

TOBIN

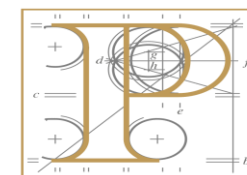
2nd Pre-
application
Consultation
Meeting with
An Coimisiún
Pleanála
(324133-26)

27th July 2026



ROOAUNALAGHTA

Green Energy



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

AGENDA

1. Project Team Representatives

2. First Meeting Summary

3. Soils and Geology

4. Hydrology and Hydrogeology

5. Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecology

6. Ornithology

7. Habitats

8. Bat Surveys

9. Q&A, Discussion

1. PROJECT TEAM AND REPRESENTATIVES



BUILDING WIND ENERGY, POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

PROJECT TEAM

Applicant



Agent

TOBIN

Supporting Consultants:



PROJECT TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Company/Organization	Attendee	Project Role
TOBIN	John Staunton	Associate Project Manager & EIAR Lead
	Lydia Gurley	Assistant Project Manager
	Daniel Nestor	Senior Planner
	John Dillon	Hydrology & Geology
Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Ltd.	David McDonnell	Director
	Larry O'Halloran	Project Manager
	Alan Costin	Assistant Project Manager
	Jack O'Keeffe	Project Engineer
Project Sub Consultants		
APEM Woodrow	Aron Sapsford	Ornithology
	James O'Connor	Ecology & Ornithology
	Bridget Keehan	Habitats Specialist
	Jason Guile	Bat Specialist

2. FIRST MEETING SUMMARY



BUILDING WIND ENERGY, POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

First Meeting Summary

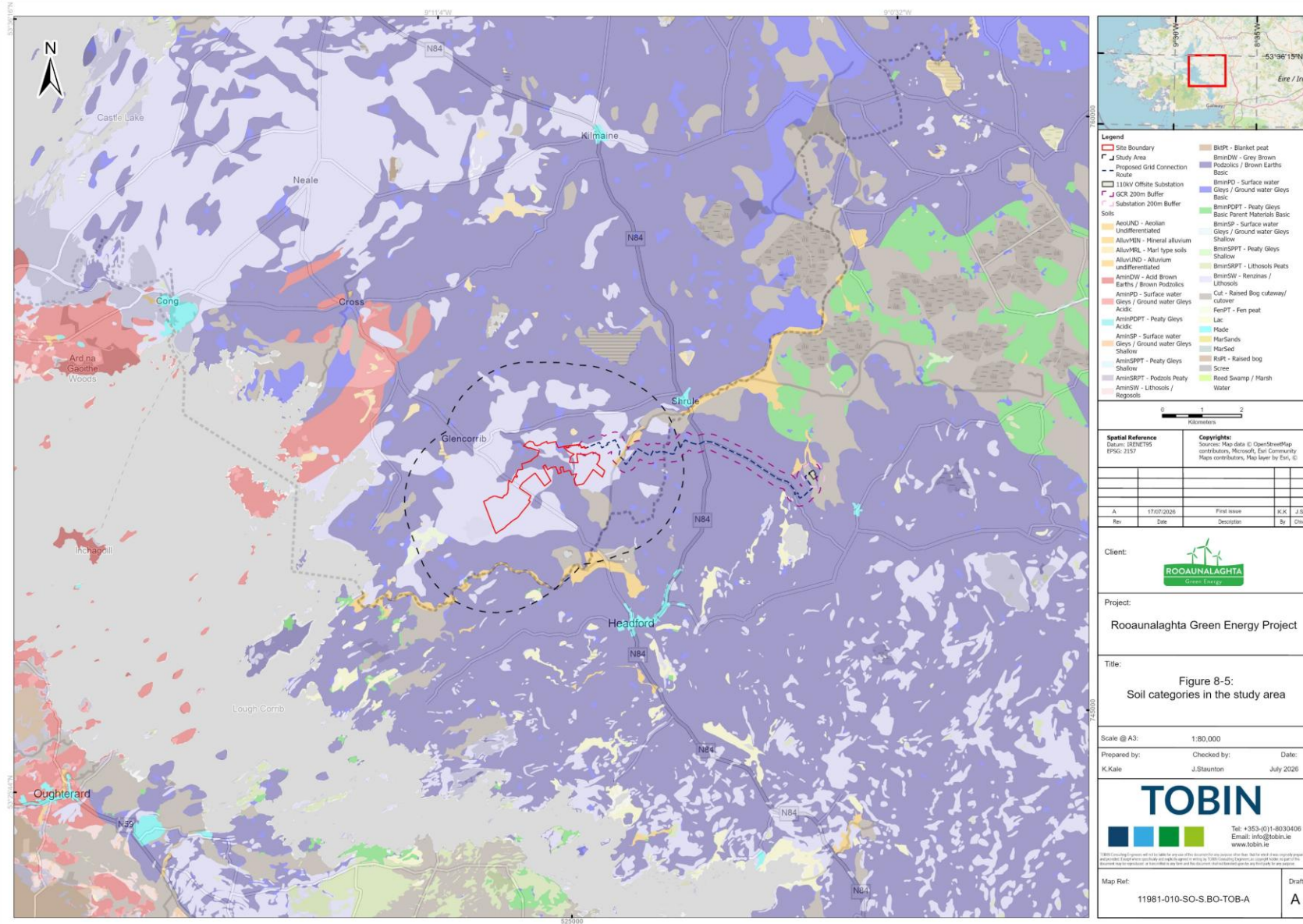
- Hydrology & Hydrogeology
 - Site investigations
 - Groundwater and drinking water sources
 - WFD report and SWMP to be included
- Biodiversity and Ornithology
 - Advised on NPWS consultation and derogation requirements
 - Include collision risk assessments, drawings showing distance of works to designated sites, use of latest guidance and robust methodological assessments
- Landscape & Visual
 - Open views may be extensive – consider if additional viewpoints are needed
 - Cumulative impacts to be fully considered
- Consider stakeholder feedback on other nearby wind farms
- Next meeting to focus on Biodiversity, Ornithology Hydrology & Hydrogeology

3. SOIL AND GEOLOGY



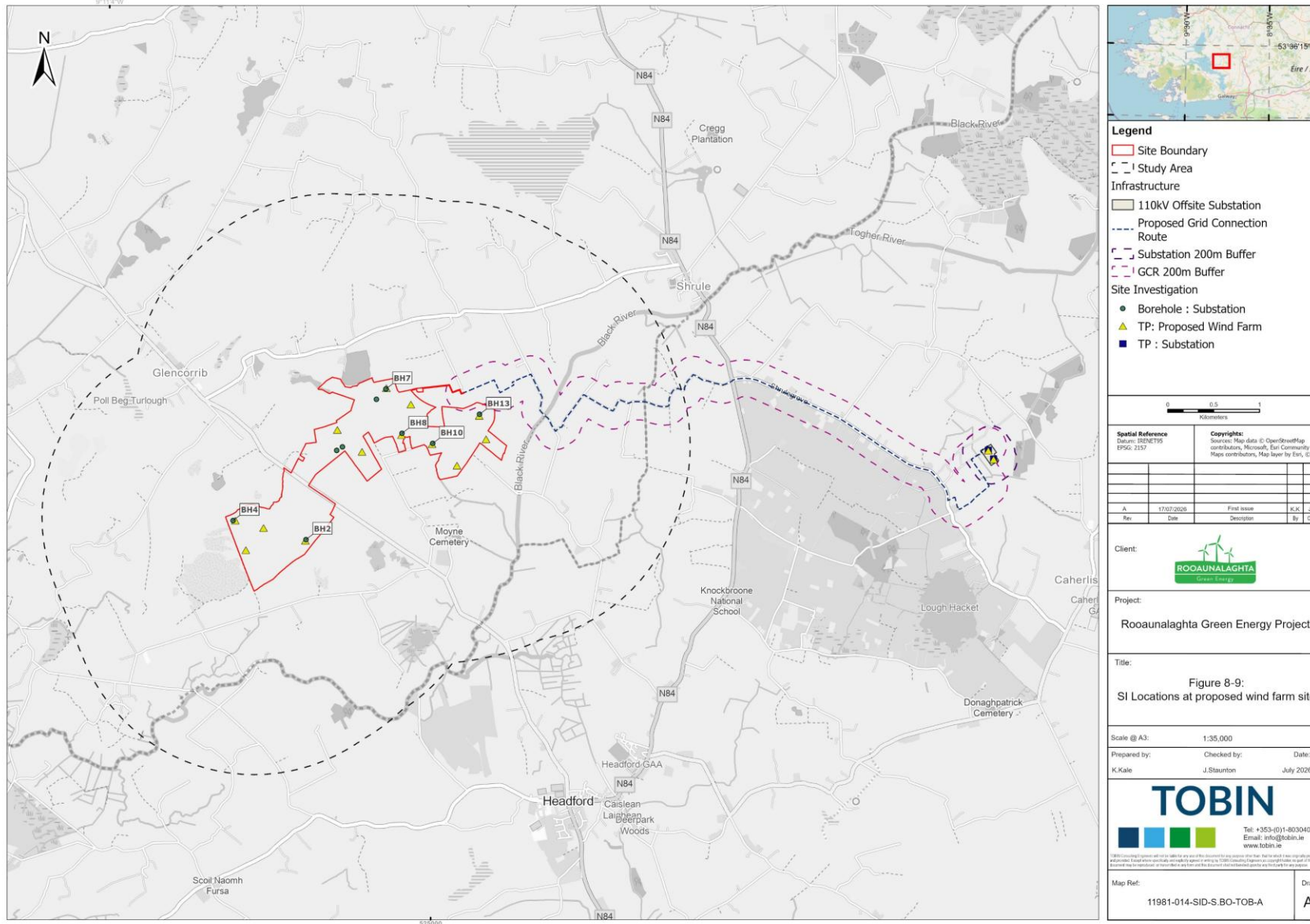
BUILDING WIND ENERGY, POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SOILS AND GEOLOGY



