

# Lahinch and Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Lahinch Beach, Lahinch, Co. Clare



The Falls, Ennistymon, Co. Clare



## The proposed project

**Uisce Éireann is investing to modernise, improve and upgrade wastewater infrastructure for Lahinch and Ennistymon.**

- Uisce Éireann is planning to develop one new wastewater treatment plant to replace the existing plants at Lahinch and Ennistymon
- This project is critical as the existing wastewater treatment plants are failing EU treatment standards and require significant upgrades

Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant Co. Clare





# What are the benefits of the project?

The project will have many benefits for the communities in Lahinch, Ennistymon and surrounds:

- Significant investment in a new modernised wastewater treatment plant will result in **improved water quality which benefits the environment, ecology, sporting and tourism activities**
- Will **enable future growth and development in the community** and cater for an increase in population for both communities.
- Enhance amenity value by providing a cleaner environment and act as a platform for social and economic development



## A new solution is needed as upgrades to the existing plants are not feasible

- The existing **Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)** is in a flood zone and discharges to a drain running to the Inagh River
  - It is adjacent to the Inagh River Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)
  - Space is not available for a larger plant as there are mobile homes, houses and a National Monument close by.
- At **Ennistymon**, the existing discharge location to the Inagh River will not serve future population growth due to low summer river flows and inadequate dilution for treated discharges.
  - The site is adjacent to a Strategic Residential Reserve and Residential zoning. (Source – Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029)
  - The terrain is very difficult and access to the existing site is via a narrow steep track.

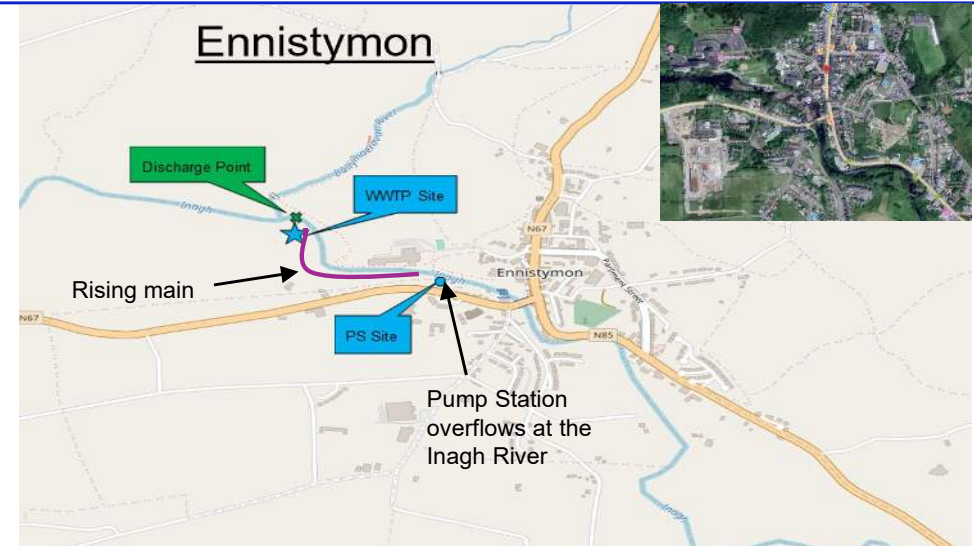


Existing Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant



Entrance road to existing Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant

# Understanding the Present Challenges



Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1937, and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1971.



Both Wastewater Treatment Plants are overloaded, and do not meet EU standards.



Flooding occurs at Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant



Overflows occur at Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant.



# Ennistymon Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping Station issues



Outdated Wastewater Treatment Plant built in 1937 with no space for expansion



Overflow at Pumping Station adjacent to the N67 Lahinch Road into Inagh River during heavy rainfall events. Pumps and pipelines have insufficient capacity to deal with these events

# Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pumping Station issues

- Regular flooding occurs and interferes with biological processes required to treat wastewater, resulting in exceedances of treatment and Storage capacity.
- No space for expansion
- Failing EU Standards
- Potential fines due to non-compliance

Flooding of Wastewater Treatment Plant during rainfall and high tides



Overview of Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant



## What's Proposed?

### Construction of a new combined Wastewater Treatment Plant, and storage tanks to serve both towns

- This will involve construction of two new pumping stations (one in Lahinch and one in Ennistymon)
- A new outfall to Liscannor Bay to replace the outfalls to the Inagh River
- New pipelines to connect both networks to a new Wastewater Treatment Plant and new outfall.





