

The *County Development Plan* identifies the following policies as relevant to landscape.

Table 16.6: Landscape Character Areas – Kilkenny County Development Plan 2008-2014

Landscape Character Area	Major Landscape Unit Type	Policies in relation to Major Landscape Area
Barrow Valley Nore Valley Suir Valley	River Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H68 To direct new development whenever possible towards the vicinity of existing structures and mature vegetation. • H69 To ensure that development will not detract from scenic vistas, especially from bridges, as identified in the development plan, and visible from relevant scenic routes and settlements. • H70 To continue to permit development that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, whilst taking account of the visual absorption opportunities provided by existing topography and vegetation. • H71 To control development that will adversely affect distinctive linear sections of river valleys, especially open floodplains, when viewed from relevant scenic routes and settlements. • H72 To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape.
Brandon Hill South Eastern Hills South Western Hills	Upland Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H56 To consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm. • H57 To ensure that development will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and will not significantly interfere or detract from scenic upland vistas, as identified in the Development Plan, when viewed from areas nearby scenic routes, viewpoints or settlements. • H58 To facilitate developments that have a functional and locational natural resource requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoir, telecommunications or wind energy structures) with reference to the appropriate County strategies currently in place, which ensure that any residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated. • H59 To maintain the visual integrity of areas, which have retained a predominantly undisturbed upland character. • H60 To have particular regard to potential impacts of new development on any sensitive upland areas. • H61 To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape. • H62 The difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation shall be a material consideration when evaluating proposals for development within sensitive areas of the uplands.

Landscape Character Area	Major Landscape Unit Type	Policies in relation to Major Landscape Area
South Kilkenny Lowlands	Lowland Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H63 To recognise that the lowlands are made up of a variety of working landscapes that are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social well-being of the County. • H64 To recognise that this policy area contains the majority of the County's population. These also incorporate most of the major national primary and regional roads. • H65 To continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation. • H66 To continue to facilitate appropriate development in a manner that respects the scale, character and sensitivities of the landscape, recognising the need for sustainable settlement pattern and economic activity within the County. • H67 To recognise that in this low lying open environment, tall and bulky development sometimes can have a disproportionate impact against the landscape particularly when viewed from the predominantly low lying areas of the public realm. Visually obtrusive and/or insensitive development shall be discouraged in such instances.
South Western Hills Southern Transition Zone	Transitional Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H73 To maintain the visual integrity of areas, which have retained a predominantly undisturbed upland character. • H74 To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape recognising the need for sustainable patterns and economic activity within the County. • H75 To recognise that the lowlands are made up of a variety of working landscapes that are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social well-being of the County. • H76 To continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation.

Source: Kilkenny County Council (2008) *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2008-2014*

Landscape sensitivity ratings are applied to landscape types located within the landscape character areas set out above. The ranking system applied is outlined below.

- 1=degraded – Areas characterised by breakdown of natural processes or pollution (e.g. cut over bogs, old mineral waste areas)
- 2=Robust – Areas of existing development and infrastructure. New development reinforces existing desirable landuse patterns.
- 3= Normal – A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.
- 4=Sensitive – Distinctive character with some capacity to absorb a limited range of appropriate new developments while sustaining its existing character.
- 5=Vulnerable – Very distinctive features with a very low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations of existing character over an extended area.

Sensitivity rankings are applied to specific landscape types, a variety of which can be found in each landscape character area.

Proposed Power Plant at Great Island, Co. Wexford
25755400007N

- Vulnerable Landscapes – linear environmental features, e.g. shores of the main waterbodies (lakes, large rivers, coasts, estuaries) and the ridges or skylines of mountains, hills, promontories and headlands.
- Sensitive, normal, robust and degraded landscapes as determined by combining land use categories detailed below from the CORINE landcover project.

Sensitive Landscapes

Natural Grassland	Bare Rocks	Sparsely vegetated areas
Moors and heathland	Transitional Woodland Scrub	Beaches, Dunes, Sands
Estuaries	Broad Leaved Forest	Inland Marshes
Water Courses	Water Bodies	Coastal Lagoons
Mixed forest	Agricultural Land with significant areas of natural vegetation	

Normal Landscapes

Pasture Lands	Non Irrigated Arable Land	Annual crops associated with permanent crops.
Complex Cultivation Pattern	Coniferous Forest	

Robust Landscapes

Continuous Urban Fabric	Discontinuous Urban Fabric	Industrial or Commercial Units
Airports	Sports and leisure facilities	

