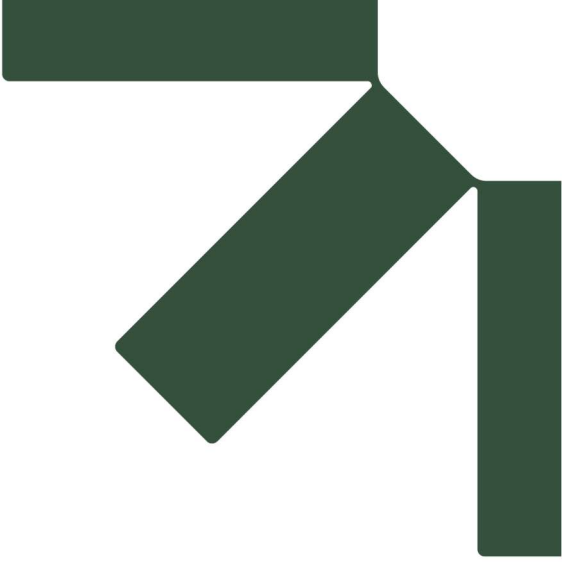




Appendix A Relevant Legislation and Policy

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement

Cush Wind Farm Phase II

Cush Wind Limited

SLR Project No.: 501.065723.00001

23 October 2026

A.1 Relevant Legislation and Policy

A.1.1 Habitats and Birds Directives

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) forms the basis for the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and a precursor designation Sites of Community Interest (SCI). Similarly, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds). Collectively, SACs, SCIs and SPAs are referred to as the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 Network is the minimum required to conserve certain habitats and species which are listed in the Directives.

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) must be undertaken for any plan or project that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site but is likely to have a significant effect thereon, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. An AA is an evaluation of the adverse effects of a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and the identification, where necessary, of avoidance or mitigation measures to preclude adverse effects on the integrity of the site.

Article 6, paragraph 3 the Habitats Directive states that:-

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the [Natura 2000] site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public”.

Article 6, paragraph 4 goes on to deal with the special circumstances for the granting of consent for plans and projects which would have an adverse effect the integrity of the site(s) concerned.

A.1.2 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

Pursuant to the Habitats Directive, Part 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, similarly sets out the requirements for screening assessments, the circumstances under which an AA is required and the further implementation of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

It defines a “European site” as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. European sites may therefore include sites which may intended to become part of the Natura 2000 network as well as those already within that network.

Regulation 42 has 22 paragraphs, with selected text provided below.

Regulation 42(1) requires that ‘a screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.’



Regulation 42(2) expands on this, stipulating that a public authority must carry out a screening for AA before consent for a plan or project is given, or a decision to undertake or adopt a plan or project is taken.

Regulation 42(6) requires that *'the public authority shall determine that an Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project is required where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site and if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening under this Regulation, that the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site'*.

Regulation 42(3)(a) gives the public authority the power to direct a third party to provide a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Regulation 42(3)(b) allows it to request any additional information that it needs to complete the screening assessment or AA. Regulation 42(5) goes on to make clear that the NIS should include such information as the public authority considers necessary to enable it to undertake the AA and to ascertain if a project or plan will affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. In addition to the information, Regulation 2(1) provides a definition of a Natura Impact Statement as *"a report comprising the scientific examination of a plan or project and the relevant European site or European sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications of the plan or project individually or in combination with other plans or projects in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites, and any further information including, but not limited to, any plans, maps or drawings, scientific information or data required to enable the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment"*.

Regulation 42(11) makes clear that the AA must be carried out by the public authority and that it must include its conclusion as to whether the project or plan would adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and that this must be done prior to consenting the project. Regulation 42 (12) makes clear that the competent authority should, *inter alia*, consider the Natura Impact Statement when undertaking the AA.

Regulations 43 and 45 then go on to deal with Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

A.1.3 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

These processes have been further enshrined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), in sections 177T, 177U and 177V.

177T states that:

(1) (a) A Natura impact report means a statement for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a Land use plan, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

(b) A Natura impact statement means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a proposed project, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a Natura impact report or a Natura impact statement, as the case may be, shall include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

(3)

(4) The applicant for consent for proposed project may, or if directed in accordance with subsection (5) by a competent authority, shall furnish a Natura impact statement to the competent authority in relation to the proposed project.



(5) At any time following an application for consent for proposed project a competent authority may give a notice in writing to the applicant concerned, directing him or her to furnish a Natura impact statement.

(6)

(7) a) a Natura impact report or a Natura impact statement shall include all information prescribed by regulations under section 177AD.

(b) Where appropriate, a Natura impact report or a Natura impact statement shall include such other information or data as the competent authority considers necessary to enable it to ascertain if the draft Land use plan or proposed project will not affect the integrity of the site.

177U states that:

(1) A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed project shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed project, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

(2)....

(3) in carrying out screening for appropriate assessment of a proposed project a competent authority may request such information from the applicant as it may consider necessary to enable it to carry out that screening....

(4) The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed project, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

(5) [the vice versa of (4)]

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

177V. states that:

(1) An appropriate assessment carried out under this Part shall include a determination by the competent authority under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a draft Land use plan or proposed project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and an appropriate assessment shall be carried out by the competent authority, in each case where it has made a determination under section 177U(4) that an appropriate assessment is required, before —...

(a) the draft Land use plan is made including, where appropriate, before a decision on appeal in relation to a draft strategic development zone is made, or

(b) consent is given for the proposed project

(2) In carrying out an appropriate assessment under subsection (1) the competent authority shall take into account each of the following matters:

(a) the Natura impact report or Natura impact statement, as appropriate

(b)....



