

Ørsted

**Greenhills Energy Park
Development**

Invasive Species Report

December 2025

This report considers the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

**INIS Environmental
Consultants Ltd.**

Suite 16,
Block A,
Clare Technology Park,
Gort Road,
Ennis,
County Clare
Ireland.



Quality Assurance

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The findings outlined within this report and the data we have provided are to our knowledge true and express our bona fide professional opinions. This report has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) good practice guidelines. Where pertinent CIEEM Guidelines used in the preparation of this report include the *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing* (CIEEM, 2017a), *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisals* (CIEEM, 2017b) and *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*, (CIEEM, 2024). CIEEM Guidelines include model formats for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Ecological Impact Assessment. Also, where pertinent, evaluations presented herein take cognisance of recommended Guidance from the EPA such as *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA, 2022), and in respect of European sites, *Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission, 2018).

Due cognisance has been given at all times to the provisions of the *Wildlife Acts 1976-2024*, the *European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations*, the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021*, EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species under *EU Regulation 1143/2014*, the *EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC* and *Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*.

No method of assessment can completely remove the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise or incomplete information. Any limitation to the methods applied or constraints however are clearly identified within the main body of this document.

Version	Date		Name	Signature
1	17/11/2025	Report prepared by:	Katie-Ruth Connolly MSc BSc	
1	18/11/2025	Report checked by:	Conor Daly MSc BSc ACIEEM	
1	24/11/2025	Report amended by:	Dr. Alex Copland BSc PhD MEnvSc MCIEEM	
1.1	04/12/2025	Report amended by:	Katie-Ruth Connolly MSc BSc	
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Notice

This report was produced by INIS Environmental Consultants Ltd. (INIS) on behalf of Ørsted (hereafter known as the client), for the specific purpose of providing an overview of any Invasive Alien Species (IAS) present at the Proposed Development, the Greenhills Energy Park Development, with all reasonable skill, care and due diligence within the terms of the contract with the client, incorporating our terms and conditions and taking account of the resources devoted to it by agreement with the client.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ørsted commissioned Inis Environmental Consultants Ltd. (INIS) to complete a baseline assessment of all Invasive Alien Species (IAS) present at a proposed solar farm site at Greenhills Energy Park Development (hereto referred to as the “Proposed Development”), Co. Cork. Surveys used to inform this assessment were designed to consider site variability, being conducted over a large geographical area and several agricultural habitat types.

The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary details regarding IAS present within the ecological baseline and the requisite management measures required to prevent the spread or introduction of high-impact IAS as a result of the Proposed Development’s construction, operation and decommissioning life cycles.

This report provides the results of the desktop survey effort and provides information on the IAS found during on-site field walkover surveys. In conjunction with Best Practice methods used, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management’s (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct was adhered to throughout the consultation, surveying and report writing stages of this project.

1.1. Statements of Authority

Katie-Ruth Connolly MSc BSc (Assistant Ecologist, INIS): Katie is an assistant ecologist on the Report Team at INIS and drafted this report. She is a Qualifying member of CIEEM. Katie has experience writing Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and baseline ecology reports, as well as Invasives Species Management Plans (ISMP), Environmental Management Plans (EMP) and Site-Specific Environmental Control Plans (SSECP) for civil development projects since 2024.

Conor Daly MSc BSc ACIEEM (Ecologist, INIS): Conor is the Report Team lead and reviewed this report. Conor has experience writing Preliminary Environmental Assessments (PEA), AA Screening, Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and EIA reports since 2021 for small urban developments across Ireland involving sensitive receptors such as Lesser Horseshoe Bat, active badger setts and riverine habitats. He has also contributed to the drafting, finalising and issuing of EIA, EIA and NIS reports over 3 years on renewable energy projects.

Dr Alex Copland BSc PhD MEnvSc MCIEEM (Technical Director, INIS): Alex reviewed this report. He has over 30 years of professional experience working in both statutory and private companies, in third-level research institutions and with environmental NGOs. He is a full member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES) and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). He is proficient in experimental design and data analysis and has managed several large-scale, multi-disciplinary ecological projects, managing staff and resources to meet budgetary constraints and the successful delivery of projects on time.

Daelyn Purcell BSc (Ecologist, INIS): Daelyn carried out invasive species surveys and field assessments which informed this report. He serves as Ecologist within Inis Environmental Consultants Ltd holding a BSc (Hons) in Wildlife Biology from the Institute of Technology Tralee. Daelyn’s has ten years’ experience conducting various ecological surveys in line with best practice guidelines with various ecological consultancies and has worked on several conservation projects with BirdWatch Ireland. Daelyn has particular expertise in ornithological surveys and also has experience with terrestrial mammal surveys and habitat classification. Daelyn is also an Associate member of CIEEM.

1.2. Legislative Context

In Ireland, the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 [S.I. 374] contain the legal provisions to address IAS. These are set out in the following regulations:

Regulation 17: Invasive alien species of national concern – offences:

“(1) Subject to paragraph (3) and Regulation 18, a person shall not – 16 [374] (a) introduce into the State, (b) keep, including in contained holding, (c) breed, including in contained holding, (d) import into, export from or transport within the State, except for the transportation of species to facilities in the context of eradication, (e) place on the market, (f) use, exchange or offer for exchange, (g) permit to reproduce, grow or cultivate, including in contained holding, or (h) release into the environment, an invasive alien species of national concern.”

Regulation 18: Permits – invasive alien species of national concern:

“(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an establishment that is involved in nature conservation (in this Regulation referred to as ‘the applicant’), research or the advancement of human health may apply in writing to the Minister and in such form as may be specified by the Minister, for a permit (in these Regulations known as a “Regulation 18 permit”) derogating from one or more than one of [374] 17 the prohibitions referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (f) or (g) of Regulation 17.1”

Additionally, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 [SI.477] contain similar legal provisions to address invasive alien species. These are set out in the following regulations:

Regulation 49: Prohibition on introduction and dispersal of certain species:

“49. (2) Save in accordance with a licence granted under paragraph (7), any person who plants, disperses, allows or causes to disperse, spreads or otherwise causes to grow in any place specified in relation to such plant in the third column of Part 1 of the Third Schedule, any plant which is included in Part 1 of the Third Schedule, shall be guilty of an offence.”

Regulation 50: Prohibition on dealing in and keeping certain species:

“50. (1) Save in accordance with a licence granted under paragraph (7), and subject to Regulation 74, a person shall be guilty of an offence if he or she has in his or her possession for sale, or for the purposes of breeding, reproduction or propagation, or offers or exposes for sale, transportation, distribution, introduction or release— (a) an animal or plant listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of the Third Schedule, (b) anything from which an animal or plant referred to in subparagraph (a) can be reproduced or propagated, or (c) a vector material listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule, in any place in the State specified in the third column of the Third Schedule in relation to such an animal, plant or vector material.”

