



Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development

Co. Waterford

**SID Section 37B Pre-application Consultation
2nd Meeting**

24th February 2026



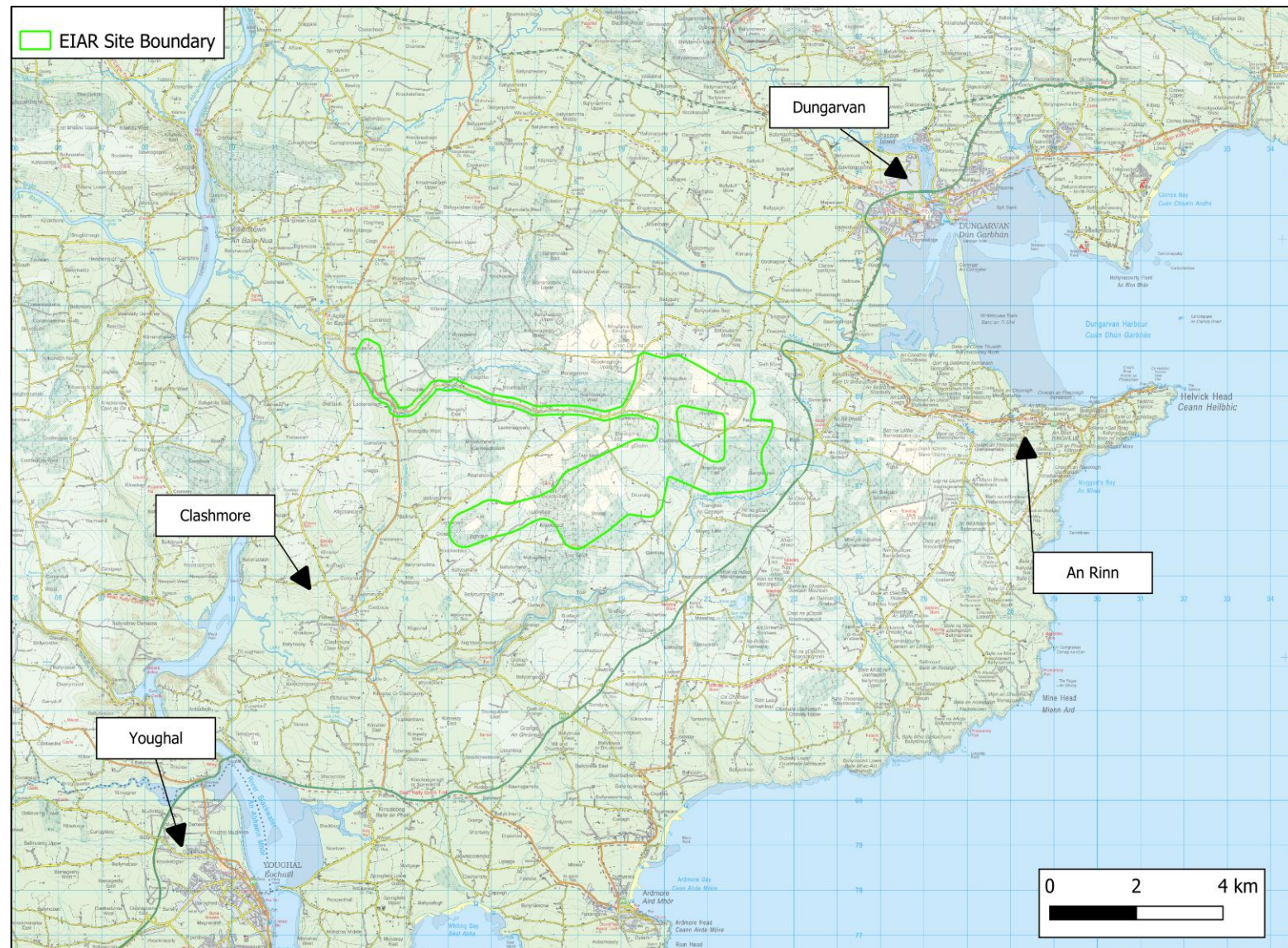
Meeting Agenda

- Project Background
- Proposed Project Update
- Biodiversity
- Ornithology
- Hydrology
- Land and Soils
- Appropriate Assessment
- Feedback & Discussion