(3)a competent authority shall make a Land use plan or give consent for proposed project only after having determined that the Land use plan or proposed project shall not adversely affect the integrity of a European site

(4)

(5)

(6)

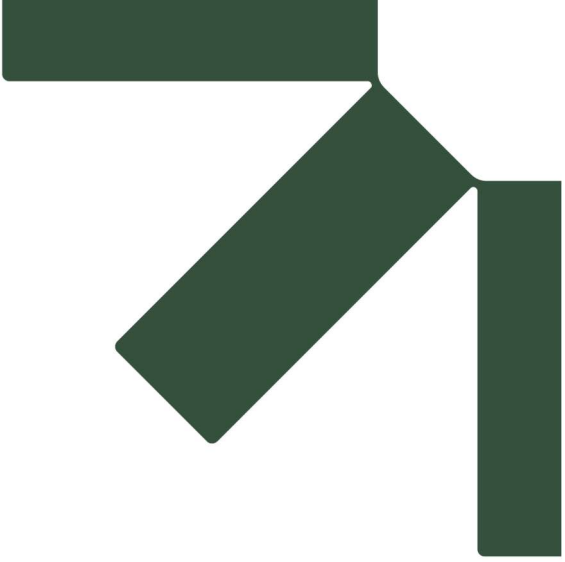
The Act then goes on to deal with Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

A.1.4 National Planning Framework

National Policy Objective 59 Enhance the conservation status and improve the management of protected areas and protected species by

- Implementing relevant EU Directives to protect Ireland's environment and wildlife;
- Integrating policies and objectives for the protection and restoration of biodiversity in statutory development plans;
- Developing and utilising licensing and consent systems to facilitate sustainable activities within Natura 2000 sites;
- Continued research, survey programmes and monitoring of habitats and species.





Appendix B European Site Data

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement

Cush Wind Farm Phase II

Cush Wind Limited

SLR Project No.: 501.065723.00001

23 October 2026

B.1 Further information on the SAC and SPAs that have undergone assessment

European sites with functional connectivity (ecological pathways) to the area including their Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests, known threats and pressures.

Site code	Site name	Qualifying feature ⁶⁷ (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Pressures codes	Known threats and pressures
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Limestone pavements [8240] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	ARC 01, ARC 03, ARC 05, ARC 25, ARC 27, ARC 28 / 29, ARC 31.	Unmapped pressure code, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Forestry in agricultural landscapes, Intensive grazing, NA, Mixed source pollution from agricultural and forestry activities, Insufficient fertilisation, Other mixed or unspecified grazing, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Livestock farming and breeding
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	D01.01, B02.02, A03, B06, A07, A04.01, C01.03.02, J02.05.02, A08, A10.01, G05.01, K03.04, J02.01, A04.02.05, A03.03, J02.05, J02.11, A04.03, F03.01, G01, J02.04.01	Unmapped pressure code, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Forestry in agricultural landscapes, Intensive grazing, NA, Mixed source pollution from agricultural and forestry activities, Insufficient fertilisation, Other mixed or unspecified grazing, Abandonment or lack of mowing, Livestock farming and breeding

⁶⁷ Qualifying features is the collective term for Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests



Site code	Site name	Qualifying feature ⁶⁷ (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Pressures codes	Known threats and pressures
004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	Wetland and waterbirds [A999], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	A03, A08, D01.01, E01.03, F02.03, A04, F03.01	Mowing or cutting of grassland, Mixed source pollution from agricultural and forestry activities, Unmapped pressure code, Grazing
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122], Wetland and waterbirds [A999], Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	A03, A04, A08, D01.01, D01.05, F03.01, F02.03, G01.01, G01.02, E01, A04.03	Mowing or cutting of grassland, Grazing, Mixed source pollution from agricultural and forestry activities, Unmapped pressure code, Livestock farming and breeding
004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	A04, D01.02, E01.03, D01.01, B, C01.03	Grazing, Unmapped pressure code
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Wetland and waterbirds [A999], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]	F03.01, F02.03, A08, G01.01	Unmapped pressure code, Mixed source pollution from agricultural and forestry activities



B.2 Further information on the Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment

Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

EU Code	Qualifying Interest	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
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>) [91E0]	I02, I04, B09, I05	Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern), Problematic native species, Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, Plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Pressures facing this habitat are mainly linked to the presence of alien species, with clear-cutting, removal of tress and diseases/pathogens/pests also posing a pressure to this habitat.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
1355	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)		No pressures, No threats	There are no pressures facing this species	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.



B.3 Further information on the Special Conservation Interests of the SPAs that have undergone assessment

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A179	Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A140	Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A082	Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management and use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A142	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, Pollution to surface waters, Pollution and chemical/oil contamination of marine environments, Other forms of pollution, Human-induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A038	Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	C03, D02, A02, A11, G01, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Modification of cultivation practices, Burning for agriculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, Other forms of pollution

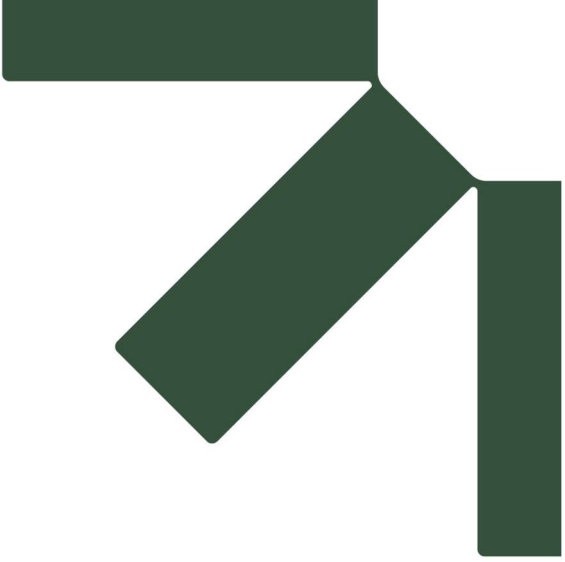


B.4 Reference list of the Site Specific Conservation Objective documents reviewed

Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS/Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht documents

- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives Series. River Shannon Callows SAC 000216. Version 1.0
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives Series. River Little Brosna Callows SPA 004086. Version 1.0
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives Series. Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA 004160. Version 1.0
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives Series. Middle Shannon Callows SPA 004096. Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA 004058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.