- Geology based on GSI data and SI comprises Shallow soils overlying weathered bedrock and strong competent bedrock with some dolomite. No open cavities or karst encountered during SI
- GSI data indicates interbedded bioclastic limestones, shales and sandstones. Increase in shale and chert with depth

SOILS AND GEOLOGY



- Geology based on SI comprises Shallow soils overlying weathered bedrock and strong competent bedrock with some dolomite. No open cavities or karst encountered during SI
- Shallow slopes on site are generally <1:10
- Soil depths are generally shallow and soil to be reused on site – borrow pit

SOILS AND GEOLOGY

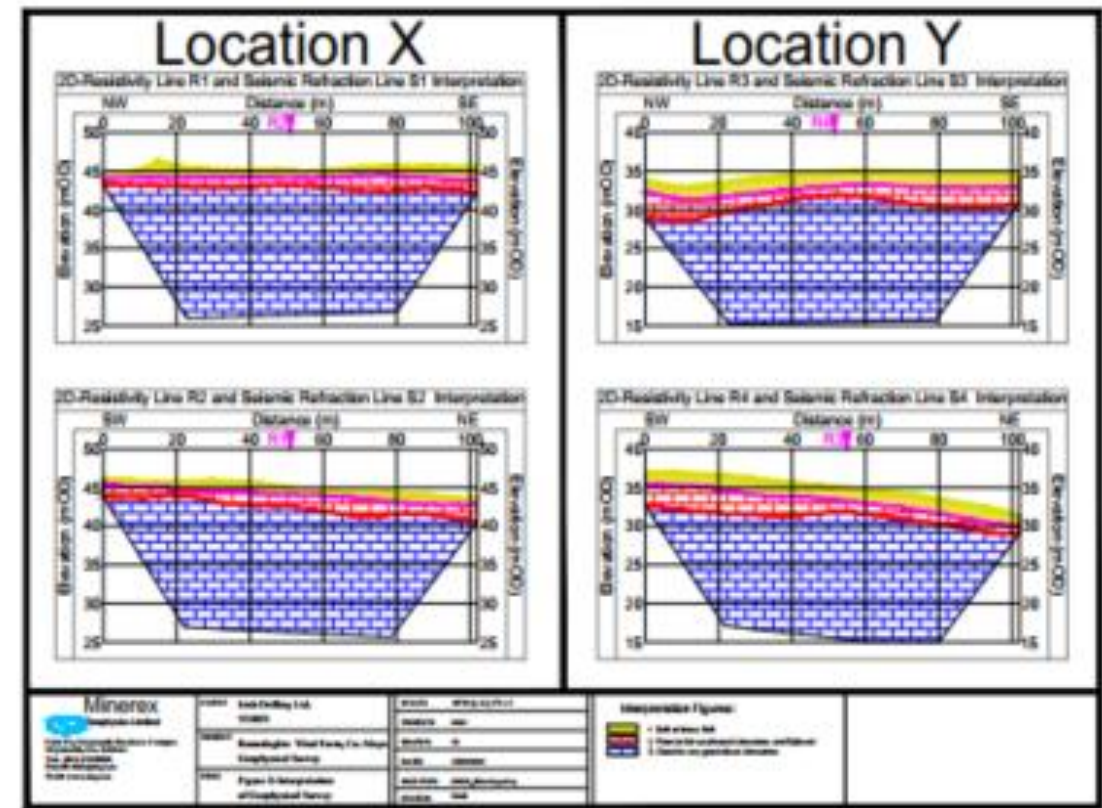


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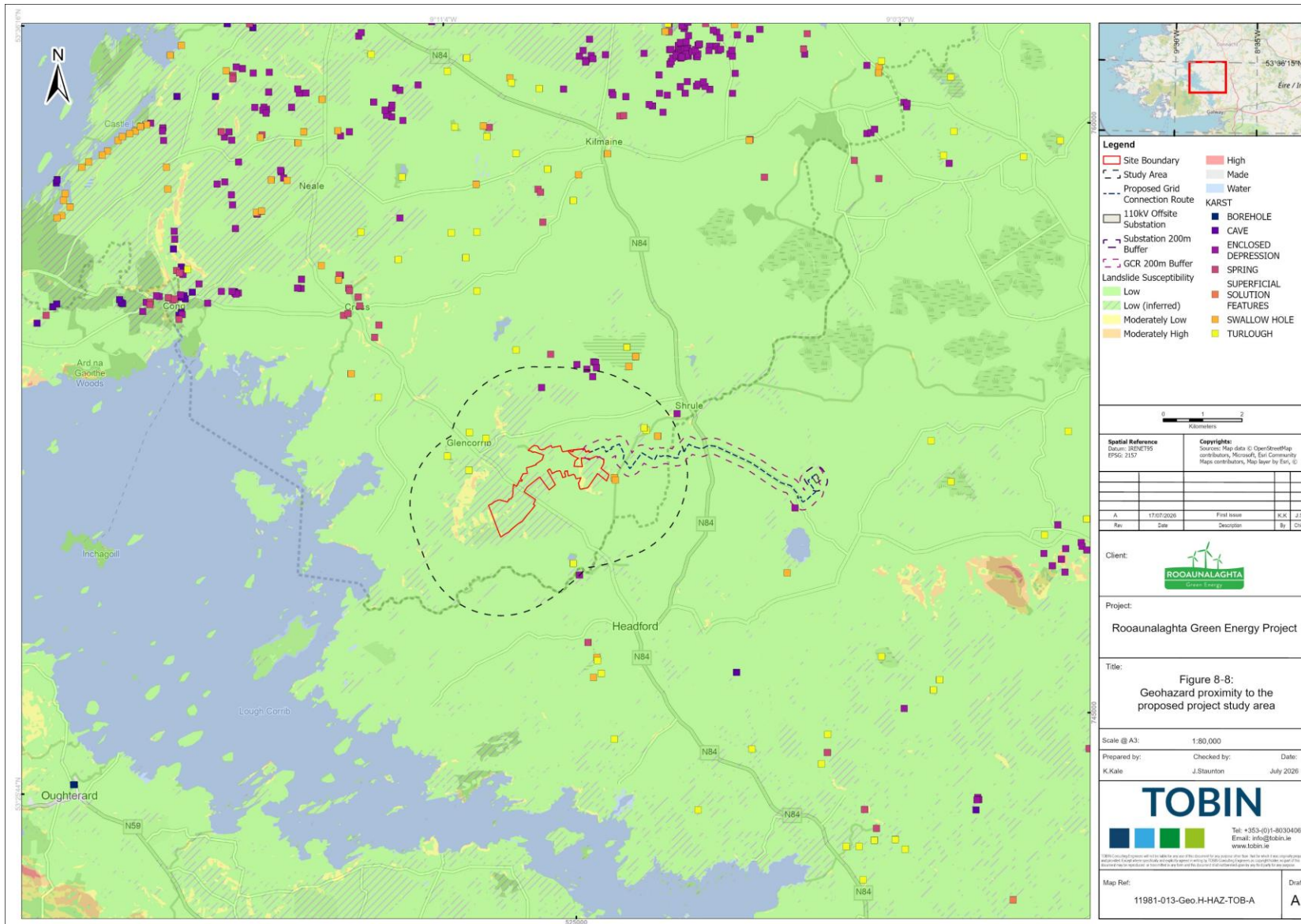


