

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 6.3 - Statutory Sites September 2025

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Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project

Appendix 6.3: Statutory Sites Technical Appendix

September 2025

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3 STATUTORY SITES RESULTS

3.1 European Sites

Relevant European sites of nature conservation importance, including SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, are summarised in **Table 3.1**. A precautionary approach was adopted when identifying relevant European sites, assessing all European sites within the ZOI of the Project as well as more distant sites where potential hydrological linkage exists (OPR, 2021). Physical distance considered for mobile QIs/SCIs to interact with the proposed Project considering the further foraging or commuting range for the relevant species. Hydrological pathways were considered in a worst-case scenario where watercourses may carry significant levels of contaminant as far as the first lentic body encountered.

Table 3.1: Distance between European sites within ZOI and the Project.

Site code	Site name	Distance to Project (km)	
SACs		Direct	Hydrological
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	6.4km	No Hydrological pathway
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	7.3km	No Hydrological pathway
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	7.4km	No Hydrological pathway. Is located 3.4km upstream of the Shannon confluence with the Feorish River.
002346	Brown Bog SAC	11.6km	No Hydrological pathway
000440	Lough Ree SAC	11.8km	18.6km via Bellmount (Cloggernagh) (GCR crossing); 22.1km via the Culliagh stream (Windfarm Surface Run-off point)
002349	Corbo Bog SAC	12.1km	No Hydrological pathway
SPAs			
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	7.4km	No Hydrological pathway
004064	Lough Ree SPA	11.8km	18.6km via Bellmount (Cloggernagh) (GCR crossing); 22.1km via the Culliagh stream (Windfarm Surface Run-off point)

Following the examination of potential connectivity to European Sites (**Table 3.2**), five European Sites (Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC, Clooneen Bog SAC, Brown Bog SAC and Corbo Bog) were shown to have no connectivity via direct or indirect pathways to the Project and were considered to be outside the ZOI and therefore these European Sites and their QIs/SCIs are not considered KERs. These sites are not considered further.

The following three European Sites were identified as being within the Zol of the proposed Project (due to hydrological and/or other ecological connectivity) and therefore are considered further in this assessment:

- Lough Ree SAC [000440];
- Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [004101]; and
- Lough Ree SPA [004064].

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Table 3.2: European Sites, Conservation Objectives and connectivity to the Project (highlighted CO/Designated sites are identified with potential pathways for effects with the Project).

Designated site [code]	Conservation Objectives Version	QIs [code]/SCIs [code]	Connectivity with the Project
SACs			
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [001626]	NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626. Version 1.	Alkaline fens [7230]	No hydrological connection. This SAC is located upstream of the proposed Project.
		Greyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyser</i>) [1013]	No physical connection. These QIs are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. Neither QI is mapped within the footprint of or indirectly connected to the Projects potential sources. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as neither of its QIs are considered likely receptors for impacts as a result of the project.
Clooneen Bog SAC [002348]	NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Clooneen Bog SAC 002348. Version 2.	Active raised bogs [7110] *	No hydrological connection. This SAC is located upstream of the Feorish and Shannon Upper confluence, which is downstream of the Project. No physical connection.
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	

		Bog woodland [91D0] *	These QIs are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. None of the QIs are mapped within the footprint of or indirectly connected to the Projects potential sources. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as none of its QIs are considered likely receptors for impacts as a result of the project.
Lough Forbes Complex SAC [001818]	NPWS (2016a) Conservation Objectives: Lough Forbes Complex SAC 001818. Version 1.	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150]	No hydrological connection. The Forbes Complex SAC/pNHA is 3.4km upstream of the confluence that connects the wind farm element of the Project and continuing downstream to the Lough Ree SAC. As such, there is a pathway for mobile QIs to interact with worst-case scenario Project sources and be potential receptors. However, none of the QIs for this SAC/pNHA are mobile and are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. No physical connection. These QIs are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. None of the QIs are mapped within the footprint of or indirectly connected to the Projects potential sources. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as none of its QIs are considered likely receptors for impacts as a result of the project.
		Active raised bogs [7110] *	
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	
		Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] *	
Brown Bog SAC [002346]	NPWS (2016b) Conservation Objectives: Brown Bog	Active raised bog [7110] *	No hydrological connection. This SAC is located upstream of the Feorish and Shannon Upper confluence, which is downstream of the Project.
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	

	SAC 002346. Version 1.	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	No physical connection. These QIs are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. None of the QIs are mapped within the footprint of or indirectly connected to the Project's potential sources. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as none of its QIs are considered likely receptors for impacts as a result of the project.
Lough Ree SAC [000440]	NPWS (2016c) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SAC 000440. Version 1.	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150]	No. None of these QIs are mobile or mapped to extend upstream within the Upper Shannon River. As such, on the basis of the extent of the downstream dissolution (18.6km), these QIs are unlikely to receive any extent of effect as a result of the Project.
		Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210]	
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	Only one QI is mapped ex-situ of the SAC but is not part of the site conservation objective
		Alkaline fens [7230]	The QI Alkaline Fens is connected downstream of a potential surface run-off source and GCR works source. This habitat is present upstream of this SAC within the Shannon (Upper) river. Although a non-mobile QI, this habitat may have genetic biodiversity contributions with its in-situ counterparts within the SAC. However, given this location for Alkaline fens, which is 12.8km downstream of the nearest Project source (surface run-off via the Culliagh stream). No significant effects were determined likely to occur.
		Limestone pavements [8240] *	
		Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	
		Bog woodland [91D0] *	Therefore, even in a worst-case scenario, this site is not considered a KER for these QIs.

		Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]	Yes – hydrological connection. This site is 22.1km from the proposed wind farm and 18.6km from the GCR via multiple watercourses. There is potential hydrological connectivity between the Project and the Lough Ree SAC Yes – physical connection. The mobile QI Otter has a foraging range greater than the distance between the Project GCR is 8.9km upstream of the River Shannon (Upper)_100 which is 8.9km upstream of the Lough Ree SAC. This places the receiving environment of the Project within the foraging range of ex-situ Otter (13.2km ± 5.3km, Reid et al, 2013). Therefore, potential ex-situ connectivity is considered. Therefore, under the Precautionary principle, this site is considered a KER as this QI is considered for potential ex-situ effects.
Carbo Bog SAC [002349]	NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Corbo Bog SAC 002349. Version 1.	Active raised bogs [7110] *	No hydrological connection. This SAC is located upstream of the Feorish and Shannon Upper confluence, which is downstream of the Project. No physical connection. These QIs are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. None of the QIs are mapped within the footprint of or indirectly connected to the Projects potential sources.
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	

			Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as none of its QIs are considered likely receptors for impacts as a result of the project.
SPAs			
Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA [004101]	NPWS (2022a) Conservation Objectives: Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA 004101. Version 1.	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	Yes - hydrological connection. The Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA is 3.4km upstream of the confluence that connects the wind farm element of the Project and continuing downstream to the Lough Ree SAC. However, there is no pathway for in-situ impacts. Yes - physical connection. The Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA is 7.4km from the proposed Project. This SCI has a foraging range of 8km (SNH, 2016). Additionally, the Kilglass Lough (c.1km from the proposed Project) is considered a habitat area used by this SCI species. As such, ex-situ effects for this SCI have the potential significant effects. Therefore, under the precautionary principle, this site is considered a KER, as this SCI is considered for potential ex-situ disturbance/displacement effects.
Lough Ree SPA [004064]	NPWS (2022b) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SPA 004064. Version 1.	Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]	Yes - hydrological connection. This site is 22.1km downstream from the proposed wind farm Site via the Culliagh Stream and 18.6km from the GCR via the Bellmount. This site is connected downstream of a potential surface run-off source and GCR works source. However, based on downstream dissolution (~18.6km), these SCIs are unlikely to receive any extent of effect as a result of the project.
		Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	
		Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	
		Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]	

		Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061]	No – physical connection. These SCIs were recorded in the wider receiving environment within the Kilglass Lough. Given these species have wide ranges of commuting habitat between large suitable foraging habitat in winter, there is potential for ex-situ mortality, disturbance and displacement effects. However, given the distance between this site and the Kilglass lough, any such effects are not likely to be significant effect based on the flight activity recorded and the separation distance from the SPA site boundary. Therefore, this site is considered a KER as these SCIs are considered for ex-situ contamination/pollution effects.
		Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]	
		Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]	
		Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]	
		Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	
		Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	
		Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]	
		Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]	
		Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857]	
		Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	

3.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are nationally designated sites of nature conservation importance protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Whilst proposed NHAs (pNHAs) do not have the legal protection afforded to NHAs until designation is confirmed, these should still be taken into consideration when establishing the potential for effects from a proposed project on a precautionary basis. A total of seven NHAs and 16 pNHAs were identified for assessment in relation to the proposed Project (see **Table 3.3**). No other relevant Nationally Designated Sites were identified.

Table 3.3: Distance between National Heritage sites within Zol and the Project.

Site code	Site name	Distance to Project (km)	
NHAs			
000605	Derrycanan Bog NHA	6.9km	No Hydrological pathway
000422	Aghnamona Bog NHA	7.8km	No Hydrological pathway
000691	Rinn River NHA	9.1km	No Hydrological pathway
002072	Lisnarrigh Bog NHA	10.2km	No Hydrological pathway
001420	Corracramph Bog NHA	10.2km	No Hydrological pathway
001423	Cloonageeher Bog NHA	10.8km	No Hydrological pathway
001405	Cashel Bog NHA	11.6km	No Hydrological pathway
pNHAs			
000608	Kilglass and Grange Loughs pNHA	1km	7.5km via Gortlustia stream (GCR crossing); 1.8km via Ballymartin 28 (Windfarm substation adjacent to stream header)
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) pNHA	5.6km	No Hydrological pathway
001642	Lough Boderg and Lough Bofin pNHA	6.2km	No Hydrological pathway
000445	Clooneen Bog pNHA	7.2km	No Hydrological pathway
001818	Lough Forbes Complex pNHA	7.4km	No Hydrological pathway
001617	Ardakillin Lough pNHA	7.8km	No Hydrological pathway
000602	Corbo Bog pNHA	8.3km	No Hydrological pathway
000440	Lough Ree pNHA	8.6km	No Hydrological pathway
002103	Royal Canal pNHA	9.1km	No Hydrological pathway
000449	Lough Bannow pNHA	10.2km	No Hydrological pathway
001627	Corbally Turlough pNHA	11.2km	No Hydrological pathway
000442	Brown Bog pNHA	11.3km	No Hydrological pathway
001648	Shad Lough pNHA	13.3km	No Hydrological pathway
001417	Lough Rinn pNHA	14km	No Hydrological pathway
000594	Brierfield Turlough pNHA	14.4km	No Hydrological pathway
000424	Clooncoe Wood and Lough pNHA	14.8km	No Hydrological pathway