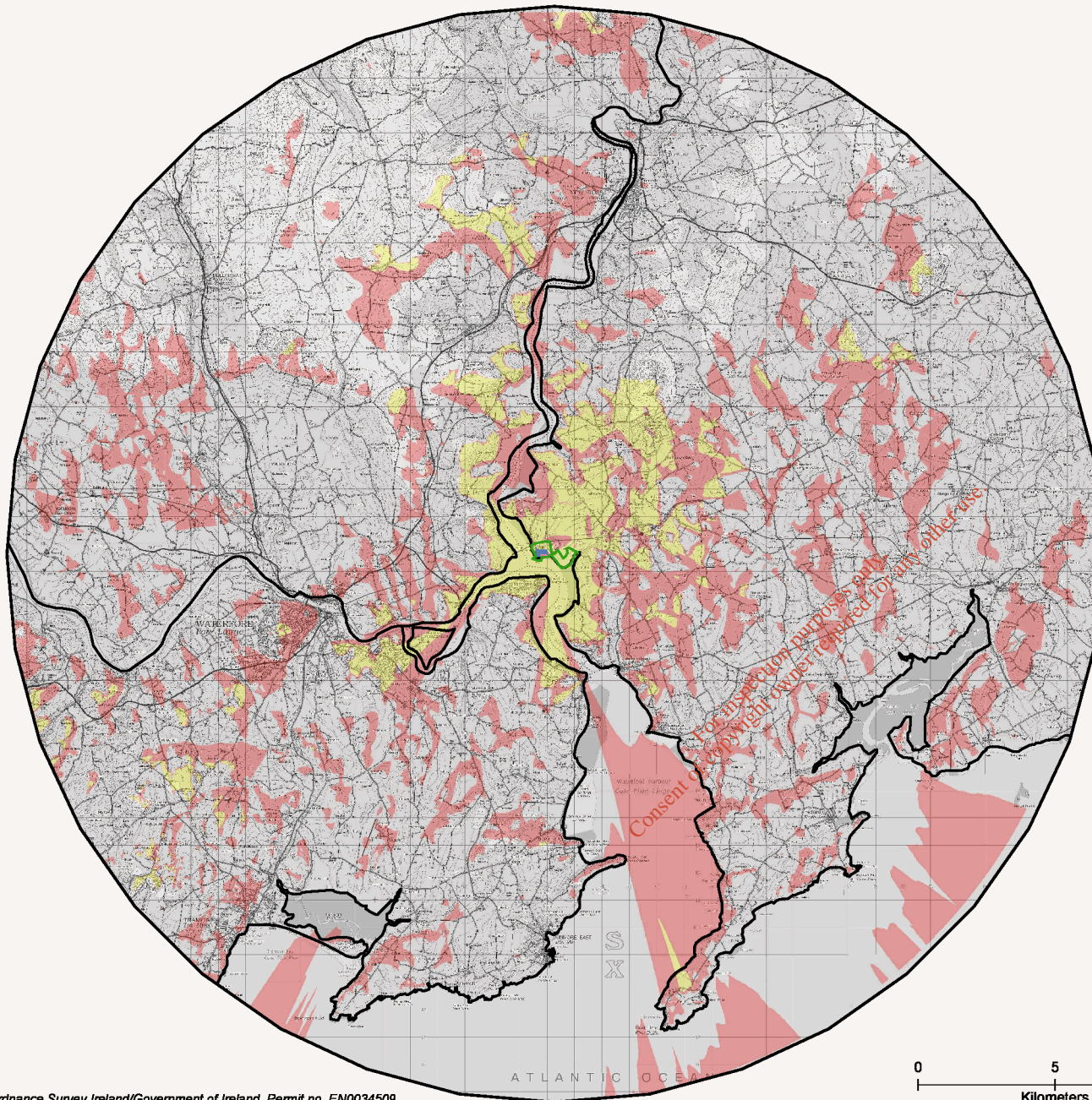
Degraded Landscapes

Mineral Extraction Sites	Construction Sites	Dump sites
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16.3. Figures

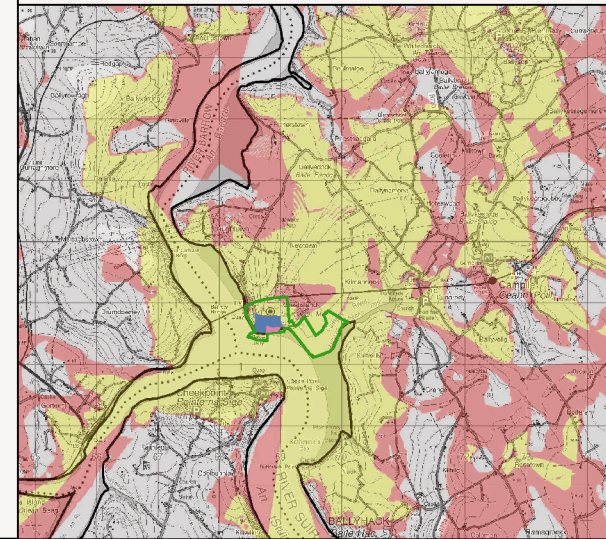
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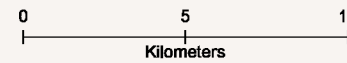
LEGEND

