



HIGGINS MOUNTAIN WIND FARM

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021

3:00PM - 6:00PM

Project update presentation at 3:30PM and 5:00PM

This event is subject to COVID-19 safety protocols



Welcome to our Open House

Please sign in at the registration desk then feel free to view our display boards and say hello.

Our team is here to provide information about the project, listen to your feedback, and answer your questions.

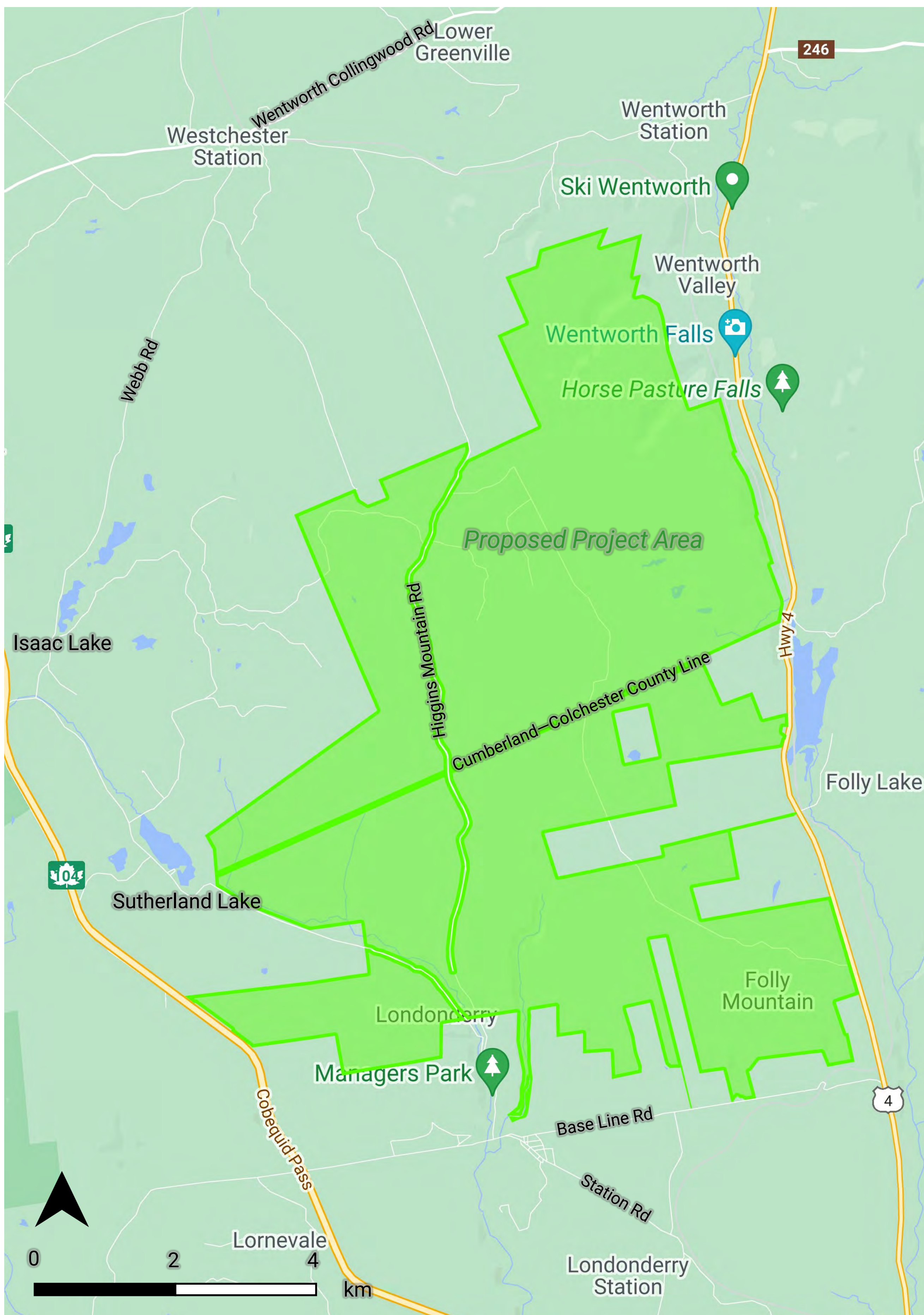
Thank you for attending!



HIGGINS MOUNTAIN WIND FARM

Project Description

- Developer:** Higgins Mountain Wind LP
(Elemental Energy, Stevens Wind, & 3G Energy)
- Project Name:** Higgins Mountain Wind
- Municipality:** Cumberland County & Colchester County
- Project Type:** Wind Power
- Project Size:** 100 MW



Location:

Higgins Mountain, NS

Project Infrastructure:

Wind turbines, spur roads, meteorological tower, substation, and other electrical equipment.

Interconnection:

The Project will connect to Nova Scotia Power's electrical transmission line located south of the site.



Higgins Mountain Wind LP

Higgins Mountain Wind Limited Partnership is comprised of three experienced Canadian wind development companies: Elemental Energy, Stevens Wind, and 3G Energy.

Higgins Mountain Wind Farm LP combines the talents and resources of its partners to develop the Higgins Mountain Wind Farm Project. Each partner has extensive experience developing, financing, constructing, owning, and operating wind energy projects in Nova Scotia, the Maritimes, and across North America.



Across the partnership, we have been extensively involved in wind energy in Nova Scotia. We are owners and operators of **7 COMFIT** projects across Nova Scotia and other wind projects in the Maritimes.

We have collective experience creating community energy projects and Indigenous energy projects across Canada.

Together, we possess a diversity of experience, extensive knowledge of Canadian renewable energy markets, and **local ownership and representation.**



