

## 13. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

### 13.1 Introduction

This chapter comprises a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The LVIA assesses the likely significant effects of the proposed Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development (the Proposed Project) on landscape and visual amenity. The LVIA reported in this chapter was informed by desktop studies and receptor mapping, site visits, verified photomontages, and an impact assessment methodology which follows best practice guidance for LVIA. The LVIA also includes assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects. This chapter is accompanied by one volume and five appendices:

- › *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet*, A1 Banner Photomontage Booklet including verified photomontage visualisations from 18 No. representative viewpoints;
- › *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*, outlining the detailed methodology and guidance used for the assessments reported in this Chapter;
- › *Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables*, assessment of effects on designated Landscape Character Areas (LCAs);
- › *Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables*, a visual impact assessment of the 18 No. representative viewpoints presented in the *Photomontage Booklet*;
- › *Appendix 13-4: A0 LVIA Baseline Map*, an A0 scale map showing all baseline landscape and visual receptors, ZTV mapping and viewpoints;
- › *Appendix 13-5: Photowire Visualisation Booklet*, draft photomontage visualisations from 18 No. viewpoint locations which were not selected for the final Photomontage Booklet;

#### 13.1.1 Statement of Authority

MKO has developed extensive expertise and experience over the last 20 years in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of a range of projects, including multiple large scale wind energy developments.

This LVIA was written by Dija Mazonaitė with guidance and direction from Jack Workman, and oversight from Michael Watson.

Dija Mazonaitė is a Project Environmental Scientist - LVIA Specialist at MKO. Dija has a BSc (Hons) in Geography & Geosystems, PG Cert in Marine Spatial Planning, and was recognised as a University Scholar at the University of Galway. Dija's primary role at MKO is producing and reviewing the LVIA chapter of EIA reports for large-scale infrastructure developments. Since joining MKO, Dija has conducted and project managed all aspects of LVIA for a broad range of commercial infrastructure developments including wind and solar energy projects, grid infrastructure, extraction industry and Strategic Housing Developments. Dija's key strengths include proficiency in GIS tools such as ArcGIS and QGIS, conducting landscape and visual impact assessments and capturing image data through drone surveys and photomontages. Dija is an affiliate member with the Landscape Institute and is an active participant of the Irish National Landscape Forum. Dija also regularly delivers guest lectures for students on the topic of LVIA at top third level institutions in Ireland.

Jack Workman MSc., TMLI, is the Landscape & Visual Project Director at MKO and is chartered as a Technician Member of the British Landscape Institute. Jack is an environmental scientist and an LVIA specialist with an academic background in the field of Environmental Science and Geography. Jack's primary role at MKO is scoping and writing LVIA for EIARs with over 5 years' experience managing all aspects of LVIA for a broad range of commercial infrastructure developments. Jack holds a BSc. in Psychology, and an MSc. in Coastal and Marine Environments (Physical Processes, Policy & Practice). Jack is an active participant in the National Landscape Forum, presenting in 2023 and 2024 on the topic of LVIA, he also regularly delivers guest lectures for students on the topic of LVIA at top third level institutions in Ireland including University of Galway, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and University College Cork. Jack holds a

membership with the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management and is also a member of the Landscape Research Group.

Michael Watson is the Environment Division Director in MKO, he has over 25 years' experience in the environmental sector. Following the completion of his master's degree in environmental resource management, Geography, from National University of Ireland, Maynooth he worked for the Geological Survey of Ireland and then a prominent private environmental consultancy prior to joining MKO in 2014. Michael's professional experience includes managing Environmental Impact Assessments and Landscape & Visual Impact Assessments on behalf of clients in the wind farm, waste management, commercial and industrial sectors nationally. Michael worked on the capture and development of photomontages as well as compiling the Landscape & Visual Impact Assessments for some of the first wind turbines being proposed in Ireland in the early 2000's and has been compiling and reviewing LVIA chapters for multiple wind farm projects each year since 2014. Michael is a key member of the MKO senior management team and as head of the Environment Division has responsibilities to mentor various grades of team members, foster a positive and promote continuous professional development for employees. Michael also has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography and Economics from NUI Maynooth, is a Member of IEMA, a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv).

## 13.1.2 Proposed Project Description

A full and detailed description of the Proposed Project can be found in Chapter 4: 'Description of the Proposed Project' of this EIAR. Section 4.1 of that chapter describes the Proposed Project and its component parts, including the works subject of a proposed application for planning permission to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP).

This planning application seeks a ten-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Project.

### 13.1.2.1 In-Text Reference to the Proposed Project

The following references to the Proposed Project are used throughout this chapter, as per the definitions in Chapter 1 of the EIAR:

- › The 'Proposed Project' refers to the entirety of the project (the 'Proposed Wind Farm' and the 'Proposed Grid Connection', as described below) for the purposes of this EIAR in accordance with the EIA directive. The Proposed Project is described in detail in Chapter 4 of this EIAR and is the subject of the accompanying planning application under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- › The 'Proposed Wind Farm' refers to the 14 no. turbines and supporting infrastructure, including the proposed 110kV onsite substation (detailed description provided in Chapter 4 of this EIAR);
  - The 'proposed turbines' refers to the 14 no. turbines associated with the Proposed Wind Farm as outlined above
- › The 'Proposed Grid Connection' refers to the 110kV underground cabling connection from the proposed 110kV onsite substation to the existing Dunmanway 110kV substation, and all ancillary works and apparatus. The Proposed Grid Connection will facilitate the connection of the Proposed Wind Farm to the national electricity grid;
- › The 'Site' refers to the primary study area for the EIAR, as delineated by the EIAR site boundary in green as shown in Figure 1-1 of the EIAR, and encompasses an area of approximately 1,175 hectares; and,
- › The 'Proposed Wind Farm site' refers to the portion of the Site surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm but excluding the portion of the Site surrounding the Proposed Grid Connection underground cabling route.

With respect to references throughout this chapter, where:

- The ‘northern turbine cluster’ is referred to, this relates to the 6 No. proposed turbines – T01 to T06 sited at the northern extent of the Proposed Wind Farm site.
- The ‘southern turbine cluster’ is referred to, this relates to the 8 No. proposed turbines – T07 to T14 sited at the southern extent of the Proposed Wind Farm site.

### 13.1.2.2 Essential Aspects of the Proposed Project from Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Perspective

This LVIA follows ‘The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition’ (hereafter, GLVIA3) published by Landscape Institute (LI) & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2013) as well as ‘Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3: Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2024-01’ (hereafter, LI TGN 24-01) published by the Landscape Institute (LI) (2024). This guidance states that:

*“It is important to make sure that the project description provides all the information needed to identify its effect on particular aspects of the environment. For LVIA, it is important to understand, from the project description, the essential aspects of the scheme that will potentially give rise to its effect on the landscape and visual amenity.”*

For the Proposed Project assessed in this Chapter, it is deemed that the tall, vertical nature of the proposed turbines make them the most prominent element from a landscape and visual perspective, having the most potential to give rise to significant landscape and visual effects. In this regard, the proposed turbines are deemed to be the ‘essential aspect’ of the development which will give rise to effects on the landscape and visual amenity and therefore are the primary focus of the LVIA.

The proposed 30m meteorological mast is also a tall vertical structure; therefore, it is included in the photomontage booklet and is fully considered throughout this chapter. However, it will be substantially less visible than any turbine given its shorter and slender lattice form.

Other components of the Proposed Project, such as the proposed 110kV onsite substation, are not deemed to be as visually prominent as the proposed turbines, however, they do have the potential to give rise to localised landscape and visual effects. These elements are given full consideration and assessment throughout this chapter.

### 13.1.3 Mitigation by Best Practice Wind Farm Design

Through the iterative project design process, various best practice tools for assessing the landscape and visual impact of a proposed wind farm development were utilised to bring forward the optimum design for the Proposed Project with respect to landscape and visual factors. These tools include landscape modelling, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping and the preparation of photomontage visualisations.

The iterative design process was informed by the siting and design guidance for wind farms in specific landscape types as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government (DoEHLG], 2006), hereafter the ‘the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006)’, and regard to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG, 2019), hereafter the ‘the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)’.

The final design of the Proposed Project included the omission of turbines from the project and careful micro-siting of infrastructure with the aim of preventing the potential for significant landscape and visual effects. Details of the various turbine layout iterations included as part of this design process are included in Chapter 3: ‘Site Selection & Reasonable Alternatives’ of this EIAR. Landscape and visual ‘mitigating’ factors which were key to the site selection and design of the Proposed Project are established below, these factors or of key relevance to this LVIA in this chapter.

- › The proposed turbines are sited in a remote, large-scale landscape comprising sparsely settled, marginal upland which can effectively accommodate wind energy development.
- › The proposed turbines are located within an area surrounded by large landforms and defined ridgelines which provide visual containment, obscuring open views of the proposed turbines from a vast proportion of the LVIA Study Area (see Section 13.2.1 below for definition), avoiding landscape and visual effects from a large number of sensitive receptors and large population centres;
- › The siting and design of the Proposed Wind Farm adheres to the guidance for design and siting of wind farms within Mountain Moorland Landscape Types in terms of location, spatial extent and spacing set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)
- › Siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the recommended 4 times tip height set back distance to third party properties, explicitly set out for residential visual amenity, prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
- › As shown in Chapter 3, the iterative design of the Proposed Project included removal/movement of 2 turbines at the far western extent of the southern turbine cluster to ensure no direct landscape effects on Co. Cork Landscape Character Type 4 which is designated as a High Value Landscape in local planning policy.
- › Omission and movement of proposed turbines at the western extent of the Site was also implemented as a measure to mitigate impacts on the landscape and visual setting of the Kealkill Stone Circle.
- › The proposed turbines are sited within the uplands of the Maughanaclea Valley to ensure acceptable separation from local receptors.
- › Strategic micros-siting of turbines below the most elevated ridges of the Site was implemented to reduce visibility, visual prominence and overall visual impacts on key sensitive receptors in the LVIA Study Area, whilst also balancing the requirement to ensure turbines are in the periphery of views within the Maughanaclea Valley, ensuring that the long ranging views of the rugged coastline and mountains to the west from Co. Cork designated Scenic Route SR-29 remain unobstructed.
- › The proposed 110kV onsite substation was strategically sited within a tract of conifer forestry, a location enclosed and visually contained by prominent landforms ensuring it will not be visible from nearby receptors, including residents and the R585 Regional Road, which is a designated scenic route. Significant visual effects will not occur from the proposed substation.
- › The internal site road layout makes use of the existing tracks wherever possible (to be upgraded for construction and the delivery of wind turbine components), to minimise the requirement for new tracks within the Site.
- › The intended connection to the national electricity grid is underground thereby eliminating potential landscape and visual effects from this component of the Proposed Project during the operational phase.

### 13.1.4 Scoping Replies / Pre-planning Meeting

A scoping and consultation exercise has been carried out by MKO, as detailed in Chapter 2 of this EIAR. A pre-planning consultation meeting took place with ACP on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

A detailed summary of the topics discussed at each of these pre-planning meetings is included in Section 2.6 of Chapter 2 of this EIAR. All feedback and communications detailed in Chapter 2 have been taken on board when compiling this chapter and assessment. In addition to feedback received from CCC, relevant observations from other consultees were also considered when compiling this chapter. Fáilte Ireland noted the presence of the Wild Atlantic Way along the west coast of County Cork. Fáilte Ireland requested that the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on the Wild Atlantic Way region be fully considered within the assessment.

13.2

## Brief Methodology and Assessment Criteria

This section briefly outlines the guidance and methodology used to undertake the LVIA of the Proposed Project; the full detailed description of the methodology is provided in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

There are five main sections to this assessment:

- › Visibility of the Proposed Project (e.g. ZTV mapping);
- › Landscape baseline;
- › Visual baseline;
- › Cumulative context with respect to other wind farm developments within the 25km LVIA Study Area;
- › Likely significant landscape and visual effects – summarising all landscape, visual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Project determined by this LVIA.

13.2.1

### Guidance

The legislation and general guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment is set out in Chapter 1 of this EIAR. The LVIA reported in this chapter was guided and informed by guidance documentation specifically pertaining to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Details of the guidance used to conduct this LVIA are outlined in Section 1.2 of the LVIA Methodology Appendix – Appendix 13-1.

13.2.2

### Scope and Definition of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Study Area

The Proposed Wind Farm is the key focus of the assessments in this Chapter as the proposed turbines are the primary essential aspect of the Proposed Project under assessment of the LVIA (as detailed previously in Section 13.1.2)

GLVIA3 (LI, IEMA, 2013) refers to the identification of the area of landscape that is to be covered while assessing landscape and visual effects, it states:

*“The study areas should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the Proposed Project may influence in a significant manner.”*

Landscape and visual baseline mapping and viewpoint selection are based on a wider study area referred to as the ‘LVIA Study Area.’ The geographical parameters for this LVIA were determined by desktop studies, survey work undertaken, the professional judgement of the assessment team, experience from other relevant projects and policy guidance or standards, such as:

- › *Appendix 3, Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006)* (including reference to the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)
- › GLVIA3, (Landscape Institute & IEMA, 2013).

The distance at which the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is set from a proposed wind farm development defines the parameters of the LVIA Study Area. The LVIA Study Area was chosen to 25km from the proposed turbines for landscape and visual effects, due to the proximity of ‘West Cork Peninsula’, a landscape of *very high* sensitivity in the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. This landscape may also be classified as of international renown due to its high scenic value along the Cork coastline. Therefore, the 25km LVIA Study Area was chosen as per the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019):

*“In areas where landscapes of national or international renown are located within 25km of a proposed wind energy development, the Zone of Theoretical Visibility should be*

*extended as far (and in the direction of) that landscape. This reflects the fact that highly sensitive landscapes deserve extra special treatment by developers and planners”*

Through experience conducting LVIA for other wind energy development projects, the assessment team determined that no significant effects on landscape character are likely to arise beyond distances of 15km from the proposed turbines. Therefore, a study area of 15km, hereafter referred to as the ‘LCA Study Area’, is deemed appropriate for the assessment of effects upon designated Landscape Character Areas.

Furthermore, as prescribed by best practice guidance, the professional judgement of the assessment team, the following topic areas have been scoped out of the assessment:

- › Effects on landscape and visual receptors that have minimal or no theoretical visibility (as predicted by the ZTV) and/or very distant visibility, and are therefore unlikely to be subject to significant effects;
- › Effects on designated sensitive landscape receptors beyond a 25km radius from the proposed turbines, from where it is judged that potential significant effects on key characteristics and/or special qualities, or views are judged unlikely to occur;
- › Effects on designated Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) beyond a 15 km radius from the proposed turbines, where it is judged that potential significant effects on landscape character are unlikely to occur;
- › Effects on visual receptors beyond a 25km radius from the proposed turbines, where it is judged that potential significant effects are unlikely to occur;
- › Cumulative landscape and visual effects beyond a 25km radius from the proposed turbines, where it is judged that potential significant cumulative effects are unlikely to occur.
- › Cumulative effects in combination with single turbines with a tip height lower than 50 metres beyond 3km from the proposed turbines, where it is judged that significant effects are unlikely to occur in these potential cumulative scenarios.

### 13.2.3 Baseline Landscape and Visual Information

An initial desk study of baseline information was undertaken that has informed the LVIA, divided into ‘Landscape Baseline’ and ‘Visual Baseline’ components, as follows:

#### Landscape Baseline

- › Policies and objectives contained in the relevant county development plan (County Cork) pertaining to landscape and wind energy.
- › Landscape designations in the LVIA Study Area (High Value Landscapes; Views and Prospects; Landscape Character Areas)
- › Landscape characteristics of designated LCTs in the LCA Study Area
- › Landscape character of the Proposed Wind Farm site based on:
  - Site Surveys undertaken in 2022-2025
  - Characterisation of the Site as defined in relation to specific Landscape Character Types defined in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019);

#### Visual Baseline

- › Identification of visual receptors in the LVIA Study Area;
- › Preliminary analysis of visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm from visual receptors using ZTV mapping and on-site visibility appraisals.
- › Visibility in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm according to a Route Screening Analysis (RSA), a method developed by MKO to quantify visual screening relative to the proposed turbines.

## 13.2.4 Assessment of Potential Impacts

The LVIA process used in this Chapter is presented in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* and includes clearly documented methods based on guidelines of the GLVIA3 (LI & IEMA, 2013) as follows.

First, this LVIA considers landscape and visual ‘Sensitivity’ balanced with the ‘Magnitude of Change’ to determine the likely significance of effects. Second, mitigating factors are then considered to arrive at ‘Residual’ landscape and visual effects. Third, residual landscape and visual effects are graded upon an ‘impact assessment classification of significance’ scale, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ‘*Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*’ (EPA, 2022) ranging as follows: ‘Imperceptible’, ‘Not Significant’, ‘Slight’, ‘Moderate’, ‘Significant’, ‘Very Significant’ or ‘Profound’.

Photomontages are used as an illustrative tool to assess potential impacts, whereby the potential landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the proposed turbines are assessed from viewpoint locations representative of prominent landscape and visual receptors located within the LVIA Study Area. Throughout this Chapter, ‘theoretical visibility’ is referred to, based on ZTV mapping (see below Section 13.3.1 Visibility of the Proposed Project), and is assessed to compare ‘theoretical’ versus ‘actual’ visibility. The detailed methods used to produce ZTV maps and photomontages are included in *Appendix 13-1*.

## 13.2.5 LVIA: Wind Energy Context

Given Ireland’s renewable energy targets which have been set by the State for onshore renewable wind energy development, i.e., 9GW of onshore wind<sup>1</sup>, wind turbines will form a new component in the working landscape for the foreseeable future. The focus for visual impact assessment of wind energy developments is therefore distance, arrangement, location and potential disruption to key scenic sensitivities rather than a commonly misconceived focus on whether turbines are visible or not from a particular vantage point. The outcome of the visual impact assessment, with regards to the EPA, 2022 definition of significance, is calibrated in the overall context of LVIA of wind energy developments in Ireland and what is acceptable in the context of emerging baseline trends and the acceptability of wind turbines within views as a result of national policy.

Over time, wind turbines have, and will become, a more familiar and accepted component of the Irish landscape, particularly in working rural contexts. Accordingly, their presence may not carry the same level of perceived visual intrusion as less common or incongruous forms of development. In this context, the calibration of visual impact significance reflects both the policy-driven imperative for renewable energy development and the evolving visual baseline in parts of the Irish landscape. While the visibility of turbines remains an important consideration, it does not in itself equate to significant visual impact.

Key factors of focus in the overall impact assessment on visual receptors in relation to photomontages are:

- › The scale of the proposed turbines as a result of setback distance;
- › The number of turbines visible;
- › Full or partial visibility of turbines e.g. are they partially screened by features
- › Horizontal extent - how do the proposed turbines comprise the field of view experienced by receptors, with regard given to their composition within both 53.5 or 90-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
- › Overall visual coherency with regards to form and arrangement and how the proposed turbines correspond to the landscape from a particular vantage point as per best practice siting and design guidance

<sup>1</sup> Department of Climate Energy and the Environment (2025) Climate Action Plan 2025

## 13.3 Visibility of the Proposed Project

### 13.3.1 ZTV Mapping: Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Turbines

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping is an important step in the LVIA process in that it clearly shows which areas of the LVIA Study Area will have theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines and which areas will have no theoretical visibility.

The ZTV mapping methodology outlined in Section 1.3 of *Appendix 13-1* was used to examine the theoretical visibility of the 14 no. proposed turbines from all landscape and visual receptors within the LVIA Study Area, using the half blade height of the wind turbines as points of reference. As noted in *Appendix 13-1*, actual visibility on the ground is significantly less than predicted by the ZTV mapping due to intervening factors such as on-site screening from natural and man-made features, atmospheric weather, and/or localised topography.

Generation of the ZTV utilises large scale topographical data (interpolation across 25m contour data) and does not account for topographical variation of smaller scale (e.g., < 10 metre). Therefore, in reality, small, localised undulating topographical landscapes are likely to inhibit further visibility of the proposed turbines that may not be represented in the ZTV map. Other features of the landscape such as vegetation and man-made elements are also likely to obscure the proposed turbines from view from many areas where the ZTV indicates there is full visibility. In this regard, the ZTV is a useful tool to indicate where there is definitely no visibility of the proposed turbines, therefore, receptors located in these areas can be scoped out from further assessment.

#### 13.3.1.1 Half Blade ZTV of the Proposed Turbines

A half blade ZTV is shown in Figure 13-1 below. The ZTV map is used within several mapping figures included in this chapter to enable assessment of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from landscape and visual receptors. Separate colour bands are used on each ZTV map to indicate the number of turbines of which the half blade will potentially be visible. The legend on each map shows the number of theoretically visible turbines for each corresponding colour, which are as follows:

- › Orange: 1-3 turbines theoretically visible
- › Teal: 4-7 turbines theoretically visible
- › Yellow: 8-11 turbines theoretically visible
- › Navy: 12-14 turbines theoretically visible

Figure 13-2 below shows the topographical features and elevation gradients existent within the receiving landscape of the LVIA Study Area, the geography of these topographical landforms defines the distribution of theoretical visibility illustrated in Figure 13-1.

The southern turbine cluster is positioned on the Maughanaclea Hills to the south, while the northern turbine cluster is located on the foothills of the Shehy Beg Mountains to the north, with a small upland valley and the natural divide of the ‘Cousane Gap’ mountain pass situated between them. The mountainous terrain extends northwest from the Proposed Wind Farm towards Knockboy Mountain, the highest peak in the Shehy Mountain Range, along with Carran, Doughill, and Connigar mountains, which form part of the Cork-Kerry border. These topographical features, combined with additional localised undulations within the wider LVIA Study Area, result in limited theoretical visibility across the LVIA Study Area, as shown in Figure 13-1.

#### Description of Theoretical Visibility within 5km of the Proposed Turbines

Within 5km, full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines is predominantly confined to the Maughanaclea valley located between the two turbine clusters extending westward, and to the north towards Doughill and Douce Mountain. The Yellow area on the ZTV to the south of the southern turbine clusters shows that the

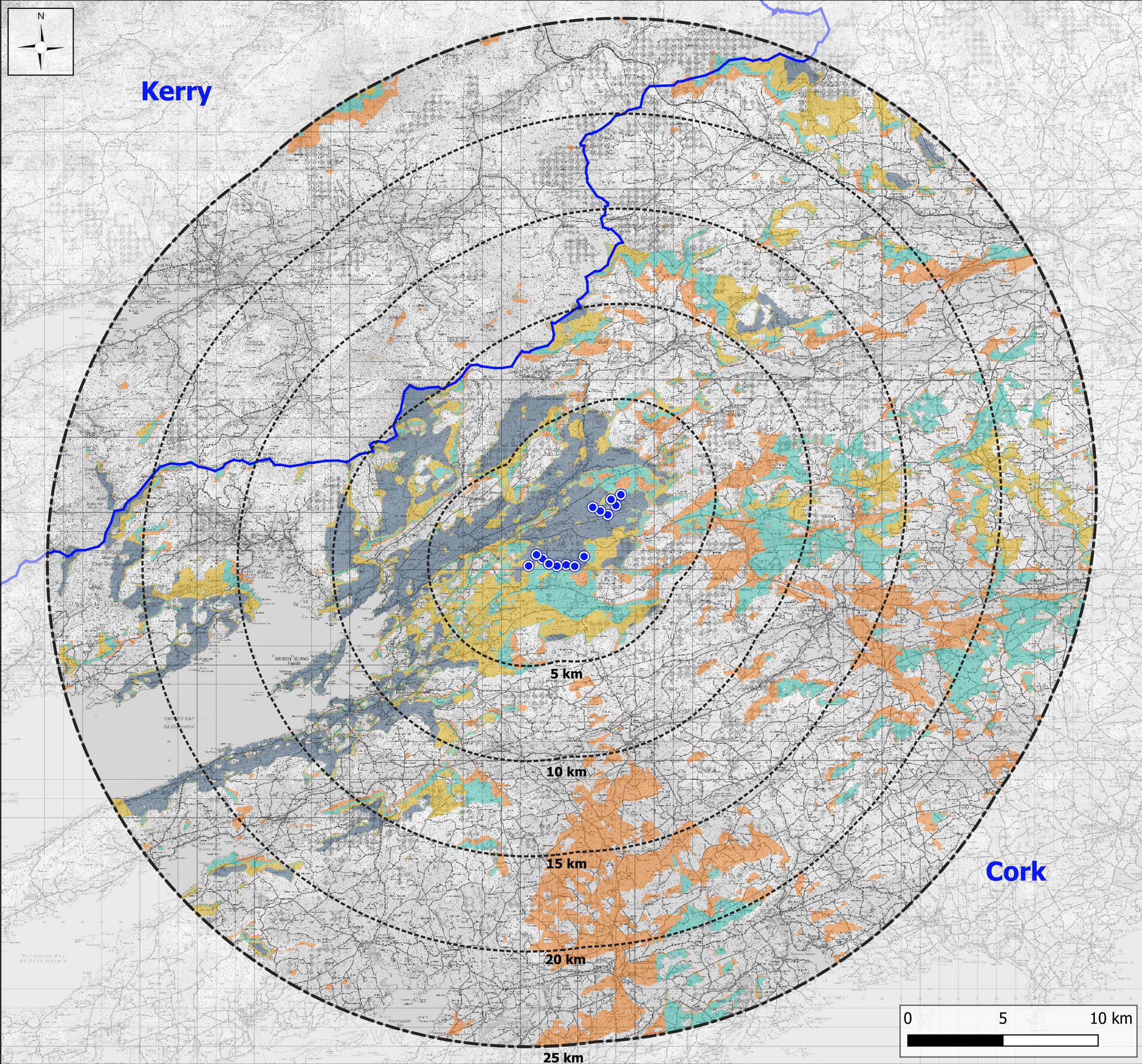
proposed turbines of the northern turbine cluster will have very limited theoretical visibility in the Mealagh valley to the south of southern turbine cluster. This occurs as the southern side of the Maughanaclea Valley (ridgeline of the southern turbine cluster) will visually screen the northern turbine cluster from view.

### Theoretical Visibility within the Wider LVIA Study Area

As shown in Figure 13-3, the proposed turbines are encircled by a horseshoe shaped series of mountainous peaks and large landforms. In a clockwise direction, landforms of the Shehy Range are located to the west and north of the proposed turbines (Knockboy approx. 7km west, Carran approx. 5km North, Doughill approx. 5km, and Connigar approx. 5km), with Shehy Beg and the Maughanaclea Hills immediately to the east and Mullahghmesh to the south. These landforms enclosing the proposed turbines act as a visual barrier, confining the visual envelope of the proposed turbines, restricting theoretical visibility beyond 5km to the north, east and south, excepting only on other mountainous peaks. Most theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines beyond 5km occurs to the south-west only, therefore receptors in this direction are of key focus in this LVIA.

In general, the ZTV indicates that the siting of the proposed turbines on elevated terrain and the topographical characteristics of the surrounding landscape greatly reduce theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from a large proportion of the LVIA Study Area. This includes extensive areas beyond 10km of the proposed turbines, particularly to the north-east, east, and south.

As depicted in Figure 13-1 and discussed above, there is little to no theoretical visibility to the northwest, where County Kerry is situated, due to topographical screening. Consequently, no visual or landscape effects are anticipated within this county. County Kerry has been scoped out from assessment within this LVIA and will not be addressed any further within the remainder of this chapter.



**Map Legend**

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines

**Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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Drawing No.

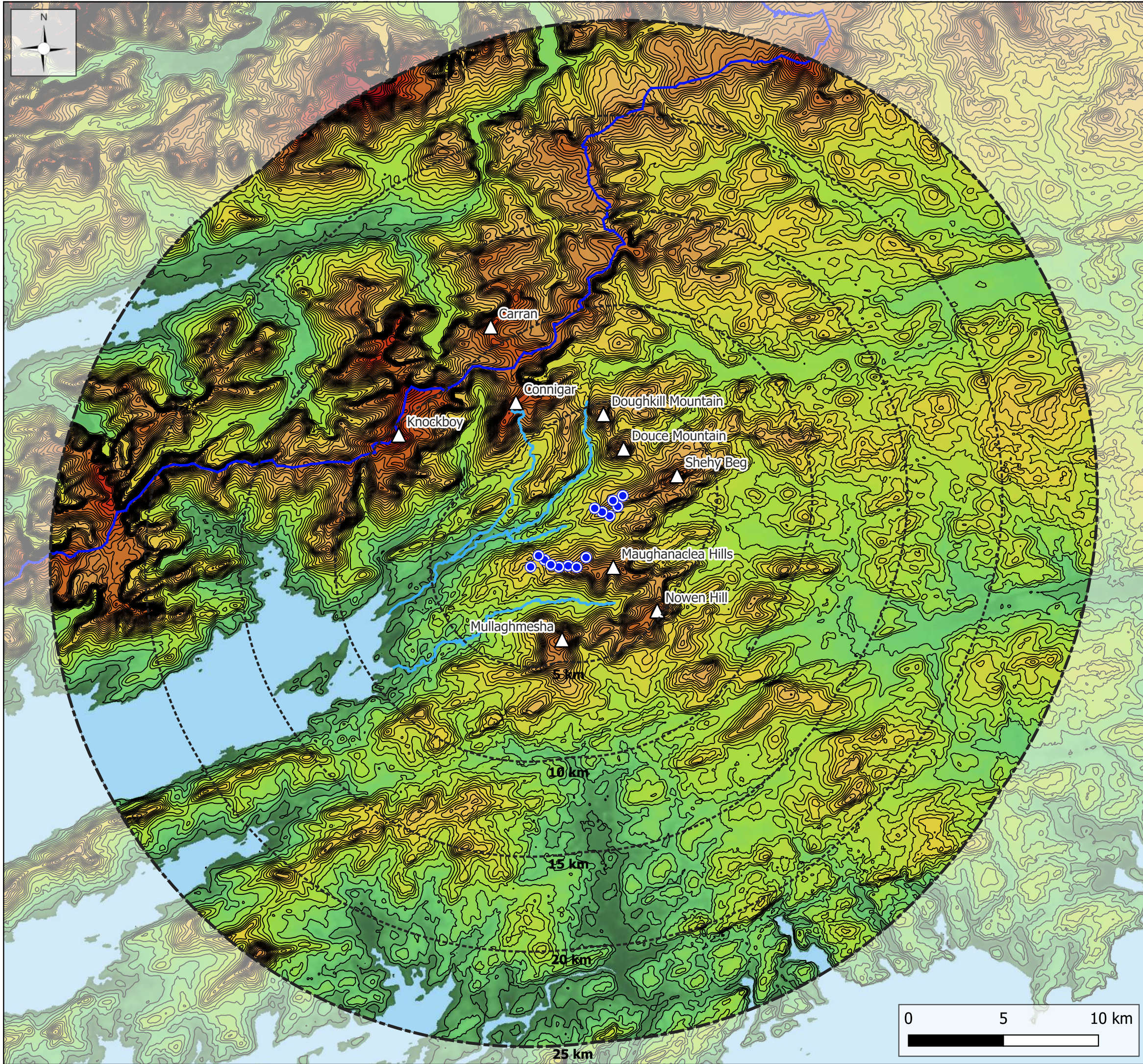
**Figure 13-1**

Drawing Title: Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Project Title: Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	16.02.2026	GL	JW

**MKO**



**Map Legend**

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- △ Key Topographical Features
- 20m Contours
- Key Rivers

**Elevation Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)**

- 0m
- 50m
- 100m
- 200m
- 300m
- 400m
- 500m
- 600m
- 700m

Drawing No.