## Site Selection Process and Criteria

The site selection process is a careful and structured evaluation used to identify the most suitable solution to the existing wastewater infrastructure issues. It involves assessing multiple potential options based on the defined criteria listed below. The goal is to help identify the location that best supports the solution to the issues while also considering local needs, environmental protection, tourism and long-term community benefits.

### **Planning and Environmental:**

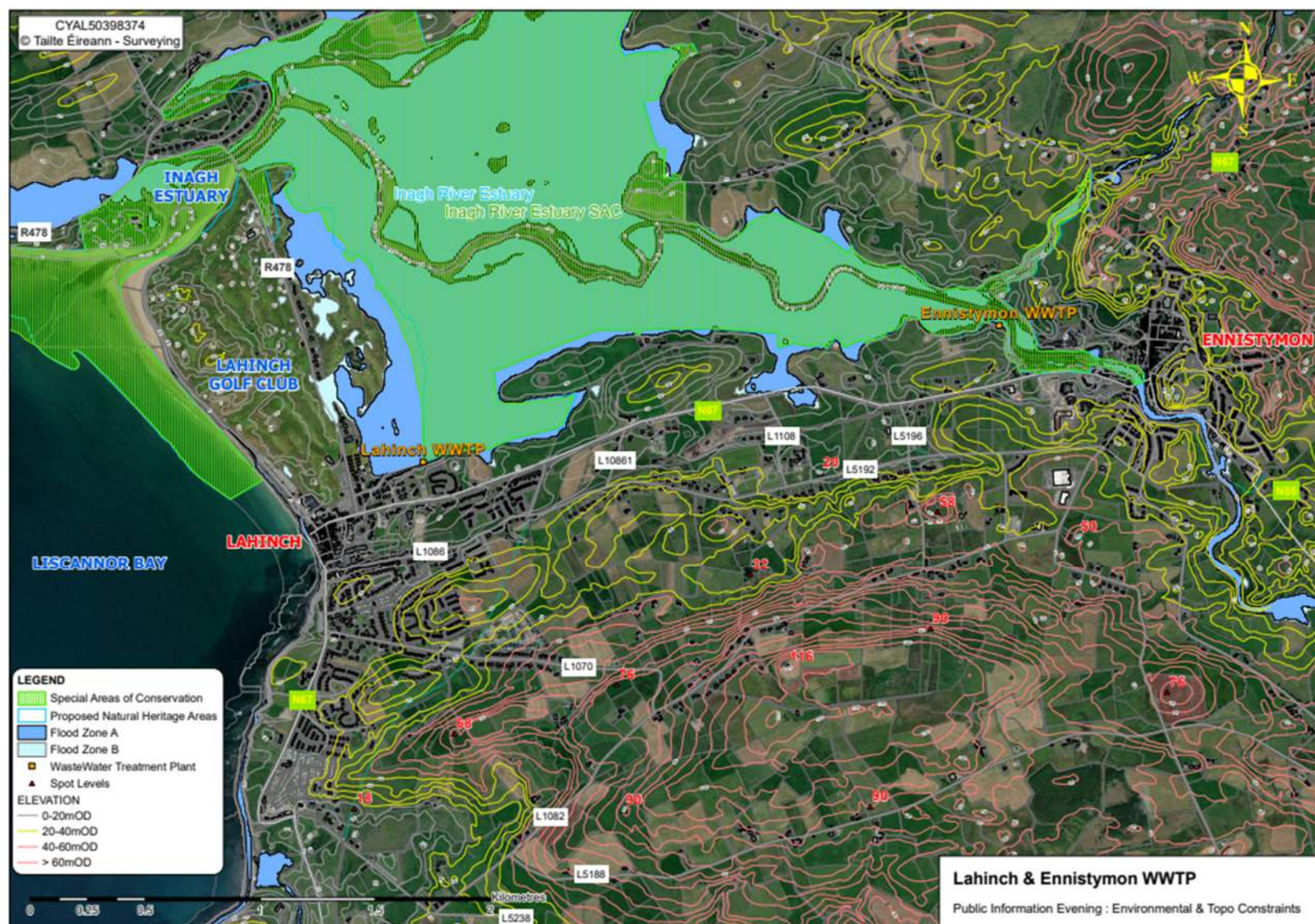
- Land Use Zoning
- Existing Land Use
- Tourism and Amenities
- Strava assessment for Surfing Community
- Adjacent Land Use Zoning
- Impact on Land Holding
- Planning History
- Landscape Character
- Archaeology & Cultural
- Designated Nature Conservation Sites
- Impact on Watercourses
- Biodiversity
- Visual Impact
- Noise and Odour