- Site location
- Existing Great Island power plant
- Proposed Great Island power plant
- 20 Km radius from centre of proposals

- Zone of theoretical visibility of existing buildings and stacks
- Zone of theoretical visibility of existing stacks



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Suite 508, The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8147700



ERA-Maptec Ltd
4th Flr. 40 Lwr. O'Connell St,
Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8733117

Client



Endesa Ireland Ltd.
5th Floor,
3 Grand Canal Plaza,
Grand Canal Street Upper,
Dublin 4,
Ireland

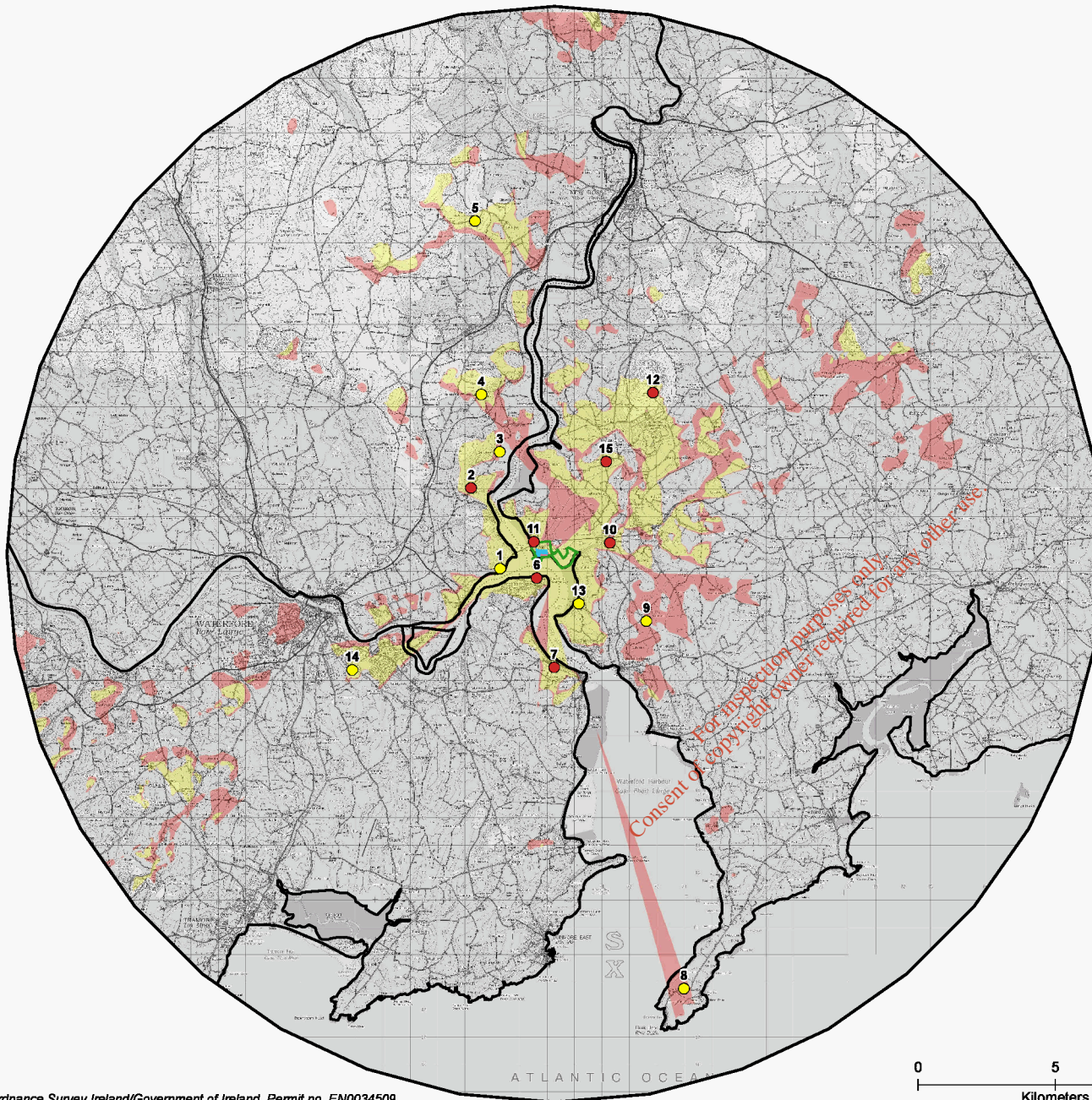
Tel +353 (1) 552 8300
Fax +353 (1) 552 8301

Rev	Date	Drawn	Description	Ch'kd	App'd

Title
**FIGURE 16.1 -
Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV)
- Existing Great Island power plant**

Drawing No.