Figure 13-2

Drawing Title

Physical Landscape Features

Project Title

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale

1:195,000

Project No.

240225

Date

09.03.2026

Drawn By

GL

Checked By

JW



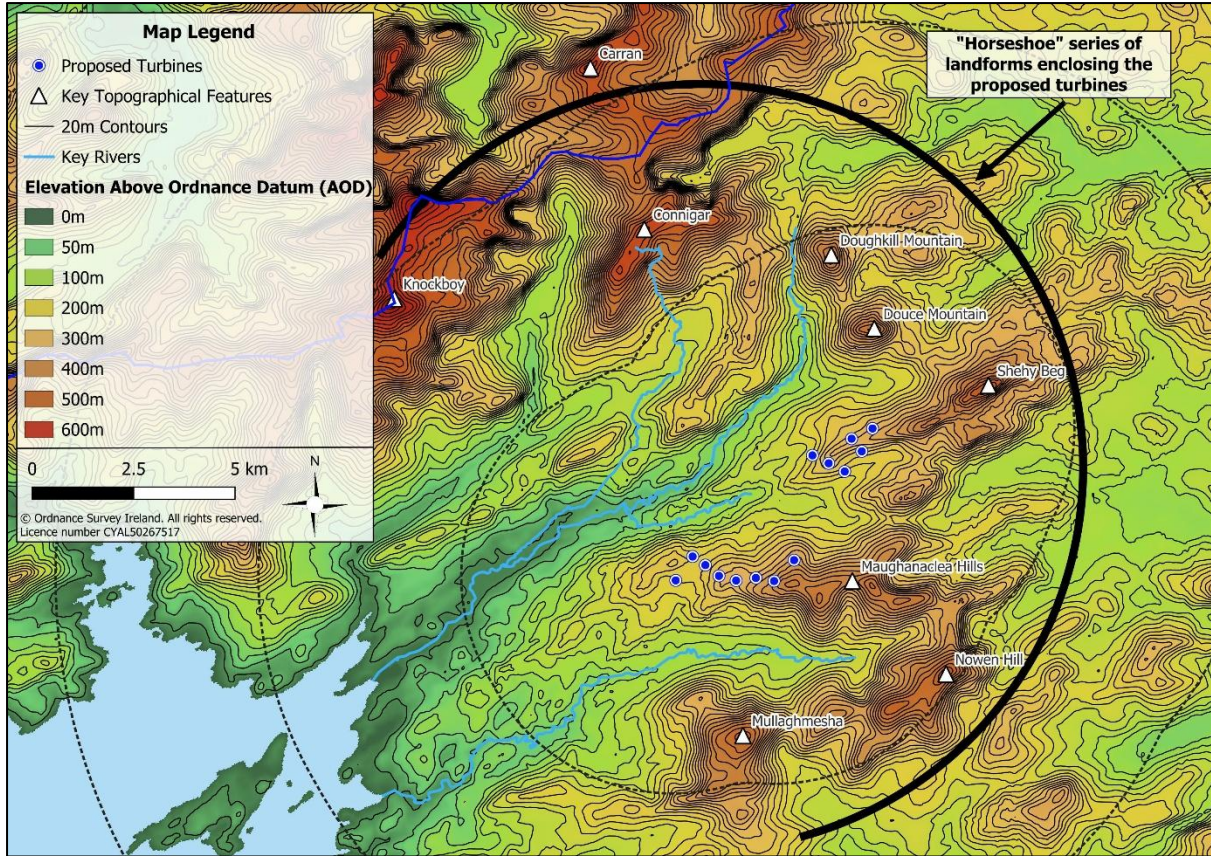


Figure 13-3 Topographical Landscape Features Map with identification of 'horseshoe'

### 13.3.2 On-Site Appraisal of Actual Visibility During Field Surveys

As mentioned previously, the ZTV map is a useful tool to indicate areas where there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines. In practice, vast areas of the LVIA Study Area which have an indication of full theoretical visibility by the ZTV map (Figure 13-1) are likely to have no visibility of the proposed turbines due to visual screening from other above ground features existent within the landscape.

Multiple field surveys were conducted during the years 2022, 2024 and 2025 to determine the actual visibility from locations where the ZTV has indicated full theoretical visibility. These surveys determined that visual screening from localised undulations in topography, vegetation and man-made elements substantially reduce the likelihood of viewing the proposed turbines in a vast proportion of the LVIA Study Area. Most local settlements, and road networks in the LVIA Study Area are situated within the lower-lying depressions of the landscape, following the narrow valleys adjacent to rivers and more fertile lowland, localised undulations and also greater density of vegetation reduces the visual exposure of the proposed turbines within these low-lying areas

In many instances, visual screening caused by the gently undulating and highly vegetated landscape beyond 5km from the proposed turbines did not permit open views in the direction of the proposed turbines. Visibility is only likely to occur in isolated, elevated vantage points where open, long-ranging landscape views in the direction of the proposed turbines were found. Representative photomontages were captured from elevated locations where open views towards the proposed turbines were found. Visual effects arising from such locations are assessed in Section 13.7 – *Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Effects*.

### 13.3.3 Visibility in Close Proximity: Route Screening Analysis (RSA)

In this LVIA, Route Screening Analysis (RSA) was carried out within a 3km radius of the proposed turbines and on major roads (and Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects) extending to 5km. RSA was conducted to comprehensively demonstrate the varying characteristics of the degree of visual screening existent along the local road network and to record the actual visibility of the proposed turbines in comparison to the theoretical visibility indicated by ZTV mapping. The full methodology is outlined in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* (Section 1.5.3: On-Site Visibility Appraisal: RSA).

The RSA visual screening categories are:

- › **‘Little/No’** visual screening: areas of the road that are mainly open with open views in the direction of the proposed turbines (see example below in Plate 13-1);
- › **‘Intermittent/Partial’** visual screening: areas of the road where there are intermittent or partial views in the direction of the proposed turbines (see Plate 13-2);
- › **‘Dense/Full’** visual screening: areas of the road with dense visual screening, sufficient to block views in the direction of the proposed turbines (see Plate 13-3).

Below, Figure 13-4 shows the extent to which each visual screening classification is present on all public roads within 3km of the proposed turbines, and on major roads extending to 5km, using the following colour scheme: Little/None (green); Intermittent/Partial (blue); Dense/Full (orange).

#### 13.3.3.1 RSA Summary and Visibility Appraisal

##### Summary of RSA Results

‘Little/No’ visual screening was recorded along 57% of the surveyed roads and was the most common class recorded. ‘Intermittent/Partial’ visual screening was recorded along 25% of the roads. ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening was recorded for 18% of roads.

The RSA map depicted below in Figure 13-4 shows little or no visual screening on the roads at higher elevations where there are open views across the upland landscape. Whereas Partial and Full visual screening mostly occurs within lower lying lands within small valleys surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm site where vegetation is more prevalent.

Given that there is at least some level of visual screening present along the majority (43% = Intermittent + Dense screening combined) of all public roads within 3km and those extending to 5km, this demonstrates that the widespread theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV in close proximity to the proposed turbines is not fully representative of the actual on-the-ground visibility of the proposed turbines.

An overview of the visual screening recorded during the RSA along prominent transport routes within 5km of the proposed turbines is presented below in Table 13-1, followed by discussion.



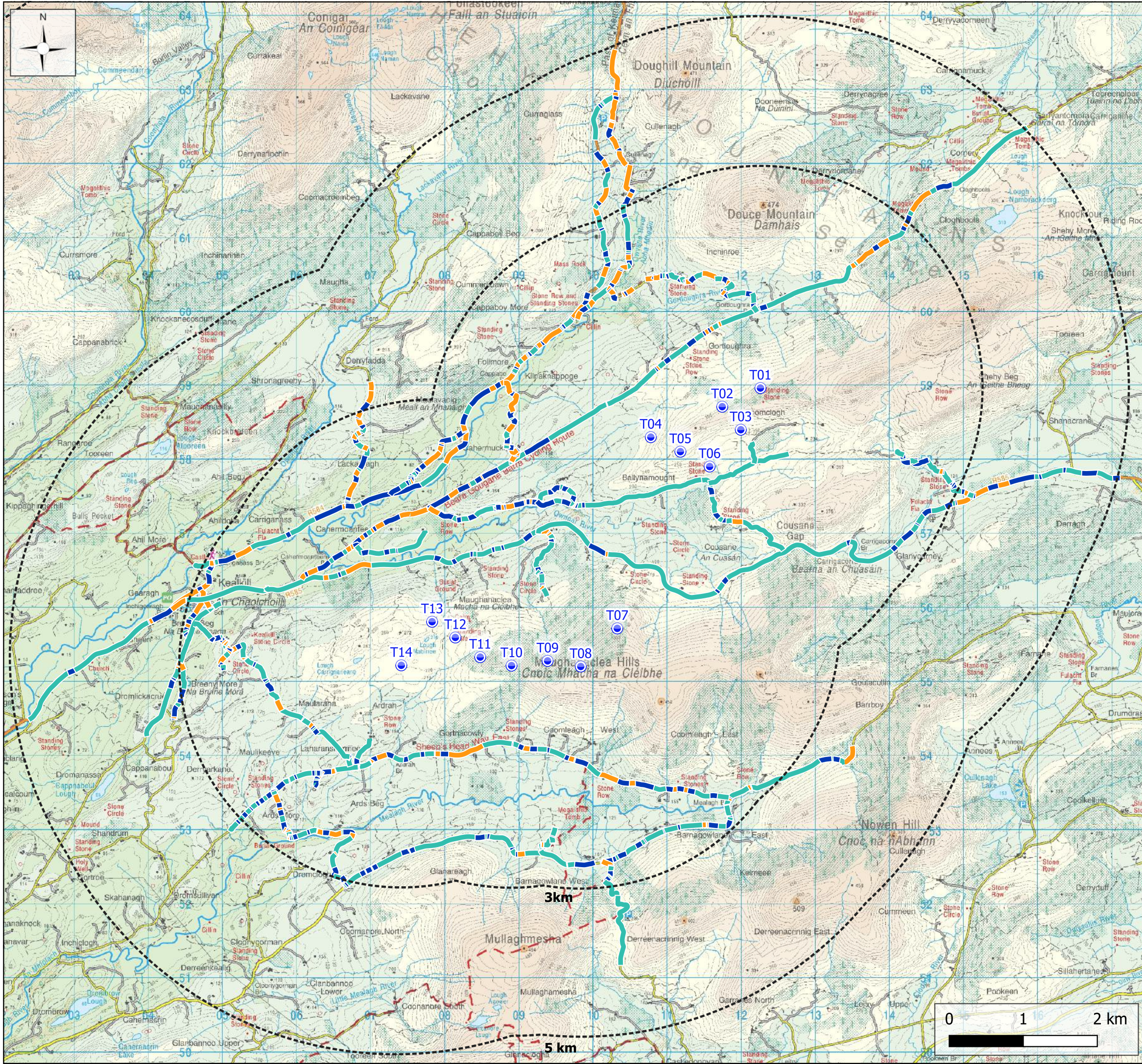
*Plate 13-1 Example of 'Little/No' Visual Screening*



*Plate 13-2 Example of 'Partial/Intermittent' Visual Screening*



*Plate 13-3 Example of 'Full/Dense' Visual Screening*



### Map Legend

- RSA Extent
- Proposed Turbines
- Route Screening Analysis**
- Little / No Visual Screening
- Intermittent / Partial Visual Screening
- Dense / Full Screening

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Figure 13-4

### Route Screening Analysis

Project Title  
**Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development**

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:50,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW



Table 13-1: Distribution of Roadside Visual Screening Recorded during RSA

Visual Screening Class	Length of Road Mapped in Figure 13-4	Percentage Distribution of Visual Screening on Surveyed Roads
‘Little/No’	52km	57%
‘Intermittent/Partial’	22.6km	25%
‘Dense/Full’	16.7km	18%

### C-SR29 Scenic Route (R585 Regional Road)

The C-SR29 Scenic Route, located along the R585 Regional Road travels in a west-east direction traversing the northern and southern turbine clusters of the Proposed Wind Farm. The majority of the route is characterised by ‘Little/No’ visual screening with small stretches of ‘Intermittent/Partial’ and ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening.

### C-SR28 Scenic Route / Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route (R-584 Regional Road, L-8776, L-8544, L-8779, L-8780 Local Roads)

Within 5km from the nearest proposed turbine, the R584 Regional Road travels from a north to south-west direction and includes a section of the C-SR28 Scenic Route. The route has a variety of visual screening, with some prolonged stretches of ‘Intermittent/Partial’ and ‘Little/No’ visual screening towards the settlement of Kealkill.

The Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route, which loops within 5km of the nearest proposed turbines, primarily experiences ‘Little/No’ visual screening along the L-8776 Local Road. Other sections of the route exhibit a mosaic patten of visibility, including ‘Little/No’, ‘Intermittent/Partial’ and ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening.

Views from the Bearra Gougane Barra Cycling Route and the C-SR28 scenic route are assessed in this Chapter, represented by VP7 and VP14.

### Sheep’s Head Way Recreational Route and other local roads (L-8777, L-8773, L-4718, L-4717 local roads)

The local roads south of the southern turbine cluster, which form part of the ‘Sheep’s Head Way’ recreational route and other recreational routes, primarily experience prolonged stretches of ‘Little/No’ visual screening. These roads, within the immediate vicinity of the proposed turbines will have the most open views towards the proposed turbines. Views from these local roads are assessed in this chapter, discussed in Section 13.7 below.

## 13.4 Landscape Baseline

The Landscape Baseline section details relevant policies pertinent to this LVIA, as well a description of the receiving landscape of the Proposed Project site and its wider setting.

### 13.4.1 Landscape Designations and Policy Context

This section provides an overview of local planning policy and identifies landscape and visual protections, designations and spatial zoning for wind energy development relevant to the LVIA of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is located in Co. Cork, therefore the Cork County Development Plan 2022–2028 (hereafter ‘CCDP’) was the primary document used to inform this exercise.

### 13.4.1.1 County Cork Development Plan 2022-2028 (CCDP)

Volume 1 comprises the main policy material of the CCDP. Chapter 14 of Volume 1 is called ‘Green Infrastructure and Recreation’ and includes the following sections specifically relating to landscape and visual amenity:

- › Section 14-7: Landscape.
- › Section 14-8: Landscape Character Assessment of County Cork.
- › Section 14-9: Landscape Views and Prospects.

Volume 6 of the CCDP includes a link to a webmap browser comprising spatial data that illustrates the geography of different landscape and visual designations in the CCDP.

#### 13.4.1.1.1 General Landscape Policy

*Section 14-8* of the CCDP references the Landscape Character Assessment of County Cork (hereafter, the LCACC), which includes an “*evaluation of each landscape character type in terms of its Landscape Value, Sensitivity and Importance*”. The LCACC is contained in the ‘*Draft Cork County Landscape Strategy 2007*’ (hereafter, the *Draft Landscape Strategy*) which identifies Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs).

*Section 14-8* of the CCDP contains the following general landscape policies and objectives:

**“GL 14-9 Landscape:**

- a) *Protect the visual and scenic amenities of County Cork’s built and natural environment.*
- b) *Landscape issues will be an important factor in all land-use proposals, ensuring that a pro-active view of development is undertaken while protecting the environment and heritage generally in line with the principle of sustainability.*
- c) *Ensure that new development meets high standards of siting and design.*
- d) *Protect skylines and ridgelines from development.*
- e) *Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of extensive amounts of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments.*

**GL 14-10 Draft Landscape Strategy:**

*Ensure that the management of development throughout the County will have regard for the value of the landscape, its character, distinctiveness and sensitivity as recognised in the Cork County Draft Landscape Strategy and its recommendations, in order to minimise the visual and environmental impact of development, particularly in areas designated as High Value Landscapes where higher development standards (layout, design, landscaping, materials used) will be required.*

**GL 14-11 Draft Landscape Strategy, Land Use Plans and Policy Guidance:**

*Have regard to the Draft Cork County Landscape Strategy (2007) in the preparation of plans and other policy guidance being prepared during the lifetime of the Plan.*

*Review and update the Draft Cork County Landscape Strategy as soon as is practicable following the publication of a National Landscape Character Assessment as well as taking into account any associated guidelines.*

*Whilst advocating the protection of such scenic resources the Plan also recognises the fact that all landscapes are living and changing, and therefore in principle it is not proposed that this should give rise to the prohibition of development along these routes, but development, where permitted, should not hinder or obstruct these views and prospects and should be designed and located to minimise their*

*impact. This principle will encourage appropriate landscaping and screen planting of developments along scenic routes.”*

The following subsections address the specific elements covered by this planning policy including the designations of the landscape character assessment, the designated Views and Prospects, as well as the High Value Landscapes.

#### 13.4.1.1.2 **County Cork Landscape Character Assessment**

The Landscape Character Assessment of County Cork is contained in the *Draft Landscape Strategy 2007* and identifies 76 designated Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The LCAs were then amalgamated into a set of 16 generic Landscape Character Types (LCTs) based on similar physical and visual characteristics. The *Draft Landscape Strategy 2007* designates Landscape Character Types as “*bigger, generic units with similar physical and visual characteristics.*”

As there is very little detail on the Co. Cork LCAs, it is assumed that the LCTs are to be viewed as the equivalent to LCAs identified in other counties of Ireland. Therefore, for the purposes of this LVIA, assessment of landscape character considers the LCT designations instead of the LCAs as they are more detailed and contain specific landscape value and sensitivity designations in the CCDP and are therefore most appropriate for use. LCTs are assigned ‘sensitivity’ and ‘importance’ ratings in the *Draft Landscape Strategy*, as well as in Volume 1 of the CCDP. Therefore, the LCTs are used in the LCACC for the assessment of effects on landscape character in this LVIA.

The LCTs which are located within the 15km LCA Study Area are outlined below:

- › **LCT 4** – Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)
- › **LCT 6a** – Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys (Blarney – Ballincollig – Carrigaline – West Dunmanway)
- › **LCT 7a** – Rolling Patchwork Farmland (Bandon – Clonakilty – Leap and Environs)
- › **LCT 9** – Broad Marginal Middleground and Lowland Basin
- › **LCT 10a** – Fissured Fertile Middleground (South of the Gearagh)
- › **LCT 12a** – Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground (Ballyvourney Gaeltacht)
- › **LCT 12b** – Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
- › **LCT 13a** – Valleyed Marginal Middleground (Macroom and Environs)
- › **LCT 15a** – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet)
- › **LCT 16a** – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra)
- › **LCT 16b** – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Cullenagh Lake)
- › **LCT 16c** – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Foilanumera)

These LCTs located within the LVIA Study Area are shown in Figure 13-10 and Figure 13-11 below and outlined in the sub-sections below. The Proposed Wind Farm itself is located within LCT 15a – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet). The *Draft Landscape Strategy* describes this LCT as:

*“The ridged, peaked and forested upland landscape type flanks much of the mid-western boundary of County Cork, from the vicinity of Bantry in the south to Millstreet in the north. This landscape type has been glaciated and comprises a fairly rugged and rolling mountainous topography at a relatively high elevation.”*

A full description of the key characteristics of LCTs scoped in for further assessment below in Section 13.4.3.2 are included in the LCT impact assessment tables comprising Appendix 13-2.

As stated above, the LCTs described in the *Draft Landscape Strategy* contain a mixture of sensitivities and values. The sensitivity of the landscapes within County Cork are discussed in the following sub-section.

### 13.4.1.1.3 Landscape Sensitivity Designations

Section 1.1 of the *Draft Landscape Strategy* defines Landscape Sensitivity as “the measure of a landscape’s ability to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to its character and values.”

Section 14.8.3 of the CCDP discusses the values and sensitivities assigned for LCTs in the *Draft Landscape Strategy* and states that each landscape character type is valued in terms of its “Landscape Value, Sensitivity and Importance” and defines the ‘value’ as “the environment or cultural benefits, including services and functions, which are derived from various landscape attributes”; thus value in this LVIA is evaluated in terms of its Landscape Value, Sensitivity and Importance according to the CCDP.

Section 14.8.4 defines the ‘sensitivity’ of each character type as “the ability to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to its character and values.” The sensitivity of the different LCTs in County Cork are categorised into four classes: *Low, Medium, High, and Very High*. These sensitivity classes are assigned to each LCT, along with a landscape importance of “Local, County, or National” value within the *Draft Landscape Strategy*.

The Proposed Wind Farm is located within LCT 15a – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet). *Appendix F* of the CCDP designates LCT 15 with a ‘High’ Landscape Value, ‘High’ Landscape Sensitivity and level of ‘Local’ Importance.

According to the CCDP, High Sensitivity Landscapes are defined as:

*“[V]ulnerable landscapes with the ability to accommodate limited development pressure. In this rank, landscape quality is at a high level, landscape elements are highly sensitive to certain types of change. If pressure for development exceed the landscape’s limitations the character of the landscape may change.”*

Section 14.8.8 of the CCDP notes that “Landscape Character Types which have a very high or high landscape value and high or very high landscape sensitivity and are of county or national importance are considered to be our most valuable landscapes and therefore are designated as High Value Landscapes (HVL).” These are shown in *Figure 14.2* of the CCDP. LCT 15 is not designated as an HVL, as noted in *Figure 14.2* of the CCDP.

There are 16 LCTs in County Cork, which are further subdivided into A, B, and C variants, giving a total of 27 LCTs. Each LCT is assigned a combination of Landscape Value, Landscape Sensitivity, and an Importance rating, as discussed in Section 13.4.1.1.3 previously, these range from Very Low to Very High, with Importance defined as being of Local, County, or National significance.

As summarised in the *Summary Table of the Landscape Character Assessment of County Cork* (Appendix F of the CCDP), Landscape Value and Landscape Sensitivity pairings occur consistently as Very High / Very High, High / High, Medium / Medium, or Low / Low. Within this hierarchy, High / High is the second highest on this scale.

Furthermore, at a broader regional and national scale, LCT 15a is noted as being at the lower end, recognised as being of ‘Local Importance’, and it is not identified as one of the most highly valued landscapes within the county. There are 9 other Co. Cork LCTs (approx. 34.5% of all Cork LCTs) with higher in combination sensitivity, value and importance ratings, with 2 others having the same rating combination (approx. 11% of all Cork LCTs) and 14 having a lower sensitivity rating (approx. 54% of all Cork LCTs). This LVIA has due regard for the county level designations in the CCDP. However, as per the methodology set out in Section 1.7.3 of Appendix 13-1, this LVIA assesses LCA sensitivity in the context of wind energy development, calibrated within a regional and national context.

## Co. Cork Designated ‘High Value Landscapes’ - HVL

The *Draft Landscape Strategy* designates a landscape value to each LCT, stating that “*value represents aesthetic, ecological, historical, socio-cultural, religious and other characteristics of the LCA*” and that the Landscape Type Values are defined on the basis of Landscape Area Values. The *Draft Landscape Strategy* notes further that the “*overall value of the landscape types represents evaluation on a larger scale for the wider generic areas.*”

The *Draft Landscape Strategy* establishes value classifications of ‘*Very Low, Low, Medium, High or Very High*’.

As noted previously, *Section 18.8.8* of the CCDP notes that “*Landscape Character Types which have a very high or high landscape value and high or very high landscape sensitivity and are of county or national importance are considered to be our most valuable landscapes and therefore are designated as High Value Landscapes (HVL)*”.

*Section 14.8.9* of the CCDP states further that:

*“Within these High Value Landscapes, considerable care will be needed to successfully locate large-scale developments without them becoming unduly obtrusive. Therefore, the location, siting and design of large-scale developments within these areas will need careful consideration and any such developments should generally be supported by an assessment including a visual impact assessment which would involve an evaluation of visibility and prominence of the Proposed Project in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape.”*

As noted previously, while LCT 15a (containing the Proposed Wind Farm) is of ‘High Landscape Value’ and has a ‘High Landscape Sensitivity’ in the *CCDP*, it is only assigned of ‘Local’ Importance, therefore it **is not** designated as an HVL.

There are three Landscape Character Types (LCTs) classified as High Value Landscapes within the LVIA Study Area. They are:

- › LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)
- › LCT 16a – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouanne Barra)
- › LCT 8 – Hilly River and Reservoir Valleys

These LCTs are assessed in Appendix 13-2 as Landscape Character Types in their own right. However, due to their high sensitivity, these High Value Landscape LCTs are also assessed as sensitive landscape receptors in terms of their sensitive landscape value in *Section 13.7 – Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Effects*, as per **Policy GL 14-10** quoted above.

### 13.4.1.1.4 Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects

The CCDP designates specific Scenic Routes consisting of important and valuable Views and Prospects within the county. The CCDP contains the following relevant policy objectives within *Section 14.9* in relation to Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects:

***GI 14-12: General Views and Prospects***

*Preserve the character of all important views and prospects, particularly sea views, river or lake views, views of unspoilt mountains, upland or coastal landscapes, views of historical or cultural significance (including buildings and townscapes) and views of natural beauty as recognized in the Draft Landscape Strategy.*

***GI 14-13: Scenic Routes***

*Protect the character of those views and prospects obtainable from scenic routes and in particular stretches of scenic routes that have very special views and prospects identified in this Plan. The scenic routes identified in this Plan are shown on the scenic amenity maps in the CDP Map Browser and are listed in Volume 2 Heritage and Amenity Chapter 5 Scenic Routes of this Plan.*

**GI 14-14: Development on Scenic Routes**

- a) *Require those seeking to carry out development in the environs of a scenic route and/or an area with important views and prospects, to demonstrate that there will be no adverse obstruction or degradation of the views towards and from vulnerable landscape features. In such areas, the appropriateness of the design, site layout, and landscaping of the Proposed Project must be demonstrated along with mitigation measures to prevent significant alterations to the appearance or character of the area.*
- b) *Encourage appropriate landscaping and screen planting of developments along scenic routes (see Chapter 16 Built and Cultural Heritage)."*

**GI 14-15: Development on the Approaches to Towns and Villages**

*Ensure that the approach roads to towns and villages are protected from inappropriate development, which would detract from the setting and historic character of these settlements."*

There are 118 designated Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects across the County and 32 are located within the LVIA Study Area. These Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects are detailed in full in *Table 2.5.1* of Volume 2 of the CCDP and are shown on Figure 13-5 – Landscape Baseline. As these 32 No. scenic amenity designations are of a visual nature, they are comprehensively addressed in Section 13.5 of this Chapter – Visual Baseline, where ZTV mapping and on-site appraisals determine the likely visibility of the proposed turbines from each route. The 32 Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects located within the LVIA Study Area are discussed in further detail below in Section 13.5.1.1.

13.4.1.1.5 **Wind Energy Strategy**

The Wind Energy Strategy of County Cork is contained in *Section 13.6.3* of Volume 1. This section states that:

*"the Cork County Council developed a wind energy strategy for County Development Plan 2014 using the guidance provided in the "Planning for Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006" and the SEAI Manual 'A Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies' April 2013"*

*Section 13.6.5* also contains the following relevant planning objectives in relation to wind energy developments:

**“ET 13-4: Wind Energy:**

*"In order to facilitate increased levels of renewable energy production consistent with national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation as set out in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, the Climate Action Plan 2021, and any updates to these targets, and in accordance with Ministerial Guidelines on Wind Energy Development, the Council will support further development of on-shore wind energy projects including the upgrading, repowering or expansion of existing infrastructure, at appropriate locations within the county in line with the Wind Energy Strategy and objectives detailed in this chapter and other objectives of this plan in relation to climate change, biodiversity, landscape, heritage, water management and environment etc.*

**ET 13-5: Wind Energy Projects:**

*On-shore wind energy projects should focus on areas considered 'Acceptable in Principle' and 'Areas Open to Consideration' and generally avoid "Normally Discouraged" areas as well as sites and locations of ecological sensitivity.*

**ET 13-9: National Wind Energy Guidelines:**

*Development of on-shore wind should be designed and developed in line with the 'Planning Guidelines for Wind Farm Development 2006' and 'Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019' and any relevant update of these guidelines."*

The CCDP identifies and designated different areas of the landscape of Co. Cork into 4 No. classifications relating to their suitability for wind energy development:

- > Urban Areas
- > Areas Open to Consideration
- > Areas Acceptable in Principle
- > Areas Normally Discouraged

These designations are shown in *Figure 13.3* of the CCDP and are reproduced in Figure 13-5 below. The proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm are located within an area designated as ‘Open to Consideration’, which the CCDP states that:

*“This area comprises almost 50% of the County area. Within these areas there are locations that may have potential for wind farm developments but there are also some environmental issues to be considered. This area has variable wind speeds and some access to the grid. Urban areas, metropolitan/town green belts, and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA’s) within this area are not generally considered suitable for wind farm developments. The area excludes Natura 2000 sites. Any proposals within Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Catchments or in other sensitive catchments must be able to demonstrate that they have been designed in a manner which prevents any risk of peat slippage or erosion; and ensures the ongoing protection of water quality and the maintenance of natural hydrological processes. The cumulative effect of wind energy developments with regard to landscape and visual impacts and also impacts on Natura 2000 sites will also be a consideration. High design standards in terms of environmental protection measures are likely to be required to be included in projects located in sensitive catchments.”*

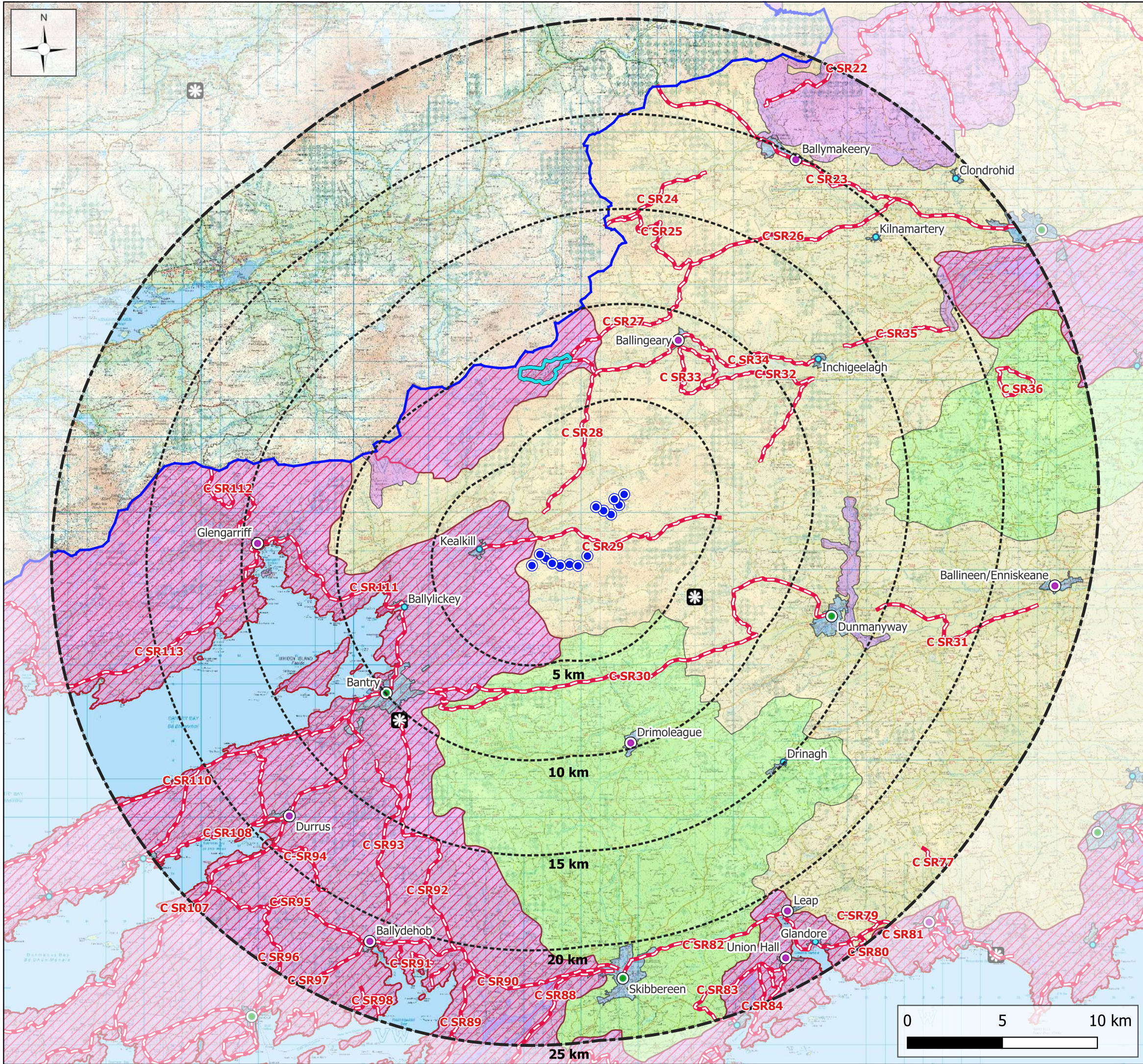
The CCDP has the following objective in relation to areas designated as “Open to Consideration”:

**ET 13-7: Open to Consideration:**

*“Commercial wind energy development is open to consideration in these areas where proposals can avoid adverse impacts on:*

- *Residential amenity particularly in respect of noise, shadow flicker and visual impact;*
- *Urban areas and Metropolitan/Town Green Belts;*
- *Natura 2000 Sites (SPA’s and SAC’s), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA’s), proposed Natural Heritage Areas and other sites and locations of significant ecological value.*
- *Architectural and archaeological heritage;*
- *Visual quality of the landscape and the degree to which impacts are highly visible over wider areas*
- *In planning such development, consideration should also be given to the cumulative impacts of such proposals.”*

This LVIA addresses the visual impacts on local residential receptors, effects on visual qualities of the landscape, and cumulative and landscape visual effects.



### Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- Co. Cork Settlement Hierarchy**
- Key Village
- Main Town
- Village
- Landscape Receptors**
- Co. Cork Scenic Routes
- Gougane Barra
- ▨ Co. Cork High Value Landscapes
- ✳ OSi Viewing Points
- Co. Cork Wind Energy Strategy**
- Urban Area
- Open to Consideration
- Acceptable in Principle
- Normally Discouraged

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Figure 13-5

Landscape Policy Context

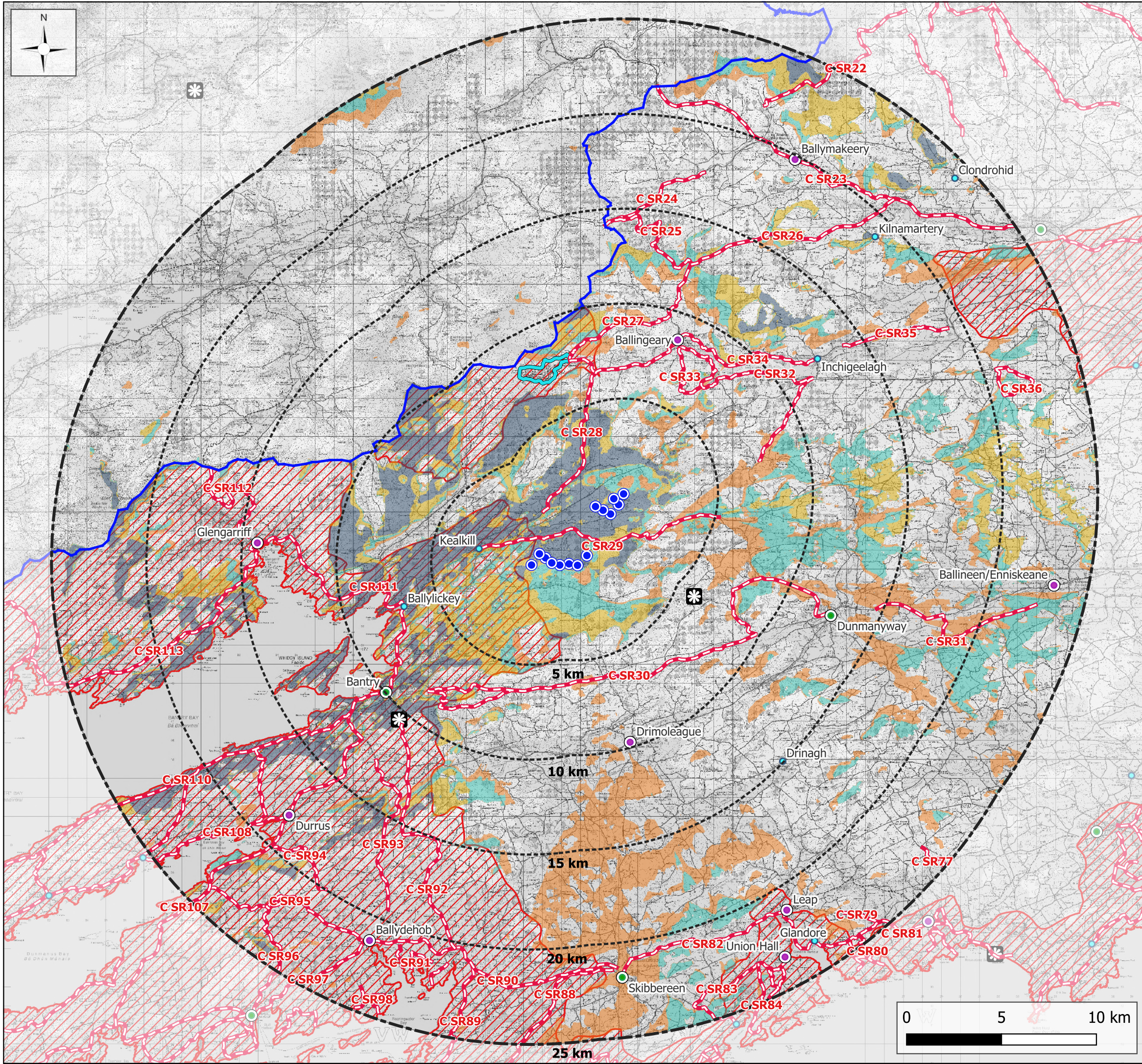
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Project Title

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW





### Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines

#### Co. Cork Settlement Hierarchy

- Key Village
- Main Town
- Village

#### Landscape Receptors

- Co. Cork Scenic Routes
- Gougane Barra
- ▨ Co. Cork High Value Landscapes
- ✳ OsI Viewing Points

#### Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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Drawing No.

Figure 13-6

Landscape Policy Context & ZTV

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW



## 13.4.2 Landscape Character of the Proposed Wind Farm site

Landscape character refers to the distinct, recognisable, and consistent pattern of elements that occur in a particular type of landscape and how people perceive this. It reflects particular combinations of natural components such as geology, landform, soils, cultural perception, and vegetation with human influence such as land use and human settlement. The identification of landscape character as outlined in the Landscape and Landscape Assessment: Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (hereafter, Landscape Assessment Guidance (DoEHLG, 2000)), comprises the identification of primarily physical units (areas defined by landform and landcover) and, where appropriate, of visual units.

The Proposed Wind Farm site was visited multiple times during the years 2022, 2024 and 2025 where a preliminary assessment of landscape character was conducted in conjunction with other LVIA surveys. Information gathered during these visits have informed the following descriptions for the Site.

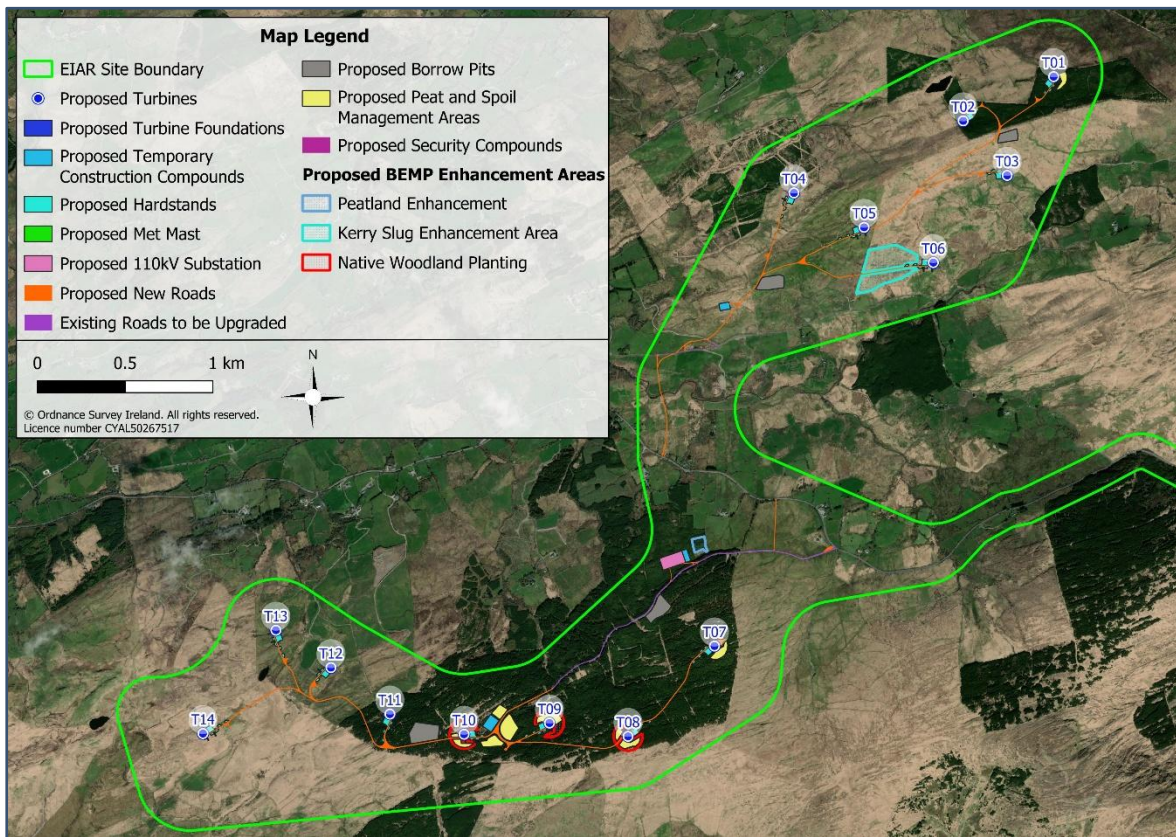


Figure 13-7 Aerial View of the Proposed Wind Farm site

The Proposed Wind Farm is located within a remote, sparsely populated, marginal upland landscape, characterised by a mosaic of landcover of agricultural fields, moorland, and commercial forestry. The nearest settlement is the village of Kealkill, located approximately 3km east to the nearest proposed turbine. The wider landscape surrounding the proposed turbines is defined by a patchwork of agricultural land, commercial forestry, local road networks within a relatively remote, hilly landscape.

As shown in the topography map below, the southern turbine cluster is located on the foothills of the Maughanaclea Hills, whereas the northern turbine cluster lies at the base of the Shehy Beg Mountains. The well-defined ridgelines and landforms of the Maughanaclea Hills and Shehy Beg Mountains, and the undulating nature of neighbouring ridgelines effectively encloses the proposed turbines within these distinctive topographical features, and limits visibility from very large areas, as illustrated in Figure 13-1 (ZTV map) previously.

The Owenbeg River, located to the west of the proposed turbines, and the Mealagh River, situated to the south of the southern turbine cluster, follow the river valleys formed by the natural contours of the landscape. These rivers contribute to the area’s undulating terrain.

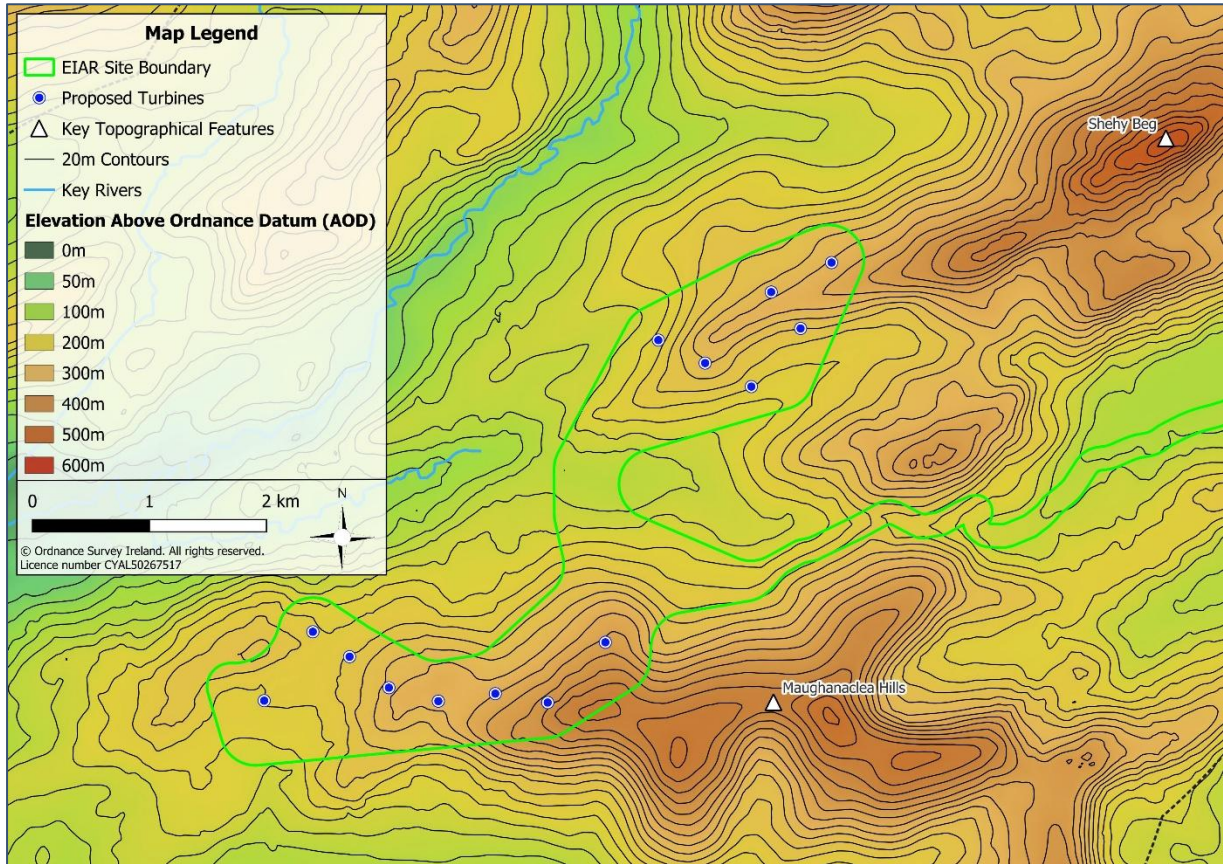


Figure 13-8 Topography of the Proposed Wind Farm site

Landcover is the term used to describe the combinations of vegetation and land-use that cover the land surface. It comprises the more detailed constituent parts of the landscape and encompasses both natural and man-made features.

The proposed turbines are located along the ridgelines of an upland moorland landscape interspersed with patches of heath, agricultural pastures, and commercial forestry. The Maughanaclea Valley, situated between the two turbine clusters is a sparsely settled upland landscape, defined by a mix of agricultural fields, boundary vegetation, interspersed with a very small number of rural dwellings.

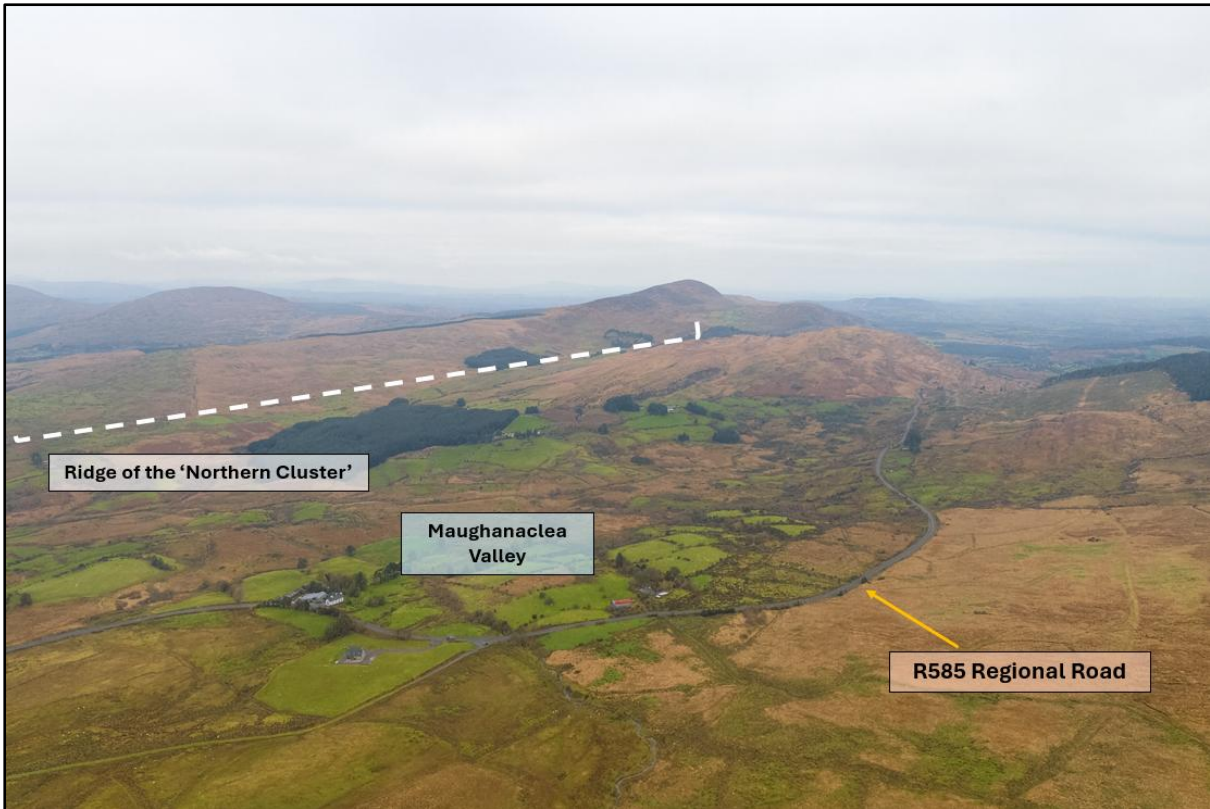


Plate 13-4 Drone Image of views North towards the northern turbine cluster from the southern turbine cluster

Overall, both turbine clusters are set within a marginal landscape characterised by a combination of moorland, agriculture, and commercial forestry.



Plate 13-5 Views north from the northern turbine cluster towards tracts of commercial forestry, approx. 195m east of turbine T4

There is a sense of remoteness and isolation with few residential buildings within the landscape. There are some views of scenic quality from elevated vantage points within the Proposed Wind Farm site itself. As seen in Plate 13-6 below, long-ranging views extend across the ridgelines and undulating landforms in the direction of the High Value Landscape (HVL 4) which is visible in the distance to the west.



Plate 13-6 Views south-west from the northern turbine cluster, approx. 135m west from turbine T5

### Landscape Character of the Proposed 110kV onsite Substation

The proposed 110kV onsite substation is situated within an area of commercial forestry, adjacent to a private road in the southern turbine cluster. The strategic placement of the proposed substation within this tract of forestry, a location enclosed and visually contained by prominent landforms ensures that the substation will not be visible from nearby receptors such as the residents and the R585 Regional Road (C-SR-29 Scenic Route).

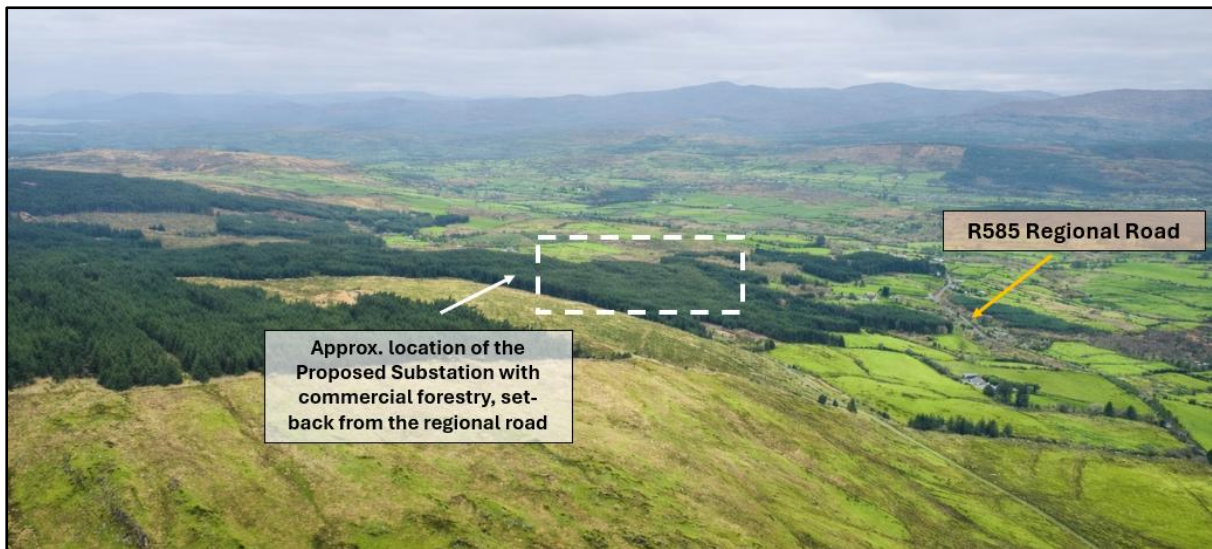


Plate 13-7 Drone Image of views westward over the Proposed Substation

### Landscape Character of the Proposed Grid Connection

As discussed in detail in Chapter 4, it is proposed to connect the proposed 110kV onsite substation to the existing Dunmanway 110kV substation in the townland of Ballyhalwick, located approximately 15km east of the proposed 110kV onsite substation via an underground cabling route, as seen in Figure 13-9 below.

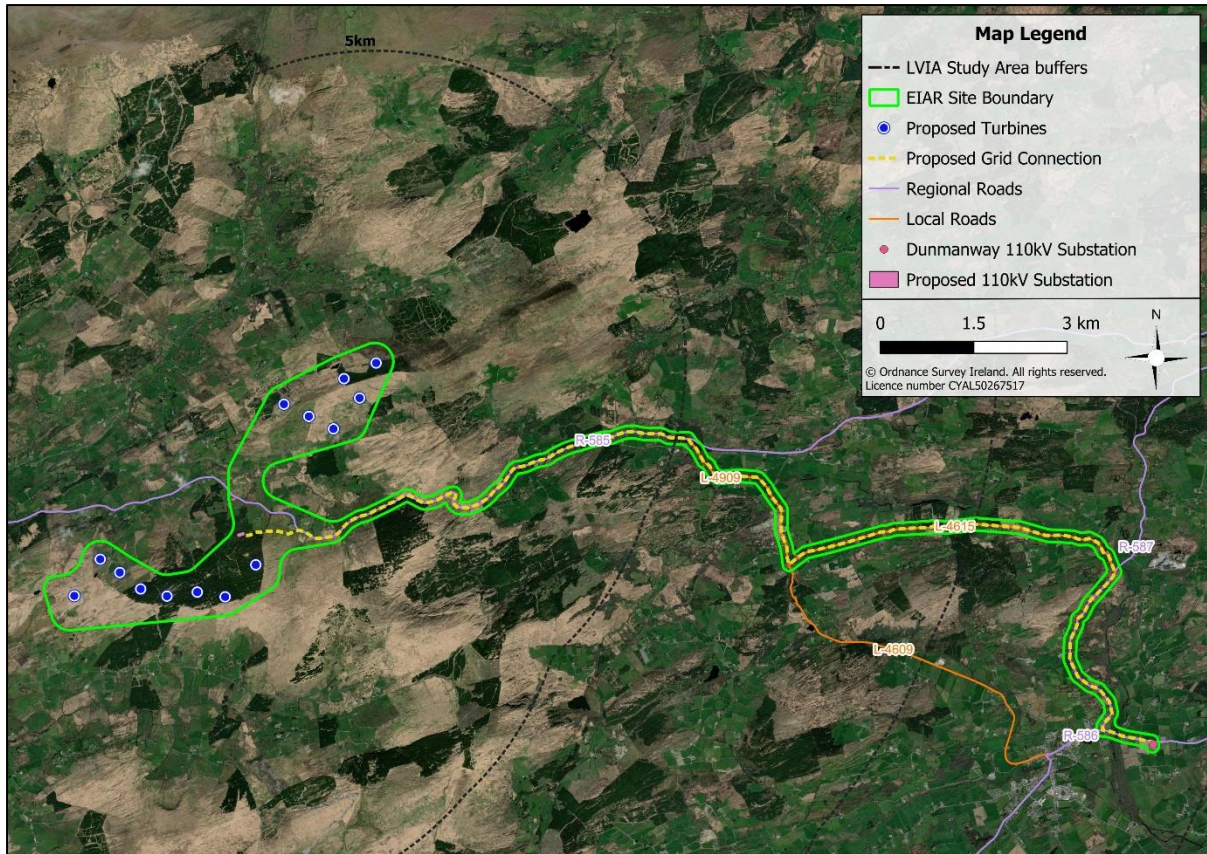


Figure 13-9 Proposed Grid Connection route

The route of the Proposed Grid Connection from the Proposed Wind Farm site to the Dunmanway 110kV substation follows a network of local and regional roads, including the R585 Regional Road, and eventually connects with the L-4909, L-4609, L-4615 local roads and the R587, and R586 regional roads. This route traverses through a rural landscape, characterised by agricultural fields and residential areas.

### 13.4.3 Sensitivity of the Proposed Wind Farm site: Landscape Value & Susceptibility to Change

Landscape ‘Value’ was assessed in order to determine the landscape ‘Sensitivity’ of the Proposed Wind Farm site as well as the wider landscape setting and establish the capacity of the immediate landscape in which the Proposed Project will be built, as is prescribed by best practise guidance (GLVIA3, LI & IEMA, 2013, p.80):

*‘...as part of the baseline description the value of the potentially affected landscape should be established’.*

Comprehension of the landscape Value and landscape ‘Susceptibility to Change’ (to wind farm development) enables determination of the sensitivity of the landscape at a micro-level (meaning, the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site) and its capacity to absorb the infrastructure of a wind farm development.

The table below considers the collective appraisal of seven indicators of landscape Value in the LVIA guidance (listed below). Landscape Value and Susceptibility to Change are then combined to assign an overall Sensitivity rating of the Proposed Wind Farm site.

The determination of landscape Value takes into consideration the scenic amenity designations and landscape sensitivity and value designations found in the local landscape policy, as well as other indications of landscape value attached to undesignated landscapes.

Below, Table 13-2 describes the following seven indicators appraised collectively to establish landscape Value and Susceptibility to Change, which were then considered in forming the overall landscape Sensitivity classification of the Site:

- › Landscape designations (LCA setting, Scenic Routes and Views, amenity areas, etc.);
- › Quality/condition of landscape elements;
- › Scenic/aesthetic qualities;
- › Rarity/conversation status;
- › Wildness/naturalness;
- › Recreational value;
- › Cultural meaning/associations.

The ratings of Value and Susceptibility range from High, Medium, or Low, while the overall Sensitivity is assigned as **Very High**, **High**, **Medium** or **Low**, following criteria outlined in the full detailed methodology, presented in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* (Section 1.7: Assessing Landscape Effects).

Table 13-2: Analysis of Indicators of Landscape Value and Susceptibility to Change

Indicator	Description
Landscape Designations	The Proposed Wind Farm site is located within LCT 15a of County Cork – Ridged and Peaked Uplands (Mullaghanish to Millstreet). The CCDP designates this LCT with a ‘High’ Landscape Value and a ‘High’ Landscape Sensitivity and has ‘Local’ Importance in the CCDP. The proposed turbines are not located within the High Value Landscape designation. The closest High Value Landscape (LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula) is located 250m north-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T14). The Proposed Wind Farm site is located within an area designated as ‘Open to Consideration’, in the Wind Energy Strategy of the CCDP. Scenic Route C-SR29 passes between the Northern and southern turbine cluster along the R585 regional road and is located 830m from the nearest proposed turbine (T07).
Landscape Elements Quality/Condition	<p>Definition: Refers to the physical state of the landscape of the Wind Farm Site and the condition of each of its individual elements.</p> <p>It is an upland, moorland landscape of reasonable quality and condition where peatlands remain intact. However, many parts of the Wind Farm Site is characterised by a landscape highly modified by human interventions, including agricultural fields and extensive tracts of commercial forestry. The condition of the landscape is degraded in several locations due to forestry and farming operations.</p>
Scenic/Aesthetic Qualities	The Proposed Wind Farm site itself has some rural and scenic aesthetic qualities due to its remote siting within a marginal upland landscape with expansive long ranging views of high scenic quality towards the rugged coastline to the west. However, the human influence arising from an agricultural and commercial forestry land-use detracts from the rural aesthetic quality of the Site itself.
Rarity or Conservation Interests	The Proposed Wind Farm site is part of a remote mountainous landscape comprising pastoral agricultural land and conifer forest interspersed. A comprehensive assessment of the ecology of the site is included in Chapter 6: Biodiversity
Wildness/Naturalness	Definition: Refers to the present degree of human interference on the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm.

