



Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development

Co. Waterford

SID Section 37B Pre-application Consultation
1st Meeting

16th October 2025



Meeting Agenda

- Introduction
- Site Location & Selection
- Constraints and Facilitators
- Indicative Project Layout and Grid Connection
- Strategic Infrastructure Development
- RED III & the Renewable Energy Regulations
- Policy Context
- Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Noise and Shadow Flicker
 - Traffic and Transport
 - Biodiversity
 - Ornithology
 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology
 - Landscape and Visual
- Completeness Check
- Planning Application and EIAR Structure
- Proposed Project Timeline
- Feedback & Discussion



Introduction

The Applicant

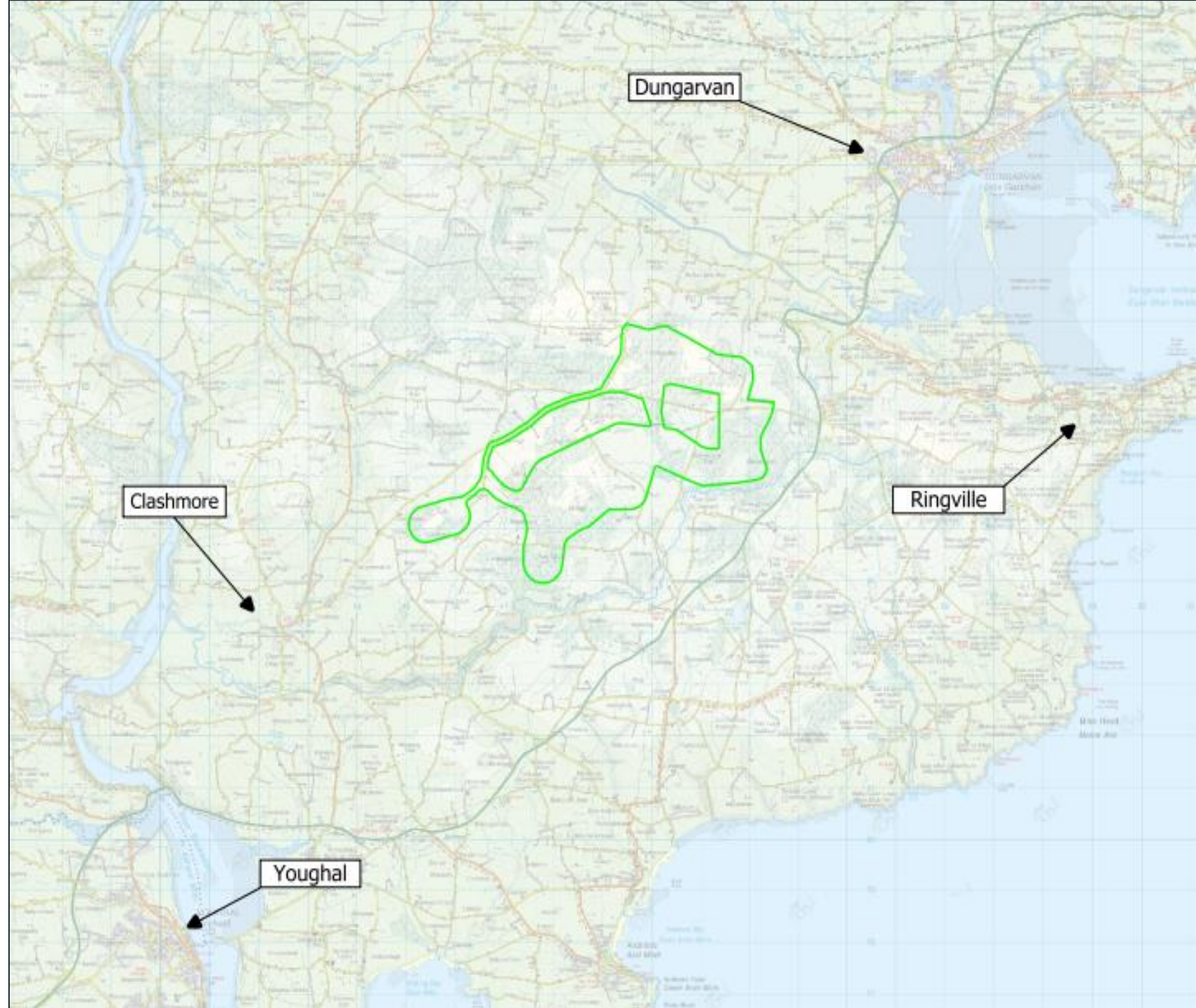
- The Prospective Applicant – Slievegrine Ltd. - is an associate company of Enerco Energy Ltd., which is an Irish-owned, Cork-based company with extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy developments throughout Ireland, with projects currently operating or in construction in Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Galway, Mayo and Donegal.
- By Q3 2025, Enerco and its associated companies has over 925 MW of wind generating capacity in commercial operation or in construction, with a further 400MW of projects at various stages in its portfolio to assist in meeting Ireland's renewable energy targets.

Project Team

- MKO – Planning and Environmental lead
- Alan Lipscombe Traffic & Transport – Traffic Consultant
- Tobar – Archaeology Consultant
- AWN – Noise & Vibration Consultant
- Ai Bridges- Telecommunications Consultant