SOILS AND GEOLOGY



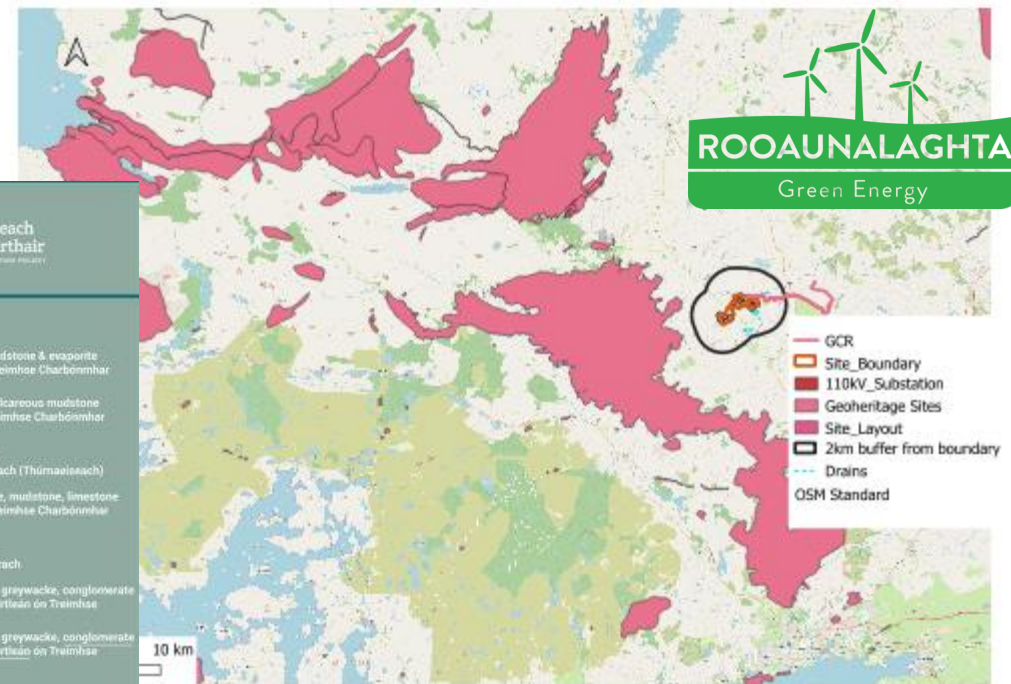
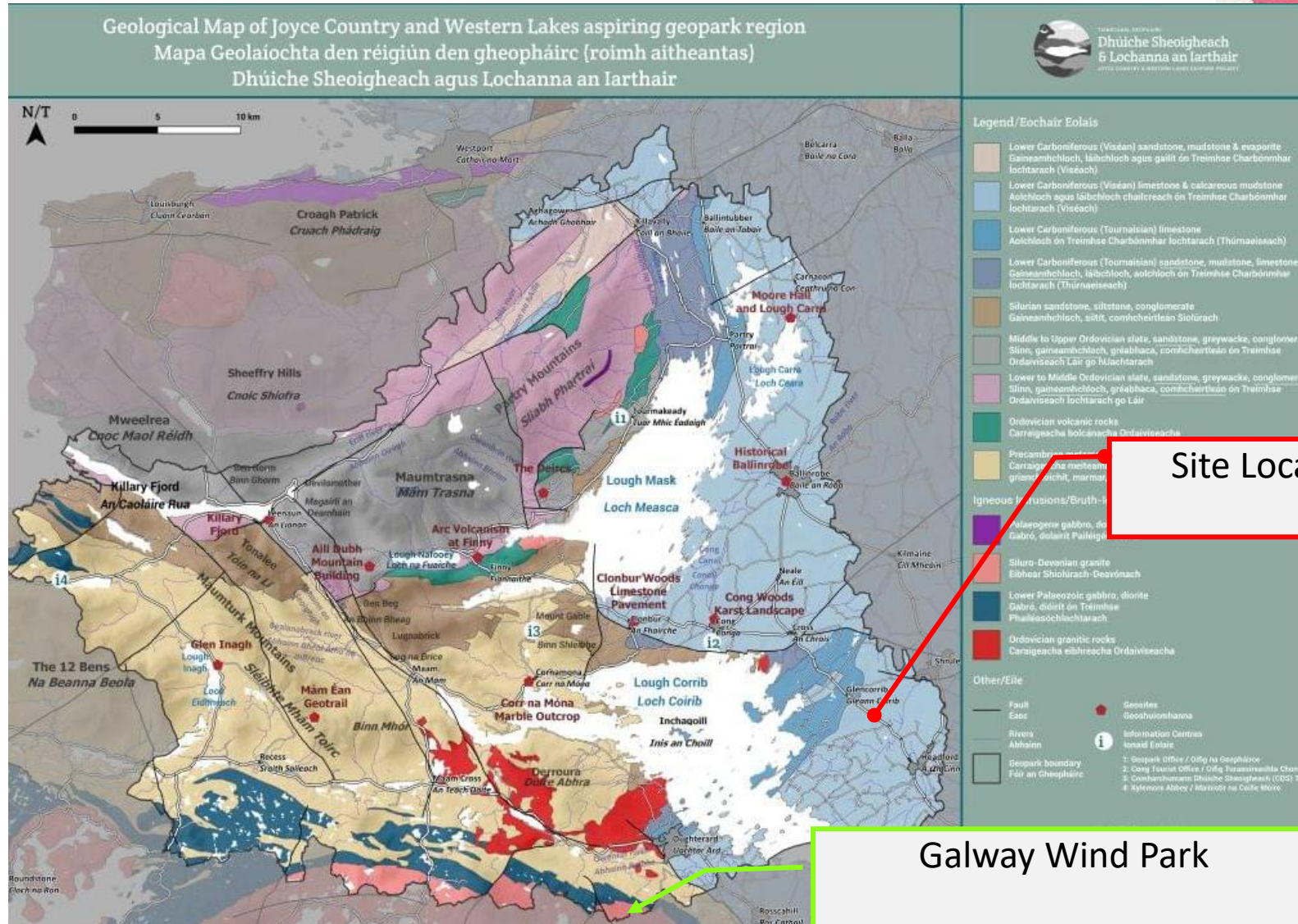
- Varying depths of till , overlying weathered bedrock and competent bedrock
- Additional geophysics undertaken

SOILS AND GEOLOGY



- No karst features mapped on site by the GSI
- Some minor features i.e. dolines appear to be inactive – retain water during winter
- No Peat on site
- Shallow slopes on site are generally <1:10

SOILS AND GEOLOGY



Site Location

Galway Wind Park

- No geological heritage sites within 2 km
- Lough Corrib is classified as a CGS
- Galway Wind Park - 174 MW located on the boundary of the Geopark

