

# TOBIN

**Ballyfasy Wind Farm,  
Co. Kilkenny  
Appropriate Assessment  
Screening Report**



A FuturEnergy Ireland and ART Generation Joint Venture

## Document Control Sheet

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

TOBIN was commissioned by Manogate Limited to prepare a report to inform the screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) for submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála as part of a planning application for the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm in County Kilkenny and all associated infrastructure ('the Proposed Project<sup>1</sup>).

### 1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WIND FARM SITE

The proposed wind farm is located in the southern portion of County Kilkenny within the townlands of Ballyfasy Upper, Knockbrack, Bishopsmountain, Ballymartin and Ballywairy. The proposed project is located ca. 3.5 km east of Mullinavat, ca. 4 km south of Listerlin and ca. 5 km northwest of Glenmore.

The wind farm site study area is ca. 348.14 ha in size and is present within Coillte forestry in addition to private agricultural land, with a total footprint of ca. 53 ha for the proposed wind farm<sup>2</sup> infrastructure. Access to the proposed wind farm site is via the local roads L3417, L7499, and L3424.

### 1.2 OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In summary, the Proposed Project comprises:

- A wind farm of 10 no. turbines, onsite 110 kilovolt (kV) substation and ancillary infrastructure such as turbine foundations, hardstanding areas, borrow pits and access roads. Design flexibility is being sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála for the turbine ranges (i.e., tip height, rotor diameter and hub height) used by the Proposed Project;
- Grid Connection Options (GCO) (two options being considered). Design flexibility is being sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála for the GCO's; and
- Works along the proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR). Further details on the TDR are included in Section 3.

Two GCO's are being considered to connect the proposed wind farm to the national grid. Only one GCO will be constructed for the Proposed Project. Proposed GCO One is a 12 km long underground cable connection from the proposed onsite 110 kV substation to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm 110 kV substation (An Coimisiún Pleanála reference 309306-21). Proposed GCO Two would connect the onsite 110 kV substation to the existing 110 kV Great Island-Kilkenny Line via a loop in connection within the proposed wind farm site southeast of turbine (T) 6. Both GCO's have been fully assessed within this AA Screening. Along the proposed TDR, works will be required to allow for the delivery of oversize loads, these areas are referred to as proposed TDR works areas. The design flexibility ranges have been fully considered within this AA Screening. Further details on the Proposed Project are provided in Section 3 of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference to the 'Proposed Project' refers to the whole development which includes the wind farm site and all associated infrastructure (e.g., grid connection options and turbine delivery route).

<sup>2</sup> Reference to the 'proposed wind farm site' refers to the proposed turbines, on-site substation and ancillary infrastructure.

### 1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC are transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Bird and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) whereby European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) (this definition is also outlined in EHLG (2009)).

The purpose of this report is to provide supporting information to assist the competent authority, in this case An Coimisiún Pleanála to carry out screening for likely significant effects on European sites arising from the Proposed Project.

### 1.4 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The main pieces of relevant legislation are as follows:

- The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC;
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2022; and
- Planning and Development Acts 2000 - PART XAB.

## 2. METHODS

The approach taken in preparing this document complies with standard methods and best practice guidance, as listed in Section 9 References.

### 2.1 SCOPE

The scope of this AA Screening report is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether the Proposed Project, alone and in-combination with other plans or projects, has the potential for likely significant effects on a European site(s) in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The approach can be summarised as follows:

- Identify the Zone of Influence (Zol) of the Proposed Project and European sites within this area;
- Identify the qualifying interests (QIs)/special conservation interests (SCIs) of the European sites within the Zol and review their conservation objectives;
- Review whether there is potential for the QIs/SCIs to be affected by the Proposed Project based on information such as the vulnerabilities of the European site, proximity to the Proposed Project, and the nature and scale of the works associated with the Proposed Project;
- Consider the likelihood of the identified potential impacts occurring based on the information collated and professional judgement; and
- Identify any potential likely significant effects on European sites.

#### 2.1.1 Study Area and Survey Area

The study areas for the desk study and field surveys were identified by considering the nature of the Proposed Project, the size and location of the Proposed Project and the ecological features likely, or known, to be present. Further details describing the survey area for the field surveys undertaken is provided in Section 2.2.2.

#### 2.1.2 Zone of Influence

The Zol is defined by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) as follows:

*“The ‘zone of influence’ for a project is the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. This is likely to extend beyond the project site, for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries. The zone of influence will vary for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change.” (CIEEM, 2018).*

Irish guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) states, for the zone of influence of plans:

*“A distance of 15 km is currently recommended in the case of plans derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al, 2006)”. The guidance goes on to state that “for projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100 m, but this*

*must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects."*

The Zol for the Proposed Project has been identified through a review of the nature and scale of the development, the development location relative to European sites, presence of ecological and landscape connectivity, such as waterways, hedgerows and treelines between the Proposed Project and European sites, known impacts and effects likely to arise as a result of this type of project, distance from European sites and the QIs/SCIs of the European sites.

The Zol of the Proposed Project is discussed in Section 5.1.1 of this report.

### 2.1.3 Consultation

Consultation with various state agencies and environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) was undertaken in September 2023, October 2024 and May 2025 which included Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the Development Application Unit (DAU) of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The following paragraphs set out the responses received in relation to Biodiversity from the above consultees.

#### IFI

A response was received from IFI on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 which highlighted a number of ecological concerns which included; ecological water quality and no deterioration of such, baseline ecological assessments (including fish species and biological surveys), management of materials to ensure no matter reaches surface waters, restriction on instream works during the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September, minimisation of water crossings, soil erosion, borrow pit locations and to ensure full environmental assessments are undertaken (e.g., EIAR, Natura Impact Statement [NIS], Construction Environmental Management Plan [CEMP]). In response to IFI concerns, TOBIN have undertaken a full suite of aquatic surveys (in 2023, 2024 and 2025), both within and downstream of the Proposed Project, in order to inform the planning application. TOBIN has also prepared this AA Screening report, Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and associated ecological reports (i.e. EIAR) which fully assessed the receiving aquatic environment, and which will ensure the protection of all hydrologically connected watercourses during all works associated with the Proposed Project.

#### DAU

A response was received from the DAU on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (reference: G Pre003462024) however the response related to archaeology only and no reference was made to ecological concerns. Further correspondence was made on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025, and a response was received on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025, whereby DAU acknowledged receipt and had no further comment on this consultation. No reference was made to ecological concerns by the DAU.

## 2.2 BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

### 2.2.1 Desk Study

The ecological desk study for the Proposed Project consisted of the following:

- Identification of all European sites within the Zol of the Proposed Project and review of their site synopsis, Natura 2000 data forms and Conservation Objectives (NPWS, 2025a);
- NPWS datasets on Annex I habitats, Annex II species and Annex I bird species (NPWS, 2025b);
- Article 17 habitats and species datasets (NPWS, 2019a; NPWS, 2019b);
- NPWS sensitive data request (NPWS, 2025c); and
- Annex II species and Annex I bird species recorded by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) for grid squares (hectad) S51, S52, S53, S61, S62 and S63 which encompass the Proposed Project (NBDC, 2025).

## 2.2.2 Field Survey

A range of ecological field surveys were undertaken within the survey areas (as defined in the relevant sections below) in September 2022, September 2023, August 2024, April and August 2025 by qualified and experienced TOBIN Ecologists (see Section 2.3).

The ecological surveys that were carried out are relevant to the consideration of the potential for the Proposed Project to affect the conservation objectives of European sites in the Zol of the Proposed Project, namely otter (*Lutra lutra*) surveys, bird surveys and fish and aquatic surveys, all of which are described hereunder. While additional ecological surveys were undertaken, they are not specifically relevant to this AA Screening. See the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (submitted with the Planning Application) for full details of all ecological surveys undertaken within the Proposed Project.

### 2.2.2.1 Bird Surveys

The bird survey areas for the assessment have been determined based on the Zol, bird survey areas and guidance on potential connectivity to designated sites (SNH, 2016). A study area of 20 km has been used, on a precautionary basis, for this assessment based on the maximum core foraging range of pink footed goose.

#### 2.2.2.1.1 Vantage Point

Vantage Point Surveys (VPS) were carried out between May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) from three Vantage Points (VP) locations (Table 2-1). No surveys were completed between August 2021 and April 2022 (inclusive). There were initially two VPs (VP1 and VP2). The third (VP3) was added to the survey schedule from January 2023 onwards to ensure full coverage of the survey area. The VPs were selected to provide coverage of the proposed turbine locations and a surrounding 500 m buffer (the VP survey area) in line with NatureScot (2017) guidance<sup>3</sup>.

The VPs were selected using viewshed analysis of the proposed wind farm site, turbine locations and a 500 m buffer, undertaken using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. This analysis was originally completed for a smaller proposed wind farm layout in May 2020. Following this, VP1 and VP2 were selected for the completion of VPS. The layout of the proposed wind farm site was revised in December 2022 with the addition of two turbines to the

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that the NatureScot guidance 'Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms' was updated during 2025, however 2017 guidance was used for surveys undertaken prior to update of the guidance.

west of the original eight turbines. A revised viewshed analysis was then completed and the additional VP location (VP3) was selected. The layout of the proposed wind farm site was revised again in April 2024 with an 11-turbine design. Viewshed analysis was repeated following this and it was determined that the additional turbine fell within the viewshed of VP3, and there was no requirement for additional VPs. A total of 3 years' surveys were carried out with the revised VPs which aligns with/exceeds NatureScot (2017) guidance.

In line with NatureScot (2017) guidance, VPS focused on 'target species'. These are species which are afforded a higher level of legislative protection, are of particular conservation concern, or are at particular risk from onshore wind developments. Target species during VPS were as follows:

- All gull species;
- Any species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive;
- Any species listed as Red or Amber of the Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland (BoCCI) 2020-26 (Gilbert *et al.*, 2021), where collision risk presents potential for population level effects; and
- Species with potential connectivity to nearby European sites i.e. SPAs.

Each recorded flight path was numbered and cross-referenced, with the following data recorded:

- Number of birds;
- Behaviour where applicable (e.g., foraging, commuting, display etc);
- Duration of flight within the VP viewshed; and
- Flight height range and flight duration.

During the breeding season VPS were completed at varying times during the day, ranging from early morning to late evening, so that patterns of bird activity could be recorded. The height bands used to estimate flight height were:

- 1 - <20 m;
- 2 - 20 m to 40 m;
- 3 - 40 m to 120 m; and
- 4 - >120 m.

During the non-breeding seasons of 2020/2021 and 2022/2023, VPS were undertaken diurnally. During the 2023/2024 and the 2024/2025 non-breeding seasons, some VPS were undertaken commencing either 30 minutes prior to sunrise or terminating at least 30 minutes after sunset. Surveys during these times facilitated the potential recording of any crepuscular flight activity associated with certain key species, such as commuting flights of wetland birds and hen harrier roost flights.

Table 2-1 Summary of VP Survey Effort

Season	Breeding/Non-breeding	Years	Survey Hours		
			VP1	VP2	VP3
1	Breeding	2020	32	32	N/A
2	Non-breeding	2020/2021	39	33	N/A
3	Breeding	2021/2022	46	50.5	N/A
4	Non-breeding	2022/2023	36	36	27
5	Breeding	2023	36	39	39
6	Non-breeding	2023/2024	37	37.5	38
7	Breeding	2024	36	36	36
8	Non-breeding	2024/2025	39	36	36.5
Total			301	300	176.5

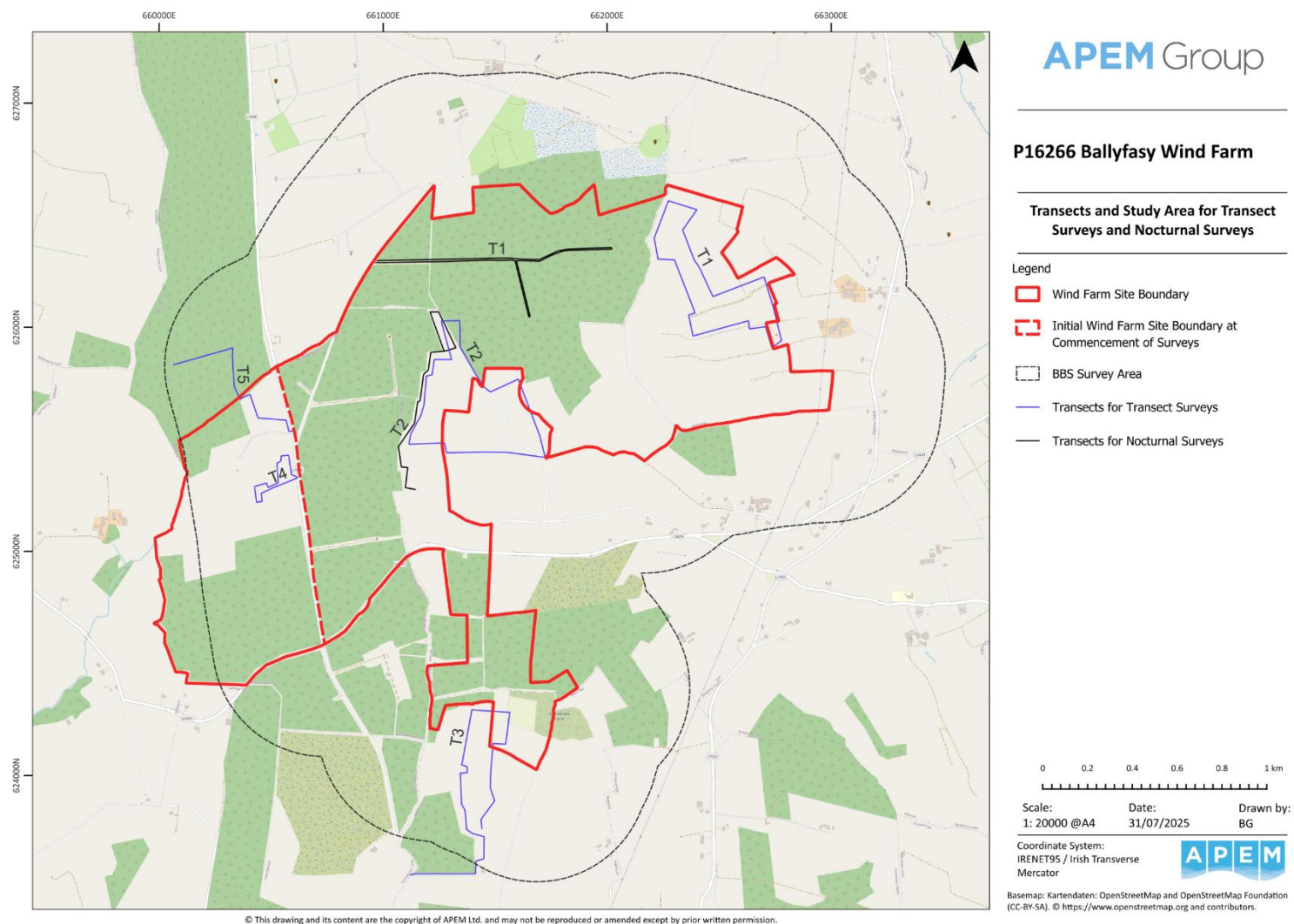
### 2.2.2.1.2 Breeding Bird Surveys

Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) were conducted during the 2020, 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons (refer to Appendix A-II for full details on survey dates). Five transects (BBST1 to BBST5) were selected to provide coverage of the proposed wind farm site at the commencement of surveys, plus a 500 m buffer (the BBS survey area). Surveys were undertaken using an adapted British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Breeding Bird Survey methodology with all species seen or heard recorded (BTO, 2018). Habitats present within the BBS survey area consisted of open grassland, grassland margins, hedgerows, conifer plantation, and heath.

During the breeding seasons, the transect surveys were completed between April and July inclusive. There were three survey visits during the 2020 breeding season, covering BBST1 and BBST2, four visits in 2023, covering BBST1 to BBST4, and five visits in 2024, covering BBST1 to BBST5. Surveys were undertaken in suitable weather conditions. The timing of surveys did not strictly follow the BTO, 2018 guidance however, this methodology is targeted towards songbirds which sing at dawn; passerine species are not generally considered to be significantly impacted by wind farms (NatureScot, 2017).

Throughout the survey programme, all species seen or heard were recorded. The target species and number of individuals were recorded to establish the species assemblage and abundance along each transect (NatureScot, 2017).





**Figure 2-1 Transect and Nocturnal Survey Areas**



### 2.2.2.1.3 Nocturnal Surveys

To supplement the BBS, additional dusk visits were undertaken to record crepuscular or nocturnal species which are difficult to detect during standard surveys. Target species included all owl species, woodcock and nightjar. Nocturnal surveys were completed along two transects (Figure 2-1) within the BBS survey area, with a single visit during the 2023 breeding season and two visits during the 2024 breeding season. Surveys commenced between 21:20 and 21:50 and terminated between 22:20 and 23:15. The location of any target species seen or heard during the transect surveys were recorded using ArcGIS Field Maps.

### 2.2.2.1.4 Wintering Bird Surveys

Wintering Bird Surveys were undertaken during the 2020/2021, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 non-breeding seasons. The survey method used was the 'look-see' methodology outlined by Bibby *et al.*, (2000), with transects walked at a steady pace and the number of birds seen or heard tallied for each transect. Throughout the survey programme, all species seen or heard were recorded. The target species (refer to Section 2.2.2.1.1) and number of individuals were recorded to establish the species assemblage and abundance along each transect. Surveys were completed over two visits in November and February during each non-breeding season. The survey area and transects utilised in these surveys are identical to those employed during the breeding season surveys.

BBST1 and BBST2 were surveyed in the non-breeding season of 2020-2021, BBST1 to BBST4 were surveyed in 2023-2024, though BBST4 was not surveyed in February 2024, and all five transects were surveyed in 2024-2025.

### 2.2.2.1.5 Hinterland Surveys

Hinterland surveys were completed from three VP locations (HVP1, HVP2 and HVP3) in the wider area surrounding the proposed wind farm site. These locations were surveyed to determine the presence of breeding peregrine and roosting hen harrier within a 2 km buffer around the proposed wind farm site.

During the breeding season the HVP surveys were completed during daytime hours. During the non-breeding season, these surveys were timed to commence 30 minutes before sunrise or terminate 30 minutes after sunset to survey for roosting hen harriers. All HVP surveys were completed over one to two hours.

### 2.2.2.2 Marsh Fritillary

Marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) surveys were carried out by TOBIN Ecologists on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2025 within the study area of the Proposed Project (refer to Figure 3-1). Survey methodology followed the UK Butterfly Conservation Monitoring Scheme Methodology for Marsh Fritillary Larval Webs (UKBMS 2019). Larval surveys were carried out in sunny conditions during the optimal survey period (August to September) when colonies of individuals are known to construct conspicuous webs over devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) leaves and adjacent vegetation.

### 2.2.2.3 Otter

Otter surveys were carried out following the approach set out in the NRA (2008) guidelines. The otter surveys were conducted in September 2022, 2024, and 2025 at waterbodies within 150

m of any proposed infrastructure. In addition, all drains and watercourses at lands accessed were checked for signs of otter presence and activity such as holts (breeding and temporary), slides and territorial marking points (spraints), each sign was recorded.

#### 2.2.2.4 Fish and Aquatic Ecology

The Proposed Project is present within both the Suir and Nore catchments. Surface water features present within, and hydrologically connected to, the Proposed Project includes four WFD river waterbodies;

- Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River (WFD waterbody code: IE\_SE\_16B020091) (corresponding EPA name: Ballyknockbeg [EPA code: 16\_1485]);
- Smartscastle Stream\_010 River (IE\_SE\_16S070500) (corresponding EPA name: Smartscastle (Stream) [EPA code: 16\_3474];
- Arrigle\_010 River (IE\_SE\_15A020100) (corresponding EPA name: Smithstown 15 [EPA code: 15\_1470]); and
- Arrigle\_020 River (IE\_SE\_15A020250) (corresponding EPA name: Mullenhakill [EPA code: 15\_637]).

Aquatic surveys (crayfish sampling [CS], kick sampling [KS] and visual assessment [VA]) were carried out by TOBIN Ecologists at a total of 18 aquatic survey sites (refer to Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3) that drain the Proposed Project and eventually flow into downstream European sites. The European sites concerned include the Lower River Suir SAC (site code: 002137), the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) and the River Nore SPA (004233), which are at various distances from the Proposed Project (Section 5.2). A description of the survey methods is provided below.

##### 2.2.2.4.1 Aquatic Habitat Suitability Survey

An assessment on the suitability of the riverine habitat to support aquatic species of conservation concern was conducted on all 18 aquatic survey sites and focused on Annex II species listed as QIs for European sites within the ZOI of the Proposed Project (Section 5.2). Such species included white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), brook- (*Lampetra planeri*), river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).

##### 2.2.2.4.2 White-clawed Crayfish

White-clawed crayfish surveys were carried out at a total of six aquatic survey sites (aquatic sites 2, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 12); two locations on the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River, two locations on the Smartscastle Stream\_010 and two locations on the Arrigle\_010 River (Figure 2-2).

Surveys were carried out by suitably qualified TOBIN Ecologists under licence (NPWS Licence No. C158/2028) from the NPWS. The surveys were conducted in August and September, at which time there is no 'berried' females or females with young hatchling still attached and when crayfish are most active and present in shallow waters (Reynolds, 2006).

The surveys consisted of the assessment of suitable habitat, hand and visual searching and trapping as per Reynolds *et al.*, (2010), O'Connor *et al.*, (2009), Peay (2003). Refuge sites such as spaces under large boulders and crevices or burrows within the riverbanks were investigated by hand using gloves and small nets as required.

#### 2.2.2.4.3 Atlantic Salmon

A fisheries assessment of river waterbodies was carried out on all waterbodies at a total of 17 aquatic survey sites (all sites with the exception of survey site 12 [crayfish only]) utilising elements of the approaches in the Fishery Assessment Methodology (O'Grady, 2006) and 'Ecology of the Atlantic Salmon' (Hendry and Cragg-Hine, 2003) to broadly characterise the river sites (i.e., channel profiles, substrata etc.).

A broad appraisal/overview of the upstream and downstream habitat at each site was undertaken to evaluate the watercourse's ability to support salmonids.

#### 2.2.2.4.4 Lamprey Species

An evaluation of potential lamprey habitats within the study area was carried out on all waterbodies at a total of 17 aquatic survey site (all sites with the exception of survey site 12 [crayfish only]) using methodologies outlined in 'Ecology of the River, Brook, and Sea Lamprey' (Maitland, 2003) and NPWS Irish Wildlife Manuals lamprey surveys (O'Connor, 2007).

Scoop surveys were undertaken in suitable habitat to identify the presence or absence of the three lamprey species listed as QIs of European sites within the Zol of the Proposed Project. This involved taking a sample of the silt (at the edge of the riverbank) with a hand net. The hand net was inserted into the sediment at a 45° angle, and a volume of silt was scooped into the net, and the sediment was checked for lamprey (ammocetes, juveniles and adults). Any lamprey caught were then identified using the field guide produced by Gardiner (2003).

#### 2.2.2.4.5 Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Ecofact Environmental Consultants Ltd. were appointed by TOBIN to undertake a Stage 1 freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) survey within watercourses located downstream of the Proposed Project to establish whether the species is present within the Zol. The study area included the proposed wind farm site and 5 km downstream. The survey was undertaken under license (NPWS Licence No. C131/2024) in September 2024 under optimal environmental conditions, and followed the methodology outlined within the NPWS guidance 'Margaritifera margaritifera' Stage 1 and Stage 2 survey guidelines (Anon, 2004). The survey considered both the Nore pearl mussel (*Margaritifera durrovensis*) and the freshwater pearl mussel, but both species are collectively referred to as freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) with this report.

A total of 14 FWPM sites were surveyed; seven sites on the Arrigle\_010 River, two sites on the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River, four sites on the Smartscastle Stream\_010 and one site on Oaklands\_010 River (IE\_SE\_14O130860), which are illustrated on Figure 2-4. The FWPM survey report is included in Appendix A-I of this report.











### Legend

Wind Farm Study Area

Grid Connection Options

- - - Option 1
- - - Option 2
- Unmapped stream GCO1
- Rivers

Aquatic Survey Locations

- ▲ KS
- ▲ KS|CS
- ▲ VA

05001,000

Meters

<b>Spatial Reference</b>		<b>Copyrights:</b>		
Datum: IRENET95		© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Microsoft, Vantor, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community		
EPSG: 2157				
A	13/11/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.

Client:

Manogate Ltd.

Project:

Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title:

Figure 2-3:  
Aquatic Survey Site Locations  
at the Proposed GCO One

Scale @ A3: 1:30,000

Prepared by: S.Pezzetta

Checked by: A.Murphy

Date: November 2025

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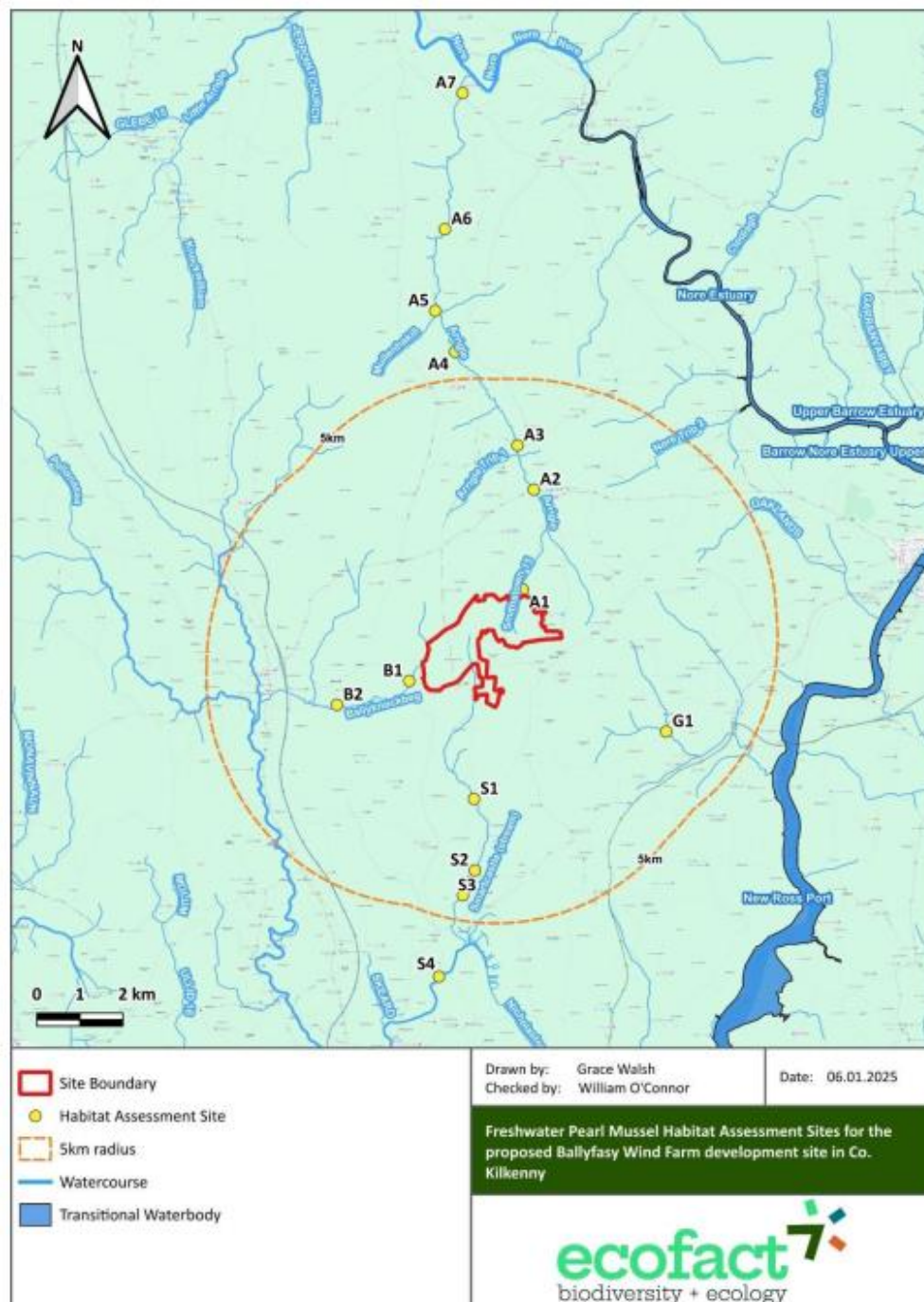


Figure 2-4 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey Sites (Arrigle River [A Site Numbers], Ballyknockbeg River [B], Glenmore River [G] and Smartscastle (Stream) [S]).

## 2.3 PROJECT TEAM

This report was prepared by Sarah Nolan MEng.Sc and B.Sc. (Hons), Project Ecologist with TOBIN. Sarah has nine years post-graduate experience in the environmental sector of which six years are within environmental consultancy. Sarah's experience includes public and private infrastructure developments where she conducts Screenings for Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statements.

This report was senior reviewed by Laura Higgins is a Senior Ecologist with TOBIN and is skilled in the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessments, Appropriate Assessment Screenings and NISs. Laura's role in the project consisted of review of ecological reports. She is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, she is therefore also bound by their Code of Professional Conduct.

### 2.3.1 TOBIN Ecologists

Further credentials of TOBIN Ecologists are provided hereunder.

#### **Sarah Nolan BSc. (Hons) Earth & Ocean Science, MEngSc. Water, Waste & Environmental Engineering**

Sarah Nolan is a qualified Project Ecologist with nine years post-graduate experience in the environmental sector of which five years are within environmental consultancy. Sarah also carried out habitat, protected species and INNS surveys and aquatic surveys (biological water quality) for the Proposed Project. Sarah predominantly carries out Screenings for Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statements and Preliminary Ecological Constraints Reports. Sarah is also responsible for the data analysis and report writing for the objective of No Net Loss of Biodiversity for a large infrastructure development in Ireland.

#### **Laura Higgins B.Sc. (Hons) Applied Ecology**

Laura is a Senior Ecologist with TOBIN and holds Full CIEEM Membership. Laura has been responsible for the management and delivery of a wide range of project types for the public and private sectors including large scale residential, industrial and infrastructure developments.