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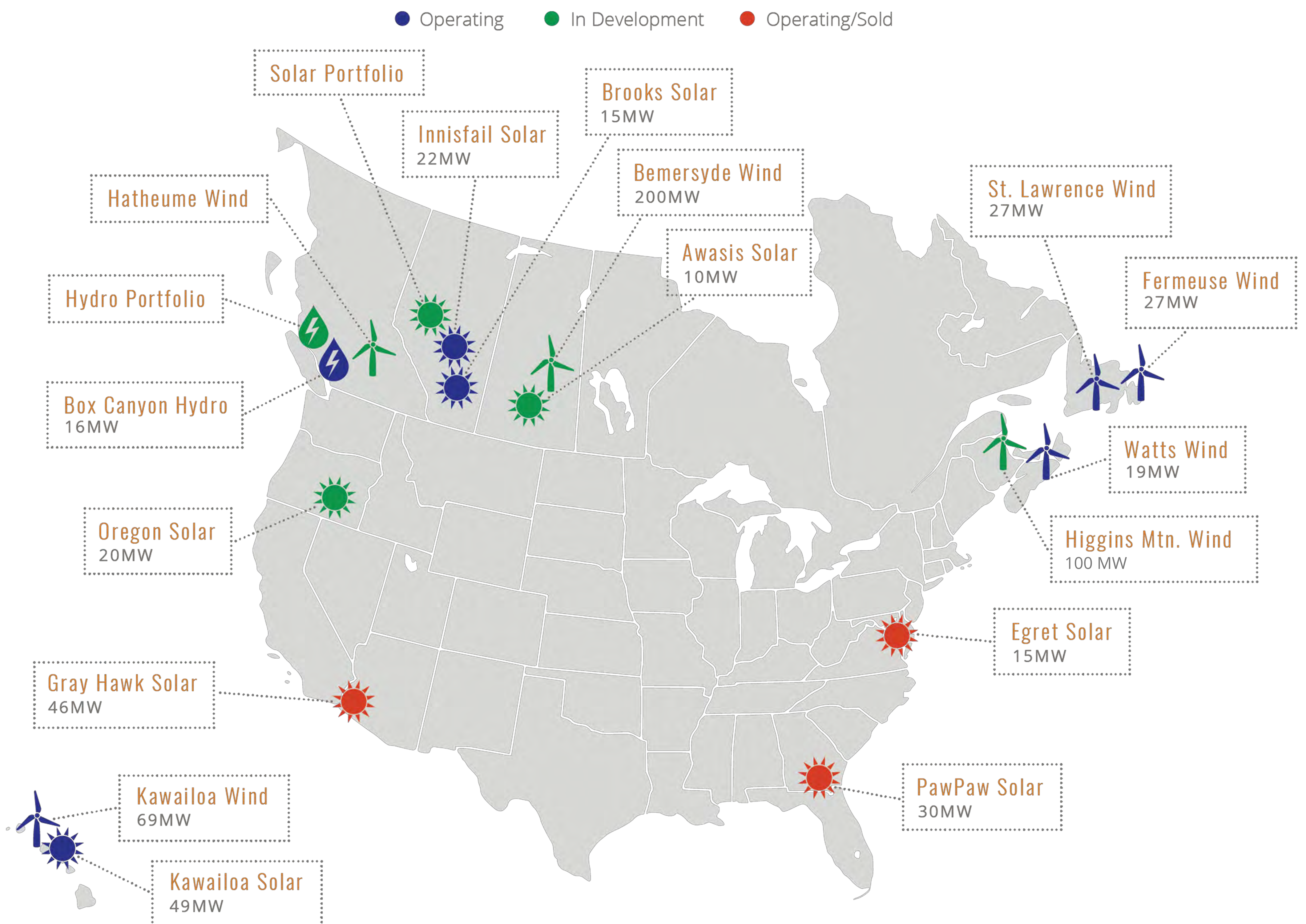
Elemental Energy



About Us: Canadian private renewable energy development company with over 200 MW of wind, solar, and hydro projects in construction/operations, and over 1,000 MW of projects in development. This includes 74 MW of wind farms in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Our portfolio map is shown below.

Our Vision: We are committed to projects that generate environmental benefits for the planet, positive social impacts for the communities in which we work, and long-term financial returns. From greenfield to fully operational, we develop, fund, and acquire projects at various stages of development.

Our Team: Elemental is an entrepreneurial team of individuals with diverse backgrounds in energy, finance, and project development. The team brings a track record of executing complex transactions, building successful businesses, and developing lasting partnerships.





Open House #1

October 5th, 2021

- **83** registered attendees (**100+** estimated)
- **18** feedback forms
- **40** follow up emails/letters

What We Heard

Visual impacts: concerned about wind farm size and visibility from key viewpoints. Request for additional visual simulations.

Meeting time: several residents emphasized the weekday meeting timing posed challenging for seasonal residents.

Health and noise impacts: many residents had questions about potential health and noise impacts from wind farms.

Environmental impacts: concerned about impacts to flora and fauna from a standalone and cumulative perspective.

Telecommunication impacts: several residents had concerns about wind turbine impacts on interfering with internet service.

Recreation/tourism impacts: concerned about impacts on local recreation and tourism.

Support for wind energy: many residents voiced support for wind energy, including at Higgins, provided other concerns mitigated.

Updates since Open House #1

Visual impacts: reduced size by **33%** with turbines in less visually impactful locations as shown in the visual simulations presented today.

Health and noise impacts: more information on the Sound and Shadow posters, as well as the “FAQ Package”.

Environmental impacts: more information Surveys posters, and Strum Consulting is here to answer detailed questions.

Telecommunications impacts: electromagnetic interference study being completed by Strum Consulting in accordance with industry guidelines.

Recreation/tourism impacts: socioeconomic study being completed by Strum Consulting which will incorporate consultation with the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia (TIANS).



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Community Benefits

Employment: The Project is expected to create over **100 jobs** during construction, and **10 FTE jobs** are anticipated throughout operations.

Contracting Opportunities: Construction and operations will rely on local supply chain and services, with job opportunities such as surveying, civil, electrical, and mechanical construction, and equipment transportation.

Tax Revenue: Property taxes of **\$760,000/year** will support municipal services and infrastructure for decades to come.

Community Benefits Fund: Contribution to local initiatives via a community benefits fund. Higgins Mountain Wind LP is in the process of developing more details around the community benefits fund.

Support for Community Initiatives and Infrastructure: Higgins Mountain Wind LP is committed to supporting various local community organizations and initiatives that bring positive impacts to nearby communities, as well as providing capital contributions and/or ongoing financial support.

Education: Community education and training events.

Local Investment: Local businesses will benefit from increased spending on goods and services during construction and operations phases.





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Why Here?

Strong wind resource on Higgins Mountain makes this site an ideal location for a wind power project.

Close proximity to existing transmission lines that have the capability of adding new generation.

Existing infrastructure such as power lines, access roads, and gravel pits that we intend to use, minimizing the incremental environmental footprint of the Project.

Large setbacks from residences, due to the large land base of the site.

Why Now?

The Government of Nova Scotia is competitively procuring renewable energy through the **Rate Based Procurement** to source renewable energy for Nova Scotians in early 2022.

The Rate Based Procurement aims to attract low-cost and innovative solutions to procure 350 MW of renewable and low carbon electricity for the province of Nova Scotia. In addition to supporting Nova Scotia's goals to fight climate change, this procurement will encourage investment and create jobs.

The Procurement Administrator will conduct a request for proposal (RFP) process to identify the most competitive low-impact renewable energy projects. These projects will be awarded Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) to supply renewable electricity generation for their customers.