Indicator	Description
	Although this remote upland landscape includes a sense of wildness due to its remote and sparsely populated nature, it is shaped by human interventions, detracting from the sense of naturalness.
Recreational Value	There is little to no recreational value within the Wind Farm Site itself, as it is situated on private land and consists mainly of agricultural fields, pasturelands and commercial forestry. However, it is noted that one cycle route, the Bearra Gougane Barra Cycling Route, partially the northern section of the northern turbine cluster. Additionally, a Scenic Route, C-SR29, travels between the northern and southern turbine clusters, along the R585 Regional Road.
Cultural Meaning/ Associations	There are 11 no. recorded archaeological sites, or groups of sites, within the Proposed Wind Farm site. A comprehensive assessment of cultural heritage receptors is included in Chapter 14 – Cultural Heritage.

In consideration of the factors detailed in the table above, and the designations outlined in the CCDP, the landscape value of the Proposed Wind Farm site is deemed to be **‘Medium.’** While there are some high-quality scenic views from within the Proposed Wind Farm site itself, it is predominantly located within a marginal, working upland landscape comprising privately owned lands. There is little to no recreational value to the Proposed Wind Farm site itself, and it is a landscape which has undergone a degree of human modification due to current and historic land uses such as commercial forestry and agricultural fields. It is a large scale and sparsely settled landscape of marginal upland in an area ‘Open to Consideration’ to wind energy development in local planning policy. In consideration of these factors, the susceptibility of the Proposed Wind Farm site to the proposed change is considered **‘Medium.’** On balance, the landscape sensitivity of the Proposed Wind Farm site is deemed **‘Medium.’**

#### 13.4.4 Landscape Character from Wind Energy Development Guidelines

This section considers the context of the Proposed Wind Farm based on siting and design guidance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) with respect to landscape and visual effects. Here, the appropriate landscape character type is identified as defined by the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and describe the landscape type of the Proposed Wind Farm in that context.

*Section 6.9 (6.10)* of the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) is called *‘Landscape Character Types as a Basis for Guidelines’* and offers guidance for the siting and design specifically of wind energy developments in multiple landscape contexts, defining six landscape character types representing most situations where wind turbines may be proposed. These are:

- › **‘Mountain Moorland’ – category selected by this assessment**
- › ‘Hilly and Flat Farmland’
- › ‘Flat Peatland’
- › ‘Transitional Marginal Landscape’
- › ‘Urban/Industrial’
- › ‘Coastal’

The guidance is intended to be indicative and general and notes that it represents the ‘best fit’ solutions to likely situations. The guidelines note that, in the case where a wind energy development is located in one landscape character type but is visible from another, it will be necessary to decide which of the landscape types more strongly influences the approach adopted for the LVIA. Based on information gathered during site visits (see

previous section) and visualisations presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet*, as well as from other mapping and imagery present in this Chapter, the Proposed Wind Farm was considered to be a cross between either ‘Mountain Moorland’ Landscape Character Type and/or ‘Transitional Marginal’ Landscape Character Type.

Site visits determined that while individual turbines may be located within areas exhibiting characteristics of both Mountain Moorland and Transitional Marginal landscapes, the entire visual unit(s) in which the proposed turbines are viewed in should be taken into consideration (the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006), page 46). The wider landscape context of the upland areas and the extensive, unenclosed character of the Mountain Moorland of the Proposed Wind Farm site more strongly influences the approach to siting and design. Therefore, the siting and design guidance for Mountain Moorland landscape type has been applied, as it best reflects the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site and the visual unit(s) in which it is viewed in.

### ‘Mountain Moorland’

The key characteristics of Mountain Moorland Landscape as stated in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) are:

- › *“Peaked, ridged or rolling mountains and upland with steep sides or gently formed valleys;*
- › *Generally unenclosed;*
- › *Landcover comprising blanket bog, a mottling of heather, wild grasses and some rush in wet flushes; Roads, and telegraph and power lines and poles are significant components; and*
- › *A landscape type of relative remoteness and often comprising pristine, unspoilt and remote landscapes”.*

Siting and design guidance for the following six considerations of this landscape type according to the Guidelines and with respect to the Proposed Wind Farm are outlined below: **location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height** and **cumulative effect**. All relevant ‘guidance’ quotations shown below are taken from the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).

### Location

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“It may be acceptable to locate wind energy developments on ridges and peaks. They may also be appropriate, in certain instances, in a saddle between two peaks where they will be partially contained or “framed”. A third acceptable location is lower down on sweeping mountainsides”.*

In terms of **location**, in accordance with the guidance quoted above, all proposed turbines are strategically sited on or near elevated peaks of mountain moorland and are clearly separated visually from the complexity of lower ground. Siting for proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm at its current location has resulted in sufficient distance from the greatest number of receptors within the nearby area. In terms of separation distance, the proposed turbines are also set-back a reasonable distance from dwellings, adhering to the recommended 4-times-tip-height set-back distance from the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).

### Spatial Extent

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“Given the typical extensive areas of continuous unenclosed ground, larger wind energy developments can generally be accommodated because they correspond in terms of scale. However, the spatial extent of a wind energy development would need to be reduced where a suggestion of smaller scale is provided by nearby landscape features.”*

The receiving landscape of each turbine cluster is of a large scale, comprising areas of continuous unenclosed upland where larger wind farms can be accommodated. These two upland areas are separated by a smaller valley which is of a smaller scale and where no turbines are proposed.

### Spacing

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“All spacing options are usually acceptable. Where a wind energy development is clearly visible on a crest or ridge there is considerable scope to vary the rhythm, though on simple ridges, regular spacing may be more appropriate. On sweeping and continuously even areas of mountain moorland or upland plateaux regular spacing may be most desirable.”*

In terms of **spacing**, the visual unit in which both turbine clusters will be visible within are on a relatively exposed ridge, therefore, the relatively regular spacing but slightly varied rhythm of the proposed turbines is suitable and appropriate for a mountain moorland site such as this.

### Layout

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“All layout options are usually acceptable. However, the best solutions would either be a random layout, and clustered where located on hills and ridges, or a grid layout on sweeping and continuously even areas of moorland or plateaux. Where a wind energy development is close to a linear element, such as a river, road or long escarpment, a corresponding linear layout or staggered line might be most desirable.”*

In terms of **layout**, the proposed turbines, within their separate clusters are themselves arranged in a clustered layout around hilltops, in accordance with the guidance quoted above. The southern turbine cluster follows a curved linear layout that conforms to the shape and steeper form of the ridgeline at this part of the Proposed Wind Farm site. The northern turbine cluster is located on a slightly broader hilltop and therefore follows a more staggered and clustered layout.

### Height

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“There would generally be no height restrictions on mountain moorlands as the scale of landscape is so great. However, shorter turbines may be more appropriate where they are located on small peaks and outcrops in order to maintain an appropriate scale. Profile, whether even or uneven, is dependent on topography: the more rugged and undulating (e.g., knolls and crags) the more uneven it will be. The profile of the wind energy development should not necessarily run in parallel to that of the topography.”*

In terms of **height**, the proposed turbines are sited across relatively open and extensive upper ground, where they are appropriately scaled relative to the receiving landscape and its topographical features located within it, in accordance with the guidance quoted above.

### Cumulative Effect

From the guidance (ref. above):

*“The open expanse of such landscapes can absorb a number of wind energy developments, depending on their proximity. The cumulative impact will also depend on the actual visual complexity of*

*landform, whether steeply rolling, undulating or gently sweeping. The more varied and undulating an area is topographically, the greater its ability to absorb and screen wind energy developments. The aesthetic effect of wind energy developments in these landscapes is acceptable where each one is discrete, standing in relative isolation.”*

The Proposed Wind Farm site and wider landscape setting is considered to be of large scale, with landscape characteristics capable of absorbing the Proposed Wind Farm and other cumulative developments. This LVIA includes a comprehensive assessment of potential cumulative landscape and visual effects arising from the two turbine clusters, and also in combination with all other relevant existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area.

### 13.4.5 Landscape Character of Wider Setting

The two turbine clusters of the Proposed Wind Farm are positioned on the foothills of the Maughanaclea Hills to the south and the Shehy Beg Mountains to the north, encircled by a horseshoe shaped series of mountainous peaks and large landforms, visually screening visibility of the proposed turbines from vast areas within the LVIA Study Area. The landscape setting immediately beyond the proposed turbines is predominantly rural and agricultural, with large tracts of commercial forestry throughout. Residential receptors are primarily situated within the lower-lying depressions of the landscape, following the narrow valleys adjacent to rivers and fertile lowland, with localised undulations and varying levels of vegetation obscuring views in the direction of the proposed turbines.

Although the broader landscape remains predominantly rural, it is well-connected by the R584 and R585 regional roads, which links the village of Kealkill, the closest settlement to the proposed turbines, to other settlements such as Ballylickey and Bantry located to the west, and larger settlements such as Dumanyway to the east. To the east and south of the proposed turbines, the landscape is sparsely populated and largely rural, comprising marginal, rolling uplands.

To the west of the proposed turbines, the West Cork Peninsula (LCT4 - Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)), a High Value Landscape in County Cork extends along the entire western extent of the Study Area. Within the Study Area, the West Cork Peninsula is characterised by low-lying coastal areas and a series of large, undulating ridgelines permitting open, long-ranging views westwards over Bantry Bay and the Atlantic coastline, as well as inland towards the mountainous landforms to the east.

To the north, prominent landscape features include the Gougane Barra (the lake and the oratory), which are physically and visually separated from the proposed turbines by notable intervening landforms such as Coningar Mountain, Doughill, and Douce Mountain. The undulating landforms within the LVIA Study Area extend in a north-west direction towards the Shehy Mountains along the Cork-Kerry boundary, limiting any visibility beyond.

The impact assessments detailed later in this chapter (Section 13.7) evaluates the likely significant landscape and visual effects from key receptors (such as the HVL) where there is theoretical visibility on the ZTV map.

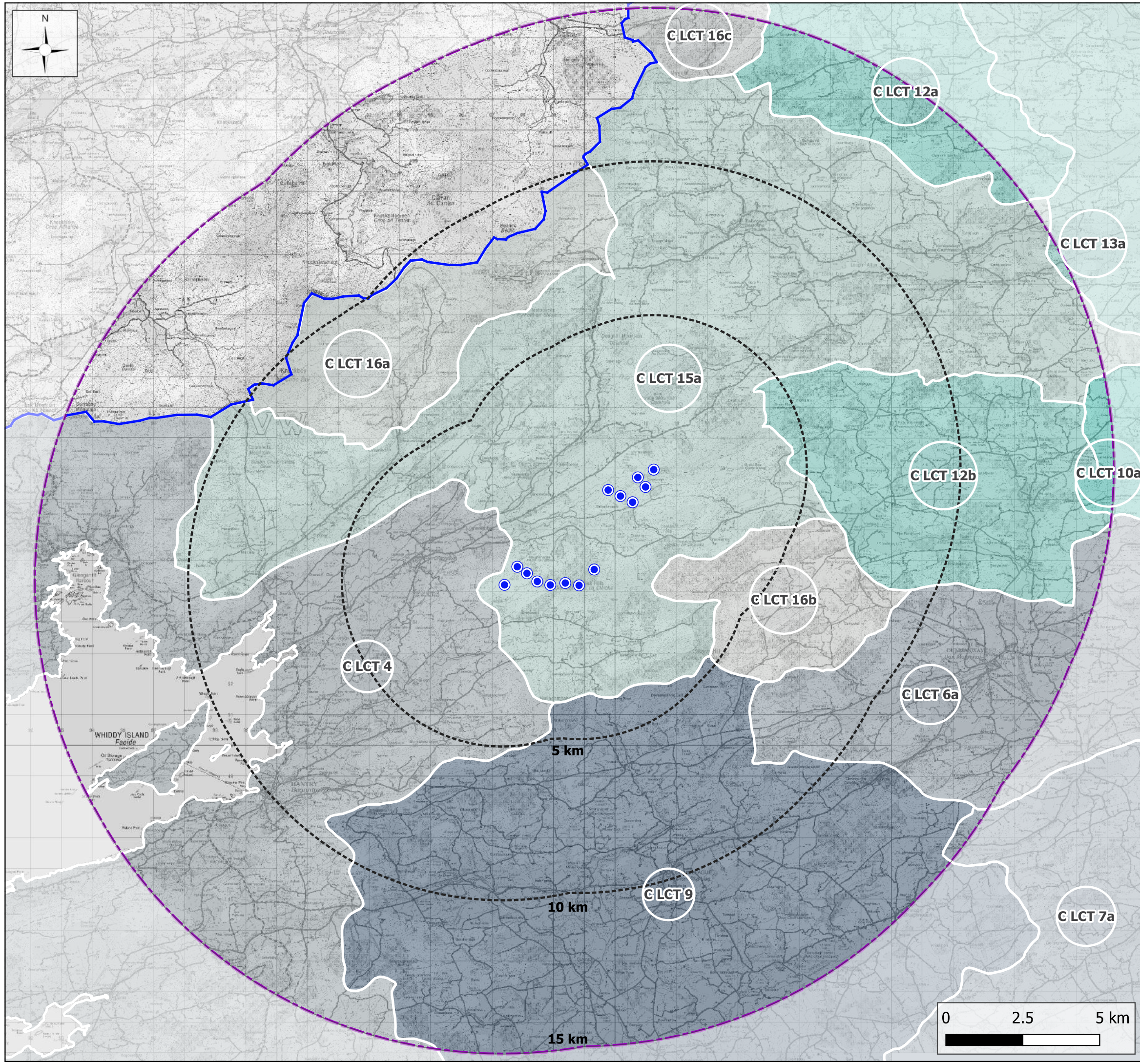
#### 13.4.5.1 Preliminary Analysis: Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

##### 13.4.5.1.1 Maps: LCAs and ZTV

Utilising the (15km) LCA Study Area, this section provides an initial analysis of designated LCAs from the county-level policy Landscape Character Assessments outlined previously (see Section 13.4.1 Landscape Designations and Policy Context). A map showing all LCTs within 15km of the proposed turbines and the distribution of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines occurring in each LCT is shown in Figure 13-11 below.

Each LCT is listed below in Table 13-3, as well as a description of theoretical visibility within each LCT, as indicated by the ZTV in Figure 13-11 below. Several LCTs identified in the LCA Study Area (15km for

assessment of designated LCAs) have very small areas of theoretical visibility indicated by the ZTV map. The potential visibility of the proposed turbines was appraised during site surveys from all LCTs with very limited or partial theoretical visibility. The ZTV and on-site visibility appraisals determines which LCTs are scoped in for full assessment later in this chapter (See also Appendix 13-2), the scoping results are noted in Table 13-3 below.



### Map Legend

- LCA Study Area
  - County Border
  - Proposed Turbines
- Co. Cork Landscape Character Types**
- C LCT 4 - Rugged Ridge Peninsulas
  - C LCT 6a - Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys
  - C LCT 7a - Rolling Patchwork Farmland
  - C LCT 9 - Broad Marginal Middleground and Lowland Basin
  - C LCT 10a - Fissured Fertile Middleground
  - C LCT 12a - Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
  - C LCT 12b - Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
  - C LCT 13a - Valleyed Marginal Middleground
  - C LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland
  - C LCT 16a - Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley
  - C LCT 16b - Glaciated Cradle Valleys
  - C LCT 16c - Glaciated Cradle Valleys

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Drawing No.

Figure 13-10

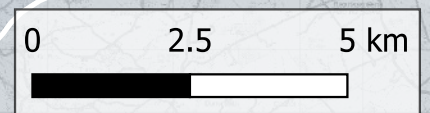
Drawing Title

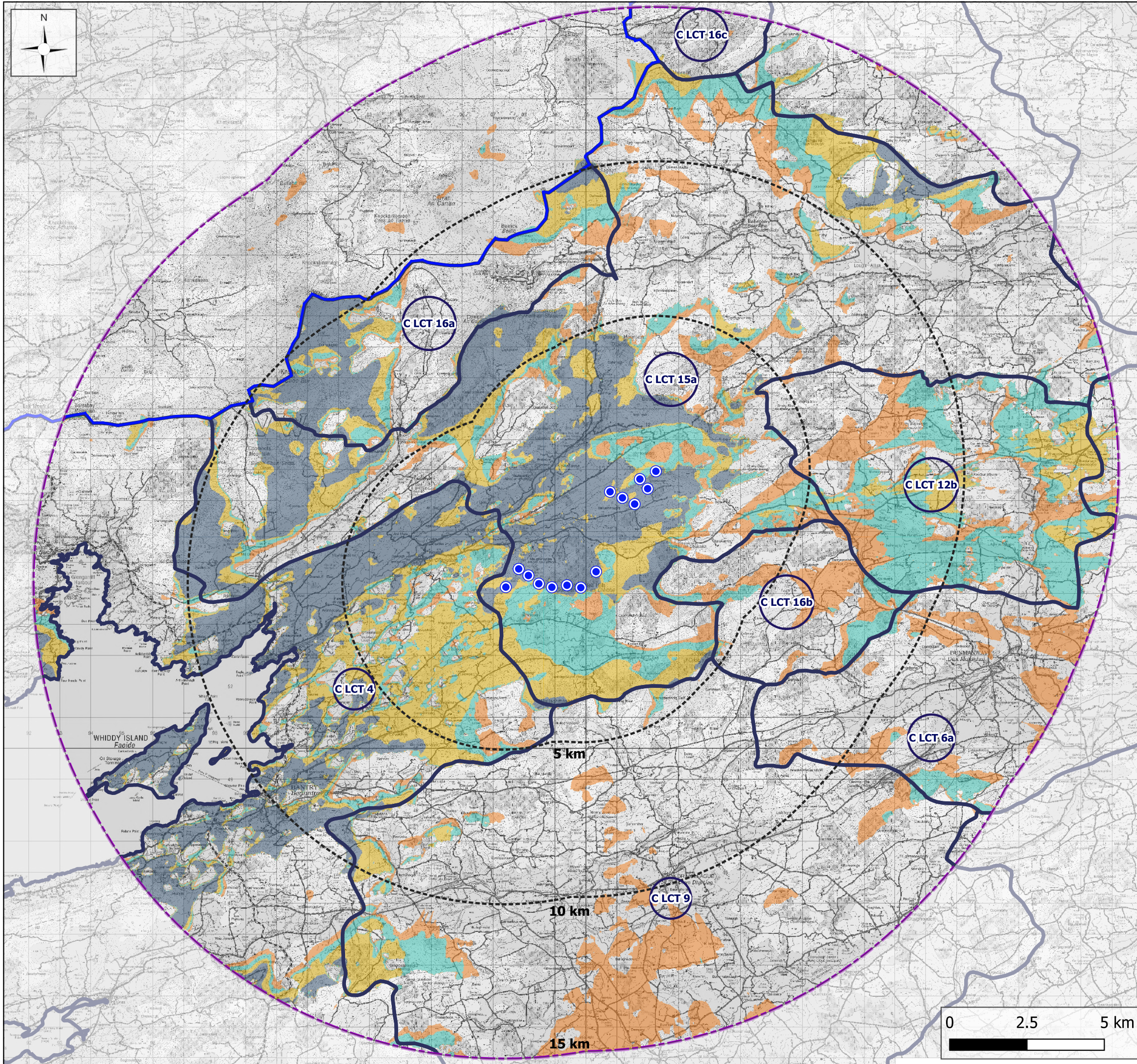
Landscape Character Areas

Project Title

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:120,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW





### Map Legend

- LCA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- Co. Cork Landscape Character Types
  - C LCT 4 - Rugged Ridge Peninsulas
  - C LCT 6a - Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys
  - C LCT 7a - Rolling Patchwork Farmland
  - C LCT 9 - Broad Marginal Middleground and Lowland Basin
  - C LCT 10a - Fissured Fertile Middleground
  - C LCT 12a - Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
  - C LCT 12b - Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
  - C LCT 13a - Valleyed Marginal Middleground
  - C LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland
  - C LCT 16a - Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley
  - C LCT 16b - Glaciated Cradle Valleys
  - C LCT 16c - Glaciated Cradle Valleys

### Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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Drawing No.

Figure 13-11

Drawing Title

Landscape Character Areas with ZTV

Project Title

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:120,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW

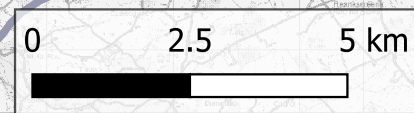


Table 13-3 LCA's within 15km of the Proposed Wind Farm

Map Ref	LCA	Theoretical Visibility (TV) as indicated by ZTV	Actual Visibility (of the proposed turbines) as determined during site visits	Scoped in for Assessment
<b>Up to 5km</b>				
LCT 15a	Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet)	There are patches of full TV within 5km of the proposed turbines, particularly to the north-west of the two turbine clusters. Pockets of partial theoretical visibility extends to the south and northeast within 5km of the proposed turbines. TV is limited beyond 5km of the proposed turbines, with some pockets of full TV northwest of the LCT.	Visibility will be greatest within 5km of the proposed turbines.	Yes
LCT 4 (HVL)	Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)	Within 5km of the proposed turbines, there is primarily partial TV within this LCT. A patch of full TV is located in the northern section of the LCT within 5km, extending westward beyond 5km. Patches of full TV are evident beyond 5km to the west.	Visibility likely to be greatest within 5km of the proposed turbines.	Yes
LCT 16b	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Cullenagh Lake)	Small pockets of partial TV with large areas of no TV within this LCT.	Where visibility of the proposed turbines may occur; visibility will be heavily restricted by vegetation within the landscape or only occur on elevated peaks.	No. Given the small extent of potential visibility, significant effects are not likely to occur.
LCT 12b	Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground	Large patches of partial TV with some areas of no TV within this LCT.	Some limited visibility may occur.	Yes

LCT 9	Broad Marginal Middleground and Lowland Basin	Primarily no TV within the entirety of this LCT, with patches of partial TV	Visibility is not likely to occur within the LCT. Where theoretical visibility may occur, visibility of the proposed turbines will be limited by intervening landscape features.	No
Up to 10km				
LCT 16a (HVL)	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra)	Primarily no TV with small pockets of partial TV. Area of full TV indicated to the west of this LCT.	Visibility may occur from elevated vantage points within this LCT.	Yes
LCT 6a	Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys (Blarney – Ballincollig – Carrigaline – West Dunmanway)	Little to no TV with pockets of partial TV shown within the section of this LCT within the LCA Study Area.	Visibility is not likely to occur with this primarily flat LCT. Where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small features in the background of the view, screened by other above ground features within the landscape.	No
Up to 15km				
LCT 12a	Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground (Ballyvourney Gaeltacht)	Primarily no TV, with small pockets of partial TV.	Visibility is not likely to occur with this primarily flat LCT. Where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small features in the background of the view, screened by other above ground features within the landscape.	No
LCT 16c	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Foilanumera)	Primarily no TV, with small pockets of partial TV.	Visibility is not likely to occur with this primarily flat LCT. Where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small features in the background of the view, screened by other above ground features within the landscape.	No

LCT 13a	Valleyed Marginal Middleground (Macroon and Environs)	No TV within the section of this LCT within the LCA Study Area.	Visibility is not likely to occur within this LCT.	No
LCT 10a	Fissured Fertile Middleground (South of the Gearagh)	Small pockets of partial TV.	Given the distance from the proposed turbines, there are likely to be no or very limited background views of the proposed turbines from the small part of this LCT within the LCA Study Area.	No
LCT 7a	Rolling Patchwork Farmland (Bandon – Clonakilty – Leap and Environs)	No TV within the section of this LCT within the LCA Study Area.	Visibility is not likely to occur within this LCT.	No

LCTs in Table 13-4 below are scoped out from further assessment in this LVIA as views towards the proposed turbines were either entirely screened or substantially screened from view. In some cases, slivers of much larger LCT's may be present within the LCA Study Area. However, given the distance and scale, there is no potential for Significant landscape effects on those LCTs. Therefore, they have been scoped out from further assessment.

Table 13-4 LCAs Scoped Out from further assessment.

Map Ref.	LCA
LCT 16b	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Cullenagh Lake)
LCT 9	Broad Marginal Middleground and Lowland Basin
LCT 6a	Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys (Blarney – Ballincollig – Carrigaline – West Dunmanway)
LCT 12a	Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground (Ballyvourney Gaeltacht)
LCT 16c	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Foilanumera)
LCT 13a	Valleyed Marginal Middleground (Macroon and Environs)
LCT 10a	Fissured Fertile Middleground (South of the Gearagh)
LCT 7a	Rolling Patchwork Farmland (Bandon – Clonakilty – Leap and Environs)

Following the pre-assessment exercise, the LCTs shown in Table 13-5 below have been selected for assessment. As some of the proposed turbines are likely to be visible from some areas within these LCAs, potential landscape effects may arise as a result of the proposed turbines.

Table 13-5 Scoped In for further assessment

Map Ref.	LCA
LCT 15a	Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet)
LCT 4	Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)
LCT 12b	Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground
LCT 16a	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra)

A detailed description of the four LCTs scoped in for further assessment (Table 13-5) and the likely effects on landscape character as a result of the proposed turbines are presented in the Landscape Character Assessment Tables that form Appendix 13-2. A summary of landscape effects on these LCTs are reported in Section 13.7.3 of this chapter - *Operational Phase Effects*.

### 13.4.5.2 Preliminary Assessment – Other Landscape Receptors

Apart from the LCTs identified above, a number of additional landscape receptors have been identified in the preceding sections. These are mapped in Figure 13-5 above and listed in Table 13-6 below, along with a description of theoretical visibility from each receptor, as indicated by the ZTV in Figure 13-6 the potential visibility of the proposed turbines was appraised during site surveys (conducted in the years 2022, , 2024, 2025) from all receptors with very limited or partial theoretical visibility. The ZTV and on-site visibility appraisals determine which landscape receptors are scoped in for full assessment later in this chapter, the results are noted in Table 13-7.

Table 13-6 Landscape Receptors within 25km of the Proposed Wind Farm

Name	Theoretical Visibility (TV) of the proposed turbines as indicated by the ZTV	Actual Visibility	Scoped in for Assessment
<b>LCT 4</b> – Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)	Within 5km of the proposed turbines, there is primarily partial TV within this LCT. A patch of full TV is located in the northern section of the LCT within 5km, extending westward beyond 5km. Patches of full TV are evident beyond 5km to the west.	Visibility likely to occur within 5km of the proposed turbines. Beyond 5km, visibility is likely to be limited by screening from vegetation and built infrastructure within the landscape.	Yes
<b>LCT 16a</b> – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra)	Primarily no TV with small pockets of partial TV. Area of full TV indicated to the west of this LCT.	Visibility may occur from elevated vantage points within this LCT.	Yes
<b>LCT 8</b> – Hilly River and Reservoir Valley	Pockets of partial TV within the small section of this HVL within the LVIA Study Area.	At 25km away, the proposed turbines will appear small elements in the distant background. Significant effects are not likely to occur.	No

Following the pre-assessment exercise, the landscape receptors listed in Table 13-7 below have been selected for assessment. As some of the proposed turbines are likely to be visible from these receptors, potential landscape effects may arise as a result of the proposed turbines.

Table 13-7 Landscape Receptors Scoped In for further assessment

County	Landscape Receptor
LCT 4	Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)
LCT 16a	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra)

A detailed description of the landscape receptors scoped in for assessment and the likely landscape effects as a result of the proposed turbines as reported in *Section 13.7.3 – Operational Phase Effects*.

13.5

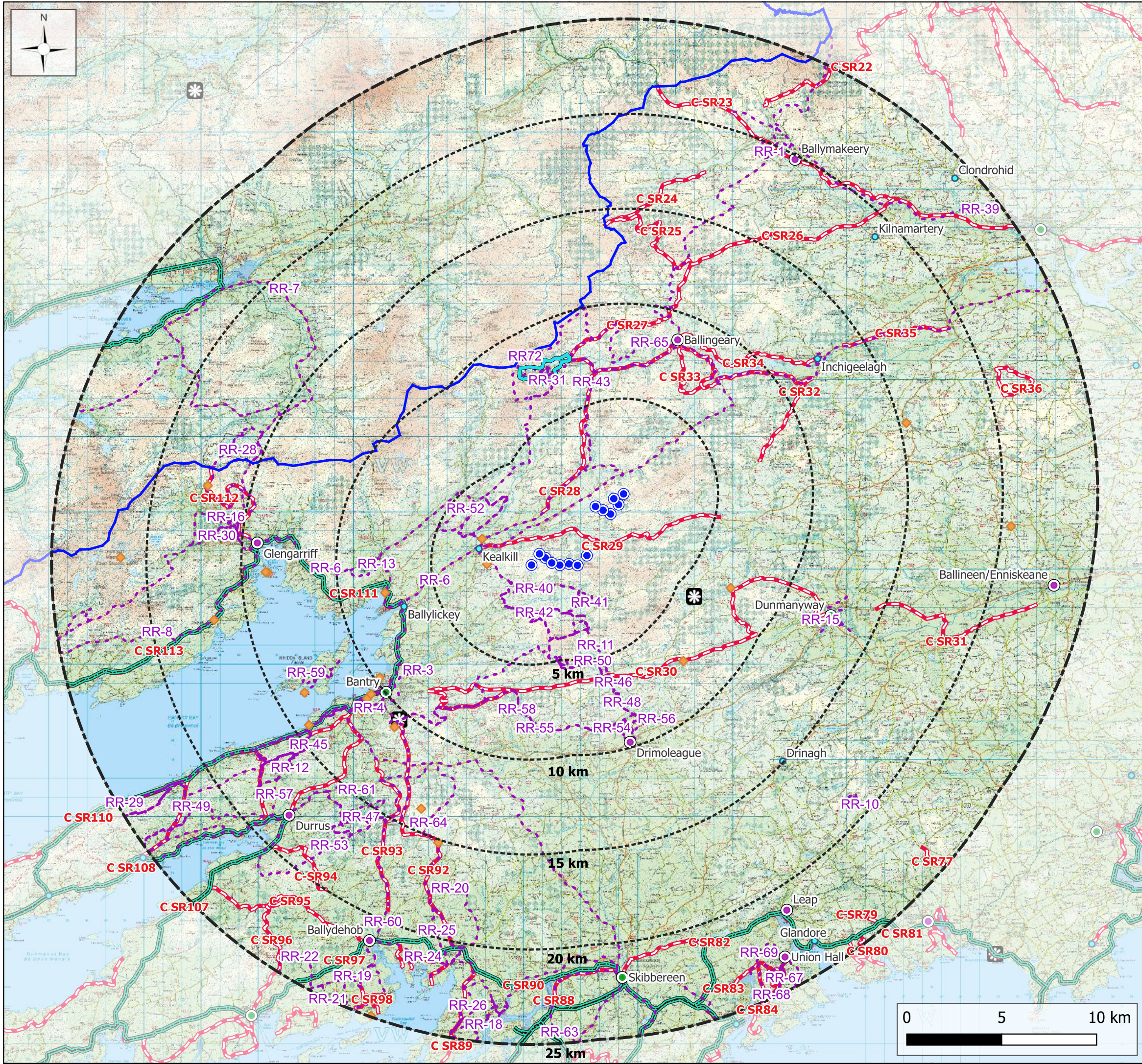
## Visual Baseline

The main purpose of establishing the ‘Visual Baseline’ is to identify the key visual receptors that should be considered for assessment within the LVIA Study Area. The visual baseline exercise uses ZTV mapping and on-site visibility appraisals to scope out receptors from further assessment.