In addition, disposal of Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) is regulated under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 to 2008; and Section 4 of the Air Pollution Act, 1987.

1.3. Constraints and Limitations

There are a number of limitations inherent to field-based surveying. These particularly relate to suitable weather conditions for completing surveys, with good visibility and little wind or rain being of paramount importance for recording certain species. When undertaking and completing fieldwork,

careful consideration and planning is required to ensure optimal weather conditions during survey periods. Certain IAS are difficult to identify when they are not in bloom or at a very early stage of growth. Further, habitat walkovers for IAS were conducted over multiple visits, therefore, IAS which are difficult to identify based on seasonal differences in their appearance may not have been detected. As such, field surveys acknowledge that not all high-impact IAS are likely detectable during habitat walkover surveys. The field walkover surveys for the data presented here were all undertaken during suitable weather conditions to ensure field workers had the highest likelihood possible to locate any evidence of invasive flora or fauna. Surveys were conducted between October 2024 and August 2025 and as such no constraints or limitations with regards to weather conditions or seasonality are considered likely.

2. ENVIRONMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Proposed Development is located 4.1km northwest of Youghal, Co. Cork and 6.5km northeast of Killeagh, Co. Cork. It is bounded by the R634 to the north, and the Park Hill road runs between the eastern and western areas of the site. The general location of the site is shown in **Figure 2.1**, where the study area is outlined in red. The Tourig River (18T03), Ballyneague River (18B47) and Knocknagappagh River (18K42) run through the Proposed Development site boundary to the west, the Youghal Park (18Y01) and Ballyglavin Rivers (18B67) flow south of the Proposed Development site southern boundary. The Carriganass River (18C30) flows through the Proposed Development from the north. These rivers are all part of the Tourig_020 sub-basin (IE_SW_18T030700).

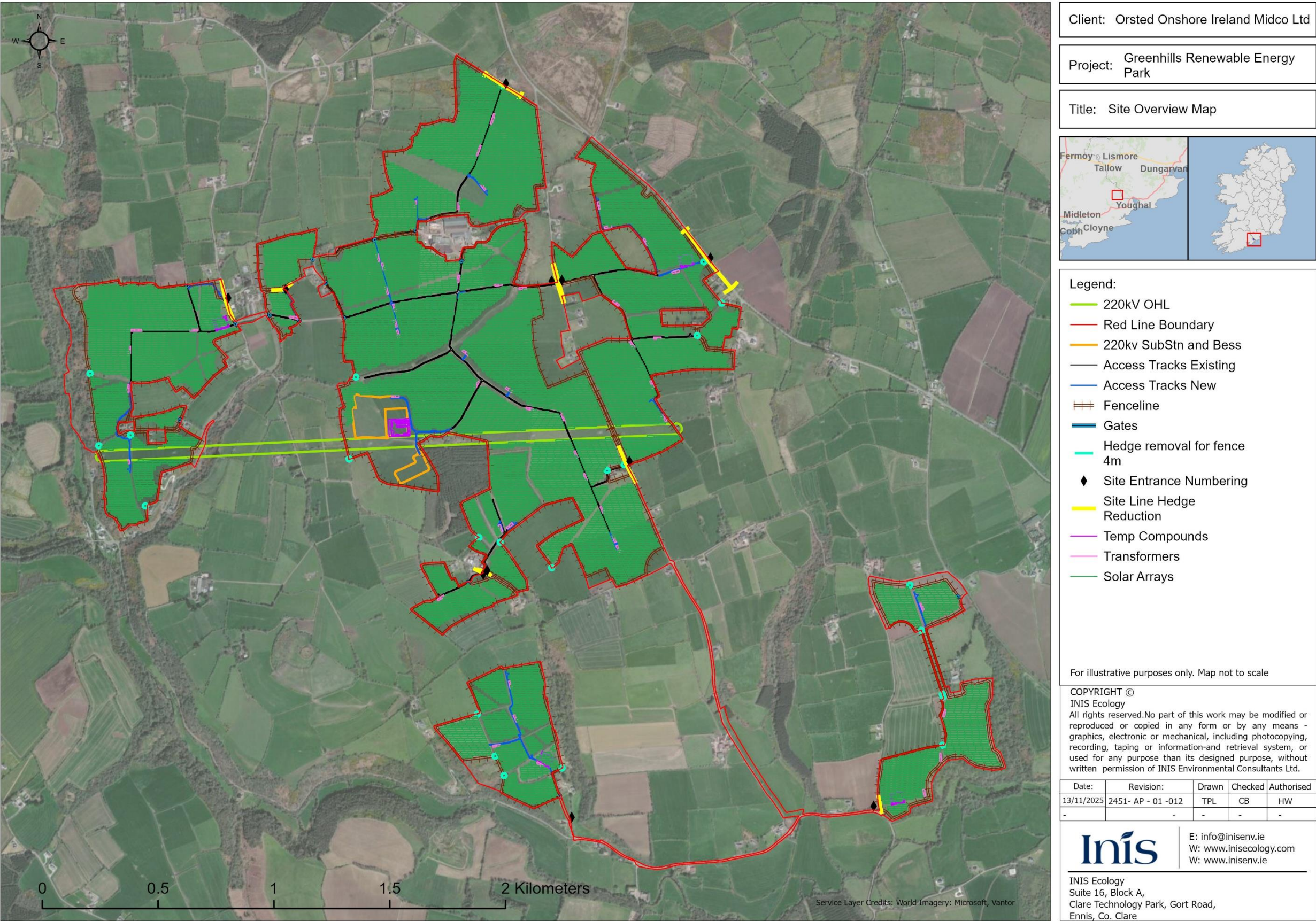


Figure 2.1: Site overview map.

3. METHODOLOGIES

3.1. Desk Study

A desk study was completed to identify IAS potential within the study area and surrounding region prior to the commencement of survey work. This involved an online assessment of IAS presence from published or open-access data and information¹². The results of this study are detailed in **Section 4.1**.

3.2. Field Study

Invasive surveys were conducted alongside field walkover surveys were carried out during daylight hours on 27th January, 4th, 11th and 28th February and the 12th, 20th, 27th and 28th March 2025, in addition to a targeted invasive survey conducted along the 33kV underground grid connection routes connecting the SW and SE Parcels on the 19th August 2025. Any of the IAS found during the surveys were identified and the location was recorded, as well as the extent of the species (length and width of established growth) (Stace, 1997; Fossitt, 2000). Results of these surveys are detailed in **Table 4.2**.

Surveys for IAS were carried out as per published guidelines by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII, 2020) and CIEEM (CIEEM, 2024), as well as the best practice management guidelines published by the NPWS for Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* (Maguire *et al.*, 2008) and Japanese Knotweed *Fallopia japonica* (Kelly *et al.*, 2015). This involved a direct search of all of the accessible areas within the Proposed Development red line boundary and surrounding the proposed route (e.g. adjacent farmland, gardens and buildings).

