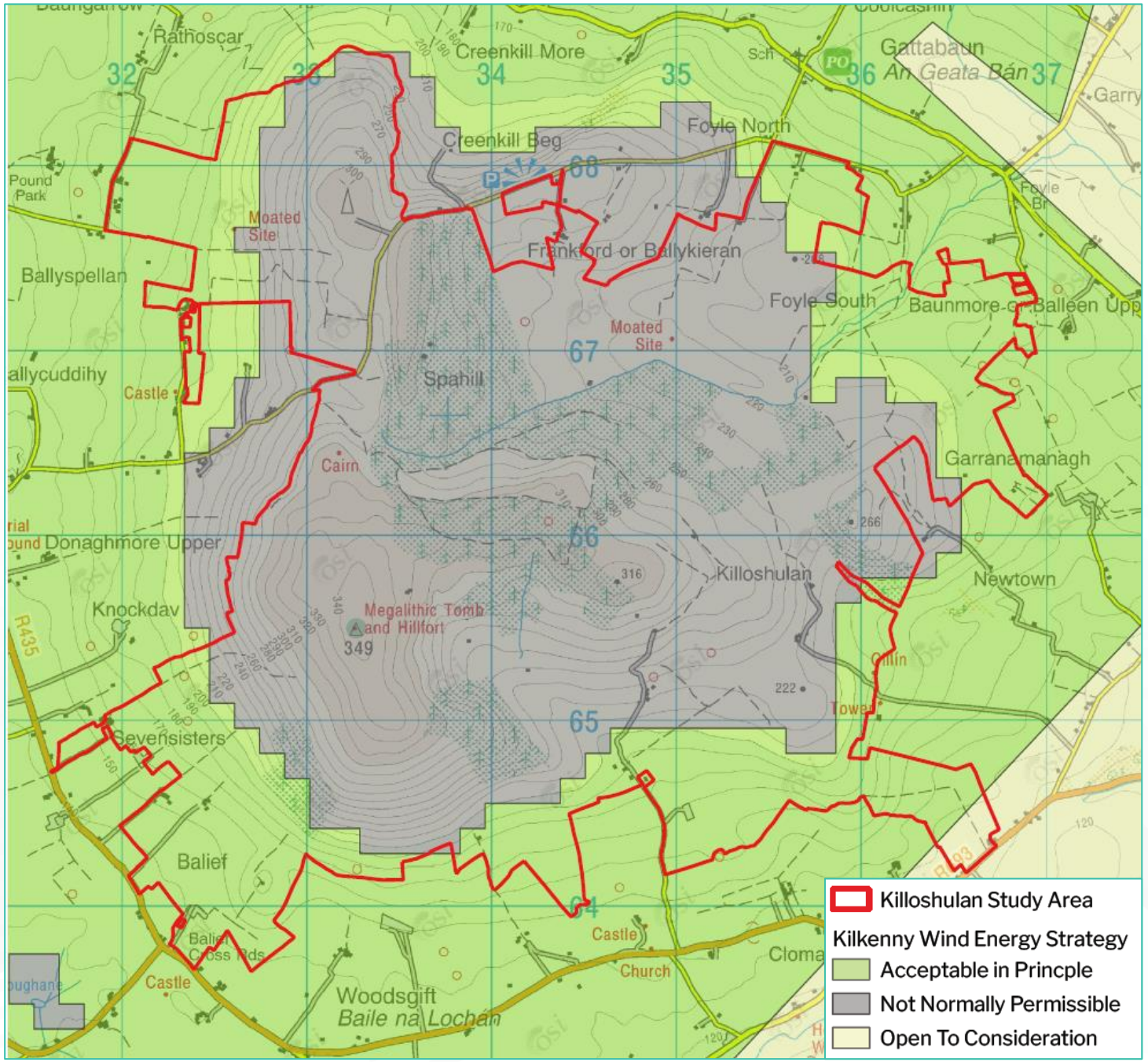
Site is within an area designated as Not Normally Permissible (NNP)

KCC deem this area (Spahill & Clomantagh) as NNP because:

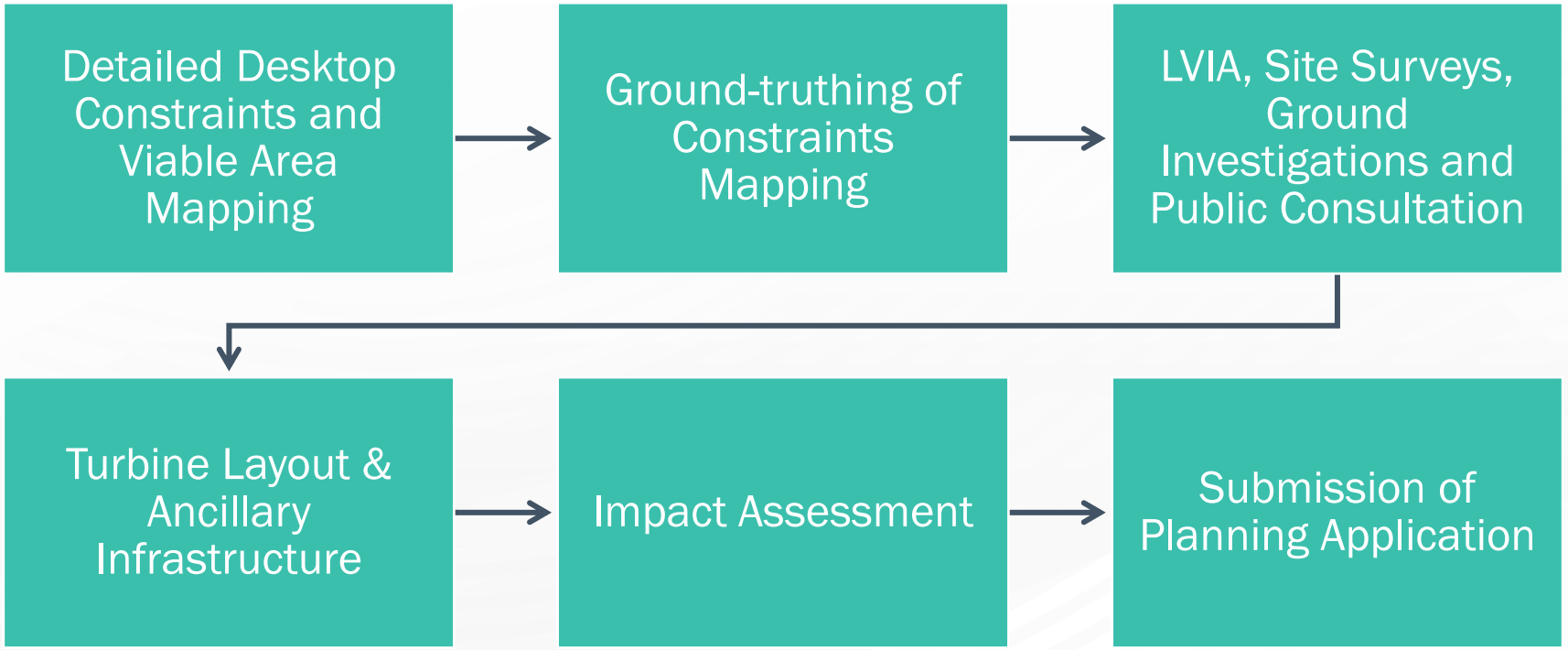
- Potential Archaeological Landscape
- Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC & pNHA
- Protected Views to the north and east between Johnstown and Gattabaun

Separate briefing notes, assessments to be provided addressing these issues.

These are project-level constraints, which could/should have been considered at a project-level, rather than at a policy level.