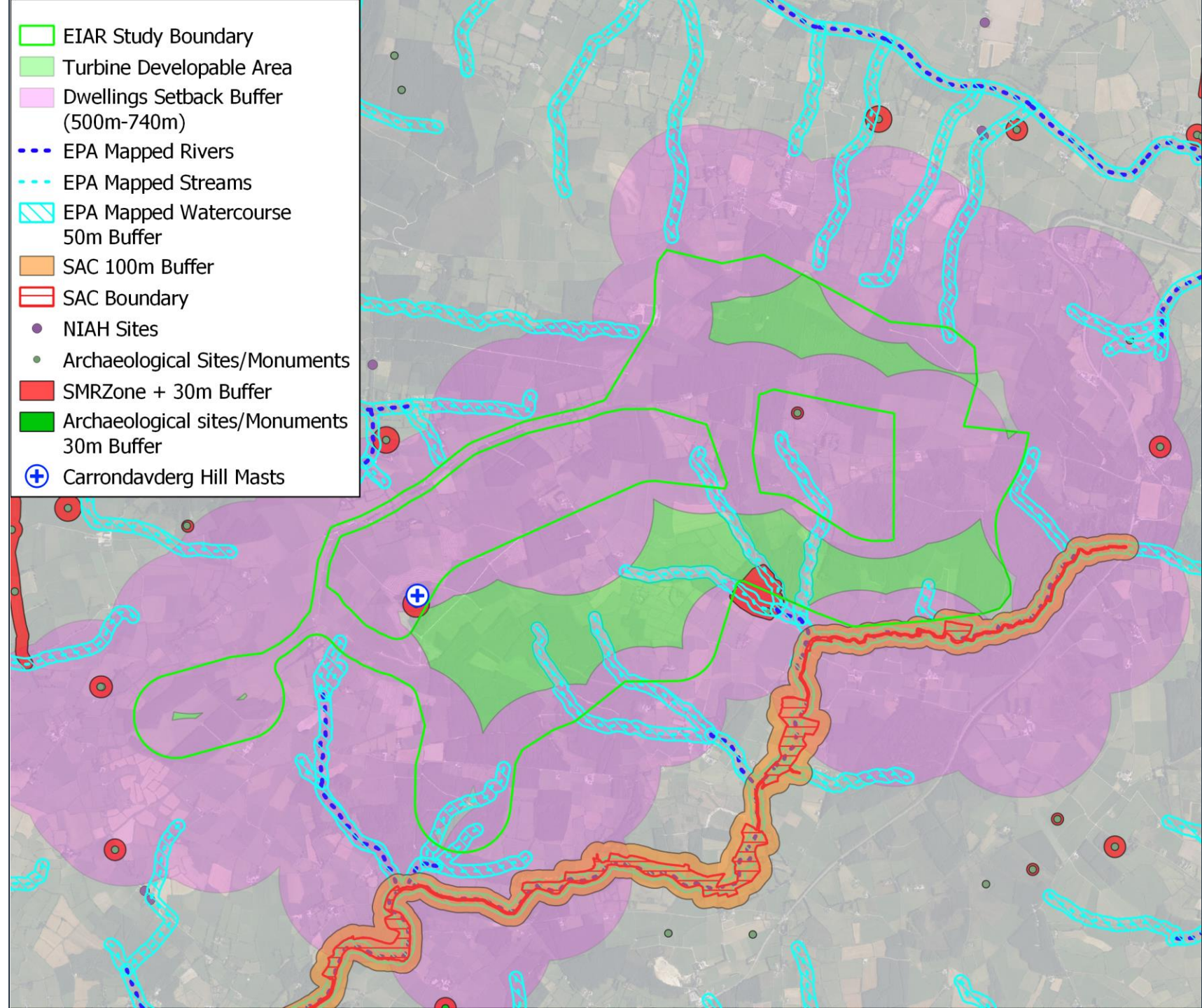
Site Location & Selection

- The Proposed Project is located in southeast Waterford, approximately 5km southwest of Dungarvan.
- The proposed EIAR study area currently measures 1195 hectares.
- The site is currently accessed via forestry entrances off the L-2023 and L-2024 local roads, and an unnamed local road to the south.
- Land use on site currently comprises a mix of commercial forestry and pastoral agriculture



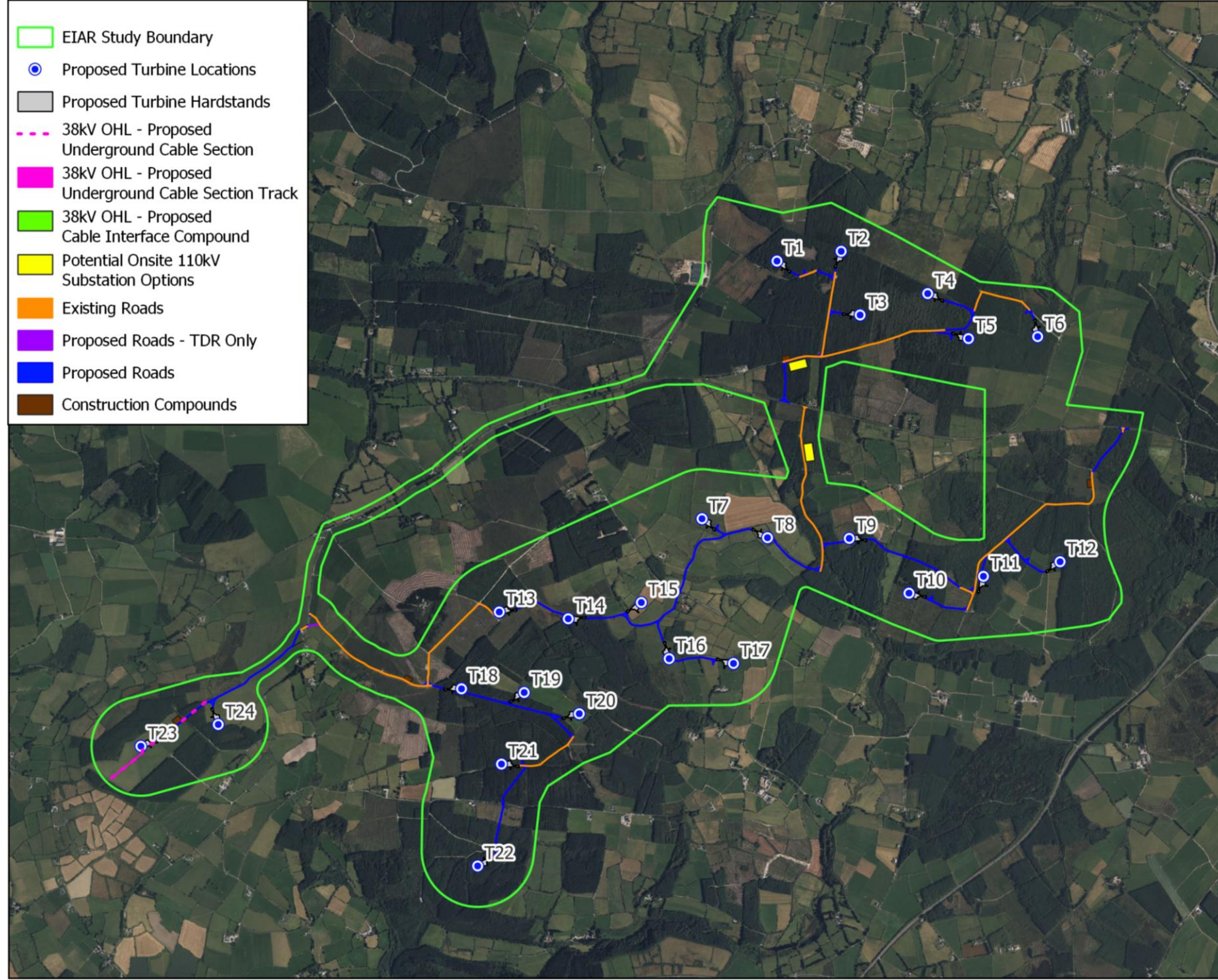
Constraints & Facilitators

- Natura 2000 and Designated sites plus 100m buffer
- Dwelling set back of 500m and 680-740m (4 x tip height).
- Ongoing engagement with telecoms operators whose links traverse the site to identify appropriate setback buffers required.
- Watercourses 50m buffer
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and Archaeological sites/ Monuments buffer plus 30m buffer.