¹ Available at <https://invasives.ie/> Accessed in **December** 2025.

² Available at <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/> Accessed in **December** 2025.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Desk Study

A search was undertaken on the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) for IAS presence in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The areas subject to the proposed activities are located within the X08 Irish Grid Square (10km x 10km) and the relevant species records available for this location are shown in **Table 4.1** below (records exceeding 50 years were excluded from the table).

Table 4.1: Records of invasive flora and fauna.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date of Record	Number of Records	Designation
Invasive Fauna Species				
American Mink	<i>Neovison vison</i>	24/06/2015	8	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	21/09/2012	1	Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	24/10/2018	30	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	31/12/2012	1	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Invasive Flora Species				
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	23/08/2012	17	High Impact Invasive Species
Common Cord-grass	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	23/08/2012	7	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	29/07/2022	4	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Himalayan Knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	24/05/2009	4	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), Medium Impact Invasive Species
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	14/05/2023	22	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	08/05/2024	30	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), High Impact Invasive Species
Three-cornered Garlic	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	20/05/2016	6	First Schedule (Regulation S.I. 374), Third Schedule (Regulation S.I. 477), Medium Impact Invasive Species

4.2. Field Study

Signs of Fallow Deer *Dama dama* were spotted in various locations onsite on 27th January, 11th and 28th February, and 12th March 2025. Signs of American Mink *Neovison vison* were spotted onsite on 28th March 2025. Cherry Laurel was spotted in four different stretches of hedgerow/treeline onsite during surveys on 27th March and 19th August 2025. Japanese Knotweed was also spotted in a stretch of hedgerow onsite on 19th August 2025.

Figures 4.1 and 4.2 and Table 4.2 below provide further detail on these IAS and their locations. See Appendix A for maps of the habitats mapped onsite.

Table 4.2: Records of invasive flora and fauna found in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Date	Species	ITM	Area/Length (Ha/m)	Designation	Notes
Invasive Faunal Species					
27/01/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	603471.45, 581698.38	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Footprint found along hedgerow
27/01/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	603134.73, 581979.43	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Feeding
11/02/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	601459.38, 582510.60	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Well defined trail. Presence of hoof prints
28/02/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	603228.46, 581522.05	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Presence of species
12/03/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	605030.26, 580377.72	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Hoof prints evident
12/03/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	605126.11, 580523.44	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Heavily used track
12/03/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	605421.73, 580558.25	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Heavily worn track along hedgerow
12/03/2025	Fallow Deer <i>Dama dama</i>	605188.71, 580871.04	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024)	Heavily used area
28/03/2025	American Mink <i>Neovison vison</i>	605197.36, 580398.80	NA	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024) Third Schedule (S.I. 477/2011)	Good requirements for Otter. Mink footprints visible along sections of river
Invasive Alien Plant Species					
27/03/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	602204.12, 582489.35	1m	High Impact Invasive Species	
27/03/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	602196.24, 582485.03	5m	High Impact Invasive Species	Quite a tall plant.
27/03/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	602138.49, 582472.97	2m	High Impact Invasive Species	
19/08/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	604027.01, 580138.27	35m	High Impact Invasive Species	

19/08/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	603998.27, 580124.66	12m	High Impact Invasive Species	Situated along wall of premises
19/08/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	603827.36, 580161.66	50m	High Impact Invasive Species	Outside of RLB
19/08/2025	Japanese Knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	603732.63, 580203.68	5m	First Schedule (S.I. 374/2024) Third Schedule (S.I. 477/2011)	Very tall in height and dense
19/08/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	603697.79, 580229.55	5m	High Impact Invasive Species	Located at entrance of gate outside of RLB
19/08/2025	Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	604170.80, 581058.81	25m	High Impact Invasive Species	Two individual plants present along with ornamental species

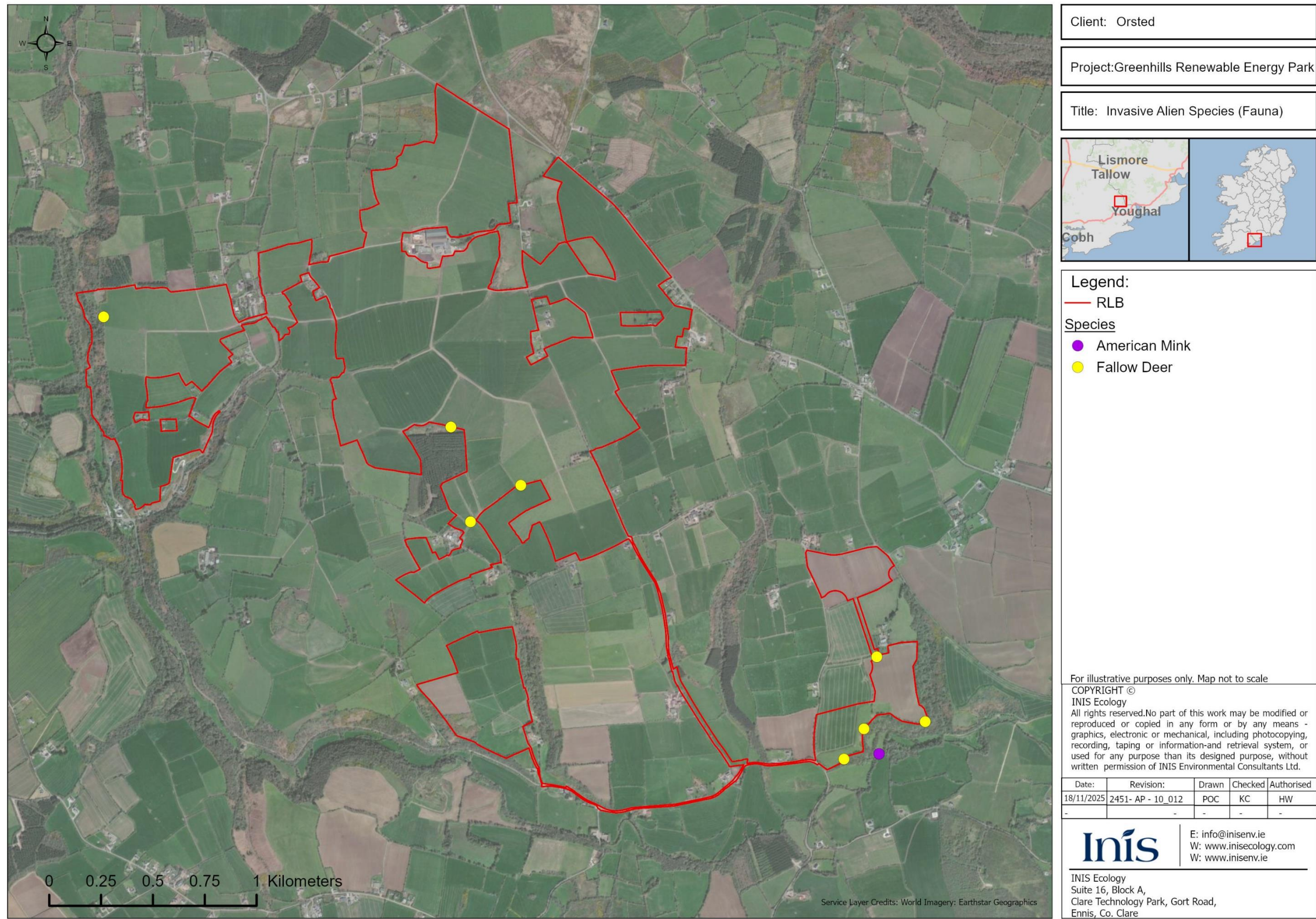


Figure 4.1: Map of locations of identified IAS (fauna).