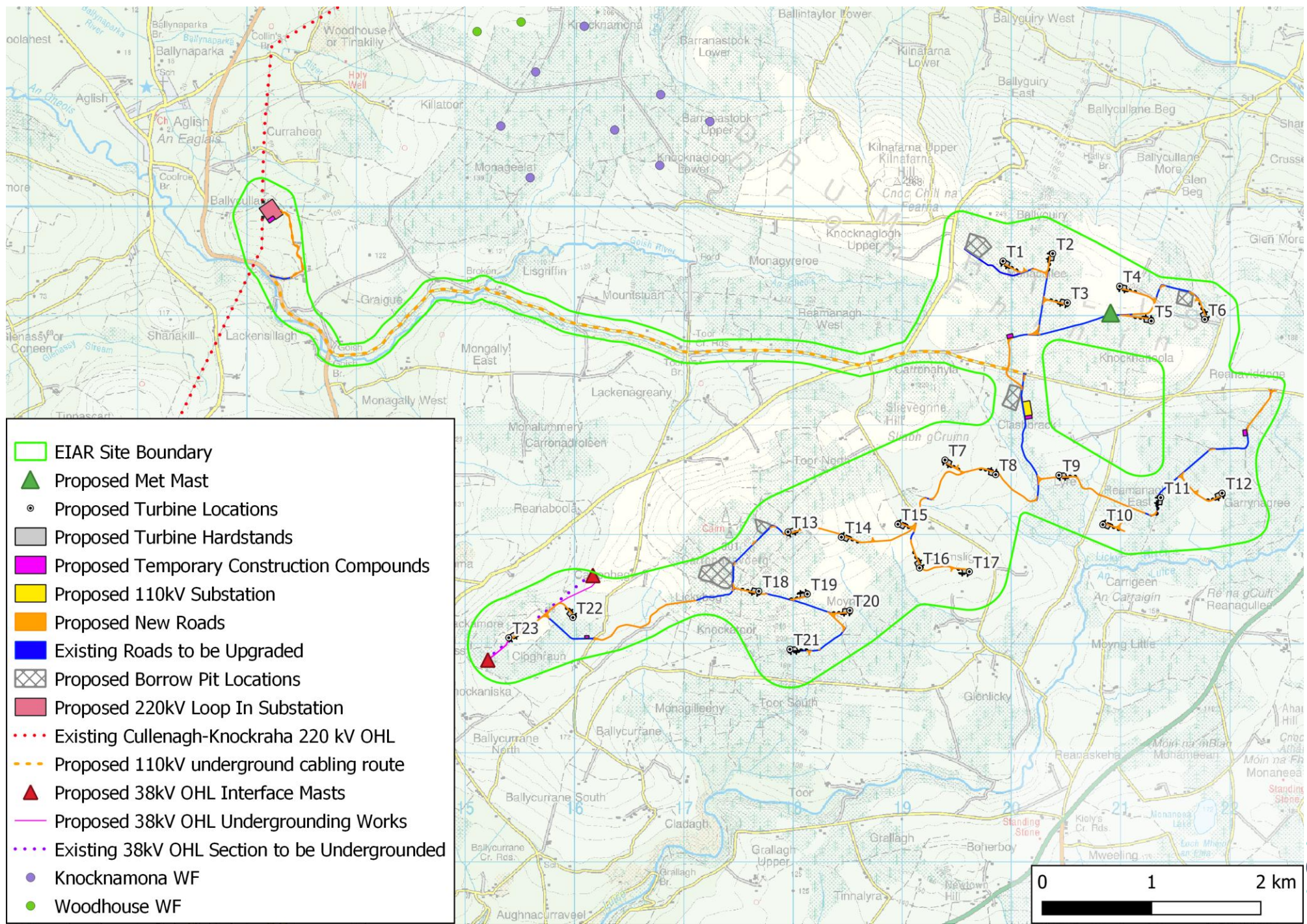


Project Background

- The Proposed Project is located in southwest Waterford, approximately 5km southwest of Dungarvan.
- The proposed EIAR study area currently measures 1366 hectares across a mix of commercial forestry and pastoral agriculture land and public road.
- The Proposed Project meets the SID threshold with an estimated capacity of 145MW.
- Located in an area classified as a 'Preferred areas' for wind energy under the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022 – 2028
- No design flexibility being sought.