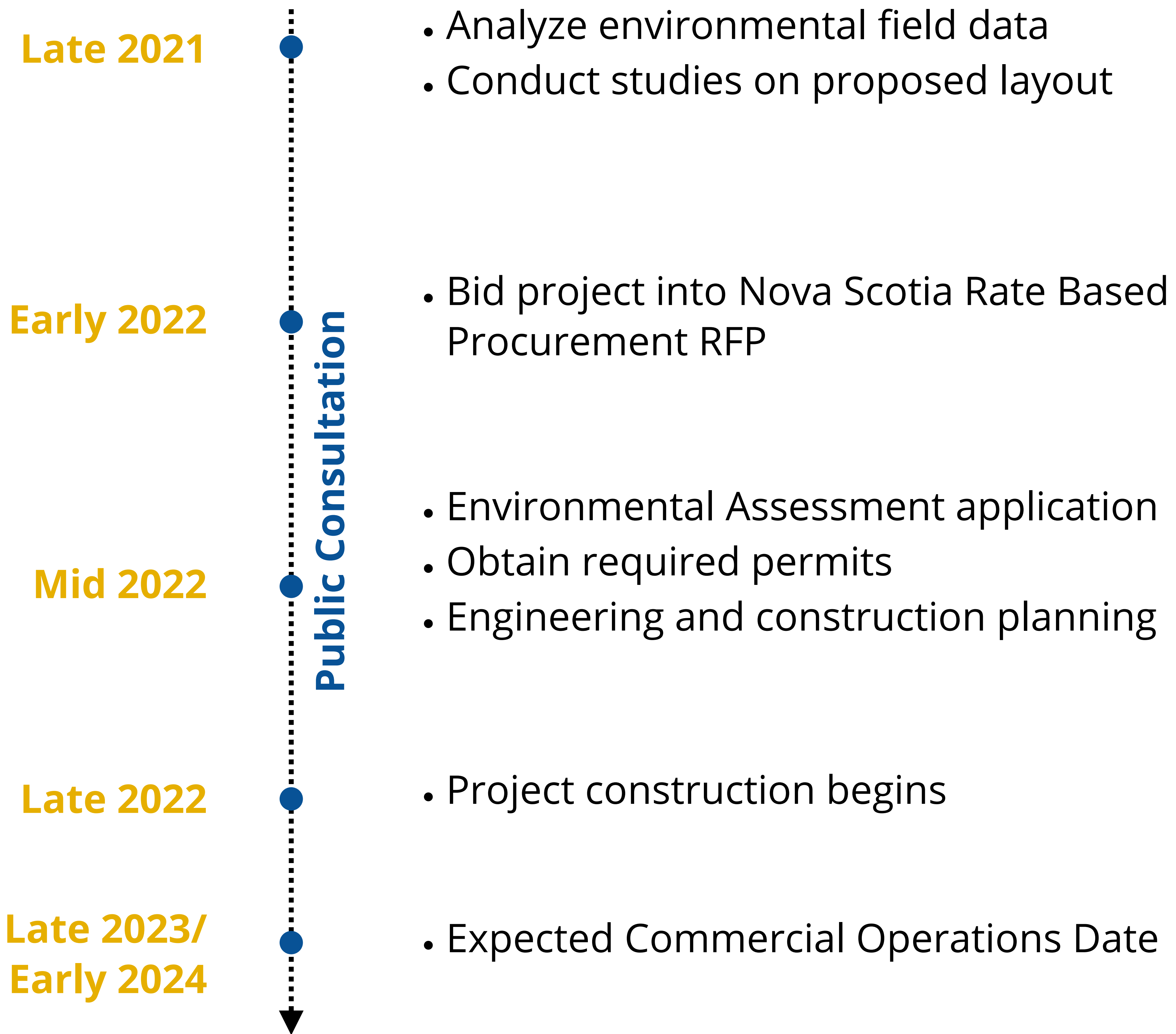
This call for proposals will help the province get closer to the 80% target and support the province's goal of achieving a 53% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.



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What's Next?

