

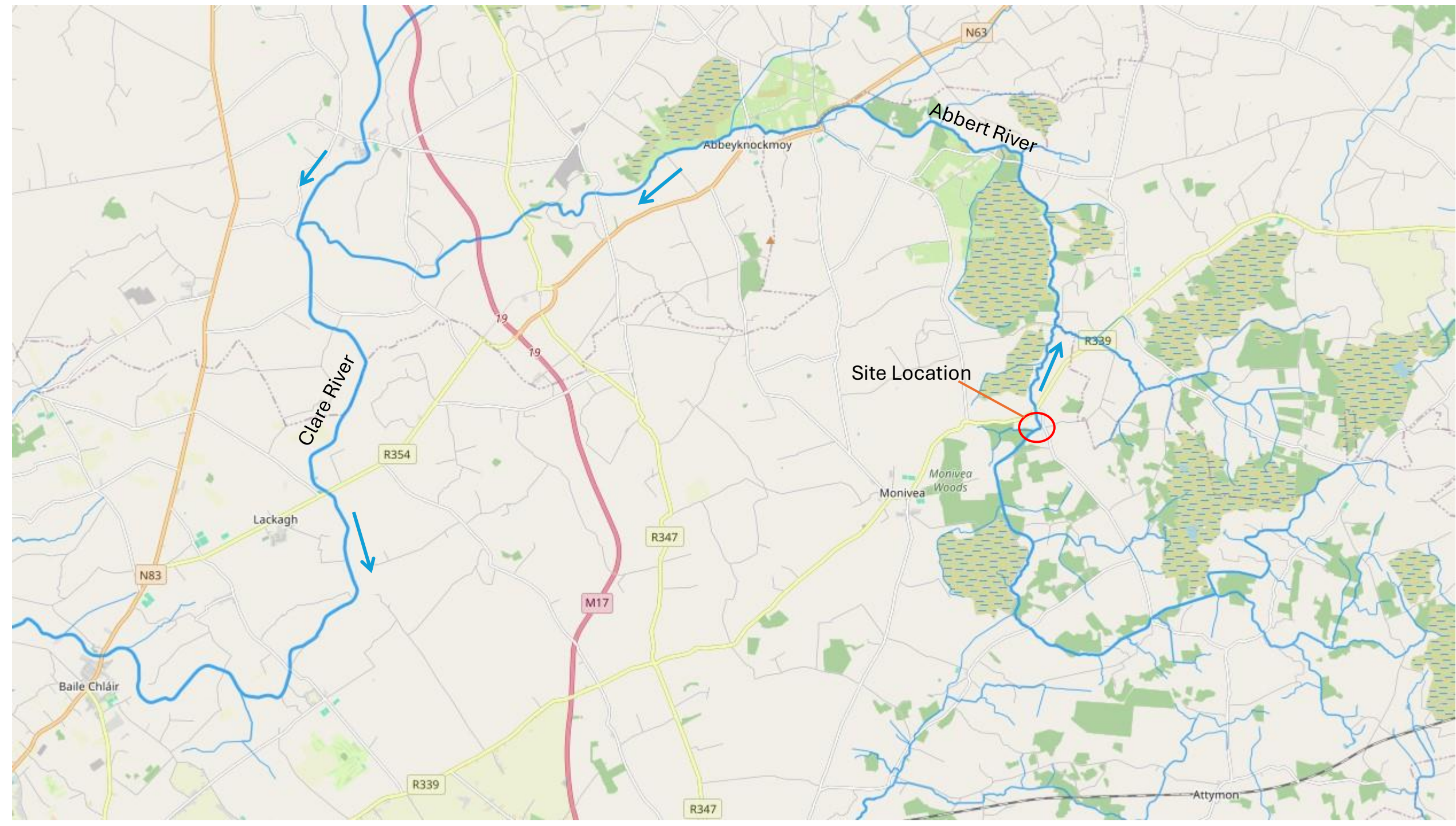
A Fisheries Habitat Restoration Plan for the Killaclogher River – Kilbeg, Co. Galway