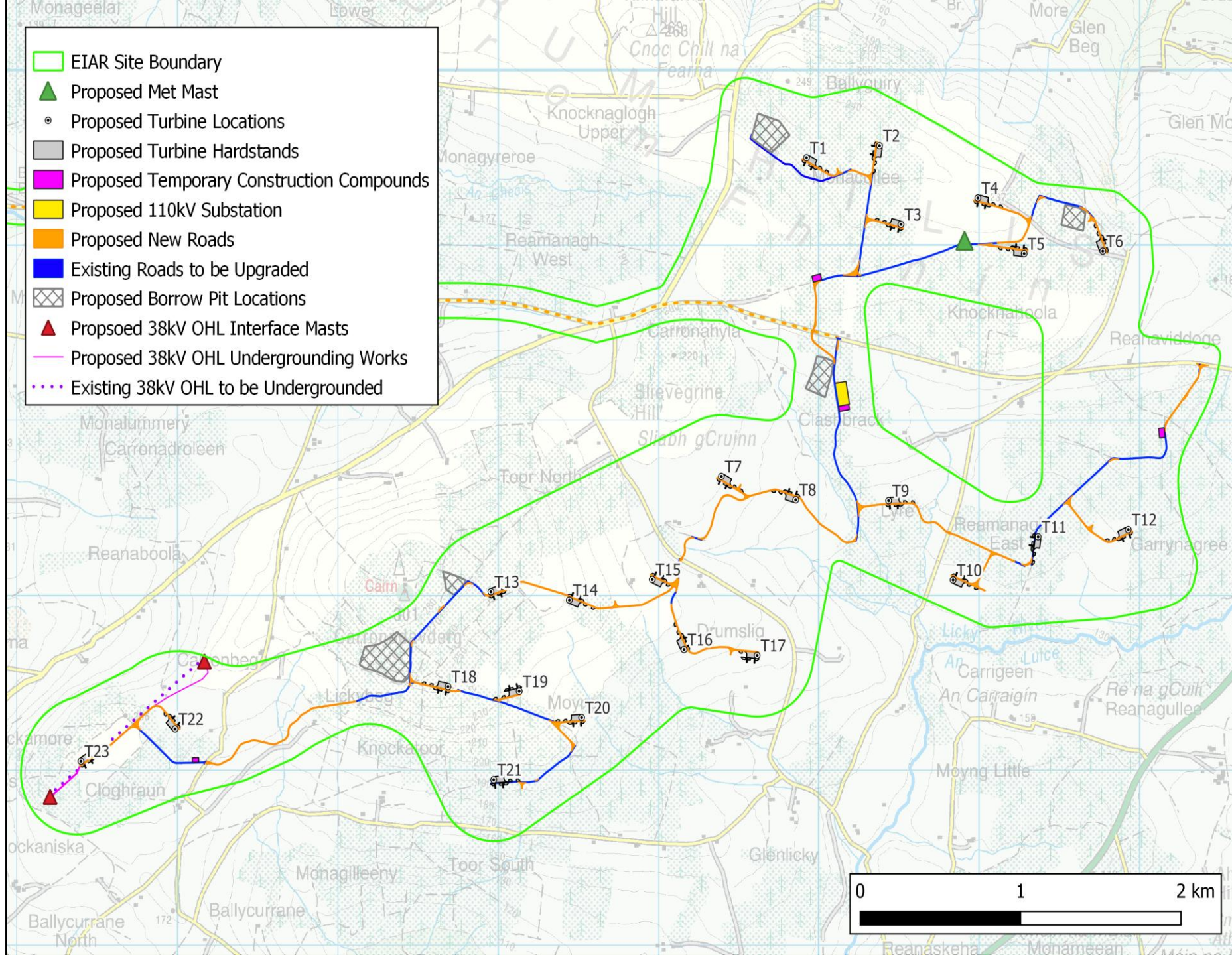


Proposed Project



Proposed Project Update

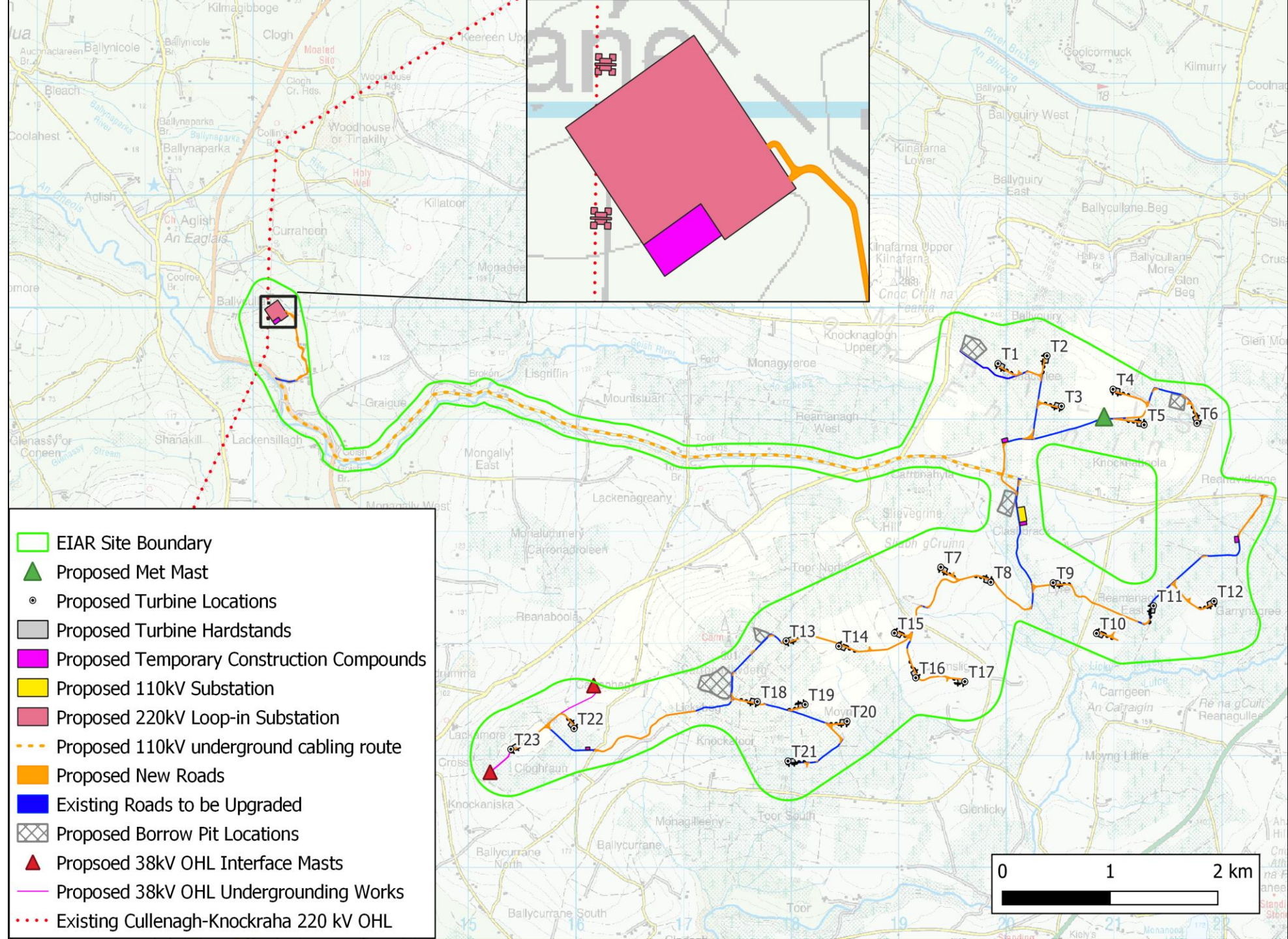
- 23 no. Turbines of mixed dimensions;
- 170m: T22 and T23
 - (75m BL, 95m HH)
- 175m: T1 – T6 and T13-T21
 - (75m BL, 100m HH)
- 185m: T7 – T12
 - (81m BL, 104m HH)
- 110kV onsite substation and underground cabling route
- Undergrounding of existing 38kV overhead line
- Temporary Construction Compounds
- Borrow pits and spoil management
- Estimated Generating Capacity of c. 145MW (based on 6MW & 7.2MW turbine mix)



Proposed Project Update

The Proposed Grid Connection will travel from the proposed 110kV substation and connect to a new proposed 220kV Loop-in substation in the townland of Ballycullane:

- C.9km underground cabling route, of which c.1.2km shall be within private lands;
- C. 13 no. Joint Bays;
- 2 no. EPA mapped watercourse crossings;
- Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation will connect into the existing Knockraha – Cullenagh 220kV overhead line.



Biodiversity - Baseline Surveys

Surveys Undertaken to Date

- › Initial constraints surveys
- › Multidisciplinary walkover surveys
- › Habitat Mapping
- › Invasive Species Surveys
- › Dedicated botanical studies at all key infrastructure locations
- › Bat Surveys
- › Ornithological Surveys
- › Mammal Surveys (inc. otter, badger)
- › Aquatic Surveys (Stage 1 & 2 Freshwater Pearl Mussel surveys, fisheries habitat surveys, eDNA surveys, electrofishing and macro-invertebrate sampling)

Survey Methodologies

- › Survey methodologies in line with relevant best practice guidelines for habitats, bats, mammals and other protected species.



Biodiversity - Baseline Habitats and Flora

Habitats

- › Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
- › Conifer plantation (WD4)
- › Hedgerows (WL1)
- › Treelines (WL2)
- › Wet grassland (GS4)
- › Scrub (WS1)
- › Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)
- › Licky, Goish Rivers (Eroding/Upland River - FW1)
- › Brickey River (Lowland/depositing River – FW2)

Flora

- › No Flora Protection Order (FPO) 2022 species or any species of conservation interest

Invasive Species

- › Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) was recorded along the proposed new access road to the east of the proposed temporary construction compound, south of T3.

No Annex 1 habitats were recorded within the study area

Biodiversity - Baseline Fauna

Mammals

- › One badger sett was recorded
- › Evidence of pine marten and red squirrel
- › Otter spraint, slides and prints were identified along the Brickey and Licky Rivers outside of the EIAR Site Boundary

Bats

- › One structure was identified within the EIAR Site Boundary as a confirmed roost. No trees were identified with roosting potential.
- › At least 6 species recorded: Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Leisler's bat, brown long-eared bat and Myotis spp.