Client: Orsted

Project: Greenhills Renewable Energy Park

Title: Invasive Alien Species (Flora)

FermoyLismoreTallowDungarvanMidletonYoughalCobhCloyne

Legend:

— RLB

Species

■ Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)

■ Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

For illustrative purposes only. Map not to scale

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-	-	-	-	-

E: info@inisen.ie
W: www.inisecology.com
W: www.inisen.ie

INIS Ecology
Suite 16, Block A,
Clare Technology Park, Gort Road,
Ennis, Co. Clare

Figure 4.2: Map of locations of identified IAS (flora).

5. DESCRIPTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES PRESENT

5.1. Fallow Deer

5.1.1. Description and Habitat

Fallow deer are a medium-sized deer with palmate antlers and white rump. Their coats are typically reddish brown but can vary from white to dark brown (Langbein *et al.*, 2009). They have a notably longer tail than a sika deer, with their tail extending down below the rump.

They are strongly sexual dimorphic, with the males being significantly larger than the females. Fallow Deer graze in woodlands and agricultural land, and as such generally inhabit woodland, forest and other wooded land alongside artificial habitats such as industrial land, and agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats.

5.1.2. Origin and Impacts

Fallow Deer were introduced in Ireland as hunting game pre-1200 A.D., when they were kept in large estates from the 14th century onward. They are thought to be native to Turkey, Iran and the Balkan peninsula (Masetti & Mertzaniidou, 2008).

Fallow Deer have a number of impacts on native wildlife through competition for resources. They are also known carriers for lime-disease carrying ticks, thus posing a threat to native species and livestock. They also pose a significant threat to native woodlands due to their grazing behaviour, as they strip native trees while still immature, giving the trees no time to establish.

5.1.3. Control Measures

There are no specific legal provisions associated with Fallow Deer in Ireland.

5.2. American Mink

5.2.1. Description and Habitat

American Mink is a medium semi-aquatic species of mustelid. It has short ears and limbs, with a tail that measures about a third of their body length and is much smaller than Otter *Lutra lutra* (Dunstone & Macdonald, 2008). They are almost completely dark brown, with some white markings on the chin, throat chest and belly. Some Minks which are found on fur farms (and their feral descendants) can vary in colour, ranging from white and grey to black. Minks are sexually dimorphic, with males slightly larger than females (Thom *et al.*, 2004), the males ranging from 45-65cm, and females ranging from 35-55cm.

They live in the vegetative boundaries of lakes and rivers, along coasts, and within wooded marshlands and estuaries. They may also live near urban areas provided that sufficient cover and prey are available.

5.2.2. Origins and Impacts

This species is native to Canada and the United States of America. American Mink has been found in South America, Europe (including Ireland and the United Kingdom) and parts of Asia. American Minks were introduced as a fur farming animal in many parts of Europe in the 1920s and 1930s and subsequently escaped. In Ireland, in 1961 and again in 1965 approximately 15 minks escaped from a fur farm in Northern Ireland and developed a breeding population in Co. Tyrone (Deane & O’Gorman, 1969).

American Mink is a predator to numerous native species, including waterfowl, fish, and vulnerable freshwater crayfish. They can cause localised declines in certain species and are also highly mobile and may travel long distances to find suitable habitats. American Mink relies on similar food resources to our native Otter; thus, they are in direct competition with each other.

5.2.3. Control Measures

There are no specific legal provisions associated with American Mink in Ireland.

5.3. Cherry Laurel

5.3.1. Description and Habitat

Cherry Laurel is an evergreen shrub that grows up to 10 metres tall. Its 5-15cm long leaves are dark green, shiny and leathery with a finely serrated edge. It flowers in the early summer, producing 7-15cm racemes of creamy-white flowers with 5 petals each. Its flowers have a sweet smell, whereas its leaves can give off a smell of almonds when crushed. Its fruit is a small cherry, which ripens in the autumn, turning purple-black (Rushforth, 1999).

Cherry Laurel grows in woodland, forests and others wooded verges. It can also grow in mires, bogs and fens, grasslands, and disturbed or sparsely vegetated habitats.

5.3.2. Origin and Impacts

Cherry Laurel is an ornamental shrub native to areas in southwestern Asia and southeastern Europe, first reported in the wild in Ireland in 1950.

Cherry Laurel is considered an invasive with risk of **High Impact** (NBDC, 2025). Due to its evergreen habit, rapid growth and draught tolerance, it forms dense thickets, out-competing and crowding out native plant species. It is avoided by grazing animals due to the cyanide content in its leaves, seeds and flowers giving it a significant advantage over native species (Maguire *et al.*, 2008). It spreads by layering and suckering; however, its seeds are spread also by birds, which eat the fruits (Reynolds, 2002). It is a particular threat in the priority habitats “Lowland woodland pasture and parkland” (Stokes *et al.*, 2004). Where Cherry Laurel has established and grows without management, i.e. regular cuttings every few weeks, it can quickly dominate woodland areas, creating a monoculture of toxic plant material within high ecological areas.

5.3.3. Control Measures

There are no specific legal provisions associated with the growing of Cherry Laurel in Ireland.

5.4. Japanese Knotweed

5.4.1. Description and Habitat

Japanese Knotweed is a tall, herbaceous perennial plant that grows in dense patches up to a height of 3m (Booy *et al.*, 2015). It has red, bamboo-like stems with shield-shaped leaves that grow to 10-15cm long.

Japanese Knotweed grows in a variety of habitats, including riparian habitats such as mires, bogs, and fens, as well as woodland, heath, agricultural habitat, and artificial habitats.

5.4.2. Origin and Impacts

Japanese Knotweed is a Temperate Asian plant which was introduced to Ireland as a garden plant in the 19th century and was introduced into the wild in Ireland in the 1900s (Reynolds, 2002). The current range of Japanese Knotweed is due to planting and garden discards and has been aided by the plant's rapid growth. This is aided by asexual reproduction both vegetatively and through rhizomes, with growth occurring from fragments as small as 2cm (Sasik & Elias, 2006).