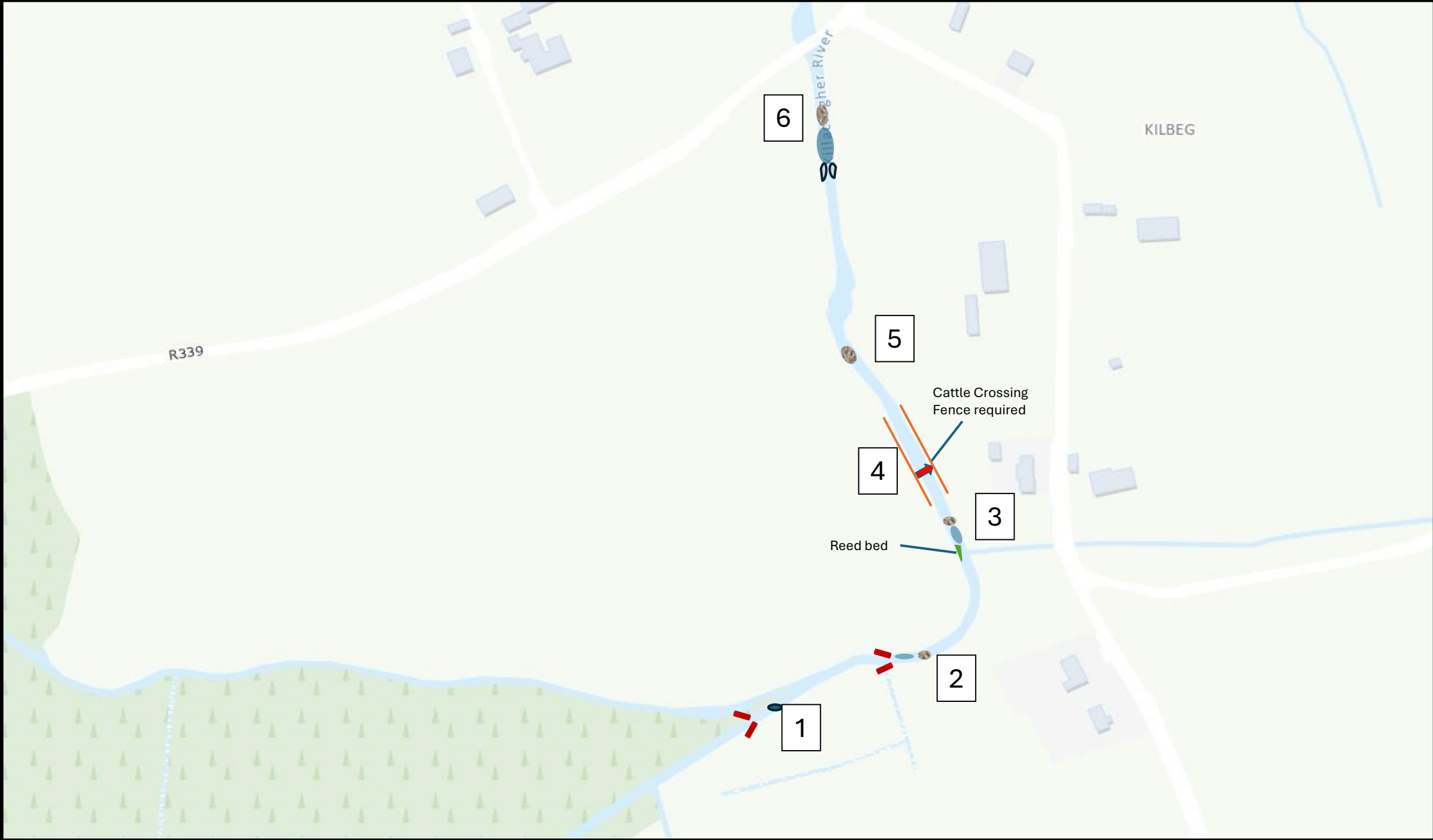
The Killaclogher river comprises the upper parts of the Abbert river in east Galway in the vicinity of Monivea. It drains an area of reclaimed or degraded raised bog, improved grassland and commercial forestry. Water quality is rated as Moderate to Good at hydrometric stations in the area

The Abbert catchment covers an area of approximately 190km² and is among the most important channels for salmonid spawning and nursery in the lough Corrib system. Genetic studies of the Corrib wild brown trout stock indicate that up to 26% are likely to come from this part of the catchment (O'Grady et al 2013). Like most of the rivers in the fertile areas of East Galway, much of its natural structure and fluvial processes have been disrupted and compromised by repeated and ongoing endeavours to expedite the drainage of water from the surrounding landscape. Streams have been widened, deepened and straightened, resulting in significant losses in habitat structure and heterogeneity.

This plan offers an opportunity to restore some of its former habitat over a river reach of approximately 600m in the townland of Kilbeg. It aims to improve spawning and nursery habitat for salmonids and to provide holding pools for larger fish. It also proposes dealing with another agricultural related pressures evident at this site where livestock are directly accessing the watercourse causing bank slippage and erosion as well as direct inputs of animal effluent. Some fencing is recommended at this site to restrict livestock access to the river and prevent pollution.







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Cattle Crossing
Fence required

4

3

Reed bed

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1. Use log structures to construct a paired deflector at location shown here.

Excavate pool immediately downstream

Place gravel bed at downstream end of pool



2. Use log structures to
construct a paired
deflector
at location shown here.

Excavate pool immediately
downstream and place
gravel
bed at downstream end of
pool





3. A berm (point bar) has established on the inside of this bend in the river.

Emergent vegetation (*Scirpus sp.*) has become established and has stabilised the bar.

Flow through the more restricted channel width is providing scour downstream and a pool has been created.

This more natural habitat sequencing could be greatly enhanced by placing a gravel bed at the downstream end of the pool.

Point bar should not be disturbed so that pool and riffle Sequence can be maintained



4. Cattle frequently cross through the river at this point.
- Evidence of fine sediment and wastes in the water
 - An alternative crossing strategy is recommended to avoid pollution and disturbance of sensitive spawning habitat

5. Place large gravel bed (C. 10T) at tail end of glide at this location



6. Construct a paired deflector at location shown here.

Excavate pool immediately downstream and place gravel bed at downstream end of pool