Appendix C Distance Matrix Used for the Zone of Influence Pathway Considerations

**Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura
Impact Statement**

Cush Wind Farm Phase II

Cush Wind Limited

SLR Project No.: 501.065723.00001

23 October 2026

C.1 Pathway Considerations to inform the Zone of Influence for each of the Qualifying interests and Special Conservation Interests

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and national AA guidance, the following matrix identifies and evaluates potential effect pathways between the proposed project and European sites. For each Qualifying Interest (QI) or Special Conservation Interest (SCI), the table outlines:

- the potential pathway (e.g. hydrological, airborne, disturbance),
- the scientific or regulatory basis for the spatial or functional screening distance applied, and
- a rationale supporting whether a pathway is considered likely or can be excluded.

The following matrices outline the known inherent ecological and dispersal pathways associated with each Qualifying Interest (QI) and Special Conservation Interest (SCI). These pathways represent the natural spatial and functional linkages through which ecological or environmental effects could, in principle, be transmitted between a project and a European site.

For each QI/SCI, the matrices summarise:

- the typical ecological or physical pathways relevant to that feature (e.g. hydrological connectivity, air-borne deposition, foraging mobility, dispersal range);
- the evidence-based spatial extent over which such pathways may operate, informed by peer-reviewed literature, conservation objectives, and statutory guidance; and
- a brief rationale describing the ecological basis for these pathway distances.

These distances are not project-specific impact zones but reflect the **intrinsic ecological functioning** and **potential connectivity ranges** that exist irrespective of any proposed activity. They provide a consistent evidence base for determining whether a credible pathway for impact exists and therefore whether a European site should be taken forward for further consideration under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

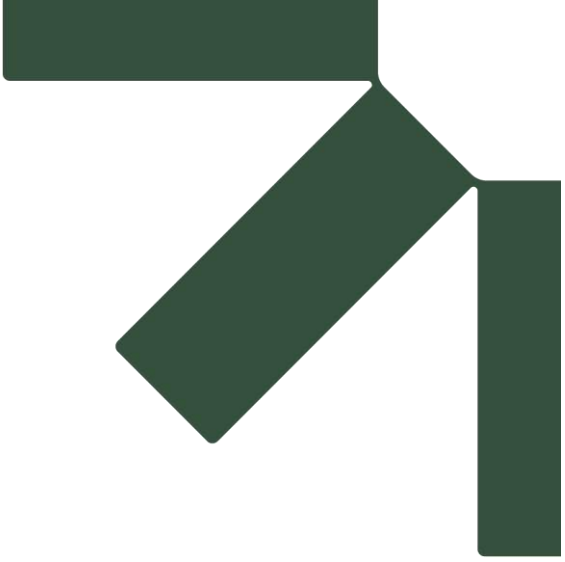
These distances are used in conjunction with the range of sources for impacts identified in Section 2 to ensure ecological processes are included in the zone of influence considerations for the assessment.



Table C-1: Ecological pathways for each Qualifying Interests and the associated rationale as supported by relevant literature

Qualifying Interest	Hydrological Sensitivity (Y/N)	Hydrogeological Sensitivity (Y/N)	Rationale	Scientific References	Pathway Distance (km)
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]	Yes	No	Feature maintained by surface water conditions such as periodic flooding, seasonal inundation, or rainfall-driven moisture. Hydrological connectivity is relevant, but there is no known reliance on groundwater inputs. A 2 km buffer is also applied to identify ecological context, such as species dispersal, vegetation connectivity, and potential indirect influences not captured by hydrological modelling alone.	Haddad, N.M., Brudvig, L.A., Clobert, J., Davies, K.F., Gonzalez, A., Holt, R.D., Lovejoy, T.E., Sexton, J.O., Austin, M.P., Collins, C.D. and Cook, W.M., 2015. Habitat fragmentation and its lasting impact on Earth's ecosystems. <i>Science advances</i> , 1(2), p.e1500052. Nathan, R. et al. (2008). Mechanisms of long-distance seed dispersal. <i>Trends in Ecology & Evolution</i> , 23(11): 638–647 Forman, R.T.T. & Godron, M. (1986). <i>Landscape Ecology</i> . John Wiley & Sons. Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) (2016). <i>Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction</i> .	2
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	Yes	No	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) is a semi-aquatic; wide-ranging species associated with freshwater and coastal habitats. Home range size varies depending on habitat quality, food availability, and sex, but a mean core range of 13.2 km has been recorded (Reid <i>et al.</i> , 2013). Accordingly, a Zone of Influence of 13.2 km is applied in this assessment to reflect the potential for commuting, foraging, and resting activity across a connected aquatic network. Hydrological connectivity, particularly via rivers, streams, lakes, and estuarine margins, is essential to understanding functional linkages.	Reid, N., Hayden, B. & Montgomery, W.I. (2013). Methods for assessing changes in otter distribution and population status. <i>Biological Conservation</i> , 160, 18–25.	13.2