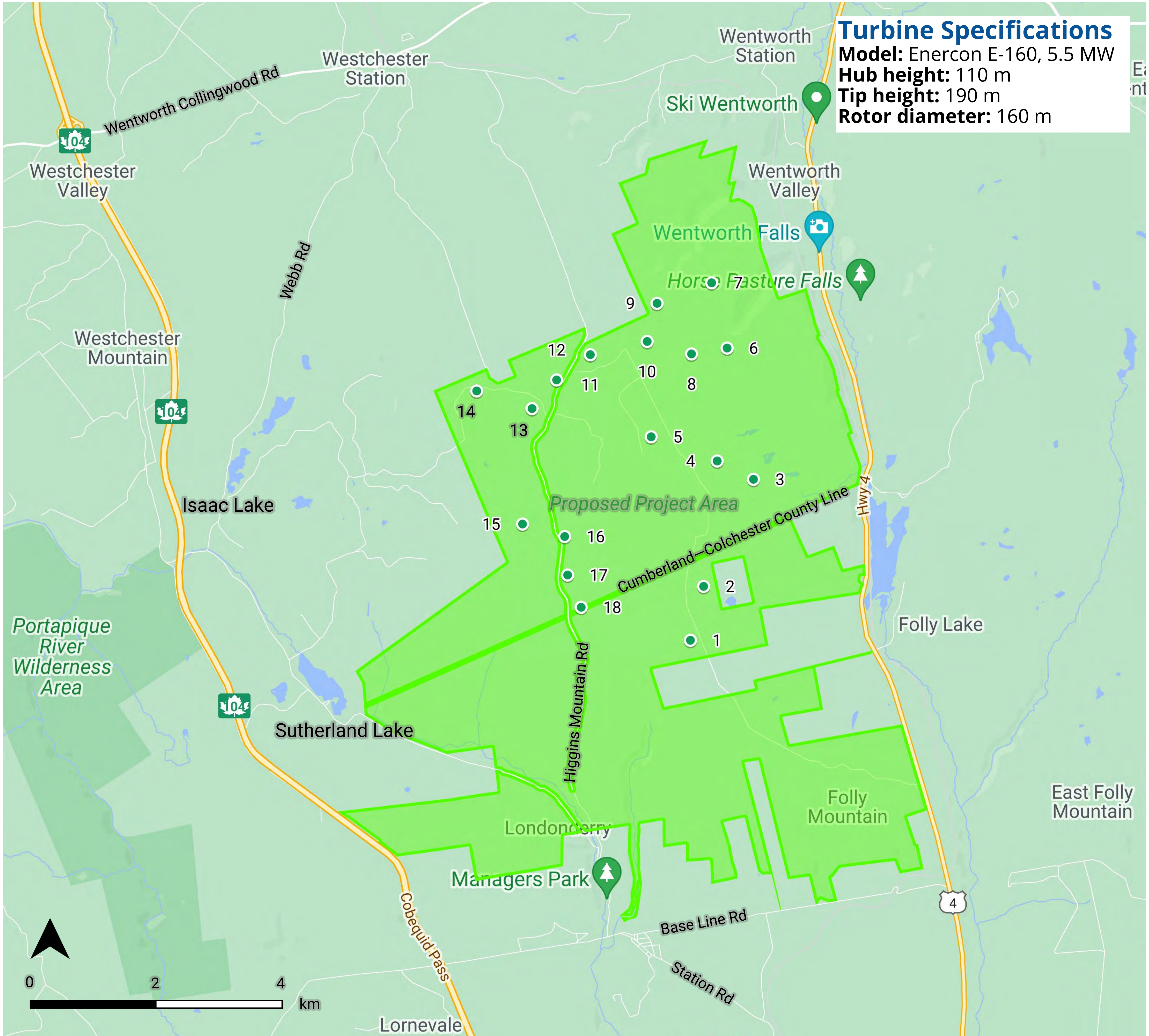
Anticipated Project Schedule



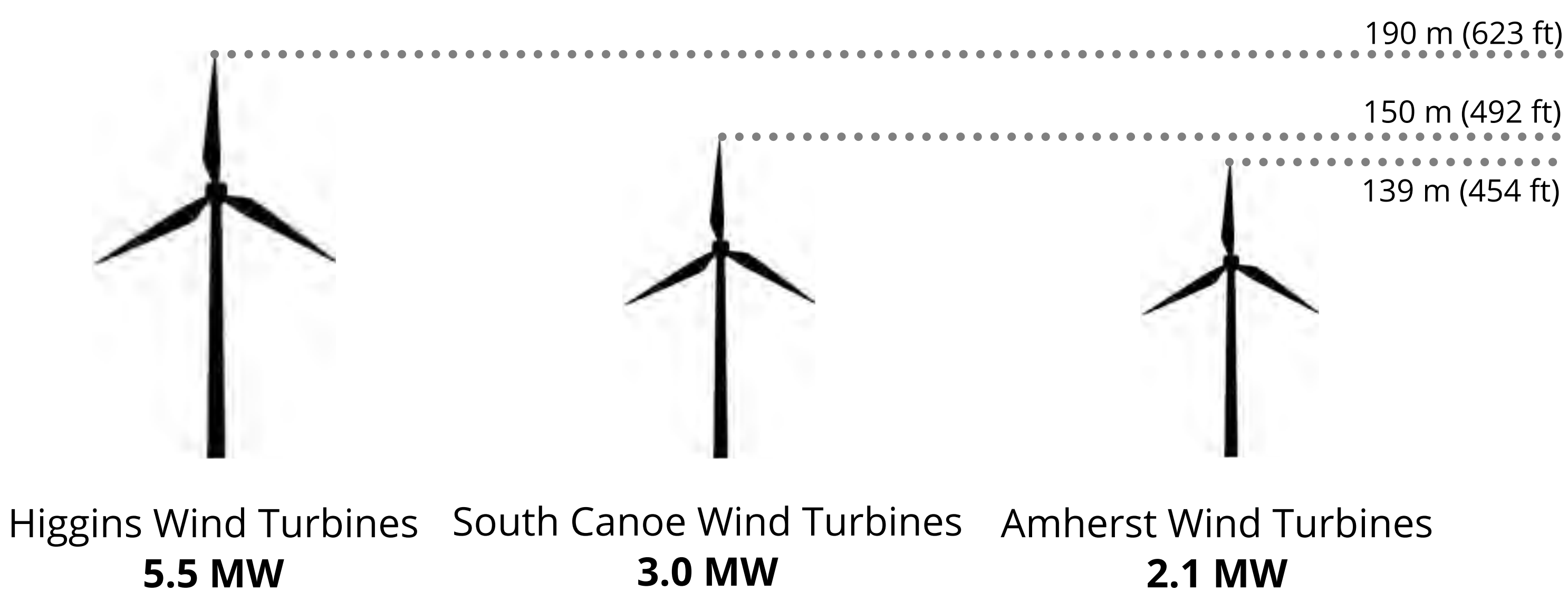


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Turbine Locations



How do our turbines compare?



Higgins Wind turbines are 27% taller than South Canoe's and 37% taller than Amherst's, but produce 83% and 162% more power per turbine, respectively. This results in **2x to 3x fewer turbines** being needed on Higgins Wind to make up 100 MW of capacity.



Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is required by Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC) to ensure that the Project's environmental impacts are minimal and mitigated. An EA identifies impacts early in project development and guides the proponent towards appropriate and proven risk mitigation strategies. Strum Consulting has been retained to complete the EA work for the Project.

Public consultation is an integral part of the EA process and the community is invited to comment on the EA during the review period.

Once the proponent submits an EA application in mid 2022 to NSECC, it is reviewed for a **50 day** period, where the **first 30 days** are open to the public to provide comments on the EA to NSECC. Once the review period is over, a final decision and conditions are delivered by the Minister of Environment.

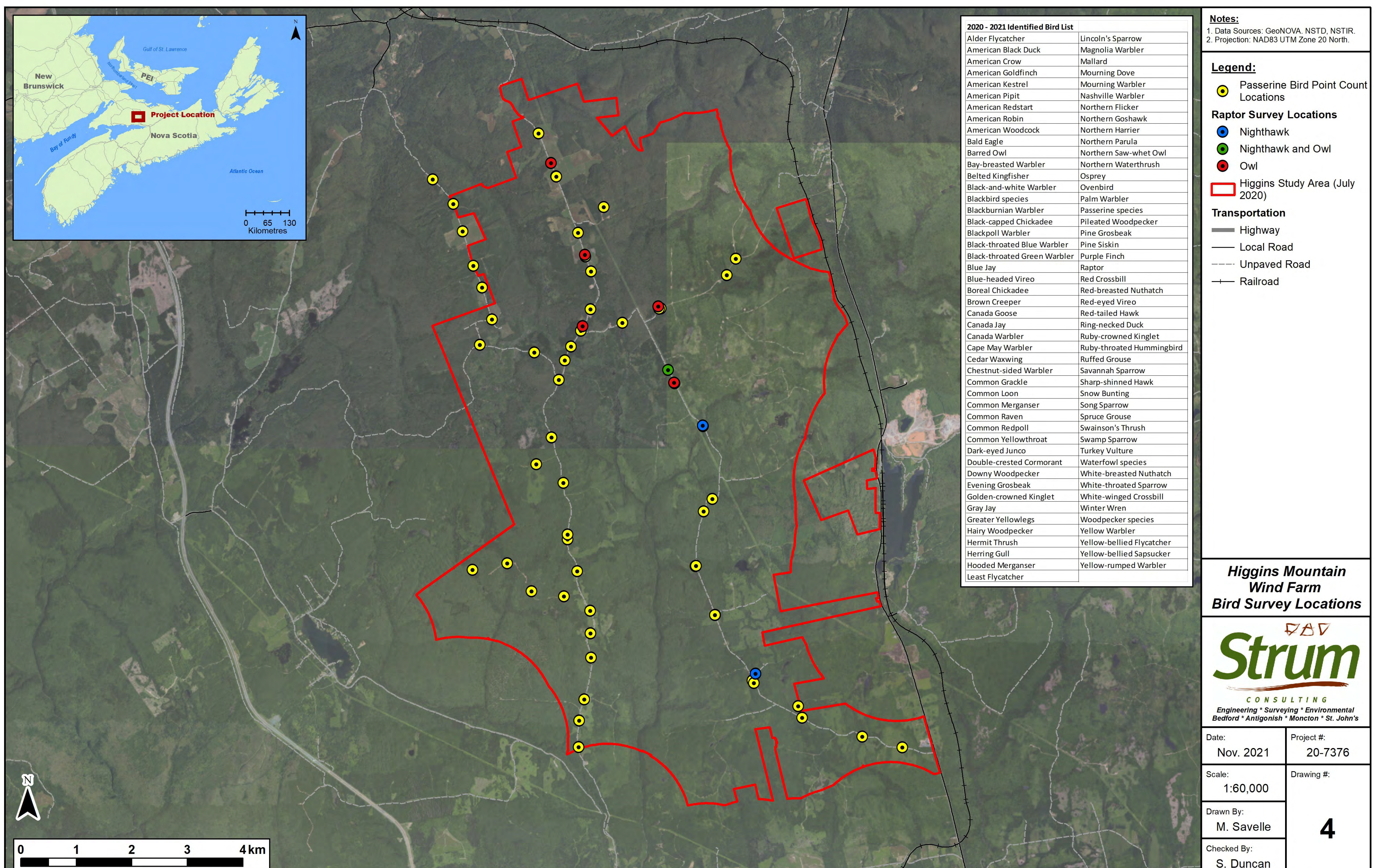
Studies Underway

The following baseline environmental studies are included as part of the Environmental Assessment:

- Avifauna (birds & bats)
- Wildlife (e.g. moose)
- Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Watercourses & aquatic habitats
- Groundwater & geology
- Noise & shadow flicker
- Visual impacts
- Archaeological & historic resources
- Socioeconomic studies