The key visual receptors identified for assessment in the visual baseline exercise are represented by ‘Viewpoints’. Viewpoints are locations from which visual effects are assessed using photomontages (see *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*, Section 1.6: Photomontage Visualisations). To this end, the following visual receptors have been identified within the LVIA Study Area and are presented in this section in order of priority:

- › Designated Scenic Routes and Views;
- › OSI Viewing Areas;
- › Settlements;
- › Recreational Routes and Trails, including:
  - Waymarked Walking Routes;
  - Cycle Routes;
  - Scenic Drives and Tourist Routes;
- › Recreational, Cultural Heritage & Tourist Destinations;
- › Transport Routes;
- › Residential Receptors:
  - See below Section 13.5.3: Residential Receptors and Visual Amenity.

Below, Figure 13-12 Visual Baseline shows a map of the visual receptors within the LVIA Study Area and the subsequent Figure 13-13 is the same visual baseline map overlain with the Half-Blade ZTV. The receptors are listed in the tables in the following sections along with theoretical visibility at those locations indicated by the ZTV. During site visits conducted in 2022, 2024 and 2025, the likely visibility of the proposed turbines was appraised from receptors where the ZTV indicated theoretical visibility. In the case of there being either no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, or where on-site appraisal determined visibility of the proposed turbines to be very unlikely or very limited, visual receptors were scoped out from further assessment. In some cases, specific receptors are scoped out where there is no potential for significant visual effects to occur on account of combination of factors such as distance, visual screening and the nature and sensitivity of the receptors at a particular location. Where appropriate, the specific reasons for scoping out a receptor are included in the tables below.



### Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines

#### Settlements within 25km

- Main Town
- Key Village
- Village

#### Visual Receptors

- Co. Cork Scenic Routes
- Co. Cork Recreational Trails
- ◆ Co. Cork Recreational Destinations
- ▭ Gougane Barra
- The Wild Atlantic Way
- ★ OSi Viewing Points

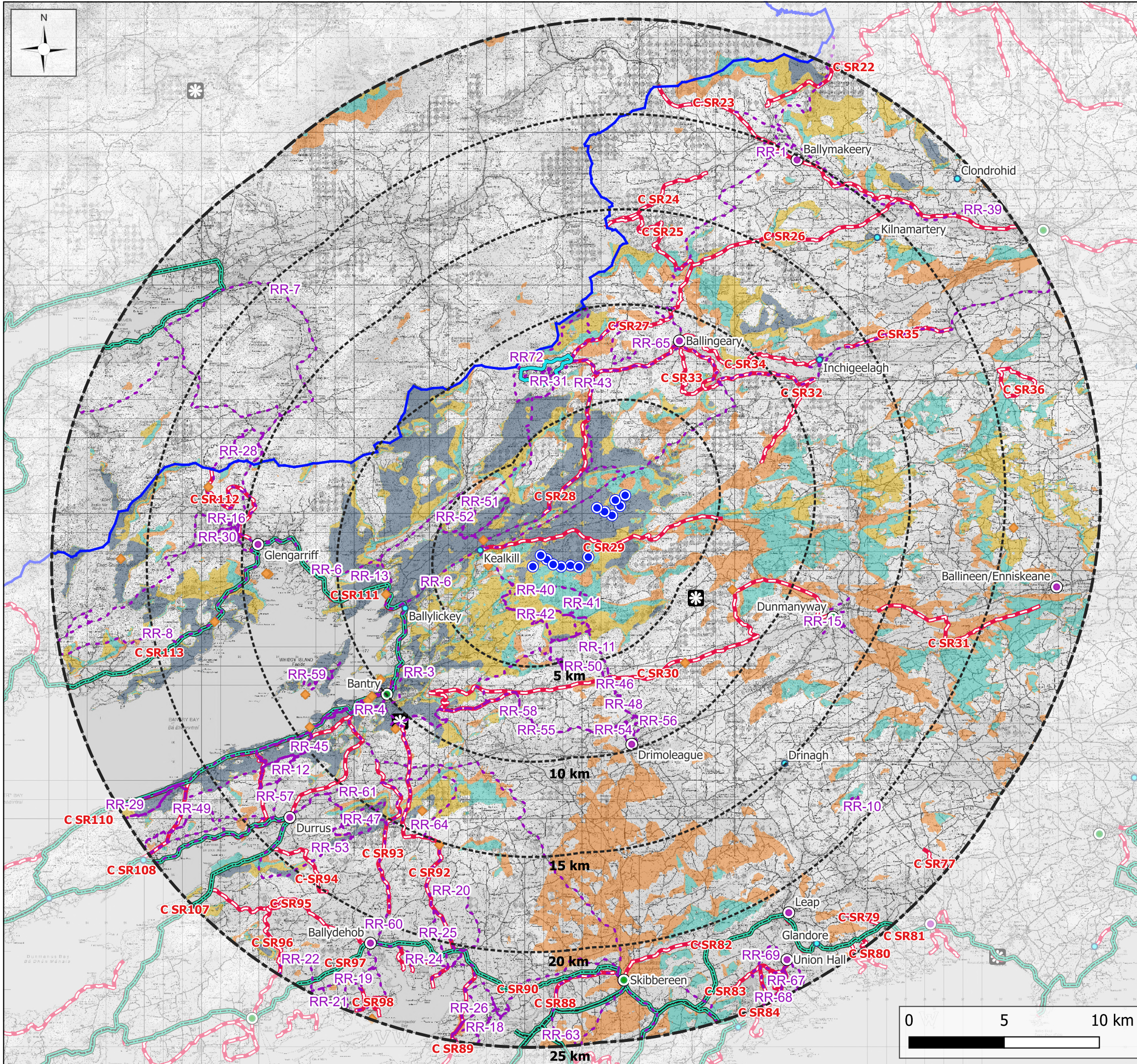
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Drawing No.

**Figure 13-12**

Visual Baseline

Project Title  
Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW

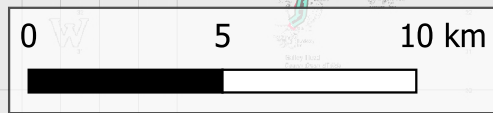


**Map Legend**

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- Settlements within 25km**
- Main Town
- Key Village
- Village
- Visual Receptors**
- Co. Cork Scenic Routes
- Co. Cork Recreational Trails
- ◆ Co. Cork Recreational Destinations
- Gougane Barra
- The Wild Atlantic Way
- ✳ OSi Viewing Points
- Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
- 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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<b>Figure 13-13</b>				
Drawing Title				
<b>Visual Baseline &amp; ZTV</b>				
Project Title				
<b>Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development</b>				
Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW



## 13.5.1 Visual Receptors

The following subsections present the scoping tables for all visual receptors, including designated Scenic Routes and Views; OSI Viewing Areas; Settlements; Recreational Routes; Cultural Heritage, Recreational & Tourist Destinations; prominent Transport Routes.

### 13.5.1.1 Designated Scenic Routes and Views

According to the CCDP, a total of 32 no. designated Scenic Routes and/or Views are existent within the LVIA Study Area; these were previously identified in Section 13.4.1.1.4 above. Below, Table 13-8 displays the scoping of all identified receptors (scoped in or out for assessment), along with a description of each item, the direction of view indicated by the policy documents and whether it is directed towards the proposed turbines, the nature of theoretical visibility, and whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment.

Table 13-8: Scoping of Designated Scenic Routes and Views in the LVIA Study Area

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
<b>Up to 5km</b>					
C-SR-28	<i>“Scenic road at the Pass of Keimaneig to Gougane Barra. Views of the surrounding remote rural landscape &amp; rugged mountains”</i>	N/A	N/A	Pockets of full theoretical visibility within 5km, with intermittent patches of theoretical visibility beyond 5km	Yes
C-SR-29	<i>“Road to Kealkill via Cousane Gap to Togher. Views of remote mountainous landscape.”</i>	N/A	N/A	Pockets of full theoretical visibility within 5km, with intermittent patches of theoretical visibility beyond 5km	Yes
<b>5-10km</b>					
C-SR-30	<i>“Road between Dunmanway and Coolkellure, Castledonovan and Bantry. Views of hills, mountains, the Rivers Clodagh, Ilen &amp;</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with patches of partial theoretical	Given that there is primarily no theoretical visibility along the majority of the route, with only one small section of partial theoretical visibility

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
	<i>Owennashingaun, Lough Bofinna &amp; the surrounding rugged remote rural landscape”</i>			visibility within 10km	approx. 7km away, significant visual effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-111	<i>“Road from Bantry, Snave, Ballylickey and Glengariff. Views of Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Glengarriff Harbour &amp; Mullaghmesha, Sheehy, Coomhola &amp; Cobduff Mountains”</i>	N/A	N/A	Small instances of theoretical visibility, with primarily no theoretical visibility	Yes, given the sensitivity of this route, as it is on the Wild Atlantic Way, it has been scoped it for assessment
C-SR-27	<i>“Road between Gougane Barra and the Mouth of the Glen. Views of Coomataggart Mountain, hills, valleys &amp; Guagán Barra”</i>	N/A	N/A	Pocket of partial theoretical visibility within 10km of the proposed turbines	Yes
C-SR-24	<i>“Road between Coolea and Coom. Views of the foothills of the Derrynasaggart Mountains, surrounding hills &amp; the Sullane River”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-33	<i>“Road between Ballingeary - branch off S. Lake Road - and Kealvaugh. Views of Lough Allua, surrounding lakes, hills &amp; remote rural landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	Very small pocket of partial theoretical visibility along the entirety of the route	No, given the distance, where visibility does occur, the proposed turbines will be partially visible as elements in the background of the view and are not likely to cause significant effects.
C-SR-32	<i>“South Lake Road - Inchigeela and Ballingeary to Keimaneigh. Views of Lough Allua &amp; the surrounding mountains”</i>	N/A	N/A	Small pockets of partial theoretical visibility.	No, where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the background of the view and are not likely to cause significant effects.
10-15km					

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
C-SR-35	<i>“Road Between Dromcarra and Rossmore. Views of rolling hills, open countryside, valley, the River Lee &amp; distant mountain views”</i>	N/A	N/A	Small pocket of partial theoretical visibility.	No, at this distance, where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as miniature elements in the background of the view and are not likely to cause significant effects.
C-SR-31	<i>“Road between Ballineen and Ballincarriga to Dunmanway. Views of mature woodland, rolling hills &amp; remote rural landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	Pocket of partial theoretical visibility.	No, at this distance, visibility will be limited by distance and existing vegetation in the landscape. Where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small, miniature elements in the distant background. Significant effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-92	<i>“Road Between Kissaclarig and Ballybane to Barnaghegeeha and Ardrah. Views of Mount Kid, Coomnaggragh &amp; Knocknaveagh Mountains, Sprat Hill &amp; surrounding remote rural landscape.”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small pocket of full theoretical visibility	No, where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small, miniature elements in the distant background. Significant effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-93	<i>“Road between Ballydehob and Parkana. Views of Bawnaknockane &amp; Durrus Rivers, Mount Kid, Coomnaggragh Mountain &amp; hills”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small pocket of full theoretical visibility	No, where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small, miniature elements in the distant background. Significant effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-108	<i>“Road from Bantry via Durrus and Ahakista to Kilcrohane. Views of Dunmanus Bay &amp; Islands, the Mizen Peninsula, &amp; the Cahir, Seefin, Rosskerrig &amp;</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility with small pockets of full theoretical visibility	No, where visibility may occur, visibility of the proposed turbines will be highly restricted by distance and intervening vegetation.

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
	<i>Knockboolteenagh Mountains</i>				
C-SR-110	<i>“Roads from Bantry via Gerahies to Kilcrohane. Views of Dunmanus Bay &amp; Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough &amp; Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bear Island &amp; the Beara Peninsula”</i>	N/A	N/A	Patches of full theoretical visibility along the coastline	At this distance, where visibility may occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small features in the distant background. However, as it is the same route as the AW, this scenic route has been scoped in on a precautionary measure.
C-SR-107	<i>“591 Regional Road between Toormore and Durrus Views of Dunmanus &amp; Toormore Bays, Sheep’s Head, Knockaughna Mountain, Mount Corrin &amp; surrounding hills”</i>	N/A	N/A	Small pocket of theoretical visibility within 25km of the nearest proposed turbine	No, where visibility may occur, visibility of the proposed turbines will be highly restricted by distance and intervening vegetation.
C-SR-113	<i>“572 Regional Road between Glengarriff, Trafresk, Ardrigole and Castletownbere Views of Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay, Whiddy &amp; Bear Islands, Bear Haven, Shrone &amp; Hungry Hills, &amp; the Gowlbeg, Sugarloaf, Caha, Adrigole &amp; Slieve Miskish Mountains”</i>			Pockets of full theoretical visibility within 15km	Given that this scenic route overlooks Bantry Bay with the proposed turbines located in the distant background – this scenic route has been scoped in for further assessment
<b>15-20km</b>					
C-SR-94	<i>“Views of Dunmanus Bay, Mount Corrin &amp; surrounding hills.”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
<b>20-25km</b>					
C-SR-95	<i>“Views of Roaringwater,</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
	<i>Ballydehob &amp; Dunmanus Bays &amp; Mount Gabriel &amp; Mount Corrin</i>				
C-SR-96	<i>“Views of Schull Harbour, Mount Gabriel &amp; rugged rural landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-97	<i>“Views of Schull Harbour, Ballydehob Bay &amp; upland views of Mount Gabriel”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-98	<i>“Views of Roaringwater Bay &amp; Islands”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-91	<i>“Views of Roaringwater &amp; Ballydehob Bays, Kilcoe Castle &amp; the surrounding coastline”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-90	<i>“Views of the River Ilen, Roaringwater Bay &amp; distant mountain views”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-89	<i>“Views of Roaringwater Bay, surrounding islands, Turkhead &amp; the River Ilen”</i>	N/A	N/A	Small pocket of partial theoretical visibility	No, at this distance, visibility is likely to be limited by distance and intervening vegetation within the flat landscape
C-SR-88	<i>“Views of Baltimore Harbour, Church Strand Bay, Ringarogy &amp; Inishbeg Islands &amp; the River Ilen”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-82	<i>“Views of rugged hill-sides, Aghills &amp; Shreelane lakes &amp; Doo Lough”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small pocket of partial theoretical visibility	No, at this distance, visibility is not likely to occur within the settlement of Skibbereen due to screening from the built infrastructure within the settlement

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
C-SR-83	<i>“Views of rural landscape, mature woodlands, Castlehaven Inlet &amp; The Narrows”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small pocket of partial theoretical visibility	No, visibility is not likely to occur at this distance due to vegetative screening within the flat landscape
C-SR-84	<i>“Views of Blind Harbour, Castlehaven Inlet, Lough Cluhir &amp; sloping hillsides”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, apart from a western local road which has partial theoretical visibility	No, at this distance, the proposed turbines will appear as miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant visual effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-81	<i>“Views of the settlements of Glandore &amp; Unionhall, Glandore Harbour &amp; surrounding mountainous landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-79	<i>“Views of hills &amp; remote rural landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-80	<i>“Views of Tralong Bay, Glandore Harbour &amp; sloping hill-sides”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small pocket of partial theoretical visibility.	No, at this distance, the proposed turbines will appear as miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant visual effects are not likely to occur.
C-SR-77	<i>“Views of remote rural landscape &amp; rolling hillsides”</i>	N/A	N/A	None	No
C-SR-36	<i>“Views of valleys &amp; rugged mountainous landscape”</i>	N/A	N/A	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small pocket of partial theoretical visibility.	No, at this distance, the proposed turbines will appear as miniature elements in the background of the view, with visual screening occurring from roadside vegetation. Significant

Map Ref.	Description (CCDP Volume 2)	Direction of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
					visual effects are not likely to occur.

### 13.5.1.2 OSI Viewing Areas

According to the Ordinance Survey of Ireland (OSI) maps, 2 no. OSI Viewing Areas were identified within the LVIA Study Area; these are described in the table.

Below, Table 13-9 displays the scoping of all identified views, along with a description of the view, the direction of view indicated by the OSI data and whether it is directed towards the proposed turbines, the nature of theoretical visibility, and whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment.

Table 13-9: Scoping of OSI Viewing Areas in the LVIA Study Area

Map Ref.	Description	Direction and Range of View	Directed to Turbines?	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
5-10km					
#28	Cullenagh Lake Viewing Point	West	No	None	No
10-25km					
#69	Wild Atlantic View	North	Partially	Full	Yes

### 13.5.1.3 Settlements

In order to identify which settlements within the LVIA Study Area should be considered for photomontage viewpoint (VP) selection, the settlement strategies and hierarchy set out in the CCDP was consulted.

Below,

Table 13-10 lists the settlements identified from the County Cork Development Plan within the LVIA Study Area, noting the county hierarchy status, whether there is theoretical visibility indicated by ZTV mapping, and whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment. Following this, maps all settlements within the LVIA Study Area and shows the ZTV determining theoretical visibility.

Table 13-10 Scoping of Settlements in the LVIA Study Area

Settlement	County Hierarchy	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
Up to 5km			
Kealkill	Village	Primarily Full Theoretical Visibility	Yes

Settlement	County Hierarchy	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
<b>5-10km</b>			
Ballylickey	Village	Primarily Full Theoretical Visibility	Yes
Bantry	Main Town	Full Theoretical Visibility	Yes
Drimoleague	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Ballinageary	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
<b>10-15km</b>			
Glengarriff	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Inchigeelagh	Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Dunmanyway	Main Town	Pockets of theoretical visibility on the outskirts of the town	No, given the distance and screening from the built environment within the settlement, views of the proposed turbines will be highly screened
Drinagh	Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
<b>15-20km</b>			
Kilnamartery	Village	Partial Theoretical Visibility	No, given the distance and screening from the built environment within the settlement, views of the proposed turbines will be highly screened
Ballymakeery	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Durrus	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
<b>20-25km</b>			
Clondrohid	Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Ballineen/Enniskeane	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Leap	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No

Settlement	County Hierarchy	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
Union Hall	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Glandore	Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No
Skibbereen	Main Town	Partial Theoretical Visibility	No, at this distance, visibility is not likely to occur due to distance and visual screening from the built environment.
Ballydehob	Key Village	No Theoretical Visibility	No

### 13.5.1.4 Recreational Routes

Recreational routes are sensitive receptors as people are likely to be using them in a recreational capacity where value is likely to be placed upon views and the scenic amenities of the landscape. The term ‘recreational routes’ encompasses the following:

- › Waymarked walking routes;
- › Cycle routes;
- › Scenic drives and tourist routes (e.g., the Wild Atlantic Way).

According to sources including such as OSI maps and Sport Ireland Designated Cycle Routes and Trails, 72 no. designated routes were identified within the LVIA Study Area. In general, many such routes exist of differing scale and prominence, thus only the recreational routes of county- or national-level importance which are featured on the available websites or are designated in county-level policies were included in this LVIA.

Below, Table 13-11 displays the scoping of all identified recreational routes, along with a description of each route, the nature of theoretical visibility indicated by ZTV mapping, the nature of the actual visibility, and whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment.

Table 13-11: Scoping of Recreational Routes in the LVIA Study Area

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
Up to 5km					
RR-5 / RR-6	Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route	<p><i>“The 318 kilometre-long Cork City-Beara-Gougane Barra cycle route finishes in Gougane Barra”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.coillte.ie">www.coillte.ie</a>)</p>	Large section of route has theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest proposed turbines, with intermittent	Visibility of the proposed turbines likely to occur	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
			patches of theoretical visibility beyond 5km. Very limited theoretical visibility exists to the east beyond 5km.		
RR-11	Castledonovan Loop	<p><i>“This walk has spectacular views across Bantry, Dunmanus Bay and the Kerry mountains. On clear days, there are views all the way to the Fastnet Rock. The Castledonovan Loop Walk is marked by a blue arrow starting at Castledonovan car park”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small stretch of full theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine	Given the limited extent of theoretical visibility, Significant visual effects are not likely to occur.	No
RR-42	Mullaghmesha Loop	<p><i>“A walk to the summit of Mullaghmesha (494m) with stunning panoramic views over the West Cork countryside, from the Kerry Mountains to the North, Roaring Water Bay to the South, Bantry Bay to the West and Dunmanway to the East.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a></p>	Primarily limited theoretical visibility, with a small stretch of full theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine	Given the limited extent of theoretical visibility, Significant visual effects are not likely to occur.	No
RR-65	Sli Galetacht Mhuscraí	<p><i>“Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí is a section of the famous Beara-Breifne Way, linking Kealkill and Millstreet in County Cork. At approximately 50</i></p>	Patches of partial theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest	Visibility of the proposed turbines may occur	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>kilometres in length, the trail offers some stunning views on a variety of terrain, from forest track and boreen to open mountain and bogland and there are many sites of interest and beauty.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	proposed turbines, with small pockets of theoretical visibility beyond 5km.		
RR-58	Sheep’s Head Way	<p><i>“Sheep’s Head is the narrowest of the fingers of land that extend from the south west mainland of Ireland out into the Atlantic, between Bantry Bay and Dunmanus Bay. The Sheep’s Head Way is 175km length in total. It is made up of the 88km circular walking route beginning in the town of Bantry in County Cork and running out along the north coast of the peninsula to the scenic lighthouse at the very tip before returning along the south side, passing through the pretty villages of Kilcrohane, Ahakista and Durrus, with the extensions to Drimoeague and Kealkill to the north providing the additional 87km.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Large section of partial theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine, with limited theoretical visibility beyond 10km. Stretches of partial theoretical visibility along the route located on coastline	Visibility may occur within 5km, and within elevated vantage points beyond 5km	Yes
RR-50	Sheep’s Head – Glounaclohy Walk (Drimoleague)	<p><i>“An invigorating loop walk featuring magnificent hilltop views over Bantry Bay.”</i></p>	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>			
RR-51	Sheep's Head – Kealkill – Sron na Gaoithe	This loop walk begins at Carriganass Castle in Kealkill, Co. Cork and is part of the Sheep's Head Way.	Primarily full theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur on elevated vantage points	Yes
RR-52	Sheep's Head – Kealkill/Poc an Tairbh	<i>“This loop walk passes the historic sites of Carriganass Castle and Maughanasilly Stone Row (Macha na Sailr), with stunning views of the Sheha hills, Kealkill and Bantry Bay.”</i>  <a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>	Primarily full theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur on elevated vantage points along the route	Yes
RR-40	Mealagh Valley Loop	<i>“The Mealagh valley has many historical and prehistoric sites of interest, including many standing stones, a 5 stone circle, stone rows and an Ogham inscribed stone nearby the river.”</i>  <a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>	The entire loop has partial theoretical visibility	Some visibility of some of the proposed turbines may occur from along the route	Yes
RR-41	Melagh Woods Loop	<i>“The Mealagh Woods Loop is a pleasant woodland walk which follows the bank of the Mealagh River and woodland paths, taking in an ancient wedge tomb.”</i>  <a href="http://www.SportsIreland.ie">www.SportsIreland.ie</a>	The entire loop has partial theoretical visibility	Some visibility of some of the proposed turbines may occur from along the route	Yes
RR-43	Pass of Keimaneigh	A mountain pass along the R584 Regional Road	Pockets of full and partial theoretical visibility	Partial visibility may occur within 5km.	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
			along the route with 5km of the nearest proposed turbine. No theoretical visibility beyond 5km.		
5 to 10km					
WAW	Wild Atlantic Way	<p><i>“The Wild Atlantic Way, 1600 miles (2600 km) in length, is one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world. It winds its way all along the Irish west coast from the Inishowen Peninsula in the north down to the picturesque town of Kinsale, County Cork, in the south.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.TheWildAtlanticWay.com">www.TheWildAtlanticWay.com</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with patches of full theoretical visibility within the settlement of Bantry and along the coastline.	In reality, given the distance, and the visual screening occurring from vegetation and the built environment within Bantry, visibility is likely to be minimal. Visibility is likely to occur along the coastlines of County Cork. Given the sensitivity of the WAW, it has been scoped in for assessment.	Yes
RR-2	Bantry Cycle Route	Cycling route within Bantry town	Primarily full theoretical visibility	As the cycle route is within the settlement, visibility will be limited due to visual screening from the built environment	No
RR-3 / RR-4	Bantry Walking Way	Walking trail within Bantry town	Primarily full theoretical visibility	As the walking route is within the settlement, visibility will be limited due	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
				to visual screening from the built environment	
RR-13	Coorycomman e Loop	<p><i>“A relatively new hiking trail that begins and ends by a small waterfall at Coomhola Bridge.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.tripadvisor.ie">www.tripadvisor.ie</a>)</p>	Primarily full theoretical visibility with pockets of none or partial theoretical visibility.	Where visibility does occur, the proposed turbines will be seen in the distant background. Significant visual effects are not likely to occur.	No
RR-14	Drimoleague Heritage Trail	<p><i>“Enjoy this pleasant loop walk combining village landscape, hilltop panorama, woodland, and riverbank.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.Alltrails.ie">www.Alltrails.ie</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility with a small pocket of partial theoretical visibility.	The small section of the loop where partial theoretical visibility is indicated is unlikely to have clear views of the proposed turbines due to screening from roadside vegetation and built infrastructure.	No
RR-31	Gougane Barra – Sli and Easa	<p><i>“This trail visits several waterfalls and provides beautiful views of Coomroe Valley and the beautiful Gúgán Barra Lake.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.Alltrails.ie">www.Alltrails.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
33-34	Gougane Barra – Sli Ghaorthaidh	<p><i>“This nature trail offers views of the Shehy Mountains and is a wonderful place for birdwatching.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.Alltrails.ie">www.Alltrails.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
RR-35	Gougane Barra – Sli Laoi	<i>“This is a great trail that winds through a beautiful old forest and includes a series of steps.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.Alltrails.ie">www.Alltrails.ie</a> )	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-36	Gougane Barra – Sli Sleitbhe	<i>“Mostly on path and minor road, this is the longest, most difficult and most exciting of the trails in the park, passing through trees, criss-crossing the infant River Lee and going onto open mountain. Views are of Maolach, the craggy slopes of Carraig Án an Phreacháin and the old Mass path from the Borlin Valley to St. Finbarr’s Oratory on the lake island.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-46	Sheep’s Head – Alpaca Farm Walk (Drimoleague)	<i>“A spectacular hill walk from Castledonovan to Coomanore Lake, taking the old bog road from where you behold wonderful views of the West cork coastline. The walk returns by the old homestead of “George the Sky”.</i>  ( <a href="http://www.discoverireland.ie">www.discoverireland.ie</a> )	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
R-48	Sheep’s Head – Deelish Cascades Walk (Drimoleague)	<i>“This walk follows the old mass path along the banks of the Ilen River before joining a quiet road leading to Ahanafunsiun bridge amenity area, passing</i>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>cascades, cliffs, patchwork field systems, a huge river bend in the form of an ox bow and some archaeological features with possibly the sight of a dipper or otter and other wildlife.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>			
RR-54	Sheep’s Head – Moyny Bridge Walk (Drimoleague)	<p><i>“This is a pleasant walk on road, along the wooded banks of the Ilen River and on path through fields climbing over the ridge, passing the fine double-arched Moyny Bridge, Old Millards farmyard, remains of slate quarries and old Drimoleague Water Works with some lovely views on your return journey.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Small pocket of partial theoretical visibility	The small section of the loop where partial theoretical visibility is indicated is unlikely to have clear views of the proposed turbines due to screening from roadside vegetation and built infrastructure.	No
RR-55	Sheep’s Head – Sheep’s Head Way to Drimoleague	<p><i>“This spectacular walk follows a quiet road, then track and path taking you to the top of the hill and passing the Castle, the great stone of Glanaclohy and behind it the house of George the Sky with Coomanore Lake further on, while magnificent views open up all around the West Cork coast including Bantry Bay as you climb.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility with a small section of full theoretical visibility	While intermittent visibility may occur from elevated vantage points along sections of the walking route, significant visual effects are not likely to occur along the entire route as a whole.	No
RR-56	Sheep’s Head – Shronacarton	<p><i>“This pleasant stroll along a quiet country road lined with fuchsia</i></p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
	Walk (Drimoleague)	<p><i>hedges takes you through Drimoleague's history, passing near a holy well and views of a 1950's Holy Year Cross on the hill to the left, and brings you to a restful amenity area at the Mall with a lovely picnic area."</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>			
RR-57	Sheep's Head Looped Cycle	<p><i>"The Sheep's Head Cycle Route starts in Bantry town, then travels the ridge and north side of the peninsula to Sheep's Head lighthouse, before returning to Bantry from the south side. It is approximately 75 km long and offers many interesting detours. The cycle route passes many of the Sheep's Head Way trailheads, where loop walks can be incorporated into your trip."</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with patches of full theoretical visibility along the coastline	Visibility is likely to occur on the elevated vantage points along the route	Yes
RR-2	Bantry Cycleways	Cycleways in Bantry Town	Pockets of full theoretical visibility	In reality, views of the proposed turbines will be limited by screening from the built infrastructure within the settlement. Where visibility may occur, given the distance, the proposed turbines will	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
				appear as small elements within the background of the view. As a precautionary measure, they have been scoped in.	
<b>10-15km</b>					
R-59	Sheep's Head - Whiddy Island Loop	<p><i>"Whiddy Island Loop Walk is situated in Bantry Bay between the Beara and Sheep's Head peninsulas, and it's home to a walk that offers spectacular views across Bantry Bay and the neighbouring landscapes."</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.WestCorkIslands.com">www.WestCorkIslands.com</a>)</p>	Primarily full theoretical visibility.	Given the distance, where visibility will occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small background features. Significant effects are not likely to occur	No
RR-7	Beara Way	<p><i>"The Beara Peninsula is a 48km long mountainous finger, shared by counties Kerry and Cork, stretching into the Atlantic Ocean."</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small pocket of full theoretical visibility at 20km	Visibility may occur from elevated vantage points along the route. However, at this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible are only likely to be seen as small elements in the distant background	Yes
RR-8	Beara Way Cycle Route	<p><i>"The Beara Way Cycling Route is a National Cycling Route and for most parts is on country roads. The route travels along the entire Beara Peninsula"</i></p>	Pockets of full theoretical visibility along the coastline of County Cork	Visibility may occur from elevated vantage points along the route. However, at this distance,	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>passing through all the towns and villages along the way. The entire route is 183 kms.</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.BearaTourism.com">www.BearaTourism.com</a>)</p>		the proposed turbines, where visible are only likely to be seen as small elements in the distant background	
RR - 15	Dunmanyway Cycleway	Cycleway in Dunmanway town	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small section of limited theoretical visibility.	At this distance, where partial visibility may occur, high levels of visual screening will occur from roadside vegetation and the built infrastructure within the area.	No
RR - 15	Dunmanyway Walking Trails	Walking trail in Dunmanyway	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-32	Gougane Barra – Sli Com Rua	<p><i>“This walk lies in a valley with sheer walls of Old Red Sandstone rock rising to 370 metres. Taking paths and stone steps, it crosses a footbridge over a tumbling stream, through pine and spruce trees to reach a viewing point which opens up the whole Coomroe Valley and Gougane Barra lake.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-33	Gougane Barra – Sli Doire Na Coise	<p><i>“While surrounded by high hills this is a gentle forest walk taking in the infant River Lee, crossing over a number of</i></p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>footbridges and on towards the shore of Lough Gougane Barra. It follows paths and passes through magnificent Larch and Spruce trees.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>			
RR-37	Inchigeelagh Walking Trails	Walking trails in Inchigeelagh	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-45	Rooska Loop	<p><i>“This loop walk has wonderful views over Bantry Bay and Dunmanus Bay, following both quiet roads and open hill.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsWayHead.com">www.TheSheepsWayHead.com</a>)</p>	Primarily full theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur on elevated vantage points beyond 15km from the nearest proposed turbine; however, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the distant background.	Yes
RR-50	Sheep’s Head – Glounaclohy Walk (Drimoleague)	<p><i>“This spectacular walk follows a quiet road, then track and path taking you to the top of the hill and passing the Castle, the great stone of Glounaclohy and behind it the house of George the Sky with Coomanore Lake further on, while magnificent views open up all around the West Cork coast including Bantry Bay as you climb.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
RR-64	Skibbereen Cycle Hub Loop 3	<p><i>“This loop is the longest of the Skibbereen Cycle Hub Loops. It is a more challenging route and recommended for more experienced cyclists only with lots of steep and very steep hills.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.DiscoverIreland.ie">www.DiscoverIreland.ie</a>)</p>	Small pockets of partial theoretical visibility	At this distance, where visibility does occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small background features, partially screened by intervening vegetation.	No
15 to 20km					
RR-1	Ballyvourney Walking Trail	A trail near Ballyvourney, County Cork.	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-9	Big Meadow Walk – Glengarriff Nature Reserve	<p><i>“This walk follows footpath and woodland track and brings you to The Big Meadow, an area of old grassland that has not been fertilised or ploughed in living memory and is covered by swathes of wild flowers. Also included on the walk is a new lake created for the rare Downy Emerald dragonfly.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-10	Carrigfadda Hill Walk	<p><i>“Carrigfadda Hill Walk is a linear walk on path with a wooded looped section climbing strenuously to the top of Carrigfadda Hill where there is a 7 metre high Marian Year cross at the summit. There are fantastic panoramic</i></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small pocket of partial theoretical visibility	At this distance, where visibility does occur, if any, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the background of the view. No	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>views of the West Cork countryside as well as the coastline.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>		significant effects are likely to occur.	
RR-12	Comkeen Loop	<p><i>“The Coomkeen Loop Walk offers wonderful views. Look out over Whiddy Island, Bantry Bay, and the Beara peninsula.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small pocket of full theoretical visibility	At this distance, where visibility does occur, if any, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the background of the view. No significant effects are likely to occur.	No
RR-16	Esknamucky Walk – Glengarriff Nature Reserve	<p><i>“On steep path and steps, this walk climbs up through the woods to a series of viewing points giving fantastic views over the trees to the mountains beyond. Otherwise known as the High Walk, this trail can be easily combined with Glengarriff’s Waterfall Walk.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-20	Fastnet Trails – Deerinnard Loop	<p><i>“This trail follows quiet country roads with minimum traffic passing by places of historical interest and the opportunity to take a spur to the historic Kilcoe Castle and the ruins of Kilcoe Medieval Church while views of Roaring Water Bay and its islands with Mount Kidd in the</i></p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<i>background are panoramic.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )			
RR-25	Fastnet Trails – Lisheenacrehig Loop	<i>“This trail follows quiet country road with minimum traffic passing sites of historical and general interest with fine views of the islands and Kilcoe Castle.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-30	Glengarriff Woods Loop	The Glengarriff Wood Loop is a 5.6 km looped trail that starts and ends in County Cork,	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-38	Lady Bantrys Lookout – Glengarriff Nature Reserve	<i>“On this walk the climb up on path through the woods is steep but from the top there are fantastic panoramic views over Glengarriff to Garinish Island, Whiddy Island and Bantry Bay. To the north you can see the full extent of Glengarriff woodlands, nestling in the rugged glen rimmed by the Cahal Mountains.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-39	Macroon Cycle Route	Cycle route in Macroon	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-44	River Walk – Glengarriff Nature Reserve	<i>“This walk takes you on a gentle wander along footpath through old oak woods on the banks of the Glengarriff River where you can enjoy the lush growth of</i>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>ferns, mosses and lichens - typical of oceanic woodlands in the Gulf Stream influenced climate of South-West Ireland.</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>			
RR-47	Sheep's Head – Barnageehy Loop	<p><i>“This loop walk travels through farmland, forestry tracks and quiet roads with great views of the countryside.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	Patches of full theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur on elevated vantage points along the loop. However, at this distance, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the background of the view	Yes
RR-53	Sheep's Head – Mount Corrin Loop	<p><i>“This loop walk with a mixture of lanes, quiet roads and open mountain. The steep climb up to the ‘cairn’ at the top of Mount Corrin will be worth the trek, with amazing views both inland and out to sea.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with pockets of full theoretical visibility	At this distance, where visibility does occur, if any, the proposed turbines will appear as small elements in the background of the view. No significant effects are likely to occur.	No
RR-71	Waterfall Walk – Glengarrif Nature Reserve	<p><i>“This trail follows a path along the Canrooska River to a small waterfall, which is particularly impressive after rain.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility	No visibility will occur	No
20-25km					