The Project does not overlap with any NHA or pNHA boundaries. The next nearest NHA or pNHA, Kilglass And Grange Loughs pNHA, is located approximately 1km north of the wind farm Site boundary.

The remaining nearby National Statutory Sites are all more than 1km from the nearest element of the proposed Project.

A number of nationally designated sites were screened out from further assessment based on the extent of distance between the proposed Project and the designated site and the absence of any ecological or hydrological connectivity, or other pathways, including the mobility of species for which those sites are designated (see **Table 3.4**). These sites not considered further.

Five pNHAs were identified to be within the ZoI for the proposed Project, as detailed in **Table 3.4** and are taken forward for further assessment:

- Kilglass And Grange Loughs pNHA;
- Lough Boderg And Lough Bofin pNHA;
- Ardakillin Lough pNHA;
- Lough Ree pNHA;
- Shad Lough pNHA.

3.2.1 Kilglass And Grange Loughs pNHA

Kilglass and Grange Loughs are a group of lakes in the River Shannon. The Loughs contain reed-swamps and associated freshwater marshes, as well as an extensive area of very wet grassland on peat. These lakes are also part of a group of Roscommon lakes which between them have nationally important numbers of winter waterfowl and movement between lakes. Kilglass and Grange Loughs have an unusual ecological and geomorphological position in relation to the main Shannon lakes. There are extensive areas of remote reed-beds. Kilglass Lough has high numbers of varied winter waterfowl, unusual for a relatively small sized, calcareous lake (NPWS, 2009a).

3.2.2 Lough Boderg And Lough Bofin pNHA

Lough Boderg/Lough Bofin is a complex of connected Upper Shannon lakes which also includes Lough Scannell and lie on the border between Co. Roscommon and Co. Leitrim. Lough Bofin and Lough Scannell are close to Dromod, Co. Leitrim while Lough Boderg lies about 4km south of Drumsna. It is connected by a short channel to Kilglass/Grange Lough. Apart from the aquatic habitats of the lake itself, the main terrestrial and semi-aquatic habitats are woodland on the lakeshore which grades down to a stony lakeshore with a well-developed typical 'Shannon flora', and reed swamps (NPWS, 2009b).

3.2.3 Ardakillin Lough pNHA

Ardakillin Lough is located approximately 3km south-west of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. The underlying geology of this area is carboniferous limestone. The main habitat in this site is a fen and flush community (NPWS, 2009c).

3.2.4 Lough Ree pNHA

Situated on the River Shannon between Lanesborough and Athlone, Lough Ree is the third largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It lies in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous Limestone. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore. The lake has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. It also has a good scattering of islands, most of which are included in the site (NPWS, 2016; NPWS, 2022).

3.2.5 Shad Lough pNHA

Shad Lough is located approximately 3km south of Tulsk, Co. Roscommon. It is a shallow lake, whose area is extended considerably by flooding in wet weather. It is located in a limestone region. The main habitat is a lake, which has some of the features of a turlough, such as high productivity and attractiveness to wildfowl. Secondary habitats include lowland wet grassland, which adds diversity to the site. Shad Lough is of primarily ornithological interest and its nationally important numbers of Wigeon, as well as the presence of Otters, which are listed as internationally important in the Irish Red Data Book (NPWS, 2009e).

Table 3.4: National Designated Sites, Conservation Objectives and connectivity to the Project (highlighted CO/Designated sites are identified with potential pathways for effects with the Project).

National Heritage Areas (NHA)			
Derrycanan Bog NHA (000605)	NPWS (2002a)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Aghnamona Bog NHA (000422)	NPWS (2002b)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Rinn River NHA (000691)	NPWS (2002c)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Lisnabarriagh Bog NHA (002072)	NPWS (2002d)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Corracramph Bog NHA (001420)	NPWS (2002e)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Cloonageeher Bog NHA (001423)	NPWS (2002f)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.