Japanese Knotweed lowers biodiversity in an area by crowding out and out-competing native plants. It has also been shown to release chemicals into the soil which inhibit the growth of other plants common to riparian habitats such as nettle *Urtica dioica* (Moravcová *et al.*, 2011). It has further impacts on its surrounding environment through biofouling, as it produces significant quantities of leaf litter given the plant's vigorous growth.

5.4.3. Control Measures

As the Japanese Knotweed is located on private property, eradication may not be possible. Therefore, within the Proposed Development, it is advised that a 7m radius around any Japanese Knotweed located is cordoned off and marked with a restricted access sign. All soil excavated within this 7m radius must be treated as biohazardous material due to the potential for presence of rhizomes. Any vehicles which enter this precautionary 7m onsite must undergo Check, Clean, Dry protocol after leaving the marked area to prevent potential spread of any seeds.

Also, management measures outlined in **Section 5.5** also need to be followed.

5.5. Management Measures

5.5.1. General Management Measures

- If an IAS is identified on site in addition to the already identified locations, contact your Site Supervisor/HSEQ Advisor for instructions on how to proceed;
- Implement controls as instructed by the HSEQ Advisor;
- Information on IAS/training will be provided at induction stage to all staff/Site Operatives; and
- If additional IAS are identified onsite, changes to the Invasives Species Report may be deemed necessary, and the Client should be contacted before proceeding with works.

5.5.2. Site-specific Management Measures

- Appropriate signage for IAS will be used; and
- Locations where Japanese Knotweed occurs will be fenced off to prevent disturbance and prevent access. This involves fencing-off the IAS including a 7m buffer zone to stop workers and machinery entering these areas.

5.5.3. Biosecurity Measures

- Suppliers of any soil or aggregates, brought on to the site are required to assure that it is free of any IAS;
- All tyres and tracks should be checked/cleaned before leaving a site where an IAS has been identified to prevent inadvertently spreading the species;
- Soils and plant materials will be cleaned from tools, equipment, vehicles and work clothes before entering and leaving the work site; and
- Before removing any plants and shrubs, they will be checked that they are not a Third Schedule/First Schedule Invasive Species.

5.5.4. Monitoring and Treatment

- Contaminated soils will be treated carefully. If wastes are being transported off site, ensure that they are appropriately transported by a licensed waste carrier who is informed that the waste material contains an invasive species as part of the waste transfer documentation.

6. CONCLUSION

Fallow Deer is listed on the First Schedule of S.I. 374/2024 (as amended) and therefore, it is a legal obligation to ensure that their distribution is not impacted as a result of the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development will not involve works or changes to the ecological baseline that will result in an increase in Fallow Deer numbers or expose habitats or species sensitive to Fallow Deer to increased pressures as a result of construction or operational works.

American Mink is listed on the First Schedule of (S.I. 374/2024) or Third Schedule (S.I. 477/2011), therefore there is a legal obligation to ensure that their distribution is not impacted as a result of the Proposed Development. However, the Proposed Development will not involve works or changes to the ecological baseline that will result in an increase in American Mink numbers or expose habitats or species sensitive to American Mink to increased pressures as a result of construction or operational works.

Cherry Laurel is present with the ecological baseline and, although is considered as a high-impact invasive species, it is not listed on any schedule within the legislation. Therefore, there is no legal obligation to control this species, despite its high impact status.

Japanese Knotweed are listed on the First Schedule of S.I. 374/2024 (as amended), therefore there is also a legal obligation to ensure that they are not transported or spread as a result of the Proposed Development. The management measures in **Section 5.4** and **5.5** will be deployed for all aspects of the Proposed Development and overseen by an appropriately qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and project ecologist to ensure all biosecurity measures are applied for both pre-construction removal and eradication as well as construction-phase disposal of contaminated material and post-construction monitoring as described in **Section 5.5** for general management measures.

Given these measures, accepted efficacy and the extent of the invasive species on site, the Proposed Development poses no threat to result in the spread of or introduction of high impact invasive species or species under the First Schedule of (S.I. 374/2024) or Third Schedule (S.I. 477/2011).

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APPENDIX A - HABITAT MAPS

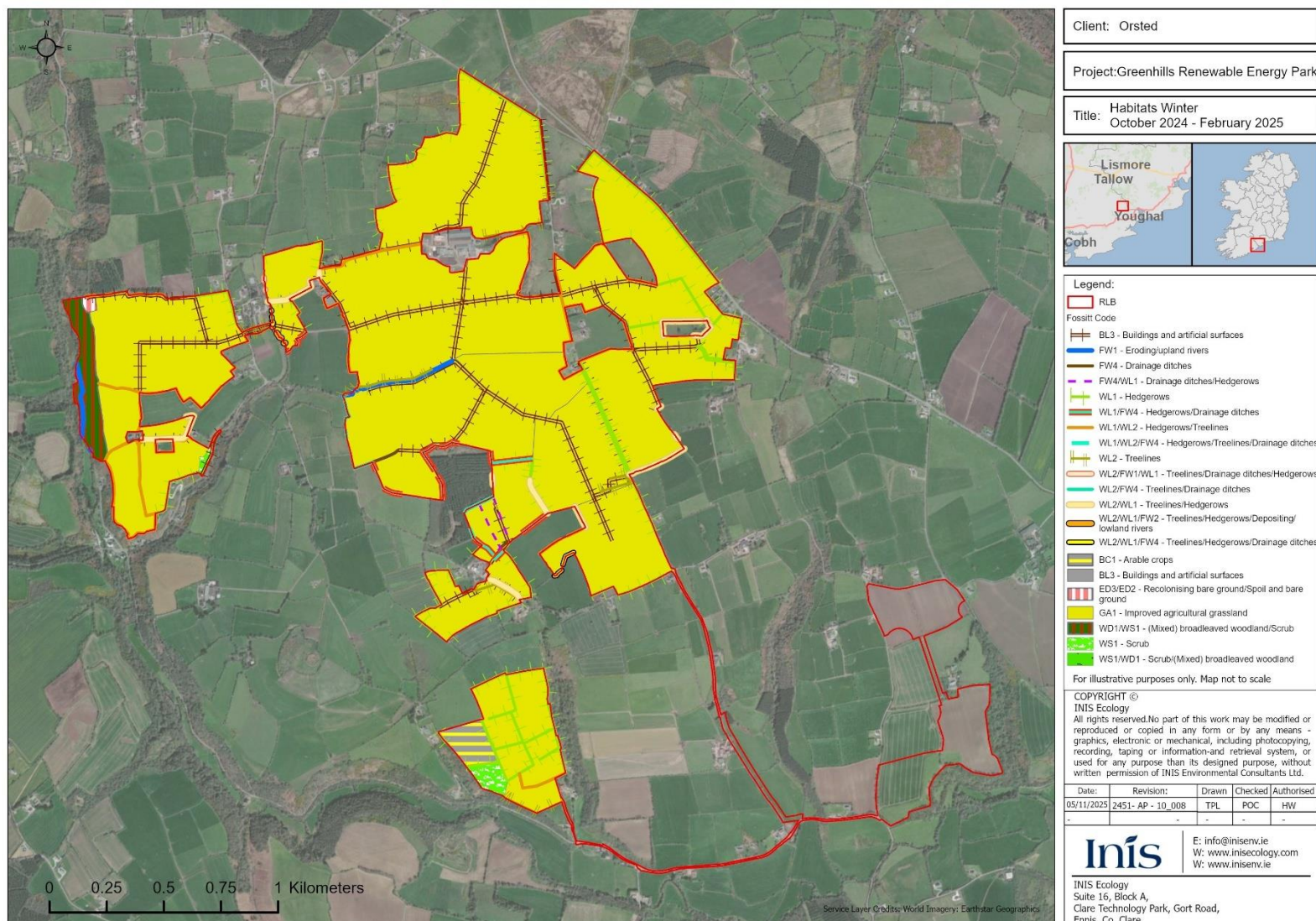


Figure A.1: Habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development (Winter).