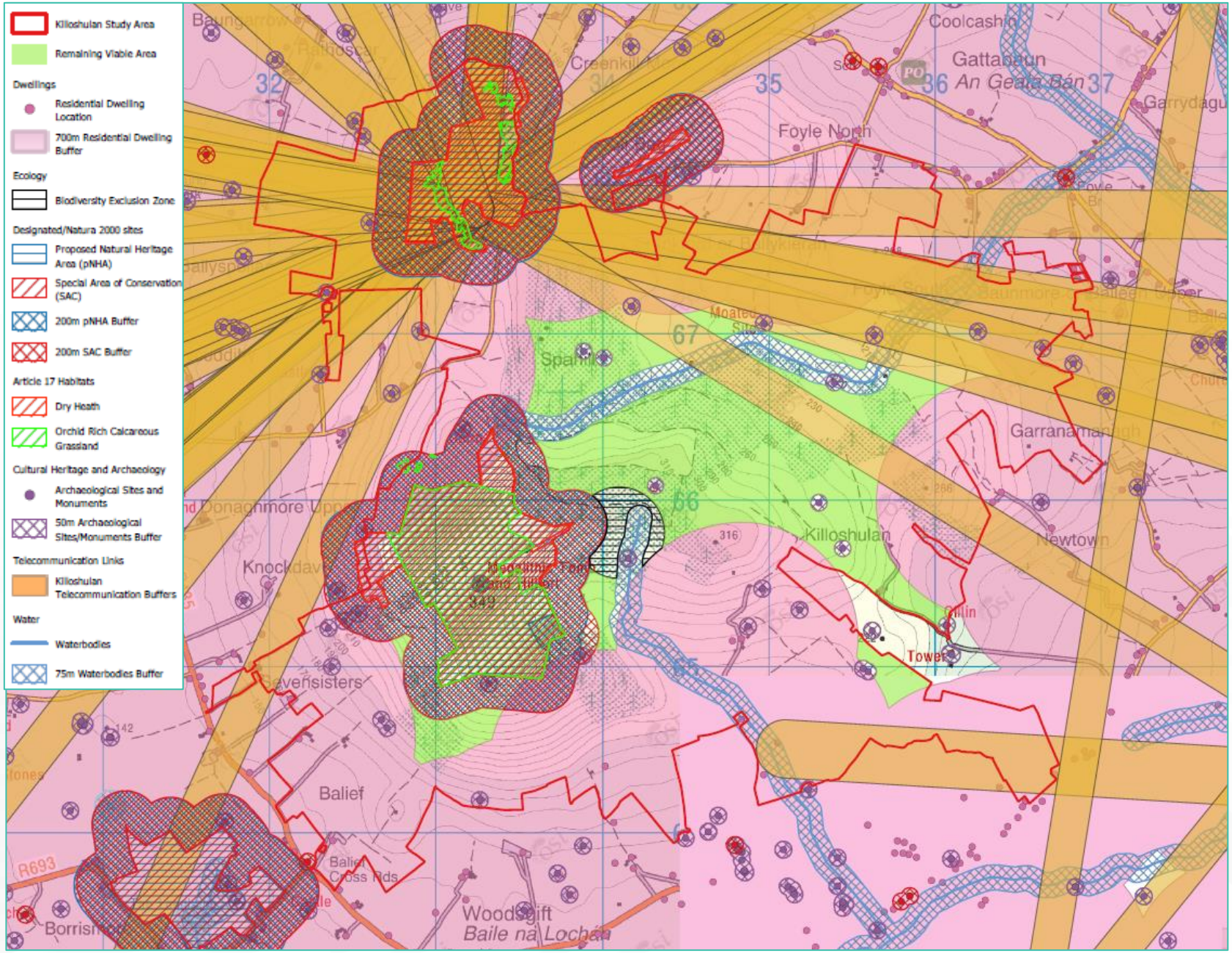


Iterative Development Design Process



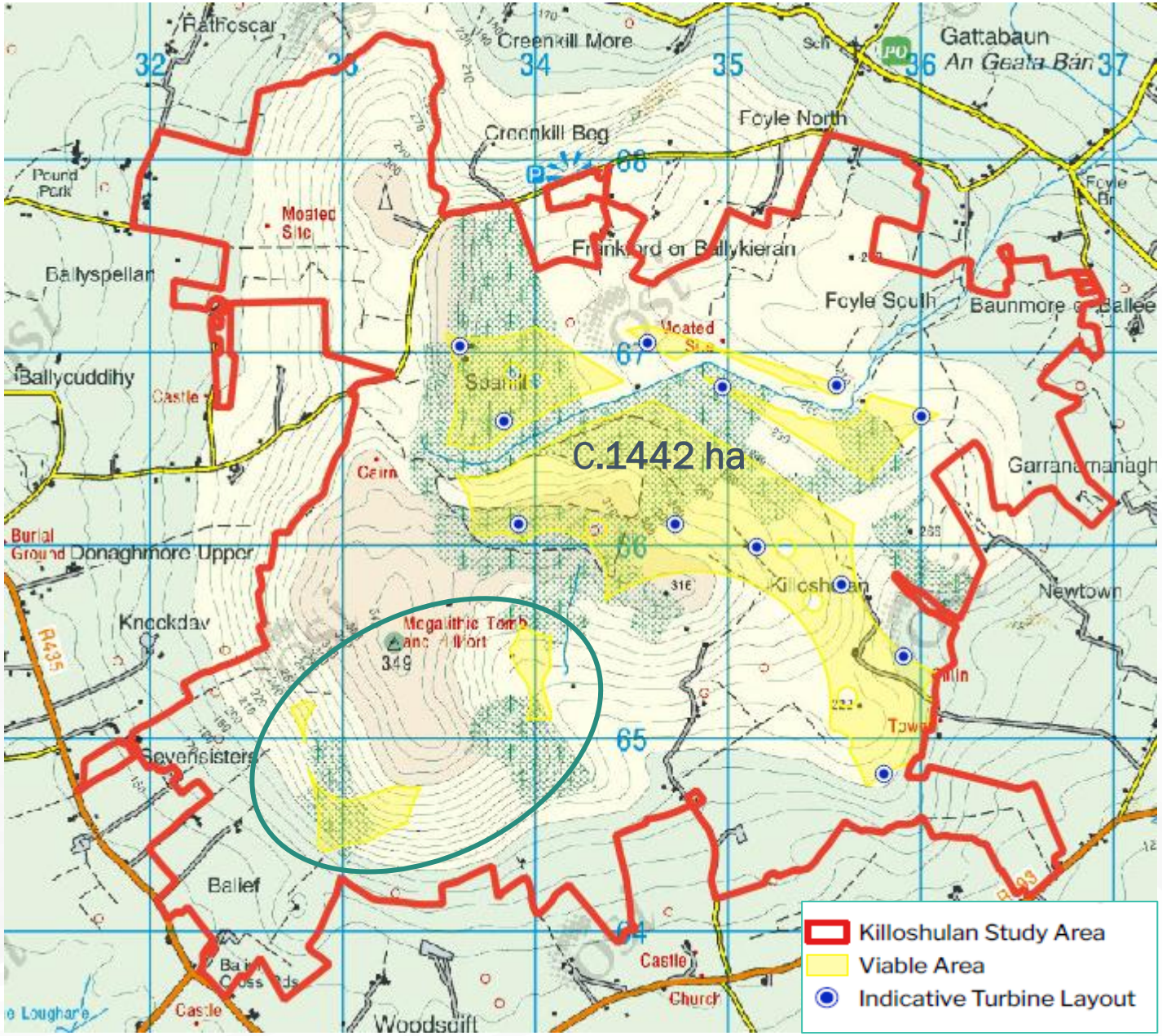
Detailed Site Constraints Analysis

- Residential Dwellings + 700m Buffer
- Natural Watercourses + 75m Buffer
- Natura 2000/Designated Sites + 200m Buffer
- Article 17 and other Annex 1 Habitats
- Biodiversity Exclusion Zone
- Archaeological Sites/Monuments + 50m Buffer
- Telecommunication Links + Operator-specific Buffer