Cashel Bog (Leitrim) NHA (001405)	NPWS (2002g)	Peatlands	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QI is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHA)			
Kilglass and Grange Loughs pNHA (000608)	NPWS (2009a)	(Calcareous) Lakes	Yes – hydrological connection.
		Freshwater Marsh	This pNHA is 1.8km downstream from the proposed wind farm surface run-off sources via the Ballymartin 28 and 7.5km from the GCR via multiple watercourses. This pNHA is located downstream of the Project, and thus, should be considered for effects via hydrological pathways.
		Waterfowl; Mute Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Wigeon, Teal, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Golden Plover and Lapwing	Yes - physical connection. SCIs of the Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA and Lough Ree SPA are known to utilise Kilglass Lough and Grange Lough as evidenced by I-WeBS surveys undertaken between 2022 and 2024. Species recorded include Mute Swan, Lapwing, Tufted Duck and Wigeon. The pNHA is also within foraging range of the Greenland White-fronted Goose (which can forage up to 8km from roosting areas (SNH, 2016)). Therefore, this site is considered a KER, as it's QIs are considered as a receptor for effects via hydrological and physical pathways.
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) pNHA (001626)	NPWS (2019)	QIs correspond with the SAC equivalent	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs are not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Lough Boderg and Lough Bofin pNHA (001642)	NPWS (2009b)	Limestone terrestrial and semi-aquatic shoreline habitats	Yes – hydrological connection
		Greenland White-fronted Goose	This site is downstream of the Project. However, based on the extent of downstream dissolution in play (11.1km). These QIs are unlikely to receive any extent of pollution/contamination effect as a result of the Project.

			Yes – physical connection. Habitats in the area are within foraging ranges of Greenland White-fronted Goose (which can forage up to 8km from roosting areas (SNH, 2016)). Therefore, this site is considered a KER, as this SCI is considered as a receptor for effects via physical pathways.
Clooneen Bog pNHA (000445)	NPWS (2024)	QIs correspond with the SAC equivalent	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Lough Forbes Complex pNHA (001818)	NPWS (2016a)	QIs correspond with the SAC equivalent	No physical or hydrological connection. The Forbes Complex SAC/pNHA is 3.4km upstream of the confluence that connects the wind farm element of the Project and continuing downstream to the Lough Ree SAC. As such, there is a pathway for mobile QIs to interact with worst-case scenario Project sources and be potential receptors. However, none of the QIs for this SAC/pNHA are mobile and are unlikely to be present ex-situ of the SAC. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Ardakillin Lough pNHA (001617)	NPWS (2009c)	Lake (Calcareous)	No hydrological connection.
		Fen/Flush	Yes – physical connection.
		Waterfowl; Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck and Lapwing	The terrestrial separation distance between the pNHA and the Project is greater than the foraging range of the Irish hare (Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2010).
		Irish Hare	However, SCIs of this pNHA are known to utilise habitats located within the surrounding environment of the Project (Kilglass Lough and Grange Lough) as evidenced by I-WeBS surveys undertaken between 2022 and 2024. Species recorded include Mallard, Lapwing, Tufted Duck and Wigeon.

			Therefore, this site is considered a KER, as the SCIs are considered as receptors for impacts as a result of the Project.
Carbo Bog pNHA (000602)	NPWS (2015)	QIs correspond with the SAC equivalent	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Lough Ree pNHA (000440)	NPWS (2016c, 2022b)	QIs/SCIs correspond with the SAC/SPA equivalents	Yes – hydrological connection. This site is 22.1km from the proposed wind farm and 18.6km from the GCR via multiple watercourses. There is potential hydrological connectivity between the Project and the Lough Ree SAC However, based on the extent of the downstream dissolution (18.7km), this QI is unlikely to receive any extent of effect as a result of the Project. Yes – physical connection. The mobile QI Otter has a foraging range greater than the distance between the Project GCR is 8.9km upstream of the River Shannon (Upper)_100 which is 8.9km upstream of the Lough Ree SAC. This places the receiving environment of the Project within the foraging range of ex-situ Otter (13.2km ± 5.3km, Reid et al, 2013). Therefore, potential ex-situ connectivity is considered. SCIs were recorded in the wider receiving environment within Kilglass Lough and Grange Lough during I-WeBS undertaken between 2022 and 2024. Given these species have wide ranges of commuting habitat between large suitable foraging habitat in winter, there is potential for ex-situ mortality, disturbance and displacement effects. Therefore, this site is considered a KER due to the mobile nature of the species included in this SCI label, as well as the QI Otter, which are considered for potential for ex-situ contamination/pollution, disturbance and displacement effects, and ex-situ effect respectively.
	NPWS (2009d)	Hedgerow Calcareous grassland	No physical or hydrological connection.

Royal Canal pNHA (002103)		Reed fringe	Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
		Open water	
		Scrub	
		Woodland	
		Opposite-leaved Pondweed (<i>Groenlandia densa</i>) (Flora Protection Order 2022)	
Lough Bannow pNHA (000449)	NPWS (2009e)	Lakes	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
		Marshes	
		Wet Grassland	
Corbally Turlough pNHA (001627)	NPWS (2009f)	Turlough	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
		Crannógs	
		Waterfowl; Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columianus</i>), Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Grebe, Coot, Lapwing and Curlew.	