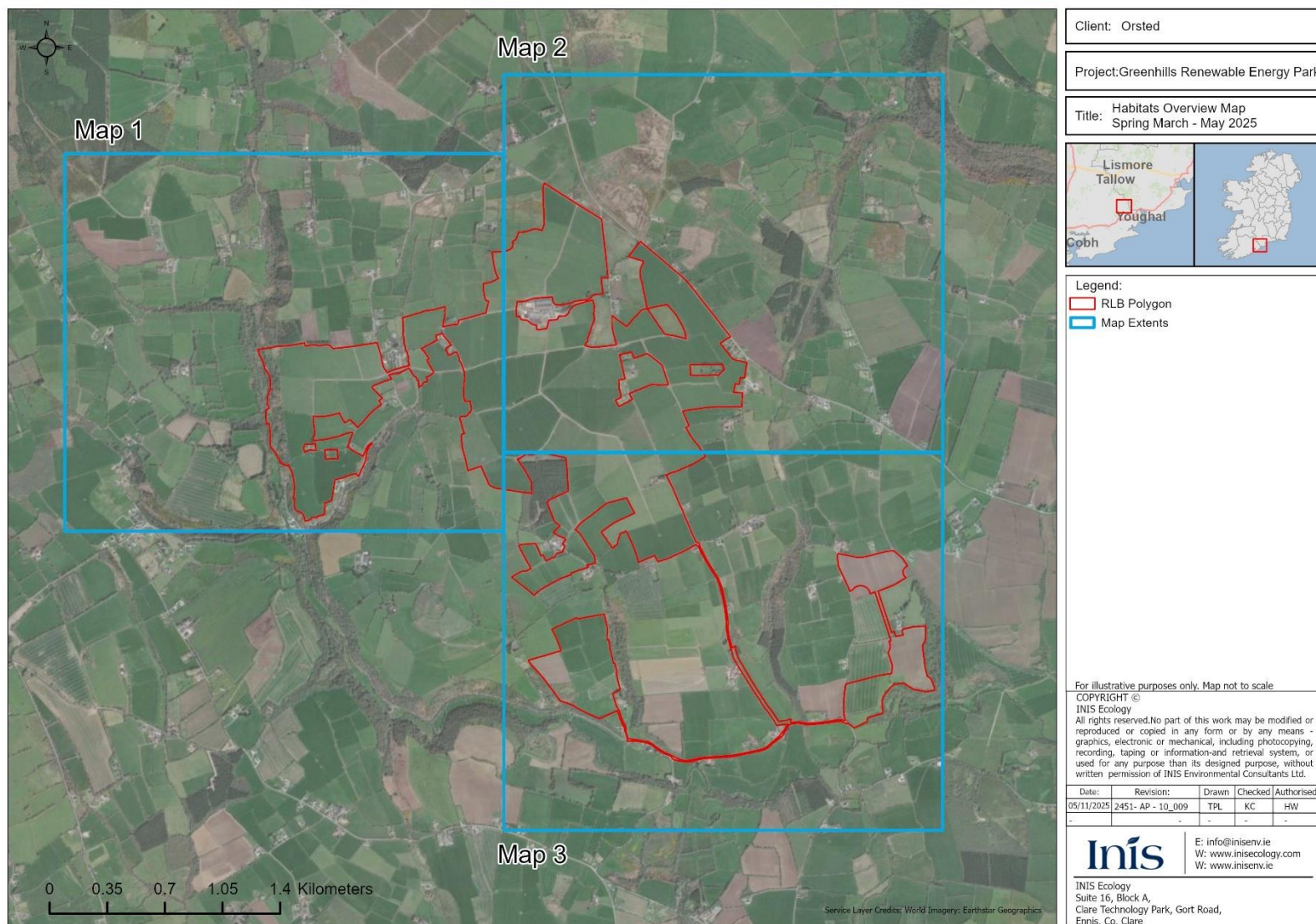


Figure A.2: An overview of habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development (Spring).