#### **Áine Sands B.Sc. (Hons) Applied Ecology**

Áine is a qualified Senior Ecologist with over 10 years post-graduate experience in ecology and environmental consultancy and holds Full CIEEM Membership. Áine has acted as Lead Ecologist for a number of large renewable energy projects, with a particular focus on wind farm development. Áine has a strong understanding of National and European legislation associated with biodiversity and is cognisant of relevant rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Áine's role in the project consisted of habitat, protected species and INNS surveys and senior review of the Biodiversity Chapter of the EIAR.

#### **Sinéad O'Reilly B.Sc. (Hons) Zoology M.Res Freshwater Ecology**

Sinéad O'Reilly, a Senior Ecologist with TOBIN, undertook the aquatic surveys and contributed to this chapter. She is a qualified and experienced environmental consultant with thirteen years' post-graduate experience in freshwater sciences and environmental consultancy in Ireland. Sinead has a strong technical background as a freshwater ecologist and has extensive field



experience in freshwater habitats and species across Ireland. Sinéad's role in the project consisted of aquatic surveys (biological river quality and white-clawed crayfish surveys).

### 2.3.2 Third-Party Specialists

#### **Ecofact Environmental Consultants**

The FWPM surveys were undertaken by Dr. William O'Connor with assistance from Grace Walsh M.Sc. and Eoin McMahon. Dr. William O'Connor is a senior environmental scientist who has over 20 year's professional ecological management experience. He is a graduate of the University of Wales, Cardiff where he was awarded an MSc in Applied Hydrobiology, and the National University of Ireland, Galway where he received a PhD degree in Zoology.

#### **APEM Ltd**

The ornithology assessment was completed to inform the ornithology chapter of the EIAR accompanying this application. The assessment has informed this AA Screening report where relevant, and was undertaken by the following ornithologists:

**Senior Ornithologist Billy Gardener (MSc.Res, BSc. [Hons])** who was the lead author of the EIAR and undertook the collision risk modelling. Billy has almost 4 years' experience in consultancy, including working on a number of Irish wind farm EIA projects. Billy has managed many surveys, undertaken impact assessments and conducted Collision Risk Modelling.

**Principal Ornithology Consultant Matt Rea (MSc., BSc. [Hons], Associate member of CIEEM [ACIEEM])**. Matt is an experienced ornithologist with ten years of consultancy experience who has worked on over 60 onshore wind projects across the UK and Ireland. He has managed surveys, undertaken numerous impact assessments and is experienced in Collision Risk Modelling. Matt assisted with technical guidance and was the reviewer for the Ornithology Chapter.



### 3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project (Figure 3-1) will occupy an area of ca. 348.14 ha in County Kilkenny. The proposed wind farm site borders between the L3417, L7499, L3424 and L3420 local roads. It is located ca. 4 km east from the M9 motorway at Mullinavat. GCO One (if constructed) will involve cables being laid within a section of the L7499, L3417, R704 and L3418 roads. GCO Two is present within the proposed wind farm site and will connect the onsite 110 kV substation to the existing 110kV Great Island-Kilkenny Line via a loop in connection.

A summary of the Proposed Project, as relevant to this AA Screening, is as follows:

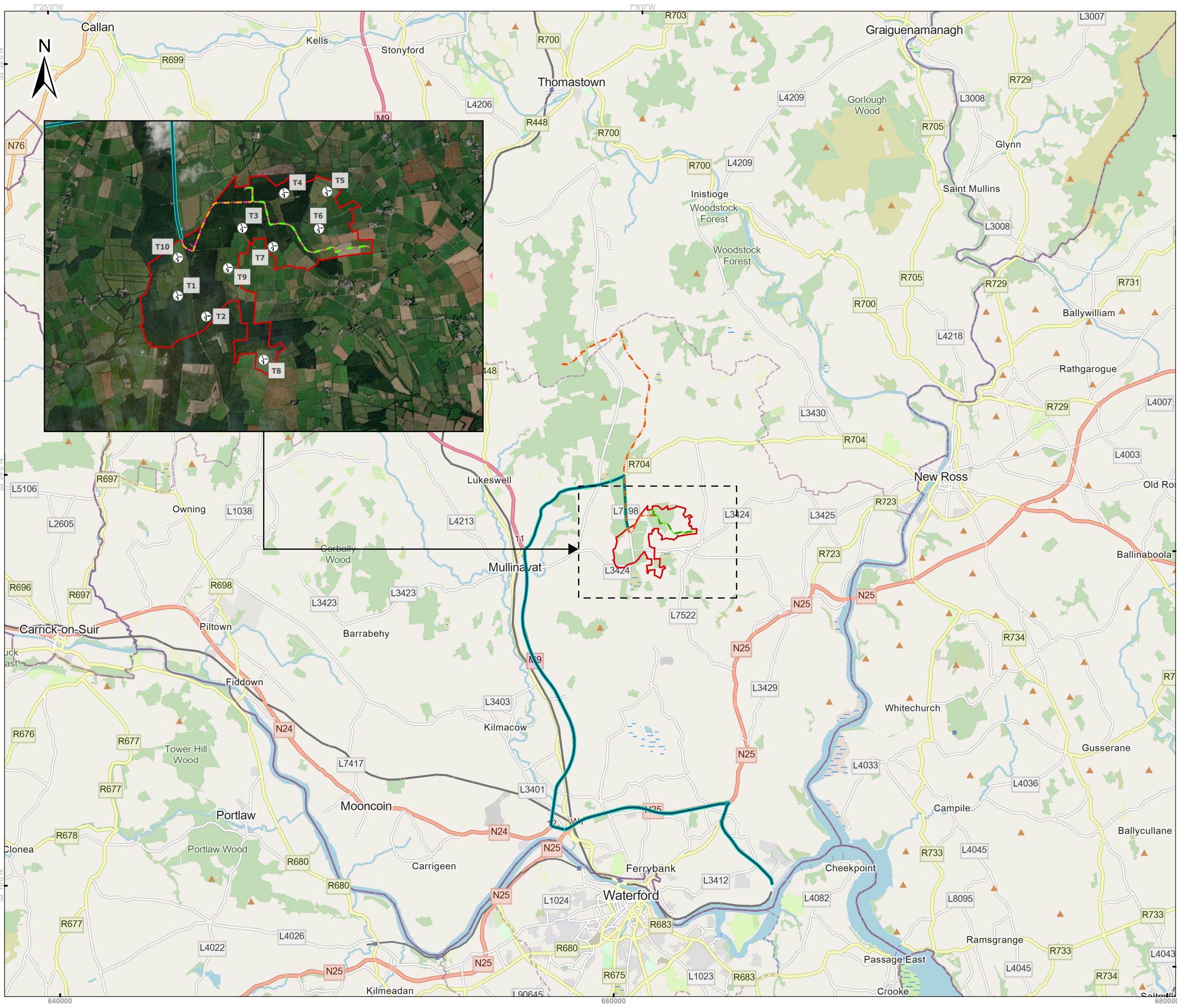
- The erection of 10 turbines. Each turbine will have a maximum blade tip height of between 170 m – 180 m, a rotor diameter of between 149 m – 163 m and a hub height of 95 m – 105.5 m;
- The project will have a MEC of between 57 – 72 MW;
- Associated hardstandings at each turbine location;
- New access roads and upgrading of existing access roads;
- Five permanent site entrances (a new permanent site entrance at the L3417 local road and modifications to existing site entrances along the L3417, L7499 and L3424 local roads);
- A new temporary road crossing location to allow turbine delivery along the L3417, L7499 and L3424 local roads;
- Permanent construction of ca. 6.5 km of new internal site access roads and upgrade of ca. 2 km existing internal site roads, to include passing bays and all associated drainage;
- Construction of temporary and permanent drainage and sediment control systems;
- Five onsite clear-span bridges;
- Installation of one permanent 100 m meteorological mast;
- Three temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing;
- Two temporary borrow pits and three deposition areas;
- Two GCO are included and assessed as part of the Proposed Project, however only one GCO would be constructed.:
  - The proposed GCO One (Figure 3-1) proposes to install a 110 kV underground cable connection from the Proposed Project to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm 110 kV substation 12 km to the north. The proposed GCO One is 12 km in length and mainly follows the public road network adjacent to T10 travelling north along the local road L3417, crossing at the junction at Three Friars Cross (regional road R704), continuing north along the L3418, before travelling west over agricultural grassland and conifer plantation and terminating at the consented Castlebanny 110 kV substation; or,
  - GCO Two proposes to connect to the existing 110 kV Great Island-Kilkenny overhead line via a loop in connection 2.3 km east of the proposed onsite substation, and thus, all the proposed cabling and associated infrastructure will be located within the proposed wind farm site.

The construction of one permanent 110 kV electrical substation which includes:

- 1 no. EirGrid Control Building containing, a Relay Room, Battery Room, Generator Room, Messroom, WC, and Workshop/ Store Room;
  - 1 no. Independent Power Producer (IPP) Control Building containing a Switchgear Room, Control Room, Office, Messroom, WC, Control Room, and Store Room;
  - Lightening Masts;
  - A Telecommunications mast;
  - Parking;
  - Security Palisade Fencing;
  - Electrical Plant and Infrastructure and Grid Ancillary Services Equipment;
  - Drainage Infrastructure;
  - All associated and ancillary works;
- Related site works and ancillary works including signage, berms, landscaping, and soil excavation;
  - Forestry felling (both permanent and temporary) to facilitate construction and operation of the Proposed Project;
  - All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed wind farm substation; and
  - The TDR (Figure 3-1) which would include the trimming and/or removal of hedgerows and/or treelines at four private locations along the route. The proposed TDR follows the public road network from the Port of Waterford to the Proposed Project following the national road N29 (Port Road), the N25 (Waterford bypass), the M9 motorway to Mullinavat, County Kilkenny before exiting to the regional road R704 and then travelling south at the junction at Three Friars Cross along the local L3417.

A 35-year operational life from the date of full commissioning of the Proposed Project is being sought for all works (other than temporary and permanent works specified above), and the subsequent decommissioning. Permission is being sought for a period of 10 years. The full Proposed Project has been considered and has been addressed as part of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment.





54°N

6°40'W

52°20'15"N

**Legend**

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Turbine locations
- Turbine Delivery Route
- Grid Connection Options
- Option 1
- Option 2

0 2.5 5

Kilometres

<b>Spatial Reference</b>		<b>Copyrights:</b>	
Datum: IRENET95		© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, ©	
EPSG: 2157			
A	09/10/2025	First issue	S.P
Rev	Date	Description	By
			Chkd.

Client:

Manogate Ltd.

Project:

Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title:

Figure 3-1  
Proposed Project Extent

Scale @ A3:

1:125,000

Prepared by:

S.Pezzetta

Checked by:

A.Murphy

Date:

October 2025

**TOBIN**

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Map Ref:

11474-001-P.App.BO-OSM-TOB-A

Draft:

A



## 4. DESKTOP AND FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

Below outlines the results of the desktop study and ecological field surveys undertaken for the Proposed Project.

### 4.1 BIRDS

#### Desktop Results

A review of the NBDC database (NBDC, 2025) was conducted for the 10 km hectads S51, S52, S53, S61, S62 and S63 which encompass the Proposed Project. The NBDC website was reviewed in November 2025 for records of Annex I bird species. Only data which has been recorded within the last 10 years has been considered. The results are presented in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1 Annex I Birds Recorded by the NBDC for Hectads S51, S52, S53, S61, S62 and S63**

Hectad	Species	Record Count	Date of Last Record
S51	Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	8	25/09/2022
	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> )	13	13/02/2023
	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	15	01/03/2019
	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	3	13/08/2017
	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> )	5	23/03/2024
S52	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	3	08/01/2018
S53	Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	4	29/11/2016
	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	7	02/02/2018
	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	11	15/03/2020
	Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )	1	11/06/2021
S61	Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	4	10/07/2020
	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )	5	18/10/2022
	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	23	29/02/2024
	Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	7	01/10/2020
	Sandwich tern ( <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> )	2	28/04/2023
	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> )	3	04/02/2019
S62	Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )	1	10/07/2020

Hectad	Species	Record Count	Date of Last Record
	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	6	19/07/2020
S63	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> )	18	12/04/2024
	Little egret ( <i>Egretta garzetta</i> )	8	29/05/2022
	Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )	2	01/07/2014

### Field Survey Results

As previously outlined in Section 2.2.2.1, a suite of bird surveys were undertaken over the period of May 2020 to March 2025 inclusive. In line with NatureScot (2017) guidance, VPS focused on 'target species'. These are species which are afforded a higher level of legislative protection, are of particular conservation concern, or are at particular risk from onshore wind developments. The ornithological survey results are discussed hereunder.

#### 4.1.1 Vantage Point Surveys

A total of 267 flights by nine identified target species were recorded during the most recent two years of surveys between April 2023 and March 2025 (survey period including all three VP sites). The species recorded most frequently was lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*) with a total of 190 flights, followed by kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) (31 flights) and golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) (14 flights). Flight activity was lower for all other target species. Peak flight activity occurred in the 2024 breeding season, with 110 flights by target species, whereas the lowest flight activity was recorded in the 2023 breeding season, with 49 flights. Lesser black-backed gull was recorded regularly in flight (flocks of one to 250 individuals), with birds landing to forage within open areas of the proposed wind farm site, with flight activity concentrated towards the north-east of the VP survey area. Kestrel was regularly recorded hunting within the survey area. This species appeared to favour the eastern, northern and central parts of the survey area. Eight kestrel flights were also recorded in the south-west during the 2023 breeding season.

A total of 14 golden plover flights were recorded near the centre of the survey area in the 2024-2025 non-breeding season. Most were recorded on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024, in flocks of two to 26 individuals. Some of these were commuting flights and others involved birds circling and landing. As the other species were recorded in very low numbers, there was limited evidence of areas favoured by these species. Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) was recorded seven times throughout the survey programme, with one observed hunting in the centre of the survey area in October 2023. Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) was recorded five times, with no observations of hunting behaviour.

During the previous seasons of VPS between the 2020 breeding season and the 2022-2023 non-breeding season, a total of 72 flights by five target species were recorded. The most frequently recorded species was buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), with 51 flights, followed by lesser black-backed gull, with 11 flights.

### 4.1.2 Breeding Bird Surveys

A total of 48 species were recorded during the programme of transect surveys (2020, 2023 and 2024). However, the majority of these species were passerines and in line with NatureScot (2017) guidance which states that passerines are not readily impacted by wind farms, these records have been omitted from the results.

Only three non-passerine breeding bird species were recorded during the survey programme: mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), lesser black-backed gull and buzzard.

It should be noted that no spatial data was collected during Breeding Bird Surveys and behavioural information was very limited. Lesser black-backed gull was recorded on four survey transects during 2023, with the largest record on a single transect being 16 birds. During 2024 surveys lesser black-backed gull was recorded during five survey transects, with 28 birds the largest record from a single transect.

Further lesser black-backed gulls were recorded incidentally during breeding season VPS, foraging in fields within the proposed wind farm site. Aggregations of up to 250 birds were recorded.

### 4.1.3 Wintering Bird Surveys

A total of 39 species were recorded during Wintering Bird Surveys (2020/2021, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025). However, the majority of these species were passerines and in line with NatureScot (2017) guidance, which states that passerines are not readily impacted by wind farms, these records have been omitted from the results.

Only two non-passerine species were recorded during the survey programme: lesser black-backed gull and buzzard. Lesser black-backed gull was recorded in small numbers during 2023/24 surveys, with a single record of six birds noted, while there were three records of birds recorded during 2024/25 surveys, again with a peak count of six birds.

It should be noted that no spatial data was collected during Wintering Bird Surveys and behavioural information was very limited.

Further lesser black-backed gulls were recorded, incidentally during winter season VPS, foraging in fields, within the proposed wind farm site. Aggregations of up to 80 birds were recorded.

### 4.1.4 Hinterland Surveys

No peregrine or hen harrier were recorded during the surveys. A total of four kestrel flights were recorded, however there was no evidence of breeding activity. Additional species recorded during hinterland surveys were mallard, black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull and buzzard.

It should be caveated that limited behavioural information was noted during Hinterland Surveys and there was limited coverage of the wider survey area from the HVPs used. However, it is considered unlikely that any raptor species other than kestrel bred successfully and went undetected within 1 km of the proposed wind farm site given the lack of flight records.

### 4.1.5 Nocturnal Surveys

There were no records of any target species during the three nocturnal survey visits, and no nocturnal species were recorded during dawn and dusk VPS.

## 4.2 OTTER

All streams and drainage ditches within the Proposed Project site were surveyed for the presence of otter (refer to Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3). No holts, spraints, slides, couches or other evidence of otter activity was recorded within the Proposed Project. However, aquatic survey site 11 (Figure 2-2) adjacent to the Proposed Project and sites 13 to 16 along the proposed GCO One (Figure 2-3) were noted to have commuting and foraging potential for otter. Aquatic survey sites 3, 9 and 10 (downstream of the Proposed Project) (Figure 2-2) were also noted to have potential for otter.

A review of the NBDC data records indicated that otter have previously been recorded by the NBDC on the Smartscastle Stream\_010 ca. 5 km downstream of the Proposed Project, on three occasions on the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_50 ca. 27 km downstream from the Proposed Project (Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_010) and on the transitional waterbody Nore Estuary, which the Arrigle\_010 River leads downstream to at an approximate hydrological distance of 30 km (NBDC, 2024).

NPWS data (NPWS, 2025b) illustrates the presence of otter habitat and freshwater commuting habitat primarily in the lower tributaries and main channels of the River Nore and River Suir, including their estuaries. However, otter freshwater commuting habitat was noted on the Arrigle\_010 River ca. 2.8 km downstream of the boundary of the proposed wind farm site, and also within the Arrigle\_020 River ca. 411 m downstream from the proposed GCO one crossing of the Arrigle\_020. The otter habitat is present within the boundary of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (NPWS, 2025b).

Considering the previous recordings of otter and the suitable habitat present, it is considered likely that otter use the connected streams and rivers that are hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project for foraging and commuting.

Otter is a QI of the downstream hydrologically connected Lower River Suir SAC and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

## 4.3 MARSH FRITILLARY

Marsh fritillary surveys were undertaken in suitable habitat (e.g., calcareous grasslands, fens, bogs and heath habitat) which is present adjacent to T3 at the area of wet grassland and wet heath. This area was thoroughly searched for the presence of the marsh fritillary host plant, devil's-bit scabious, and the plant searched for any presence of larvae and/or webs. Whilst devil's-bit scabious was occasionally found in this habitat, no marsh fritillary larvae, webs and/or individuals were recorded. Furthermore, there are no European sites present within the ZOI for which marsh fritillary is a QI species.

## 4.4 FISH AND AQUATIC SPECIES

### 4.4.1 White-clawed Crayfish

White-clawed crayfish surveys were carried out at a total of six aquatic survey sites (2, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 12) deemed to have suitable habitat, within the study area of the Proposed Project. Whilst suitable habitat (i.e., soft riverbanks, boulders, rock and debris for shelter/cover) was recorded as present within the survey sites, white-clawed crayfish were not recorded at any site during trapping and hand searching surveys.

Whilst this species was not identified during field surveys, the desktop study (NBDC, 2025) identified its presence within the Smartscastle Stream\_020 ca. 10km downstream from the Proposed Project (Smartscastle Stream\_010).

White-clawed crayfish is a QI of the downstream hydrologically connected Lower River Suir SAC and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

### 4.4.2 Atlantic Salmon

It was determined from the aquatic surveys that suitable salmonid spawning habitat was present at aquatic site 4 (Arrigle\_010), sites 8-10 (Smartscastle Stream\_010) and site 11 (Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_020) whereby heterogeneous fluvial habitat ideal for spawning and early life stages of salmonids existed. These watercourses contained riffles, instream mix of cobble and gravel base with dappled shade from over hanging banks or riparian vegetation provide good salmonid nursery habitat.

Substrate siltation was noted however at some watercourses; aquatic sites 1-3 (Arrigle\_010) and aquatic site 7 (Smartscastle Stream\_010). These first order streams were heavily silted over a low gradient that flowed through forestry plantations and agricultural lands. Heavy siltation of these waterbodies can prevent or disrupt alevin emergence and reduce the fitness of the fry and parr.

The upper reaches of the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River, Smartscastle Stream\_010 and Arrigle\_010 River within the Proposed Project are considered to be of poor quality for spawning and nursery habitat due to poor water quality, channel modification, siltation, unsuitable substrate and fluvial habitat.

A juvenile brown trout parr was recorded during kick sampling at aquatic site 5, which provided a good indication of spawning and nursery conditions in this watercourse. Brown trout were also visible swimming and jumping within the Arrigle\_010 River.

Atlantic salmon is a QI of the downstream hydrologically connected Lower River Suir SAC and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

### 4.4.3 Lamprey Species

Aquatic surveys determined that the moderate flowing low gradient nature of watercourses in the study area of the Proposed Project provided suitable conditions for lamprey larvae, which require soft substrates into which they can burrow.

An area of 0.2 m<sup>2</sup> was surveyed for lamprey ammocetes in suitable sediment present along river edges at aquatic site 4 (Arrigle\_010), aquatic sites 7 and 10 (Smartscastle Stream\_010) and



aquatic site 11 (Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_020). Two lamprey ammocoetes were recorded at aquatic site 4 (Arrigle\_010) ca. 2.7 km downstream of the Proposed Project. The remaining sites did not contain lamprey ammocoetes.

All species of lamprey are QI of the downstream hydrologically connected Lower River Suir SAC and River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

#### 4.4.4 Freshwater Pearl Mussel

The FWPM is protected under Annex II and V of the EU Habitats Directive.

FWPM is acknowledged to be one of the most demanding species of high-water quality and high riverbed quality in the world (Atkinson *et al.*, 2023) and require fast flowing, well oxygenated, pristinely clean rivers with clean gravels and sand (Moorkens, 1999).

The Suir catchment and western extent of the Proposed Project (encompasses T1 to T3 and T8 to T10) is present within a FWPM sensitive area whereby there are previous records of FWPM, but the current status is unknown (NPWS, 2020). FWPM is a QI of the downstream hydrologically connected (ca. 17.9 km downstream) Lower River Suir SAC and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (ca. 406 m downstream from the closest point [proposed GCO one crossing of the Arrigle\_020 River]).

A sensitive data request was sent to NPWS for any records of FWPM within and hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project. However, no FWPM was recorded (NPWS, 2025c).

The results of the FWPM surveys undertaken by Ecofact Environmental Consultants Ltd. are summarised hereunder. The full report can be found in Appendix A-I.

##### **Nore SC 140 sub-catchment**

A small area (ca. 539.42 m<sup>2</sup>) of the Proposed Project is present within the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment. No watercourses from this sub-catchment are present within or adjacent to the Proposed Project. No records of FWPM have been recorded within this sub-catchment, and this species was confirmed absent during surveys of the Oaklands\_010 River. Based on the survey results and the absence of any previous records from the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment the presence of FWPM in the ZOI of the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment has been ruled out.

##### **Smartscastle Stream 010 and Blackwater (Kilmacow) 020 (Blackwater [Kilmacow] SC 010 sub-catchment)**

No suitable habitat for FWPM was recorded within the Smartscastle Stream\_010 and Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 Rivers. The watercourses are deemed to be too small with unsuitable gradient and water quality to support the species, and the catchment overall is highly modified. Based on the survey results and absence of any records from the Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_SC\_010 sub-catchment the presence of FWPM in the ZOI of the Smartscastle Stream\_010 and Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 Rivers is ruled out.

##### **Arrigle 010 (Nore SC 130 sub-catchment)**

FWPM surveys conducted by Ecofact concluded no suitable habitat within the Arrigle\_010 River, both within and downstream of the Proposed Project. Locations at the River Barrow and River Nore SAC boundary (refer to Figure 5-3) were also examined which concluded no presence of FWPM. Moorkens *et al.*, 1992 reported no live mussels within the tributary of the

River Nore (this includes the Arrigle\_010); the Arrigle\_010 was included in the FWPM survey and the survey extended over 4 km of the river (which was estimated to be around 90 % of the suitable habitat in the river). Based on the current survey and absence of any records from the Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment the presence of FWPM in the Zol of the Arrigle\_010 and Nore\_SC\_130 is ruled out.

The FWPM surveys concluded the absence of the species within the sub-catchments and associated watercourses draining the proposed wind farm site and as such FWPM is not present within the Zol of the Proposed Project. Furthermore, the FWPM catchments, habitats and distribution within the Lower River Suir SAC (Clodiagh catchment [NPWS, 2017]) and River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Ballymurphy, Mountain and Nore subcatchments [NPWS, 2025d]) do not have a hydrological connectivity and/or are upstream from the Proposed Project.

## 5. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES

The first step in the identification of European sites (including proposed and candidate sites) that could be affected by the Proposed Project is to determine the potential Zol. When the Zol of the development has been determined, European sites within this area can be identified and the potential for these sites to be affected can be evaluated by considering:

- Scale and type of the development;
- Proximity to the development;
- Qualifying interests; and
- Ecological<sup>4</sup> and Landscape<sup>5</sup> connectivity.

#### 5.1.1 Determining the likely Zone of Influence

The source-pathway-receptor model (OPR, 2021) was used to identify the Zol of the Proposed Project. This conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this model must be in place. In the context of the Proposed Project, the model comprises:

- Source(s) – potential impacts from the Proposed Project, e.g., loss of habitat, direct emissions (water, air, noise and light);
- Pathway(s) – hydrological, physical or ecological connectivity between the Proposed Project and the European site; (e.g. water bodies and proximity); and
- Receptor(s) – QIs and/or SCIs of the European sites.

The Zol of the Proposed Project (in the absence of any mitigation measures) is described hereunder.

- The Zol for habitat loss is confined to the Proposed Project site and specifically to habitats within the footprint of turbines and associated infrastructure (e.g., access roads, hardstanding, substation);
- The Zol for water quality impacts are confined to waterbodies present within or downstream of the Proposed Project site and are not considered effective once the first waterbody of depositional nature is reached (i.e., lake water body; transitional water body). The Zol for hydrological impacts for the Proposed Project is therefore defined as waterbodies within, adjacent to, or downstream of the Proposed Project until the Nore Estuary (Water Framework Directive [WFD] waterbody code: IE\_SE\_100\_0400) and Middle Suir Estuary (IE\_SE\_100\_0550) are reached;

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<sup>4</sup> 'Connectivity is defined as a measure of the functional availability of the habitats needed for a particular species to move through a given area. Examples include the flight lines used by bats to travel between roosts and foraging areas or the corridors of appropriate habitat needed by some slow colonising species if they are to spread' (CIEEM, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> Landscape connectivity is a combined product of structural and functional connectivity, i.e., the effect of physical landscape structure and the actual species use of the landscape (Kettunen *et al.* 2007)

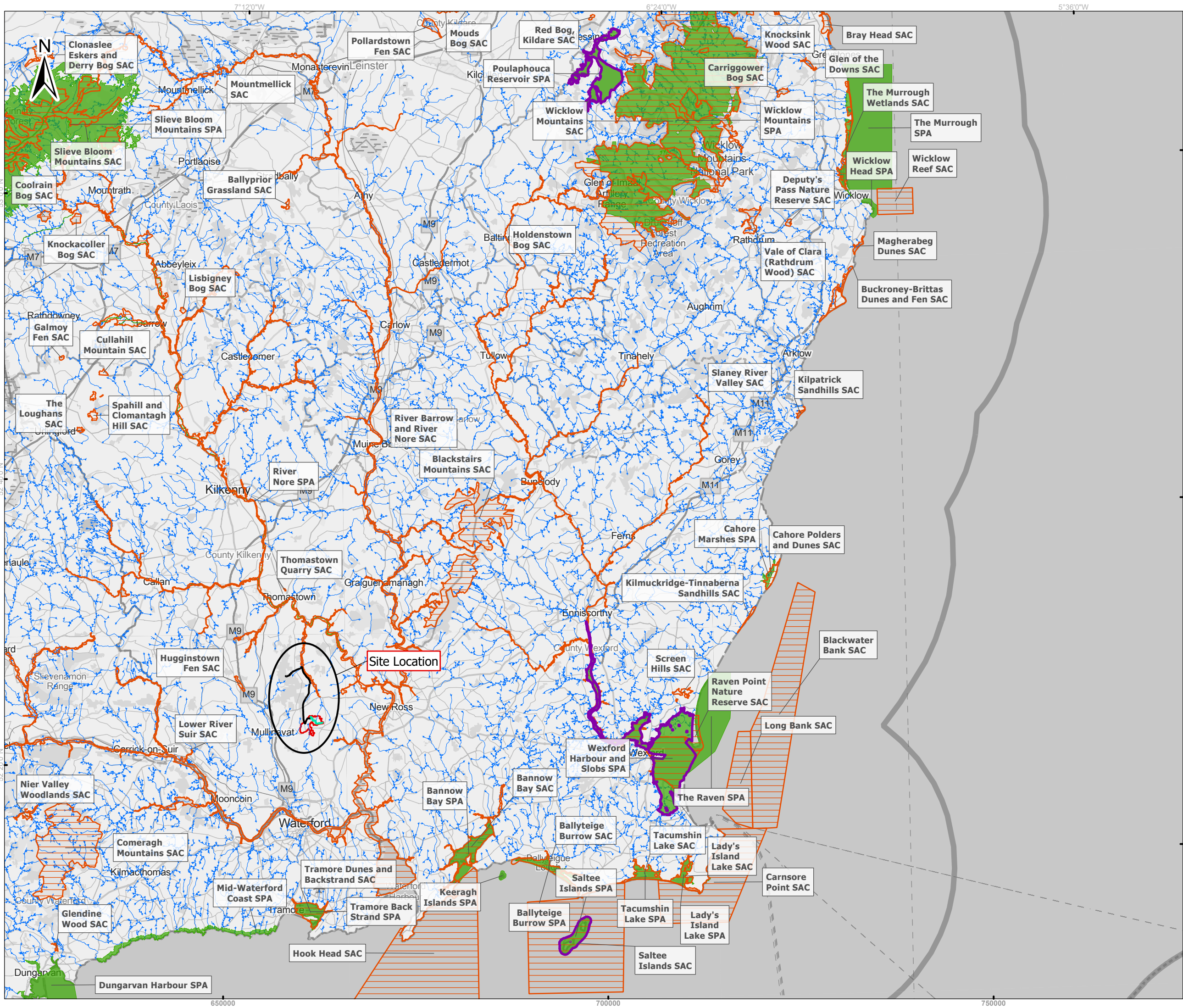
- The Zol for groundwater impacts is confined to the same ground waterbody as the Proposed Project, which in this case is Inistioge (IE\_SE\_G\_076) and Mullinavat (IE\_SE\_G\_155);
- The Zol for air quality (i.e., dust impacts) for the Proposed Project is defined to be within the spatial limit of 50 m to 250 m (IAQM, 2024). European sites are considered a 'high sensitivity receptor'. Therefore, the Zol for dust impacts to vegetation is defined to be 50m surrounding all turbines and associated infrastructure (e.g., access roads and GCO's), areas of stockpiling, borrow pits and access roads utilised by machinery;
- The Zol for disturbance to terrestrial mammals was defined with regard to the NRA guidance related to otter (NRA, 2008) which states that noise impacts from construction works can impact breeding otter holts within 150 m of a noise source (i.e., proposed infrastructure or construction activity);
- The Zol for disturbance for avifauna varies for species (e.g., 200-300 m for hen harrier [Goodship & Furness, 2022]; 500 m for non-breeding golden plover [Goodship & Furness, 2022]). Furthermore, the core foraging ranges for species recorded during bird surveys has been considered when assessing potential impacts and whether the species are SCIs of an associated SPA (e.g., The mean-max foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km [Woodward *et al.*, 2019]).