Indicative Project Layout

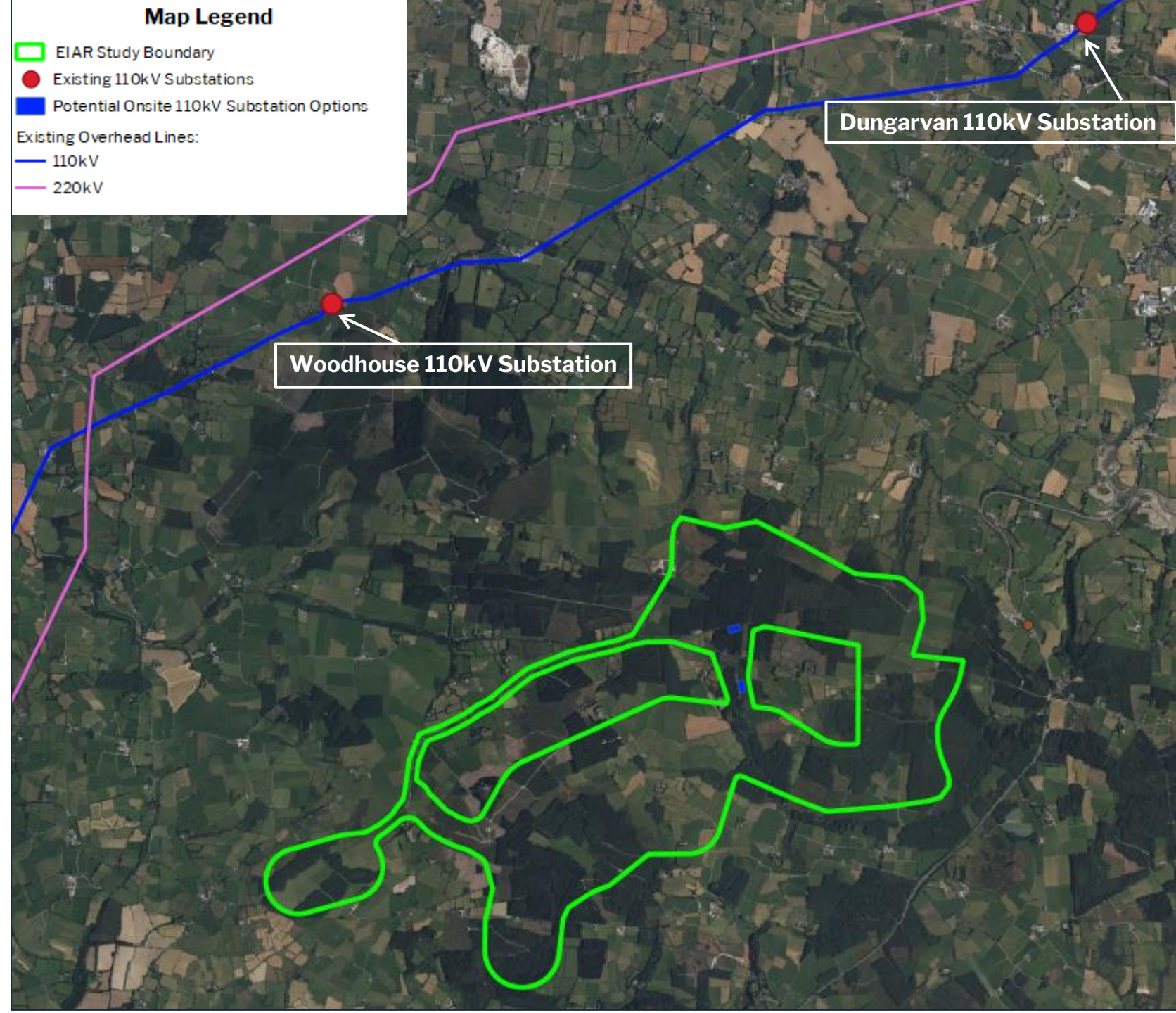
- 24 no. turbine
- Turbine Tip Height mix:
 - 170m: T23 and T24
 - 175m: T1 – T6 and T13-T22
 - 185m: T7 – T12
- 110kV onsite substation and underground cabling route
- Undergrounding of existing 38kV overhead line
- 4 no. Construction Compounds
- Estimated Generating Capacity of c. 144MW (based on 6MW turbines)



Grid Connection Options

The Proposed Grid Connection is currently being worked on by the design and EIAR team and a few options are being explored including:

- Underground grid connection route to existing Woodhouse 110kV Substation.
- Underground grid connection route to existing Dungarvan 110kV Substation
- Breaking into 220kV Overhead Line.
- Breaking into 110kV Overhead Line.



Strategic Infrastructure Criteria

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	SID Determination Criteria	Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development
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 Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development will comprise up to 24 no. wind turbines with an installed capacity of above 50MW. As such, the proposal exceeds the generating capacity thresholds specified in the 7 th Schedule.
Section 37A(2) 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 Southern 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	Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development is in accordance with the promotion of sustainable energy development as set out in provisions of the National Planning Framework – First Revision (2025), Climate Action Plan (2025) and Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. 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	Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development is located on lands entirely within County Waterford and it is not anticipated that the proposal will give rise to significant effects on the area of any other planning authority with the exception of increasing the nationally available renewable energy resource.

Transposition of RED III – Renewable Energy Regulations

European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025

- Provisions effective upon commencement of S.I 274 of 2025 - 6th August 2025
 - More extensive pre-app consultation
 - Completeness Check
 - Limited opportunity for FI
- Mandatory EIA Scoping – Effective from May 2026

Items for discussion at Pre-Application Stage to inform the post submission completeness check

- Drawings and scales
- Policy context justification
- Direction and focus of the EIAR
- Surveys and survey methodologies
- Sites to progress to stage 2 AA
- Derogations

Planning Policy Context

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

- Climate neutrality by 2050.
- 51% GHG emissions reduction by 2030.

Climate Action Plan 2025

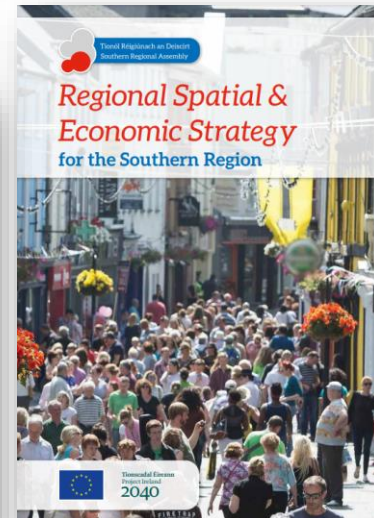
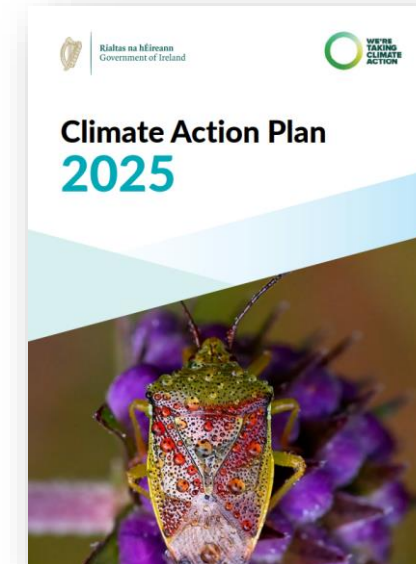
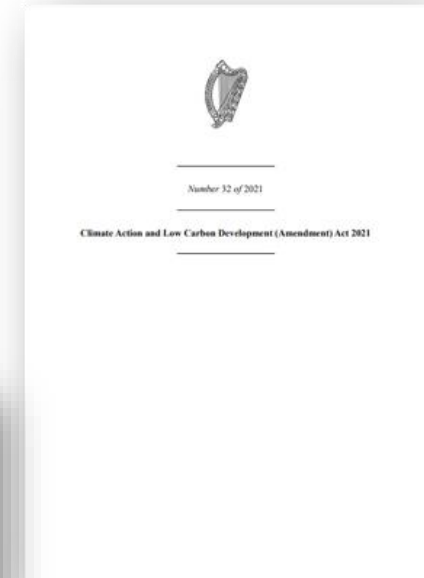
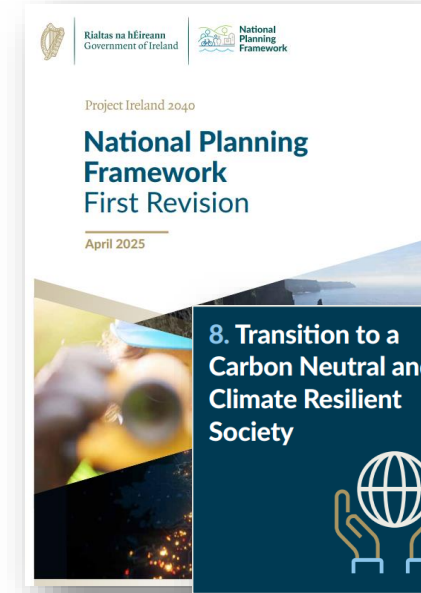
- Key Targets
 - 9GW of onshore wind and 80% Renewable Electricity Share by 2030.

National Planning Framework – First Revision

- **National Strategic Outcome 8:** Transition to a Low Carbon And Climate Resilient Society.
- **National Policy Objective 70:** Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a climate neutral economy by 2050.

Southern Regional and Spatial Economic Strategy:

- **RPO 99:** 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.