Aquatic Species

- › Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)
- › Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- › European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)
- › Flounder (*Platichthys flesus*)
- › Freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)
- › Lamprey (*Lampetra* spp.)
- › Three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*)

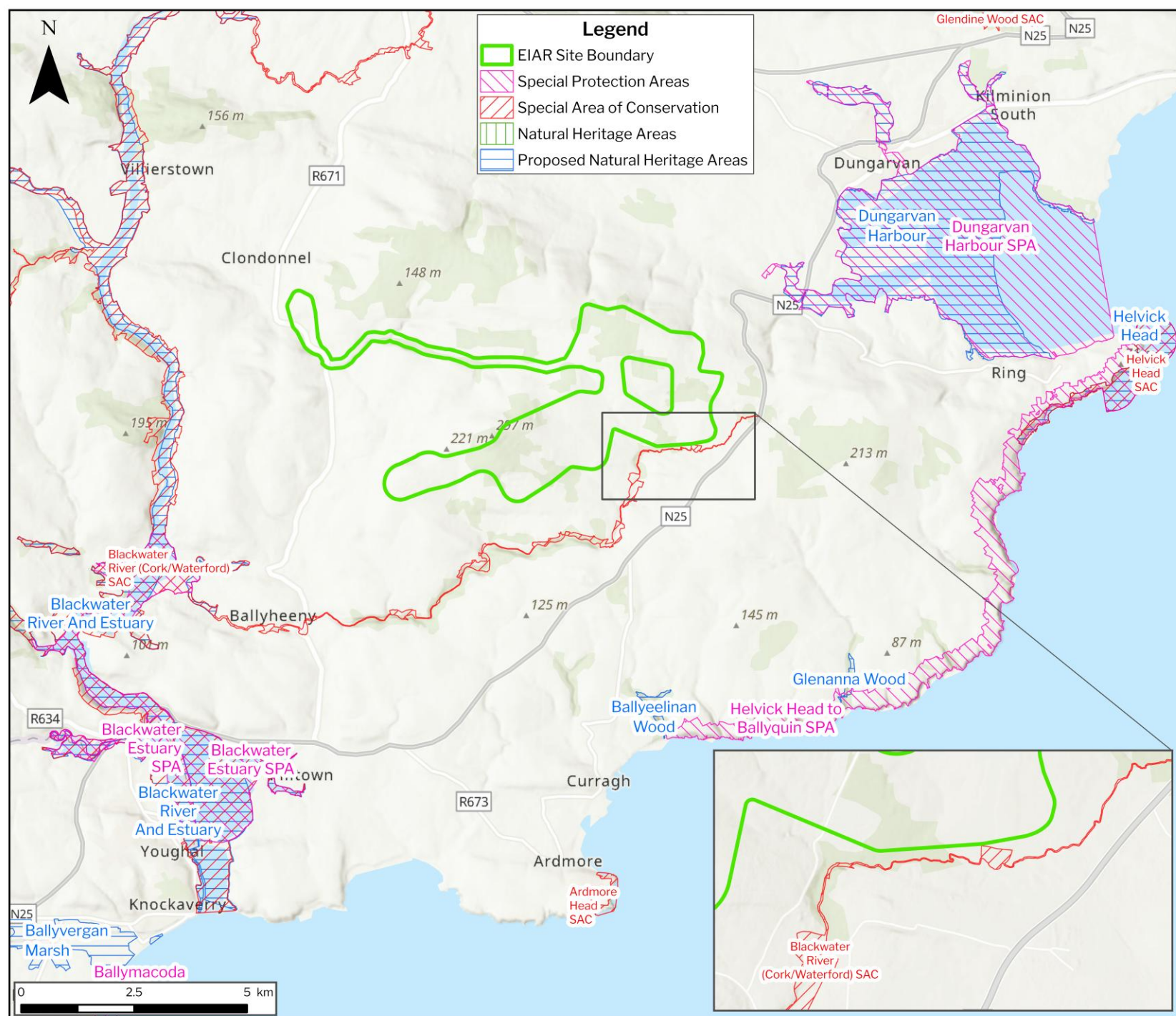
Amphibians

- › Common frog (spawn recorded)