As previously discussed in Section 2.2.2.4, four waterbodies are present within/adjacent to and drain from the Proposed Project; Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River, Smartscastle Stream\_010 River, Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River. All watercourses lead downstream to European sites, namely the Lower River Suir SAC (downstream connection from both the Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_020 River and Smartscastle Stream\_010), the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and the River Nore SPA (downstream connection from the Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River).

Additional European sites with potential connectivity to the Proposed Project are the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (004076), Saltee Islands SPA (004002), Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063), Ballycotton Bay SPA (004022) and Cork Harbour SPA (004030). These European sites are designated for the SCI species lesser black-backed gull and are present within their mean-max foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019).

European sites with connectivity to the Proposed Project (utilising the source-pathway-receptor model) are illustrated in Figure 5-1 to Figure 5-3.





**Legend**

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Grid Connection Options
  - Option 1
  - Option 2
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- SPAs with bird species recorded during surveys
- Rivers

0 10 20 Kilometers

<b>Spatial Reference</b> Datum: IRENET95 EPSG: 2157		<b>Copyrights:</b> © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri		
A	03/11/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.

Client: Manogate Ltd.

Project: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title: Figure 5-1:  
European Sites Within the  
Source-Pathway-Receptor Zone  
of the Proposed Project (a)

Scale @ A3: 1:450,000

Prepared by: S.Pezzetta      Checked by: A.Murphy      Date: November 2025

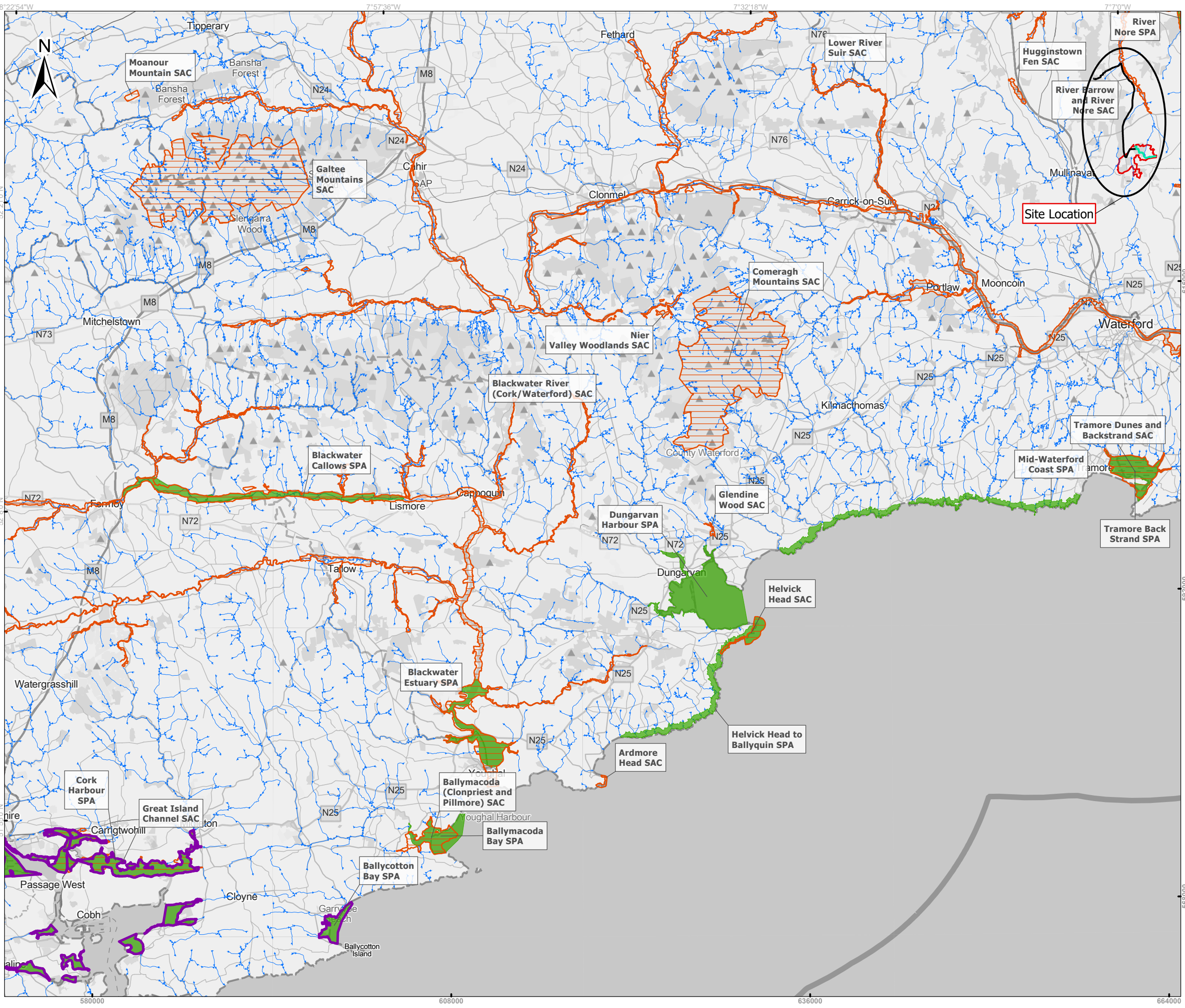
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**Legend**

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Grid Connection Options
  - Option 1
  - Option 2
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- SPAs with bird species recorded during surveys
- Rivers

0 5 10  
Kilometers

<b>Spatial Reference</b> Datum: IRENET95 EPSG: 2157		<b>Copyrights:</b> © OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri		
A	03/11/2025	First issue	S.P.	A.M.
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.

Client:

Manogate Ltd.

Project:

Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title:

Figure 5-2:  
European Sites Within the  
Source-Pathway-Receptor Zone  
of the Proposed Project (b)

Scale @ A3: 1:270,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	A.Murphy	November 2025

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**Legend**

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Turbine locations
- Grid Connection Options
- Option 1
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Rivers

0 250 500  
Meters

<b>Spatial Reference</b>		<b>Copyrights:</b>		
Datum: IRENET95 EPSG: 2157		© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors, CC-BY-SA, Microsoft, Vantor, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community		
A	03/11/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.

Client: Manogate Ltd.

Project: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title: **Figure 5-3:**  
Location of the Proposed GCO One  
in Proximity to the  
River Barrow and River Nore SAC

Scale @ A3: 1:17,090

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
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## 5.2 DESCRIPTION OF EUROPEAN SITES

A summarised description of the European sites identified as being within the ZoI of the Proposed Project have been prepared using the supporting information available on the NPWS website (NPWS, 2025a).

### River Barrow and River Nore SAC

This European site is hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project via the Arrigle\_010 River at an approximate hydrological distance of ca. 2.7 km downstream and via the Arrigle\_020 River at an approximate hydrological distance of ca. 406 m downstream of the GCO one crossing. The River Barrow and River Nore SAC '*consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford.*' (NPWS, 2025e).

The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is designated for 12 Annex I habitats and 10 Annex II species which are listed in Table 5-1.

### Lower River Suir SAC

This European site is hydrologically connected to the Proposed Project via the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River at an approximate hydrological distance of ca. 18 km downstream and via the Smartscastle Stream\_010 River at an approximate hydrological distance of 13km downstream. The Lower River Suir SAC '*consists of the freshwater stretches of the River Suir immediately south of Thurles, the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore...and many tributaries*' (NPWS, 2023).

The Lower River Suir SAC is designated for seven Annex I habitats and eight Annex II species which are listed in Table 5-1.

### River Nore SPA

The River Nore SPA (004233) is located ca. 9 km northeast (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project and is also hydrologically connected via the Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River at an approximate hydrological downstream distance of ca. 14.6 km and ca. 7 km respectively. This SPA is designated for one SCI species, kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*); a shy, reclusive bird that is a predominantly sedentary species associated with riparian habitat of streams, rivers, canals and drains (Snow and Perrins, 1998; Goodship and Furness 2022).

### Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA

The Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (004076) is located ca. 34 km east (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project. The site is divided between the natural estuarine habitats of Wexford Harbour, the reclaimed polders known as the North and South 'Slobs', and the tidal section of the River Slaney (NPWS, 2014b). This SPA designated for 33 SCI species, including lesser black-backed gull, which are listed in Table 5-1.

### Saltee Islands SPA

The Saltee Islands SPA (004002) is located ca. 42km southeast (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project. The Saltee Islands SPA is situated some 4-5 km off the coast of south Co. Wexford and comprises the two islands, Great Saltee and Little Saltee, and the surrounding seas



both between them and to a distance of 500 m from them (NPWS, 2012a). This SPA is designated for ten SCI species, including lesser black-backed gull, which are listed in Table 5-1.

#### **Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA**

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063) is located ca. 81 km northeast (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project. Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of ca. 20 km<sup>2</sup> and is the largest inland waterbody in the mid-east and south-east regions (NPWS, 2014a). This SPA is designated for two SCI species, including lesser black-backed gull, which are listed in Table 5-1.

#### **Ballycotton Bay SPA**

Ballycotton Bay SPA (004022) is located ca. 83 km southwest (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project. Situated on the south coast of County Cork, Ballycotton Bay is an east-facing coastal complex, which stretches northwards from Ballycotton to Ballynamona, a distance of ca. 2 km. The site comprises two sheltered inlets which receive the flows of several small rivers (NPWS, 2015a). This SPA is designated for 12 SCI species, including lesser black-backed gull, which are listed in Table 5-1.

#### **Cork Harbour SPA**

Cork Harbour SPA (004030) is located ca. 88 km southwest (as the crow flies) of the Proposed Project. Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system, with several river estuaries - principally those of the Rivers Lee, Douglas, Owenboy and Owennacurra. The SPA site comprises most of the main intertidal areas of Cork Harbour (NPWS, 2015b), which are listed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Identification of European sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
River Barrow and River Nore SAC [002162] (NPWS, 2025d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1310] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1130] Estuaries</li> <li>[1170] Reefs (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[4030] European dry heaths (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[6430] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[7220] * Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. The boundary of this European site does not overlap with and is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project. At the closest distance, this European site is located adjacent (ca. 1 m) from the proposed GCO one. Terrestrial habitats/species (e.g., Killarney fern, European dry heaths and old sessile oak woods) are present within the SAC boundary and have no source-pathway-receptor link identified from the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> Hydrological connectivity via the Arrigle_010 River at an approximate hydrological downstream distance of ca. 2.7 km and from the proposed GCO one crossing of the Arrigle_020 River ca. 406 m downstream. In the absence of mitigation, the Proposed Project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality of these hydrologically connected rivers during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Project. The SAC is designated for QIs which are sensitive to changes in water quality (e.g., FWPM, otter, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels).The marine QIs (e.g., mudflats and</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [91E0] * Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1016] Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1029] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1092] White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1095] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1096] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1099] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1103] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1106] Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (only in fresh water) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p>sandflats and Atlantic salt meadows) are outside the Zol as they are located beyond the depositional waterbody New Ross Port (IE_SE_100_0200).</p> <p><b>Hydrogeological:</b> Alluvial forests, petrifying springs and Desmoulin's whorl snail are groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) or species dependent on such. Excavation activities have the potential to impact upon groundwater quality. However, whilst these QIs are recorded within the same groundwaterbody (New Ross [IE_SE_G_152] and Inistioge [IE_SE_G_076]) as the Proposed Project, they are located at a significant distance (closest record of alluvial forest is ca. 8 km northeast and Desmoulin's whorl snail is ca. 25 km northeast). The Zol for groundwater impacts from excavation activities is not considered greater than 200 m.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> The Proposed Project occurs within the foraging/commuting range of QI species (e.g., otter commuting habitat is recorded within the Arrigle_010; Atlantic salmon; lamprey species).</p>	

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1421] Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>		
Lower River Suir SAC [002137] (NPWS, 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[6430] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[91E0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[91J0] <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles* (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1029] Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1092] White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1095] Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. The boundary of this European site does not overlap with and is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project. At the closest distance, this European site is located ca. 10 km southwest (as the crow flies). Terrestrial habitats/species (e.g., old sessile oak woods and <i>taxus baccata</i> woods) are present within the SAC boundary and have no source-pathway-receptor link identified from the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> Hydrological connectivity via the Blackwater (Kilmacow)_020 River (ca. 18 km downstream) and the Smartscastle Stream_010 River (ca. 13 km downstream). In the absence of mitigation, the Proposed Project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality of these hydrologically connected rivers during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Project. The SAC is designated for QIs which are sensitive to changes in water quality (e.g., FWPM, otter and hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels). The marine QI Atlantic salt meadows are</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[1096] Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1099] River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1103] Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1106] Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (to restore the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>[1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p>outside the Zol as they are located within a waterbody (Lower Suir Estuary [IE_SE_100_0500]) of depositional nature.</p> <p><b>Hydrogeological:</b> Alluvial forests are GWDTE. Excavation activities have the potential to impact upon groundwater quality. However, this QI is not located within the same groundwaterbody as the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> The Proposed Project occurs within the foraging/commuting range of QI species (e.g., otter, Atlantic salmon and lamprey species).</p>	
River Nore SPA [004233] (NPWS, 2024a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. The boundary of this European site does not overlap with and is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> Hydrological connectivity via the Arrigle_010 and Arrigle_020 River at an approximate hydrological downstream distance of ca. 14 km and 7 km respectively. In the absence of mitigation, the Proposed Project has the potential to result in the degradation of water quality of these hydrologically connected rivers during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Project. A degradation of water quality could</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
		<p>negatively impact upon feeding resources for kingfisher.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> Kingfisher are very territorial species which nest in banks along rivers (Snow and Perrins, 1998; Goodship and Furness 2022). Considering the territorial nature of the species, they are unlikely to occur outside the boundaries of the SPA and therefore are unlikely to occur within proximity to the Proposed Project. This species was not recorded during bird surveys from the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive).</p>	
<p>Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA [004076]</p> <p>(NPWS, 2012b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>) [A037] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. This SPA is located ca. 34 km east of the Proposed Project. The boundary of this European site does not overlap or is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> None. There is no hydrological pathway to this European site.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> During bird surveys conducted over the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) lesser black-backed gull, hen harrier and golden plover were recorded. However, the core foraging range for hen harrier is 2 km (maximum 10 km) and golden plover is 3 km (maximum 11 km) (SNH, 2016). For this reason, both hen harrier and golden plover</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p>which were recorded during surveys are not considered to be part of the SCI population of this SPA. However, the mean-maximum foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019) and therefore, utilising the precautionary approach, sightings of this species within the proposed wind farm site may be part of the SCI population of this SPA.</p>	



European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>		

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within ZoI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland and waterbirds [A999] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>		
Saltee Islands SPA [004002] (NPWS, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. This SPA is located ca. 42 km southeast of the Proposed Project. The boundary of this European site does not overlap with and is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> None. There is no hydrological pathway to this European site.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> During bird surveys conducted over the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) the only SCI species of this SPA that was recorded was lesser black-backed gull. The mean-maximum foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019) and therefore, utilising the precautionary approach, sightings of this species within the proposed wind farm site may be part of the SCI population of this SPA.</p>	Yes
Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063] (NPWS, 2024b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. This SPA is located ca. 81 km northeast of the Proposed Project. The boundary of this European site does not overlap or is</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within ZOI
		<p>not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> None. There is no hydrological pathway to this European site.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> During bird surveys conducted over the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) the only SCI species of this SPA that was recorded was that of the lesser black-backed gull. The mean-maximum foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019) and therefore, utilising the precautionary approach, sightings of this species within the proposed wind farm site may be part of the SCI population of this SPA.</p>	
Ballycotton Bay SPA [004022] (NPWS, 2014c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. This SPA is located ca. 83 km southwest of the Proposed Project. The boundary of this European site does not overlap or is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> None. There is no hydrological pathway to this European site.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> During bird surveys conducted over the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) lesser black-backed gull and golden plover</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within ZOI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Wetland and waterbirds [A999] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	were recorded. However, the core foraging range for golden plover is 3 km (maximum 11 km) (SNH, 2016). For this reason, golden plover which were recorded during surveys are not considered to be part of the SCI population of this SPA. However, the mean-maximum foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i> , 2019) and therefore, utilising the precautionary approach, sightings of this species within the proposed wind farm site may be part of the SCI population of this SPA.	
Cork Harbour SPA [004030] (NPWS, 2014d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical:</b> None. This SPA is located ca. 88 km southwest of the Proposed Project. The boundary of this European site does not overlap or is not located adjacent to the Proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Hydrological:</b> None. There is no hydrological pathway to this European site.</p> <p><b>Ecological:</b> During bird surveys conducted over the period May 2020 and March 2025 (inclusive) lesser black-backed gull and golden plover were recorded. However, the core foraging range for golden plover is 3</p>	Yes

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within Zol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>	<p>km (maximum 11 km) (SNH, 2016). For this reason, golden plover which were recorded during surveys are not considered to be part of the SCI population of this SPA. However, the mean-maximum foraging range for lesser black-backed gull is 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019) and therefore, utilising the precautionary approach, sightings of this species within the proposed wind farm site may be part of the SCI population of this SPA.</p>	

European Sites	Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest (* denotes priority habitat) and Conservation Objective	Connectivity	Within ZoI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> <li>• Wetland and waterbirds [A999] (to maintain the Favourable conservation condition)</li> </ul>		

## 6. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITES

An overview of potential impacts as a result of the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Project on the receiving environment is discussed hereunder. The likelihood of impacts occurring because of the Proposed Project is established in light of the type and scale of the project, the location of the project with respect to European sites within the Zol and the QIs/SCIs and conservation objectives of those European sites.

There are several elements associated with the works, that may give rise to direct and indirect impacts on the receiving environment that have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites within the Zol.

### 6.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND EFFECTS

The potential impacts and effects associated with all phases (i.e., construction, operational and decommissioning) of the Proposed Project on the previously discussed European sites in the Zol are discussed herein.

In summary, the potential impacts as a result of the Proposed Project consists of:

- Habitat loss (permanent and temporary);
- Habitat degradation due to water quality impacts;
- Habitat degradation due to dust deposition;
- Habitat degradation due to hydrogeological impacts;
- Disturbance (noise and lighting); and
- Collision risk.

#### River Barrow and River Nore SAC

As previously stated, a hydrological connection from the Proposed Project to this SAC is present via the Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River. The Arrigle\_010 is crossed by three clear-span bridges at T5 and T6, and an unmapped tributary of the Arrigle\_010 southwest of T6. The Arrigle\_010 also runs adjacent to the access road near T6.

The proposed GCO One crosses the Arrigle\_010 (including unmapped waterbodies/tributaries leading downstream to this) at two locations and crosses the Arrigle\_020 (including unmapped waterbodies/tributaries leading downstream to this) at four locations. All cable water crossings have been designed in the project to be undertaken via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The proposed GCO One also runs adjacent to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC at a distance of ca. 1m, where the cable will be installed within an existing unnamed road.

The GCO Two cable will be HDD under an unmapped tributary of the Arrigle\_010 southwest of T6.

There is potential for surface water runoff to enter these waterbodies and lead to the degradation of water quality. Site clearance, excavation activities, and the stockpiling of material have the potential to result in sediment laden run-off, if not appropriately managed. Additionally, pollution laden runoff (i.e., chemicals, hydrocarbons associated with the construction and decommissioning phase) can also lead to the degradation of water quality. Furthermore, increased dust as a result of construction phase activities (e.g., excavation, site clearance and movement of machinery) could lead to the deposition of dust particles creating a film on waterbodies, especially those with little to no flow.



Such deterioration of water quality could lead to effects on aquatic and semi-aquatic species (e.g., Atlantic salmon and otter) through a reduction in dissolved oxygen in the water column, increased turbidity and reduction of prey availability/effects to the food chain and, in worst case scenarios, fish mortality (Chanin, 2003; IFI, 2016).

The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is present within the ZOI for air quality/dust impacts and is defined as a 'High' sensitivity ecological receptor with the greatest impact from demolition and earth works (IAQM, 2024)

Disturbance impacts, primarily for otter, are likely as a result of increased noise and human presence during the construction and decommissioning phases. Disturbance impacts to otter are no greater than 150 m (NRA, 2008), however given the presence of the Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River within the Proposed Project, there is potential for otter to utilise these stretches of river, in addition to drainage ditches, for foraging and commuting. Whilst otter are crepuscular, sightings in daytime hours are possible. Any works occurring during twilight hours, including the use of temporary lighting, will increase the potential for disturbance impacts to otter. However, no otter holts were identified and potential impacts are for foraging/commuting otter only.

### **Lower River Suir SAC**

As previously stated, a hydrological connection from the Proposed Project to this SAC is present via the Blackwater (Kilmacow)\_020 River and Smartscastle Stream\_010 River. The Smartscastle Stream\_010 River is crossed by a clear-span bridge at T9 and an unmapped tributary of this waterbody is crossed by a clear-span bridge at T8.

Water quality, dust deposition and disturbance impacts which were discussed above for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC are also applicable to the Lower River Suir SAC.

### **River Nore SPA**

As previously stated, there is a hydrological connection from the Proposed Project to this SPA via the Arrigle\_010 and Arrigle\_020 River. The Arrigle\_010 is crossed by three clear-span bridges at T5, T6 and at an unmapped tributary of the Arrigle\_010 southwest of T6. The Arrigle\_010 also runs adjacent to the access road near T6. The proposed GCO One crosses the Arrigle\_010 (including unmapped waterbodies/tributaries leading downstream to this) at two locations and crosses the Arrigle\_020 (including unmapped waterbodies/tributaries leading downstream to this) at four locations. All waterbodies lead downstream to the River Nore SPA.

There is potential for the degradation of water quality to impede upon feeding resources of kingfisher, the SCI species of this SPA.

### **Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA**

This European site is located at a significant distance (ca. 34 km east) from the Proposed Project with no hydrological connectivity identified. However, lesser black-backed gull, which was frequently recorded during bird surveys, is an SCI species of Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA. Due to this species' very large foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and its repeated presence within the proposed wind farm site during the survey period, and utilising the precautionary approach, lesser black-backed gull have the potential to be part of the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA population. For this reason, there is potential for this species to be impacted by noise disturbances and collision risk with turbines.

### **Saltee Islands SPA**

This European site is located at a significant distance (ca. 42km southeast) from the Proposed Project with no hydrological connectivity identified. However, lesser black-backed gull, which was frequently recorded during bird surveys, is an SCI species of the Saltee Islands SPA. Due to this species' very large foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and its repeated presence within the proposed wind farm site during the survey period, and utilising the precautionary approach, lesser black-backed gull have the potential to be part of the Saltee Islands SPA population. For this reason, there is potential for this species to be impacted by noise disturbances and collision risk with turbines.

### **Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA**

This European site is located at a significant distance (ca. 81 km northeast) from the Proposed Project with no hydrological connectivity identified. However, lesser black-backed gull, which was frequently recorded during bird surveys, is an SCI species of the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA. Due to this species' very large foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and its repeated presence within the proposed wind farm site during the survey period, and utilising the precautionary approach, lesser black-backed gull have the potential to be part of the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA population. For this reason, there is potential for this species to be impacted by noise disturbances and collision risk with turbines.

### **Ballycotton Bay SPA**

This European site is located at a significant distance (ca. 83 km southwest) from the Proposed Project with no hydrological connectivity identified. However, lesser black-backed gull, which was frequently recorded during bird surveys, is an SCI species of Ballycotton Bay SPA. Due to this species' very large foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and its repeated presence within the proposed wind farm site during the survey period, and utilising the precautionary approach, lesser black-backed gull have the potential to be part of the Ballycotton Bay SPA population. For this reason, there is potential for this species to be impacted by noise disturbances and collision risk with turbines.

### **Cork Harbour SPA**

This European site is located at a significant distance (ca. 88 km southwest) from the Proposed Project with no hydrological connectivity identified. However, lesser black-backed gull, which was frequently recorded during bird surveys, is an SCI species of Cork Harbour SPA. Due to this species' very large foraging range of 236 km (Woodward *et al.*, 2019) and its repeated presence within the proposed wind farm site during the survey period, and utilising the precautionary approach, lesser black-backed gull have the potential to be part of the Cork Harbour SPA population. For this reason, there is potential for this species to be impacted by noise disturbances and collision risk with turbines.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Potential likely significant effects via a hydrological pathway have been identified between the Proposed Project and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, the Lower River Suir SAC and the River Nore SPA and via the use of the proposed wind farm site by SCI species of the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA, Saltee Islands SPA, Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, Ballycotton Bay SPA and Cork Harbour SPA (Section 5.1 and 6.1). The Proposed Project has the potential to give rise to water quality impacts, disturbance impacts and collision risk during the construction, operational and/or decommissioning phases.

Whilst the Annex I habitats for which the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and the Lower River Suir SAC are designated would not be impacted by the Proposed Project (i.e., the Proposed Project is not present within the boundary of the SACs or any European site and with no source-pathway-receptor link identified), in the absence of mitigation, there is potential for likely significant effects on Annex II aquatic and semi-aquatic species and Annex I habitats (i.e., FWPM, white-clawed crayfish, lamprey (sea, brook, river) species, Atlantic salmon, twaite shad, otter, hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels, water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation). The results of the desktop study and ecological field surveys are discussed in Section 4 which determined the likely presence of the aforementioned aquatic and semi-aquatic species within the Zol of the Proposed Project. Similarly, whilst direct effects on the River Nore SPA as a result of the Proposed Project will not arise, in the absence of mitigation, there is potential for likely significant effects on the SCI species (i.e., kingfisher) due to potential water quality impacts. Furthermore, direct effects on the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA, Saltee Islands SPA Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, Ballycotton Bay SPA and Cork Harbour SPA will also not arise, however, in the absence of mitigation, there is potential for direct and indirect disturbance effects and collision risk to SCI species, namely lesser black-backed gull.

### 7.1 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

A study area was identified for other developments for the purpose of the cumulative assessment. This was set at a 10 km radius from the proposed wind farm site, within which 'other development' is either in situ or has planning permission (a full list of these developments is provided in Appendix A-III). These other developments included searches for any renewable energy developments, electrical and water services, roadworks, industrial, residential and any other large developments.

To conduct the in-combination impact assessment, the online planning registers for Kilkenny City and County Council as well as An Coimisiún Pleanála were used. Relevant NIS and EIAR (or historical EIS) documents, planning application details and planning drawings within the study area of the Proposed Project were reviewed to identify past and future projects, their activities and their environmental impacts.

#### 7.1.1 Projects

##### **Castlebanny Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: PA10.309306)**

Springfield Renewables Limited (Ltd.) applied for planning for the construction of a wind farm at Castlebanny, County Kilkenny located ca. 2 km north of the Proposed Project (this development was consented but is currently in the judicial review process).

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment and NIS were prepared (Blackthorn Ecology, 2021). The NIS identified the potential for adverse effects on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Lower River Suir SAC, River Nore SPA and Saltee Islands SPA. The NIS details a range of mitigation measures to ensure adverse effects to European sites do not arise. The NIS concluded that *'The NIS contains information which the Board, as competent authority, may consider in making its own complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions and upon which the Board is capable of determining that all reasonable scientific doubt has been removed as to the effects of the Proposed Project on the integrity of the relevant Natura 2000 sites. In light of the conclusions of the assessment which it shall conduct on the implications for the European sites concerned, the Board is enabled to ascertain that the Proposed Project will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the European sites concerned'* (Blackthorn Ecology, 2021). The Proposed Project has identified potential impacts to the same European sites. In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with the proposed Castlebanny Wind Farm.

#### **Ballymartin Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: PL10.208178)**

Ballymartin Wind Farm is fully operational and is located adjacent to the proposed wind farm site. The initial Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 2003 and noted that the site was not present within an ecological designation. The report notes the presence of golden plover and hen harrier, but with unsuitable breeding habitat present. An AA Screening/NIS was provided to Kilkenny County Council as part of the planning application for this project and was therefore subject to statutory planning requirements in relation to the protection of European sites. As this project was granted planning permission, it can be concluded that no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site were identified. In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with the existing Ballymartin Wind Farm.

#### **Smithstown Wind Farm (Kilkenny County Council: 07/2141)**

Smithstown Wind Farm is fully operational and is located adjacent to the proposed wind farm site. The EIS was submitted in 2007, which assessed impacts to protected bird and fauna species in addition to water quality impacts and habitat loss. Significant effects were not concluded and minimal mitigation measures suggested (e.g., turbine siting to reduce bird collisions and offsite washing of concrete and vehicles). An AA Screening/NIS was provided to Kilkenny County Council as part of the planning application for this project and was therefore subject to statutory planning requirements in relation to the protection of European sites. As this project was granted planning permission, it can be concluded that no direct or indirect impacts that could adversely affect the integrity of any European site were identified. In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with the existing Smithstown Wind Farm.