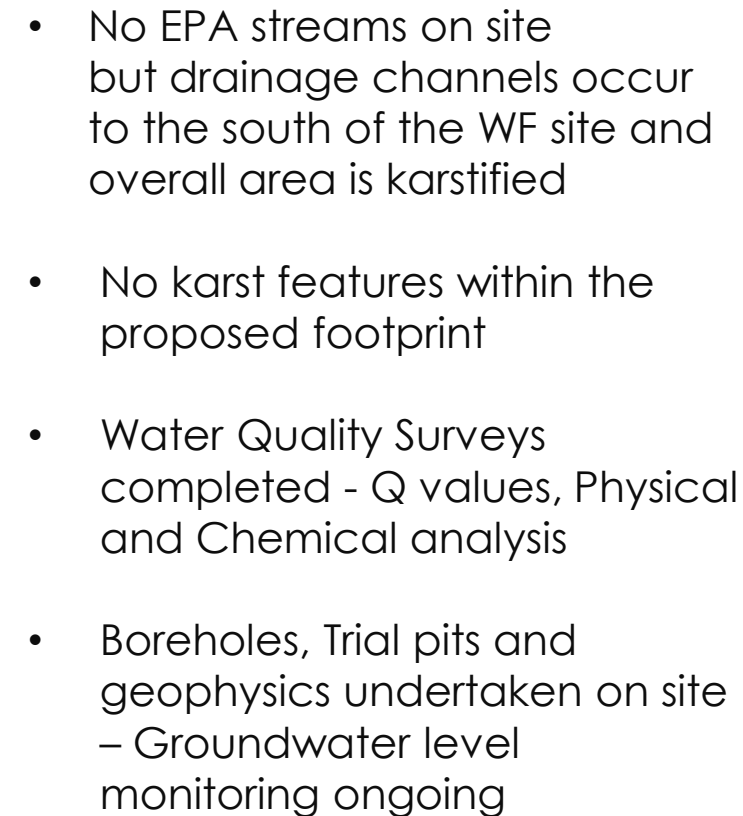
Summary

- Limestone Pavement, Karst are the main constraints. Karst features and limestone pavement avoided as part of the design. Borrow pit located near existing third-party quarry
- No geological heritage sites within 2 km, No peat on the proposed wind farm
- Site Investigation e.g. Trial Pits, Peat Probes, Boreholes and geophysics completed
- Geology based on SI comprises Shallow soils overlying weathered bedrock and strong competent bedrock with some dolomite. No open cavities or karst encountered during SI
- GSI data indicates interbedded bioclastic limestones, shales and sandstones. Increase in shale and chert with depth
- Shallow slopes on site are generally <1:10
- Soil depths are generally shallow and soil to be reused on site – borrow pit

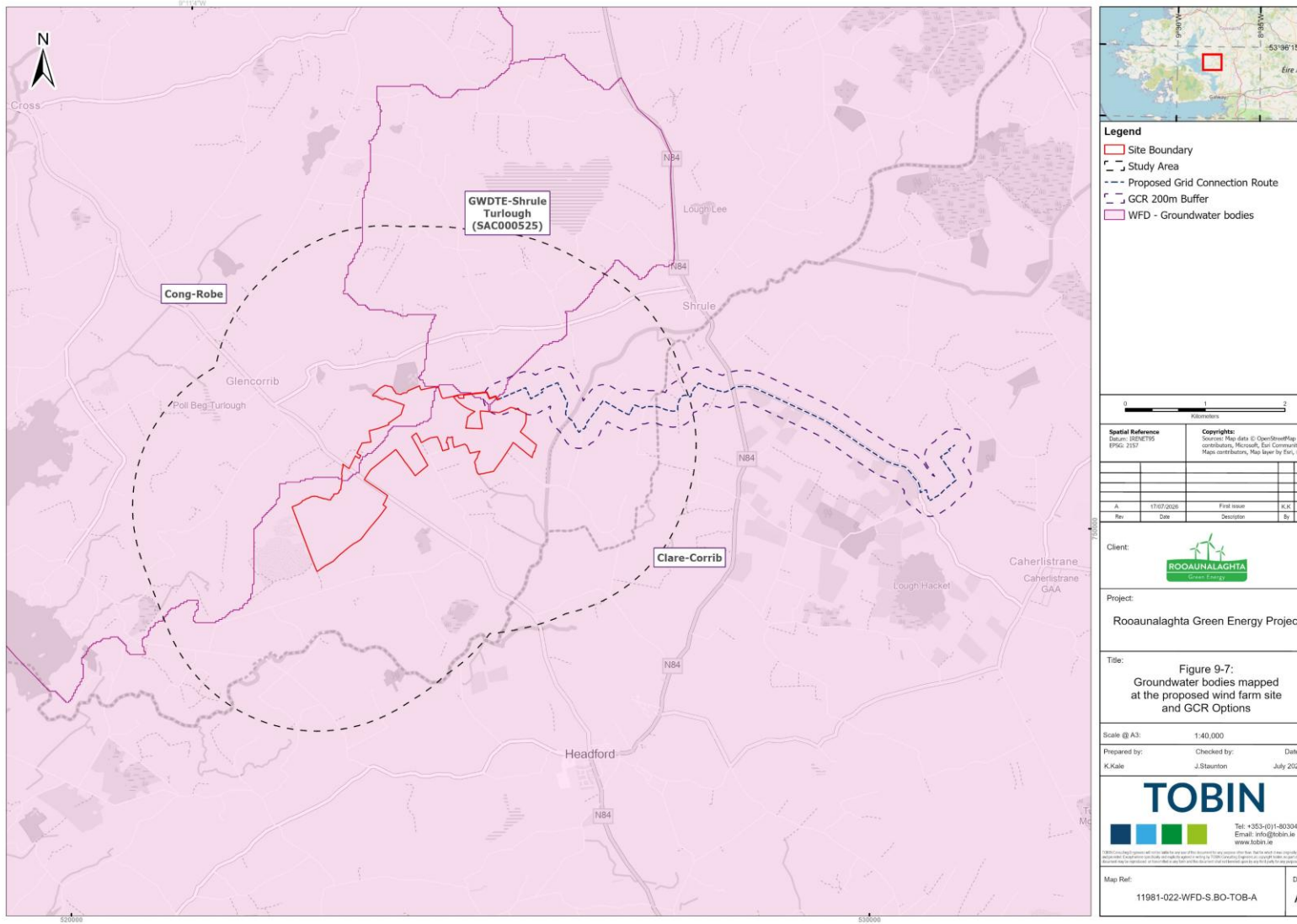
4. HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY



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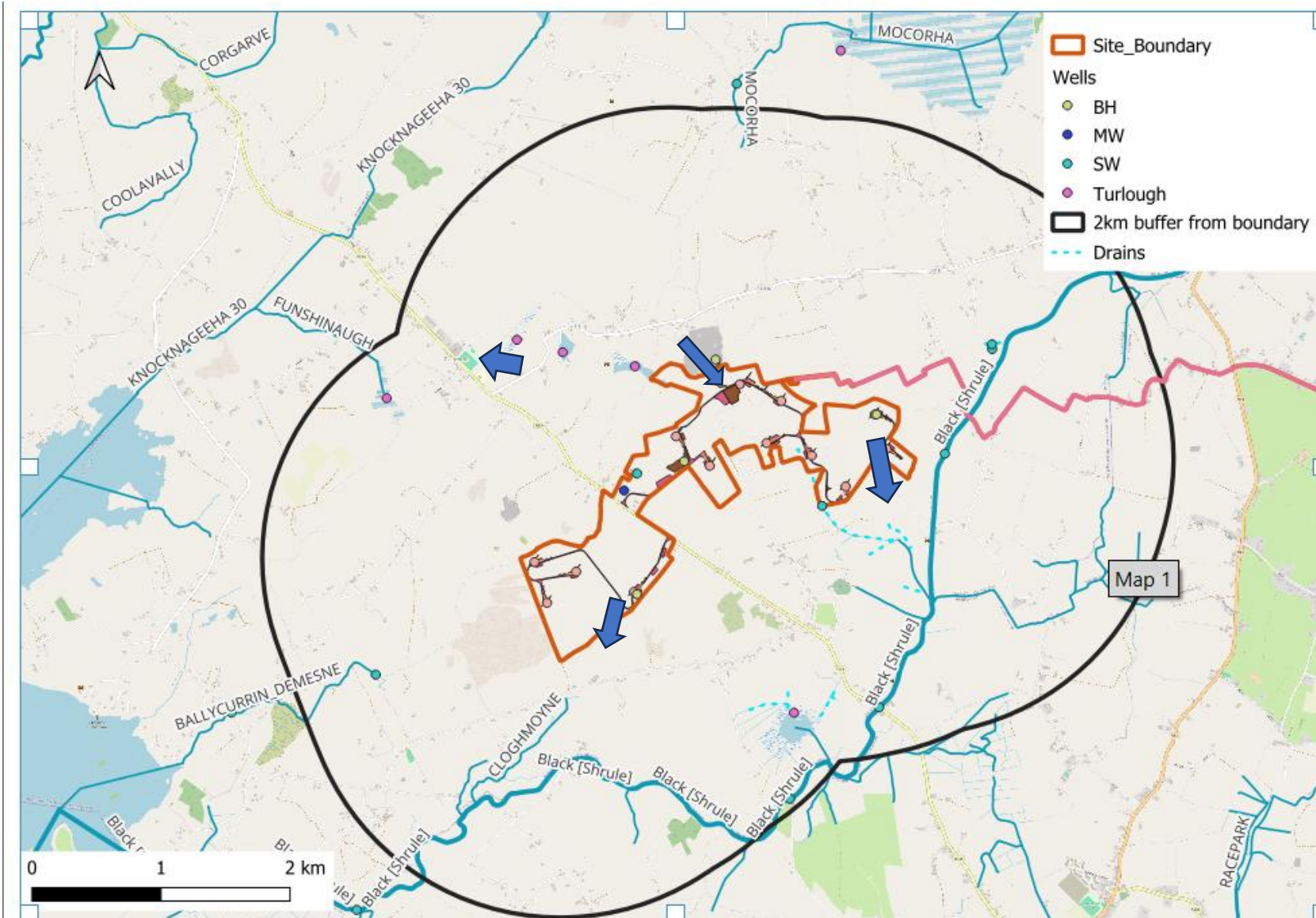


HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY



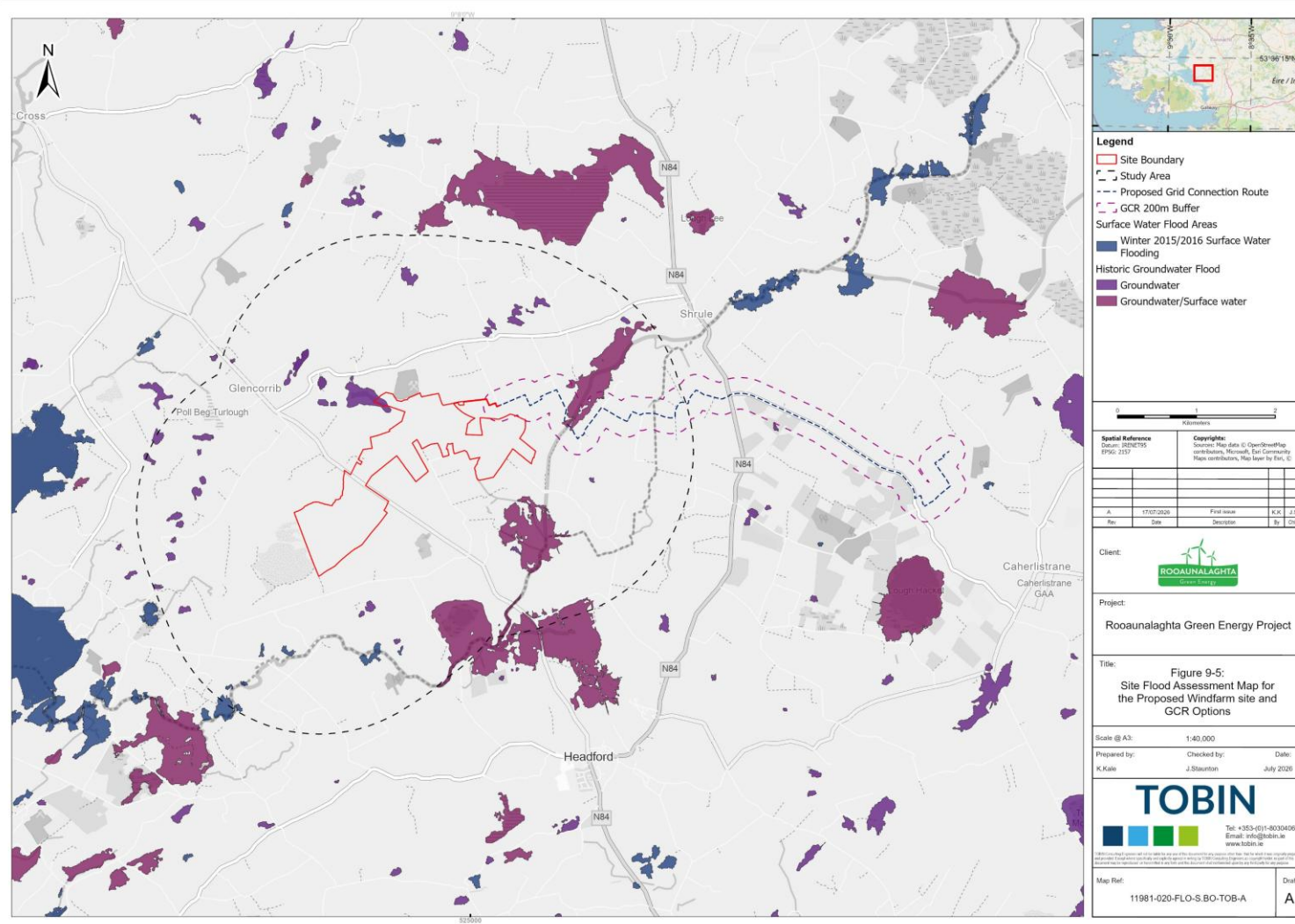
- Proposed Wind Farm located on the boundary of the Cong-Robe and Lough Corrib-Clare Catchments – primarily in the catchment of the Black River a tributary of Lough Corrib
- Not located within Shrúle GWDTE

HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY



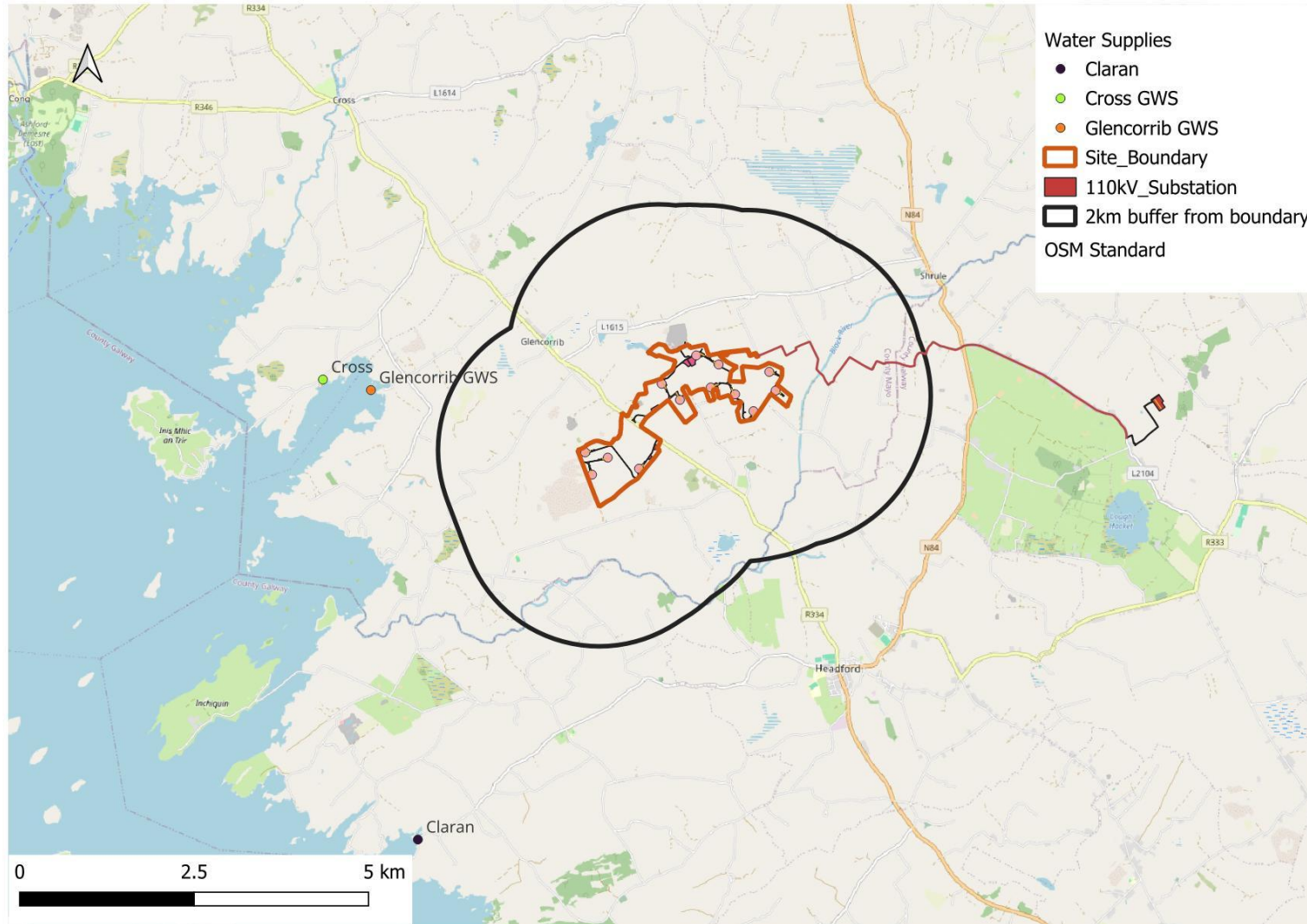
- GW flow is towards the Black River based on site walkover and SI data

HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY



- Overland flow is directed towards the Black River
- No karst springs on site
- Flooding occurs regularly along the Black River
- Areas of pluvial flooding occur off site and adjacent to site boundary - no infrastructure in this area

HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY



- Glencorrib GWS is located on Lough Corrib – surface water abstraction
- Supplies Glencorrib village and connected to the wider PWS supply areas – reservoir is adjacent to the R334
- Cross GWS have a borehole further to the north and supply the area towards Cong
- East of the site and Shancloon area is supplied by Tuam RWSS

5. AQUATIC & TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY



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Aquatic & Terrestrial Ecology

- Project adjacent to Cloughmoyne SAC, close to Lough Corrib SAC, and within 20 km of three SPAs (see ornithology)
- Aquatic surveys (2023-24) including water quality, macroinvertebrates (Q-value), fish habitat, otter, crayfish and freshwater pearl mussel assessments

Table 4. Q-values assigned, and total number of taxa observed at each site

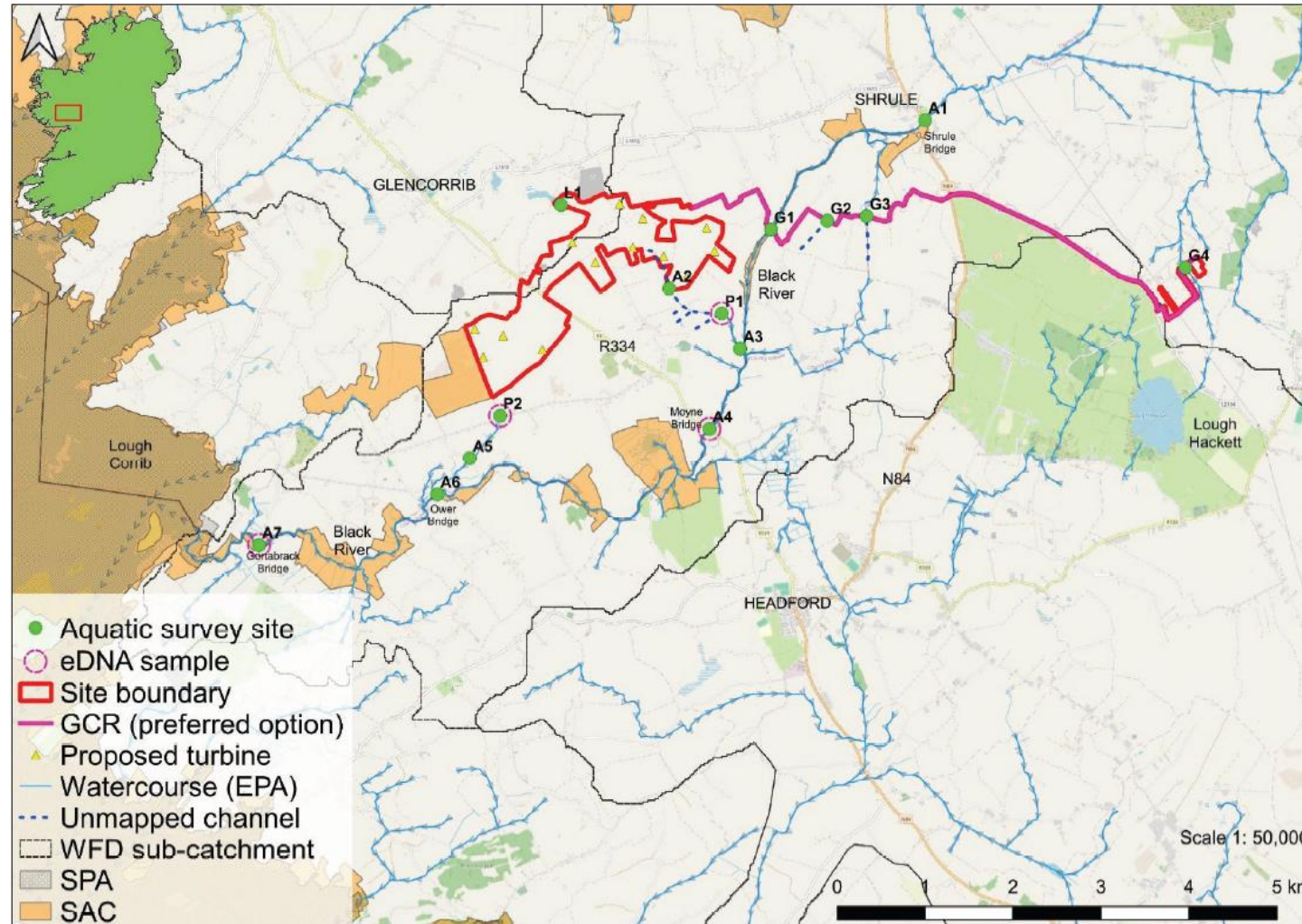
Parameter		Wind Farm Site				GCR	
		Site WQ01	Site WQ02	Site WQ03	Site WQ04	Site WQ05	Site WQ06
Q-value Classification		Q3	Q3	Q4	Q4	Q4	Q3-4
Number of taxa	Group A (sensitive)	-	.*	3	2*	4	1
	Group B (less sensitive)	1	.*	-	4	1*	1
	Group C (tolerant)	7	6*	8	8*	4	6
	Group D (very tolerant)	3*	1	-	-	-	1*
	Group E (most tolerant)	-	-	-	-	.*	-
	Total	12	10	11	18	13	11

*Other taxa were present and counted in the total number of taxa but either had only one individual and were therefore discounted from Q value classification, or were not a taxon considered in the classification system



Aquatic & Terrestrial Ecology

- Update to aquatic ecology scheduled for August 2026 to include electrofishing and eDNA surveys



Aquatic & Terrestrial Ecology

- Mammal surveys (2025) identified generally low levels of activity; otter signs largely confined to the Black River, and one main badger sett recorded >100 m from the proposed substation
- Amphibian and reptile suitability surveys (2025) completed; suitable newt pond located >600 m from proposed infrastructure
- Some suitable refugia/hibernacula for common lizard associated with stone features, but low foraging potential owing to management of the site
- Butterfly surveys (walked transects) being completed during Summer 2026
- Phase 1 habitat surveys of the GCR and TDR, and otter surveys at GCR watercourse crossings