No requirement for derogation license

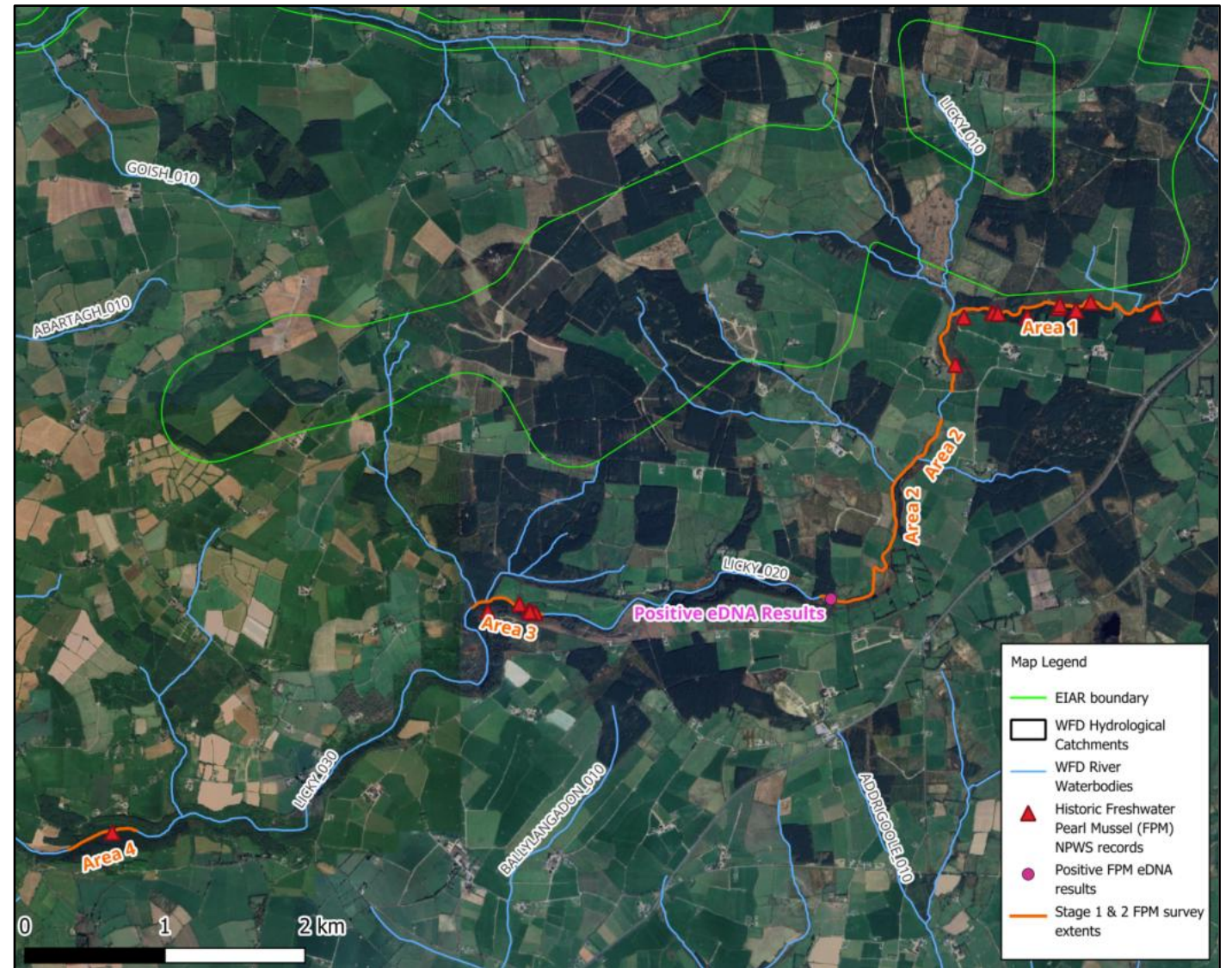
Designated Sites

- The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (~357m from closest turbine)
- The nearest SPA is the Dungarvan Harbour SPA ~2.4km northeast of the Proposed Project
- There is downstream hydrological connectivity to:
 - **Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC**
 - **Blackwater Estuary SPA**
 - **Dungarvan Harbour SPA**
- The nearest Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) is the Dungarvan Harbour pNHA ~2.4km northeast of the Proposed Project
- The Nearest Natural Heritage Area is Slievenamon Bog NHA ~40.5km northeast of the Proposed Project
- There is hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Project and the following pNHAs:
 - **Blackwater River And Estuary pNHA**
 - **Dungarvan Harbour pNHA**



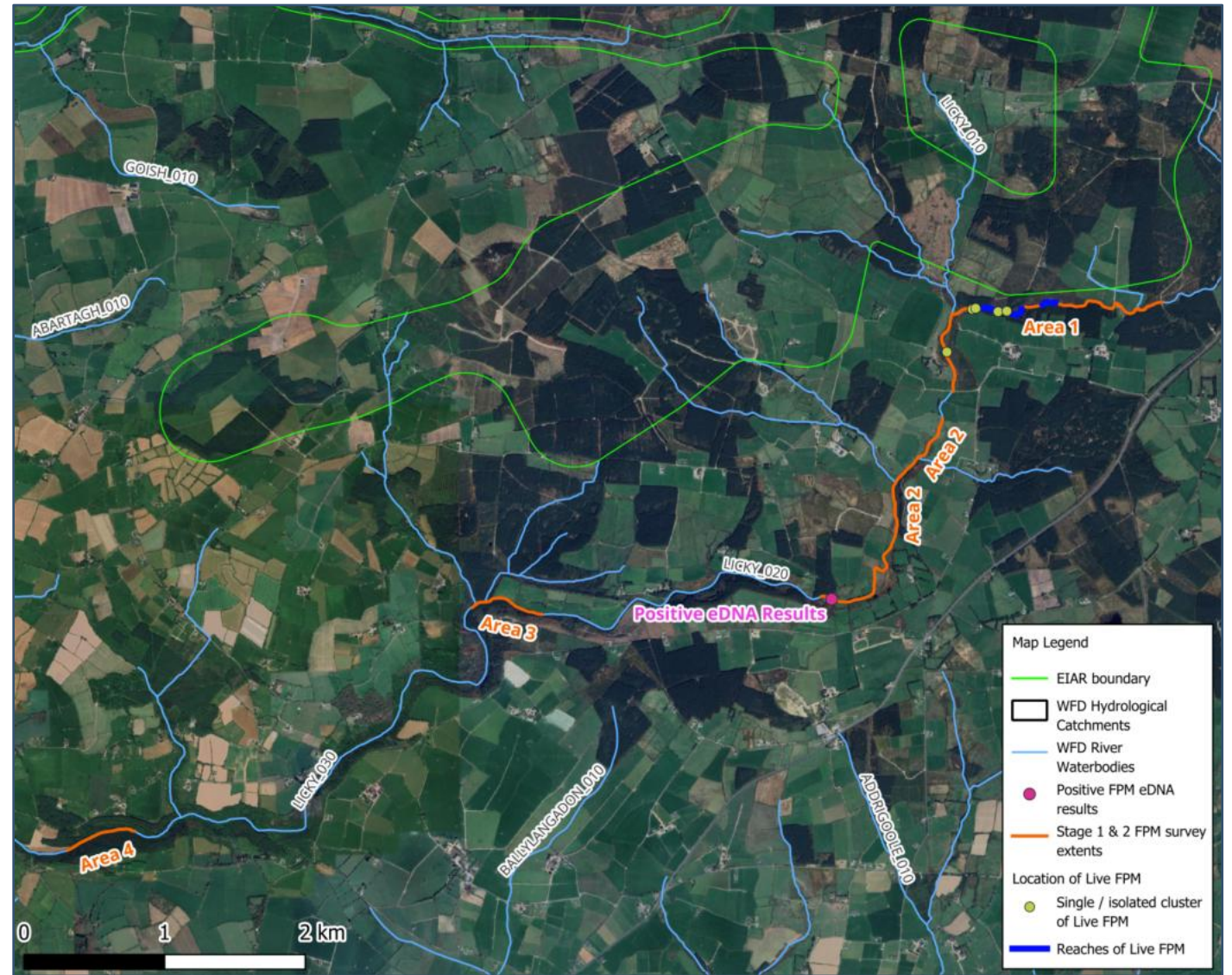
Stage 1 & 2 Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) surveys