#### **Rahora Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: PL10.206373)**

An application was made in 2003 by Ecopower Developments Ltd. (Kilkenny County Council planning reference 03/1117 [refused but overturned by An Coimisiún Pleanála]) for the development of a wind farm in the townlands of Rahor, Ballallog, Guillkagh More, Brownstown, County Kilkenny. Rahora Wind Farm is fully operational and is located ca. 2 km northeast of the proposed wind farm site. An EIS was submitted in 2003 and concluded the absence of Annex protected mammals and habitats but noted the presence of the Annex I protected bird species golden plover. No significant effects were concluded as a result of Rahora Wind Farm. Given the close proximity (ca. 2 km) to the Proposed Project and in the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with the existing Rahora Wind Farm.



**Beallough Wind Farm (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: PL93.245176)**

Beallough Wind Farm is fully operational and is located ca. 18 km southwest from the Proposed Project. Beallough Wind Farm consists of two turbines and thus is of a small scale and is located at a significant distance (ca. 18 km as the crow flies) and within a different catchment to the Proposed Project. For these reasons, in-combination effects are not expected to occur with the Proposed Project.

**Ballyhale Flood Relief Scheme (An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: JA10.317082)**

An application was made by Kilkenny County Council in 2023 for a flood relief scheme (FRS) in Ballyhale, County Kilkenny ca. 11 km northwest of the Proposed Project. This project is present within the same subcatchment (Nore\_SC\_130) to that of the Proposed Project and leads downstream to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. A Screening for Appropriate Assessment and NIS were prepared by Altamar Ltd. (Altamar, 2022). This NIS concludes: *‘Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined, the proposed works would not be deemed to have a significant impact. No significant negative impacts are likely on Natura 2000 sites, alone in combination with other plans and projects based on the implementation of standard construction phase mitigation measures’* (Altamar, 2022). In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with Ballyhale FRS.

**Other Smaller Developments:**

There are a number of small projects and applications in the area surrounding the Proposed Project that involve the construction or extension of small residential properties and/or agricultural infrastructure. A full list of these developments is provided in Appendix A-III. Due to the lack of connectivity, and nature and scale of these small developments there will be no significant effects on any designated sites and therefore there is no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Project.

**7.1.2 Plans**

Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) sets out policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the City and County whilst having regard to relevant national plans, policies and strategies. Chapter 1 – Introduction of the Plan outlines Objective 1A *“To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance...”* (KCCDP, 2021).

Chapter 9 - Heritage, Culture and the Arts outlines development management requirements:

*“To ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive”;*

*“To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites”;* and

*“To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development”.*



In the absence of mitigation, there is potential for in-combination effects with the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan.

## 8. CONCLUSION

Likely significant effects on the European sites (Lower River Suir SAC, River Barrow and River Nore SAC, River Nore SPA, Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA, Saltee Islands SPA, Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, Ballycotton Bay SPA and Cork Harbour SPA) within the Zol of the Proposed Project cannot be excluded based on a preliminary assessment and objective criteria of the potential impacts arising from the Proposed Project, alone and in-combination with other plans and projects, in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant sites. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Project should progress to the next stage of the process to determine if it will adversely affect the integrity of the eight European sites and to propose mitigation.

We therefore submit that the competent authority, in this case An Coimisiún Pleanála, can determine that an Appropriate Assessment is required for the Lower River Suir SAC (002137), the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162), the River Nore SPA (004233), the Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (004076), the Saltee Islands SPA (004002), Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (004063), Ballycotton Bay SPA (004022) and Cork Harbour SPA (004030) and that the Proposed Project, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects and in view of its conservation objectives, has the potential to have likely significant effects. Therefore, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

## 9. REFERENCES

- Altamar (2022). Ballyhale Flood Relief Scheme Natura Impact Statement. Available online at: <https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/EIAR-NIS/317082/Ballyhale%20Flood%20Relief%20Scheme%20Planning%20Pack/1.0%20EIAR%20Documents/Natura%20Impact%20Statement/Ballyhale%20NIS%20200123.pdf?r=462483254230> [Accessed September 2025].
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## Appendix A-I      FRESHWATER PEARL MUSSEL SURVEY REPORT

# BALLYFASEY WIND FARM

## Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey



Version: 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ecofact Environmental Consultants Ltd. was commissioned by Tobin to undertake a Stage 1 Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) of watercourses affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm in Co. Kilkenny. The purpose of the survey was to establish if Freshwater Pearl Mussels (FPMs) were present in the likely zone of influence of the proposed wind farm development.

The survey was undertaken in September 2024 under optimal environmental conditions. FPM surveys were conducted on all watercourses draining the site. The location of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site in Co. Kilkenny is shown in Figure 1.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel is acknowledged to be one of the most demanding species of high water quality and high river bed quality in the world (Atkinson *et al*, 2024). Whilst Ireland supports a significant proportion of the *Margaritifera* populations remaining in Europe, these populations have been in dramatic decline in recent years, with an estimated decline of between 12.6% - 32.7 % between the 2007-2012 and 2013 – 2018 monitoring periods (NPWS, 2019). The species is on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and throughout the island of Ireland it is rated as critically endangered (Atkinson *et al*, 2024).

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel is afforded legal protection under the Wildlife Acts (1976 - 2023) in Ireland. The species was added to the fifth schedule of the Act under Statutory Instrument No. 112 of 1990. Therefore, under Section 23, it is an offence to injure or wilfully interfere with or destroy the breeding place or resting place of *Margaritifera*. The Wildlife Act affords protection to all *Margaritifera* populations within Ireland, regardless of whether they occur within or outside of an SAC (Atkinson *et al*, 2024). At a European level, *Margaritifera* is protected under the Habitats Directive and is listed under Annex II and Annex V of the Directive. The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law via the European Communities Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (S. I. No. 477 of 2011).

The Nore Pearl Mussel (*M. durrovensis*) is now considered to be an ecotype of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*M. margaritifera*) rather than a separate species (Geist *et al*, 2018). In this report the name Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*M. margaritifera*) is used to cover both *M. margaritifera* and the *M. durrovensis*. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Qualifying Interest list of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) no longer includes *M. durrovensis*. The Qualifying Interest (QI) is now *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029].





**Figure 1** Location of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site in Co. Kilkenny.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Desk study

A desk-study was undertaken to identify existing records for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel from within the affected river catchments, and to identify the potential for this species to occur within the study area. A desk study review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) designations for this species relating to the affected rivers and the relevant legislation in place for the protection of this species was also undertaken.

### 2.2 Field surveys

Surveys of *Margaritifera* within a watercourse carry an inherent risk of damage to mussel beds and mussel habitats, and therefore a licence is required under Sections 9, 23 and 34 of the Wildlife Act to undertake surveys of the species.

Therefore, the current survey was carried out under license (NPWS Licence No. C131/2024). The methodology employed followed the NPWS guidance '*Margaritifera margaritifera* Stage 1 and Stage 2 survey guidelines' (Anon, 2004). The surveys undertaken were to establish whether FPMs were present in the subject river channels, employing a wading / bathyscope survey. The objective of a Stage 1 FPM survey is to establish whether adult *Margaritifera margaritifera* are present or not in a river.

All watercourses were surveyed in detail to 1km downstream of the proposed wind farm site boundary. This area is shown in Figure 2. Only small 1<sup>st</sup> order watercourses are present in this area. They were all surveyed visually and no snorkelling was required. This was the survey area for the contract and all channels in this area were fully evaluated. A further general overview survey was then undertaken to 5km downstream of the proposed wind farm site (See Figure 3). The surveys in this area were general overview surveys as per the contract. Detailed assessments were also carried out at 14 selected sites (also shown in Figure 3).

#### 2.2.1 FPM habitat assessment

Habitat has a key influence on the presence/absence and density of mussels in a river. The habitat requirements for Freshwater Pearl Mussels are outlined in Skinner *et al.* (2003). These mussels require pristine freshwater ecosystems to survive and reproduce. They inhabit medium-to-large streams or rivers with moderate to steep gradients, where fast-flowing, well-oxygenated water supports clean substrates of sand, gravel, and cobble. In Ireland, Freshwater Pearl Mussels are found in a variety of rivers, ranging from the main channels of large watercourses to small streams.

Freshwater Pearl Mussels are typically found in medium-to-large rivers and streams, particularly those classified as stream orders 2, 3, and 4 (Moorkens, 2000). These streams provide the appropriate size and flow conditions needed to support mussel populations. Gradients in these watercourses are moderate to steep, promoting fast-flowing water that ensures high levels of oxygenation. The riverbed substrata are critical, with mussels favouring small sand patches stabilized among larger stones or boulders. This type of substrate provides stability and minimizes the risk of smothering by fine sediments. Areas with significant sedimentation of silt are unsuitable, as such conditions can clog feeding structures and prevent successful juvenile recruitment. Mussel aggregations are often found in shaded areas, typically created by overhanging vegetation, which help moderate water temperatures. Substrate stability, governed by composition, flow extremes, and the gradient of the watercourse, is another crucial factor for suitable habitat. Bankside vegetation also plays an important role in mussel habitats by providing shade, stabilizing riverbanks, and reducing sediment input from erosion. These



ecological interactions highlight the dependence of Freshwater Pearl Mussels on a healthy and interconnected aquatic ecosystem.

High water quality is essential for Freshwater Pearl Mussels to survive and reproduce. They require high dissolved oxygen levels, typically exceeding 9 mg/L, and low concentrations of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. A stable pH range, generally between 6.5 and 8, is also critical. Consistent water clarity and low levels of fine sediments are necessary to avoid suffocation and habitat degradation. Cool water temperatures, typically below 20°C, are ideal for their physiological functioning. The absence of pollutants, including heavy metals, pesticides, and organic contaminants, is vital for the survival of both adult mussels and juveniles. Although older mussels can sometimes persist in areas with reduced water quality, healthy populations are strongly associated with unpolluted waters.

The survival of Freshwater Pearl Mussels is closely linked to the presence of suitable host fish, such as juvenile salmonids (*Salmo salar* and *Salmo trutta*). These fish are essential for the glochidia, the larval stage of mussels, which attach to the gills of the fish to develop. In Ireland, the hosts for glochidia are young native salmonids, typically within their first three years of life. A healthy population of juvenile salmonids is crucial, as the chances of glochidia attaching successfully are very low; most glochidia are swept downstream and die.

A general assessment of the habitat suitability and condition of the receiving watercourses was carried out at 14 selected sites. These sites are shown in Figure 3 and listed in Table 1. These sites were selected during the general survey of the wider area. These were locations which were considered to have suitable potential habitats. The habitat assessments were based on the known requirements of this species as outlined above. The surveys at these sites also had regard to the environmental parameters set out in the Fourth Schedule of the EC Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations (S.I. 296 of 2009).

### 2.2.2 Personnel and limitations

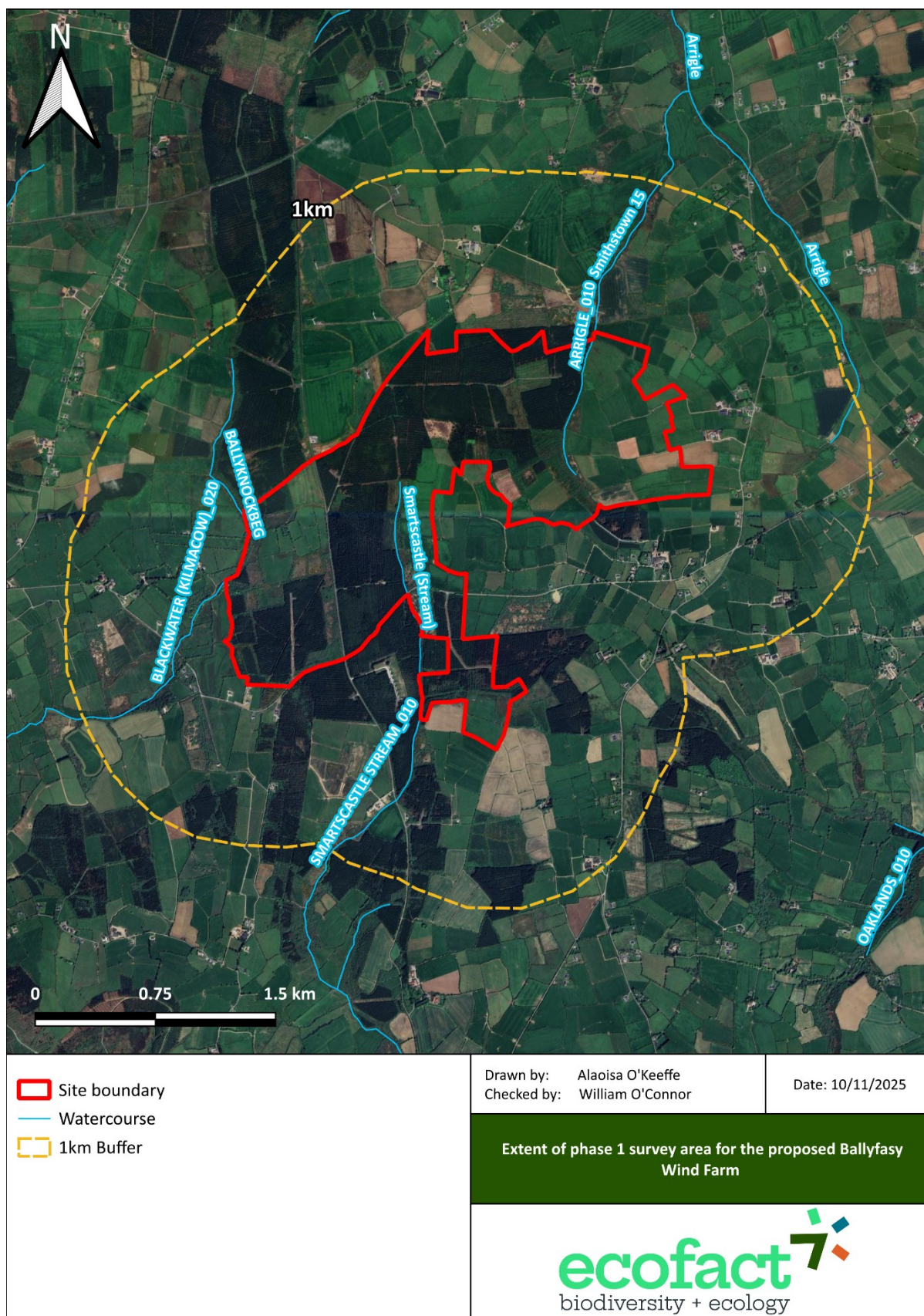
The surveys were completed by licenced surveyor Dr. William O'Connor, with assistance from Grace Walsh M.Sc. and Eoin McMahon. The surveys were completed during ideal conditions (dry, bright and normal water levels) during September 2024. Strict biosecurity measures were implemented between sites, including disinfecting all equipment using Virkon Aquatic. No significant limitations to the survey were identified.



**Table 1** Location of the 14 sites selected for general habitat suitability and condition assessments.

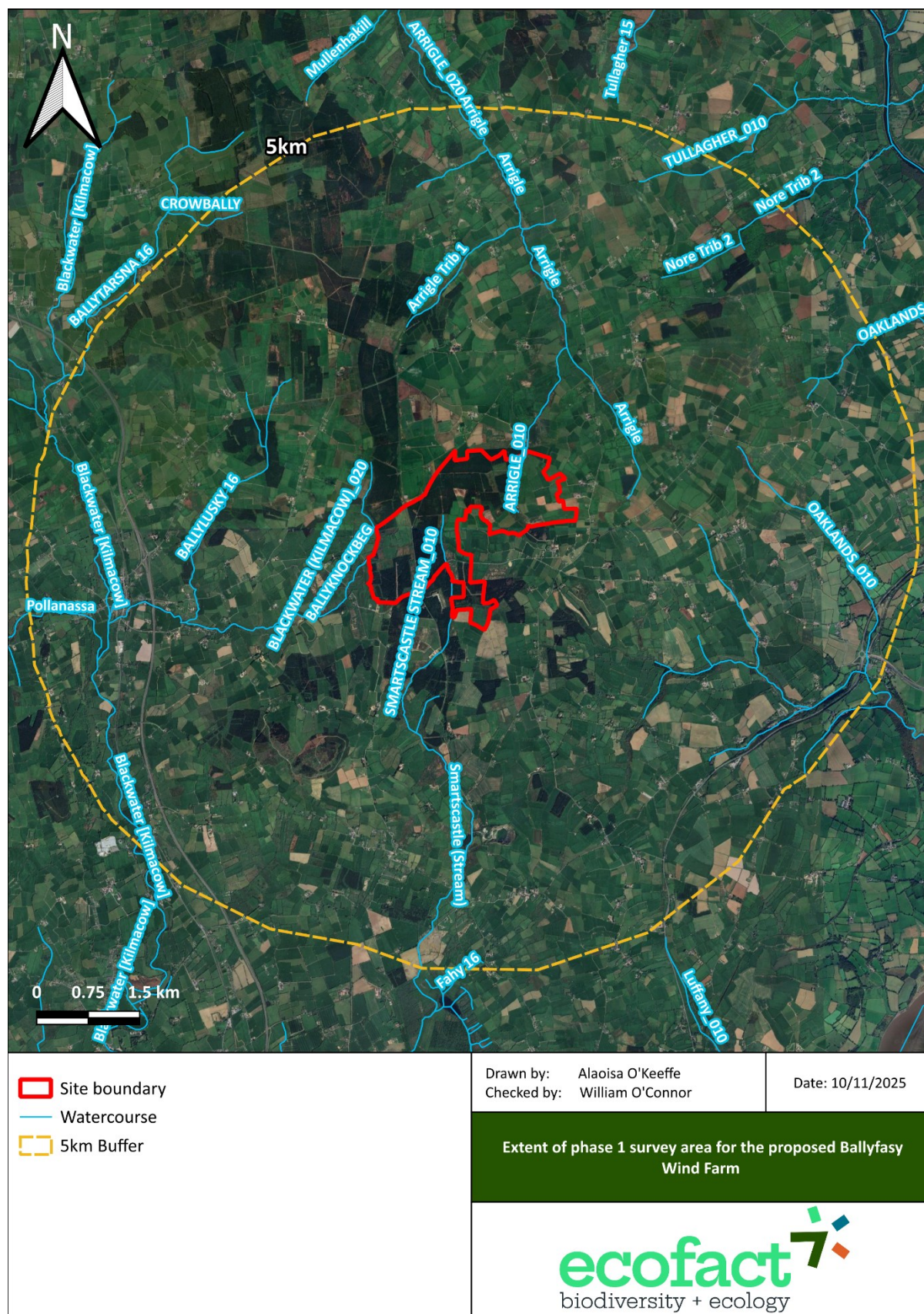
Site Number	River	Segment Code	EPA Code	X	Y
A1	Arrigle	15_1470	15A02	662282	626764
A2	Arrigle	15_276	15A02	662509	629084
A3	Arrigle	15_502	15A02	662119	630104
A4	Arrigle	15_503	15A02	660647	632248
A5	Arrigle	15_90	15A02	660176	633190
A6	Arrigle	15_92	15A02	660375	635079
A7	Arrigle	15_93	15A02	660743	638230
G1	Glenmore River	16_1485	16B73	659678	624618
S1	Smartscastle (Stream)	16_1485	16B73	658011	624044
S2	Smartscastle (Stream)	16_3475	16S07	661214	621904
S3	Smartscastle (Stream)	16_3475	16S07	661255	620250
S4	Smartscastle (Stream)	16_3475	16S07	660984	619670
B1	Ballyknockbeg	16_3342	16S07	660451	617774
B2	Ballyknockbeg	15_2039	NA	665647	623522





**Figure 2** Extent of the Phase 1 survey of watercourses affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site in Co. Kilkenny.





**Figure 3** Extent of the general survey of watercourses affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site in Co. Kilkenny (5km radius).



### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

The location of Natura 2000 sites in relation to the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site is shown in Figure 4. The proposed development is located upstream of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code 002162) and the Lower River Suir SAC (Site Code 002137). Both of these Natura 2000 sites are designated for Freshwater Pearl Mussel [1029].

Three sub-catchments are affected by the proposed wind farm development; the Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment, the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment, and the Blackwater[Kilmacow]\_SC\_010 sub-catchment. These catchments are indicated in Figure 5.

#### 3.2 Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment

There is one watercourse within the boundary of the proposed wind farm site that is part of the Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment. This sub-catchment is shown in Figure 6. This is the Smithstown15 stream which is part of the headwaters of the River Arrigle. The Smithstown15 stream rises within the proposed development site and flows north to form the River Arrigle. The River Arrigle joins the River Nore upstream of Thomastown. The main channel of most of the River Arrigle is designated as part of the River barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

There is no suitable habitat for Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the Smithstown15 stream on the site. This watercourse is too small to support this species. The section of the River Arrigle from the Smithstown15 stream confluence downstream to the boundary of the SAC is also not considered to have any potential for Freshwater Pearl Mussels. The SAC boundary is at the R704 bridge and there is a lot of siltation at this point and there is no evidence of any mussels being present. Downstream of here the physical character of the river improves and from Ballyconnaught downstream the River Arrigle does have potential Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitats present. This area is >5km downstream of the proposed wind farm site.

The river was examined at four locations between the SAC boundary and the bridge at Ballyduff house just upstream from the River Nore. No evidence of mussels or dead shells were recorded during the spot checks completed at these locations.

There are no records of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the River Arrigle. Moorkens *et al* (1992) reported that no live mussels were recorded in any tributaries of the River Nore. The River Arrigle was included in this survey and the survey extended over 4km of the river (which was estimated to be around 90% of the suitable habitat in the river).

This species has been confirmed absent in the areas surveyed within 1km of the wind farm site boundary. It is considered very unlikely that mussels are present in areas further downstream to the SAC boundary. No evidence of mussels or dead shells were recorded during the spot checks completed further downstream.

The River Nore main channel downstream of the River Arrigle confluence is not within the main known distribution of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the River Nore.

The main mussel population is restricted to the section of main river channel from Poorman's Bridge to Lismaine Bridge, upstream of Ballyragget. However, the population has not successfully reproduced in the River Nore since 1970 and was considered to be on the edge of extinction in 2009 (NS 2, 2010).





The draft sub-basin management plan noted that the population in the River Nore was un-viable and on the verge of extinction (NS 2, 2010).

Water quality issues in the Nore catchment have hindered juvenile mussel recruitment, with heavy siltation and nutrient enrichment, and the timescale for such issues to be cleared is noted to be much longer than the lifespan of the last remaining mussels in the River Nore. Breeding programmes have been set up in the hope of creating self-sustaining populations that can be translocated to the Nore catchment (NS 2, 2010).

### **3.3 Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment**

It can be seen from Figure 7 that this sub-catchment is only marginally within the red line boundary of the proposed wind farm development site. There does not seem to be any real likelihood that any drainage from the proposed development site will enter any watercourses in the catchment. There are no watercourses from the sub-catchment on or near the site. The nearest watercourse in this sub-catchment is the Parkstown Lower stream which flows into the Glenmore River. The Mullennahone stream is also located to the southeast of the red line boundary. This stream becomes the Glenmore River downstream of the Parkstown Lower stream catchment. The Glenmore River flows into the River Barrow estuary downstream of New Ross.

There are no records of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment. This species has been confirmed absent from the watercourses near the proposed wind farm site (Parkstown Lower and Mullennahone stream). The upper Glenmore River also has no potential for mussels. The Glenmore River was also inspected at Glenmore and this area was ruled out as a potential habitat for mussels. Freshwater Pearl Mussels would also not occur in the River Barrow estuary as the habitats here are unsuitable for this species.

Based on this current survey and absence of any records from this sub catchment the presence of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the zone of influence of the proposed wind farm development is ruled out.

### **3.4 Blackwater [Kilmacow]\_SC\_010 sub-catchment**

There are two watercourses within the boundary of the proposed wind farm site that are part of the Blackwater[Kilmacow]\_SC\_010 sub-catchment. This sub-catchment is shown in Figure 6. These are the Ballyknockbeg stream which runs along the western red line boundary of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site. This stream flows into the Ballylusky 16 stream, before joining the Blackwater [Kilmacow] River at Mullinvat. The other watercourse is the Smartcastle stream which rises on the site and flows directly south before eventually joining the tidal reaches of the Blackwater [Kilmacow] River just upstream of its confluence with the River Suir estuary.

There is no suitable habitat for Freshwater Pearl Mussels in either the Ballyknockbeg stream or Smartcastle stream on the site. These watercourses are too small, and do not have suitable gradient, to support this species. Both of these watercourses were surveyed up to 1km downstream of the proposed wind farm site boundary. It was again concluded that the habitats in these watercourses were unsuitable and no mussels were found during the survey. It is considered that these watercourses have no potential for this species within the Phase 1 survey area.

The Smartcastle stream was followed south to >5km downstream of the proposed wind farm site and again the presence of mussels was ruled out. This is a highly modified catchment that has been subjected to drainage works in the past. Water quality was also considered to be unsatisfactory with heavy siltation and growths or filamentous algae recorded. It is considered highly unlikely that mussels



are present in this watercourse. Similarly, the Ballyknockbeg stream was followed downstream as far as Mullinvat and was not considered to have any potential for mussels.

There are no Freshwater Pearl Mussel records from the Smartscastle (Stream) or Ballyknockbeg rivers. There is a single historical Freshwater Pearl Mussel record from the River Blackwater [Kilmacow] reported in Moorkens *et al* (1992). However, the species is now likely to be extinct in this catchment. Mussels have been confirmed absent in the areas surveyed within 1km of the wind farm site boundary. It was also considered very unlikely that mussels were present in areas further downstream. The general survey covered areas to >5km downstream and habitats were not considered to be suitable for this species. This is a highly modified catchment and extensive river engineering works have been undertaken in the past. Also, water quality is unsatisfactory.

The presence of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the zone of influence of the proposed wind farm development is again ruled out.

**Table 2** Evaluation of the watercourses affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site in relation to Freshwater Pearl Mussels.

Sub-catchment	River	Tributary	FPM Records	Suitable habitats within 1km	Suitable habitats within 5km	FPMs recorded
Nore_SC_130	Arrigle	Smithstown15	No	No	No	No
	Arrigle		No	No	No	No
Nore_SC_140	Glenmore River	Parkstown Lower*	No	No	No	No
	Glenmore River	Mullennahone	No	No	No	No
	Glenmore River		No	No	No	No
Blackwater[Kilmacow]_SC_010	Blackwater [Kilmacow]	Smartscastle (Stream)	No	No	No	No
		Ballyknockbeg	No	No	No	No

**Table 3** Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat assessments at the 14 selected sites.

Site Number	River	Description	Evaluation
A1	Arrigle	This site was located at a footbridge. The river at this location is highly modified as a result of forestry and agricultural activities. The river here is very low gradient, low flow, and is featureless. The substrate is heavily silted.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
A2	Arrigle	The river at this site is larger than at Site A1 and has a rock/cobble substrate. This section has been drained and channelised in the past, with rock armouring present downstream of the bridge. Upstream of the bridge the banks are high with some bank erosion. There have been impacts as a result of encroachments by one-off house developments.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
A3	Arrigle	This site was located at the R704 bridge. This section has been drained and channelised in the past. There was a lot of silt in the river at the time of the survey, and some of this appeared to	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.