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
RR-18	Fastnet Trails – Bechers Walk	<p><i>“This trail follows a quiet rural road passing between hedges rich in fuchsia, gorse and honeysuckle and by historical features with many wading birds, especially Curlew, visible at low tide and spectacular views of Roaring Water Bay and Kilcoe Castle among the fine views of sea and islands.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-19	Fastnet Trails – Butter Road Walk	<p><i>“This trail walk follows quiet country road with a section on the old 17th century green Bridle or Butter Road stretching from Kilbronogue to near Schull and passing several points of interest with great views of Schull Harabour, Long Island and Mount Gabriel.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-21	Fastnet Trails – Derreenatra Loop	<p><i>“This 12 km easy loop walk starts at the Kilcoe Trail Head adjacent to the R.C. Church, whose rose window inside was designed by L. Clarke /Harry Clarke Ltd.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.DiscoverIreland.ie">www.DiscoverIreland.ie</a></p>	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
RR-22	Fastnet Trails – Derryconnell Loop	A looped walk on the foothills of Mount Gabriel	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-23	Fastnet Trails – Ilen River Walk	<p><i>“This walk follows a quiet coast road carrying minimum traffic with wading birds such as Curlew and Little Egret visible on the mud flats and excellent views of the tidal Ilen River in its many phases as well as sea and islands.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.DiscoverIreland.ie">www.DiscoverIreland.ie</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-24	Fastnet Trails – Kilcoe Ballydehob Walk	<p><i>“This walk is the first leg of the Fastnet Trail heading west and is usually walked in one direction, but it is of course easy enough to retrace one’s steps and return to Kilcoe on foot. There are three detours which each lead down to an interesting feature and viewpoint and these are well worthwhile.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-26	Fastnet Trails – Rock Walk	<p><i>“This walk follows quiet country road passing between hedges rich in fuchsia and honeysuckle and by sites of historical and archaeological interest with sea views of islands and distant hills.”</i></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>		background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	
RR-27	Fastnet Trails – Rossbrin Walk	<p><i>“This scenic coastal walk follows backroads passing historical and archaeological structures with a drop to Rossbrin Cove and offers great views of Fastnet and Carbery’s hundred islands, Roaring Water Bay, Mount Gabriel as well as Kilcoe and Rossbrin Medieval Castles.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-29	Foilkilly Loop	<p><i>“This walk follows laneways, minor roads and open mountain as it crosses over the ridge, giving spectacular views of both Bantry Bay and Dunmanus Bay, with the Beara and Mizen Head peninsulas beyond.”</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a></p>	Primarily full theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-49	Sheep’s Head – Glanlough Loop	<p><i>“This loop follows minor roadways, laneways and mountain paths as it climbs to bring you along the top of the spine ridge of the Sheep’s Head Peninsula, before</i></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with a small patch of full theoretical visibility.	Visibility may occur at elevated vantage points	Yes

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>descending, circling Glanlough Lake on the way. Spectacular mountain, coastal and sea views abound on all sides.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>			
RR-62	Skibbereen Cycling Hub Loop 1	<p><i>“This loop starts at the Post Office in Skibbereen and passes close to Lough Abisdealy on its way to the coast at Tragumna beach from where it tours along the headlands, bays and promontories of this part of West Cork to Castletownsend and back to Skibbereen. There are marvellous views out over the Atlantic. It includes several steep and some very steep hills and care is required on some sections and at some junctions.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	No
RR-63	Skibbereen Cycling Hub Loop 2	<p><i>“This loop is south-west of Skibbereen and starts at the Heritage Centre, passing through a beautiful part of the country. There is an option to continue on a linear there-and-back section from Lough Nacartan to Baltimore. While the loop part is the easiest of the three Cycle Hub Loops, the linear section includes the challenging Lough Hyne, some very steep hills, narrow roads and poor surfaces. Care is</i></p>	Primarily no theoretical visibility, with small section of partial theoretical visibility	In reality, at this distance, where partial visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view, partially screened by roadside vegetation. Significant effects will not occur	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<i>required on some sections and at some junctions.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )			
RR-66	Union Hall Walks – Lake Walk	<i>“This walk on road through the countryside passes over hills with views of the open sea and back over Glandore Estuary with the option to walk alongside Carrighilly Lake or down to Carrighilly beach.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-67	Union Hall Walks – Myross/Squinice /Ardra	<i>“This walk on road passes along Lough Clohir to Myross Causeway and Squince Beach with views of Rabbit Island, ascending to farmlands and return, with an optional 500m extension to beautiful Tra an Oilean beach.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-68	Union Hall Walks – Reen/Blind Harbour	<i>“Walk on road through farmland, alongside Lough Clohir to Castlehaven Narrows. Pass O'Donovans castle at Raheen. Visit Rineen Pier, popular departure point for kayaking and whale watching. Continue on to Blind Harbour and return.”</i>  ( <a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a> )	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No
RR-69	Union Hall Walks – Rineen / Ceim Hill	<i>“This walk on road includes climbing a steep hill with views</i>	Primarily no theoretical visibility,	In reality, at this distance, where partial	No

Map Ref.	Route Name (Waymarked trail)	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
		<p><i>over Rineen, walking along a ridge with superb views of open sea and Castletownsend before returning alongside Lough Cluhir.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	with small section of partial theoretical visibility	visibility may occur, if any, the proposed turbines will be viewed as miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant effects will not occur	
R-70	Union Hall Walks – Village Heritage Walk	<p><i>“This walk on road is suitable for baby/pushchairs/wheel chairs. Learn some of the history of Union Hall and visit Keelbeg Pier, a busy fishing harbour. Fifteen points numbered along the way to correspond with information brochure.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.SportIreland.ie">www.SportIreland.ie</a>)</p>	No theoretical visibility	No visibility will occur	No

### 13.5.1.5 Recreational, Cultural Heritage and Tourist Destinations

Popular recreational, cultural heritage and tourist destinations in the LVIA Study Area were investigated through a desktop exploration of localised tourism plans as well as considering the most popular tourism destinations in County Cork posted on [Tripadvisor.ie](http://Tripadvisor.ie). Note that ‘cultural heritage’ destinations in this section refers to those of popular renown where there is safe public access and relatively high visitor numbers; a detailed assessment of archaeological cultural heritage sites in relation to the Proposed Wind Farm is provided in this EIAR, Chapter 14: Cultural Heritage, as well as the Tourism Impact Assessment (appendix 5-3).

Below,

Table 13-12 displays the scoping of these recreational and tourist destinations within the LVIA Study Area. The table provides a description of each item, the nature of theoretical visibility indicated by ZTV mapping, the nature of the actual visibility, and whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment.

Table 13-12: Scoping of Cultural Heritage, Recreational & Tourist Destinations in the LVIA Study Area

Destination	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
<b>Up to 5km</b>				
Carriganass Castle	<p><i>“Carriganass Castle - on the outskirts of Kealkill village, in the heart of West Cork - played a dramatic role in one of Irish history's most exciting stories.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TripAdvisor.ie">www.TripAdvisor.ie</a>)</p>	Partial Theoretical Visibility	Given the proximity of the proposed turbines, some partial visibility may occur through the gaps in vegetation	Yes
Kealkill Stone Circle	<p><i>“Kealkil Stone Circle in West Cork, consists of a small five stone circle, two large standing stones (one eight feet tall, the other almost sixteen feet) and a cairn of stones with a 'kerb' of stones set upright in a radial pattern around the inside.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.DiscoverIreland.ie">www.DiscoverIreland.ie</a>)</p>	Full Theoretical Visibility	Visibility of the proposed turbines may occur	Yes
Breeny More Stone Circle	An axial stone circle located in County Cork near Kealkill	Full Theoretical Visibility	Visibility of the proposed turbines may occur	Yes
Barnagowlane West Wedge Tomb	<p><i>“The Barnagowlane West tomb opens to the southwest and is formed by a single capstone which rests on the sidestones and a closing stone at the eastern end, forming a burial chamber within.”</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com">www.TheSheepsHeadWay.com</a>)</p>	Partial Theoretical Visibility	Given the dense vegetation enclosing this site, visibility of the proposed turbines will be highly screened. Significant effects are not likely to occur.	No
<b>5 to 10km</b>				
Gougane Barra (incl. Gougane Barra National Forest Park)	<p><i>“An area of wild and beautiful scenery, this magnificent Forest Park covers over 137 splendid hectares (339 acres). It is tucked in a lush valley at the edge of the Sheehy mountains”.</i></p> <p>(<a href="http://www.Coillte.ie">www.Coillte.ie</a>)</p>	No Theoretical Visibility Indicated	No Visibility will occur, however, given the sensitivity of this receptor, it has been scoped in as a precautionary measure.	Yes

Destination	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
Clodagh Standing Stones	A pair of standing stones forming a stone row in County Cork	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Snave Pier	Tourist Attraction in Ballylickey, Co. Cork	Partial Theoretical Visibility	Given the distance, and the intervening vegetation, where visibility does occur, the proposed turbines will appear as small miniature elements in the background of the view. Significant effects are not likely to occur.	No
St Edmunds Church	Place of worship	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
The Cove	Hiking area in Bantry, Co. Cork	Partial Theoretical Visibility	At this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible, the proposed turbines will appear as small miniature elements in the background of the view. No significant effects will occur	No
<b>10 to 15km</b>				
Martello Tower	Historical Tourist Attraction	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Caha Pass	Scenic Spot in County Cork	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Gairinish Islands	An island that is a tourist attraction that has walled gardens and a Martello tower	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Oilean Chaislean na Mol	Tourist island / scenic spot in County Cork	Partial Theoretical Visibility	At this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible, the proposed turbines	No

Destination	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
			will appear as small miniature elements in the background of the view. No significant effects will occur	
Shanvallybeg Beach	Tourist attraction / scenic spot in County Cork	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Abbey Beach	Tourist attraction / scenic spot in County Cork	Full and partial theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur at open views along the coastline, however, at this distance, Significant visual effects are not likely to occur for this receptor.	No
Bantry House	Bantry House and Garden is a stately home overlooking Bantry Bay – tourist attraction	Full and partial theoretical visibility	Visibility may occur at open views along the coastline through gaps in vegetation, however, at this distance, Significant visual effects are not likely to occur for this receptor.	No
WAW Discovery Point – Bantry Harbour	Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Kilnaruane Pillar Stone	Historical landmark	Full Theoretical Visibility	At this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible, the proposed turbines will appear as small distant features in the background of the view, screened by intervening vegetation within the landscape. No significant effects are likely to occur	No

Destination	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
Vaughan's Pass* (same location as Wild Atlantic View Osi viewpoint)	Scenic spot in County Cork	Full Theoretical Visibility	Visibility may occur	Yes
Letterlickey Cairn	Tourist attraction in County Cork	Full Theoretical Visibility	At this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible, the proposed turbines will appear as small miniature elements in the background of the view, screened by intervening vegetation within the landscape. No significant effects will occur	No
<b>15-20km</b>				
Kilmichael Ambush Site	Historical landmark in County Cork	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point @ Whiddy Island	Discovery Point along the Wild Atlantic Way	Full Theoretical Visibility	Visibility may occur	Yes
Magic Forest Ballybane	Park / nature reserve	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
<b>20-25km</b>				
Keel Burial Grounds	Burial grounds / historical landmark	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Kinneigh Round Tower	Historical landmark	No Theoretical Visibility	None	No
Hundred Lakes	Hiking area in County Cork	Full Theoretical Visibility	At this distance, the proposed turbines, where visible, the proposed turbines will appear as small miniature elements in the	No

Destination	Description	Theoretical Visibility	Actual Visibility	Scoped In
			background of the view. No significant effects will occur	

### 13.5.1.6 Transport Routes

National primary roads and national secondary roads within the LVIA Study Area were investigated via desktop analysis. Transport routes are not typically considered to represent receptors of high sensitivity. Therefore, the potential for ‘Significant’ visual effects is only likely to occur for transport routes in close proximity to the Site where the magnitude change is likely to be greater. Consideration is also given to the number of receptors travelling these routes (as per GLVIA3 (LI & IEMA, 2013)). In mind of this, only prominent high-trafficked transport routes such as national roads and motorways are considered to 20km and only regional roads within 10km (excepting outer regional roads overlapping with a designated scenic route) are considered in the visual baseline exercise. The visual baseline exercise determined that most visibility of the proposed turbines will occur within 5km of the proposed turbines. Therefore, regional roads within 5km were included in this preliminary analysis scoping exercise of transport routes.

In addition, regional roads and local road transport routes within 3–5km (3km in the case of local roads and 5km in the case of regional or national roads) of the proposed turbines were also assessed as part of the previous RSA of this report (recall above Section 13.3.2: Visibility in Close Proximity: RSA).

On-site appraisals determined that, in most instances, where ZTV mapping has indicated full visibility from large portions of these routes, the actual visibility is quite limited due to local topography and roadside screening. Considering this, for the purpose of viewpoint selection, specific locations from which the greatest visibility is likely to occur were selected on these transport routes.

Below,

Table 13-13 lists all identified transport routes, describes the geographical extent of theoretical visibility upon each route as illustrated by ZTV mapping, and indicates whether the receptor was scoped in for assessment. The road types are prefixed as follows: local (L), regional (R), and national (N).

Table 13-13: Scoping of Major Transport Routes in the LVIA Study Area

Transport Route	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
<b>Up to 5km</b>		
R584	Primarily full theoretical visibility with 5km, with patches of partial theoretical visibility beyond 5km	Yes (and assessed as part of the designated scenic routes)
R585	Primarily full theoretical visibility with 5km, with primarily little to no theoretical visibility beyond 5km	Yes (and assessed as part of the designated scenic routes)
<b>5 to 10km</b>		
R586	Primarily no theoretical visibility with small pockets of partial theoretical visibility	No, where partial visibility may occur, views will be further screened by intervening roadside vegetation. Significant effects are not likely to occur.

Transport Route	Theoretical Visibility	Scoped In
<b>10 to 15km</b>		
N71	Primarily no theoretical visibility with small pockets of partial theoretical visibility	No, where partial visibility may occur, views will be further screened by intervening roadside vegetation. Significant effects are not likely to occur.
<b>15 to 20km</b>		
N22	Primarily no theoretical visibility with small pockets of partial theoretical visibility	No, where partial visibility may occur, views will be further screened by intervening roadside vegetation. Significant effects are not likely to occur.

### 13.5.2 Preliminary Analysis: Visual Receptors

After identifying all visual receptors in the LVIA Study Area, the preliminary analysis was carried out to determine the likely visibility of the proposed turbines using ZTV mapping and on-site visibility appraisals, as reported in the tables of the previous sections. Following this, the final list of visual receptors was selected for further assessment as part of this LVIA using viewpoint selection and photomontage visualisation, supplemented by photowire, or early-stage ‘draft’ photomontage, analysis. Viewpoints, photomontages and photowires are explained below in Section 13.7.3.3.2 Viewpoint Selection: Photomontage and Photowire Locations.

Below, Table 13-14 presents the final list of visual receptors selected for assessment in this LVIA and identifies the viewpoint number(s) (indicated by ‘VP’) and/or photowire number(s) (indicated by ‘PW’) representative of that receptor. All viewpoint and photowire locations are mapped along with the visual receptors below in the subsequent Sections.

Table 13-14: Visual Receptors Scoped In for Assessment

Category	Visual Receptor	Viewpoint/ Photowire No.
<b>Scoped in for Assessment</b>		
Designated Scenic Routes & Views	C-SR-28	VP14
	C-SR-29	VP10, VP11, VP12
	C-SR-113	VP13
	C-SR-111	PWVP-E
	C-SR-27	PWVP-A
	C-SR-110	VP2
OSI Viewing Areas	#69 Wild Atlantic View (Vaughan’s Pass)	VP9

Category	Visual Receptor	Viewpoint/ Photowire No.
<b>Scoped in for Assessment</b>		
Settlements	Kealkill	VP15, PWVP-C
	Ballylickey	VP8, PWVP-E
	Bantry	VP2
Recreational Routes	Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route (Beara Way, Beara Way Cycle Route)	VP6, VP15
	Sli Galetacht Mhuscraí	VP18, PWVP-A, PWVP-C, PWVP-D
	Sheep's Head Way (Incl. all routes)	VP4, VP3, VP5, VP18, VP9, VP17
	Mealagh Valley Loop / Melagh Woods Loop	VP3
	Pass of Keimaneigh	VP7, VP14
	Rooska Loop	VP17
	Wild Atlantic Way (WAW)	VP2, VP13
Recreational, Cultural Heritage & Tourist Destinations	Kealkill Stone Circle	VP4
	Breeny More Stone Circle	VP4
	Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at Whiddy's Island	VP13
	Carriganass Castle	PWVP-C

**Visual Receptors Scoped Out.** ZTV mapping and visibility appraisals conducted on-site during 2022, 2024 and 2025 were used to inform the analysis and scope out visual receptors from further assessment. These receptors were excluded due to the very limited visibility of the proposed turbines, as determined by ZTV mapping as well as onsite appraisals of each visual receptor location. In some cases, the factor of distance to the Proposed Wind Farm site as well as the directional focus of views was included in the preliminary analysis and was a contributing factor in excluding these locations from being selected as viewpoints. Visual receptors that are not mentioned above in Table 13-14 have been excluded from further assessment.

### 13.5.3 Residential Receptors and Visual Amenity

During multiple surveys conducted in 2022, 2024 and 2025, visibility appraisals determined that most visibility of the proposed turbines will occur within 5km of the proposed turbines. It is a settled landscape, and residential housing is organised along the local road network as well as in small settlement clusters around local crossroads and junctions. Some residential receptors located in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site will likely have views of the proposed turbines and are likely to have some of the greatest visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Project.

In light of this, several photomontage viewpoint locations representing residential properties located in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site were selected for inclusion in the *Photomontage Booklet* and are assessed in *Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables*, as well as discussed later in this Chapter.

The following representative viewpoints (VPs) and/or photowires (PW-VPs) are located in proximity to residential receptors and settlement centres within 5km from the proposed turbines:

- > VP24 (Curraglass)
- > VP37 (Cappaboy More)
- > VP36 (Gortloughra)
- > VP22 (Ahildotia)
- > VP19 (Cousane)
- > VP27 (Maughanaclea)
- > VP38 (Maughanaclea)
- > VP39 (Kealkill)
- > VP5 (Kealkill)
- > VP11 (Coomleagh West)
- > VP13 (Dromclogh East)
- > VP12 (Barnagowlane West)

The impact of the proposed turbines on residential visual amenity is discussed in detail in Section 13.7.3.5: Residential Visual Amenity.

## 13.5.4 Viewpoint Selection: Photomontage and Photowire Locations

### Selection of Main Photomontage Viewpoints

Photomontage imagery was captured from multiple viewpoint locations in the LVIA Study Area; from these, a total of 18 no. photomontage viewpoints were selected for full assessment (named VP01–VP18). These are mapped below in Figure 13-14 (marked as white/green icons) and presented in the *ELAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* accompanying this report. All VPs are comprehensively assessed in Section 13.7.3.3.2: Photomontage Viewpoint Assessment Outcomes.

Imagery captured from each viewpoint was used to assess the significance of visual effects arising from the proposed turbines from each viewpoint location. The viewpoint locations are representative of all visual receptors; in some instances, imagery was not captured directly at a visual receptor but from another location in close proximity to the receptor, from which there was a superior line of sight towards the proposed turbines (e.g. a point of higher elevation or a position with less visual screening).

The likely ‘Significant’ visual effects of the proposed turbines arising from each viewpoint location are reported below in Section 13.7.3.1.4. The comprehensive and detailed assessment is presented within the viewpoint (photomontage) impact assessment tables in *Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables*.

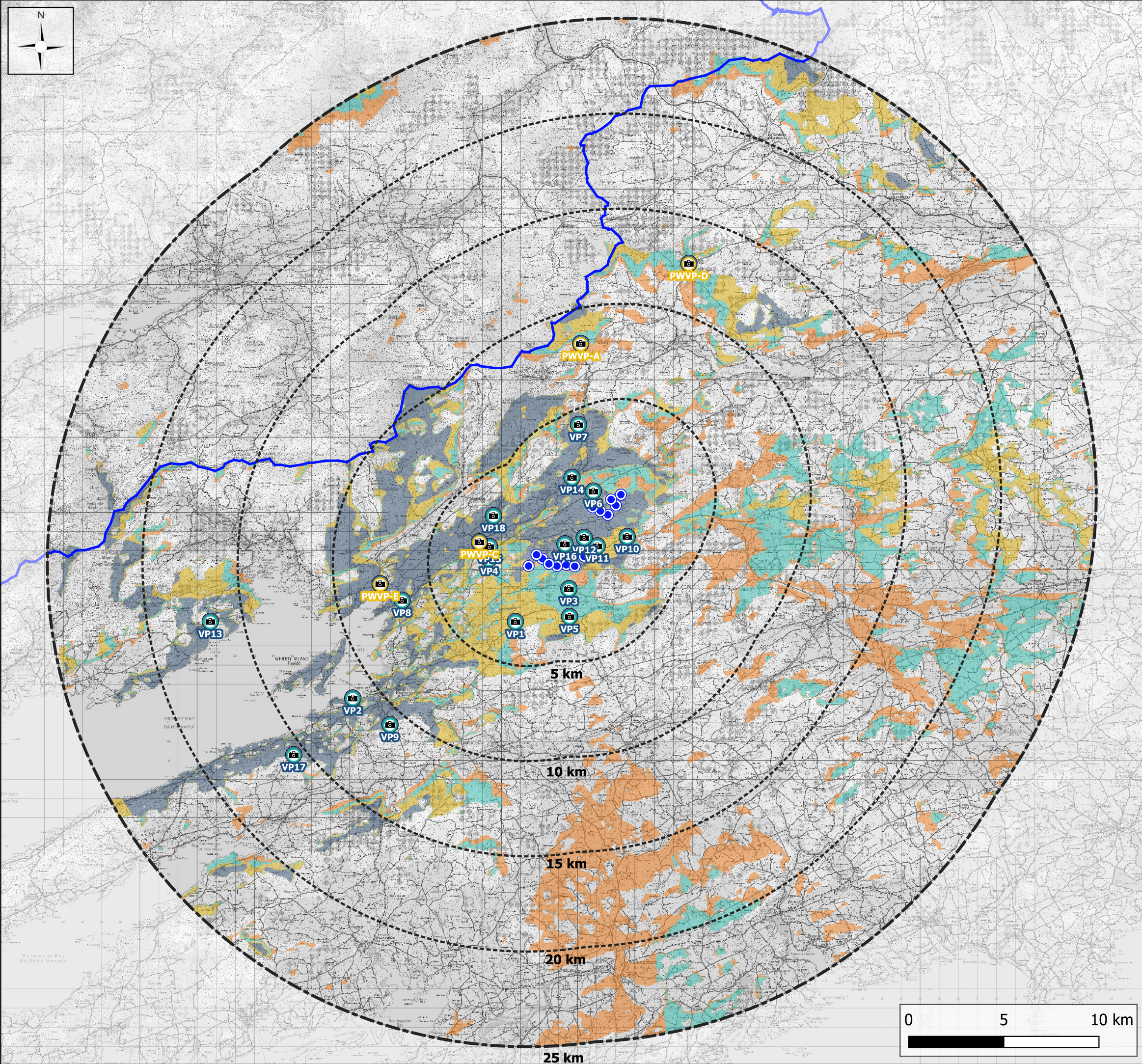
### Supplementary Photomontage Viewpoints: Photowires

Before selection of the final viewpoints, early-stage photomontages (draft-overlaid wireframes) were produced, known as ‘photowires’, representing all visual receptors listed previously in Table 13-14. In some instances, photowires indicated limited visibility of the proposed turbines and were therefore excluded from assessment in the final *Photomontage Booklet*.

To aid discussions, a total of 5 no. supplementary photowires (named PW-A through PW-E) representing additional locations of visual receptors are presented in a separate appendix (*Appendix 13-5: Photowire*

*Visualisation Booklet*) and discussed in the text during the assessments included below in Section 13.7.3.1.4 to illustrate certain points relating to visual effects on specific receptors. These photowires are classified as ‘Type 3’ Visualisations in the LI TGN (2019) and do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in *Appendix 13-3*.

The locations of the 5 no. supplementary photowires (PW-A through PW-E, marked as orange icons) are also included below in Figure 13-14. A detailed description of the viewpoint selection process and photomontage/photowire assessment methodology is provided in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.