- Historic records and a positive eDNA result along the River Licky informed the locations for Stage 1 & 2 FPM surveys



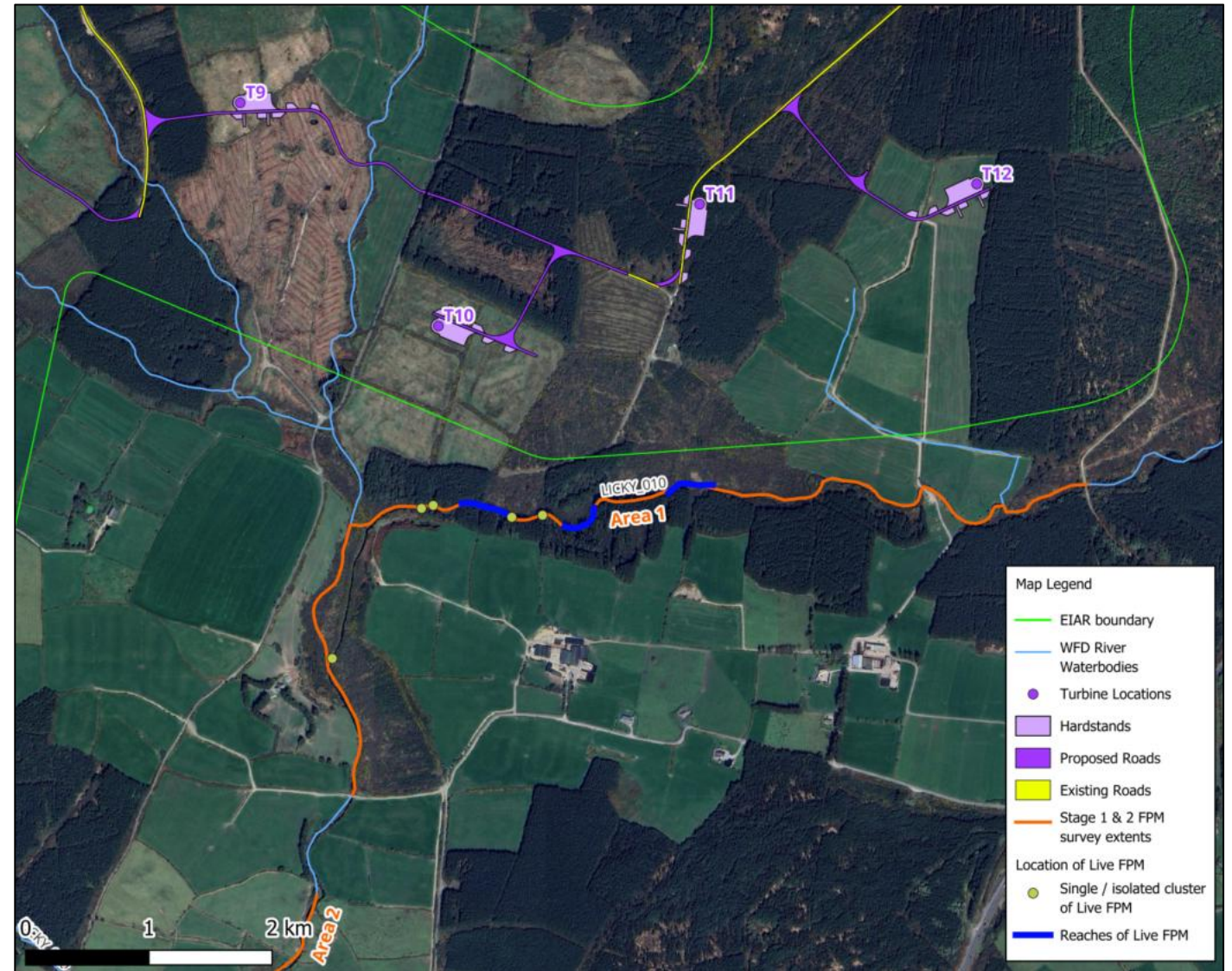
Stage 1 & 2 FPM survey results

- Results of Stage 1 & 2 FPM surveys showed 127 live adult FPM in survey Area 1
- No evidence of live FPM were found in Areas 2,3 or 4



Stage 1 & 2 FPM survey results in relation to proposed infrastructure

- Results of Stage 1 & 2 FPM surveys showed both reaches or single and isolated clusters of live adult FPM in survey Area 1
- A number of dead FPM shells were identified in survey Area 1



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, salmon and lamprey (Lampetra spp.)

Project layout and design has been developed to avoid or reduce impacts to these receptors

Potential Significant Effects and Proposed Mitigation

Most ecological impacts are not significant due to appropriate design:

- The development footprint predominantly overlaps with habitats of low ecological value (GA1/WD4)
- Therefore, there is limited suitability for and presence of protected species within or adjacent to the development footprint
- The Proposed Project has been designed to avoid KER features and higher-value habitat

The potential significant impacts identified prior to mitigation are:

- Loss of linear features - hedgerows and to a lesser extent, treelines (approx. 3km)
- Effects on water-quality and aquatic fauna, including Freshwater Pearl Mussel identified along the River Licky
- Effects on fauna including badger, otter, bats, pine marten, red squirrel

Following implementation of best-practice mitigation, no significant long-term residual effects are predicted

Proposed Ecological Enhancement Measures

A Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan (BMEP) will be produced and be conditional for the planning application

Hedgerow Establishment and Management

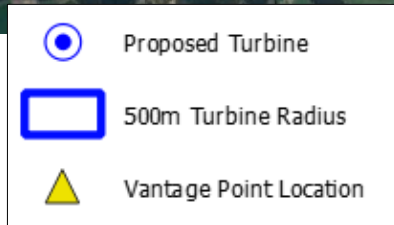
- Proposals to offset and enhance hedgerow loss (combination of new hedgerow planting/enhancement)
- Planted using native species of local provenance
- Existing higher-value hedgerows to be translocated where possible
- Hedgerows proposed to be planted/translocated within the EIAR Site Boundary, subject to ongoing landowner agreements
- Locations selected to ensure connectivity for wildlife, in particular bats

Riparian Woodland Buffer

- Riparian woodland planting along watercourses within the Proposed Project
- Riparian fencing along watercourses within the Proposed Project

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



Summary of Baseline Avifauna

Special Conservation Interest Species

- › **Curlew** travelling through or foraging at or in proximity to the EIAR site.
- › Occasional records of **black-tailed godwit** and **lapwing** at or in proximity to the EIAR site.
- › Regular **golden plover** flight activity at the EIAR site, which has been assessed in a preliminary collision risk model.
- › Other species of conservation interest recorded in hinterland.