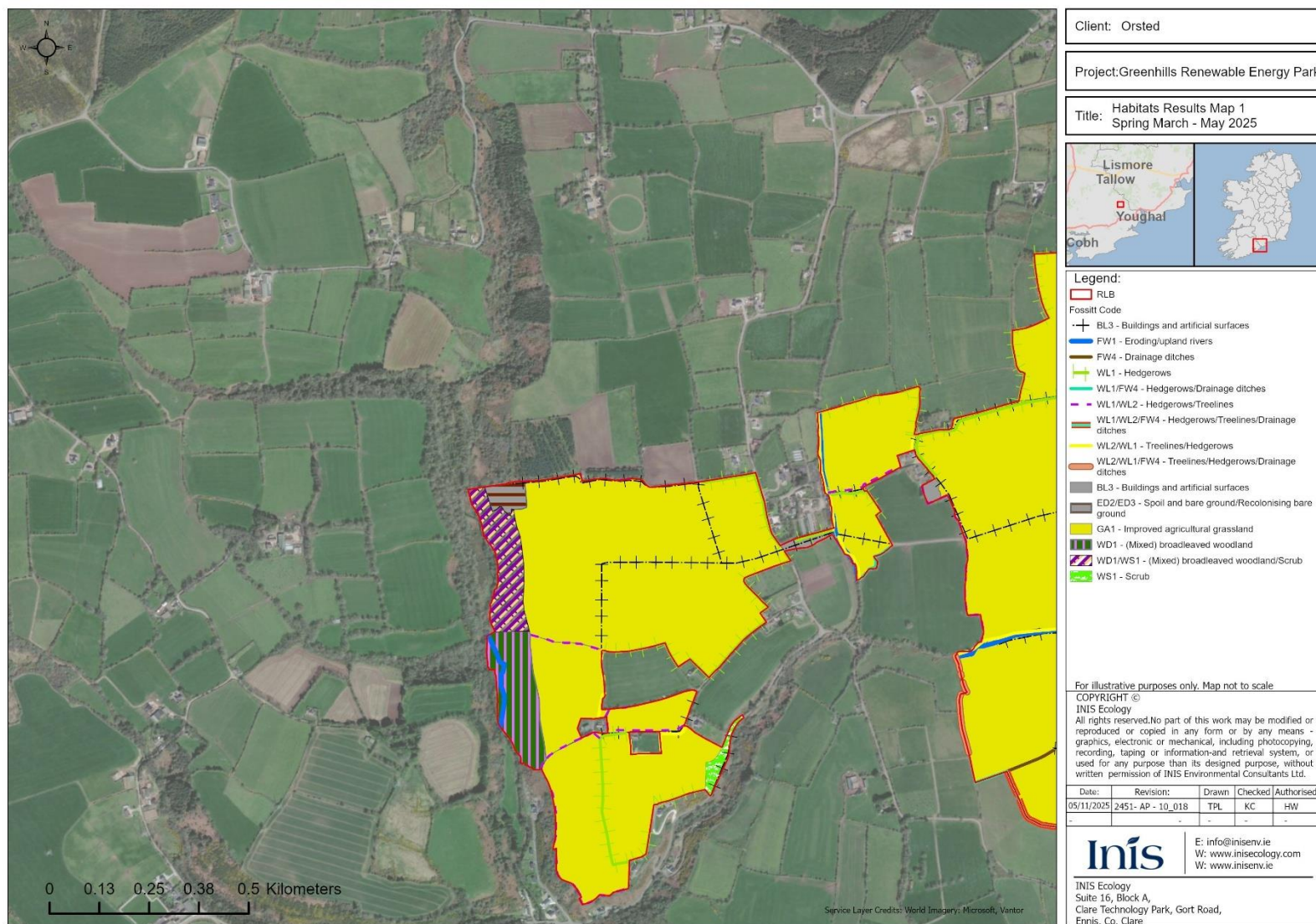


Figure A.3: Habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development - 1 (Spring).

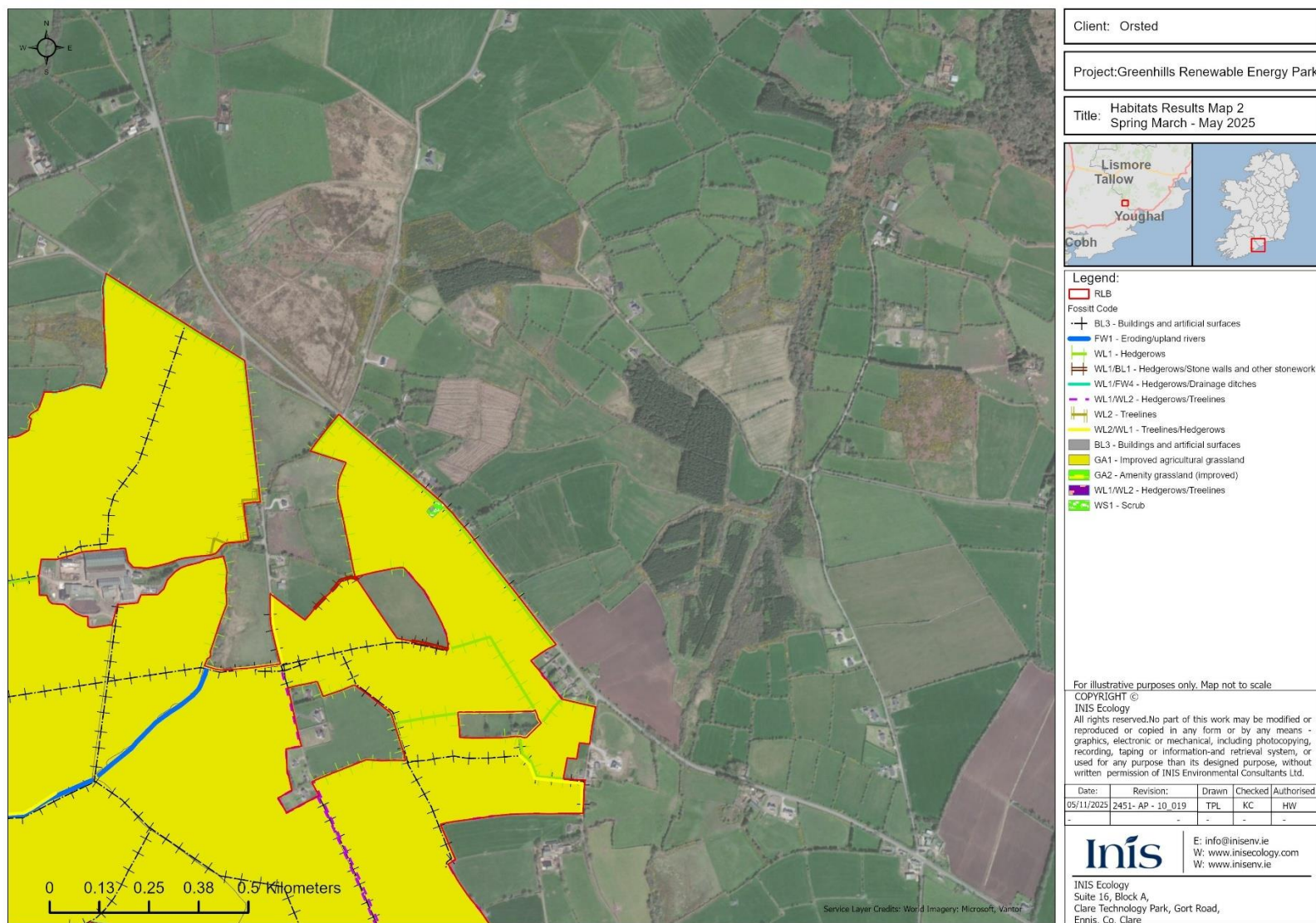


Figure A.4: Habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development - 2 (Spring).