Appendix D Figures

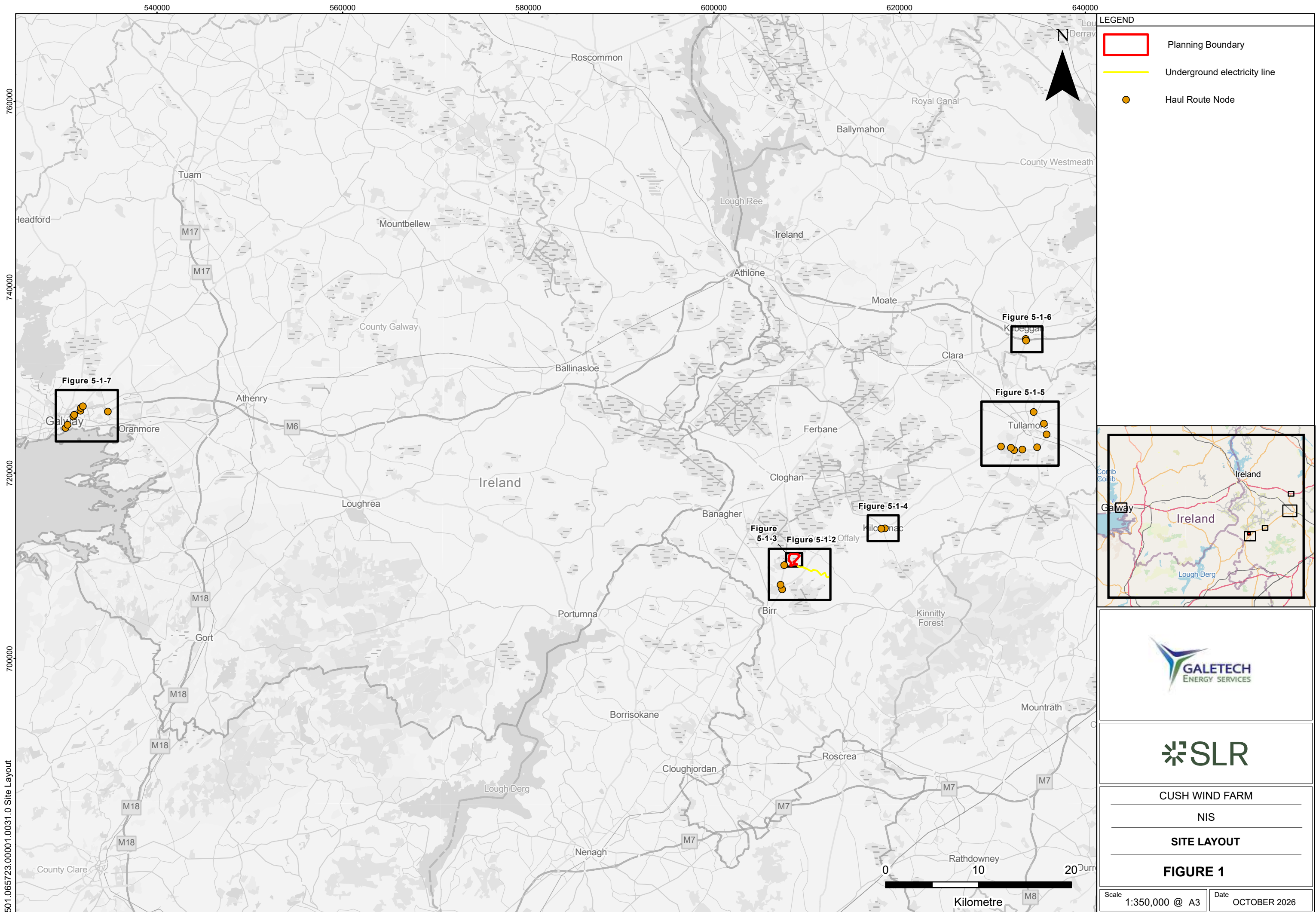
Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement

Cush Wind Farm Phase II

Cush Wind Limited

SLR Project No.: 501.065723.00001

23 October 2026



LEGEND

- Planning Boundary
- Underground electricity line
- Haul Route Node

CUSH WIND FARM

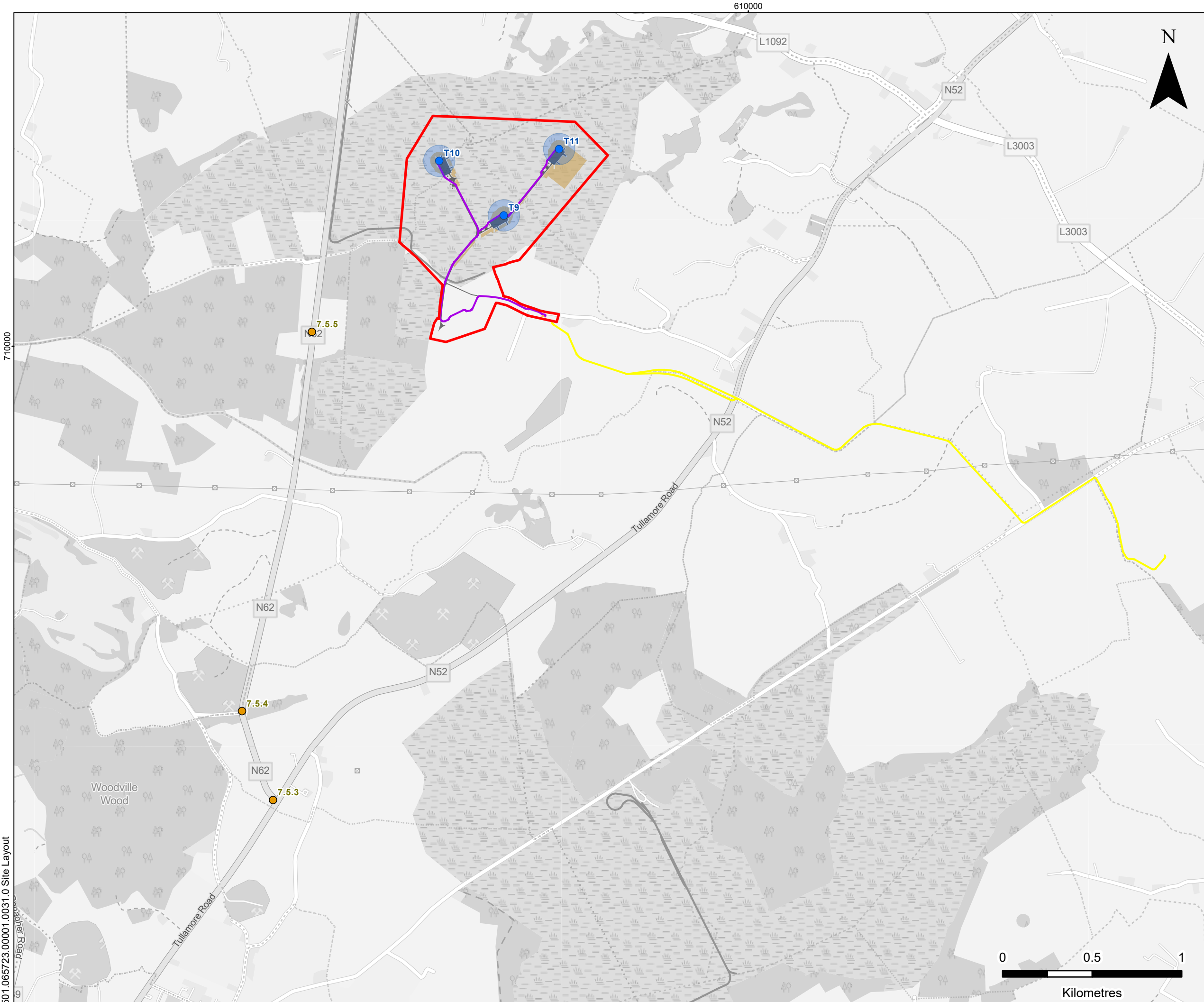
NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 1