Raptors

- › **Buzzard, kestrel** and **sparrowhawk** are resident at the EIAR site and likely breeding.
- › **Peregrine falcon** and **hen harrier** recorded travelling and hunting, but no breeding territories or roosts recorded.
- › Other raptors occasionally recorded in the area.

Waterbirds

- › **Snipe** and **woodcock** are resident at the EIAR site (woodcock likely breeding).
- › **Greenland white-fronted goose** and **kingfisher** occasionally recorded in the hinterland. Counts of up to 2,300 golden plover in hinterland (up to 12km from the EIAR site).
- › Other waterbird species recorded at the EIAR site and hinterland.

Other bird species

- › Annex I species, including **little egret** and **whooper swan**.
- › Red-listed species, including **meadow pipit, redwing, swift, yellowhammer** and **stock dove**.

NPWS Meeting

- A meeting was held with the NPWS on 22nd January 2026
- Key points highlighted in the meeting included:

Freshwater Pearl Mussel

- Salmonid and lamprey fisheries assessment be carried out at tributaries and water-crossing or infrastructure locations within the site
- Construction phase mitigation to follow *Guidance on Assessment and Construction Management in Margaritifera Catchments in Ireland*
- Any springs, seepages and flushes should be assessed and mapped

Hedgerow loss

- Assessment of hedgerow significance in relation to hedgerows to be lost

Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) mapping

- Carry out a risk characterisation of the site in terms of sediment and nutrient pollution using Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) mapping

Ornithology

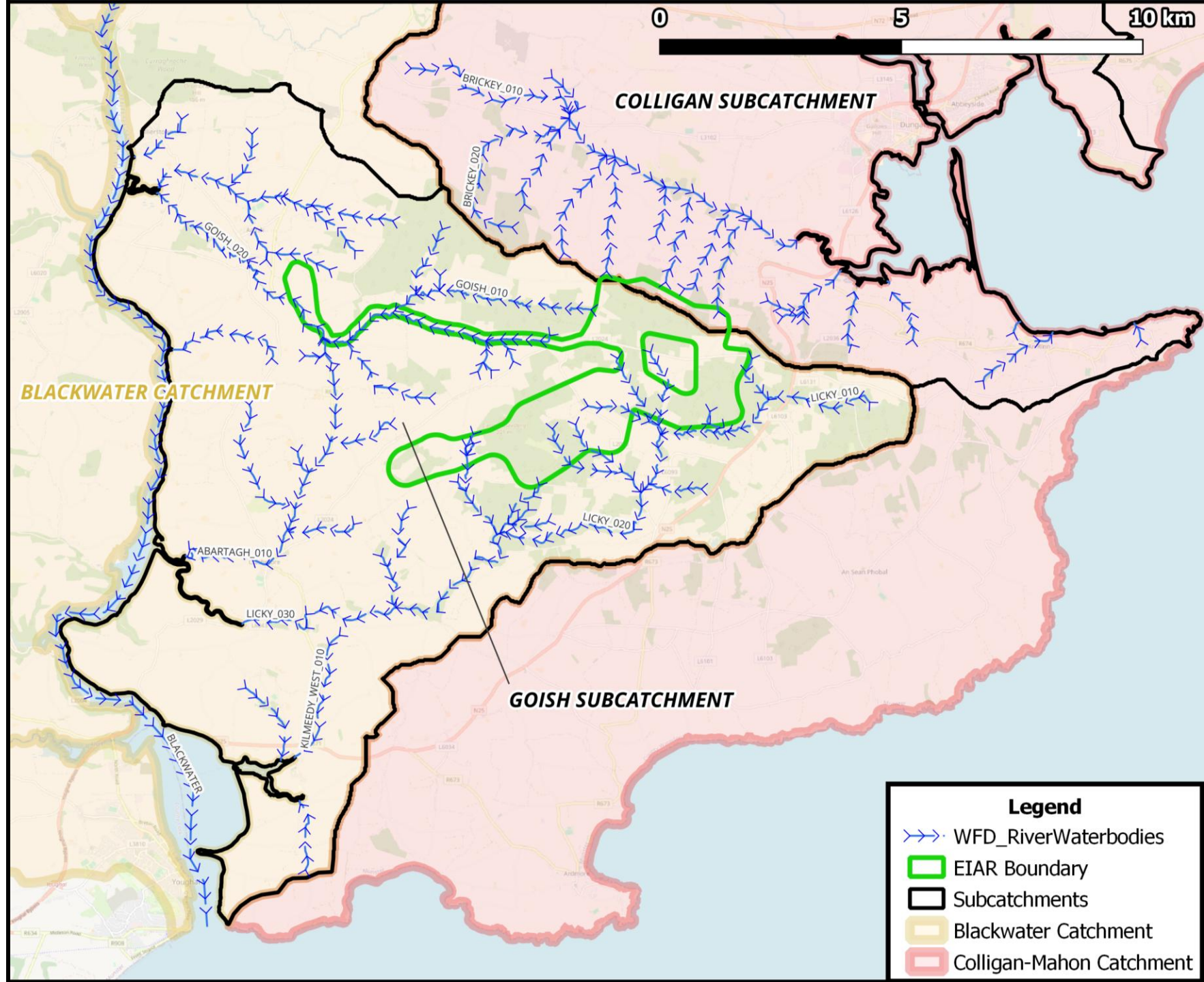
- The importance of accessing nest records where available
- Apply the precautionary principle where specific data records are unavailable in relation to foraging ranges
- Cumulative assessment of other Wind Farms within core foraging areas should be considered cumulatively