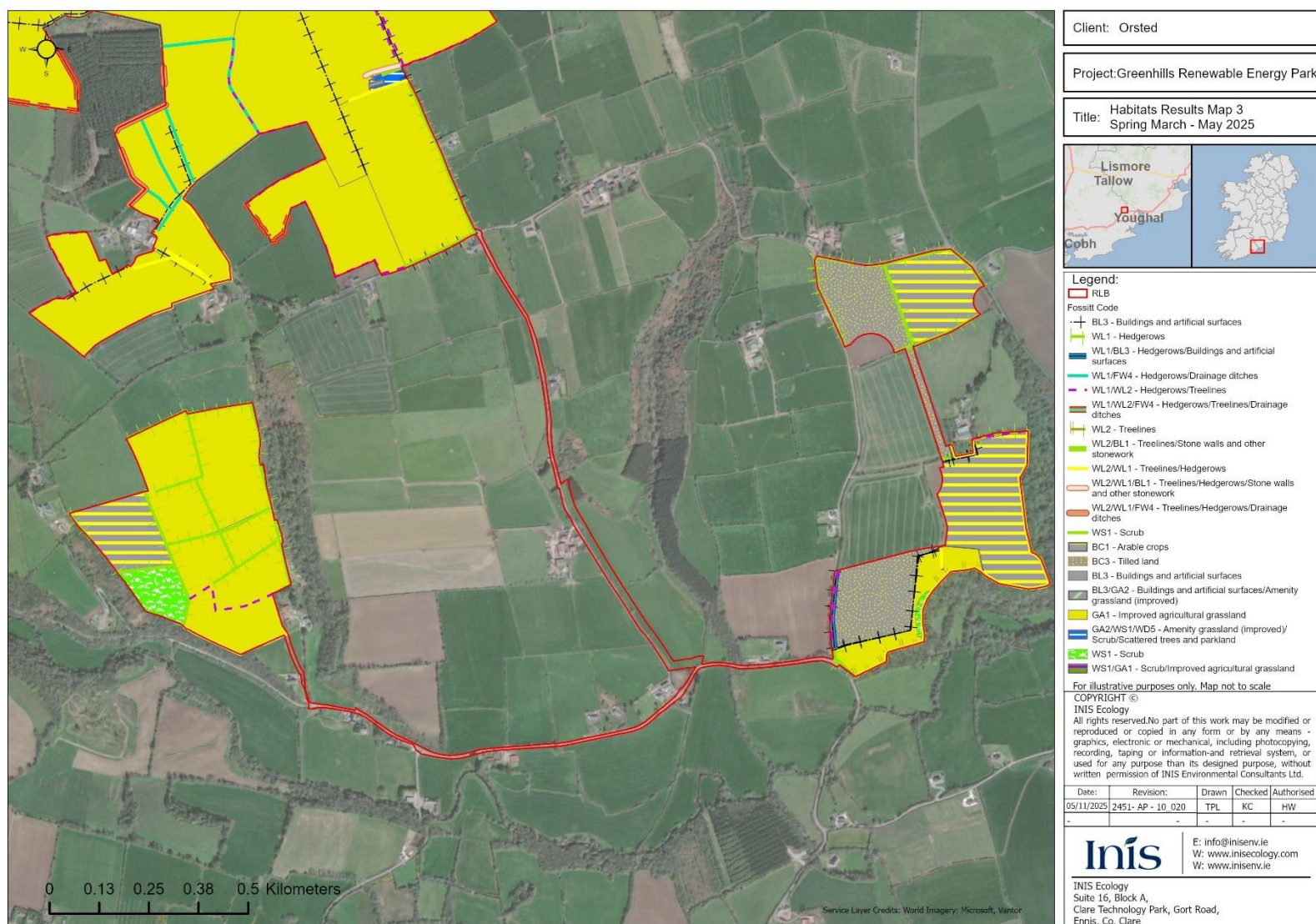


Figure A.5: Habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development - 3 (Spring).

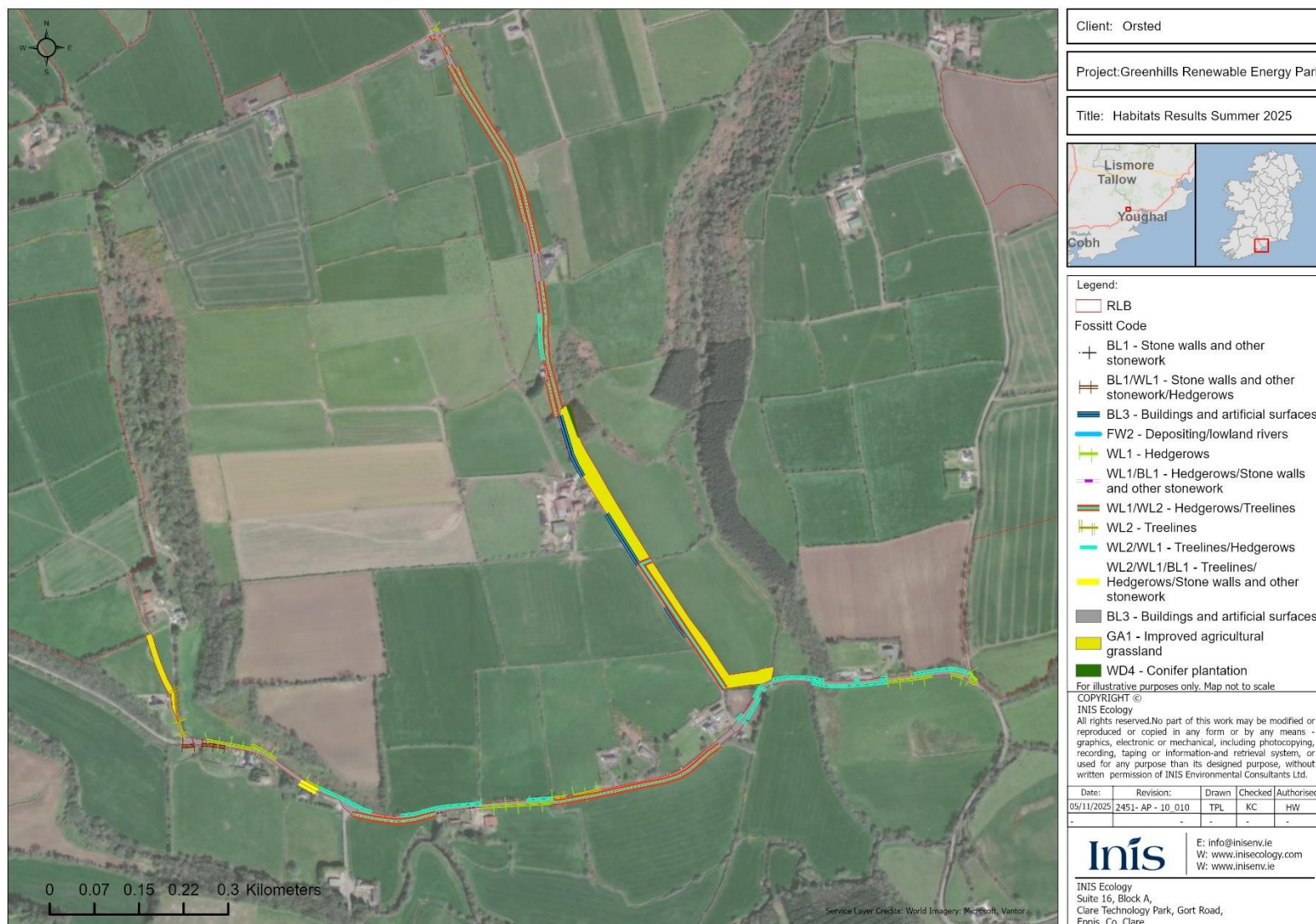


Figure A.6: Habitats mapped at the Greenhills Energy Park Development (Summer).