Local Policy Context

The Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

Policy Objective **UTL 13:**

'It is the policy of Waterford City and County Council to promote and facilitate a culture of adopting energy efficiency/ renewable energy technologies and energy conservation and seek to reduce dependency on fossil fuels thereby enhancing the environmental, social and economic benefits to Waterford City and County....

- *Supporting the delivery of renewable energy to achieve the targets identified in Table 6.3 of the Development Plan.*
- *Facilitating and encouraging, where appropriate, proposals for renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution and ancillary support infrastructure facilities including the necessary infrastructure required for the development of offshore renewable energy developments developed fully in accordance with the Waterford Renewable Energy Strategy, the wind energy designation map (Appendix 2 of the RES), the Waterford Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment undertaken to inform this Development Plan, and the National Wind Energy Guidelines, or any subsequent update/ review of these*
....
- *Promote and encourage the use of renewable energy, and low carbon resources, namely solar photovoltaic, geothermal, heat pumps, district heating, solar thermal, hydro, tidal power, offshore and onshore wind, biomass as well as micro-generation among business, agriculture, education, health, and other sectors.'*

Local Wind Energy Zoning

Renewable Energy Strategy 2016 – 2030

The strategy classifies the area of the county into three wind energy designations:

- Preferred Areas
- Open for Consideration Areas
- Exclusion Areas

While not defined in the WCCDP 2022-2028, 'Preferred areas' were previously defined in WCDP 2011-2017 as:

"Areas which are suitable and should generally be considered for permission unless local circumstances dictate otherwise"

Map Legend

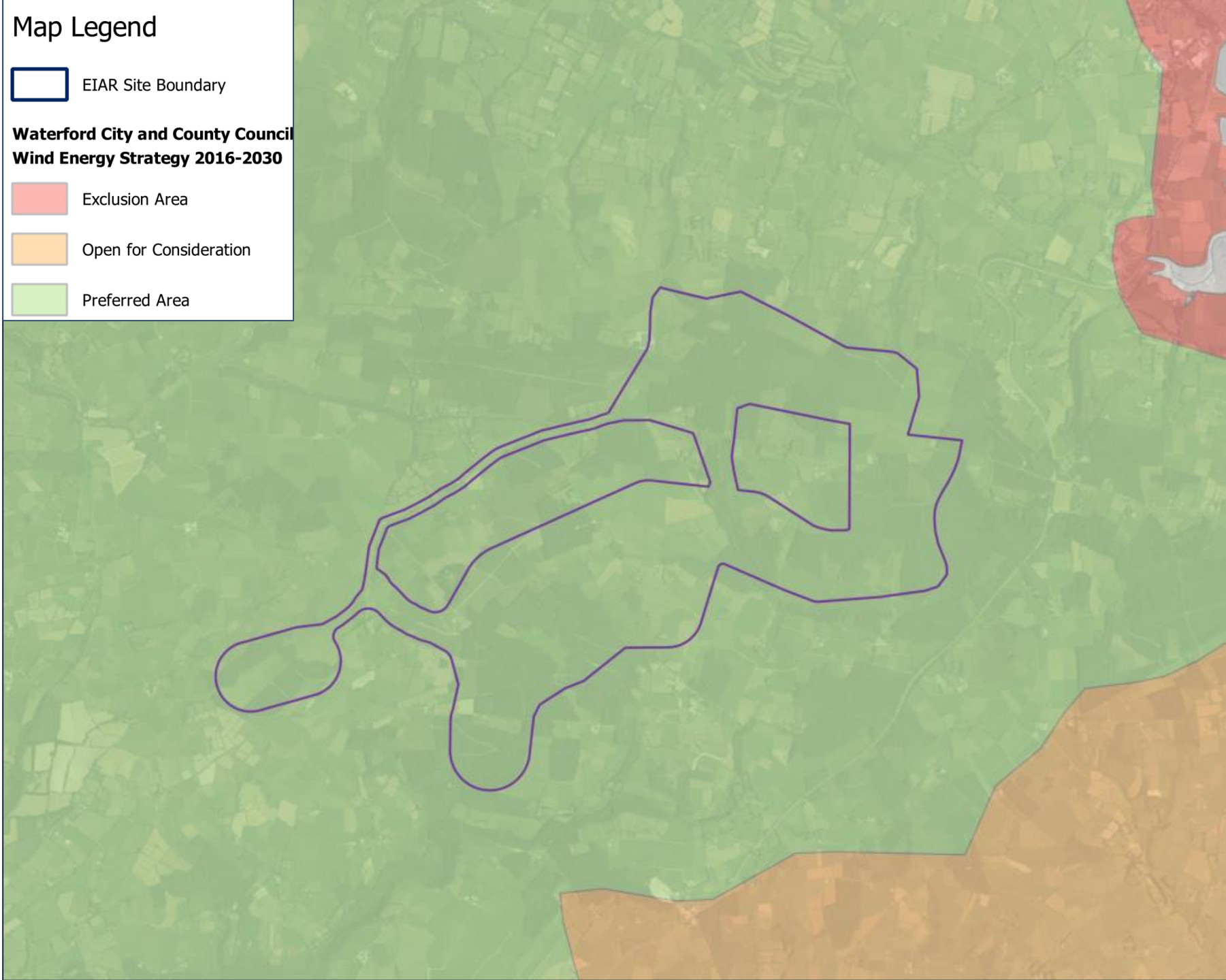
 EIA Site Boundary

Waterford City and County Council Wind Energy Strategy 2016-2030

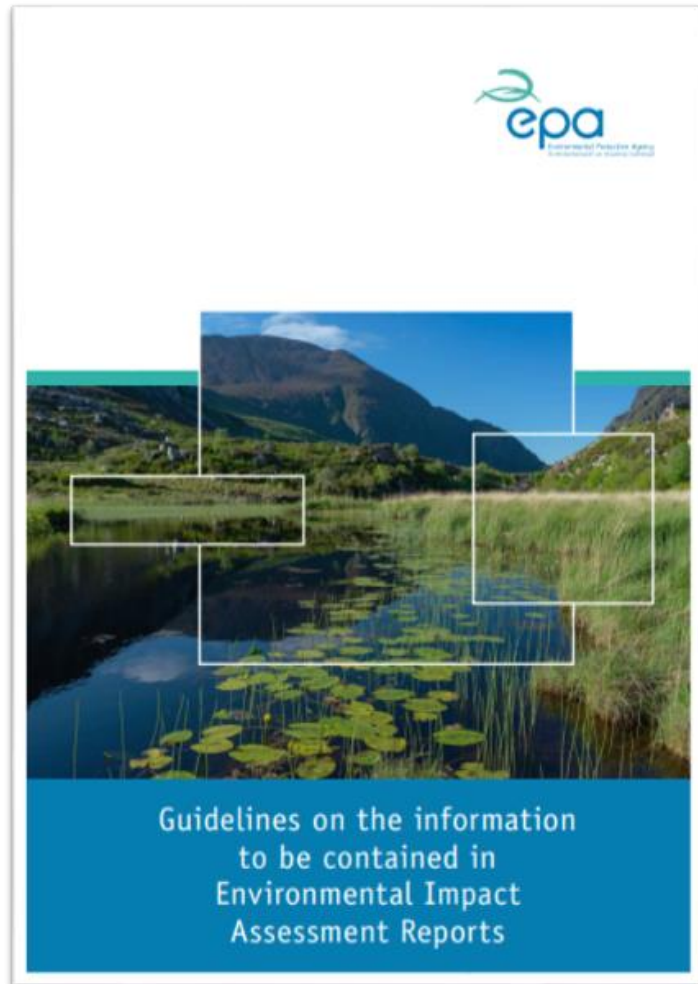
 Exclusion Area

 Open for Consideration

 Preferred Area



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 (inc. shadow flicker)**
 - **Chapter 6: Biodiversity: Flora and Fauna**
 - **Chapter 7: Ornithology**
 - **Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology**
 - **Chapter 9: Hydrology and Hydrogeology**
 - Chapter 10: Air Quality
 - Chapter 11: Climate
 - **Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration**
 - **Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual**
 - Chapter 14: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
 - **Chapter 15: Material Assets (including Traffic & Transport)**
 - Chapter 16: Vulnerability of the Proposed Development to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
 - Chapter 17: Interaction of the Foregoing
 - Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures
- Volume 2: Photomontages
- Volume 3: EIAR Appendices