Scale1:350,000 @ A3

DateOCTOBER 2026



LEGEND

Planning Boundary

Turbine

Turbine Rotor Swept Area

Access Track and Hardstanding

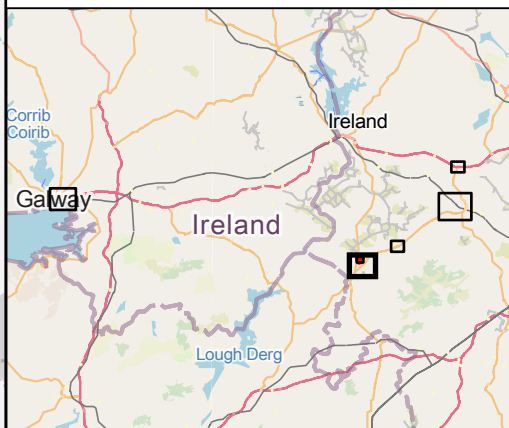
Switchroom

Spoil Deposition Area

Cable Route

Underground electricity line

Haul Route Node



CUSH WIND FARM

NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 2

Scale1:20,000 @ A3

DateOCTOBER 2026

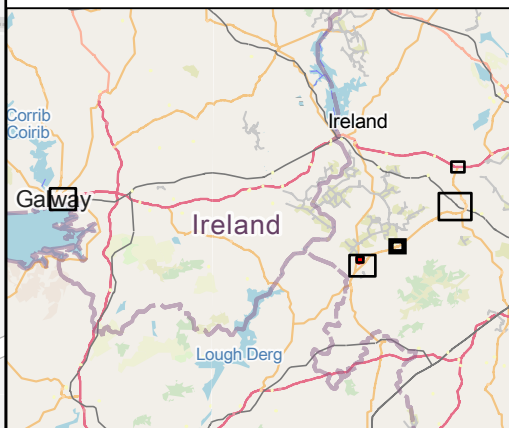
501.065723.00001.0031.0 Site Layout





LEGEND

Haul Route Node



CUSH WIND FARM

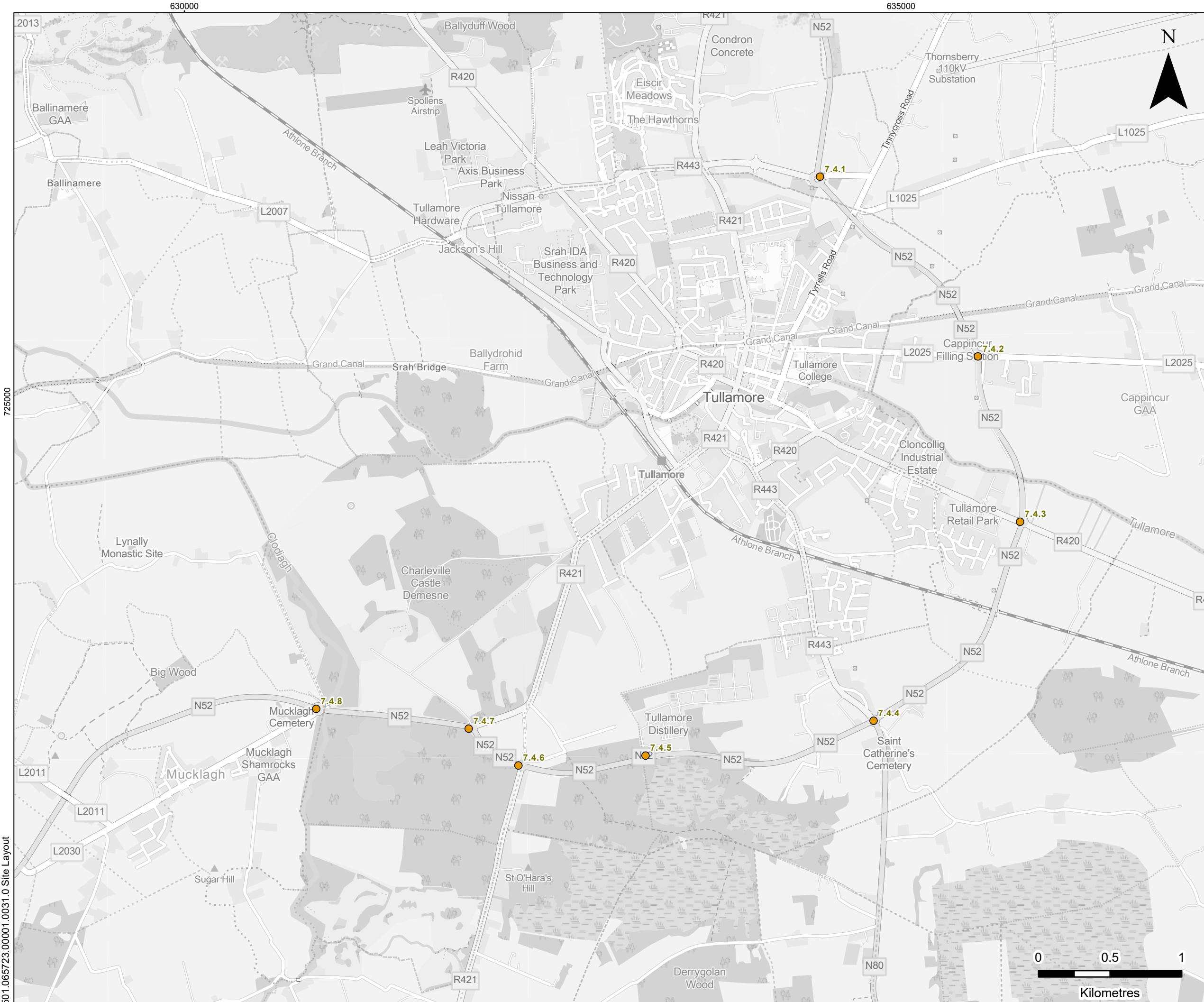
NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 4