Bird Surveys

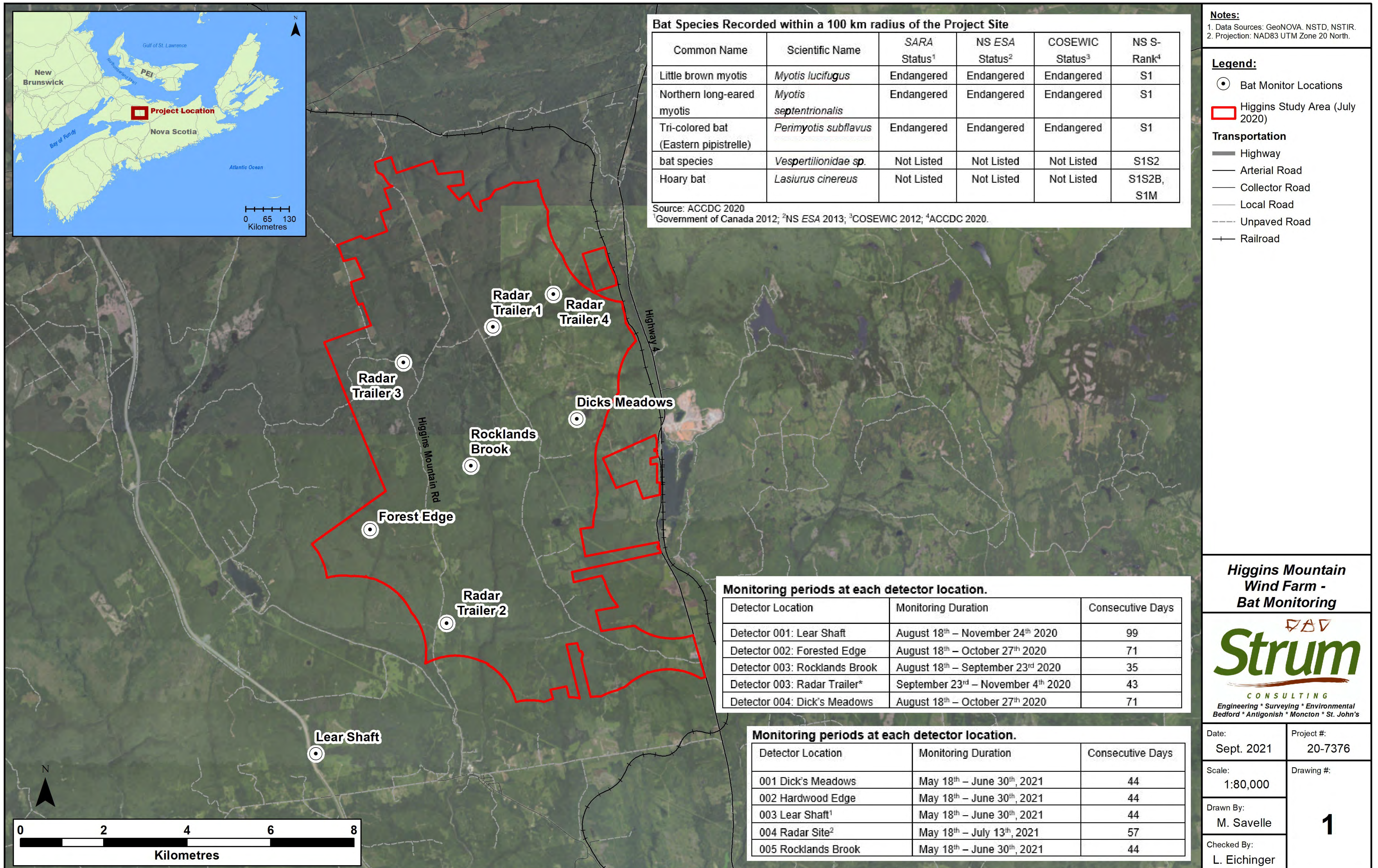
Extensive surveys were conducted in the Project area for birds using a combination of avian radar detectors and ground surveys. A bird species list is outlined below showing all the point count locations. The avian radar is used for tracking migratory birds in large areas as well as detecting birds in smaller regions. The radar was placed in multiple locations as depicted in the figures below. **No flocks were identified during the 2020 Fall and 2021 Spring surveys.**



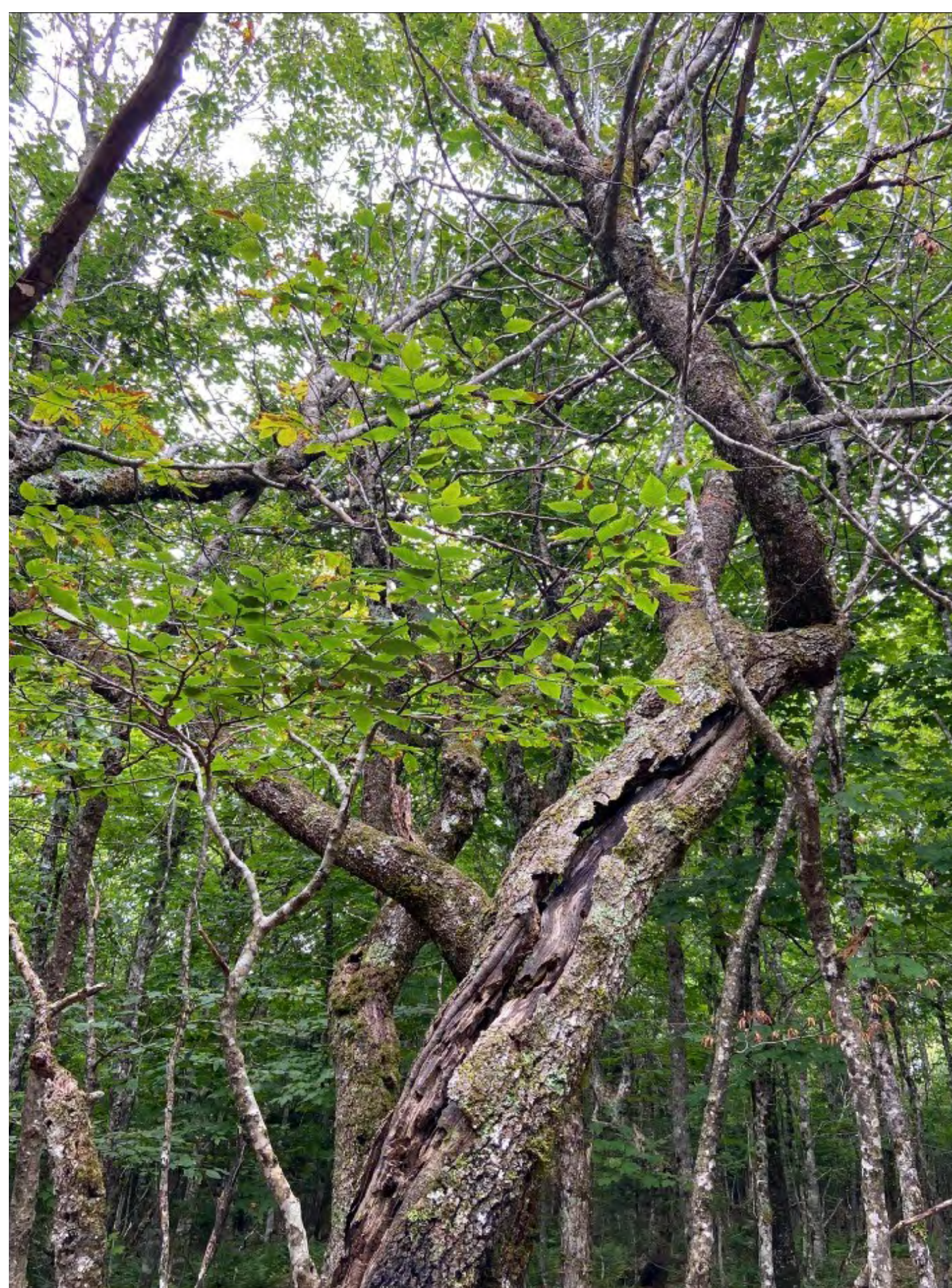
Bird survey results showing bird count locations, confirmed sightings of nighthawks and owls, and a complete species identified list. Photos credited from www.allaboutbirds.org

Bat Surveys

Five bat species were identified using acoustics at the locations shown below during the 2020 and 2021 survey. Snags and other bat habitats were also identified.