Noise & Shadow Flicker

Shadow Flicker

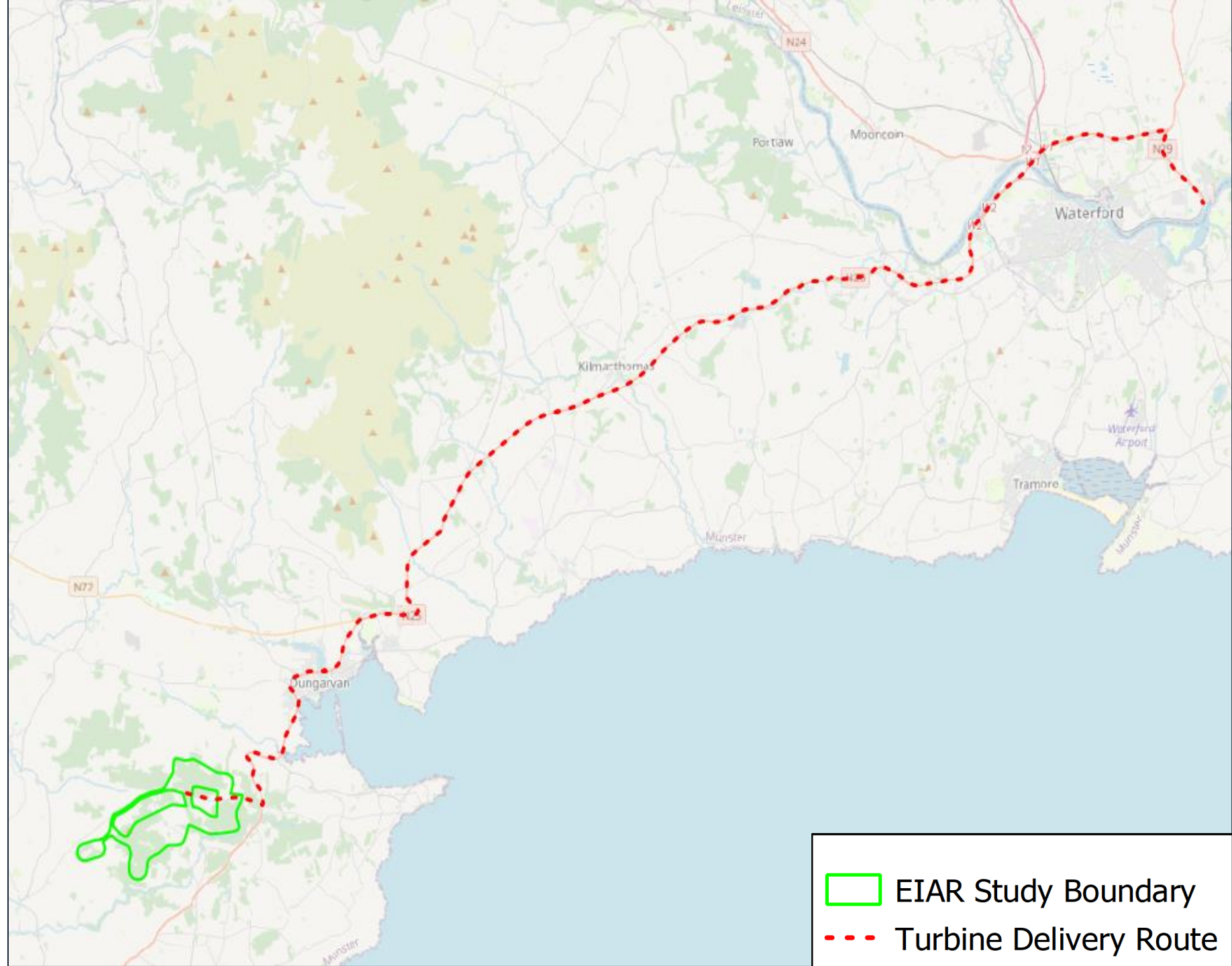
- Software will be used to predict potential shadow flicker at all properties within ten times turbine rotor diameter from the proposed turbines.
- Shadow Flicker survey to be conducted once wind farm is operational to confirm predictions
- Mitigation measures to ensure compliance with thresholds include installation/planting of screening or wind turbine control

Noise

- Baseline noise survey complete to be carried out by the end of 2025
- Software will be used to predict noise levels at Noise Sensitive Receptors within ~ 2km of proposed turbines
- Turbine Control Measures (i.e. noise modes) can ensure compliance with both current or any future limits.

Traffic and Transport

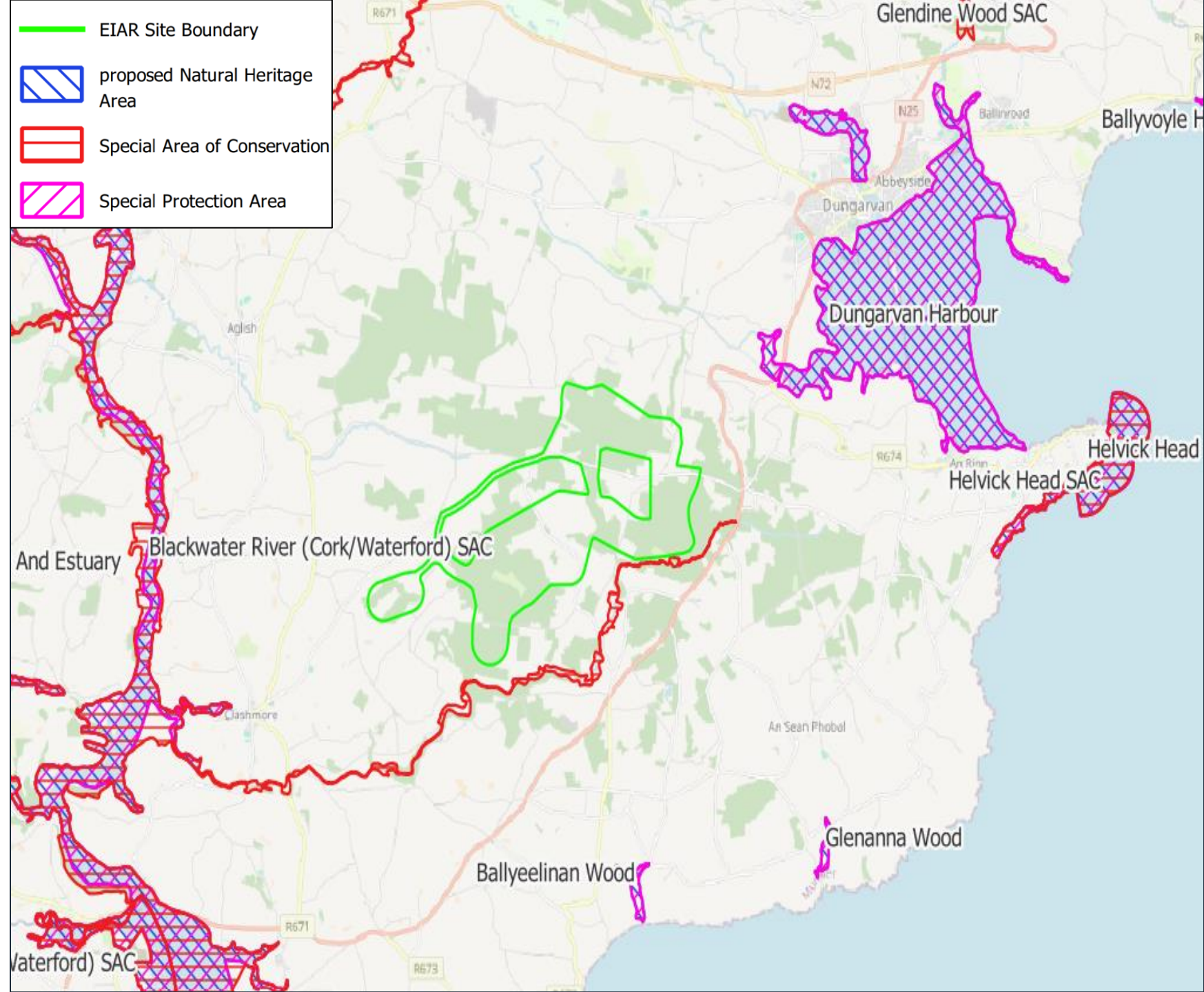
- Turbine Infrastructure will likely be delivered from Port of Waterford and will travel approximately 66km to the Site
- Exits the Port onto the N29, travels along the N25 for approximately 59km before turning onto the L2024, which bisects the site
- Detailed autotrack assessments will be undertaken at pinchpoints identified along the TDR to determine the extent of accommodation works required, if any.