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Brown Bog pNHA (000442)	NPWS (2016b)	QIs correspond with the SAC equivalent	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Shad Lough pNHA (001648)	NPWS (2009g)	Turloughs	No hydrological connection.
		Wet grassland	Yes – physical connection.
		Waterfowl: Wigeon	The mobile QI Otter has a foraging range greater than the distance between the Project site and Shad Lough pNHA (13.2km ± 5.3km, Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2013). Therefore, potential ex-situ connectivity is considered.
		Otter	The site is located 14.9km away from the wind farm Site. Therefore, Wigeon is not considered further for direct or ex-situ effects. Therefore, this QI is considered as a KER for potential ex-situ effects.
Lough Rinn pNHA (01417)	NPWS (2009h)	Lake (Calcareous)	No physical or hydrological connection. Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
		Wet Grassland, Semi-natural Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland, Waterfowl; Whooper Swan, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Curlew, Teal, Mallard, Goldeneye and Greenland White-fronted Goose	
		Invertebrate fauna (Freshwater Mussel (<i>Anodonta</i> sp.) and several common aquatic invertebrates (<i>Bithynia</i> sp. <i>Limnaea</i> sp. and <i>Pisidium</i> sp.)).	

Brierfield Turlough pNHA (000594)	NPWS (2009i)	Turlough	No physical or hydrological connection.
		Waterfowl: Whooper Swan	Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.
Clooncoe Wood And Lough pNHA (000424)	NPWS (2009j)	Lake	No physical or hydrological connection.
		Wet Woodland	Therefore, this site is not considered a KER, as its QIs is not considered a likely receptor for impacts as a result of the Project.

3.3 Important Bird Areas

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are internationally recognised sites of significant importance to bird species. These sites are monitored and designated by organisations (e.g., BirdWatch Ireland) in partnership with BirdLife International. They include International, Regional and Sub-Regional categories.

As indicated in **Table 3.5**, one IBA was identified within the ZoI of the Project (Lough Ree IBA). The proposed Project does not overlap with Lough Ree IBA¹. However, Lough Ree IBA is located approximately 11.9km from the proposed Project. This IBA overlaps with a European site (Lough Ree SPA). Given Lough Ree SPA is located within the ZoI of the proposed Project due to potential ecological connectivity, Lough Ree IBA is therefore carried forward for consideration under the auspices of Lough Ree SPA.

Table 3.5: Important Bird Areas, Qualifying Interests and connectivity to the Project (highlighted CO/Designated sites are identified with potential pathways for effects with the Project).

Important Bird Areas (IBA)			
Lough Ree IBA	BirdLife International (2005)	Whooper Swan	Yes - hydrological connection. This site is 22.1km downstream from the proposed wind farm Site via the Culliagh Stream and 18.6km from the GCR via the Bellmount. This site is connected downstream of a potential surface run-off source and GCR works source. However, based on downstream dissolution (~18.6km), these SCIs are unlikely to receive any extent of effect as a result of the project. No – physical connection. Therefore, this site is considered a KER as these SCIs are considered for ex-situ contamination/pollution effects.

¹ <https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/lough-ree>

3.4 Turbine Delivery Route

The Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) works are located across multiple catchments and counties. Statutory sites with connectivity and proximity for impacts are provided below based on OPR guidance as provided the EIAR. Table 3.6 shows the Distances between the TDR and European Sites, and Table 3.7 shows the distances between the TDR and National Statutory Sites.

Table 3.6: Distance from European sites within Zol and the Project TDR.