Above — Bat survey results identifying species and monitoring periods. Below — Bat

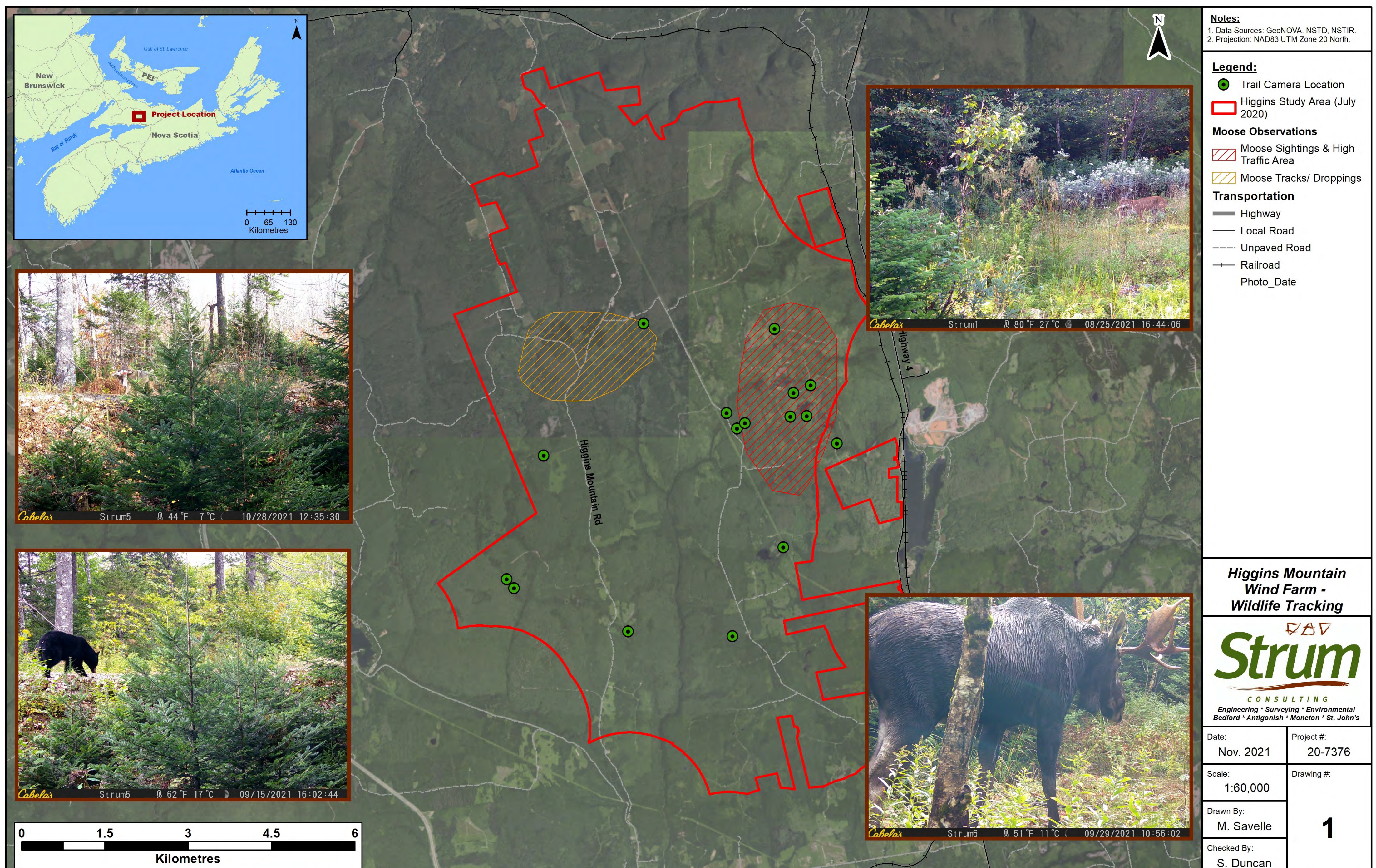




Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys were conducted using trail camera, winter tracking, and drone surveys. Trail camera locations were placed near waterbodies or areas where signs of mammals were in the area. The following mammal species were identified in the wildlife survey:

- Mainland Moose (*Alces alces americana*)
- White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
- Eastern Coyote (*Canis latrans var.*)
- Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)
- Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)
- Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)
- Porcupine (*Erithizon dorsatum*)
- Black Bear (*Ursus Americanus*)
- Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)
- Snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*)