-  EIA Study Boundary
-  Turbine Delivery Route

Designated Sites

- The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC ~270m from the Proposed Wind Farm
- The nearest Special Protection Area (SPA) is the Dungarvan Harbour SPA ~2.4km northeast of the Proposed Wind Farm
- The nearest Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) is the Dungarvan Harbour pNHA ~2.4km northeast of the Proposed Wind Farm
- The nearest Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is Slievenamon Bog NHA ~40.5km northwest of the Proposed Wind Farm



Biodiversity

Ecological Surveys Undertaken to Date

- › Initial constraints surveys
- › Multidisciplinary walkover survey
- › Dedicated botanical studies at all key infrastructure locations
- › Bat Surveys
- › Ornithological Surveys
- › Otter surveys
- › Badger Surveys
- › Aquatic surveys, including fisheries surveys, eDNA, electrofishing and macro-invertebrate sampling

Survey Methodologies

- › Survey methodologies in line with best practice guidelines



Habitats/Fauna Identified

- Conifer woodland (WD4)
- Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
- Wet grassland (GS4)
- Hedgerows and Treelines (WL1/WL2)
- Licky, Goish Rivers (Eroding/Upland River - FW1 and Brickey River (Lowland/depositing River – FW2)
- No Annex 1 habitats within the study area
- Badger sett
- Evidence of red squirrel, pine marten
- Six species of bat recorded 1 roost identified (to be retained)
- Aquatic Receptors, including freshwater pearl mussel, salmon, lamprey

Key Ecological Receptors Identified

Designated Sites

- Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC
- Blackwater Estuary SPA
- Dungarvan Harbour SPA

Habitats

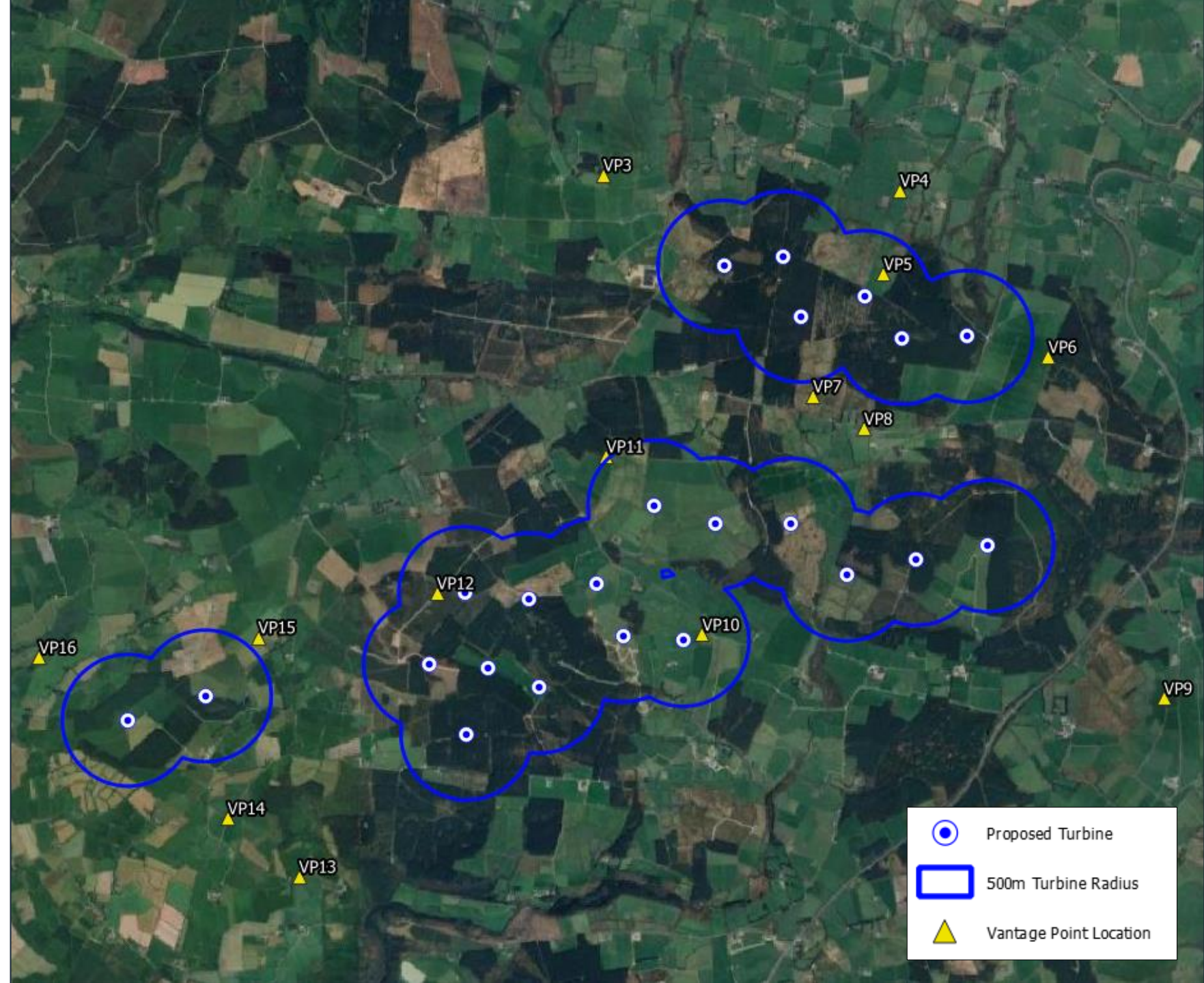
- Hedgerows/treelines
- Rivers

Fauna

- Badger
- Red squirrel
- Pine marten
- Otter
- Bats
- Aquatic Fauna (QIs of the SAC, including freshwater pearl mussel)

Ornithology

- **Surveys:** October 2023-present
- **Breeding season:** vantage point, walkover, breeding woodcock, breeding raptor, breeding peregrine, breeding hen harrier & breeding nightjar surveys
- **Winter season:** vantage point, winter walkover, hinterland (incl. waterbirds), golden plover & woodcock and owl surveys
- **Findings:** Diversity and activity typical of habitats present, golden plover flight activity being monitored