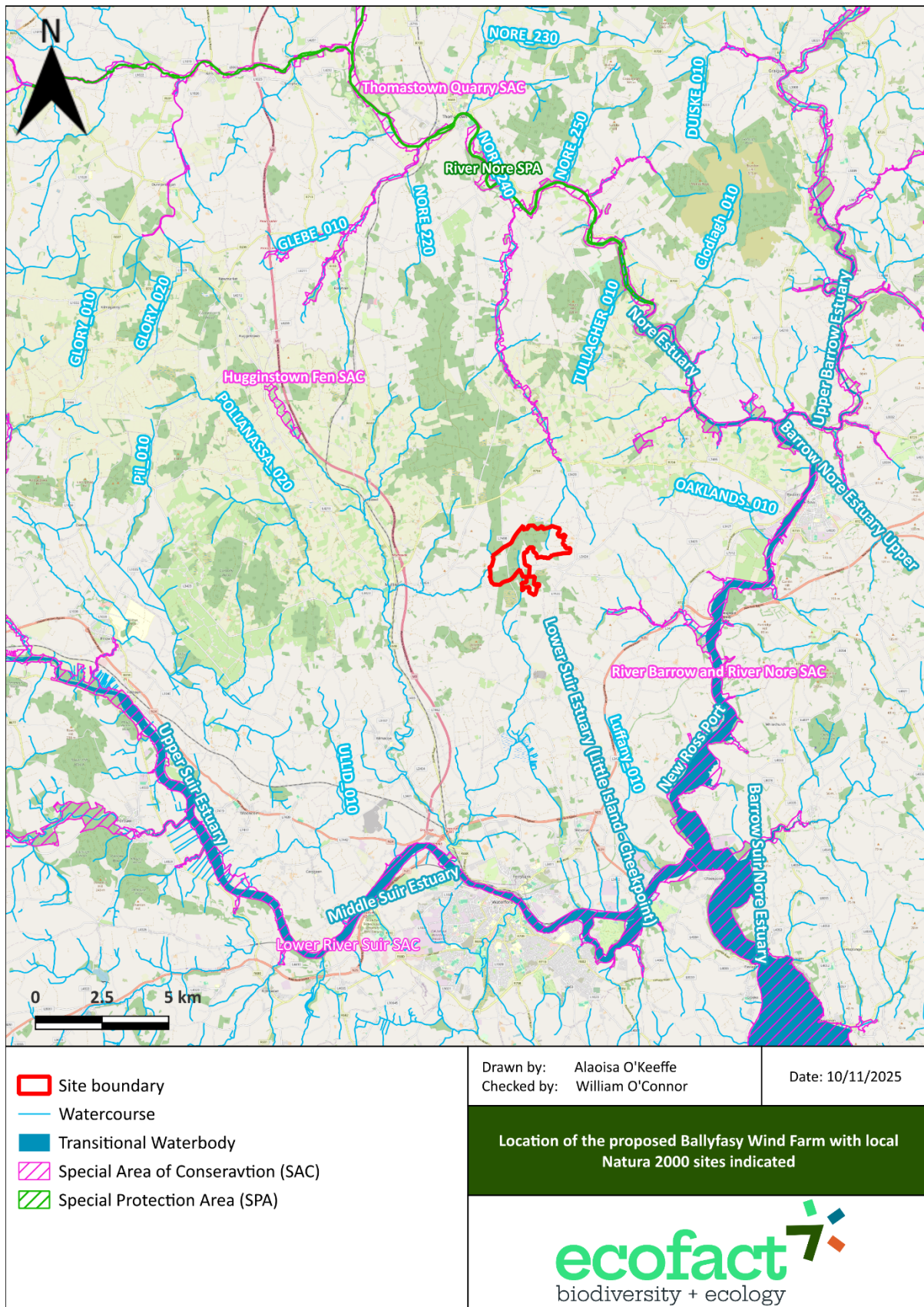


Site Number	River	Description	Evaluation
		have been recently deposited. The most likely source was considered to be nearby agricultural activities. Extensive macrophyte growth was also present.	
A4	Arrigle	The river is also modified in this area with evidence of historical flood works. The river was a similar size to Site A2 but the banks were lower. The river channel was impacted by agricultural pressures. The substrate was again comprised of rock/cobble substrate. However, it was rated as being unsuitable for mussels.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
A5	Arrigle	This stretch of river was considered to have potentially suitable habitat for FPMs. The gradient was moderate, the substrate was dominated by cobbles, biological water quality was good, and the channel was unmodified with well development riparian woodland.	The areas around the bridge were checked and no mussels or dead shells were found. This was a rapid survey but this area was previously surveyed by Moorkens <i>et al</i> (1992) and no mussels were found.
A6	Arrigle	This stretch of river was accessed at a ford. This stretch had similar habitat to Site A5 and was considered to provide potential mussel habitat.	A 100m stretch at the ford was checked and no mussels or dead shells were found. This was a rapid survey but this area was previously surveyed by Moorkens <i>et al</i> (1992) and no mussels were found.
A7	Arrigle	This site was located at Ballyduff mill. This stretch of the river was again considered to be physically suitable for mussels. The river has a moderate gradient, stone/cobble substrate, and overhanging trees at this site. Water quality as considered to be satisfactory.	A 100m upstream from the bridge was checked with a rapid survey and no mussels or dead shells were found. This area was previously surveyed by Moorkens <i>et al</i> (1992) and no mussels were found.
G1	Glenmore River	This river was examined at Glenmore and upstream and is not considered to provide any potential habitat for Freshwater Pearl Mussels. Even at Glenmore this is a relatively small watercourse. The presence of mussel habitat upstream from here is ruled out.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out. No real hydrological connectivity also between the proposed wind farm site and this catchment.
S1	Smartscastle (Stream)	This site is too small and does not have any physically suitable mussel habitat present.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
S2	Smartscastle (Stream)	This stream has some physically suitable FPM habitat and the gradient and substrates are somewhat suitable. However, there is evidence of historical river modification and the site was heavily silt with excessive algae growth. A 100m section of the river was checked here and	Presence of mussels is ruled out.



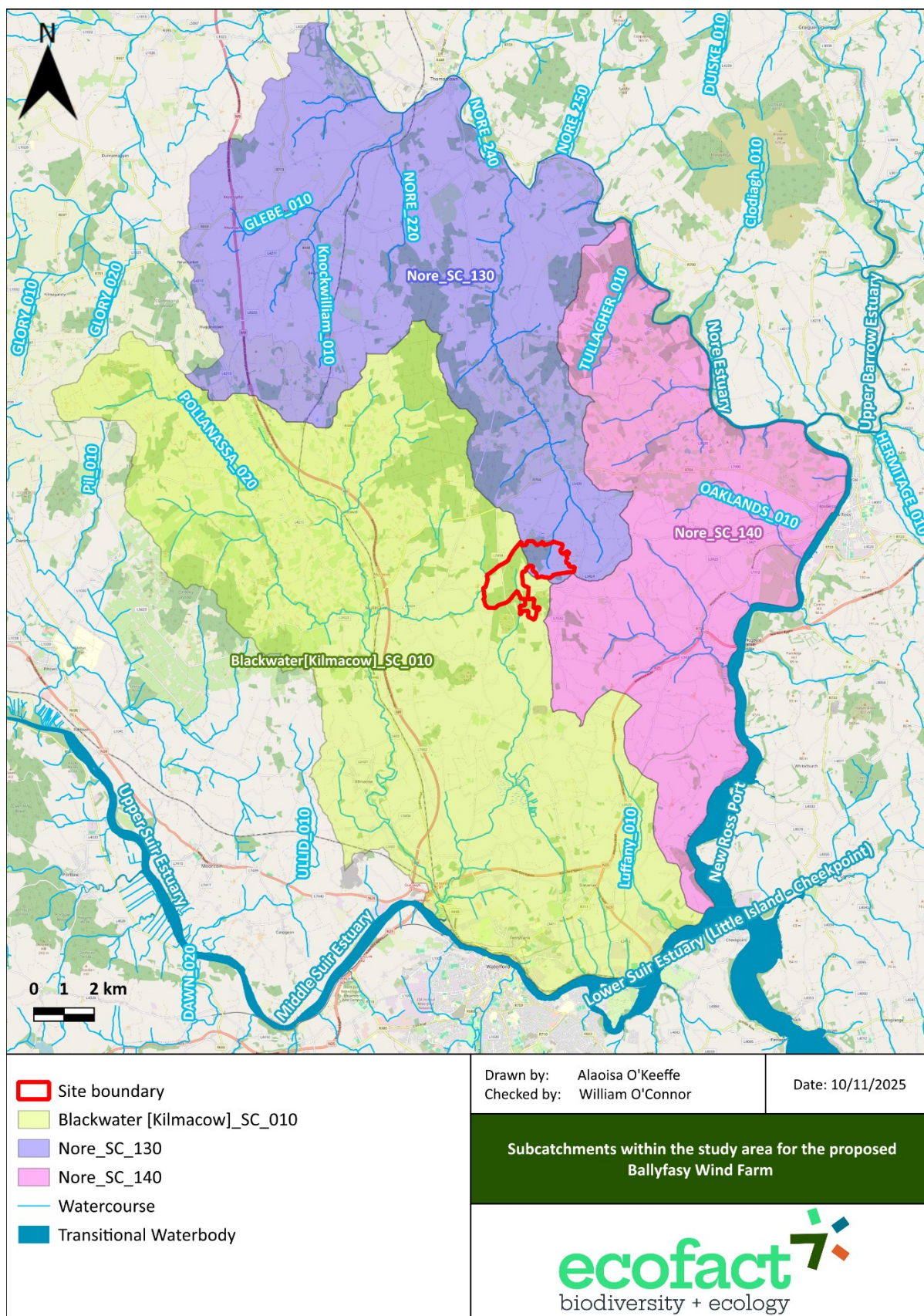


Site Number	River	Description	Evaluation
		the presence of mussels was ruled out.	
S3	Smartscastle (Stream)	This site has been channelised and dredged in the past. This limits its suitability for mussels to be present. The site has some borderline physically suitable mussel habitat but there are no mussels here.	Not mussel habitat, previous drainage works and water quality issues, presence of mussels is ruled out.
S4	Smartscastle (Stream)	This section of the river has been subjected to drainage works in the past and the river bed was lowered with a rock cut. This was likely to have been done to drain the former Lough Cullin. Water quality was poor at this site with visible eutrophication.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
B1	Ballyknockbeg	The Ballyknockbeg is a small stream and does not have any mussel potential.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.
B2	Ballyknockbeg	The Ballyknockbeg is a small stream and does not have any mussel potential.	No potential mussel habitat present, presence of mussels is ruled out.



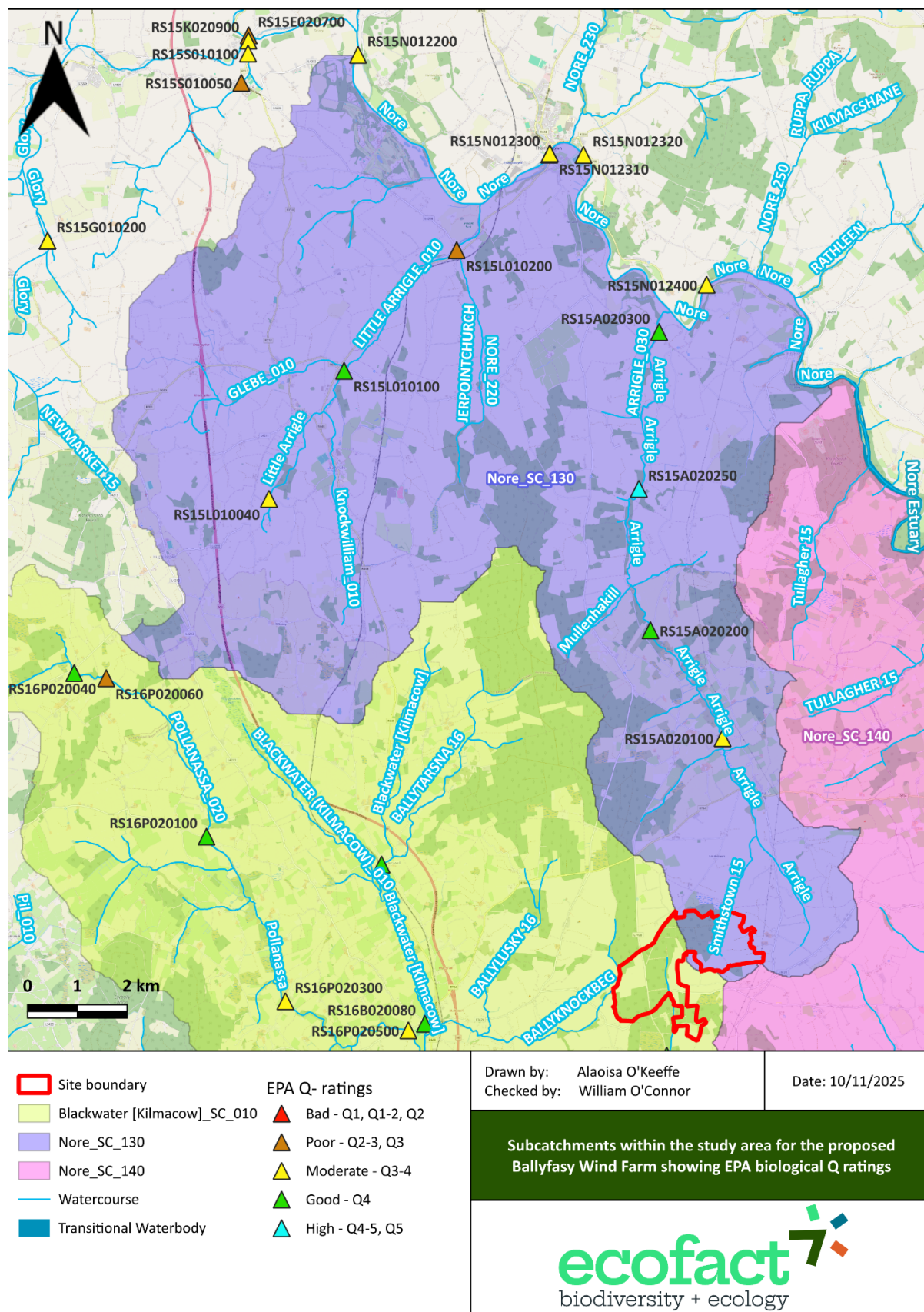
**Figure 4** Location of Natura 2000 sites in relation to the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site.





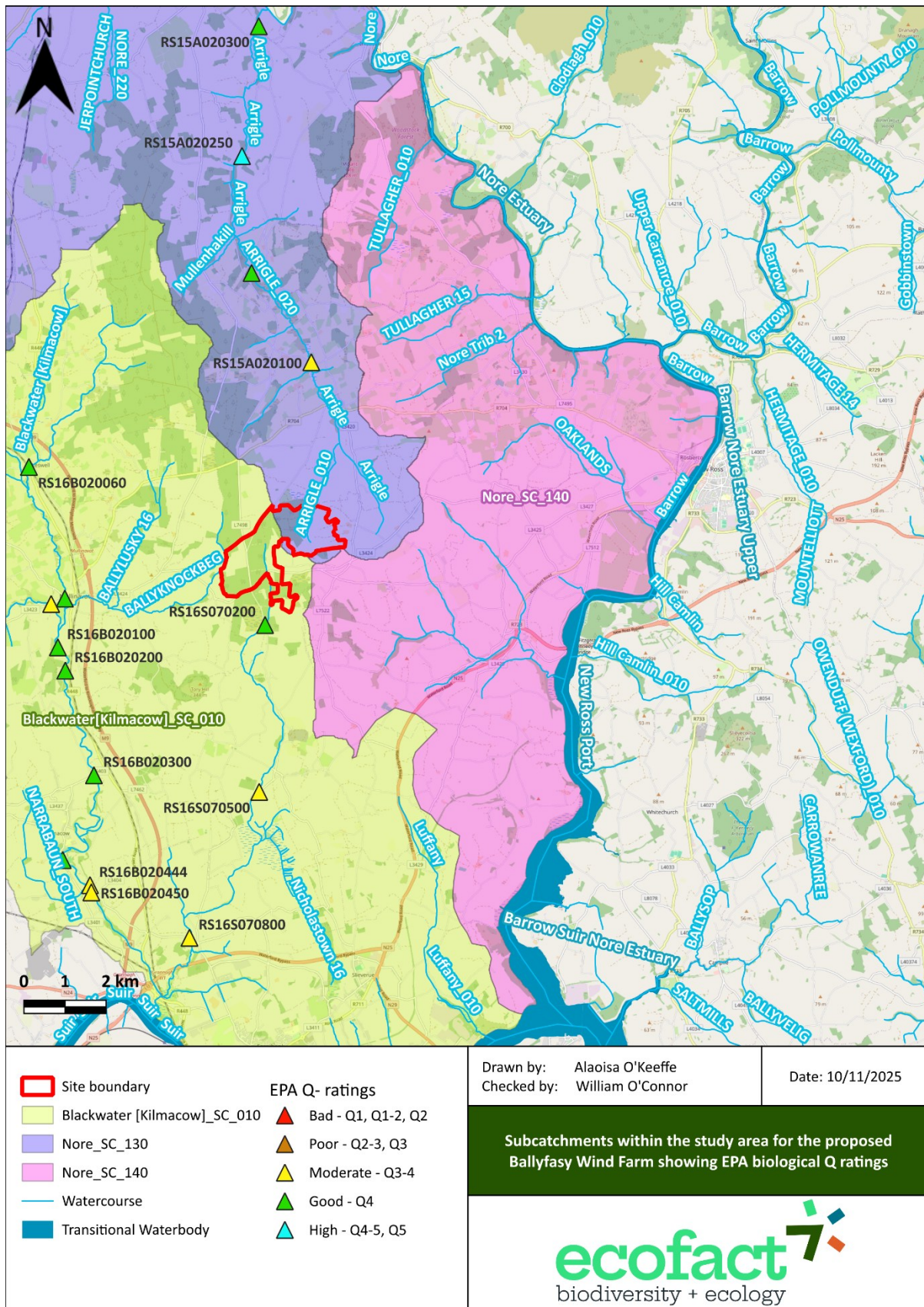
**Figure 5** Sub-catchments affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site.





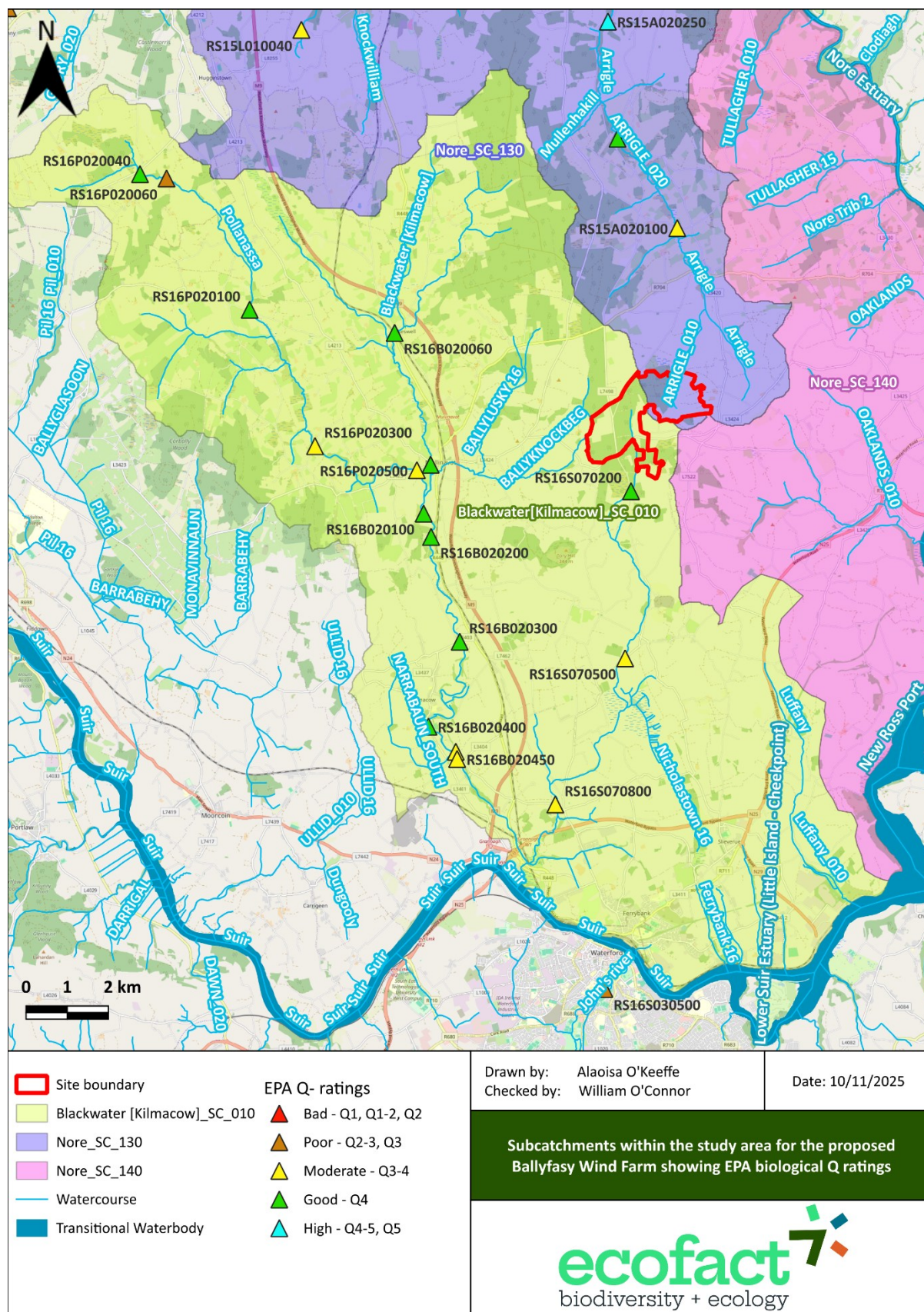
**Figure 6** Location of the Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment in relation to the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site.





**Figure 7** Location of the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment in relation to the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site.







## 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the survey was to determine whether Freshwater Pearl Mussels are present within the zone of influence of the proposed wind farm site. The current assessment included a detailed desk study followed by a field survey. The surveys were completed on all the watercourses on and draining from the proposed Ballyfasy wind farm site.

The desk study included a review of all existing records, NPWS designations, and relevant legislation pertaining to this protected species. A detailed assessment of watercourses on the site and to within 1km downstream of the site. A general survey was then completed on all the channels between a 1km and 5km radius of the proposed wind farm site. Further surveys were also completed at locations further downstream. The level of surveys completed was adequate to provide a full evaluation of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the receiving waters of the proposed wind farm. The survey was conducted in September 2024 under optimal conditions.

The proposed wind farm is upstream of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Lower River Suir SAC which are both designated for Freshwater Pearl Mussel [1029]. Three sub-catchments were identified as relevant: Nore\_SC\_130, Nore\_SC\_140, and Blackwater[Kilmacow]\_SC\_010.

There are no records of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the Nore\_SC\_130 sub-catchment, which includes the River Arrigle. Field surveys confirmed their absence within 1 km of the wind farm boundary, and no evidence such as dead shells was detected during spot checks further downstream. It was considered unlikely that mussels were present in the River Arrigle. No evidence of mussels or dead shells were recorded during the spot checks completed further downstream.

The River Nore main channel downstream of the River Arrigle confluence is not within the main known distribution of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the River Nore.

In the Nore\_SC\_140 sub-catchment, the proposed development overlaps only marginally with this catchment area based on the GIS mapping completed for the current report. There are no existing records of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in this sub-catchment. Inspections of watercourses, including the Parkstown Lower and Mullennahone streams, and the Glenmore River, confirmed the unlikely presence of mussels. Furthermore, there is little likelihood that any drainage from the development site would impact watercourses in this area.

Within the Blackwater[Kilmacow]\_SC\_010 sub-catchment, two streams (Ballyknockbeg and Smartcastle) drain the proposed wind farm site. There are no existing records of Freshwater Pearl Mussels in this sub-catchment. Surveys conducted within 1 km of the site boundary confirmed their absence, and no evidence of mussels was found during downstream inspections.

It is concluded that Freshwater Pearl Mussels are likely to be absent from all three sub-catchments potentially affected by the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm. None of the watercourses draining the proposed wind farm site provide suitable habitat for the species, and their presence was ruled out in all areas surveyed. The River Nore channel downstream of the Arrigle confluence is not considered to be within the zone of influence of the proposed development, assuming effective water-quality protection and sediment-control mitigation measures are implemented. Mitigation required to protect Freshwater Pearl Mussels will need to comply with the Atkinson *et al.* (2024) guidelines.



## PLATES



**Plate 1** Coniferous plantation on the proposed wind farm site.



**Plate 2** The upper reaches of the Smartcastle Stream within the proposed wind farm site.



**Plate 3** The upper reaches of the Smartcastle Stream at Ballinorea upper.





**Plate 4** The middle reaches of the Smartcastle Stream upstream of Gaulsmills.



**Plate 5** The River Arrigle at the R704 bridge.



**Plate 6** The middle reaches of the River Arrigle.



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## Appendix A-II    BIRD SURVEY DATA



Table 9-1 VP Survey Data

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
14/05/2020	VP1	12.00	16.00	4	JW	Dry sunny light wind good vis
14/05/2020	VP2	15.45	19.45	4	JW	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
28/05/2020	VP1	7.50	11.50	4	JW	Sunny, dry, warm, breezy, excellent visibility
28/05/2020	VP2	11.15	15.15	4	JW	Sunny, dry, warm, breezy, excellent visibility
26/06/2020	VP1	6.45	10.45	4	JW	Dry, rolling mist, l breeze, vis poor in mist good in clearance
26/06/2020	VP2	10.00	14.00	4	JW	Dry, sunny, mod breeze, good visibility
30/07/2020	VP1	17.10	21.10	4	JW	Sunny, Windy, excellent visibility
30/07/2020	VP2	10.10	14.10	4	JW	Sunny, Windy, excellent visibility
31/07/2020	VP1	14.20	17.20	4	JW	Mod breeze, good visibility, showery, overcast
31/07/2020	VP2	17.30	20.30	4	JW	Overcast, moderate breeze, showery, good visibility
06/08/2020	VP1	17.30	20.30	3	JW	Dry, warm, low cloud, SW light breeze. Excellent visibility
06/08/2020	VP2	17.30	20.30	3	GG	Dry, warm, low cloud, SW light breeze. Excellent visibility
08/08/2020	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Cloudy, calm, warm 20C, dry, excellent visibility
08/08/2020	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Cloudy, calm, warm 20C, dry, excellent visibility
07/09/2020	VP1	17.00	20.00	3	JW	Dry, moderate cloud, light breeze, excellent visibility
07/09/2020	VP2	17.00	20.00	3	GG	Dry, moderate cloud, light breeze, excellent visibility
08/09/2020	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry, moderate cloud, light breeze, excellent visibility
08/09/2020	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Dry, moderate cloud, light breeze, excellent visibility
22/10/2020	VP1	12.00	15.00	3	JW	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
22/10/2020	VP1	12.00	15.00	3	GG	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
22/10/2020	VP1	8.45	11.45	3	GG	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
22/10/2020	VP2	8.45	11.45	3	JW	Dry sunny light wind good visibility

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
12/11/2020	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	JW	Showers, windy, good visibility
12/11/2020	VP2	11.30	14.30	3	JW	Showers, windy, good visibility
13/11/2020	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	JW	Showers, windy, good visibility
13/11/2020	VP2	11.30	14.30	3	JW	Showers, windy, good visibility
19/11/2020	VP1	10.30	13.30	3	PD	Dry, clam, mild 10C. Okta 7 high cloud. Excellent visibility
19/11/2020	VP2	14.00	17.00	3	PD	Dry, clam, mild 10C. Okta 7 high cloud. Excellent visibility
02/12/2020	VP1	13.30	16.30	3	PD	Cold, dry, cloudy, Okta 6, good visibility
02/12/2020	VP2	13.30	16.30	3	JW	Cold, dry, cloudy, Okta 6, good visibility
03/12/2020	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	JW	Cold, dry, cloudy, Okta 6, good visibility
03/12/2020	VP2	8.30	11.30	3	PD	Cold, dry, cloudy, Okta 6, good visibility
19/12/2020	VP1	9.15	12.15	3	PD	Bright, Okta 2, Calm, Mild 10C, excellent visibility
19/12/2020	VP2	12.30	15.30	3	PD	Bright, Okta 2, Calm, Mild 10C, excellent visibility
14/01/2021	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Drizzle, cloudy, moderate to good visibility
14/01/2021	VP2	12.00	15.00	3	JW	Dry, cloudy, good visibility
22/01/2021	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	GG	Dry, cloudy, good visibility
22/01/2021	VP2	14.00	17.00	3	JW	Dry, cloudy, good visibility
10/02/2021	VP1	14.30	17.30	3	GG	Cold, showers (Snow), good visibility
10/02/2021	VP2	14.30	17.30	3	JW	Cold, showers (Snow), good visibility
05/03/2021	VP1	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Dry, good visibility,
05/03/2021	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	JK	Overcast, moderate breeze, good visibility
07/04/2021	VP1	16.30	19.30	3	JW	Overcast, showers, light breeze, good visibility
07/04/2021	VP2	16.30	19.30	3	GG	Cloudy, good visibility
12/05/2021	VP1	17.15	20.15	3	JW	Sunny, dry, low cloud cover, warm 19C
12/05/2021	VP2	17.00	20.30	3.5	GG	Sunny, dry, low cloud cover, warm 19C

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
13/05/2021	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Fog mist, poor visibility, clearing later to sunny and clear conditions with excellent visibility
13/05/2021	VP2	9.00	12.00	3	JW	Fog mist, poor visibility, clearing later to sunny and clear conditions with excellent visibility
30/05/2021	VP1	9.00	12.00	3	JW	Dry, SW wind, moderate cloud cover excellent visibility 16C
30/05/2021	VP2	9.00	12.00	3	GG	Dry, SW wind, moderate cloud cover excellent visibility 16C
25/06/2021	VP1	9.00	12.00	3	JW	North Wind, good visibility, moderate cloud cover
25/06/2021	VP1	12.00	15.00	3	GG	North Wind, good visibility, moderate cloud cover
25/06/2021	VP2	9.00	12.00	3	GG	North Wind, good visibility, moderate cloud cover
25/06/2021	VP2	12.00	15.00	3	JW	North Wind, good visibility, moderate cloud cover
30/05/2022	VP1	10.00	14.00	4	GG	Dry W wind excellent visibility 14dg
30/05/2022	VP2	14.00	18.00	4	GG	Dry , W wind 14dg excellent visibility.
31/05/2022	VP1	8.00	12.30	4.5	GG	Dry, SW wind, 15dg, cloudy, excellent visibility
31/05/2022	VP2	8.15	12.15	4	JW	Dry, SW wind, 15dg, cloudy, excellent visibility
10/06/2022	VP1	11.00	14.00	3	JW	Dry W wind excellent visibility 14dg
10/06/2022	VP2	14.00	17.00	3	JW	Dry , W wind 14dg excellent visibility.
11/06/2022	VP1	8.15	11.30	3.5	GG	Sunny, dry, low cloud cover, breeze. Excellent visibility
11/06/2022	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Sunny, dry, low cloud cover, breeze. Excellent visibility
28/07/2022	VP1	13.00	16.30	3.5	GG	High cloud, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
28/07/2022	VP2	13.15	16.15	3	JW	High cloud, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
31/08/2022	VP1	13.30	16.30	3	JW	Sunny, Clear, moderate breeze, excellent visibility
31/08/2022	VP2	13.15	16.45	3.5	JW	Sunny, Clear, moderate breeze, excellent visibility
31/08/2022	VP2	17.00	20.00	3	JW	Sunny, Clear, moderate breeze, excellent visibility
31/08/2022	VP2	20.00	22.00	2	GG	Sunny, Clear, moderate breeze, excellent visibility
01/09/2022	VP1	7.00	10.30	3.5	GG	Sunny, Clear, mod breeze, exc. visibility.



Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
01/09/2022	VP1	11.15	14.15	3	JW	Sunny, Clear, mod breeze, exc. visibility.
01/09/2022	VP2	7.15	10.15	3	JW	Sunny, Clear, mod breeze, exc. visibility.
01/09/2022	VP2	11.00	14.30	3.5	GG	Sunny, Clear, mod breeze, exc. visibility.
14/10/2022	VP1	10.30	13.30	3	PD	Breeze SW, cloudy Okta 7, dry, mild 12C, excellent visibility
14/10/2022	VP2	14.00	17.00	3	PD	Breeze SW, cloudy Okta 7, dry, mild 12C, excellent visibility
15/10/2022	VP1	9.00	12.00	3	PD	Breeze SW, cloudy Okta 7, rain, mild 12C, moderate visibility
15/10/2022	VP2	9.00	12.00	3	JW	Breeze SW, cloudy Okta 7, rain, mild 12C, moderate visibility
16/11/2022	VP1	10.30	13.30	3	GG	Dry light cloud 7° light SW excellent visibility.
16/11/2022	VP2	13.45	16.45	3	GG	Dry light cloud 8° light SW excellent visibility.
17/11/2022	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	GG	Bright dry morning 4° light SW wind good visibility.
17/11/2022	VP2	11.45	14.45	3	GG	Dry with light SW wind 7° excellent visibility.
21/12/2022	VP1	0.44	0.56	3	GG	Dry 5° moderate SW wind excellent visibility.
21/12/2022	VP2	13.30	16.30	3	GG	Dry 7° moderate SW wind excellent visibility.
22/12/2022	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry 8° fog very light S wind poor visibility.
22/12/2022	VP2	11.30	14.30	3	GG	Dry 7° heavy fog light, SW wind poor visibility.
06/01/2023	VP3	8.00	11.00	3	PD	Light showers. Overcast. 7C. Light Breeze SW. Good Visibility
06/01/2023	VP3	13.45	16.45	3	PD	Light showers. Overcast. 7C. Light Breeze SW. Good Visibility
25/01/2023	VP1	10.15	13.15	3	GG	Overcast light NW wind light drizzle 8° good visibility.
25/01/2023	VP2	13.15	16.15	3	GG	Overcast occasional very light drizzle 8° light NW wind excellent visibility.
26/01/2023	VP1	8.45	11.45	3	GG	Some cloud 6° light NW wind excellent visibility
26/01/2023	VP2	8.45	11.45	3	JW	Some cloud 6° light NW wind excellent visibility
09/02/2023	VP3	8.00	11.00	3	PD	Overcast. Okta 8..Dry. Light breeze S. 10C.High cloud. Excellent Visibility
09/02/2023	VP3	14.00	17.00	3	PD	Overcast. Okta 8..Dry. Light breeze S. 10C.High cloud. Excellent Visibility
15/02/2023	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	GG	Dry with some cloud 8° with light SW wind excellent visibility.

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
15/02/2023	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Dry with some cloud light SW wind 9° excellent visibility.
16/02/2023	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry bright morning light SW wind 8°excellent visibility.
16/02/2023	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Dry bright day with light SW wind 11° excellent visibility.
27/02/2023	VP3	15.00	18.00	3	PD	Dry. Bright. WSW Light Breeze. Okta 6. Excellent visibility
01/03/2023	VP3	7.00	10.00	3	PD	Overcast. No rain, dry. Mild 11C.Okta 8. Breeze SSW
01/03/2023	VP3	15.30	18.30	3	PD	Overcast. No rain, dry. Mild 11C.Okta 8. Breeze SSW
16/03/2023	VP3	7.00	10.00	3	PD	Dry. Cloudy Okta 5. Light air SW.
16/03/2023	VP3	15.30	18.30	3	PD	Dry. Cloudy Okta 5. Light air SW.
30/03/2023	VP1	10.00	13.00	3	GG	Full cloud cover 12° moderate SW wind heavy showers poor visibility.
30/03/2023	VP2	13.00	16.00	3	GG	Full cloud cover frequency of showers decreasing from above 12dg moderate SW wind good visibility.
31/03/2023	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Heavy rain 12dg moderate NW wind pool visibility.
31/03/2023	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Persistent rain 12dg moderate NW wind poor to moderate visibility.
16/04/2023	VP3	10.30	13.30	3	PD	Dry. Okta 4. Bright. Light Breeze SW. Excellent Visibility
16/04/2023	VP3	10.00	13.00	3	PD	Dry. Okta 4. Bright. Light Breeze SW. Excellent Visibility
17/04/2023	VP3	8.00	11.00	3	PD	Dry. Bright. Okta 4. Light air. Excellent Visibility/
27/04/2023	VP1	10.00	13.00	3	GG	Full cloud cover persistent drizzle poor visibility light SE wind 10dg.
27/04/2023	VP2	13.00	16.00	3	GG	Full cloud cover moderate SE wind 10dg intermittent showers of drizzle, poor to moderate visibility
28/04/2023	VP1	7.50	10.50	3	GG	80% cloud cover 12dg light SE wind dry with excellent visibility.
28/04/2023	VP2	10.50	13.50	3	GG	80% cloud cover 13dg dry light SE wind excellent visibility.
11/05/2023	VP1	13.10	16.10	3	GG	Dry with occasional showers 14dg moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
11/05/2023	VP2	10.00	13.00	3	GG	Dry with full cloud cover 12dg moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
12/05/2023	VP1	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Dry day with some cloud 15dg light to moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
12/05/2023	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry with some fog which is burning off very light NW wind poor to moderate visibility but expecting improvement.

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
23/05/2023	VP3	11.00	17.00	6	PD	Dry. Okta 3. Calm. Excellent visibility
08/06/2023	VP3	18.30	21.30	3	PD	Dy. Okta 3. Calm. Sunny. Excellent Visibility
09/06/2023	VP3	9.15	12.15	3	PD	Dry, sunny, 22C, Okta 2, calm, excellent visibility
28/06/2023	VP1	12.40	15.40	3	GG	Overcast morning cloud starting to clear 15dg moderate W wind excellent visibility.
28/06/2023	VP2	9.40	12.40	3	GG	Overcast day with moderate W wind 16dg light drizzle at times good visibility.
29/06/2023	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry bright day with light W wind 15dg excellent visibility.
29/06/2023	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Dry day with cloud increasing 18dg moderate W wind excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	GG	Dry day with some cloud moderate W wind 20dg excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	VP2	13.30	13.30	3	GG	Dry day with some cloud 20dg with moderate W wind excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	VP3	8.00	11.00	3	PD	Dry with moderate W wind. 20
20/07/2023	VP3	17.30	20.30	3	PD	Dry, cloudy, Okta 6 - 7, light air SW, 19C, excellent visibility
21/07/2023	VP1	11.30	14.30	3	GG	Dry day with some cloud moderate SW wind 14dg excellent visibility.
21/07/2023	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry day with some cloud light SW wind 14dg excellent visibility.
02/08/2023	VP3	14.00	17.00	3	PD	Dry. Okta 8. high Cloud. Calm. Excellent Visibility.
04/08/2023	VP3	10.30	13.30	3	PD	Dry. Okta 7. Light breeze. Excellent Visibility
17/08/2023	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	GG	Dry bright day with some cloud 22dg moderate SE wind excellent visibility.
17/08/2023	VP2	10.30	13.30	3	GG	Dr6 bright day with some cloud 20dg light to moderate SE wind excellent visibility.
18/08/2023	VP1	11.30	14.30	3	GG	Overcast light showers moderate SE wind 17dg poor visibility.
18/08/2023	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Overcast with frequent showers 17dg moderate SE wind poor visibility.
03/09/2023	VP3	15.00	18.00	3	PD	Dry. Okta 5. S. Breeze. Excellent Visibility
18/09/2023	VP2	8.30	11.30	3	GG	Overcast with occasional drizzle 13dg good visibility
22/09/2023	VP3	10.00	13.00	3	PD	Dry. Bright. Okta 2. Ligh Breeze NW
28/09/2023	VP1	12.00	15.00	3	GG	Overcast with occasional drizzle 13dg good visibility



Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
28/09/2023	VP2	8.30	11.30	3	GG	Overcast 13dg dry with occasional drizzle good visibility
29/09/2023	VP1	11.30	14.30	3	GG	Dry bright day with light W wind 14dg excellent visibility.
29/09/2023	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Dry bright day with light W wind 14dg excellent visibility.
19/10/2023	VP1	12.30	15.30	3	GG	Overcast with moderate SE wind 16dg some showers good visibility.
19/10/2023	VP2	9.00	12.00	3	GG	Overcast with moderate SE wind 14dg frequent showers moderate visibility.
20/10/2023	VP1	11.30	14.30	3	GG	Heavy fog visibility limited to 200mtrs13dg no wind
20/10/2023	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	GG	Heavy fog no wind 8dg poor visibility.
27/10/2023	VP3	7.45	10.45	3	PD	Dry, high cloud Okta 5, 3C, breeze W, excellent visibility
27/10/2023	VP3	12.30	15.30	3	PD	Dry, high cloud Okta 5, 3C, breeze W, excellent visibility
16/11/2023	VP1	14.30	17.30	3	GG	Persistent showers 8dg light NNW wind good visibility. At 14.50 showers turning heavy visibility worsening, visibility now poor
16/11/2023	VP2	11.00	14.00	3	GG	Overcast but dry 9dg 15km NNW wind excellent visibility
17/11/2023	VP1	7.00	10.00	3	GG	Light cloud 5dg light WSW wind excellent visibility
17/11/2023	VP2	10.30	13.30	3	GG	Light cloud 6dg light WSW wind excellent visibility.
23/11/2023	VP3	14:00	17:00	3	JW	Overcast, dry, excellent visibility
30/11/2023	VP3	9.30	13.30	4	PD	Dry. Bright Okta 2 -3. N Light Breeze. Excellent visibility
04/12/2023	VP1	11.15	14.15	3	JW	Sunny, cold, windy, excellent visibility
04/12/2023	VP2	11.00	14.30	3.5	GG	Dry bright day with moderate NW wind 4dg excellent visibility.
07/12/2023	VP1	11.15	14.15	3	JW	Persistent rain 9dg strong SE wind poor visibility
07/12/2023	VP2	11.00	14.30	3.5	GG	Raining, poor visibility, warm, windy
11/12/2023	VP3	7.45	11.15	3.5	PD	Dry early, with showers later. Okta 8. S. Breeze. Good visibility
20/12/2023	VP3	10.30	14.00	3.5	PD	Dry. Okta 1. NW Light Breeze. Clear bright excellent visibility.
02/01/2024	VP1	11.00	14.00	3	JW	Raining, breezy, average visibility
02/01/2024	VP2	14.30	17.30	3	JW	Overcast, breezy, excellent visibility

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
03/01/2024	VP2	12.00	15.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, breezy, excellent visibility
05/01/2024	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Sunny, breezy, cold, excellent visibility
25/01/2024	VP3	9.15	12.15	3	PD	Dry. Overcast. Okta 8. high cloud. Light air SURFACE WATER, excellent visibility.
30/01/2024	VP3	7.30	10.30	3	PD	Dry. Low cloud, sunny spells, Okta 2. Calm. Excellent visibility
10/02/2024	VP1	11.15	14.15	3	JW	Overcast, breezy, drizzle, 14dg, WSW wind average visibility
10/02/2024	VP2	11.00	14.30	3.5	GG	Overcast, breezy, drizzle, 14dg, WSW wind average visibility
27/02/2024	VP1	14.00	18.00	4	JW	Dry, sunny, breezy, clear, excellent visibility
27/02/2024	VP3	9.30	12.30	3	PD	Dry, high broken cloud Okta 3, sunny, calm, excellent visibility
29/02/2024	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Sunny, excellent visibility, breezy, cool, broken cloud
01/03/2024	VP3	7.15	10.15	3	PD	Cold 0 - 2C, drizzle and sleet, breeze SW, Okta 8 medium cloud height, good visibility
12/03/2024	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	JW	Overcast, occasional light drizzle, moderate breeze, good visibility, rolling fog banks during survey
12/03/2024	VP2	10.30	13.30	3	JW	Good vis for 1hr the rolling fog banks. vis poor
13/03/2024	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	JW	Overcast, light showers, poor visibility
13/03/2024	VP3	15.00	18.00	3	PD	Overcast. Light drizzle - occasional. Okta 8. high cloud. SW breeze. Good visibility.
14/03/2024	VP2	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Foggy, poor visibility
28/03/2024	VP3	16.00	19.00	3	PD	calm 12C Okta 6 DRY sunny spells excellent visibility
10/04/2024	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Overcast dry, good visibility, except last 20min in fog, moderate breeze
11/04/2024	VP2	15.00	18.00	3	JW	Foggy again, poor visibility
12/04/2024	VP1	8.00	11.00	3	JW	Low cloud, poor aerial vis good to 30m only
12/04/2024	VP2	11.30	14.30	3	JW	Fog from 9 to 11AM clearing for last hour. Moderate breeze, dry
16/04/2024	VP3	13.00	16.00	3	PD	Dry, Wind light breeze, cloud cover Okta 4, temp. 13C
30/04/2024	VP3	12.00	15.00	3	PD	Dry, cloudy Okta 6 high cloud, 15C, light breeze S, excellent visibility
17/05/2024	VP3	18.30	21.30	3	PD	Overcast, dry, high cloud, mild 17C, light air, excellent visibility

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
20/05/2024	VP3	8.00	11.00	3	PD	Sunny, broken cloud, Okta 3, 19C, calm, excellent visibility
30/05/2024	VP1	17.15	18.15	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
30/05/2024	VP2	14.00	17.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
31/05/2024	VP1	10.15	13.15	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
31/05/2024	VP2	7.00	10.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
11/06/2024	VP1	15.00	18.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
11/06/2024	VP2	12.00	15.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
25/06/2024	VP3	8.10	11.10	3	LP	Dry, 16C, Okta 3, light breeze, excellent visibility
26/06/2024	VP3	11.40	14.40	3	LP	Dry 21C, Okta 2, light air, excellent visibility
30/06/2024	VP1	12.00	15.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod to fresh breeze, warm, excellent visibility
30/06/2024	VP2	15.00	18.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
05/07/2024	VP1	7.00	10.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
05/07/2024	VP2	10.00	13.00	3	JW	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
20/07/2024	VP1	15.00	18.00	3	JW	O.cast, showery, rain earlier, mod breeze, avg vis
20/07/2024	VP2	18.00	21.00	3	JW	O.cast, showery, rain earlier, mod breeze, avg vis
29/07/2024	VP3	11.40	14.40	3	LP	Drizzle, wind S, Okta 7, good visibility
30/07/2024	VP3	15.10	18.10	3	LP	Dry, Okta 6, good visibility, mild 17C.
09/08/2024	VP1	11.00	14.00	3	JW	Bright, broken cloud, windy, excellent visibility
21/08/2024	VP2	7.00	10.00	3	JW	Overcast, light breeze, excellent visibility
26/08/2024	VP1	18.00	21.00	3	JW	Overcast the drizzle, good vis, light breeze
26/08/2024	VP2	15.00	18.00	3	JW	Overcast, drizzle, good visibility, light breeze
29/08/2024	VP3	14.40	17.40	3	LP	Dry, Okta 2, excellent visibility, mild 20C.
30/08/2024	VP3	7.40	10.40	3	LP	Dry, Okta 2, excellent visibility, mild 20C.
24/09/2024	VP1	14.00	17.00	3	GG	Dry bright day with some cloud moderate W wind 13dg excellent visibility.



Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
24/09/2024	VP2	17.00	20.00	3	JW	Overcast, light breeze, excellent visibility
26/09/2024	VP1	8.30	11.30	3	GG	Overcast with light NW wind 10dg persistent rain moderate visibility
26/09/2024	VP2	7.30	10.30	3	JW	Overcast, drizzle, windy, moderate visibility
26/09/2024	VP3	14.50	17.50	3	LP	NW wind light breeze, 10C, Okta 8, drizzle. Good visibility
27/09/2024	VP3	8.20	11.20	3	LP	NW wind light breeze, 10C, Okta 2, dry. Excellent visibility
28/10/2024	VP3	14:30	17:30	3	PD	Dry, 14C, Light breeze northwest, Okta 3
29/10/2024	VP3	08:10	11:40	3.5	PD	Dry, 11C, light breeze northwest, Okta 6 - 8, cloud high, good visibility
30/10/2024	VP1	11:00	14:00	3	GG	Dry overcast day with light S wind 12dg excellent visibility.
30/10/2024	VP2	14:30	17:30	3	GG	Dry overcast day with light S wind 12dg excellent visibility.
31/10/2024	VP1	12:00	15:00	3	GG	Dry overcast day with light S wind 12dg excellent visibility.
31/10/2024	VP2	08:30	11:30	3	GG	Dry overcast day with light S wind 12dg excellent visibility.
27/11/2024	VP1	10:15	13:15	3	GG	Dry, 4C, light breeze northeast, Okta 0, excellent visibility
27/11/2024	VP2	14:00	17:00	3	GG	Dry, 4C, light breeze northeast, Okta 0, excellent visibility
27/11/2024	VP3	10:00	13:00	3	LP	Dry, 4C, light breeze northeast, Okta 0, excellent visibility
27/11/2024	VP3	13:30	14:30	3	LP	Dry, 4C, light breeze northeast, Okta 0, excellent visibility
28/11/2024	VP1	12:00	15:00	3	GG	Persistent rain moderate S wind 7dg poor visibility.
28/11/2024	VP2	08:30	11:30	3	GG	Persistent rain moderate S wind 7dg poor visibility.
17/12/2024	VP3	08:30	11:30	3	LP	Persistent drizzle moderate W wind 9dg moderate visibility.
18/12/2024	VP1	13:30	16:30	3	GG	Persistent drizzle moderate W wind 9dg moderate visibility.
18/12/2024	VP2	10:00	13:00	3	GG	Persistent rain and low cloud/fog 9dg light W wind poor visibility.
20/12/2024	VP1	12:00	15:00	3	GG	Cloud and rain clearing moderate SW wind 8dg good to excellent visibility.
20/12/2024	VP2	08:30	11:30	3	GG	Full cloud cover heavy rain moderate SW wind 6dg poor to moderate visibility.
29/12/2024	VP3	13:15	16:15	3	PD	Dry with showers light breeze SW, Okta 5, good visibility.
02/01/2025	VP1	12:00	15:00	3	JW	Raining, average vis, breezy

Date	VANTAGE POINT	Start Time	Finish time	Hours	Surveyor	Conditions
27/01/2025	VP3	14:00	17:00	3	LP	F5/6 South winds, 7 degrees, rain, visibility OK 500m or so, 100 cloud
28/01/2025	VP3	08:30	11:30	3	LP	6 degrees, light rain, F5/6 NW wind, 100% cloud, dawn-08:15 & dusk- 17.08, visibility good
29/01/2025	VP1	10:30	13:30	3	GG	Dry bright day with cloud clearing moderate NW wind 7dg excellent visibility.
29/01/2025	VP2	14:30	17:30	3	GG	Dry bright day with moderate NW wind 7dg excellent visibility.
31/01/2025	VP1	11:00	14:00	3	GG	Dry bright day with light WSW wind 6dg excellent visibility.
31/01/2025	VP2	07:30	10:30	3	GG	Dry bright morning with light WSW wind 2dg excellent visibility.
24/02/2025	VP3	14:00	17:00	3	LP	Dry, F4 SW, 9 degrees, 60% cloud, visibility good, dawn- 07.25 dusk-17.59
25/02/2025	VP3	08:30	11:30	3	LP	Dry, 9Cs, F2 NW, 100% cloud, drizzle, visibility moderate dawn-06:18, dusk-18.50
26/02/2025	VP1	08:00	11:00	3	GG	Dry bright day with moderate NW wind 5dg excellent visibility
26/02/2025	VP2	15:00	18:00	3	GG	Dry bright day with moderate NW wind occasional showers good to excellent visibility.
28/02/2025	VP1	10:00	13:00	3	GG	Dry bright day with light S wind 7dg excellent visibility.
28/02/2025	VP2	15:00	18:00	3	GG	Dry bright morning with light S wind 2dg excellent visibility.
24/03/2025	VP3	15:30	18:30	3	LP	11C, Sunny, dry,20% cloud, F2 NW winds, visibility good,
24/03/2025	VP3	08:20	11:20	3	LP	9 degrees, F2 NW, 100% cloud, drizzle, visibility moderate dawn-06:18, dusk-18.50
26/03/2025	VP2	15:30	18:30	3	GG	Dry overcast day with moderate SW wind 12dg excellent visibility.
26/03/2025	VP1	08:00	11:00	3	GG	Dry overcast day with moderate SW wind 12dg excellent visibility.
28/03/2025	VP2	10:40	13:40	3	GG	Dry bright day with moderate SW wind 12dg excellent visibility.
28/03/2025	VP1	07:00	10:00	3	GG	Dry bright day with moderate SW wind 12dg excellent visibility.

Table 9-2 Transect Survey Data - Breeding Season

Date	Transect	Surveyor	Start Time	Conditions
14/05/2020	T2	JW	10.00	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
14/05/2020	T1	JW	19.50	Dry sunny light wind good visibility
26/06/2020	T1	JW	14.05	Dry, sunny, moderate breeze, good visibility
26/06/2020	T2	JW	16.30	Dry, sunny, moderate breeze, good visibility
31/07/2020	T2	JW	12.30	Mod breeze, good visibility, showery, overcast
31/07/2020	T1	JW	20.35	Overcast, moderate breeze, showery, good visibility
16/04/2023	T2	PD	12.50	Dry, sunny spells, light breeze, Okta 5
16/04/2023	T1	PD	15.10	Dry, sunny spells, light breeze, Okta 5
16/04/2023	T4	PD	17.05	Dry, sunny spells, light breeze, Okta 5
16/04/2023	T3	PD	18.05	Dry, sunny spells, light breeze, Okta 5
11/05/2023	T1	GG	8.45	Dry with full cloud cover 12dg moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
12/05/2023	T4	GG	14.05	Dry day with some cloud 15dg light to moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
12/05/2023	T3	GG	15.20	Dry day with some cloud 15dg light to moderate NW wind excellent visibility.
23/05/2023	T2	PD	17.05	Dry. Okta 3. Calm. Excellent visibility
09/06/2023	T2	PD	12.20	Dry. Okta 3. Calm. Sunny. Excellent Visibility
09/06/2023	T1	PD	15.10	Dry. Okta 3. Calm. Sunny. Excellent Visibility
28/06/2023	T4	GG	12.00	Overcast morning cloud starting to clear 15dg moderate W wind excellent visibility.
29/06/2023	T3	GG	14.25	Dry day with cloud increasing 18dg moderate W wind excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	T4	GG	17.05	Dry day with some cloud moderate W wind 20dg excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	T3	GG	17.50	Dry day with some cloud moderate W wind 20dg excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	T1	PD	15.45	Dry day with some cloud moderate W wind 20dg excellent visibility.
20/07/2023	T2	PD	20.35	Dry day with some cloud moderate W wind 20dg excellent visibility.



Date	Transect	Surveyor	Start Time	Conditions
10/04/2024	T4	JW	11.10	Overcast dry, good visibility, except last 20min in fog, moderate breeze
11/04/2024	T3	JW	18.20	Cloudy, dry, moderate visibility
12/04/2024	T1	JW	14.30	Moderate breeze, dry, moderate cloud cover
16/04/2024	T2	PD	10.30	Dry, Wind light breeze, cloud cover Okta 4, temp. 13C
16/04/2024	T5	PD	16.15	Dry, Wind light breeze, cloud cover Okta 4, temp. 13C
17/05/2024	T2	PD	17.20	Overcast, dry, high cloud, mild 17C, light air, excellent visibility
20/05/2024	T3	PD	11.15	Sunny, broken cloud, Okta 3, 19C, calm, excellent visibility
20/05/2024	T5	PD	12.45	Sunny, broken cloud, Okta 3, 19C, calm, excellent visibility
20/05/2024	T4	PD	13.45	Sunny, broken cloud, Okta 3, 19C, calm, excellent visibility
30/05/2024	T1	JW	17.05	Broken cloud, mod breeze, warm, excellent visibility
19/06/2024	T1	PD	12.00	Dry, Okta 6, 20C, light air excellent visibility
19/06/2024	T3	PD	14.10	Dry, Okta 6, 20C, light air excellent visibility
19/06/2024	T4	PD	15.35	Dry, Okta 6, 20C, light air excellent visibility
19/06/2024	T5	PD	16.05	Dry, Okta 6, 20C, light air excellent visibility
26/06/2024	T2	LP	14.45	Dry 21C, Okta 2, light air, excellent visibility
20/07/2024	T4	JW	13.20	Overcast, showery, rain earlier, mod breeze, avg visibility
20/07/2024	T5	JW	13.50	Overcast, showery, rain earlier, mod breeze, avg visibility
30/07/2024	T1	PD	17.30	Dry, Okta 6, good visibility, mild 17C.
30/07/2024	T4	PD	19.10	Dry, Okta 6, good visibility, mild 17C.
30/07/2024	T5	PD	19.40	Dry, Okta 6, good visibility, mild 17C.
30/07/2024	T3	PD	20.50	Dry, Okta 6, good visibility, mild 17C.
06/08/2024	T2	PD	12.30	Overcast, Okta 8. dry, 21C, Light breeze

Table 9-3 Transect Survey Data - Non-breeding Season

Date	Transect	Surveyor	Start Time	Conditions
12/11/2020	T1	JW	14.35	Showers, windy, good visibility
13/11/2020	T2	JW	14.55	Showers, windy, good visibility
10/02/2021	T1	JW	13.00	Cold, showers (Snow), good visibility
10/02/2021	T2	GG	12.30	Cold, showers (Snow), good visibility
16/11/2023	T1	GG	9.30	Overcast but dry 9dg 15km NNW wind excellent visibility
17/11/2023	T3	GG	14.00	Light cloud 6dg light WSW wind excellent visibility.
17/11/2023	T4	GG	15.40	Light cloud 6dg light WSW wind excellent visibility.
30/11/2023	T2	PD	13.35	Dry. Bright Okta 2 -3. N Light Breeze. Excellent visibility
27/02/2024	T3	JW	12.40	Dry, sunny, breezy, clear, excellent visibility
27/02/2024	T2	PD	12.35	Dry, high broken cloud Okta 3, sunny, calm, excellent visibility
29/02/2024	T1	JW	11.05	Sunny, excellent visibility, breezy, cool, broken cloud
19/11/2024	T3	PD	8.15	Overcast, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
19/11/2024	T4	PD	9.40	Overcast, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
19/11/2024	T5	PD	10.15	Overcast, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
19/11/2024	T2	PD	13.35	Overcast, light breeze, dry, excellent visibility
27/11/2024	T1	GG	9.10	Dry, cold, light breeze northeast, excellent visibility
19/02/2025	T3	PD	8.00	Dry, sunny, breezy, clear, excellent visibility
19/02/2025	T2	PD	14.50	Dry, calm, high cloud, excellent visibility
19/02/2025	T1	PD	10.15	Dry, calm, high cloud, excellent visibility
19/02/2025	T4	JW	8.00	Dry, calm, high cloud, excellent visibility

### Table 9-4 Hinterland Survey Data

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**Granted and Undecided Applications Within C.10km of the Subject Site January 2013 to November 2025**

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
<b>Renewable Energy Developments</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 309306	The construction of 21 no. wind turbines and ancillary works.	Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2360360	Permission for development situated in the townland of Ballyfasy Upper, Co. Kilkenny. Permission is sought for the continued use of an existing, temporary lattice type meteorological mast, 80m in height.	Ballyfasy Upper , Ballyfasy , Co. Kilkenny	02/10/2023
Kilkenny County Council	13353	The development will consist of the erection of 1. no.500 kw wind turbine (hub height 65.00m), and the construction of a 25.00 sq.m electrical sub-station, site access road, and all ancillary works.	Ballinclare , Glenmore , Co. Kilkenny	12/09/2013
Kilkenny County Council	2560391	a 10 Year Planning Permission for a solar farm with a total area of circa 189 hectares in the townlands of Atateemore or Blackneys, Ballyhobuck, Ballyrahan, Carriganurra, Charlestown, Davidstown, Drumdowney Lower, Drumdowney Upper, Gorteens, Grogan, Kilmurry, Nicholastown, Rathpatrick, Scartnamoe, Tinvaucoosh and Treanaree in County Kilkenny. The solar farm will consist of solar panels on ground mounted frames, 27 no. single storey electrical inverter/transformer stations, 5 no. single storey spare parts containers, 3 no. Ring Main Units, 5 no. weather stations, underground electrical ducting and cabling within the development site, private lands and within the L3429, L7523, L7563, L7469, L3407, L3414, L34144, L7466, L3406, L7483, L3415, N25 and N29 public roads to connect solar farm field parcels, security fencing, CCTV, access tracks, 7 no. watercourse/drain deck crossings and 4 no. horizontal directional drill crossings (under the N25 and N29 public roads and the Luffany River), temporary construction compounds, landscaping and all associated ancillary development and drainage works. Construction and operational access will be via 7 no. existing entrances from the L3429, L7469, L7466, L4783 and L34142 which will be subject to entrance upgrade works. Separate construction phase access options are proposed for Parcel 4 via Port of Waterford and the L4783. The operational lifespan of the solar farm will be 40 years and planning permission is requested for this duration. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application	In the townlands of Atateemore or Blackneys Bal	Live Case
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 309306	The construction of 21 wind turbines and ancillary works at Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2022
<b>Electrical and Water Services</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	1310	Permission to construct an extension to existing 20kV electrical substation building including installation of a septic tank with associated percolation area and the provision of a borehole well water supply.	Ballymartin , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	07/03/2013
Kilkenny County Council	23145	The development consists of (1) Medium Voltage (MV) electricity system improvement by the installation of a new 20kV electricity underground cable (UGC) by means horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the River Barrow to connect the Lake Region circuit at Marshmeadows, County Wexford to the Beechgrove circuit at Raheen, Rosbercon, County Kilkenny.	Raheen , Rosbercon , Co. Kilkenny	08/12/2023
Wexford County Council	20181228	Permission for the development at the existing great island to kilkenny 110kV overhead line which is approximately 49 kilometres long. Approximately 2.6km of the existing circuit is located within the functional area of Wexford county council with approximately 46.4km located within County Kilkenny. The uprate of the existing circuit within County Wexford will be undertaken within the townland of great island, between structure em1 at great island substation and structure int15 near the administrative border between counties Wexford and Kilkenny. A natura impact statement (nis) forms part of this application.	Greatisland, Kilmokea	01/02/2019
Wexford County Council	20151282	Permission for renewal works to the existing 38kV overhead line spanning the river barrow to the north of O Hanrahan Bridge in New Ross, County Wexford. In total five structures will be replaced as part of the proposed works. The overhead line falls within the administrative areas of County Kilkenny and County Wexford.	Rosbercon, Annefield, Ardross & Castlemoyle, N	24/02/2016
Kilkenny County Council	15825	for renewal works to the existing 38kV overhead line spanning the River Barrow to the north of O'Hanrahan Bridge in New Ross, County Wexford.	New Ross ,	25/02/2016
Wexford County Council	20181585	Planning permission for a 63.3sqm single storey extension to the existing electr	Butlersland, New Ross Rural	12/02/2019
Wexford County Council	20240650	Permission for the development of a long duration energy storage facility	Knockmullin, New Ross Rural	23/10/2024
Kilkenny County Council	18573	for develop at existing Grt Isl-Kk 110kV Overhead Line, approx 49kms long. Approx 46.4km of existing circuit located within functional area of CoKk with approx 2.6km located within Co Wex. The uprate works within CoKk will be undertaken between structure INT1.	Great Island to , Kilkenny Overhead Line	08/03/2019



Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Wexford County Council	20230651	Permission for development in the townland of Marshmeadows, New Ross, County Wexford to the townland of Raheen, Rosbercon, County Kilkenny. The project passes under the River Barrow across the county boundaries of Wexford and Kilkenny. The development consists of (1) Medium Voltage (MV) electricity system improvement by the installation of a new 20kV electricity underground cable (UGC) by means horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the River Barrow to connect the Lake Region circuit at Marshmeadows, County Wexford to the Beechgrove circuit at Raheen, Rosbercon, County Kilkenny. From end to end the UGC measures approximately 580m. The majority of the circuit, approximately 365m will be installed by HDD under the River Barrow. The remainder of the circuit, approximately 215m will be a UGC installed by traditional trenching and ducting means. Approximately 355m of this UGC will be installed within County Wexford and the remaining 225m will be installed within County Kilkenny. (2) A second spare duct will be installed within the HDD to enable a second circuit to be installed at a future date to further enhance and future proof the network. (3) Permission is sought for all associated works including temporary works required. Planning permission is sought for a ten (10) year period. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and will be submitted with the application.	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural	30/08/2023
Wexford County Council	ACP Ref. 318103	Development of a new electricity circuit. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted with the application.	New Ross, Co. Wexford	13/11/2024
Wexford County Council	ACP Ref. 308906	Proposed development will form part of the Greenlink Interconnector and will consist of the development of a new converter station, tail station, MV substation and 23km of high voltage direct current (JVDC) electricity cables, 420m of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables, 23.42km of fibre optic cable and all associated site works with an overall proposed development site area of 83.8ha.	Ramstown in Co. Wexford	23/06/2021
Kilkenny County Council	13444	to relocate a borehole well for water supply previously permitted under Pl. Ref.: 13/10.	Ballymartin , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	19/11/2013
Kilkenny County Council	16200	to construct a new water reservoir; perimeter fencing and all ancillary siteworks.	Flemingstown , Glenmore , Co. Kilkenny	30/05/2016
Kilkenny County Council	19221	for drilling of a temporary trial well and carrying out associated works on a site adjacent to Glenmore Water Treatment Plant. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application.	Glenmore Water Treatment Plant , Flemingstown	29/05/2019
Kilkenny County Council	22513	for the change of use of land to extend the service station carpark to enable the installation of a modular substation and ancillary site development works.	Inver Service Station , Townland of Rathpatrick ,	27/09/2022
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 245770	Upgrade Inistioge water supply scheme watermain from Grennan to reservoir Ballygub, Inistioge at Grennan Thomastown.	Ballyduff, Kilmacshane, Kilcross and Ballygub Co.	24/03/2016
Wexford County Council	20250452	Permission for a proposed single storey ESB substation and switch room building and all associated site works.	Stokestown, Oldcourt	06/06/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560074	for the construction of a new wastewater treatment system and a proposed change to the site boundary situated	Rathpatrick , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	23/06/2025
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 315856	27 metre telecommunications support structure and associated site works.	Ballyrobin, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny	07/03/2024
Wexford County Council	Acp Ref. 318103	Development of a new electricity circuit. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted with the application.	New Ross, Co. Wexford	13/11/2024
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 245770	Upgrade Inistioge water supply scheme watermain from Grennan to reservoir Ballygub, Inistioge at Grennan Thomastown.	Ballyduff, Kilmacshane, Kilcross and Ballygub Co.	24/03/2016
<b>Roadworks</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	1681	to construct a farm/forestry roadway exiting onto the R704 road and all associated site works.	Ballynooney West , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	12/04/2016
Kilkenny County Council	LAC1608	The main features of the existing n25/r733 priority junction to a conventional roundabout layout. The widening of footpaths on the immediate approach roads to the proposed roundabout. The provision of ancillary works including road drainage, public lighting, the installation of roadmarking, road studs and signage. Landscaping works.	N25/R733 Oaklands Roundabout, New Ross	12/12/2016
Kilkenny County Council	LAC1611	The development of the disused railway line, railway bridge and railway tunnel extending from Rosbercon, New Ross to Mountelliot as a cycle and pedestrian route. The route will ultimately form part of the planned national greenway network link, connecting Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny And Carlow to Dublin and beyond. This section also forms part of the looped walk returning to new ross along the Craywell road/footpath. The work will include the following: the clearance of vegetation on the rail line corridor, retaining boundary hedgerows and boundary vegetation; the laying of a 3 metre wide bituminous surface on a crushed stone base to form the cycle and footpath track; repair and upgrade of existing drains; the upgrade and repair of existing bridges so as to accommodate the cycle/pedestrian route; the installation of barriers for the safety of greenway users; stock proof fencing where required; provision of agricultural crossings and security fencing; screen fencing and/or screen planting.	New Ross - Redbridge - Mountelliot Greenway	13/03/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17456	Permission for the development of a 24 hour opening Motorway Service Area.	At R704 , Garrandarragh , Mullinavat	13/11/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17655	to construct new vehicular entrance into forestry land and associated site works.	Farnoge East , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	14/06/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18226	to construct a new entrance to my lands for use by forestry and all associated site works.	Ballinlammy , Glenmore , Co Kilkenny	28/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	2360198	construction of a livestock underpass, effluent holding tank and all associated site works.	Charlefield Tinnaslatty , The Rower , Co. Kilkenny	13/11/2023
Kilkenny County Council	14390	to construct a cattle underpass under the L8259 public road and all associated site works.	Knockmoylan , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	15/01/2015
Kilkenny County Council	LAC1502	Realignment of collapsed section of local tertiary road l40274.	Ballykelly, New Ross	27/04/2015
Kilkenny County Council	16316	for a new forestry access road to service the existing forestry lands and all associated works.	Ballynooney , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	11/01/2017

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	1775	for the construction of a new entrance from public roadway onto forestry lands, to comprise the provision of splayed access, clear visibility sightlines, associated setting back of adjacent roadside boundaries, provision of associated surface water drainage, fences, finished hardcored structure to access area, closing of existing entrances and all associated siteworks.	Ballintlea , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	06/04/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17664	for the construction of a new entrance from public roadway onto forestry lands to comprise the provision of splayed access, clear visibility sightlines, associated setting back of adjacent roadside boundaries, provision of associated surface water drainage, fences, finished hardcored structure to access area, and all associated siteworks.	Bishopmountain , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	30/11/2017
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 310085	Whether the selective felling and clearing of trees and construction of a new road access corridor to and from the public road within a forest plantation for purposes other than for forestry, and the development of access road within a forest plantation.	Glenpipe, Tullogher, Co. Kilkenny.	31/08/2021
Kilkenny County Council	18287	for a new forestry roadway & entrance and all ancillary works.	Ballyfasy Upper , Glenmore , Co Kilkenny	23/07/2018
Kilkenny County Council	19705	for the construction of a road underpass and associated site works for agricultural purposes.	Brownstown , New Ross , Co. Kilkenny	12/08/2020
Kilkenny County Council	22452	for the construction of a Livestock Underpass beneath the public road between the crossroads and existing farmyard alongside all associated site works.	Grogan , Glenmore , Co. Kilkenny	22/11/2022
Kilkenny County Council	22725	for the construction of a livestock underpass under the L-3421-30 local road, soiled water tank and ancillary works.	Ballykenna , Tullogher , Co. Kilkenny	30/06/2023
Kilkenny County Council	1895	for development at a site. The development will consist of the widening of an existing entrance connecting to the public road (to form a bellmouth entrance), to facilitate occasional access to an existing forestry plantation, and all ancillary site deve	Ballymartin , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	10/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	2560074	for the construction of a new wastewater treatment system and a proposed change to the site boundary situated	APPLICATION FINALISED	23/06/2025
<b>Industrial</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	15395	for the proposed erection of one number industrial/warehouse unit, external signage and all associated site development works.	Raheen , New Ross , Co. Kilkenny	14/03/2016
Wexford County Council	20120391	Extend the existing boiler flue in height by 10 metres and construct an additional flue adjacent to same for the purpose of servicing a second boiler unit.	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural	25/10/2017
Kilkenny County Council	14533	for Full Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) status and storage of baled municipal waste and associated site works at an existing waste metal processing and storage facility.	Raheen , Rosbercon , New Ross	16/11/2015
Kilkenny County Council	14541	for development at a site of circa 8.27ha. The site comprises an existing coal processing and bagging facility where coal is imported primarily by ship for processing and distribution throughout Ireland.	Raheen and Annaghs , New Ross , Co. Kilkenny	23/06/2015
Wexford County Council	20150325	Permission for development at ida business park, butlersland, new ross, co. Wexford.	Butlersland, New Ross Rural	03/06/2015
Kilkenny County Council	15366	is sought within part of an existing quarry for a C&D recycling facility for the recycling of construction and demolition waste and for the importation and recovery of non-hazardous soils, subsoil and other similar material.	Catsrock & Rathglisish Townslands , Glenmore , Co	27/06/2016
Wexford County Council	20160449	A construction and demolition (c&d) recycling facility where certain classes of construction and demolition waste (concrete, stone, block, brick, soils, etc) are transported to site and periodically crushed, screened and stockpiled using mobile plant to produce a reusable construction / domestic / agricultural product, placement of landscaping and all associated site works. A natura impact statement has been submitted with the planning application.	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural	20/07/2016
Kilkenny County Council	16399	for the construction of an industrial building over an existing dry dock, concrete aprons and associated works.	Raheen , Rosbercon , Co. Kilkenny	11/01/2017
Wexford County Council	20170549	Permission for change of use of former childrens play centre to industrial dry storage use and retention of alterations to front facade and all associated site works (previous planning registration no: 20033181) at units 13 & 14 Woodbine Business Park, Hewitsland, New Ross, Co. Wexford.	Hewitsland, New Ross Rural	23/06/2017
Wexford County Council	17788	to demolish all buildings on the Albatros factory site. Building materials will be segregated. Steel frames will be removed from site and recycled. Concrete materials will be crushed and retained on site.	Raheen , Rosbercon , New Ross	19/02/2018
Kilkenny County Council	20181399	Permission for retention of two (2 no.) Pay-to-use waste compaction units at Knockavilla service station, Knockavilla, New Ross, co. Wexford. This application relates to development which requires a waste licence.	Knockavilla, New Ross Rural	05/12/2018
Kilkenny County Council	20127	for the importation of soil & stone (LOW Code 17 05 04) for the raising of an agricultural field/ restoration of a disused quarry in order to improve the agricultural output of the field/disused quarry.	Kiltorcan , Ballyhale , Co. Kilkenny	25/03/2021
Kilkenny County Council	22264	for 1. a mobile crushing plant 2. A reduction in size of the Compound area & parking areas as was granted under planning permission 20/485 & all ancillary works.	Ballymountain , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	05/01/2023
Wexford County Council	1313	for the material change of use from temporary storage only of ferrous and non ferrous metals to processing (shearing and sorting of metals) and storage of metals and hazardous end of life vehicles (maximum of 1 day storage) prior to removal off site.	Raheen , Rosbercon , New Ross	01/10/2013
Wexford County Council	20180348	Permission for development consisting of the demolition and removal of decommissioned tanks, pipework, loading stand and all associated fixtures and fittings. The proposed demolition works are not to facilitate the development of a facility that would require environment impact assessment in the future.	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural, Wexford.	10/05/2018
Wexford County Council	20200124	Permission for the installation of a liquid natural gas fuel system, complete with associated new storage vessel and plant equipment, the installation of a new plant control container and the necessary alterations to the existing tank-farm to accommodate the works, complete with all associated site works and ancillary accommodation. All the above works to be undertaken at site at marshmeadows, new ross, co. Wexford.	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural, Wexford	27/04/2020
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 246963	Permission for a recycling facility for the recycling of construction and demolition waste and for the importation and recovery of non-hazardous soils within part of the existing quarry.	Catsrock and Rathglisish Townslands, Glenmore, C	02/03/2017

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 315686	Mobile crushing plant and a reduction in size of the Compound area & parking areas as was granted under planning permission 20/485.	Ballymountain, Slieverue, Co Kilkenny.	16/04/2024
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 247592	Permission/retention permission is sought for retention of an existing quarry and extension to the quarry with a proposed extraction area of .80ha and all associated site works.	Castlegannon, Ballyhale, County Kilkenny.	03/04/2017
Kilkenny County Council	1641	for development. The development will consist of and permission/retention permission is sought for: retention of an existing quarry with an extraction area of approximately 1.20 ha. A lateral extension to the quarry with a proposed extraction area of ap	Castlegannon , Ballyhale , Co. Kilkenny	03/04/2017
Kilkenny County Council	16700	for development. The development will consist of continuation of quarrying activities within the red line application area of 62.04 ha to include the extension of the existing excavation by an additional 2 x 15m high benches from the current floor level	Aglish North , Granny , Kilmacow	02/05/2017
Kilkenny County Council	2360426	for a 7-year planning permission for 3 No Bulk Stores, a marshalling yard and site works including earthworks, road works, entrance, gates and fencing, concrete paving, water services, drainage works, site lighting and landscaping. The stores will be us	GORTEENS , SLIEVERUE , CO KILKENNY	18/10/2024
Wexford County Council	20141038	ERECTION OF A CIRCA 2400 M2 INDUSTRIAL UNIT AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS	BUTLERSLAND, NEW ROSS RURAL	17/04/2020
Kilkenny County Council	2460100 (ACP Ref 321806)	for the extension of Kilmacow Quarry at Aglish North, Granny, Kilmacow, County Kilkenny, authorised via planning reference 16/700, to adjoining agricultural lands to the east with known quality reserves of aggregates. The extension will cover an area of	Kilmacow , Granny Aglish North , Kilkenny	26/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2460103 (ACP Ref. 321962)	for development on lands with a site area of approximately 11.57ha located at Gorteens, Co. Kilkenny. The development will consist of the construction of an integrated plasterboard manufacturing facility, incorporating a production plant with access fro	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	01/08/2025
Wexford County Council	20240934	Permission for (1) the construction of 3 no. warehouses providing a total	Portersland, New Ross Rural	21/10/2024
Wexford County Council	20231571	Permission for the construction of a warehouse storage building extension to sid	Marshmeadows, New Ross Rural	13/12/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2560233	constructing 2 no. industrial warehouse blocks for bulk storage, with Block A housing 4 no. single storey storage units (floor area - 3,488.4m2) and Block B housing 4 no. single storey units (floor area - 8446.2m2), new weighbridge and cabin, new internal access roads, retaining walls and boundary fencing and all ancillary works	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co. Kilkenny	25/07/2025
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 315686	Mobile crushing plant and a reduction in size of the Compound area & parking areas as was granted under planning permission 20/485.	Ballymountain, Slieverue, Co Kilkenny.	26/03/2024
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 321806	Extension of Kilmacow Quarry authorised via planning reference 16/700. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).	Aglish North, Granny, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 246963	Permission for a recycling facility for the recycling of construction and demolition waste and for the importation and recovery of non-hazardous soils within part of the existing quarry	Catsrock and Rathglish Townslands, Glenmore, C	02/03/2017
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 247592	Permission/retention permission is sought for retention of an existing quarry and extension to the quarry with a proposed extraction area of .80ha and all associated site works.	Castlegannon, Ballyhale, County Kilkenny.	03/04/2017
<b>Residential</b>				
Wexford County Council	20181348	Planning permission for the proposed erection of no. 9 fully serviced town houses.	New Ross, New Ross Urban	03/05/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19666	to construct a new short stay / holiday camping park consisting of 11 no. glamping pods, new bore well, new sewerage treatment system / percolation area and parking area, including all additional site works	Kiltorcan , Ballyhale , Co. Kilkenny	04/02/2020
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 309918	Construction of 6 dwellings as an extension to partially completed housing development.	Castlehyde Park , Millbanks , New Ross, Co Kilkenny	21/10/2022
Wexford County Council	20200844	Construction of 48 residential dwellings.	Healysland, New Ross Rural, Co. Wexford.	11/09/2020
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 306289	Housing Development of 25 houses.	Dangan, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	08/12/2020
Wexford County Council	20160083	PERMISSION FOR THE ERECTION OF 5 NO DWELLING HOUSES, BOUNDARY WALLS AND ASSOCIATE WORKS	NEW ROSS, NEW ROSS URBAN	26/04/2016
Kilkenny County Council	19731	This development will consist of the construction of 4 no. 1 bedroom single storey dwelling houses, 15 no. 2 bedroom two storey dwelling houses, 6 no. 3 bedroom two storey dwelling houses, proposed entrance and access road and all associated ancillary si	Dangan , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	08/12/2020
Kilkenny County Council	19160	A) Outline Planning Permission for 3 no. houses on proposed serviced sites B) Planning Permission for 5 No. detached 2 storey houses and all associated site development works including internal roads, new site entrance, connections to existing sewer and	Dangan , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	21/08/2019
Kilkenny County Council	2460504	for development at a site which extends to 3.61 hectares on lands located at Millbanks Road (L3443). The development will consist of the following: 1. The construction of 75 no. residential units comprising: (a) 63 no. 3-bed houses (b) 12 no. 4-bed h	Millbanks , New Ross , Co Kilkenny	12/08/2025
Kilkenny County Council	17315	for development at this site which will consist of construction of 12 No. 2 storey, 2 bedroom semi-detached dwellings, access road, car parking, closure of existing entrance onto public road (N25) and all associated site works	Belmount , Ferrybank , Co. Kilkenny	23/02/2018
Kilkenny County Council	17658	for demolition of 3 No. existing out buildings and the proposed erection of 11 No. dwellings consisting of 3 No. two storey 3 bed end terraced dwellings, 4 No. two storey 2 bed mid-terraced dwellings, 2 No-two storey 3 bed semi-detached dwellings, 1 No t	Lower Kilmacow , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	14/11/2018



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Kilkenny County Council	20413	for the erection of 6 no. 2 storey semi-detached dwellings as an extension to existing partially completed housing development, all associated site development works including storm attenuation tank and alterations to the existing site entrance from that	Castlehyde Park , Millbanks , New Ross	21/10/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2360323	for the proposed erection of 4 number fully serviced 2 storey detached dwellings, 4 number detached single storey garages, 2 number proposed vehicular and pedestrian entrances, boundary treatments to include removal of existing stone wall to front of sit	Milepost , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	13/05/2024
Wexford County Council	20220880	Permission for the construction of 48 No. dwellings, comprising	Hewitsland, New Ross Rural	11/01/2023
Wexford County Council	20230644	Permission is sought for the construction of 42 no residential dwellings	Healysland, New Ross Rural	18/12/2023
Kilkenny County Council	21574	to carry out the site development works for five residential sites (namely Chesnut Cresent_Phase 1), together with installation of all necessary services, including connection to and from existing services on The Beeches housing site (planning Ref 05/217	The Beeches , Mount Sion , Ballyrobin Ferrybank	30/12/2021
Kilkenny County Council	23117	for the construction of 35 no. residential units comprising the following: 1 no. 2 storey detached Duplex unit, comprising of 2 no. 1 bed units Type E2 & 2 no. 2 bed units Type E1 on ground floor and 2 no. 1 bed units Type F2 & 2 no. 2 bed units Type F	Rockshire Road , Ballyrobin , Ferrybank	23/12/2024
Wexford County Council	20230672	Permission to construct 2 no. one-bedroomed apartments, 6 no. two-bedroomed	New Ross, New Ross Urban	25/10/2023
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 318813	8 duplex and 27 houses with associated site works.	Rockshire Road, Ballyrobin, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny	23/12/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2460364 (ACP Ref. 321555)	Construction of 15 houses with all associated site works.	Dangan, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	Undecided
Wexford County Council	20250169	Permission to demolish existing warehouse (Block B) which adjoins existing dwelling (Block A) to Priory Street elevation and existing 2 storey over basement extension to rear of existing dwelling (Block A), and for the demolition of (Block C) existing warehouse/factory building to rear of property (accessed from Priory Lane). The following is further proposed; i) To construct a one storey over basement level extension to rear of existing dwelling (Block A). ii) For the modifications of existing windows and the addition of 4 no. patio doors with balconies to the rear of existing dwelling (Block A). iii) To construct (Block B) - (on the site of the former warehouse which adjoins the existing Block A dwelling) a new 4 storey over basement apartment building consisting of 1 no. Duplex 2 bedroom apartment on basement and ground floor level, with rear balcony, 1 no. one bedroom apartment with rear balcony and 3 no. two bedroom apartments, with rear balconies, and a communal bin store at ground floor level also. iv) To further construct (Block C - a three storey building) (on the site of the former warehouse/factory building to the rear of the property) which will comprise of 4 no. 1 bedroom apartments at ground floor level, 4 no. 2 bedroom duplex town houses over first and second floor, with 1 no. adjoining two storey 3 bedroom townhouse. An external communal bin store area and bicycle storage/parking facility is proposed to the rear of the property (to the front of Block C). v) 2 no. public open spaces (green areas) are also proposed to the rear of the property to provide for required amenity space, and bin truck and fire truck access turning point. All development and construction shall incorporate all necessary and associated site works	New Ross, New Ross Urban	04/04/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560050	to refurbish and extend our dwelling. Works will include to construct a single storey extension to the front, a single storey extension to the rear, Elevation changes and to connect the dwelling to the public sewer, along with all associated site development works	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	06/05/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2534	to erect a dwelling house	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	25/07/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560368	to construct a single storey dwelling with detached domestic garage, on-site sewerage treatment, new entrance onto the public road and all associated works	Ballynamorahan , Kilmacow , Co.Kilkenny	15/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560370	to construct a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and percolation area, including all necessary site works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	15/10/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560372	to construct a single storey dwelling with attached domestic garage, on-site sewerage treatment, entrance onto the public road and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co.Kilkenny	17/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560409	for the construction of a single storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, proprietary treatment system and all ancillary site works	Cloone , Mullinabro , Kilkenny	Live Case
Kilkenny County Council	2591	to erect a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	Live Case
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 301975	Demolition of 3 existing out buildings and erection of 11 dwellings	Lower Kilmacow, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	14/11/2018
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 303622	Demolition and reconstruction of existing house	Ballinagoth Quay, Rathsnagadan, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny	24/06/2019
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 304920	A new dwelling and domestic wastewater treatment system and percolation area including refurbishment works to an existing protected structure and all associated site works.	Granny, Kilmacow, Co Kilkenny.	10/01/2020
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 306289	Housing Development of 25 houses	Dangan, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny	08/12/2020
Wexford County Council	Acp Ref. 307326	Construction of house	Poulmaloe, Whitechurch, New Ross, Co. Wexford.	Case is due to be decided by 08/12/2020
Wexford County Council	Acp Ref. 309555	Permission for the demolition of an existing single storey garage to side of an existing dwelling, erection of a two storey extension to the rear of an existing dwelling, raising of the ridge level on existing dwelling and all associated site works	The Hollow, Camblin, New Ross, Co. Wexford	04/06/2021
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 309918	Construction of 6 dwellings as an extension to partially completed housing development.	Castlehyde Park , Millbanks , New Ross, Co Kilkenny	21/10/2022



Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 318813	8 duplex and 27 houses with associated site works.	Rockshire Road, Ballyrobin, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny	23/12/2024
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 322838	Construction of house	Killeen , Inistioge , Co Kilkenny	29/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	Acp Ref. 247440	Retain and complete a domestic garage.	Ashbourne' , Kilmurry, Slieverue, Co.Kilkenny.	01/02/2017
<b>Other</b>				
Wexford County Council	LAC1902	Proposed construction of a new fire station.	Hewitsland, New Ross, Co. Wexford	08/04/2019
Wexford County Council	LAC1905	The development of a public realm area in The High Hill in New Ross.	The High Hill, New Ross, Co Wexford	08/07/2019
Wexford County Council	20191332	Permission for the construction of seven ground floor mixed use commercial units.	Verosland, New Ross Urban, Wexford	15/11/2019
Kilkenny County Council	2215	for the proposed demolition of existing single storey commercial building and the proposed erection of a fully serviced 2 storey end terrace 2 bedroom townhouse, boundary treatments, together with all associated site development works, all	Main Street , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	08/04/2022
Kilkenny County Council	18110	for development of silage base with walls, concrete apron, loose cattle shed and associated site works at	Clogga , Mooncoin , Co. Kilkenny	14/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18501	to erect silage base and all associated works at	Ballyhimmin , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	12/10/2018
Kilkenny County Council	1718	to erect spectator stand, first floor room to existing machinery shed for use as a gymnasium and all associated works	Ballynaraha , Glenmore , Co. Kilkenny	12/04/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17284	is sought for the construction of a 4 bay, mono-pitch carport of area 53.65Sq.m, the partial realignment of the existing driveway (entrance unaffected), replacement of existing timber fence with rendered blockwork wall, the removal of existing porch roof	Arderra , Mooncoin , Co. Kilkenny	28/08/2017
Kilkenny County Council	2360109	a four-lane vehicle testing facility and associated offices , together with all associated site land landscaping works	Deerpark , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	02/04/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2460111	for the construction of an indoor arena and associated site works	Lennaght , The Rower , Co Kilkenny	20/12/2024
Wexford County Council	20150563	PERMISSION FOR THE PROPOSED FILLING OF SITE WITH CLEAN STONE, SUBSOIL AND TOPSO	PORTERSLAND, NEW ROSS RURAL	31/08/2015
Wexford County Council	20210095	Permission for to fill 4047 sq.m. (part of the existing site) with a clean stone	Marshmeadows & Camlin, New Ross Rural	30/06/2021
Wexford County Council	20231410	Permission for the retention of a pay-to-use portable waste compactor	Knockavilla, New Ross Rural	28/02/2024
Kilkenny County Council	19246	to retain indefinitely silage base, hard surfaced yard and all associated works	Arderra , Mooncoin , Co Kilkenny	26/05/2020
Kilkenny County Council	2360371	TO CONSTRUCT AN AGRICULTURAL SILAGE SLAB & ALL ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS	BALLYFACEY UPPER , GLENMORE , CO. KILKEN	11/01/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2479	for the construction of a silage pit with ancillary underground seepage tank and all associated site works	Milltown , Piltown , Co. Kilkenny	16/09/2024
Wexford County Council	20240030	Permission for 9 no. additional silos at existing cement bagging facility	Stokestown, Oldcourt	20/12/2024
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 317082-23	Flood Relief Scheme to protect the Village from flooding up to the 1% AEP flood event. Scheme consists of hard defences in addition to a range of interventions along the watercourse reach to provide additional capacity and environmental improvements.	Ballyhale, County Kilkenny	01/05/2023
Kilkenny County Council	15381	Permission for Continuance of Use for existing 24m telecommunications structure, carrying associated antennae and link dishes, associated equipment cabinets, and associated works.	Garraunbaun , Drumdowney Upper Td , Co. Kilke	14/08/2015
Kilkenny County Council	17482	Permission to retain an existing 27.3m high telecommunications structure carrying antennas, communications dishes together with associated ground-mounted equipment with a 2.4 metre palisade fenced compound.	Ballydaw , Co. Kilkenny	08/09/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17489	Retention Permission to retain an existing 16.7m high telecommunications structure carrying antennas, communications dishes together with associated ground-mounted equipment within a 2.4metre palisade fenced compound.	Glendonnel , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	12/09/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17529	Retention permission to retain An Existing 26.4M High Telecommunications Structure Carrying Antennas, Communications Dishes Together with Associated Ground-Mounted Equipment with A 2.4 Metre Palisade fenced Compound.	Castlebanny , Ballyhale , Co. Kilkenny	02/10/2017
Kilkenny County Council	21207	Permission for a 21.3m high monopole telecommunications structure together with antennas, dishes and associated equipment all enclosed in security fencing.	Mullennahone TD , Glenmore , Co Kilkenny	09/08/2021
Kilkenny County Council	2288	The development consists of an existing 25 metre high telecommunications support structure (total height including antennas 26.4 metres) carrying telecommunications equipment, together with existing equipment container.	Drumdowney Upper Townland , Murtaghstown ,	26/01/2023
Kilkenny County Council	16129	Retention Permission to retain an existing 30 metre high Lattice telecommunications support structure carrying antennas and RT link dishes.	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	27/04/2016
Kilkenny County Council	20233	Permission to replace an existing 27.3 metre monopole telecommunications support structure with a new 30 metre multi-user lattice telecommunications support structure, carrying antenna and dishes and to extend the compound enclosed by a 2.4 metre high palisade fence.	Ballydaw , Co. Kilkenny	13/07/2020
Kilkenny County Council	21209	Permission to replace an existing 27m metre monopole telecommunications support structure with a new 33 metre multi-user lattice telecommunications support structure, carrying antenna and dishes and to extend the compound enclosed by 2.4 metre high palisade fence.	Castlebanny , Ballyhale , Co. Kilkenny	18/11/2021
Kilkenny County Council	1565	Permission for Continuance of Use for existing 36m telecommunications structure, carrying associated antennae and link dishes, associated equipment cabinets (as per previous Planning Ref P10-21) and Permission for additional telecommunications equipment.	BallykennaTd , Tullogher , Co. Kilkenny	31/03/2015