### **Technical and Economic:**

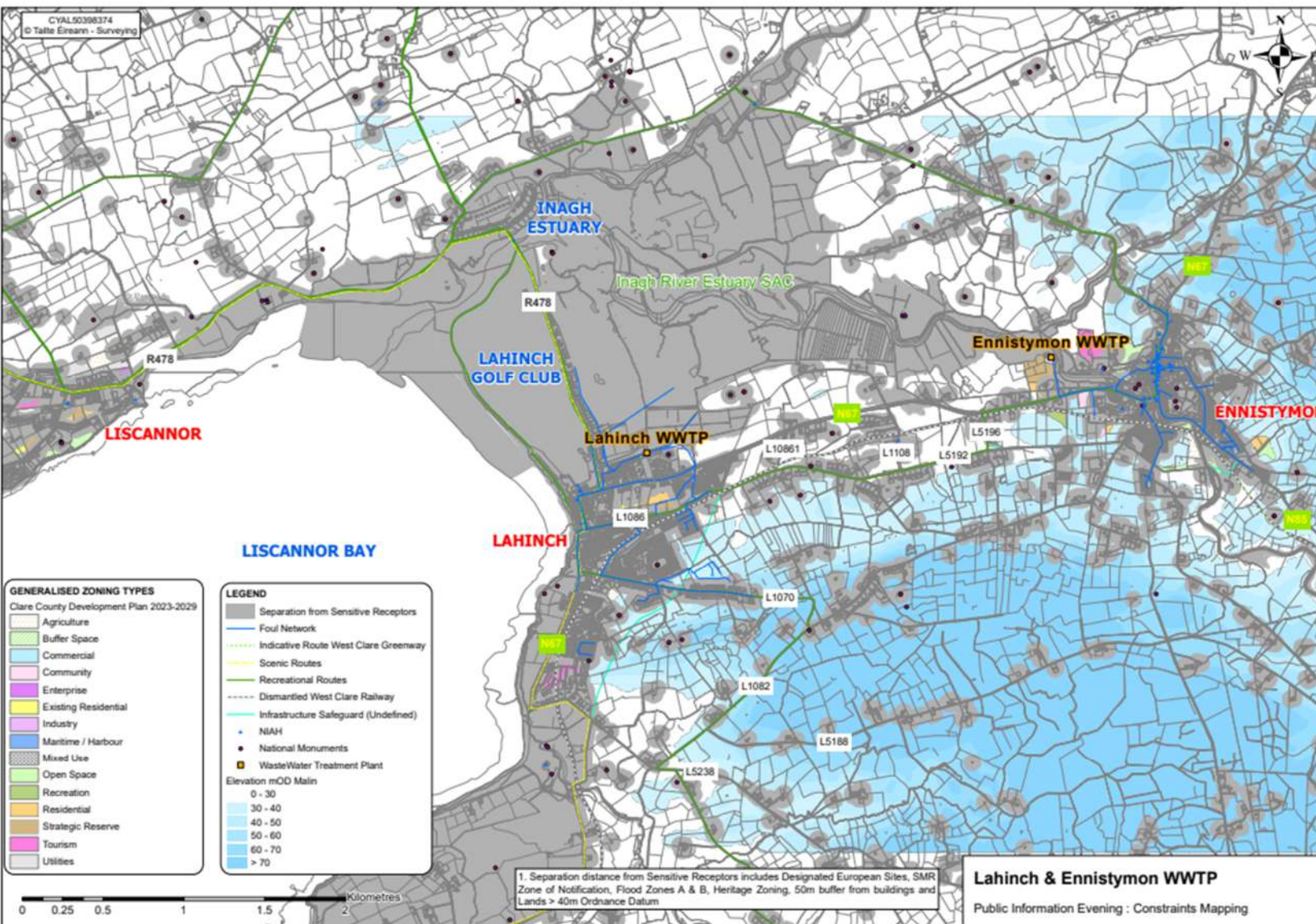
- Pipeline Routes
- Utility Connections
- Site Access / Sightlines
- Traffic and Road Disruption
- Nutrient Removal
- Septicity Treatment
- Pumping Requirements
- Future Adaptability