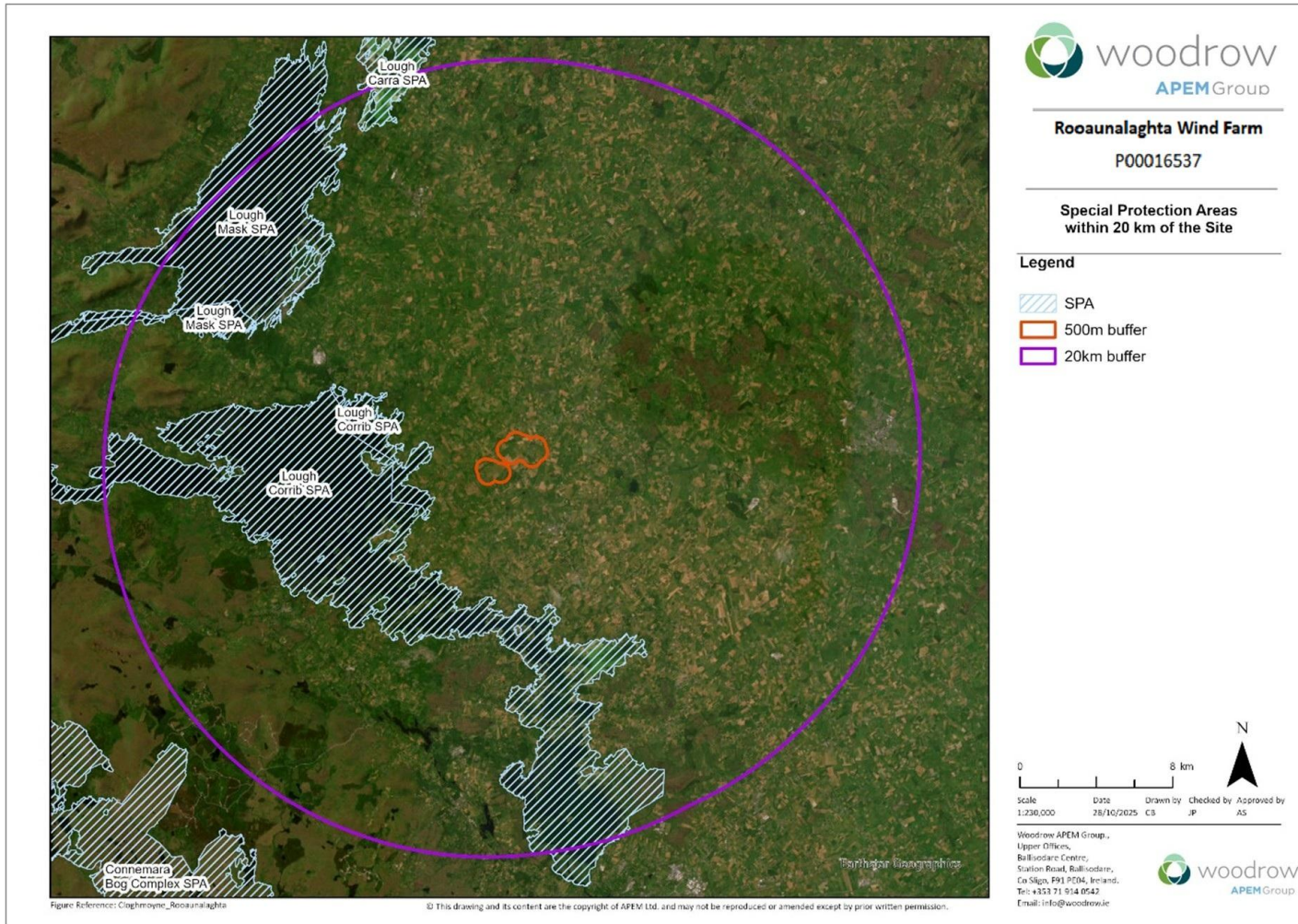


6. ORNITHOLOGY



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- Project within 20 km of Lough Corrib, Lough Mask and Lough Carra SPAs.



Key connectivity considerations:

- Greenland White-fronted Goose
- Wintering waterbirds
- Gulls
- Golden plover
- Hen harrier

Lough Corrib

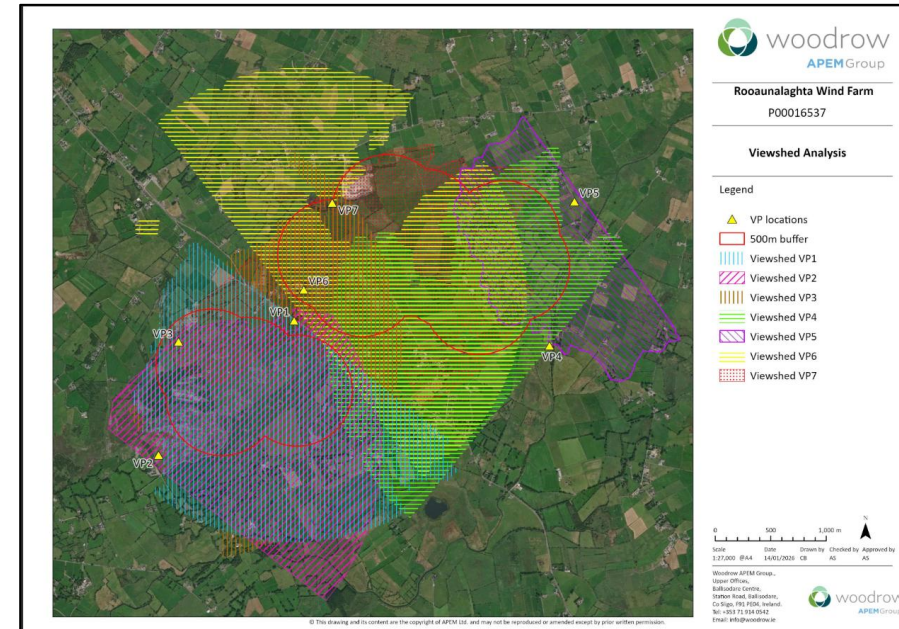
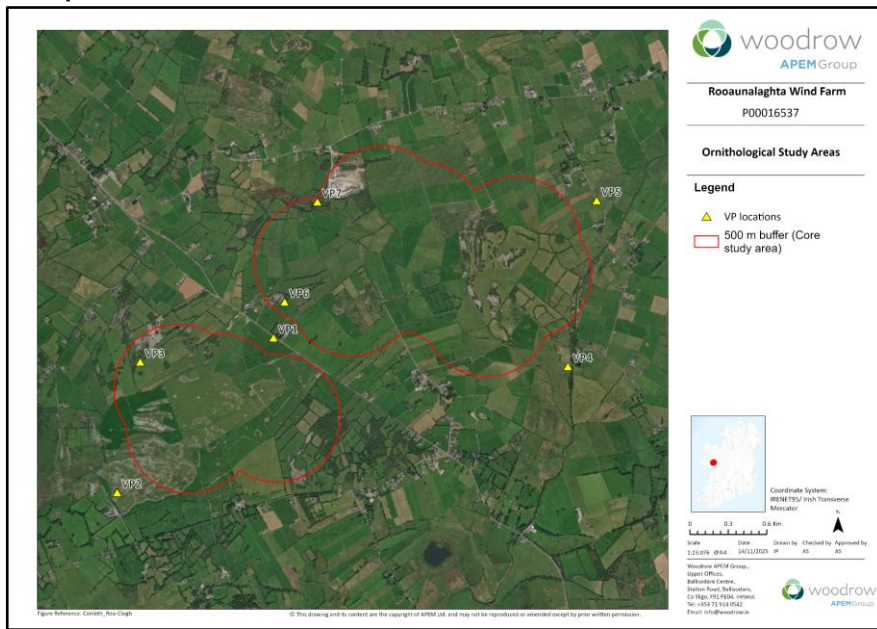
- Meaningful connectivity considered

Lough Mask and Lough Carra

- Assessed precautionarily but no substantive linkage demonstrated

Baseline Surveys

- Comprehensive survey programme including breeding birds, breeding raptors, wintering waterbirds, hen harrier roost surveys, winter walkovers and dusk surveys
 - Year 1, non-breeding season 2022-2023 and breeding season 2023;
 - Year 2, non-breeding season 2023-2024 and breeding season 2024;
 - Year 3, non-breeding season 2024-2025 and breeding season 2025;
 - Additional update surveys conducted non-breeding 2025-26 and breeding season 2026.
- Seven VP locations providing 1,516 hours of VP survey effort with 99% coverage of the turbine envelope



Collision Risk Modelling (CRM)

- Collision Risk Modelling undertaken for 13 target species in accordance with latest NatureScot guidance (Band 2024)
- Predicted collision rates are very low and not expected to result in population-level effects

Species	Avoidance Rate	Predicted Annual Collisions
Kestrel	95%	0.00021
Golden Plover (Annex I / SCI)	98%	0.00003
Black-headed Gull	99%	0.00015
Common Gull	99%	0.00019
Greylag Goose	99%	0.00001

Following application of species-specific avoidance rates, annual collision mortality for all assessed species was predicted to be <0.001 birds per year.