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Wexford County Council	20180931	Retention permission of an existing 15 metre high telecommunications support structure (total height including antennas 16.78 metres) carrying telecommunications equipment, together with existing equipment container and associated equipment within a fenced compound as previously granted under local authority reference 20120304.	Ballylane West, Oldcourt	30/08/2018
Kilkenny County Council	16529	retention permission for development of a 36 metre high tower with associated equipment attached including an 3 metre high anticlimbing cage at ground level all within an existing RTE chain-link fenced compound using existing access. This application is	Corbally Wood , Corbally (Td) , Co. Kilkenny	01/11/2016
Kilkenny County Council	17201	retention permission for a freestanding 30 metre high telecommunications mast with existing antennae, aerials, dishes, single storey equipment building, 2.5 metre high perimeter fencing with a vehicular access gate along with all associated development w	Corbally Woods , Co. Kilkenny	23/06/2017
Kilkenny County Council	1927	for replacement and relocation of the existing 15 metre high freestanding wooden pole communication structure and its associated antennae communication dishes and ground equipment, with a 20metre high free standing monopole communication structure, carry	Rosbercon , Co. Kilkenny	17/04/2019
Kilkenny County Council	2460555	for the erection of a 24m lattice telecommunications support structure on a 1.2 metre high raised foundation (providing an overall height of 25.2 metres) together with associated antennas and dishes and to remove the existing 15 metre lattice telecommuni	Crowbally , Mullinavat , County Kilkenny	10/11/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2318	for development. The development will consist of a new 27 metres telecommunications support structure with headframe, carrying antennas, dishes, associated equipment, ground-based equipment cabinets, fencing and all associated site development works for	Ballyrobin , Ferrybank , Co Kilkenny	07/03/2024
Kilkenny County Council	1330	Permission for continuance of use of an existing 25 metres high monopole support structure carrying radio antennas (total height including antennas 26.4m), palisade perimeter fencing and equipment container.	Drumdowner Upper Townland , Murtaghstown ,	17/06/2013
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 315856	The development consists of an existing 25 metre high telecommunications support structure and associated works as previously granted under local authority reference 13/30.	Drumdowney Upper Townland , Murtaghstown ,	26/03/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2460237 (ACP Ref. 321484)	Construction of a cattle shed, manure pit and associated works.	Coolmeen, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny	30/04/2025
Wexford County Council	20250033	Permission for development which will consist of modifications to service station forecourt to include a high-power electric vehicle charging hub, consisting of the following: (i) installation of 4no. electric vehicle charging bays with 2no. charging points, (ii) new modular ESB substation, CT metering cabinet and mini pillar, (iii) the relocation of existing laundrette kiosk to northern boundary, and the provision of 4no. new car parking spaces along eastern boundary, and (iv) all other associated site development, landscaping and drainage infrastructure works	New Ross, New Ross Urban	07/03/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560195	sought for the infill and raising of existing ground levels with the importation of 17,250 Tonnes of recovered inert soil and stone under permit and as a by-product under article 27, together with all associated suite development works. This application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Annaghs , Rosbercon New Ross , Co. Wexford	Undecided
Kilkenny County Council	2560212	sought for the demolition and removal of an existing shed and 2No. silos, and the construction of a new warehouse storage building, together with all associated site development works	Raheen , Rosbercon New Ross , Co. Kilkenny	13/10/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560263	for development at this site. The development will consist of the importation of less than 200,000 tonnes (total) or less than 50,000 tonnes per annum of uncontaminated soils and subsoils for the purposes of quarry backfill with an agricultural or ecological end use. It is also intended to import up to 3.62 million tonnes of soil and stone (non-waste) construction by-product for quarry backfill. The site area is c. 14.8 ha and the proposed infill area is c. 7.4 ha. The proposed development at Catsrock Quarry also provides for: 1.Construction of a weighbridge and associated office; 2.Use of external paved and hardstanding areas surrounding the existing buildings for support activities related to the quarry backfill; 3.The progressive restoration of the backfilled landform to agriculture and/or long-term natural habitat; 4.Continued use and retention of established site infrastructure and services including, site office, staff welfare facilities, surface water run-off and passive water treatment systems, garage / workshop, wheelwash, hardstand areas, fuel and water storage tanks to service the proposed development; 5.Decommissioning of any remaining fixed plant and infrastructure associated with former rock extraction activities; 6.Implementation of a series of measures to enhance local biodiversity including the retention of habitats and features of biodiversity value, quarry face retention for nesting peregrine falcon, retention of the existing sand martin colony, creation of roost space / deployment of bat boxes for bats, creation of habitat / erection of bird nest boxes for breeding / roosting birds and erection of fence along the site perimeter to include access points for mammals; 7.Environmental monitoring of noise, dust, surface water and groundwater for the duration of the restoration works and for a short period thereafter; and 8.All ancillary site works, landscaping and perimeter fencing. A permission of 10 years is sought to carry out the proposed quarry restoration works. The Planning Application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	Catsrock Quarry , Catsrock and Rathaglish , Cour	Undecided

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	2560264	for the construction of a fully serviced building comprising of a Viewing Stand, Community Meeting Room, Shop, Gym, Dressing Rooms, Storeroom and associated works situated	Kilmurry , Slieveroe , Co. Kilkenny	04/11/2025

**Granted and Undecided Applications Within 200m of the Grid Connection Route Option 1 - 2013 to November 2025**

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
<b>Renewable Energy Developments</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 309306	The construction of 21 wind turbines and ancillary works at Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2022
<b>Residential</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	20422	to construct a new vehicular entrance, a single storey dwelling, a garage, a wastewater treatment system with all associated site works	Glenpipe , Tullogher , Co. Kilkenny	11/12/2020
<b>Other</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	17168	for development of a cattle shed, concrete apron and associated site works	Cappagh , Thomastown , Co. Kilkenny	13/06/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17664	for the construction of a new entrance from public roadway onto forestry lands to comprise the provision of	Bishopmountain , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	11/01/2018
Kilkenny County Council	1895	for development at a site. The development will consist of the widening of an existing entrance connecting to	Ballymartin , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	10/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	21184	for bovine slatted unit and cubicle shed, consisting of a slatted tank for slurry storage, concrete yard, holding	Mullennakill , Tullogher , Mullinavat	10/01/2022



### Granted and Undecided Applications Within 200m of the Grid Connection Route Option 2 - 2013 to November 2025

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
<b>Renewable Energy Developments</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 309306	The construction of 21 wind turbines and ancillary works at Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2022
<b>Electrical and Water Services</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	18573	<p>for develop at existing Grt Isl-Kk 110kV Overhead Line, approx 49kms long.Approx 46.4km of existing circuit located within functional area of CoKk with approx 2.6km located within CoWex.The uprate works within CoKk will be undertaken betwn structure INT16 in townland of Drumdowney Upr,near admin border betwn Co's Wx&amp;Kk and structure EM258 in twndland of Scart(ED Dunbell),east of KkCity.Within Co Kk existing circuit extends across twnlands of Drumdowney Upr,Murtaghstown,Luffany, Rathpatrick,Treanaree,Carriganurra,Nicholastown,Atateemore orBlackneys,Ballincrea, Fahy,Rathnasmolagh,Knockbrack,Ballinlammy,Haggard, BallyfasyLwr&amp;Upr, Ballywairy, Darbystown,Ballalog,Listerlin,Brabstown,Ballyconnaught,Ballykenna,Garrandarragh, Ballyvool,Firgrove,Bohilla,Ballycocksoost,Coolsillagh,Kilmacshane,Kilcullen,Ruppa, Mungmacody,Cloghscregg,Castlegarden,Kilmanaheen,Dungarvan(EDBennettsbridge), Dungarvan Glebe,Cloghala(EDBennettsbridge),Ballynaboley,Smithstown(EDDunbell), Clashwilliam Td(EDDunbell),Blanchvillestown,Grove(EDDunbell),Roughfield,Rathcash, Rathgarvan orClifden,Maddockstown,Ballynamona,Highrath &amp;Scart(EDDunbell). Uprate of existing circuit within CoWx will be undertaken within twndland of Grt Isl, between structure EM1 at Grt Isl Substn&amp;structure INT15 near admin border between Co's Wx&amp;Kk. Developm will consist of uprate of Grt Isl-Kk 110kv Overhead Line which will primarily include:re-stringing conductor withhigher capacity conductor,replacement of large proportion of existing structures,breaking out &amp; reconstruction of concrete foundation &amp; shear blocks of metal masts, painting of mast structures, replacement of insulators, crossarms, stays and/or fittings on existing structures &amp;fitting/replacement of bird flight diverters.No additional structures proposed along existing circuit.Any replacement structures will be constructed at,or immediately adjacent to existing structures they will replace&amp;will be of generally similar height &amp; appearance. Assoc temp sitedevelop works to gain access to existing structures incl clearance of vegetation, disassembly &amp; reassembly of stone walls&amp;gate posts&amp;removal &amp; reinstatement of exist fencing.The prop dev includes all other temp assoc&amp;ancillary site dev works reqd for uprate of exist circuit,incl install of silt traps,silt fences, stone rds, bogmats &amp; clearspan bridges.No additional struct, no alteration to nature,extent, alignment, character or voltage of exist elect infrastruc is proposed.A NIS forms part of this application</p>	Great Island to , Kilkenny Overhead Line	08/03/2019

### Granted and Undecided Applications Within 200m of the Turbine Delivery Route 2013 to November 2025

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
<b>Renewable Energy Developments</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 309306	The construction of 21 wind turbines and ancillary works at Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	Castlebanny, Co. Kilkenny	26/09/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2560391	<p>a 10 Year Planning Permission for a solar farm with a total area of circa 189 hectares in the townlands of Atateemore or Blackneys, Ballyhobuck, Ballyrahan, Carriganurra, Charlestown, Davidstown, Drumdowney Lower, Drumdowney Upper, Gorteens, Grogan, Kilmurry, Nicholastown, Rathpatrick, Scartnamoe, Tinvaucosh and Treanaree in County Kilkenny.</p> <p>The solar farm will consist of solar panels on ground mounted frames, 27 no. single storey electrical inverter/transformer stations, 5 no. single storey spare parts containers, 3 no. Ring Main Units, 5 no. weather stations, underground electrical ducting and cabling within the development site, private lands and within the L3429, L7523, L7563, L7469, L3407, L3414, L34144, L7466, L3406, L7483, L3415, N25 and N29 public roads to connect solar farm field parcels, security fencing, CCTV, access tracks, 7 no. watercourse/drain deck crossings and 4 no. horizontal directional drill crossings (under the N25 and N29 public roads and the Luffany River), temporary construction compounds, landscaping and all associated ancillary development and drainage works. Construction and operational access will be via 7 no. existing entrances from the L3429, L7469, L7466, L4783 and L34142 which will be subject to entrance upgrade works. Separate construction phase access options are proposed for Parcel 4 via Port of Waterford and the L4783. The operational lifespan of the solar farm will be 40 years and planning permission is requested for this duration. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared and will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application</p>	In the townlands of Atateemore or Blackn	Live Case
<b>Electrical and Water Services</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	16129	Retention Permission to retain an existing 30 metre high Lattice telecommunications support structure carrying antennas and RT link dishes together with associated equipment cabinets and security fence	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	30/05/2016
Kilkenny County Council	17489	Retention Permission to retain an existing 16.7m high telecommunications structure carrying antennas, communications dishes together with associated ground-mounted equipment within a 2.4metre palisade fenced compound as previously granted under File No. 1230	Glendonnel , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	13/10/2017
Kilkenny County Council	18647	for a temporary on-site waste water treatment system, including percolation area, and all associated works, to serve the motorway service area development permitted under planning permission ref: P17/456, as an amendment to permission P17/456; at R704	Garrandarragh , Mullinavat , County Kilke	28/12/2018
Kilkenny County Council	20346	for water supply and foul drainage works including all pipes, valves, chambers, connections, a foul waste water pumping station and associated site works	Gorteens , Belview Port , Slieverue	20/11/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20738	for development at this site address. The development will consist of an ESB medium voltage (MV) Unit Substation and adjoining Customer Switchroom (an external footprint of up to 31m2, gross floor space of up to 19.5m2 and up to 3m in height) and all other associated site development works, including drainage and underground electrical cabling and ducting, required to facilitate the development. The substation development will be contained entirely within the boundary of the existing Belview Port and will use existing access arrangements within the port facility. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co Kilkenny	05/02/2021
Kilkenny County Council	2460437	permission to retain existing wastewater treatment system and all associated site works	Skeard , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	16/05/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560074	for the construction of a new wastewater treatment system and a proposed change to the site boundary situated	Rathpatrick , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	23/06/2025

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	2560233	constructing 2 no. industrial warehouse blocks for bulk storage, with Block A housing 4 no. single storey storage units (floor area - 3,488.4m2) and Block B housing 4 no. single storey units (floor area - 8446.2m2), new weighbridge and cabin, new internal access roads, retaining walls and boundary fencing and all ancillary works	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co. Kilkenny	25/07/2025
<b>Industrial</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 321962	Construction of an integrated plasterboard manufacturing facility and all associated works. Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted with application.	Gorteens, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny	25/02/2025
Kilkenny County Council	1646	for the proposed erection of an Industrial Warehouse Building for the storage and bagging of fertiliser products (this Planning Application will supersede a previous Application for a similar building on this site which was Granted Permission under Planning Reg No.15/263) together with alterations to site boundaries including new boundary wall and fencing and all associated site works and ancillary services	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	08/07/2016
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 312631	Construction of two boreholes in milk processing plant. Natura Impact Statement submitted with the planning application. The Glanbia Ireland DAC facility has an Industrial Emissions Licence granted by the EPA	IDA Science & Technology Park, Gorteens	22/01/2024
Kilkenny County Council	ACP Ref. 306126	Seven year planning permission for a continental cheese manufacturing plant. Retention of and alterations to the existing construction compound which will be removed on completion of the works. EIAR and a NIS submitted with planning application.	IDA Ireland, Belview Science and Technol	09/12/2019
Kilkenny County Council	17763	for development which will consist of the construction of an extension (198.3m2) to an existing warehouse (Unit 7); the installation in the extension of a conditioning plant, aqueous waste storage tank and bagging unit for Air Pollution Control Residues (APCR); the acceptance of 38,000 tonnes of APCR and 2600 tonnes of aqueous waste annually, which will be in addition to the 95000 tonnes of waste currently authorised; the operation of the conditioning plant and bagging unit in the extension; the storage of the conditioned and bagged APCR in Unit 7 (1455.7m2), and the deletion of Condition 3 c) of planning permission P13/585. The APCR will be classified as hazardous waste. The development will require a review of the Industrial Emissions Licence granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. An Environmental Impact Assesment Report (EIAR) will be submitted	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co. Kilkenny	27/06/2018
Kilkenny County Council	181	retention permission for extension to existing dwelling, conservatory as built and detached garage	Garrandarragh , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	28/03/2018
Kilkenny County Council	19302	to erect a steel storage extension to existing industrial workshop and all ancillary works	Airmount , Kilmurry , Slieverue	14/02/2020
Kilkenny County Council	19328	for a change of use at Units 3 and 4 Belview Port. It is intended to change its current warehousing use to allow for the acceptance and processing of non-hazardous waste into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) and for the composting of organic fines. The application will allow for acceptance and processing of up to 98,500 tonnes per annum at the facility. The application is accompanied by An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co. Kilkenny	11/12/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19302	to erect a steel storage extension to existing industrial workshop and all ancillary works	Airmount , Kilmurry , Slieverue	14/02/2020
Kilkenny County Council	19328	for a change of use at Units 3 and 4 Belview Port. It is intended to change its current warehousing use to allow for the acceptance and processing of non-hazardous waste into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) and for the composting of organic fines. The application will allow for acceptance and processing of up to 98,500 tonnes per annum at the facility. The application is accompanied by An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Belview Port , Gorteens , Co. Kilkenny	11/12/2019
Kilkenny County Council	22318	for a laydown area for equipment and break bulk materials. The works will include earthworks, drainage, concrete paving, retaining walls and landscaping works. A Natura Impact Statement will accompany this application	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	19/06/2023
Kilkenny County Council	22480	for a Maintenance Building, roof mounted solar panels and associate site works at Belivew Port, the building is to provide storage for port vehicles, workshops for the maintenance and storage of port machinery and equipment, ancillary office accommodation and welfare facilities at	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	21/02/2023

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	2460152	for development, at Unit 2, Belview Port, Gorteens, Co. Kilkenny. The development will consist of the amendment of condition no. 3 Pl. Ref. 11/397 to include for the acceptance, unloading and storage of non-hazardous waste including construction and demolition waste, end of life tyres and other non-hazardous bulk wastes for onward export. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS).	Unit 2 Belview Port , in the townland of Gc	24/06/2024
Kilkenny County Council	2460656	for development, at Unit 1, Belview Port, Gorteens, Co. Kilkenny. The development will consist of the amendment of condition no. 3 Pl. Ref. 11/397 to include for the acceptance, unloading and storage of non-hazardous waste including construction and demolition waste, end of life tyres and other non-hazardous bulk wastes for onward export. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)	Unit 1 Belview Port , in the townland of Gc	26/03/2025
<b>Residential</b>				
Kilkenny County Council	16119	to erect dwellinghouse and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , County Kilkenny	27/05/2016
Kilkenny County Council	16372	to erect a dwelling house, domestic garage and all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	10/10/2016
Kilkenny County Council	16550	for change of house design from a bungalow as granted under planning application 10/420 to a storey and a half type dormer dwelling, with detached domestic garage, on site sewerage treatment system, new entrance onto public road and all associated works	Granny , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	12/05/2017
Kilkenny County Council	16779	to retain extension to existing dwelling as built	No 11 Airmount , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	21/02/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17516	permission for the demolition of the existing semi detached 2 no, two storey dwellings. To construct 2no new two storey semi detached dwelling house. Provision of a new treatment plant and percolation area. All associated site development works	Rossinan , Mullinavat	23/10/2017
Kilkenny County Council	1776	to erect dwelling house and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	28/06/2017
Kilkenny County Council	18332	for existing extension to the side of the dwelling and Planning Permission to construct a new single storey extension to the side of the existing single storey dwelling and all associated works at	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	15/08/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18336	for development at this site. The development will consist of construction of a family house, garage, wastewater treatment system, percolation area, site entrance together with all ancillary site works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	17/08/2018
Kilkenny County Council	1840	for a two storey (with attic accommodation) fully serviced detached dwelling together with all associated site works to include new vehicular access/driveway, landscaping, boundary treatments, well, foul water treatment system with percolation area, detached single storey garage, and all other associated site works at	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	26/06/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18563	for the indefinite retention of existing single storey garage/store to side/front and conservatory to rear of existing bungalow, together with permission for indefinite retention of assorted single storey outbuildings/'non-commercial' storage shed to rear of house (solely for the personal/incidental use of the dwelling)	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	09/11/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18668 Acp Ref. 304	the construction of a new dwelling with a new domestic wastewater treatment system and percolation area including refurbishment works to an existing protected structure and all associated site works	Granny , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	10/01/2020
Kilkenny County Council	18750	to construct a single storey dwelling, on site sewerage treatment, new entrance onto public road and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	13/02/2019
Kilkenny County Council	18810	to construct a dwelling house together with entrance onto the public road, wastewater treatment system and associated site development works at	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	27/09/2019
Kilkenny County Council	18866	is being sought to convert and extend existing derelict dwelling house to new dwelling house with new garage to rear of house and install new wastewater treatment plant with percolation beds. Form new joint Right of Way vehicular entrance to site and remove in its entirety high level grass verge in road East of proposed site entrance to a length of 90 meters to achieve required sightlines, all with associated site works	Rathpatrick , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	29/03/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19133	to retain indefinitely and spread on site imported topsoil and permission to erect dwelling house and all associated works	Dunkitt , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	26/08/2019



Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	19173	1. Planning permission for development to demolish existing single storey extension and construction of replacement dormer extension to the rear of existing dwelling house. 2. Planning permission for erection of advertising sign for "Slieverue Sports Injury Clinic" at front gate of dwelling house. 3. Retention of single storey log cabin for use in physical therapy practice in rear garden. 4. Retention of alterations to window features to front facade	10 Airmount , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	12/06/2019
Kilkenny County Council	192	to erect a dwelling house & all ancillary works	Deerpark , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	17/05/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19267	The development will consist of the demolition of an existing two storey extension, the construction of a two storey extension to the rear of the property, new front porch, proposed connection to the public sewer and all associated site works	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	10/07/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19468	for the proposed construction of a bungalow style dwelling, garage, driveway, vehicular entrance, borewell, waste water treatment system with percolation and all associated site works	Deerpark , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	20/11/2019
Kilkenny County Council	20169	to construct a single storey dwelling house with domestic garage and with new proprietary sewage treatment system and percolation area, and private borewell water supply and vehicular access from public roadway. Permission also sought for construction of stables for horses and various ancillary buildings relevant to same and including all associated and ancillary site development works	Deerpark , Mullinavat , Kilkenny	28/10/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20264	for a proposed new bungalow, proposed new vehicular entrance, driveway, bore well, wastewater system with percolation, storm water soakways and all associated site works	Rossinan , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	24/11/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20545	for the development at this site. The development will consist of the demolition of existing front porch, side extension and chimneys, new roof finish to existing dwelling, construction of a storey and a half extension to the rear of the property, the construction of a waste water treatment system and all associated site works	2 Cloone Road , Ferrybank , Co Kilkenny	18/01/2021
Kilkenny County Council	2060	to erect a dwelling house, detached garage, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	21/07/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20818	for the proposed erection of a fully serviced 2 storey detached dwelling, detached single storey garage, proposed vehicular and pedestrian entrance, boundary treatments, landscaping, together with all associated site development works to include new foul water treatment system and percolation area	Killaspy , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	16/06/2021
Kilkenny County Council	2111	is being sought to form new vehicular site entrance and construct four bedroom dormer dwelling house and connect foul drainage to wastewater treatment system and percolation beds with all associated site works to my site	Rathpatrick , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	16/08/2021
Kilkenny County Council	21167	for the following development: Erect dwelling house and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , County Kilkenny	27/08/2021
Kilkenny County Council	21331	to erect a dwelling house, detached garage, sewage treatment system & all ancillary works	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	08/10/2021
Kilkenny County Council	21441	for the proposed erection of a fully serviced part single, part two storey detached dwelling, detached garage, proposed vehicular and pedestrian entrance, boundary treatments, landscaping, together with all associated site development works to include new foul water treatment system and percolation area, all	Dunkitt , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	11/10/2021
Kilkenny County Council	21450	to erect a dwelling house, detached garage, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Killaspy , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	06/10/2021
Kilkenny County Council	22270	to erect a dwelling house, detached garage, sewage treatment system & all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	07/11/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2260	to form new vehicular site entrance, construct two storey dwelling house with wastewater treatment system and percolation beds and install new water supply borewell with all associated site works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	26/07/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2287	to erect a dwelling house, detached garage, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	04/05/2022
Kilkenny County Council	2360205	for the construction of a 2 storey dwelling house with carport and domestic garage attached, domestic waste water treatment system, site entrance, and all associated site works	Kiln Road , Kilmurry , Slieverue Co Kilkenny	15/08/2023
Kilkenny County Council	2360385	permission to construct a 1.5 storey dwelling, a detached garage of 60 sq mts, a new entrance to the public road along with all associated site development works	Grannagh , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	08/01/2024
Kilkenny County Council	24110	to erect a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Ballykeoghan , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	14/02/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2534	to erect a dwelling house	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co Kilkenny	25/07/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560370	to construct a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and percolation area, including all necessary site works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	15/10/2025

Local Authority	Reg. Ref.	Proposal	Address	Grant Date
Kilkenny County Council	2560368	to construct a single storey dwelling with detached domestic garage, on-site sewerage treatment, new entrance onto the public road and all associated works	Ballynamorahan , Kilmacow , Co.Kilkenny	15/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560372	to construct a single storey dwelling with attached domestic garage, on-site sewerage treatment, entrance onto the public road and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co.Kilkenny	17/09/2025
Kilkenny County Council	2560409	for the construction of a single storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, proprietary treatment system and all ancillary site works	Cloone , Mullinabro , Kilkenny	Live Case
Kilkenny County Council	2591	to erect a dwelling house, sewage treatment system and all ancillary works	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	Live Case
Other				
Kilkenny County Council	16305	retention permission and permission. Permission to retain indefinitely extension to slatted cubicle shed and permission to erect further extensions to slatted cubicle shed, roof existing open feed areas and all associated works	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	08/08/2016
Kilkenny County Council	16316	for a new forestry access road to service the existing forestry lands and all associated works	Ballynooney , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	13/02/2017
Kilkenny County Council	16566	for four additional storage silos and a maintenance building at	Mima Packaging Plant , Gorteens , Belview	18/11/2016
Kilkenny County Council	1681	to construct a farm/forestry roadway exiting onto the R704 road and all associated site works	Ballynooney West , Mullinavat , Co. Kilker	13/05/2016
Kilkenny County Council	17370	to construct 1.A new cubicle shed to house dairy cows along with underground slatted slurry storage and 2. A new Straw/Machinery Shed and all associated site works	Kilmurray , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	28/08/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17456	Permission for the development of a 24 hour opening Motorway Service Area to include: 1. Vehicle fuelling station with 12 no. bays and a 2 bay HGV fuelling station with canopy; 2. A single storey services building with canopy including: convenience store (incorporation full off sales for the sale of alcohol) (100m2); food court with cafe and restaurant uses, including take away facilities; indoor play area; offices and reception with tourist information; public toilet changing and shower facilities; plant room; storage and associated services; 3. A single storey roofed enclosure attached to the rear of the services building and associated yard for storage and services; and 4. External facilities and works include picnic, play, amenity and rest areas; bicycle parking; car and HGV parking spaces, electrical vehicle charging points; upgrading of existing vehicular entrance from the R704, signage, on site waste water treatment system, including percolation area and all associated site development works	At R704 , Garrandarragh , Mullinavat	15/12/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17492	Retention Permission to retain indefinitely garage/store as erected, retain indefinitely as built and complete twinned access and all associated works	Scart , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	16/10/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17664	for the construction of a new entrance from public roadway onto forestry lands to comprise the provision of splayed access, clear visibility sightlines, associated setting back of adjacent roadside boundaries, provision of associated surface water drainage, fences, finished hardcored structure to access area, and all associated siteworks	Bishopmountain , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenn	11/01/2018
Kilkenny County Council	1779	for (a) the proposed change of ground levels on site, (b) the erection of a retaining wall and (c) the erection of a boundary fence, together with all associated site works on site	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	10/05/2017
Kilkenny County Council	17820	for a 7 year permission for Bulk Stores and associated site works. The Stores will be used to store part related products such as bulk break, bulk and unitized products. The site works will include two weighbridges, weighbridge office, a new entrance for trucks, entrance gates, earthworks, fencing, relocation of an existing water tank, retaining walls, drainage, paving works and landscaping.	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. kilkenny	14/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18184	to demolish nine agricultural buildings and associated site works at	Garrendarragh , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	30/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18370	to amend previously granted extension to slatted cubicle shed ref no P16305 & full planning permission to erect a further 2 span extension to slatted cubicle shed & all associated site works	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co Kilkenny	27/08/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18431	for a laydown area for equipment and break bulk materials. The works will include earthworks, drainage, concrete and hardcore paving, retaining walls and landscaping works at	Gorteen , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	21/09/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18559	to erect slatted cubicle shed and all associated works at	Kilmurry , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	19/11/2018

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Kilkenny County Council	18581	to construct a slatted shed with straw lieback, manure pit and all associated site works at	Glendonnell , Mullinavat , Via New Ross	23/11/2018
Kilkenny County Council	18658	for development of calf shed, silage base, concrete aprons and associated site works at	Glendonnell , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	21/06/2019
Kilkenny County Council	1895	for development at a site. The development will consist of the widening of an existing entrance connecting to the public road (to form a bellmouth entrance), to facilitate occasional access to an existing forestry plantation, and all ancillary site development works	Ballymartin , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	10/05/2018
Kilkenny County Council	19187	to construct a milking parlour, slatted tank and ancillary works	Ballynooney , Mullinavat , Co Kilkenny	17/06/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19259	for the demolition of an existing gate house/security office at the main entrance to Belview Port and its replacement with a new larger gate house/security office and all associated site works including the provision of temporary security offices and temporary weighbridge, relocation of one existing weighbridge, entrance alterations, drains and services. Also planning permission for the construction of a second security office, two number car parking spaces, barriers and associated site works to control access to the rear entrance to Belview Port	Gorteens , Slieverue , Co. Kilkenny	17/09/2019
Kilkenny County Council	19268	to retain indefinitely extension to workshop, external access stairs to first floor of original building and development of first floor to provide canteen, changing room, shower and storage elevations as constructed and all associated works	Fogarty Motors , Milltown , Kilmacow	12/07/2019
Kilkenny County Council	20102	permission for development of a loose cattle shed, concrete apron, walled silage base, concrete apron and associated site works	Glendonnell , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	26/06/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20155	to erect a milking parlour, milk silo, drafting and handling area, holding pens waiting yard with slatted tank and all associated site works	Ballykillaboy , Kilmacow , Co. Kilkenny	17/11/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20355	for development of a loose cattle shed, concrete apron, walled silage base, concrete apron and associated site works	Glendonnell , Mullinavat , Co. Kilkenny	24/08/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20416	to temporary install a 10.9 x 7.3 meter single storey modular accommodation Masterkabin structure to provide playschool group and afterschool facilities and to connect foul drainage and surface water to combined public mains drainage located within the site boundary with all associated site works to the grounds of	Slieverue GAA Club , Kilmurry Airmount	25/09/2020
Kilkenny County Council	20553	for the following works to the existing school, the conversion of an existing classroom to 2 no. new offices, the construction of a new single storey extension consisting of 1 no. new classroom, 2 no. new resource rooms, 1 no. assisted user wc and a new link corridor together with all ancillary and associated site works	Our Lady of Lourdes National School , Slieve	13/11/2020