Drawn	EV
Checked	EOC
Approved	EOC
Scale	1:165,000
Rev	Status

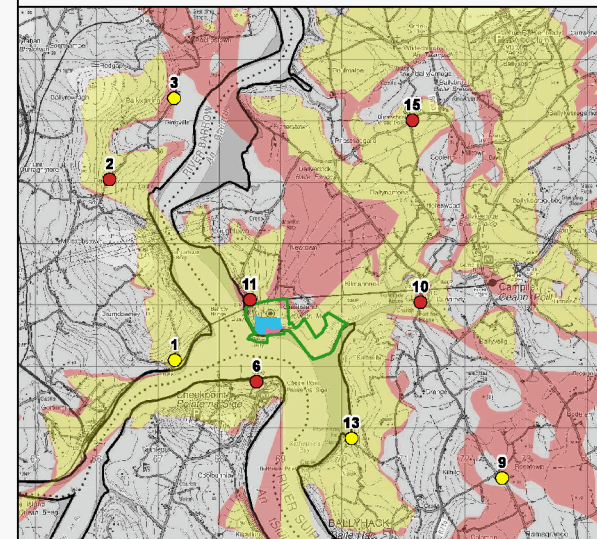


LEGEND

- Site location
- Existing Great Island power plant
- Proposed Great Island power plant
- 20 Km radius from centre of proposals

- Zone of theoretical visibility of proposed buildings and stacks
- Zone of theoretical visibility of proposed stacks

- Viewpoint locations
- Viewpoint locations depicted as photomontage



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Suite 508, The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8147700



ERA-Maptec Ltd
4th Flr. 40 Lwr. O'Connell St,
Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8733117



Endesa Ireland Ltd.
5th Floor,
3 Grand Canal Plaza,
Grand Canal Street Upper,
Dublin 4,
Ireland

Tel +353 (1) 552 8300
Fax +353 (1) 552 8301

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Title	Drawn	EV
FIGURE 16.2 - Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) - Proposed Great Island power plant and viewpoint locations	Checked	EOC
	Approved	EOC
	Scale	1:165,000
Drawing No.	Rev	Status



LEGEND

- Site location
- Existing Great Island power plant
- Proposed Great Island power plant
- 20 Km radius from centre of proposals

Kilkenny County Development Plan 2007 - 2013

- Kilkenny Landscape Character Areas
- C - South Western Hills
- C2 - South Western Hills Southern Transition Zone
- D - Brandon Hill
- E - South Eastern Hills
- G - South Kilkenny Lowlands
- H - Nore Valley
- I - Barrow Valley
- J - Suir Valley

Wexford County Development Plan 2007 - 2013

- Wexford Landscape Character Areas
- 1 - Uplands
- 2 - Uplands - Blackstairs Ridgelines
- 3 - Lowlands
- 4 - Lowlands - Barrow River Corridor
- 5 - Lowlands - South Area
- 6 - Coasts - South Coastal

Waterford

- Waterford Landscape Character Areas
- 1 - Waterford City Urban Character Area
- 2 - River Suir Corridor Landscape Character Area
- 3 - South Coast and Waterford Harbour Fringe Landscape Character Area
- 4 - Waterford Rolling Farmed landscape with occasional Loughs Landscape Character Area

In the absence of a County Character Assessment, broad Landscape Character Areas were identified for the purpose of this assessment.