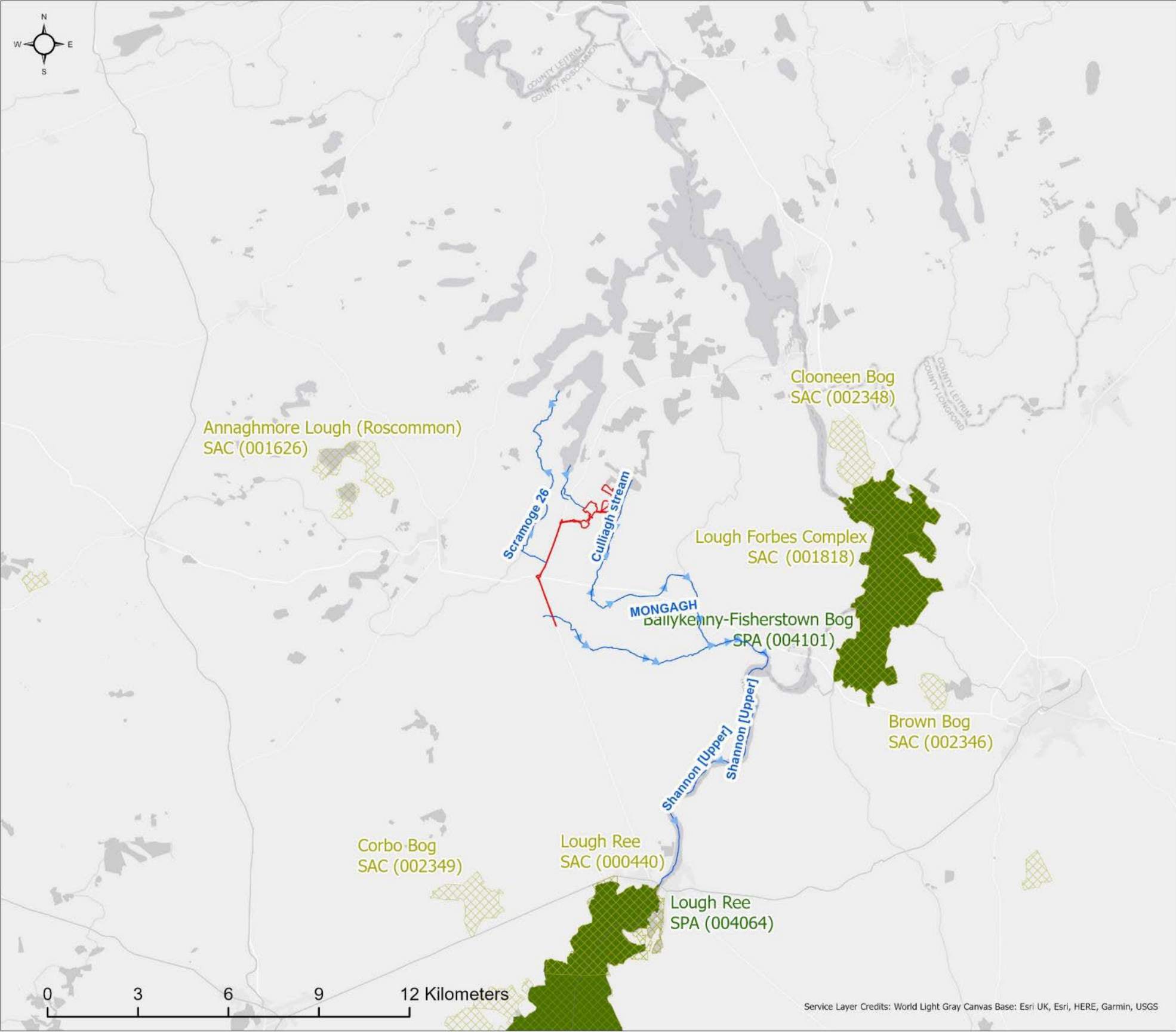
Site code	Site name	Distance to Proposed Development (km)
SACs		
002298	River Moy SAC	Node 3020: 46m
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Node 2020: 1km
000297	Lough Corrib SAC	Node 2020: 1.8km
		Node 2055: 1.1km
		Node 2060: 1.3km
SPAs		
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Node 2020: 1.1km

Table 3.7: Distance from National Heritage sites within Zol and the Project TDR.

Site code	Site name	Distance to Proposed Development (km)
pNHAs		
000268	Galway Bay Complex	Node 2020: 1km
000608	Kilglass And Grange Loughs	Node 3170: 1.4km

3.5 Figures

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Client: Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited

Project: Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project

Figure: 6.3-2.1 European Designated Sites



- Legend:
- River Network Routes
 - Project Boundary
 - ▨ Special Area of Conservation*
 - Special Protection Area*

* NPWS (January 2024)
For illustrative purposes only. Map not to scale

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04/012/242232 - AP - 05_001	POC	CB	AC	



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Figure 2.1: European Designated sites within the Zoi of the Project.