**Map Legend**

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- 📷 EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet
- 📷 Appendix 13-5: Photowire Visualisation Booklet

**Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 🟠 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 🟢 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 🟡 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 🟤 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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Drawing No. **Figure 13-14**

Drawing Title **Zone of Theoretical Visibility with Photomontages & Photowires**

Project Title **Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development**

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:195,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW



13.6

## Cumulative Context: Other Wind Farms

This LVIA Chapter assesses the likely landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Project, both independently, as well as in combination with all other existing and operational wind farm developments in the LVIA Study Area. In this section, all wind farm developments in the LVIA Study Area which potentially contribute to assessment of cumulative and in-combination landscape and visual effects are identified.

In addition, this section assesses the Proposed Project in combination with all ‘likely future receiving environments’ according to the EPA, 2022 in the LVIA Study Area, which includes other permitted and proposed wind farm developments.

13.6.1

### Cumulative Developments Identified in LVIA Study Area

All wind farm developments in the LVIA Study Area are identified in this section and each is categorised as one of the following:

- › **Existing:** Wind energy developments that are currently operational in the baseline landscape at the time of conducting this LVIA;
- › **Permitted:** Wind energy developments that are permitted (consented) at the time of conducting this LVIA. These developments have a high probability of being operational in a future receiving environment;
- › **Proposed:** All well-developed wind farm proposals with project specifications in the public domain at the time of conducting this LVIA. Cumulative effects between the Proposed Wind Farm and other proposed projects within this category are inherently uncertain and are reliant on the outcome of the planning and consenting system (amongst other factors).

A description of the various cumulative categories are presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* is comprehensively reported in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* (Section 1.6: Photomontage Visualisations). The above categories are a useful guide to enable understanding and structure when viewing the *Photomontage Booklet* and identification of the developments listed in this section. However, irrespective of how a development is categorised, the assessments of cumulative landscape and visual effects includes all other wind farm developments.

The effects reported both in this Chapter and within the assessment appendices (*Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables* and *Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables*) uses appropriate and logical narrative to discuss cumulative interactions between the Proposed Wind Farm and all other wind energy developments irrespective of which category they occur. Whilst the categories provide clarity in the presentation of visuals with respect to the scope of potential development in this landscape, discussion of cumulative interactions on specific landscape and visual receptors is relative to the effects on each receptor and is proportionate to the likelihood of significant landscape and visual effects occurring on that receptor.

In terms of cumulative landscape and visual effects, only other wind energy projects have been considered, as only these development types can be described as having very tall, vertical elements in the landscape (i.e. turbines) and therefore have the most potential to give rise to ‘Significant’ cumulative landscape and visual effects. These other wind energy developments within 25km of the proposed turbines were identified by searching past planning applications lodged through the online planning portals of relevant planning authorities (i.e. An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP), Cork and Kerry County Councils).

The information identified in the initial planning search was then used to verify, by means of a desk-based study and ground-truthing, whether the permitted wind energy developments had been constructed. The list of existing, permitted, and proposed wind turbines present within the LVIA Study Area are listed below in Table 13-15.

Table 13-15: Cumulative Wind Farms Identified in the LVIA Study Area

Other Wind Farms	County	Status	No. of Turbines	Distance from Nearest Proposed Turbine
<b>Up to 5km</b>				
Curraglass WF	County Cork	Proposed	3	4km from the nearest proposed turbine (T04)
Gortloughra WF	County Cork	Proposed	8	2km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Shehy More WF	County Cork	Existing	11	2.7km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Dereenacreenig West WF	County Cork	Proposed	3	3.6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T08)
<b>5 to 10km</b>				
Carrigarierk WF	County Cork	Existing	5	8.9km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Carrigarierk WF Extension	County Cork	Permitted	3	9.4km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Milane Hill WF	County Cork	Existing	9	8.7km from the nearest proposed turbine (T08)
<b>10 to 15km</b>				
Grousemount WF	County Kerry	Existing	38	10km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Sillahertane-Coomagearlaghy II	County Kerry	Existing	10	12.6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T04)
Midas WF	County Kerry	Existing	23	14.9km from the nearest proposed turbine (T02)
Gortyrhilly WF	County Cork	Permitted	13	13km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Derragh WF	County Cork	Existing	6	12.4km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Cleanrath WF	County Cork	Existing	9	12.6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Currabwee WF	County Cork	Existing	7	14.6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T06)
Killaveenoge WF	County Cork	Existing	10	12.9km from the nearest proposed turbine (T06)

Other Wind Farms	County	Status	No. of Turbines	Distance from Nearest Proposed Turbine
Lahanaght Hill WF	County Cork	Existing	5	13.6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T06)
Ballybane WF	County Cork	Existing	21	12km from the nearest proposed turbine (T14)
<b>15 to 20km</b>				
Kilgarvan WF	County Kerry	Existing	15	17.3km from the nearest proposed turbine (T02)
Kilargan II WF	County Kerry	Existing	13	17.8km from the nearest proposed turbine (T04)
Kilgarvan Repower	County Kerry	Permitted	11	17.8km from the nearest proposed turbine (T04)
Inchamore WF	County Cork	Permitted	4	19.5km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Coomatallin WF	County Cork	Existing	4	17.5km from the nearest proposed turbine (T07)
<b>20 to 25km</b>				
Knocknamork WF	County Cork	Permitted	7	22.7km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Cummeenabuddoge WF	County Kerry	Proposed	17	23.5km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Clydraghroe WF	County Kerry	Existing	5	24.2km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Barnadivane WF	County Cork	Permitted	6	21.8km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Garranereagh WF	County Cork	Existing	4	23.2km from the nearest proposed turbine (T01)
Kilvinane WF	County Cork	Existing	3	20km from the nearest proposed turbine (T06)
Reenascreena WF	County Cork	Existing	5	22.7km from the nearest proposed turbine (T07)

Within the LVIA Study Area (25km radius), 19 no. existing wind farms, 6 no. permitted wind farms, and 4 no. proposed wind farms have been identified. The locations of these wind farms and corresponding wind turbines are mapped in the following section.

In cases where turbines of these wind farms are theoretically visible from the selected 18 no. photomontage viewpoints selected for this LVIA, the proposed turbines are included within the proposed photomontage imagery in the *Photomontage Booklet*.

## 13.6.2 Cumulative Context and Theoretical Visibility

Below, Figure 13-15 compares the cumulative theoretical visibility of all existing, permitted, and proposed wind farms, as well as visibility of the proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm, and the subsequent Figure 13-16 shows the same map overlain with a newly calculated ZTV for cumulative effects.

The legend of Figure 13-16 shows the theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines and cumulative turbines for each corresponding colour, as follows:

- › Teal: Only turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm are theoretically visible;
- › Yellow: Only turbines from existing, permitted and other proposed wind farms are theoretically visible;
- › Grey: All cumulative turbines are theoretically visible, including the Proposed Wind Farm and all other existing, permitted and other proposed wind farms.

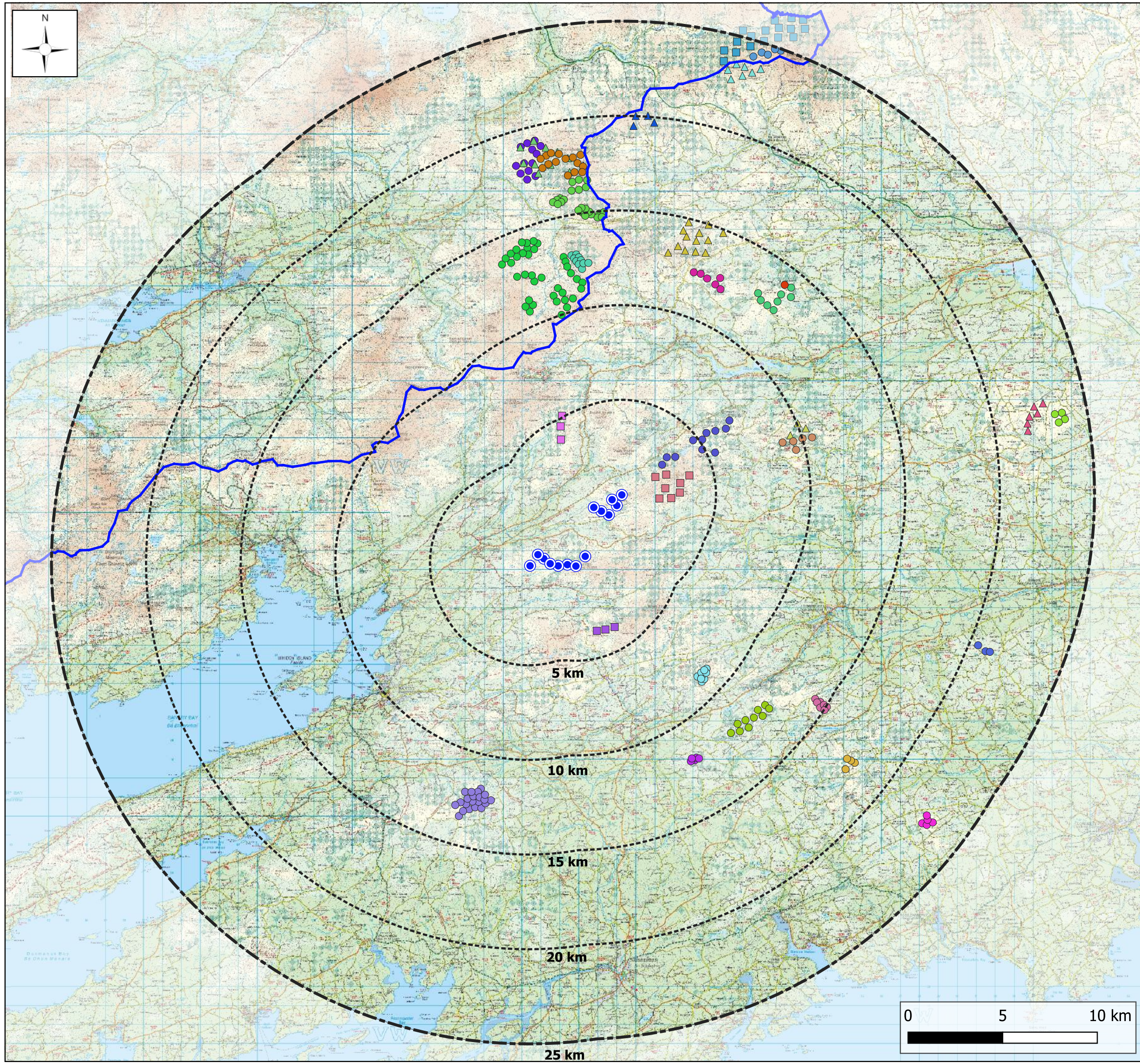
On Figure 13-16, the small pockets of teal colour on the ZTV map illustrate that the Proposed Wind Farm, on its own, adds very little additional theoretical visibility of turbines across the landscape within the LVIA Study Area. The theoretical visibility of cumulative turbines alone covers the majority of the LVIA Study Area, with interspersed patches where both the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are theoretically visible together.

As noted previously, the ZTV does not account for localised undulations in topography or other screening factors; as such, the actual visibility from areas of lowland vegetated landscape is likely to be far less than is indicated by the ZTV. Whilst the cumulative ZTV is a useful tool to aid assessment of cumulative effects and identify areas of non-visibility where certain cumulative impacts will not occur, its utility is limited.

It should be emphasised that, in general, photomontages are a more informative tool than the Cumulative ZTV for assessing the potential cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Wind Farm (refer to GLVIA3, LI & IEMA, 2013, p.129, para.7.30); the likely cumulative visual effects as shown in photomontages are comprehensively assessed in Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables.

Detailed discussions of cumulative landscape and visual effects are included below in Section 13.7.3.8: Discussion of Cumulative Visual Effects. The likely cumulative landscape effects are assessed in the landscape character assessment tables in Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables, and the likely cumulative visual effects are assessed in the photomontage assessment tables in Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables.

The assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects must be proportional, meaning that the focus of the assessment is on the extent to which the Proposed Wind Farm (individual clusters and turbines as a whole) contributes toward cumulative effects on the particular receptors under assessment; these contributions are clearly explained in the narrative on cumulative impact assessment included in this Chapter (Section 13.7.3.8) as well as in the impact assessment Appendices (Appendix 13-2 and Appendix 13-3).



### Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines

### Cumulative Wind Farms within the LVIA Study Area

- Ballybane WF (existing)
- ▲ Barnadivane WF (permitted)
- ▲ Carrigarierk Extension WF (permitted)
- Carrigarierk WF (existing)
- Cleanrath WF (existing)
- Cleanrath WF (existing)
- Clydraghroe WF (existing)
- Coomatallin WF (existing)
- Cummeenabuddoge WF (proposed)
- Curaglass WF (proposed)
- Currabwee WF (existing)
- Dereenacreenig West WF (proposed)
- Derragh WF (existing)
- Garranereagh WF (existing)
- Gortloughra WF (proposed)
- ▲ Gortyrhilly WF (permitted)
- Grousemount WF (existing)
- ▲ Inchamore WF (permitted)
- Kilgarvan II WF (existing)
- ▲ Kilgarvan Repower (permitted)
- Kilgarvan WF (existing)
- Killaveenoge WF (existing)
- Kilvinane WF (existing)
- ▲ Knocknamork WF (permitted)
- Lahanaght Hill WF (existing)
- Midas WF (existing)
- Milane Hill WF (existing)
- Reenascreena WF (existing)
- Shehy More WF (existing)
- Sillahertane-Coomagearlaghy II (existing)

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Drawing No.

Figure 13-15

Drawing Title

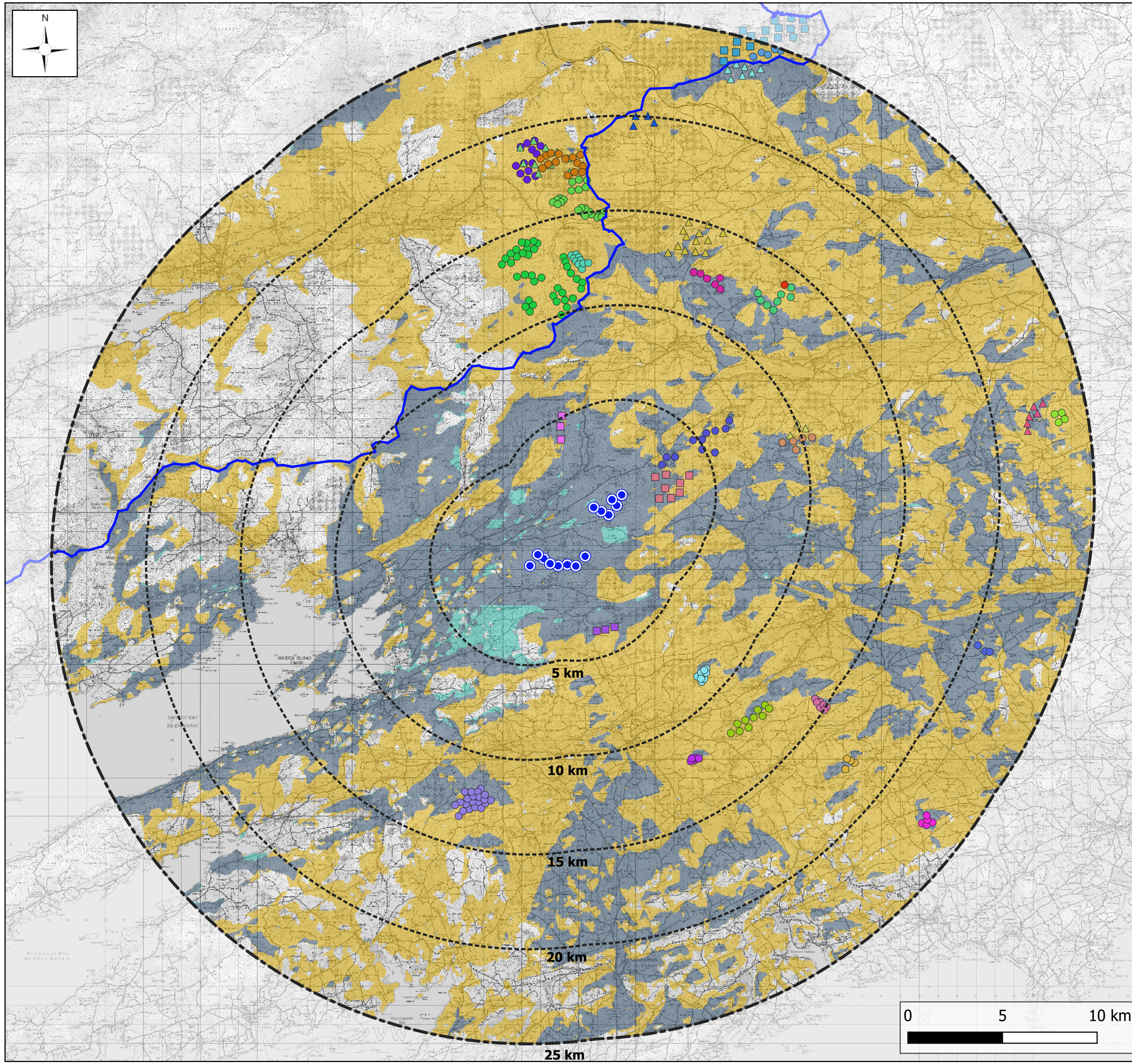
Cumulative Context

Project Title

Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
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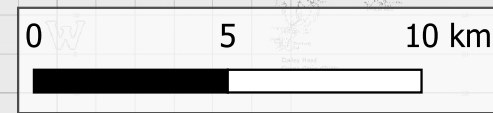


### Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
  - County Border
  - Proposed Turbines
- #### Cumulative Wind Farms within the LVIA Study Area
- Ballybane WF (existing)
  - ▲ Barnadivane WF (permitted)
  - ▲ Carrigarierk Extension WF (permitted)
  - Carrigarierk WF (existing)
  - Cleanrath WF (existing)
  - Cleanrath WF (existing)
  - Clydraghroe WF (existing)
  - Coomatallin WF (existing)
  - Cummeenabuddoge WF (proposed)
  - Curaglass WF (proposed)
  - Currabwee WF (existing)
  - Dereenacreenig West WF (proposed)
  - Derragh WF (existing)
  - Garranereagh WF (existing)
  - Gortloughra WF (proposed)
  - ▲ Gortyrahilly WF (permitted)
  - Grousemount WF (existing)
  - ▲ Inchamore WF (permitted)
  - Kilgarvan II WF (existing)
  - ▲ Kilgarvan Repower (permitted)
  - Kilgarvan WF (existing)
  - Killaveenoge WF (existing)
  - Kilvinane WF (existing)
  - ▲ Knocknamork WF (permitted)
  - Lahanaght Hill WF (existing)
  - Midas WF (existing)
  - Milane Hill WF (existing)
  - Reenascreena WF (existing)
  - Shehy More WF (existing)
  - Sillahertane-Coomagearlachy II (existing)

- #### Cumulative Comparative ZTV
- Only Proposed Turbines Theoretically Visible
  - Only Cumulative Wind Farms Theoretically Visible
  - Both Proposed Turbines and Cumulative Wind Farms Theoretically Visible

Drawing No.					Figure 13-16				
Drawing Title					Cumulative Context				
Project Title					Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development				
Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By	Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
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## 13.7 Likely ‘Significant’ Landscape and Visual Effects

### 13.7.1 ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario

If the Proposed Project were not to proceed, the Site will continue to function as it does at present, with no changes made to the existing land use of agriculture and pasture, and potential for Landscape and Visual impacts through the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Project would not occur.

The opportunity to capture part of Co. Cork’s valuable renewable energy resource from a highly suitable landscape for wind energy would be lost, as would the opportunity to contribute to meeting Government and EU targets for the production and consumption of electricity from renewable resources and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The opportunity to generate local employment, local authority development contributions, rates and investment in the local area would also be lost. Furthermore, the opportunity to implement the measures outlined in the Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan (BMEP) would also be lost. Please see Appendix 6-4 BMEP for details.

### 13.7.2 Construction Phase Effects

It is estimated that the construction phase of the Proposed Project will last between 18 and 24 months. Construction of the development will involve the installation of the 14 no. turbines with a maximum blade-tip height of 169m and all associated works, as well as the construction of the proposed 110kV onsite substation and the Proposed Grid Connection.

Construction phase effects will also include the associated effects resulting from the movement of construction and turbine transport vehicles in and out of the Proposed Wind Farm site, to allow for construction of the proposed turbines, roads and associated elements.

#### 13.7.2.1.1 Landscape Effects during Construction Phase

Associated earthworks, such as the cut and fill, and the provision of borrow pits required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Wind Farm, as well as the proposed 110kV onsite substation, have the greatest potential for landscape effects. Where excavation is required, the existing landcover, vegetation and spoil will be removed during the construction phase. In most instances, groundworks and excavation trenches will be reinstated upon completion of the construction phase. The construction activities may potentially cause temporary impacts on the landscape such as the creation of temporary structures, dust, soil erosion and alterations to drainage. It is considered that the construction phase will have a ‘Moderate’, ‘Short-term’, ‘Negative’ effect in terms of direct landscape effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### Proposed Grid Connection

The Proposed Grid Connection will be underground; therefore, the greatest landscape effects attributed to this element of the Proposed Project will occur during the construction phase only, as the landscape is materially altered to allow the underground installation. The majority of cable route works are to be carried out along the existing R585, R587 and R586 regional roads, as well as the L-4909, L-4609, L-4615 local road network. The construction phase of the Proposed Grid Connection will be temporary, localised, and transient in nature, as the works proceed along the Proposed Grid Connection. The works will include roadside vegetation removal, soil stripping, excavation, and other associated construction activities. These activities will cause temporary change to the physical landscape along the Proposed Grid Connection; however, these changes will be localised to the immediate environment surrounding the route and will not affect the character of the landscape setting or visual amenity of the wider area. The construction works will be short-term in nature and completed as soon as

practically possible. The Proposed Grid Connection construction works are likely to result in ‘Slight’, ‘Short-term’, ‘Negative’ landscape effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### 13.7.2.1.2 **Mitigation Measures for Landscape Effects during Construction**

All construction activities will follow best practice methods to reduce impacts upon the environment and landscape of the Proposed Project. Further details are presented in the *Construction and Environmental Management Plan* (CEMP) contained in *Appendix 4-3* of this EIAR. The following measures should be implemented to mitigate landscape effects during the construction phase of the Proposed Project:

- › In all circumstances, excavation depths and volumes will be minimised, and excavated material will be re-used where possible.
- › Any areas of bare soil remaining after the landscaping phase will be seeded as soon as possible with a grass-seed mix to minimise sediment run-off.

Following the implementation measures, residual direct landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Project will be ‘Slight’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

## 13.7.2.2 **Visual Effects During the Construction Phase**

### 13.7.2.2.1 **Proposed Wind Farm**

The most substantial visual effects will arise from requisite construction activities at the Proposed Wind Farm, such as assembling tower sections and erecting the proposed turbines and proposed met mast. There will be temporary scenarios during the construction phase in which the proposed turbines will be partially constructed and may be seen as either stand-alone tower sections, or incomplete turbines where only one or two blades are visible. The equipment and vehicles required to transport and erect the wind farm components include large cranes and large haulage vehicles. The visual effects arising from the construction of the proposed turbines and the ancillary infrastructure such as roads and hardstands to service and build turbines T01 to T14 will be experienced by a range of visual receptors in the landscape surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm, with most visibility occurring within 5km of the proposed turbines. These construction activities will cause ‘Slight’, ‘Short-term’, ‘Negative’ visual effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

General housekeeping measures, necessary for Health and Safety requirements, will ensure that the active construction areas will be kept tidy, mitigating localised visual impacts during the construction phase. A detailed description of the Proposed Project is included in Chapter 4 of this EIAR. The following sections assess the visual effects associated with the construction phase of the other (non-turbine) components of the Proposed Project.

#### **Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) Accommodation Works**

Works such as road widening are sometimes required along proposed turbine transport routes to accommodate the large vehicles used to transport turbine components to Proposed Wind Farm. In the case of the Proposed Project, there will be minor accommodation works located at several locations along the TDR (detailed in Chapter 4 Description). Minor accommodation works will include temporary alterations to the existing streetscape, as well as temporary local road widening, and temporary relocation of some road signs. The comprehensive traffic impact assessment of the Proposed Project is set out in Section 15.1 Traffic and Transport of Chapter 15 Material Assets. The areas of accommodation works are deemed to have a ‘Slight’ sensitivity and the change to occur will be concentrated along the road network detailed previously (including the R585, R587 and R586 regional roads, as well as the L-4909, L-4609, L-4615 local roads). These works are likely to be ‘Temporary’, ‘Slight’, ‘Negative’ visual effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

## Borrow Pits

It is proposed to construct four temporary borrow pits within the Proposed Wind Farm site, located:

- › Approx. 330m northwest of the nearest turbine (T07), along the northern side of the ridge
- › Approx. 150m west of the nearest turbine (T10), along the south-western side of the ridge
- › Approx. 500m south of the nearest turbine (T04), along the southern side of the ridge
- › Approx. 220m east of the nearest turbine (T02), along the southern side of the ridge

The extraction of material from the borrow pits is a construction phase activity only, done through means of rock breaking and blasting (as appropriate).

The proposed borrow pits within the southern turbine cluster are located within an area of commercial forestry and will therefore be largely screened from nearby visual receptors by dense vegetation within the Proposed Wind Farm site itself. Should the commercial forestry be felled, the borrow pits may become visible, however, any visibility would be limited and primarily confined to the residential receptors located immediately north and south of the southern turbine cluster. These proposed borrow pits are located within the Proposed Wind Farm which is of 'Moderate' landscape sensitivity, as detailed in Section 13.4.3. The visual effects that will arise from the excavation at the borrow pits will be very localised, 'Slight', 'Short-term', 'Negative' visual effects.

The proposed borrow pits within the northern turbine cluster will be located within a marginal upland landscape comprising open agricultural grassland and young forestry and will therefore be more visible than those within the southern turbine cluster. These borrow pits will be most visible in the immediate vicinity, primarily by residential receptors on the southern side of the ridge. These proposed borrow pits will be located within a landscape of Moderate sensitivity. The visual effects that will arise from the excavation at the borrow pits will be very localised, 'Slight', 'Short-Term,' and 'Negative' visual effects.

Several rehabilitation measures will be implemented post-construction phase. For example, the borrow pits will be backfilled with spoil and then reseeded or left to vegetate naturally. Following rehabilitation, the visual effects will be 'Not Significant' during the operational phase. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

## Proposed 110kV Onsite Substation

Visual effects will occur as the proposed 110kV onsite substation and temporary construction compound is built as a result to the earthworks and requisite construction activities; which will result in short-term, localised change to views in the immediate vicinity of the works. As established in the baseline investigations, the proposed substation is located within a tract of commercial forestry with a substantial set back distance from the nearest residential receptor, located approx. 317m north of the proposed 110kV substation, and is largely enclosed and contained by prominent landforms to the north, west and to the south. Visibility from nearby residential receptors and the local road network, including the R585 Regional Road (C-SR-29) to the north, will be further limited by mature treelines and hedgerows along these routes. Visual effects arising from the construction of the proposed 110kV substation and associated temporary construction compound are considered to localised, 'Negative', 'Short-Term' 'Not Significant' effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

Visual effects that will arise once the proposed 110kV onsite substation is operational is addressed separately in Section 13.7.3.6 below.

## Proposed Grid Connection – Construction Phase Effects Only

### Proposed Grid Connection to Dunmanway 110kV Substation

The Proposed Grid Connection works will consist of the installation of ducts in an excavated trench to accommodate electrical and fibre communications cables to facilitate a connection between the proposed 110kV on-site substation and the existing 110kV Dunmanway substation. The Proposed Grid Connection will be located underground, therefore the greatest effects attributed to this element of the Proposed Project will occur

during the construction phase. The underground cabling will be laid predominantly beneath the surface of the public road corridor, with a short section of the route (approximately 930m) located within the Proposed Wind Farm’s southern turbine cluster access road.

The construction phase of all underground cabling will be Short-term. However, due to the localised, and transient nature of the works moving along the cabling route, impacts on any landscape and visual receptors will be ‘Temporary’. The works will include roadside vegetation removal, soil/road surface stripping, excavation, and other associated construction activities. Should any medium planting be removed, it will be replaced with the same or similar species whenever it is not possible to salvage and reinstate. Any areas of bare soil remaining after the landscaping phase will be seeded as soon as possible with a grass seed mix. Regarding the underground cabling, changes will be localised to the immediate environment surrounding the cabling route and will not permanently affect the character of the landscape setting or visual amenity of the wider area.

The Proposed Grid Connection works are likely to cause ‘Slight’ ‘Temporary’, ‘Negative’ landscape and visual effects. On balance, these effects are not considered significant. The Proposed Grid Connection will only cause perceptible effects on the landscape and visual amenity during the construction phase. No landscape and visual effects will occur during the operational phase.

### 13.7.3 Operational Phase Effects

This section reports the landscape and visual effects anticipated during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Project. This section is organised as follows:

- › **Landscape Effects:** Reporting landscape effects for the Proposed Wind Farm and Proposed Grid Connection;
- › **LCA Assessment Outcomes:** A summary of the landscape impact assessment outcomes for each LCA in the (15km) LCA Study Area as is comprehensively reported in *Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables*;
- › **Photomontage Viewpoint Assessment Outcomes:** A summary of the visual impact assessment outcomes in the (25km) LVIA Study Area for each photomontage as is comprehensively reported in *Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables*;
- › **Visual Effects - Receptors:** Discussion of visual effects on the specific visual receptors selected for assessment within the visual baseline exercise (recall Section 13.5.2: Preliminary Analysis: Visual Receptors) with reference to photomontages and photowires;
- › **Residential Visual Amenity:** Discussion of visual effects on residential receptors within close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site;
- › **Visual Effects -Ancillary Project Elements:** Discussion of visual effects of the non-turbine infrastructure of the Proposed Project;
- › **Cumulative Effects:** Discussion of landscape and visual effects expected to occur in combination with the Proposed Wind Farm, and all identified existing, permitted and proposed wind farms identified in the LVIA Study Area.

#### 13.7.3.1 Landscape Effects (Operational Phase)

##### 13.7.3.1.1 Landscape of the Wind Farm Site

The landscape character of the Proposed Wind Farm site will undergo major changes in the landscape by the introduction of vertical man-made structures and ancillary infrastructure. There will be a ‘Substantial’ magnitude of change to the landscape in the localised areas within the Site where the landscape is materially altered (infrastructure footprint).

In a local context, the Proposed Wind Farm site is located in a remote upland, marginal landscape. Commercial forestry is the dominant landcover within the Proposed Wind Farm site itself. As outlined in Section 13.4.3 above, the landscape value and sensitivity of the Site is deemed to be ‘Medium.’ Medium sensitivity balanced with a ‘Substantial’ magnitude of change amounts to long-term landscape effects of ‘Significant’ upon the

physical fabric of the landscape of the Site (See LVIA Methodology, Appendix 13-1). These direct landscape effects will be highly localised to the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm. Effects on the perceptual and aesthetic character of the Proposed Wind Farm site are also deemed to be of ‘Significant’.