Greenland White-fronted Goose – Targeted Assessment

- NPWS data request identified GWfG as a key receptor and confirmed historic feeding records within and adjacent to the site
- Available evidence confirms GWfG occur within the wider landscape and may utilise Shrule and Rostaff Turloughs
- The project lies within the wider potential foraging range of local GWfG flocks; however, baseline surveys recorded very limited use of the development site itself
- GPS-tagged birds have undertaken movements of 11–20 km from principal roost locations, indicating use of the wider landscape, but current tracking data are limited and do not indicate regular use of the application site
- Assessment incorporates NPWS consultation, available movement data, targeted survey effort and SPA connectivity considerations

7. HABITATS



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Site wide habitat surveys:

- Fossitt (2000) habitat surveys (undertaken in 2024) at the wind farm site
- Phase I style surveys at substation (2025), the grid connection route (2025 and 2026) and the turbine delivery route (2026)

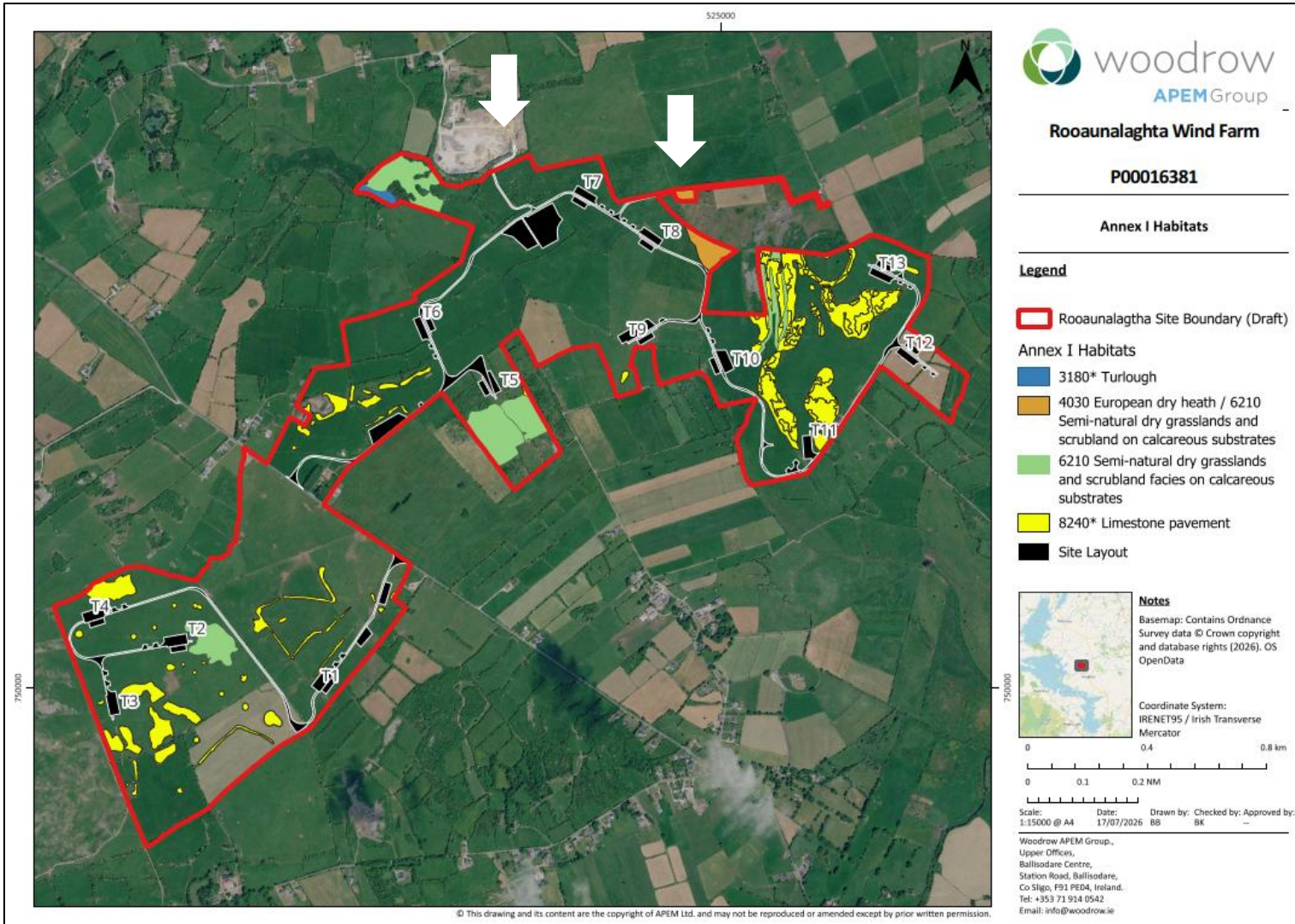
Targeted habitat surveys:

- Annex I habitat surveys (2024 and 2025) following the approach outlined in Wilson and Fernandez (2013) for limestone pavement, Martin et al. (2018) for Annex I grasslands and Perrin et al. (2014) for upland habitats including heath
- Irish Vegetation Classification surveys close to proposed turbine locations (2025)

Further planned surveys:

- Targeted bryophyte survey along selected sections of stone walls to be undertaken in July 2026

HABITATS



Annex I habitats identified within EIAR study area:

- [8240] - Limestone pavements*
- [3180] - Turloughs*
- [4030] - European dry heaths
- [6210] - Semi-natural grasslands and scrublands facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)

(* priority habitat type)

- Scheme layout designed to avoid direct loss of priority Annex I habitats. However, small areas of non-priority Annex I habitat will be permanently lost

HABITATS

- Habitat manipulation for bats requires the removal of scattered scrub from open limestone pavement and calcareous grassland within 114 m of turbines, and dense tree and scrub clearance from wooded limestone pavement (reverting habitat back to open limestone pavement) near turbines 11 and 13
- The most abundant habitat in the EIAR study area is agriculturally improved grassland. Small areas of oak-ash-hazel woodland, ditches, stone walls, hedgerows and tree lines will require removal during construction. Additional loss may be required to reduce habitat suitability for bats
- Effects of dust deposition on habitats generally expected to be negligible
- No Flora Protection Order (2022) species recorded during any of the habitat surveys
- Habitat Management Plan (HMP) currently being prepared



8. BAT SURVEYS



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Surveys completed in accordance with NatureScot (2021), Collins (2023). Including:

- Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) including hibernation locations
- Roost emergence surveys
- Night-time bat transect/walkover survey
- Seasonal static detector surveys

Activity

- 58,927 bat passes recorded across the 2024 survey programme, with activity highest during summer and autumn, with Leisler's bat, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle being the dominant species recorded across the site
- Higher levels of bat activity were associated with turbine locations adjacent to scrub, woodland edge, hedgerow and vegetated stone-wall habitats (particularly around T8, T9, T12 and T13)
- Turbine locations within predominantly open improved grassland (e.g. T1-T4, T6, T7 and T10) generally supported comparatively low levels of bat activity
- One low-status soprano pipistrelle transitional roost was confirmed; no maternity roosts or hibernation roosts were identified

Key Findings

- Diverse bat assemblage recorded, comprising seven species/species groups
- Bat activity was strongly associated with habitat features including scrub, hedgerows, woodland edges and vegetated stone-wall boundaries
- Highest activity was localised to a small number of locations (T8, T9, T12 and T13), with substantially lower activity recorded across open grassland areas (e.g. T1-T4, T6, T7 and T10)
- No evidence of significant roosting resources, maternity colonies or hibernation roosts were identified within the site
- The results indicate a typical rural bat assemblage, with potential effects capable of being addressed through standard mitigation and operational curtailment measures



W: www.rooaunalaghtagreenenergy.ie
E: info@rooaunalaghtagreenenergy.ie
P: 061 975 200

TOBIN

W: www.tobin.ie
E: info@tobin.ie
P: 01 8030401



Questions/Discussion

Questions:

- SID Determination requirements