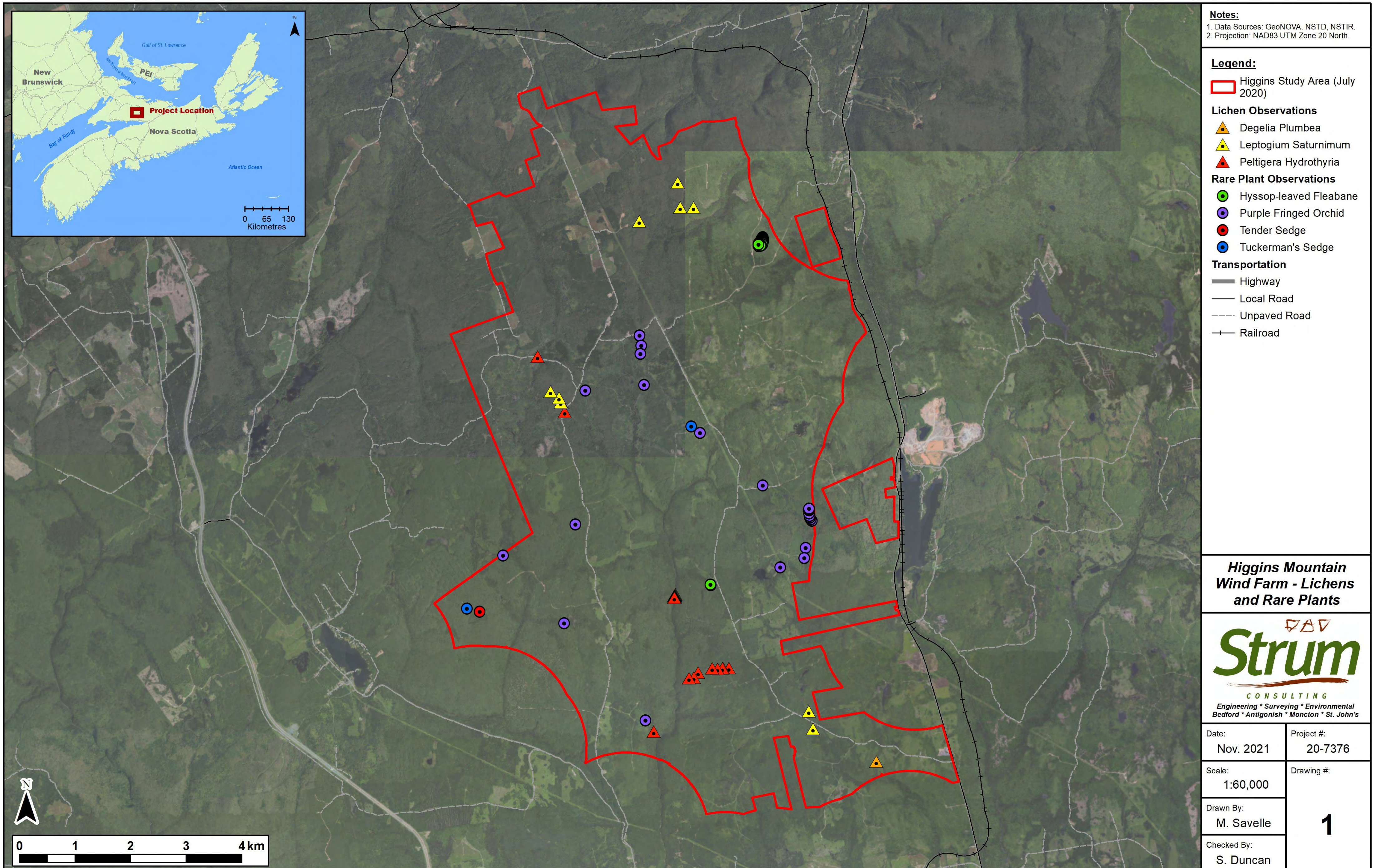




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Plant and Lichen Surveys

Rare plants and lichens were identified throughout the survey site during the wetland and watercourse delineation survey. The figure below shows 3 rare lichen and 4 rare plant species identified.



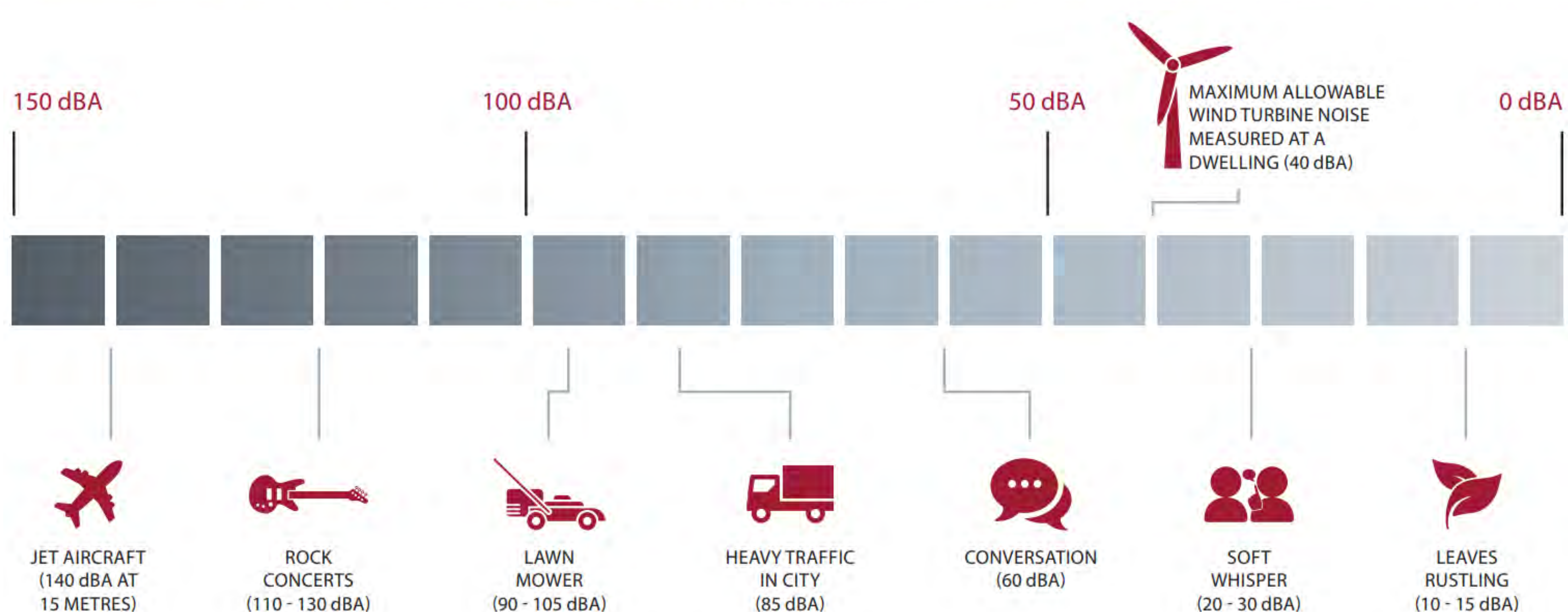
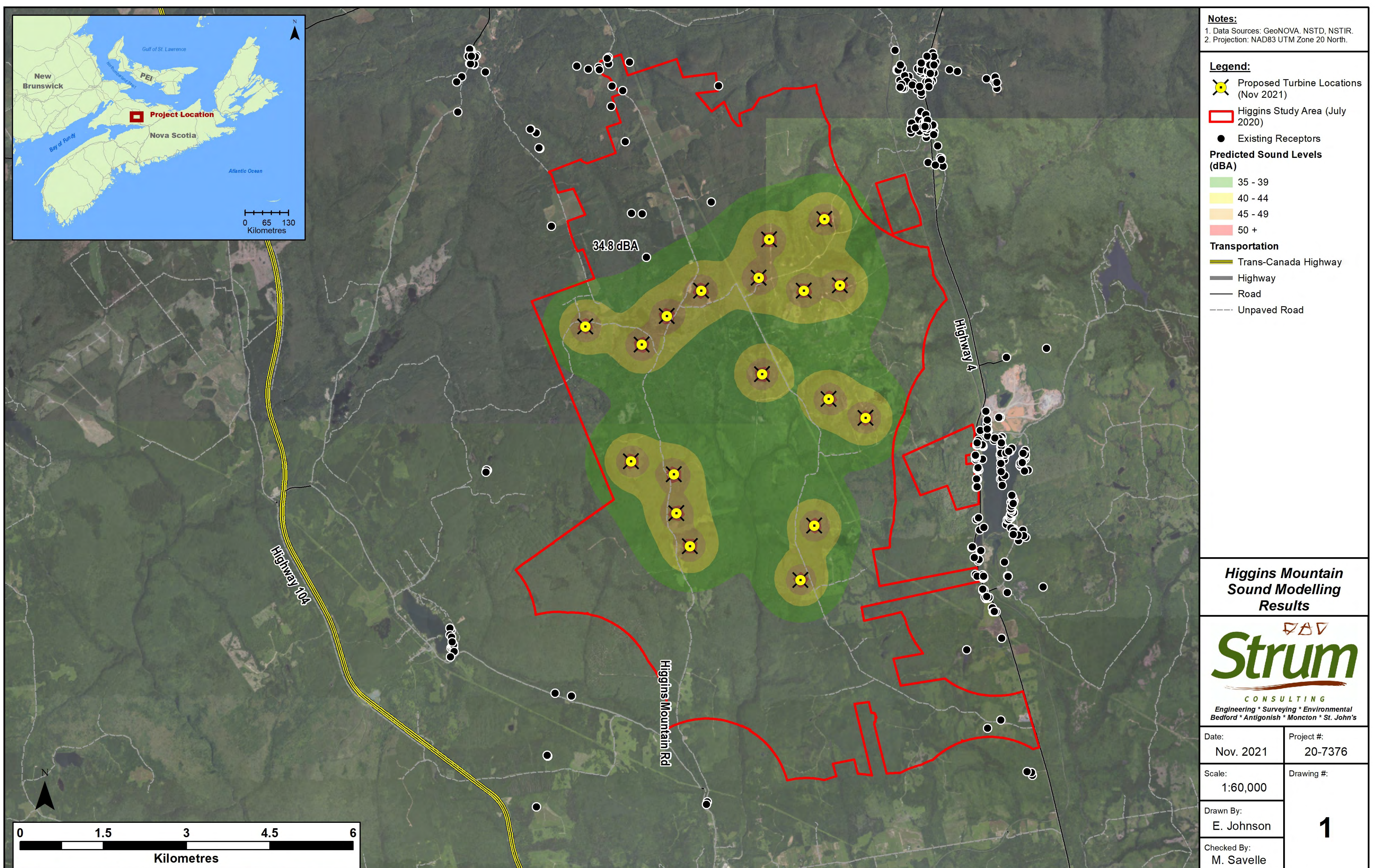