Hydrology & Hydrogeology, Geology & Soils

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

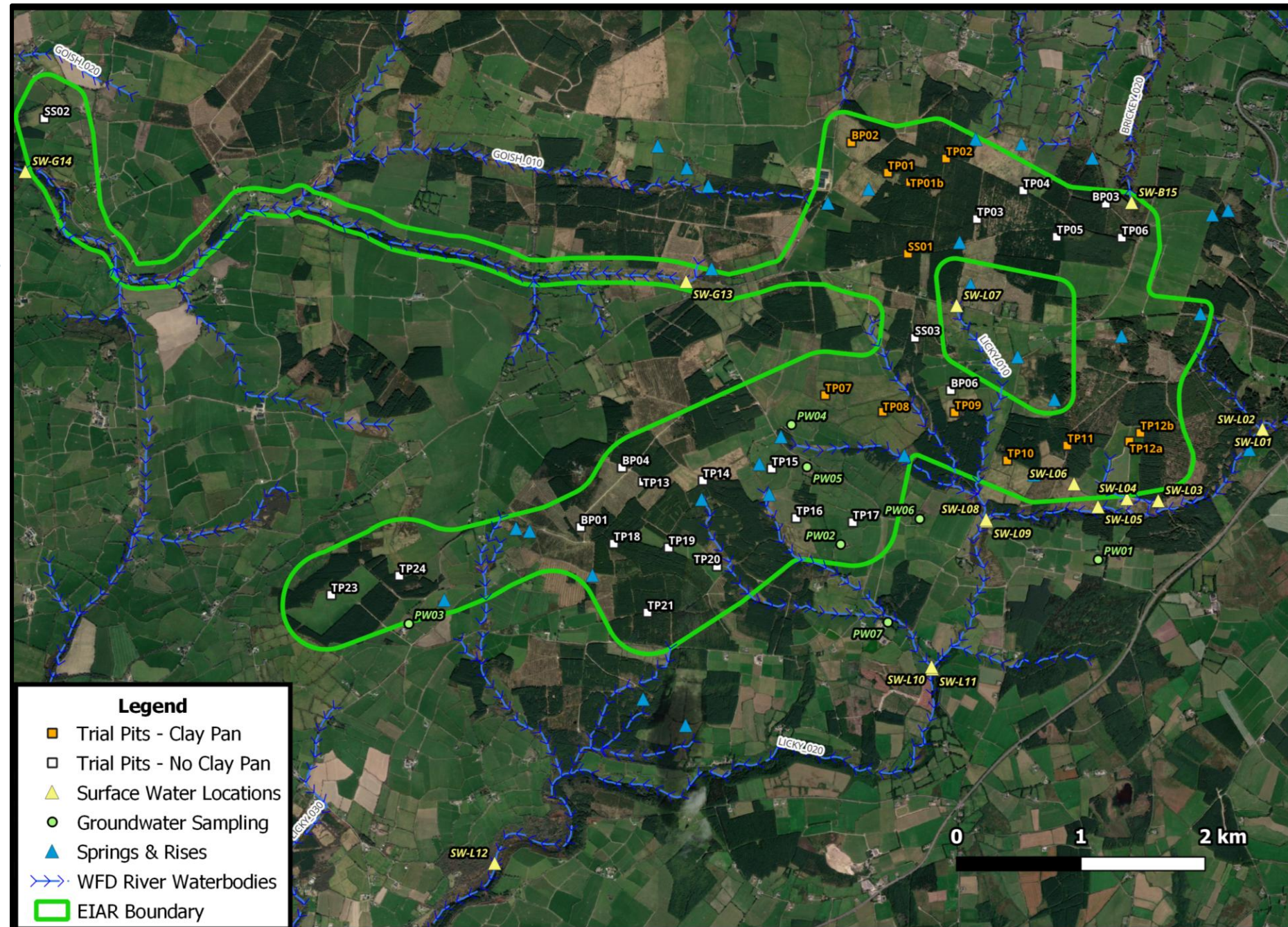
An industry best practice 50m hydrological buffer has been applied between proposed turbine locations and mapped (WFD) watercourses.

Risk characterisation of the site will be carried out to identify sedimentation and nutrient pollution within the Site.



- Initial site walkover in February 2025. where hydrological features were mapped and first round of surface water monitoring
- Low and high flow surface water monitoring in Q3 2025 and Q1 2026, respectively during a high flow period.
- Trial pitting and tufa testing were carried out in Q4 2025

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Proposed Hydrological Mitigation Measures

- Excavation and removal of claypan material from construction areas; not to be stockpiled on site.
- Transport of material to one of the proposed on-site borrow pits and/or to an off-site recovery facility.
- Sequencing construction works for specific catchment basins throughout the site to enable effective mitigation and monitoring.
- Constraining works to specific times of the year (e.g., April to September)

Proposed Hydrological Mitigation Measures

- Redirecting of existing artificial drains away from the construction area and routing through other engineering controls, such as the ones listed below.
- Use of silt fences/traps, straw bales, and regular buffered outfalls downgradient of site to filtrate water and control surface water runoff.
- Installing silt bags in pipework leading from any dewatering activities.
- Conveyance of water in vegetated swales.
- Slowing and settling out of suspended solids in water behind check dams in swales.
- Settling solids out of suspension in water in settlement ponds and use of “siltbuster” or similar system where necessary.
- Continuous monitoring of pH, EC, and turbidity with multi-parameter probes from outflows of construction areas.

Appropriate Assessment

- An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be prepared for the Proposed Project
- Impacts on European Designated Sites located within the Zone of Influence will be fully assessed in line with the Habitats Directive and will accompany the planning application.
- Potential for significant effects on European Designated Sites as a result of potential water quality deterioration has been identified to date
- Proposed mitigation will include those which have been discussed in previous slides
- Ornithological surveys are still under way onsite; however preliminary data has shown that there are no SCI species of nearby SPAs regularly using the site.

Proposed Project Timeline

Q1 2026

- Finalisation of wind farm and grid connection layout
- Consultation with WCCC
- Continued Consultation with the local community
- Seek close out of Pre-SID determination
- Open mandatory EIA scoping process with ACP

Q2 2026

- Continued Consultation with the local community
- Mandatory EIA Scoping
- Finalisation of EIAR and NIS
- Application Lodgement



Thank you

Discussion & Feedback

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