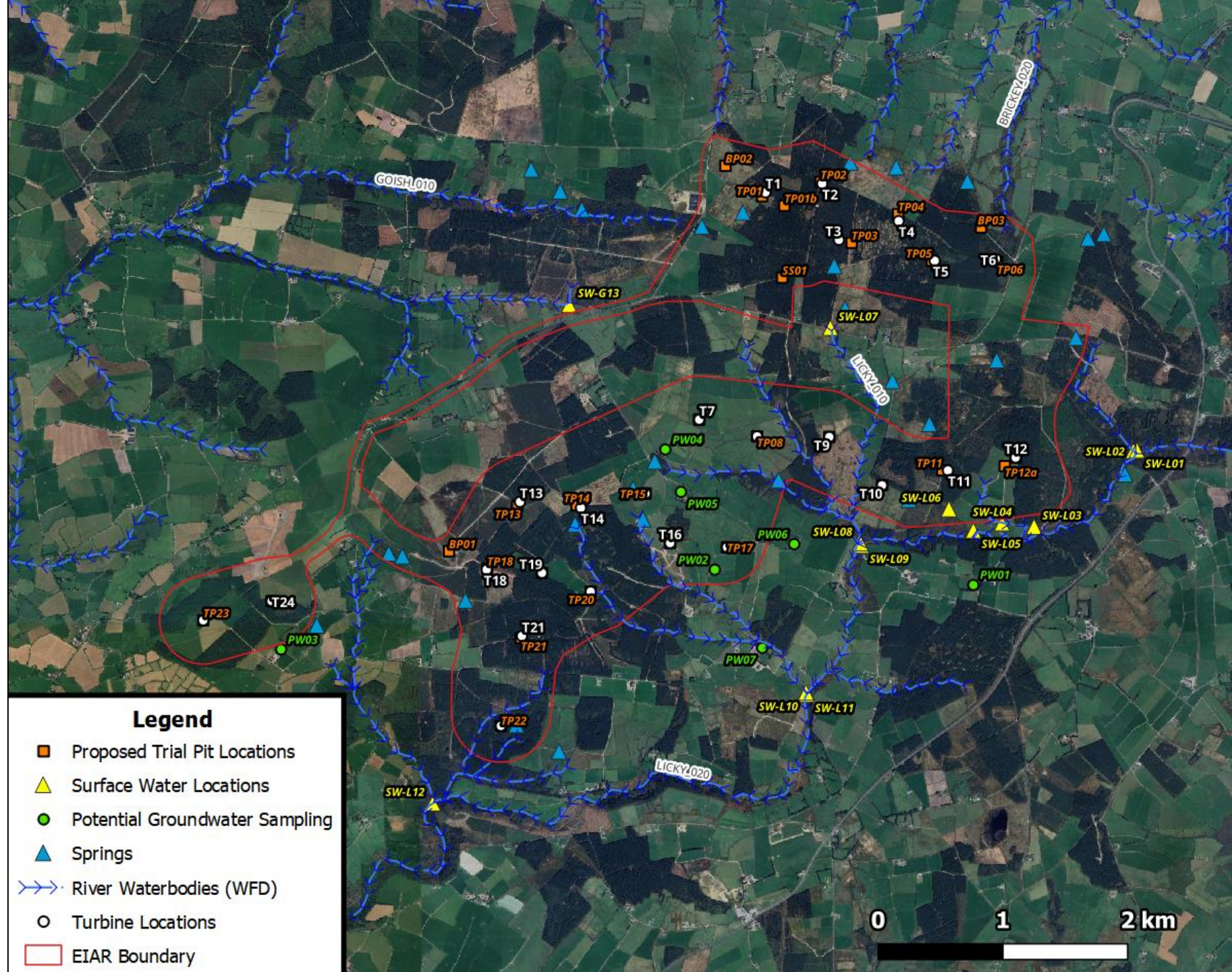
Hydrology & Hydrogeology, Geology & Soils

- Blackwater Catchment
 - Goish Subcatchment
- River Blackwater
 - River Licky
 - River Goish



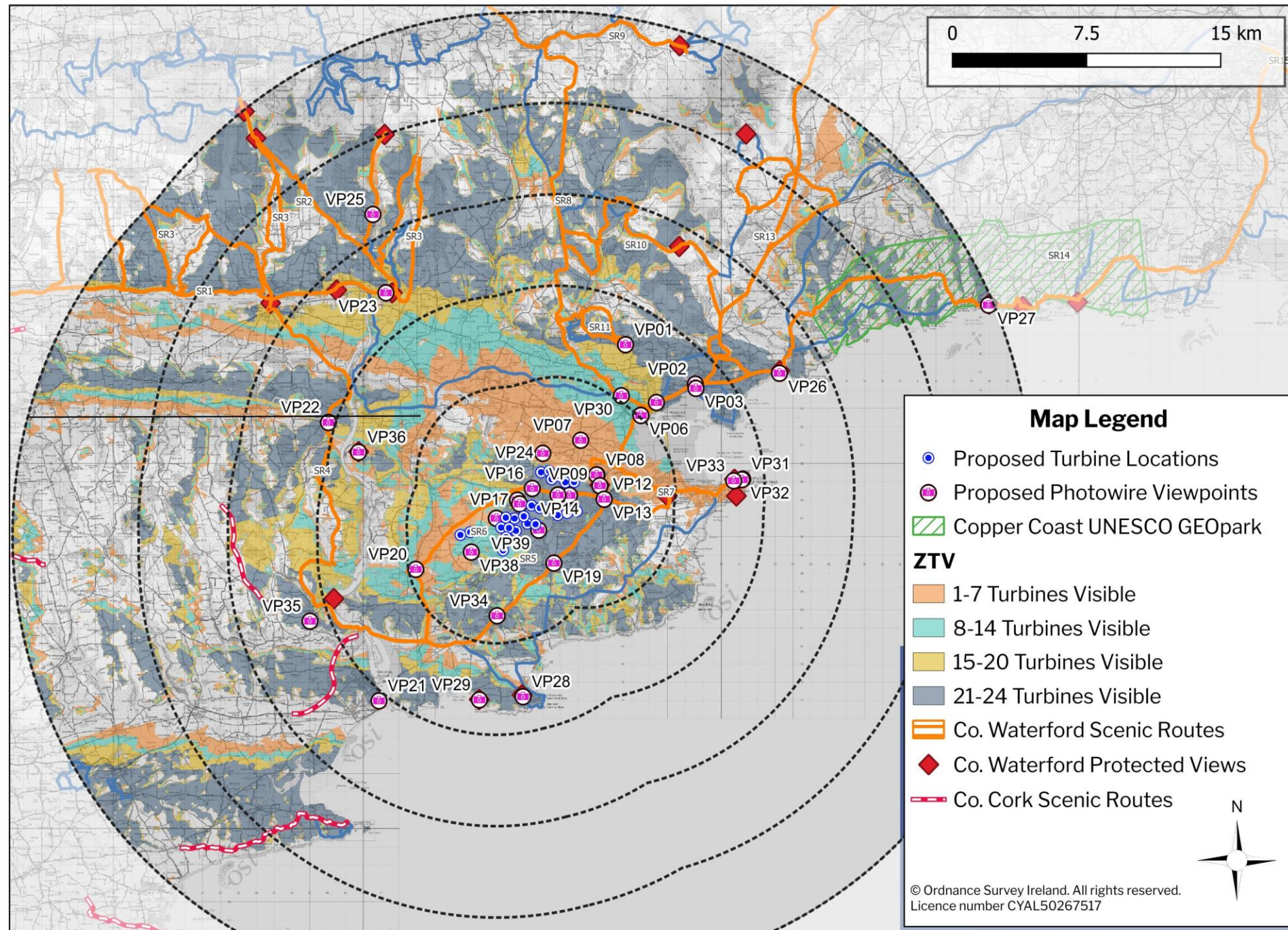
Hydrology & Hydrogeology, Geology & Soils

- Site walkover in February 2025 where hydrological features were mapped.
- Surface water monitoring locations selected.
- A 50m hydrological buffer has been applied between proposed turbine locations and mapped (WFD) watercourses.
- Surface water monitoring.
- Groundwater sampling.
- Trial pitting.