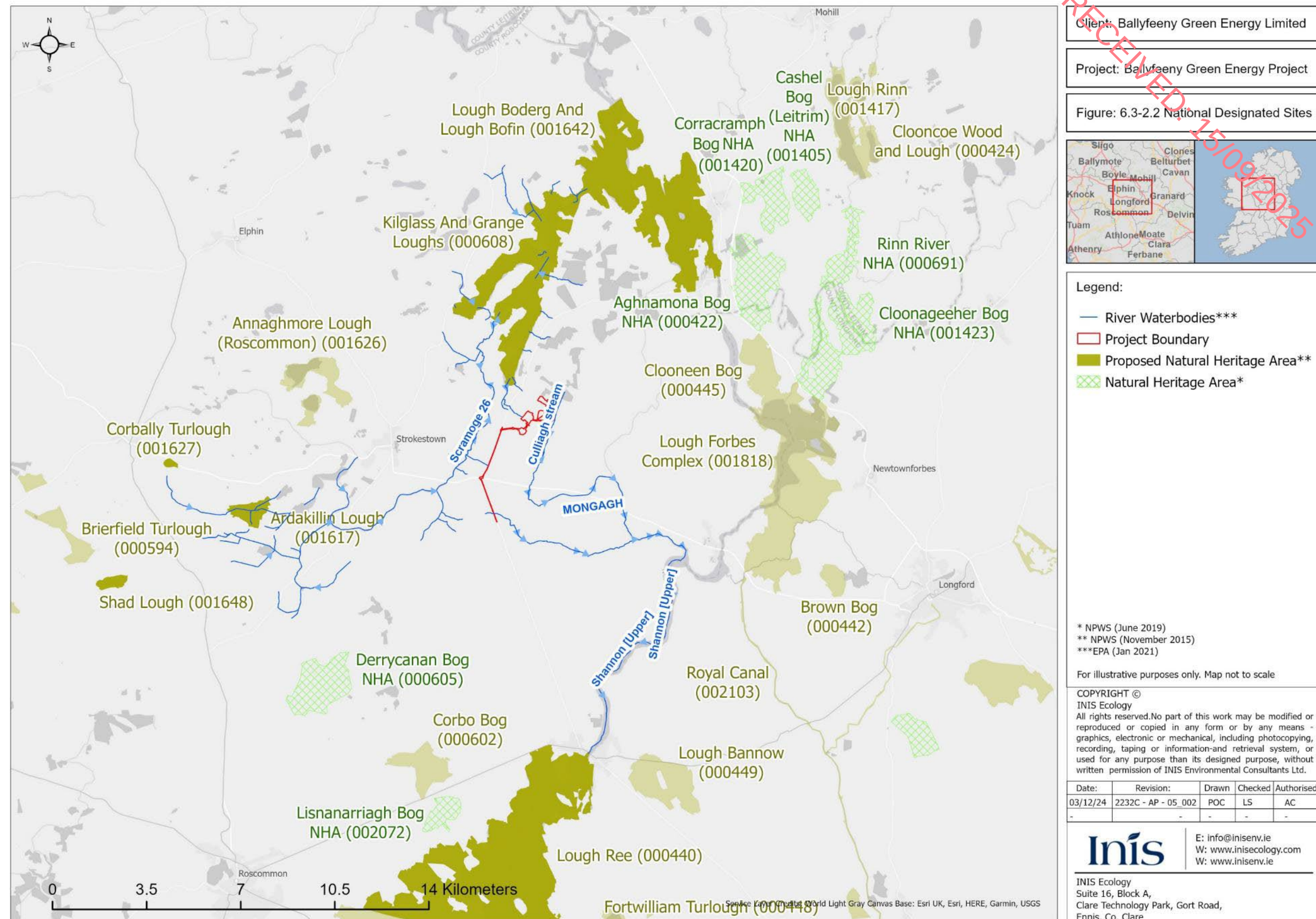


Figure 2.2: Nationally Designated sites within the ZoI of the Project.