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Sound Modelling

Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change requires sound levels of no more than **40 dBA** outside of a home. For context, 40 dBA is equivalent to the sound of a quiet library.

Sound modelling results of the Project indicate that all receptors depicted in the figure below fall below the **36 dBA** threshold; the regulated requirement for wind turbines in Colchester County. WindPRO software was used to model the noise outputs based on the proposed turbine model and layout.

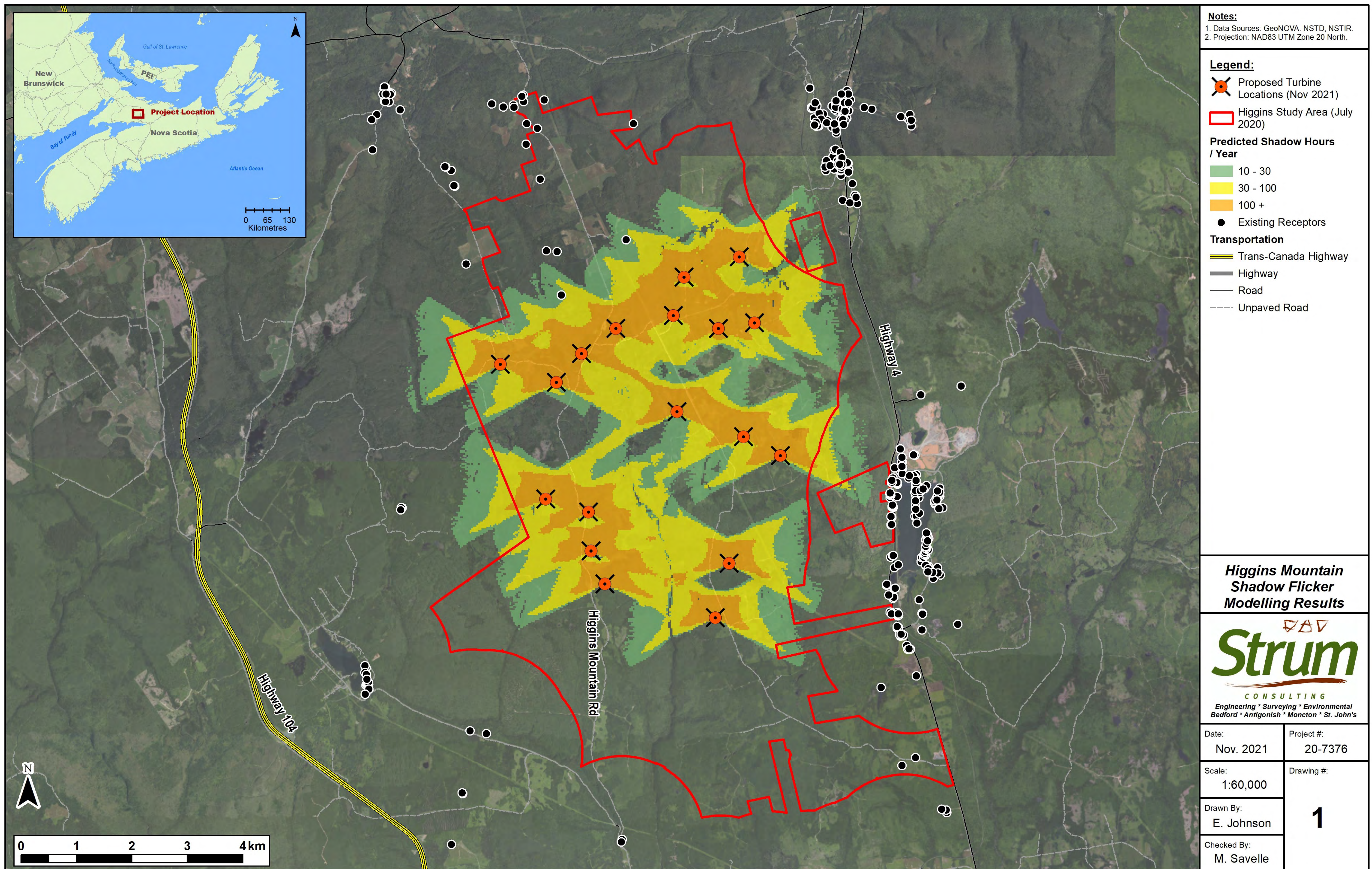




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Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker is an effect created by the rotating blades of a wind turbine casting shadows. The modelled shadow hours per year are shown in the drawing below, where receptors are all below the acceptable 30 hours/year of shadow flicker. WindPRO software was used to model the shadow hours casted based on the proposed turbine model and layout.





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Community Engagement

Higgins Mountain Wind LP recognizes that support of the local community and landowners is key to a successful project, which is why we work diligently to make sure we listen and incorporate feedback.

Higgins Mountain Wind LP has been working to engage with the community and project stakeholders and are open to discussing the Project and receiving feedback from interested parties. To date, our engagement activities include:

- Community Liaison Committee
- Public Open House
- Conversations with local landowners, community groups, businesses, and organizations
- Indigenous engagement
- Calls and meetings with local and provincial governing bodies
- Project updates sent via email, mailouts, and published on our website at higginswind.com
- Phone and email for any comments or inquiries: info@higginswind.com and **604-558-8005**

Community Liaison Committee

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was formed in 2019 to provide an avenue for community input to Higgins Mountain Wind LP by a two-way sharing of information in a transparent forum on project matters that have or are perceived to have environmental, social or economic impacts. It also supports improved engagement of project information sharing to interested individuals in the community, and provides a voice to those in the community who have concerns, suggestions or questions.



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Thank you for attending!

We are committed to ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders. Please take a moment to complete a **"Feedback Form"** to share your thoughts on the proposed Project. Feel free to take an **"FAQ Package"** with you.

If you have any outstanding questions or concerns, we invite you to speak to one of our representatives today. If you prefer to get in touch with us later, our contact information is:

Tel.: 604-558-8005
Email: info@higginswind.com
Web: higginswind.com