Landscape and Visual Assessment

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) commenced as part of an early-stage feasibility study
- LVIA has been an iterative process to inform project design
- Scenic routes, Protected views and amenity trails all being considered



Landscape Policy Designations

- **Low Landscape Sensitivity**

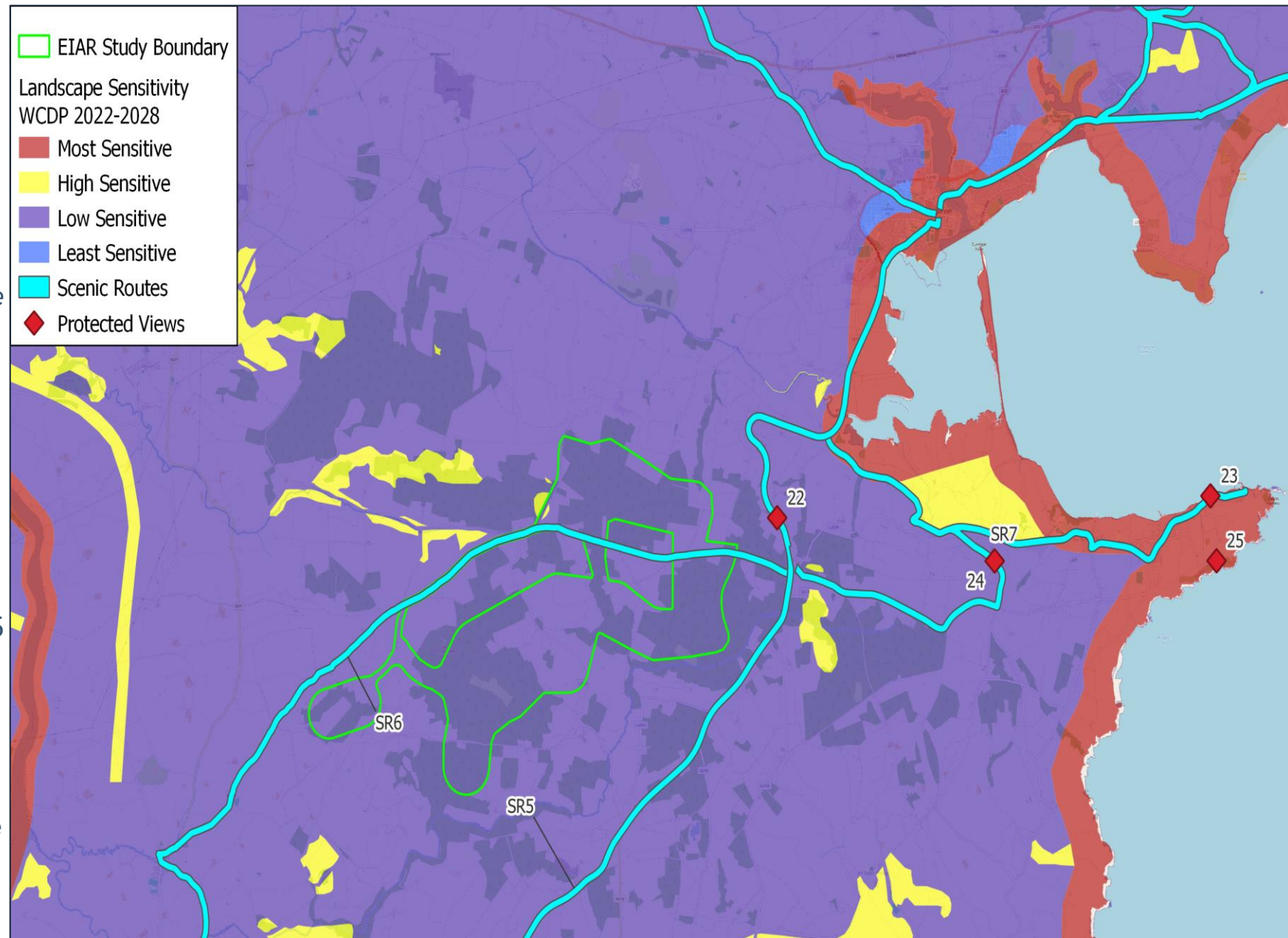
‘These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.’

Key scenic routes being considered are:

- **Scenic Route 5:** From Youghal Bridge east along the N25 to Dungarvan
- **Scenic Route 6:** North from Kinsalebeg to Clashmore on the R671, east at Clashmore along third class route to N25 at Gorteen

Key protected views being considered are:

- **Protected View 22:** View from layby on the N25
- **Protected View 23:** View of north shore of Dungarvan Bay
- **Protected View 24:** View from layby on the old Parish Road
- **Protected View 25:** View from old layby on a local road of open ocean and cliffs



Sample Completeness Check

Planning	Drawings	EIAR	NIS
Planning Fee – 100k	Appropriate scales	Non-Technical Summary	Natura Impact Statement with Screening Report
Application Form	Wayleaves shown	All appendices referenced included	
Standalone website	Drawing schedule	Compliance with Article 94 of Schedule 6 of the PDR	
2 hard, 8 soft copies		Survey and methodology requirements clearly outlined	
Letters of consent			
Public notice requirements			
Planning policy statement			
Design flexibility compliance statement			
Licence/Derogations required			
EIA Portal			
Prescribed bodies letters			

Application Documents

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary, Main EIAR Report
- Volume 2: Photomontages
- Volume 3: EIAR Appendices

Natura Impact Statement

- Natura Impact Statement
- AA Screening Report

Planning Documentation

- Completed SID Application Form, including
 - Consents (as required)
 - Drawing Schedule
 - EIA Portal ID
 - Prescribed body letters
 - Consultation Details
- Site Notice
- Newspaper Notices – Local and National
- Detailed Cover Letter
 - SID Application Fee Confirmation
 - RED III Completeness Check Checklist
- Planning Report
 - Policy Compliance Statement
- Planning Drawing Pack
 - Draft schedule and drawings to be issued to ACP for agreement prior to submission

Consultation

Public Consultation

- Community Liaison Officer has been appointed
- Letter drop in May 2025
- Website live - www.slievegrineinfo.com
- Public Information Event currently being planned
- Contact with local groups

EIA scoping / Scoping with Statutory Bodies

- A scoping document, providing details of the Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development was circulated to prescribed statutory bodies in July 2025
- Meetings with NPWS and other relevant statutory bodies
- Further pre-application with ACP and Waterford City and County Council



Proposed Project Timeline

Q4 2025

- Ongoing project design and site investigations/surveys
- Consultation/Meetings with the Statutory Bodies
- Commencement of Pre-application Consultation with ACP

Q1 2026

- Finalisation of turbine layout and grid connection
- Public Information Event
- Consultation with WCCC
- Continuation of Pre-application Consultation with ACP
- SID Determination and Receipt of Completeness Checklist

Q2 2026

- Finalisation of EIAR and NIS
- Application Lodgement



Thank you

Discussion & Feedback

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