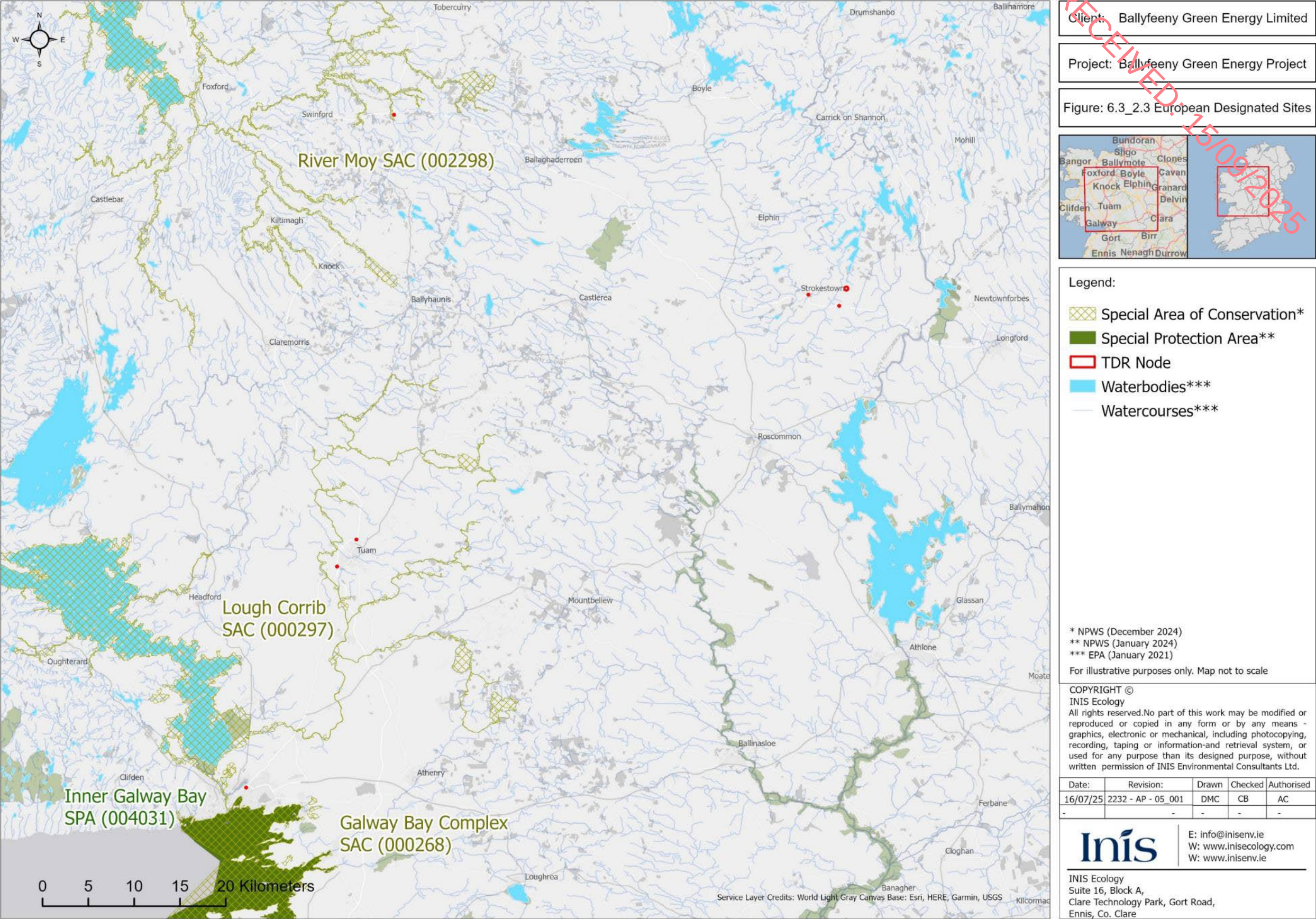
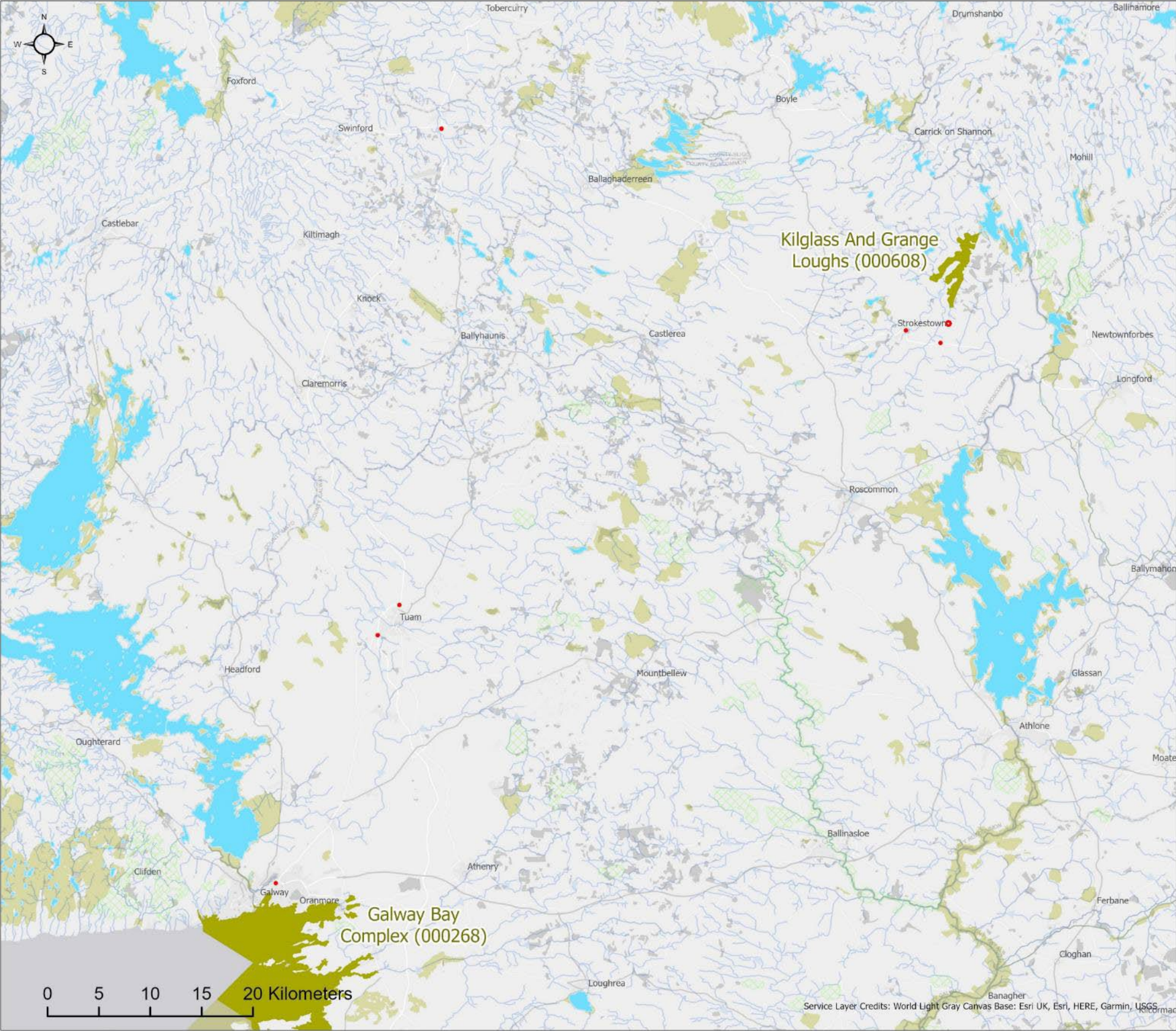


Figure 2.3: European Designated sites within the ZOI of the Project TDR.



Client: Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited

Project: Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project

Figure: 6.3_2.4 National Designated Sites



- Legend:
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas*
 - TDR Node
 - Waterbodies**
 - Watercourses**

* NPWS (November 2015)
** EPA (January 2021)

For illustrative purposes only. Map not to scale

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16/07/25	2232 - AP - 05_001	DMC	CB	AC
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Figure 2.4: Nationally Designated sites within the Zol of the Project TDR.