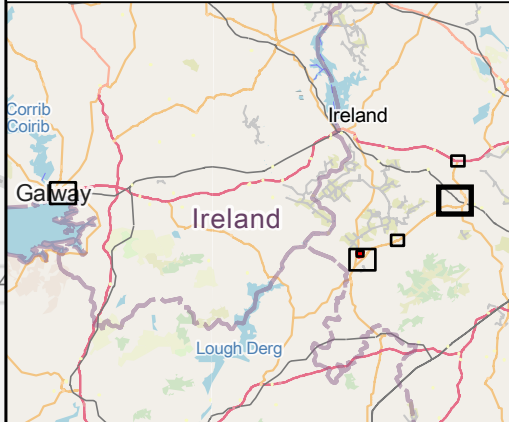
Scale1:10,000 @ A3

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LEGEND

 Haul Route Node







CUSH WIND FARM

NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 5

Scale1:25,000 @ A3

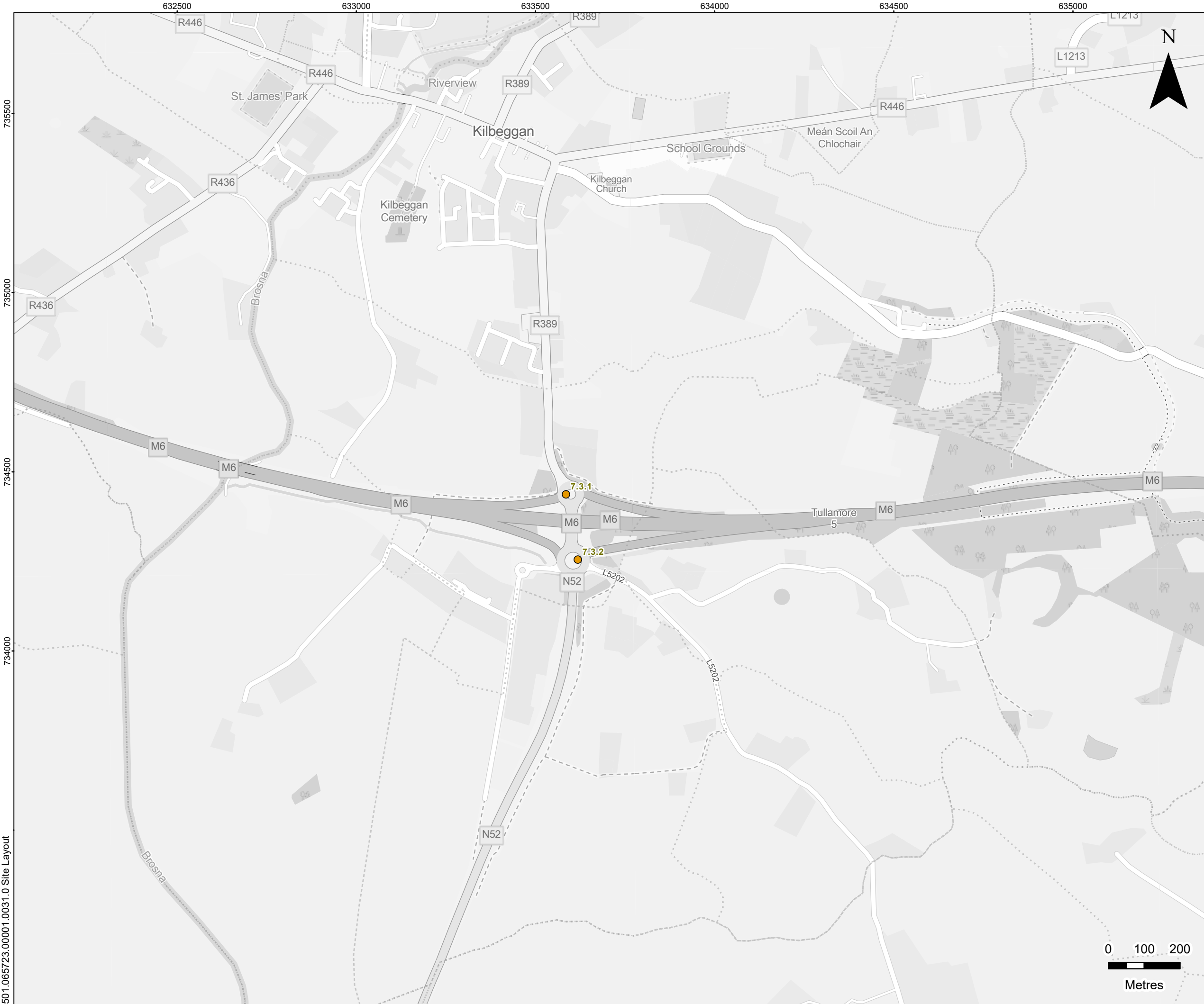
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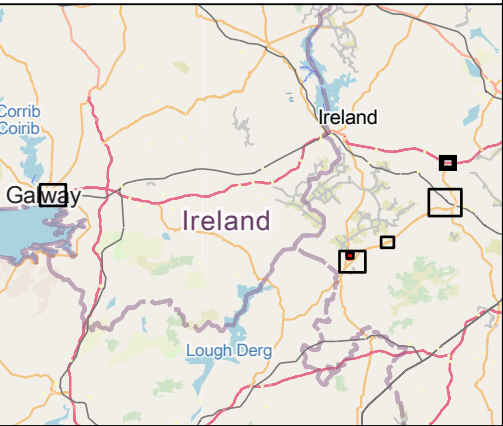
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501.065723.00001.0031.0 Site Layout