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Tel: +353(0)1 8733117

Client

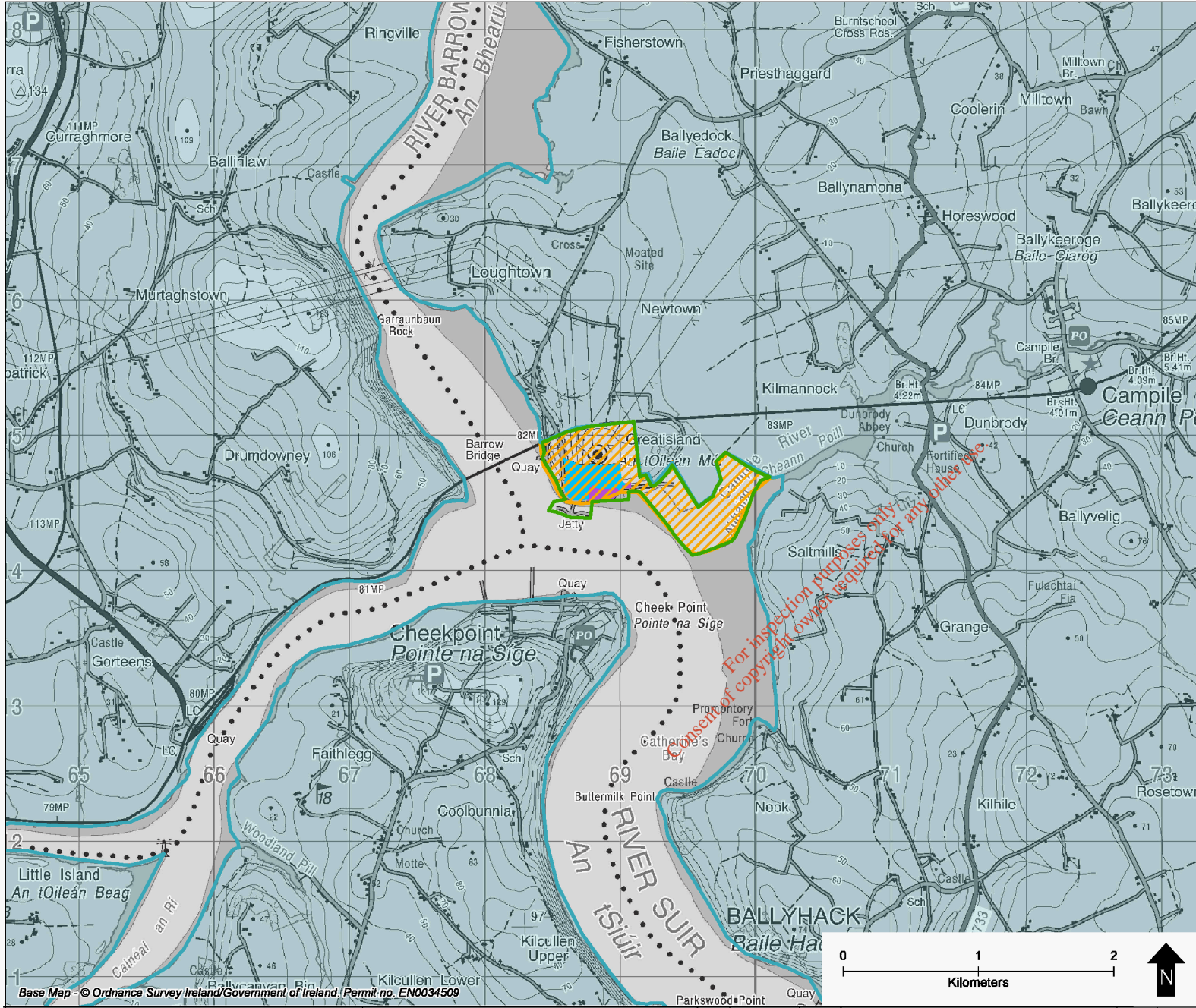


Endesa Ireland Ltd.
5th Floor,
3 Grand Canal Plaza,
Grand Canal Street Upper,
Dublin 4,
Ireland

Tel +353 (1) 552 8300
Fax +353 (1) 552 8301

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Title	Drawn	EV
FIGURE 16.3 - Receiving Landscape Character - County Landscape Character Assessment	Checked	EOC
	Approved	EOC
	Scale	1:165,000
Drawing No.	Rev	Status




LEGEND

- Site location
- Existing Great Island power plant
- Proposed Great Island power plant
- 20 Km radius from centre of proposals


Local Landscape Character Areas

- Industrialised landscape of Great Island LLCA
- Rivers Suir and Barrow farmed landscapes with settlements LLCA

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Suite 508, The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8147700



ERA-MAPTEC
4th Flr. 40 Lwr. O'Connell St,
Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 8733117



endesaireland

Client

Endesa Ireland Ltd.
5th Floor,
3 Grand Canal Plaza,
Grand Canal Street Upper,
Dublin 4,
Ireland

Tel +353 (1) 552 8300
Fax +353 (1) 552 8301

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<p>Title</p> <p>FIGURE 16.4 - Receiving Landscape Character - Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)</p> <p>Drawing No.</p>	Drawn	EV
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	Approved	EOC
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