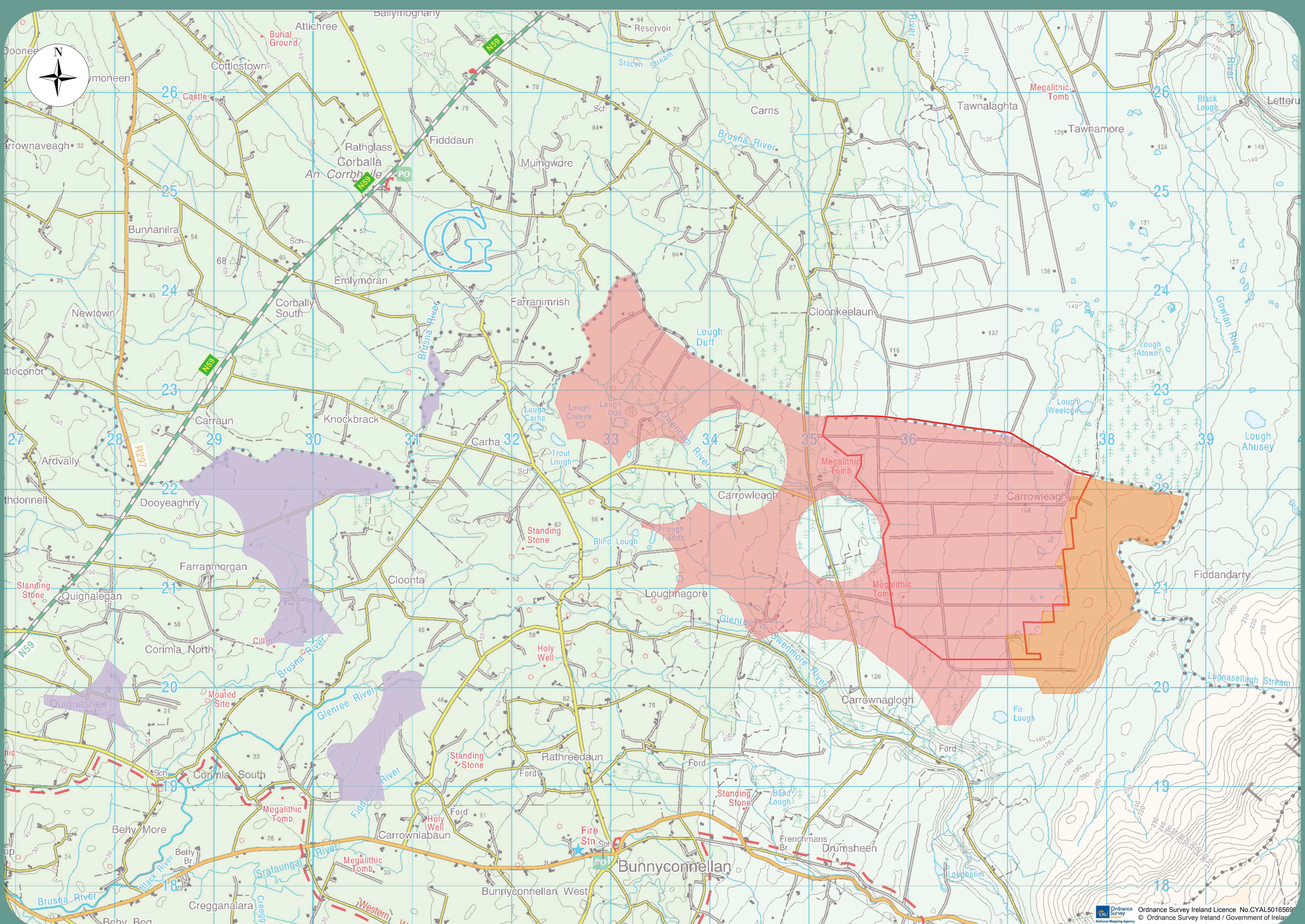


# WIND FARM SITE SELECTION

## WHY THIS SITE?

The suitability of the Proposed Firlough Wind Farm Site can be attributed in part to the following characteristics:

- Planning was granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2013 for 21 turbines with an installed capacity of about 48 MW. Since then, wind turbine technology has advanced, and we are now revising the layout of the permitted development for fewer, more efficient wind turbines.
- The site is located within a Tier 1; Preferred (Large Wind Farms) designation, in the Renewable Energy Strategy section of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.



### LEGEND

Mayo County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 Wind Energy Designations:

- Priority Area
- Tier 1 - Preferred (Large Wind Farms)
- Tier 2 - Open for Consideration
- Proposed Firlough Wind Farm Site

- The site is located outside areas designated for the protection of nature.
- The site is in an accessible location for connection to the national electricity grid.
- There are excellent average wind speeds in the area.
- Setback distances from houses can be achieved in line with government guidance. Mercury Renewables has committed to a minimum setback of 750m between a residential dwelling and a proposed turbine location.
- There is a network of existing turbary access roads within the site that can be upgraded and used for the wind farm.
- Located adjacent to an operational wind farm, which allows utilisation of existing turbine and construction haulage routes.
- The presence of large amounts of cutaway turf allows for turbine siting that is sympathetic to the bogland environment.
- The land use of the area; turbary and grazing can co-exist with the wind farm.