LEGEND

 Haul Route Node



CUSH WIND FARM

NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 6

Scale 1:10,000 @ A3 Date OCTOBER 2026

501.065723.00001.0031.0 Site Layout



LEGEND

● Haul Route Node



CUSH WIND FARM

NIS

SITE LAYOUT

FIGURE 7

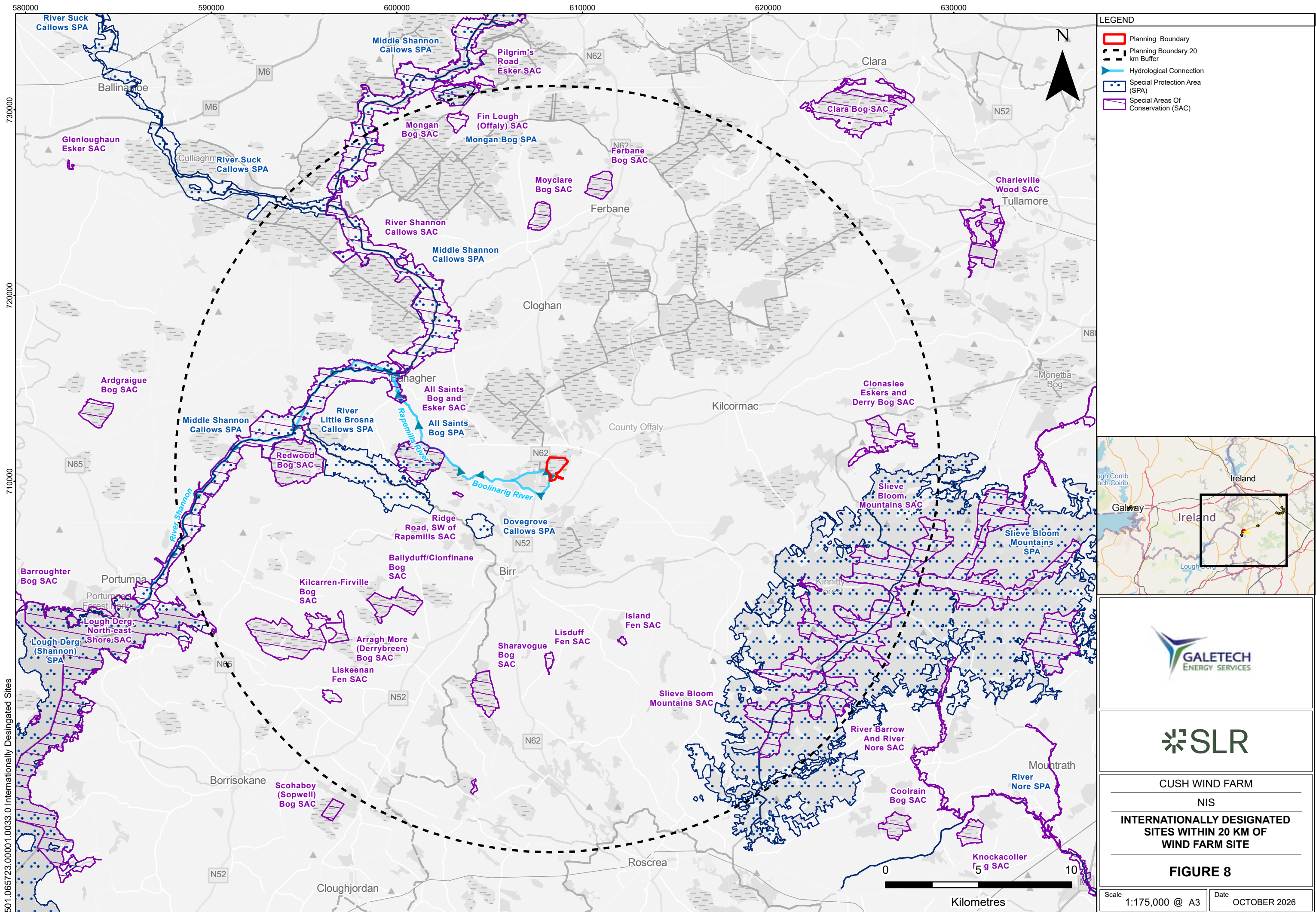
Scale 1:20,000 @ A3 Date OCTOBER 2026

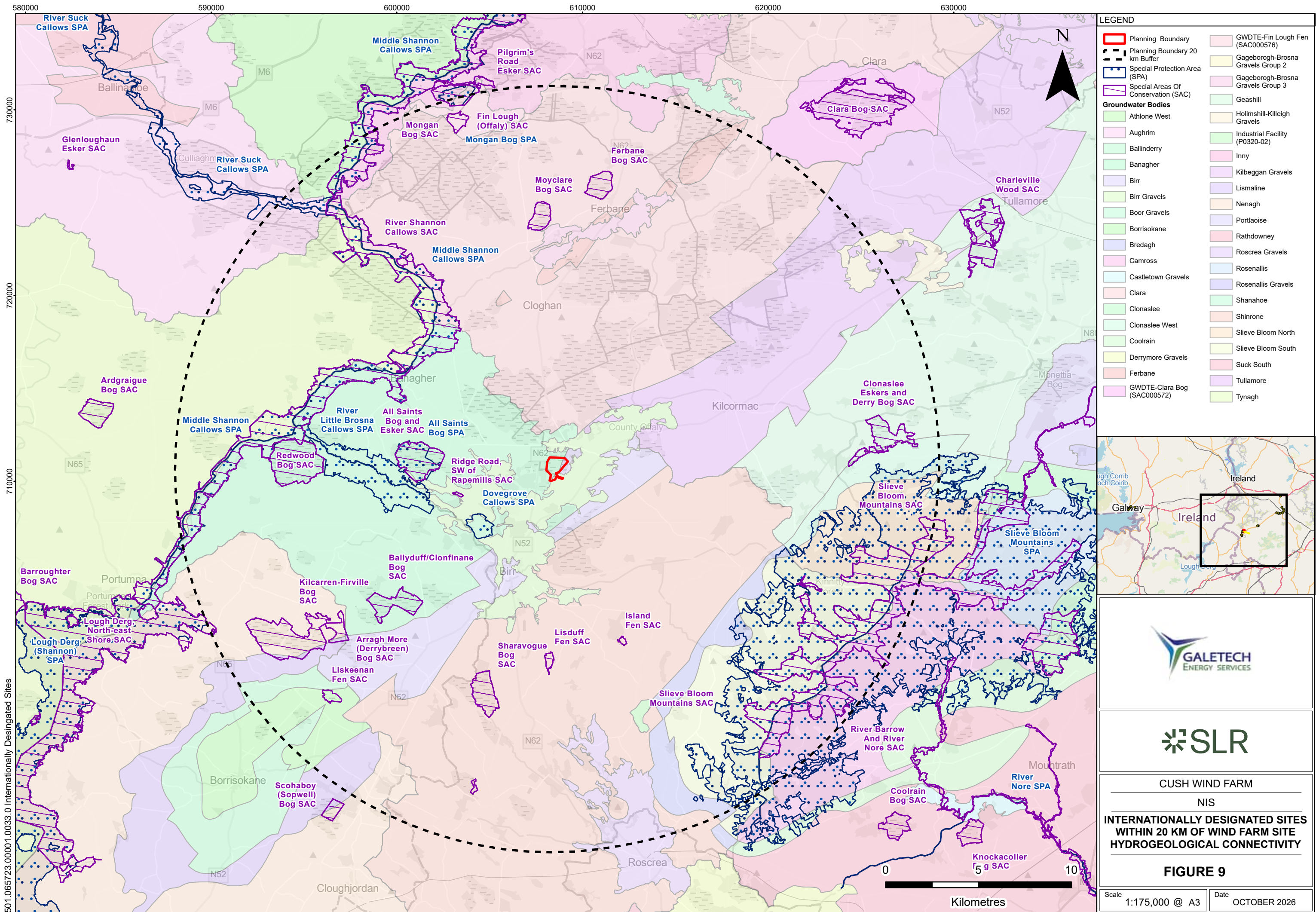
530000

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501.065723.00001.0031.0 Site Layout







501.065723.00001.0033.0 Internationally Designated Sites



LEGEND

- Haul Route Node
- Haul Route Node 1 km Buffer

CUSH WIND FARM

NIS

**INTERNATIONALLY DESIGNATED SITES
WITHIN 1 KM OF HAUL
ROUTE NODES**

FIGURE 14

Scale1:10,000 @ A3

DateOCTOBER 2026

501.065723.00001.0033.0 Internationally Designated Sites