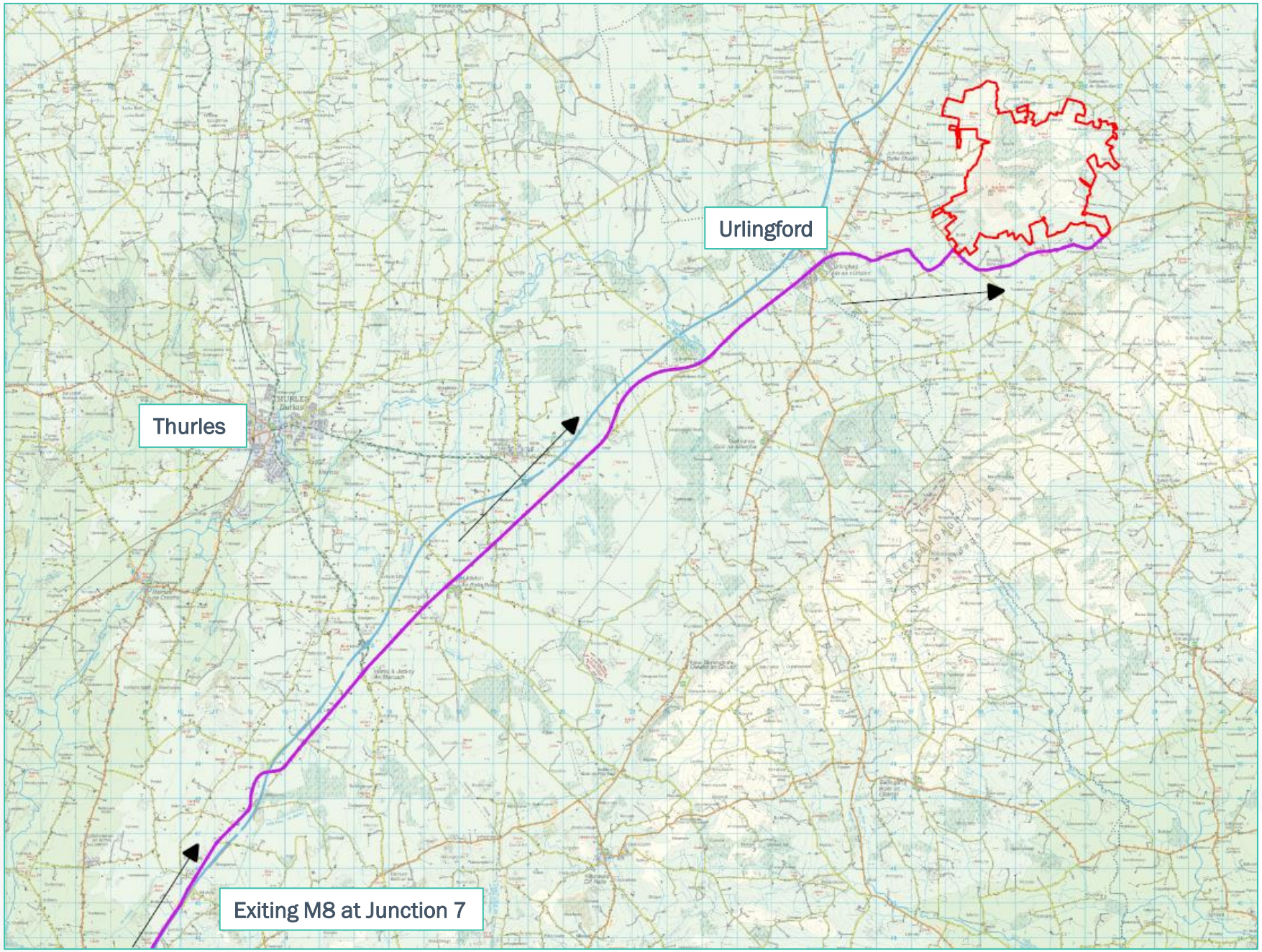


Indicative Turbine Layout

- 12 no. Turbines
- Maximum Proposed Tip Height = 175m
- Maximum Rotor Diameter = 150m
- Expected Output per Turbine = 5-7 MW