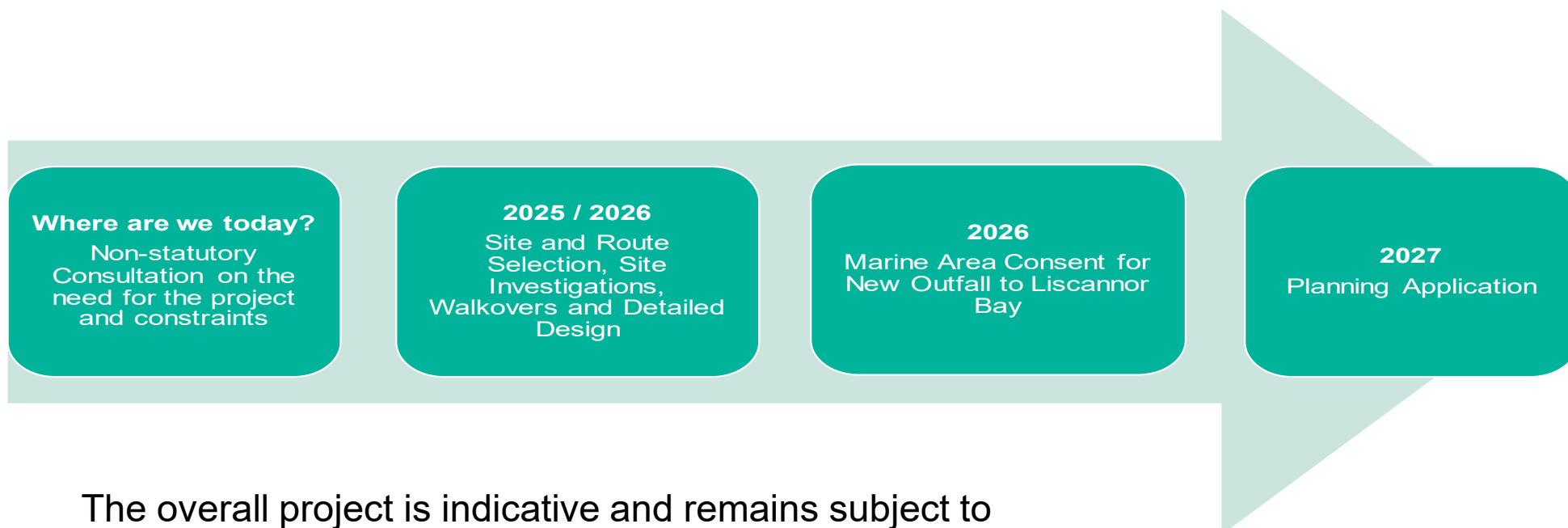








## Next Steps.....



The overall project is indicative and remains subject to statutory approvals

## How can we get involved?

**We are seeking feedback from stakeholders and members of the public on the proposed project and constraints mapping.**

**This period of non-statutory consultation will last for four weeks from 28th May to 25th June 2025**

**To make a submission please send it to us by e-mail, feedback form or post by 25th June 2025. Further information is available on [www.water.ie/projects](http://www.water.ie/projects)**



Do you live/own a home in Lahinch or Ennistymon or surrounding area?



Do you work/run a business in Lahinch or Ennistymon or surrounding area?



Are you in favour of a new wastewater treatment plant for Lahinch/Ennistymon to replace the existing outdated treatment plant?



Do you have any other comments/suggestions about this project



# Thank you



# Appendix



## Frequently Asked Questions



Why not update the existing Wastewater Treatment Plants?	The existing wastewater treatment plants are not fit for purpose as they are outdated, overcapacity, prone to flooding and failing standards.
Will there be a new discharge outfall required, where?	Yes, currently the wastewater treatment plants discharge to the Inagh River, the proposal would be to provide a new outfall out into Liscannor Bay.
Will there be an odour from the Wastewater Treatment Plant?	Odour is not generally an issue as odour controls are incorporated into the design of the wastewater treatment plants.
Will there be construction works in the town centres?	Yes, new pipelines will be required to facilitate the upgrades, disruption will be kept to a minimum.
Will there be more updates as the scheme progresses?	Further updates will be scheduled as the project progresses.
Where will the new Wastewater Treatment Plant be located?	The location of the new wastewater treatment plant is currently under investigation and will be based on the site selection criteria findings.



## Where can I get further information?

**For updates on the upgrade works visit:**

[www.water.ie/lahinch-ennistymon-wwtp](http://www.water.ie/lahinch-ennistymon-wwtp)

**For general queries on the upgrade works e-mail:**

[LahinchEnnistymon@water.ie](mailto:LahinchEnnistymon@water.ie)

**For all other Uisce Éireann queries:**

- [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)
- X [@IWCare](https://twitter.com/IWCare)
- [@IrishWater](https://www.facebook.com/IrishWater)
- Free text service – sign up at [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