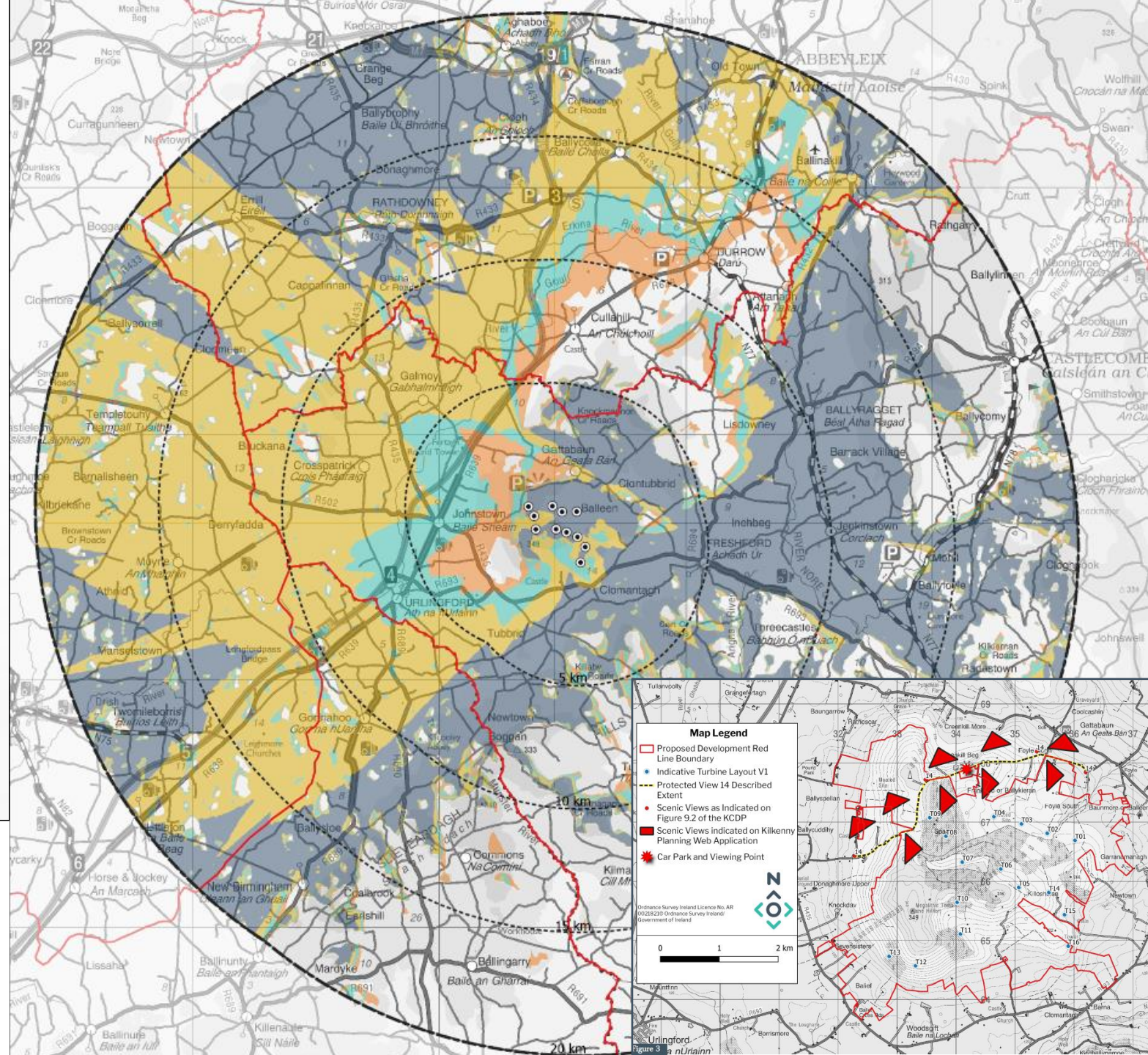


Preferred Turbine Delivery Route



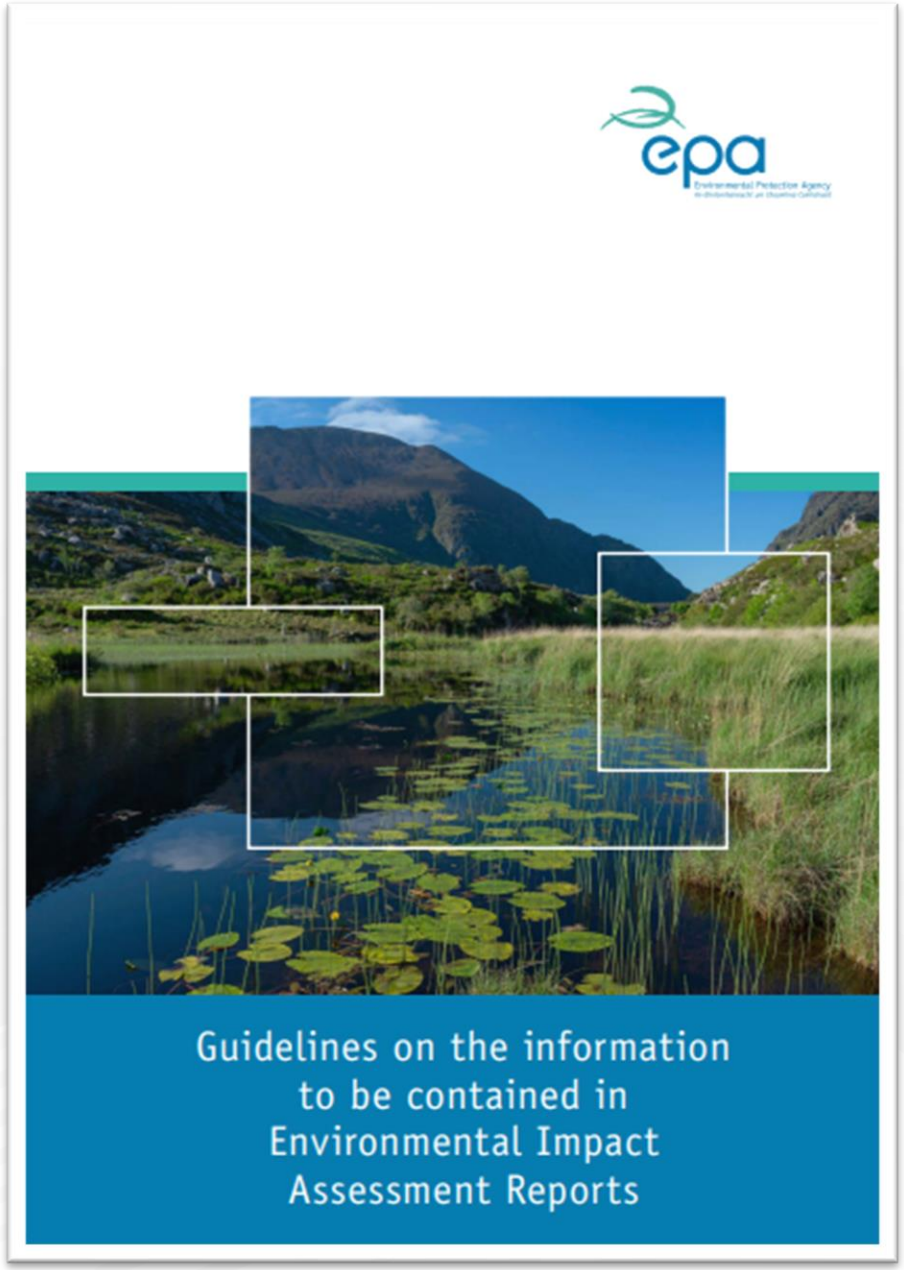
Landscape Capacity Assessment

- LCA completed as part of early stage feasibility study
- LCA has been an iterative process to inform project design
- Protected view No. 14
  - *"Views north and east on the Johnstown/Gattabaun Road No. LP1805"*
- Views north unaffected
- Views east limited due to topography, landcover/screening
- LCA identified no distinguishing landscape features or impediment to wind farm development
- LCA work continues



Environmental Impact Assessment

- Volume 1: Main EIAR, including all figures
  - Non-Technical Summary
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Background and Policy
  - Chapter 3: Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives
  - 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 (including Traffic & Transport)
  - Chapter 15: Interaction of the Foregoing
  - Chapter 16: Vulnerability of the Proposed Development to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
  - Chapter 16: Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures
- Volume 2: Photomontages
- Volume 3: EIAR Appendices



Strategic Infrastructure Development – Legislative Thresholds & Determination Criteria

Wind Energy

- SID categories are set out in the 7th Schedule of the Act and include:
  - "*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*".
- Under Section 3A(2) of the Act the project must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:
  - *a) The development must be **of strategic economic or social importance to the State** or the Region in which it would be situate;*
  - *b) 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 or areas in which it would be situate,*
  - *c) The development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority*
- *If one or more of these criteria are met, an application can be made to An Bord Pleanála. The applicant has made a request for SID determination under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act (as amended)*

Electricity Infrastructure

- The proposed grid connection via 110kV line to existing ESB substation at Ballyragget falls within the scope of Section 182A(1) of the Act, based upon the definition of electricity transmission as set out in Subsection 9 of Section 182A:
  - *'In this section 'transmission' in relation to electricity, shall be construed in accordance with section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 but, for the purposes of this section, the foregoing expression, in relation to electricity, shall also be construed as meaning the transport of electricity by means of:*

    (a) a high voltage line where the voltage would be 110 kilovolts or more, or

    (b) an interconnector, whether ownership of the interconnector will be vested in the undertaker or not.
- The applicant has made a SID consultation request to An Bord Pleanála under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act (as amended).

Proposed Project Timeline

Q3/Q4 2022

- Ongoing site surveys and ground investigations
- Final Development Design
- Public consultation
- Pre-planning consultation
- Preparation of EIAR / NIS
- Preparation of planning documents

Q1 2023

- On-going public consultation
- Lodgement of planning application



Thank You

Feedback & Discussion

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