### Mitigation of Landscape Effects within the Landscape of the Site

The following measures have been included in the Proposed Wind Farm design in order to avoid or reduce direct effects on landscape receptors (individual landscape features and the landscape character of the Proposed Wind Farm site as a whole) on the Proposed Wind Farm site:

- › The internal site road layout makes use of the existing roads wherever possible, to minimise the requirement for new tracks within the Proposed Wind Farm site.
- › To minimise cut and fill activities required to construct the Proposed Wind Farm, the proposed access roads, and other infrastructure such as hardstands have been designed to align with the existing terrain within the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site.
- › In all circumstances, excavation depths and volumes will be minimised, and excavated material will be re-used where possible.
- › During initial vegetation stripping, all topsoil material will be temporarily stored on the Proposed Wind Farm site and used for ‘landscaping’ the edges of the development infrastructure during reinstatement/regrading, including that of the peat and spoil management areas and proposed borrow pits. This will be particularly important in areas of cut and fill. The stripped topsoil will contain a natural seed source of local provenance and result in the re-establishment of baseline vegetation.
- › The layout and design of the Proposed Wind Farm has been designed to ensure minimal loss of valuable landscape receptors and biodiversity corridors such as woodland and hedgerows along field boundaries.
- › A *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan* (BMEP) has been prepared as part of this EIAR and is included as *Appendix 6-4* to this EIAR. Enhancement measures included in the BMEP will have a dual effect of providing ecological enhancement to the area as well as screening of some Proposed Wind Farm site infrastructure, thereby providing a mitigating effect on landscape. The following measures proposed in the BMEP that will also have a mitigating effect on landscape areas are as follows:
  - Planting of 0.54ha of native broadleaf trees to establish new a biodiversity area that will connect to an existing area of native woodland, with ongoing management and monitoring;
  - Restoration of 5.3h of peatland which will result in the enhancement of wet heath habitat on the Proposed Wind Farm site;
  - Management of peatland restoration area for invasives species, particularly Rhododendron and self-seeding conifer trees, for the operational life of the Proposed Project; and,
  - A grazing regime will be implemented to manage the purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) density within the peatland restoration area.

### Residual Landscape Effects

Once the Proposed Wind Farm is operational and the construction is complete, the landscape will naturally re-vegetate around the Proposed Wind Farm footprint with the aid of mitigation measures (e.g., retention of natural seedbank during soil stripping). Considering the mitigation measures above, and the BMEP, the overall residual effects upon the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site are deemed to be ‘Moderate’.

#### 13.7.3.1.2 Proposed Grid Connection

As the Proposed Grid Connection is located underground, landscape and visual effects during the operational phase will be ‘Imperceptible’ once vegetation has re-established along the roadway following earthworks during

the construction phase. The landscape and visual effects occurring during the construction phase of the Proposed Grid Connection are reported previously in Section 13.7.2: Construction Phase Effects.

### 13.7.3.1.3 LCA Assessment Outcomes

An assessment of the effects on landscape character based on designated LCAs was undertaken for the 4 no. LCTs within the LCA Study Area selected for assessment; these were mapped previously in Figure 13-10 and in Figure 13-11. The individual assessments for each LCA are summarised below in

Table 13-16 and presented in detail in *Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables*. The assessment criteria and grading scales which aided the assessment of landscape character effects are detailed in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* (Section 1.6: Assessing Landscape Effects).

Table 13-16: LCA Assessment Summary

LCA Ref.	Name	LCA Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change in LCA	Residual Significance of Effect
LCT 15a	Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet)	Medium	Moderate	<b>Moderate</b>
LCT 4	Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull) (HVL)	Very High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>
LCT 12b	Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground (South)	Medium	Negligible	<b>Imperceptible</b>
LCT 16a	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra) (HVL)	High	Slight	<b>Slight</b>

The largest magnitude of change (Moderate) will occur within LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet) as the proposed turbines will materially alter the landscape of this LCT. The proposed turbines are likely to be most visible within 5km of the proposed turbines as well as from elevated vantage points within this LCT. On-site appraisals determined that there would be more limited visibility of the proposed turbines in parts of this LCT beyond 5km from the proposed turbines due to the visual screening from intervening vegetation in the landscape which limits views of the proposed turbines.

Review of the landscape policy reported above (Section 13.4.1.1.3) concludes that the Proposed Wind Farm is sited in an LCT of local importance, particularly when compared to other LCTs in County Cork. The large scale, sparse population and land use characteristics such as commercial forestry make this LCT a highly suitable landscape for accommodating wind energy development, giving it a low susceptibility to change, as evidenced by the acceptability of wind energy development in this LCT. Furthermore, it is noted that all of the proposed turbines are located within an area classified as ‘Open to Consideration’, as is the majority of this LCT in the *Wind Energy Strategy of County Cork*.

### High Value Landscapes

Section 13.4.1.1.3 above, discusses certain County Cork’s LCTs that are classified as High Value Landscapes (HVLs). As stated previously, the proposed turbines are not located within any designated HVL. The HVLs in close proximity to The Proposed Wind Farm site are assessed and discussed below. The Proposed Wind Farm will not directly alter the physical fabric of these landscape receptors; therefore, any landscape effects that are due to occur are only likely to impact their character or setting. In all instances, as discussed in Appendix 13-2, there will be no Significant impact on the key sensitivities of these HVLs due to the limited visibility of the proposed turbines from them, or the great set-back from areas which give these HVLs key special qualities, characteristics, value and sensitivity.

### HVL - Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gougane Barra) (LCT 16a)

This HVL is located to the north-west of the Site and, as discussed previously, is categorised as a landscape of high sensitivity, high landscape value and is of national importance in the CCDP. The nearest proposed turbine (T04) is located approximately 6km north-west of LCT 16a.

It is important to note that the proposed turbines and the ancillary infrastructure are not located within this HVL, and as such will not materially alter the physical fabric of this landscape type. Furthermore, large sections of this HVL (48% of the overall LCT) exhibit no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, as demonstrated in the ZTV mapping (Figure 13-11), primarily due to extensive visual screening by well-defined topography. There is a section of theoretical visibility to the west of the HVL, within the foothills of the Knockboy Mountain Range. Where visibility does occur, this is in remote mountainous area, with no known waymarked walking trails, and where the proposed turbines will be seen as small elements in the distant background.

The Gougane Barra (the key sensitive receptor within this HVL) is located within the eastern extent of the HVL and is defined by the indicative pink line in the map below. The Gougane Barra is separated from the proposed turbines by multiple landforms and ridgelines within the intervening landscape, and as such, the proposed turbines will be behind these landforms when viewed from the Gougane Barra itself. As such, no landscape or visual effects will occur within the Gougane Barra itself (see Figure 13-17 below).

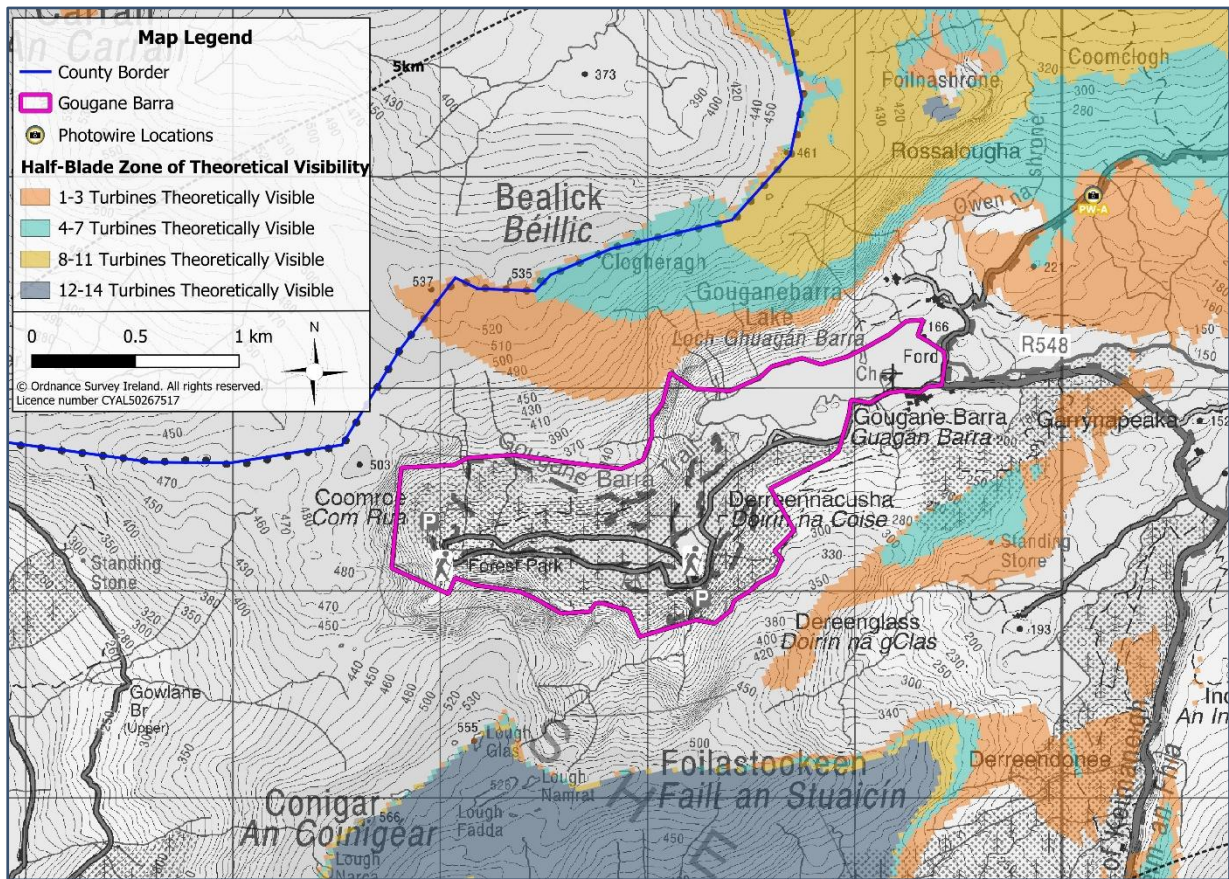


Figure 13-17 Theoretical visibility from Gougane Barra

Within the majority of this LCT, views towards the proposed turbines are largely screened by intervening topography. Where visible, the proposed turbines are seen as distant elements, largely screened by the intervening landform as seen in Photowire PWVP-A below.



Plate 13-8 Extract of Photowire PWVP-A

Overall, given the overall scale of the HVL and the limited extent of either partial or full theoretical visibility, the proposed turbines are not anticipated to give rise to significant effects on this landscape receptor. As such, the overall residual landscape effect is as ‘Long-term’, ‘Negative’ and ‘Slight’, as noted in Appendix 13-2. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### **HVL - Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull) (LCT 4)**

This HVL is located to the west of the Proposed Wind Farm, the LCT comprises the dramatic coastline of County Cork. At its closest point, this HVL is located approx. 450m west from the nearest proposed turbine (T13). The HVL is landscape of high sensitivity, high landscape value and is of national importance in the CCDP. Given the ‘Very High’ sensitivity of this LCT, the iterative design of the Proposed Project included removal/movement of 2 turbines (See Chapter 3: Site Selection & Reasonable Alternatives) at the far western extent of the southern turbine cluster to ensure the Proposed Wind Farm does not cause any direct landscape effects on this HVL.

Within this LCT, large areas exhibit no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, as illustrated in the ZTV mapping due to extensive topographical screening. While pockets of full and partial theoretical visibility do occur, they are intermittent and are generally limited to elevated vantage points within the LVIA Study Area. Overall, only approximately 35% of the entire LCT within the entire 25km LVIA Study Area has any theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines.

As discussed in Appendix 13-2, in terms of changes to the landscape character of this LCT, the greatest effects will only occur within a small area at the easternmost extent of the LCT (an LCT with a total area covering approx. 2,339.13 km<sup>2</sup> of County Cork), where it borders LCT 15a. This area is localised to the east of Bantry Bay, on the very periphery of this LCT where the landscape transitions to marginal uplands of lower sensitivity where it connects to LCT 15a.

Effects on the character of the wider landscape within the LCT is largely restricted due to visual screening from surrounding landforms and ridgelines. Visibility only occurs from very elevated vantage points as well as from very distant locations within the LCT. The key sensitivity of this LCT, including the rocky peninsulas and low bays, have little to no theoretical visibility within the LCA Study Area and are 10-15km away from the proposed turbines. Whilst the proposed turbines can be seen from areas in this LCT, they are mostly observed within the distant background of views in the marginal upland of the Proposed Wind Farm site. The proposed turbines will not significantly impact the key characteristics, qualities and sensitivities of this LCT which are the rugged coastline, and the dramatic mountainous landscape.

Multiple photomontage viewpoints have been captured from within this LCT along the highly sensitive undulating landforms, including VPs 2, 8, 9, 13, 17, all of which illustrate the nature of visibility from various parts of the West Cork Peninsula. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, and detailed in Section 13.7.3.5 below, across all these various viewpoints on elevated vantage points, the proposed turbines appear as small-scale, vertical elements in the distant background where they are not seen within the focal point of scenic views and are most often viewed in the periphery of the key scenic visual amenity. All viewpoints within this LCT (within 5km and beyond) were given a magnitude of change of either ‘Slight’ or ‘Negligible’.

Indirect impacts on this HVL can potentially occur when considering views ‘of’ and ‘towards’ this HVL where perceptual experience of landscape character can potentially be influenced by the proposed turbines. As reported throughout this chapter, the proposed turbines have been sited along elevated ridgelines, located and seen within the periphery of the open views towards HVL LCT4. This includes from visual receptors located to the east of both the LCT and the Proposed Wind Farm, including designated scenic routes within LCT 15a. In such scenarios, the proposed turbines do not obscure views of this LCT and the HVL from other locations, and do not significantly influence effects on its landscape character. This topic is discussed further in relation to specific views and visual receptors in Section 13.7.3.4 – Visual Effects.

While the proposed turbines will introduce some degree of change on this sensitive landscape, particularly in close proximity (within 5km of the proposed turbines) resulting in a ‘Slight’ change in character to the landscape, the proposed turbines will not materially alter the key characteristics of the landscape, nor cause significant effects on its key sensitivities and special landscape qualities which are coastal environment and the rugged mountains to the west. Given the limited extent of theoretical visibility and the intermittent nature of turbine visibility within this expansive landscape, the Proposed Wind Farm is not considered to significantly affect the character and special qualities of this HVL. As such, the overall residual landscape effect is as ‘Long-term’, ‘Negative’ and ‘Moderate’, as noted in Appendix 13-2. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.1.4 Cumulative Landscape Effects

The Proposed Wind Farm will contribute to cumulative effects on the landscape of this area of West Cork where there are a number of other existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments. This section describes the cumulative effects on relevant landscape receptors including designated LCTs and HVLs. Appendix 13-2 includes an impact assessment of designated LCTs which includes assessment of cumulative landscape effects, which are also discussed below.

The wider landscape of the LVIA Study Area includes a number of other existing, permitted, and proposed wind energy developments that contribute to the cumulative baseline. These other developments are listed and mapped previously in Section 13.6, and Figure 13-15. It is highlighted that although the LVIA Study Area includes many cumulative wind farms, many of which are existing and permitted, the likelihood of proposed or pre-application wind farms (e.g. Curraglass, Gortloughra) cumulatively impacting specific landscape receptors is uncertain and is dependent on a range of factors, most notably the outcome of the planning process.

#### The Maughanaclea Valley and Areas within 5km from the Proposed Wind Farm.

Cumulative landscape effects will occur within the Maughanaclea Valley itself where both the Southern and Northern turbine cluster will cumulatively impact the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site and character of this valley. The proposed Gortloughra turbines are located approx. 2km from turbine T01 of the northern turbine cluster and will be seen from some areas within the valley (e.g. VP 12) and from elevated vantage points nearby the northern turbine cluster. The proposed Curraglass turbines located approx. 4km the north-west of the Proposed Wind Farm and will be visible from elevated vantage points at the western end of the valley and occasional elevated vantage points nearby the southern turbine cluster (e.g. VP4). The proposed Dereenacreenig turbines are located approx. 3.6km south of the Proposed Wind Farm and may be seen in the opposing direction to the proposed turbines. Gortloughra, Dereenacreenig and Curraglass turbines are ‘proposed’ and will potentially contribute to the cumulative effects on this local landscape in combination with the proposed turbines in a future receiving environment. No other wind energy developments will cumulatively

impact the landscape character in the Maughanaclea Valley or the landscape of other local areas within 5km from the proposed turbines due to the enclosure provided by the well-defined ridgelines encircling the Proposed Wind Farm to the north, east and south.

### Cumulative Effects on LCT 15a – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet)

The Proposed Wind Farm will cause cumulative landscape effects with other wind energy developments within LCT 15a – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet). To the east of the proposed turbines, within LCT 15a, the proposed Gortloughra and existing Shehy More Wind Farms are located approximately 2km and 2.7km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T01), respectively. These wind farms are primarily arranged in a staggered linear array (existing Shehy More Wind Farm) or grid-like layout (proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm) and are situated at the opposite end of the Shehy Mountains, visually separated from the northern turbine cluster of the Proposed Wind Farm, which is located on the lower slopes of the Shehy Beg ridge.

To the north, the proposed Curraglass Wind Farm is located approximately 4km from the nearest proposed turbine (T04). The existing Derragh, Cleanrath Wind Farms are located further north, while the existing Carrigarierk Wind Farm and the permitted Carrigarierk Extension, are located approximately 8.9km east of the nearest proposed turbine, beyond the Shehy Beg Mountains. The proposed Dereenacreenig West Wind Farm is located to the south of the southern turbine cluster.

All these wind energy developments have the potential to contribute to cumulative landscape effects on LCT 15a in combination with the Proposed Wind Farm, both in terms of impacting the physical fabric of this LCA and its landscape character. Undulating landforms and well-defined ridgelines are prominent characteristics of LCT15a. These characteristics provide physical and visual separation between the various wind energy developments mentioned above and contribute to the landscapes capacity to absorb many wind farms. The landscape of LCT 15a is of large scale, comprising marginal upland and a sparse settlement pattern. The large-scale, expansive landscape is effectively capable of accommodating the Proposed Wind Farm, as well as other wind energy developments.

### Cumulative Effects on LCT 4 Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull) an HVL

The Proposed Wind Farm is located at the very eastern boundary of LCT 4 Rugged Ridge Peninsulas and HVL. From occasional vantage points within the undulating coastal plain in this LCT, there are open views towards the ridged and peaked upland landscape (LCT15a) where the Proposed Wind Farm and other cumulative wind farms are located (See viewpoints 2, 9, 13, and 17). The Proposed Wind Farm and several other developments (existing Shehy More, permitted Curraglass, proposed Gortloughra) would cumulatively influence the character of LCT4 in a future receiving environment as they are a noticeable component of the distant landscape when looking inland.

The western portion of LCT 4 includes the rugged mountains and coastline which are the sensitive aspects of this LCT (see *LCT Characteristics as set out in the Cork County Draft Landscape Strategy 2007*). The Proposed Wind Farm is well set-back from these rugged mountains, the coastline and areas contributing most value to this landscape, it is experienced only within inland views towards the marginal upland landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site. Whilst the Proposed Wind Farm and other cumulative turbines are visible, and indirectly influence the character of this landscape, they are well set back in one small area of the landscape and do not impact the key sensitivities and key landscape qualities associated with the rugged ridge peninsulas and coastline of the HVL in LCT4.

### Other Cumulative Wind Energy Developments

Beyond LCT 15a, further north within the wider landscape, additional cumulative wind energy developments contribute to the broader cumulative context. These include the existing Grousemount, Sillahertane Coomagearlachy II, Midas, Kilgarvan, Kilgarvan II and Clydraghroe Wind Farms, together with the permitted Inchamore, Fortyrachilly and Knocknamork Wind Farms, and the proposed Cummeenaudodge Wind Farm.

To the east, further cumulative developments comprise the existing Garranereagh Wind Farm and the proposed Barnadivane Wind Farm, located approximately 23 km from the Proposed Wind Farm. To the south-east, the existing Milane Hill, Killaveenoge, Currabwee, Coomatallin, Reenascreena, Lahanaght Hill and Ballybane Wind Farms also contribute to the cumulative context. While these developments are not located within LCT 15a, they form part of the wider cumulative wind energy context as experienced from other locations within the LVIA Study Area.

### Cumulative Landscape Effects Overview

The proposed turbines do contribute to the cumulative number of turbines within the landscape. However, the landscape is of large scale, comprising marginal upland and a sparse settlement pattern. The large-scale, expansive landscape is effectively capable of accommodating the Proposed Wind Farm, as well as other wind energy developments.

While the proposed turbines will introduce some additional areas and locations where the proposed turbines are now visible, views will generally be intermittent as a result of the elevated topography which encloses the proposed turbines to some degree within this undulating landscape. The greatest potential for cumulative landscape effects arises from elevated vantage points, where expansive views allow for the Proposed Wind Farm to be seen in combination with other wind farms. However, as seen in the photomontages presented in *Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet*, the scale and character of the receiving upland landscape is such that it can absorb a wind energy development of this scale along with other wind energy developments.

The highest level of cumulative landscape effect was assessed in relation to LCT 15a, as the proposed turbines will be adding to the cumulative turbines within this LCT, where, as detailed in Appendix 13-2, an overall ‘Moderate’ residual landscape effect was deemed to occur, incorporating both standalone and cumulative considerations.

#### 13.7.3.2 Visual Effects (Operational Phase)

#### 13.7.3.3 Selection of Photomontage Viewpoints

Photomontages were used to assess the visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Wind Farm from 18 no. viewpoint locations, which are presented in EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet. These 18 no. viewpoint locations are on the A0 Map – Appendix 13-4 LVIA Baseline Map and on Figure 13-14 below. The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the proposed turbines, had complete intervening visual screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e., little or no visibility towards the proposed turbines.

Multiple on-site surveys and visibility appraisals conducted throughout the years 2022, 2024 and 2025 determined that visibility of the proposed turbines is greatest from the locations in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site due to the characteristics of the surrounding landscape. Due to this, viewpoint selection was particularly focused on locations proximate to the proposed turbines. In this regard, it is important to note that the visual impact of the proposed turbines shown in the photomontages selected for the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet is not entirely representative of visual effects in the wider landscape of the 25km LVIA Study Area, where in reality very little visibility occurs.

#### Alternative Photomontage Viewpoints - Photowires

Photomontage imagery was captured from other locations in the LVIA Study Area other than the 18 no. Photomontage viewpoints that were selected for the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet. Photowires are early-stage photomontage visualisations comprising panoramic photos with overlaid wirelines (Classified as Type 3 Visualisations in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note, 2019). Photowires were produced from 4

other viewpoint locations in the LVIA Study Area. These viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet due to limited visibility of the proposed turbines or a more appropriate nearby location being included in Volume 2 instead. These Photowires do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in Appendix 13-3. However, 4 no. Photowires are presented within Appendix 13-5, and are reproduced and discussed later in this section of the Chapter to illustrate certain points. The location of Photowire viewpoints in Appendix 13-5 are marked as orange icons in Figure 13-14 and are discussed throughout the chapter as Photowire Viewpoint Locations (referred to as PWs (e.g., PWVP-A, etc.)

### 13.7.3.3.2 **Photomontage Viewpoint Assessment Outcomes**

Visual Effects were assessed using the assessment methodology described in Appendix 13-1. Each Viewpoint location is shown in Figure 13-14 above. The individual, comprehensive and detailed assessment from the 18 no. viewpoints are presented in Appendix 13-3 of this EIAR – Photomontage Assessment Tables and summarised in Table 13-17: Summary of Viewpoint Impact Assessment Results below. Appendix 13-3 should be read in conjunction with the photomontage booklet forming Volume 2 of the EIAR.

The visual effect of the Proposed Wind Farm was assessed from each viewpoint in terms of the sensitivity of the visual receptors, along with the magnitude of change, as recommended in GLVIA3. This, in conjunction with a detailed review of the photomontages themselves as well as the likely visibility of the proposed turbines within the LVIA Study Area informed the assessment of visual effects.

Visualisations such as photomontages are tools that can represent the likely effect of a development and are used to inform the reader’s prediction of how that development will appear in the landscape. In terms of the predicted visual quality of the Proposed Wind Farm, however, whether a visual effect is deemed to be positive, negative, or neutral, this involves a degree of subjectivity. What appears to be a positive effect to one viewer could be deemed to be a negative effect by another viewer. All predicted visual effects of the viewpoints below are Long-Term and Direct effect.

Table 13-17: Summary of Viewpoint Impact Assessment Results

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.	Sensitivity of Receptor(s) (at Viewpoint)	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Visual Effect
VP01	<b>Dromclogh East:</b> View from the L-4174 local road, within the townland of Dromclogh East. Located approximately 2.9km south from the nearest proposed turbine, T14.	E: 506,692 N: 552, 365	High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>
VP02	<b>Bantry Bay:</b> View overlooking Bantry Bay from the N71 National Road in the townland of Abbey. Located approximately 11.6km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine T14.	E: 498,142 N: 548,347	High	Negligible	<b>Not Significant</b>
VP03	<b>Coomleagh West:</b> View from the L-4718 local road, within the townland of Coomleagh West. Located approximately 1.2km south from the nearest proposed turbine, T08.	E: 509,500 N: 554,089	High	Moderate	<b>Moderate</b>
VP04	<b>Kealkill Stone Circle:</b> View from the Kealkill Stone Circle, within the townland of Kealkill. Located approximately 2.1km west from the nearest proposed turbine, T14.	E: 505,318 N: 555,667	High	Slight	<b>Slight</b>
VP05	<b>Barnagowlane West:</b> View from the L-4714 local road, within the townland of Barnagowlane West. Located approximately 2.7km south from the nearest proposed turbine, T08.	E: 509,535 N: 552,630	Medium	Slight	<b>Slight</b>
VP06	<b>Gortloughra:</b> View from the L-8776 local road, within the townland of Gortloughra. Located approximately 860m north from the nearest proposed turbine, T04.	E: 510,784 N: 559,217	High	Substantial	<b>Significant</b>
VP07	<b>Curraglass:</b> View from the R584 regional road, within the townland of Curraglass. Located approximately 4.3km north from the nearest proposed turbine, T01.	E: 510,004 N: 562,715	High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.	Sensitivity of Receptor(s) (at Viewpoint)	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Visual Effect
VP08	<b>Barnagearagh:</b> View from the R584 regional road, within the townland of Barnagearagh. Located approximately 6.9km west from the nearest proposed turbine, T14.	E: 500,740 N: 553,480	Medium	Slight	<b>Slight</b>
VP09	<b>Wild Atlantic View:</b> View from the Wild Atlantic viewing point / Vaughans Pass, located off the L-4713 Local Road within the townland of Dromleigh South. Located approximately 11km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine T14.	E: 500,099 N: 546,958	Very High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>
VP10	<b>Cousane Gap:</b> View from the R585 Regional Road, within the townland of Cousane. Located approximately 1.5km south-east from the nearest proposed turbine, T06.	E: 512,564 N: 556,829	High	Slight	<b>Slight</b>
VP11	<b>Maughanaclea Valley:</b> View from the R585 Regional Road, within the townland of Maughanaclea. Located approximately 886m north-east from the nearest proposed turbine, T07.	E: 510,998 N: 556,341	High	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
VP12	<b>R585 Road:</b> View from the R585 regional road, within the townland of Maughanaclea. Located approximately 998m north from the nearest proposed turbine, T07.	E: 510,304 N: 556,780	High	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
VP13	<b>Whiddy Island View:</b> View from the R572 Regional Road in the townland of Tracashel. This viewpoint is located at a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point – the Whiddy Island View. Located approximately 17km west from the nearest proposed turbine, T14.	E: 490,658 N: 552,371	Very High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>
VP14	<b>Cappaboy More:</b> View from the R584 Regional Road, within the townland of Cappaboy More. Located approximately 1.9km north from the nearest proposed turbine, T04.	E: 509,662 N: 559,941	High	Moderate	<b>Moderate</b>

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.	Sensitivity of Receptor(s) (at Viewpoint)	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Residual Visual Effect
VP15	<b>Kealkill:</b> View from the R585 Regional Road, exiting Kealkill town. Located approximately 2.3km west from the nearest proposed turbine, T14.	E: 505,329 N: 556,309	High	Slight	<b>Moderate</b>
VP16	<b>Maughanaclea:</b> View from the L-95853, within the townland of Maughanaclea. Located approximately 1.1km north from the nearest proposed turbine, T09.	E: 509,292 N: 556,445	High	Substantial	<b>Significant</b>
VP17	<b>Curraghvaddra:</b> View from the L-8707 Local Road in the townland of Curraghvaddra. Located approximately 15.8km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T14.	E: 495,043 N: 545,372	Very High	Negligible	<b>Slight</b>
VP18	<b>Ahildotia:</b> View from the L-87821 local road, within the townland of Ahildotia. Located approximately 3km north-west from the nearest proposed turbine, T13.	E: 505,539 N: 557,930	Medium	Slight	<b>Slight</b>

The significance of the residual visual effect was not considered to be Profound or Very Significant, at any of the 18 viewpoint locations. The residual effects were found to be Significant (4) Moderate (7), Slight (6) and Not Significant (1).

The viewpoint assessment results (see Appendix 13-3) will be summarised and discussed in more detail in the following sections.

It is to be anticipated that wind farms inevitably cause some ‘Significant’ visual effects on proximate sensitive visual receptors due to the prominence of turbines within landscape views and the ‘Substantial’ magnitude of change which will arise in close proximity to a wind farm development. A key focus in this LVIA is identifying the scenarios where the greatest likelihood of significant visual effects occur. Significant residual visual impacts have been determined from 4 photomontage viewpoint representing receptors in closest proximity to the proposed turbines (see *Appendix 13-3*). It is key to note that the residual significant impacts only occur for a small number of receptors within small geographic areas and is not representative of effects on receptors in a vast proportion of the LVIA Study Area.

### 13.7.3.4 Discussion of Visibility and Visual Effects of Specific Receptors in the LVIA Study Area

The assessment of visual effects uses photomontages shown in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet, and discussion of these effects is aided by the photowires presented in Appendix 13-5. ZTV mapping is also a useful tool for scoping receptors in and out (based on bare-ground topography) and selection of photomontage viewpoints. The ZTV indicates vast areas of the LVIA Study Area where the Proposed Wind Farm will not be visible, as comprehensively discussed in Section 13.3. The following section discusses the visual effects arising at key sensitive visual receptors within the zone of theoretical visibility and scoped in for assessment previously in *Section 13.5 – Visual Baseline*.

#### 13.7.3.4.1 Designated Scenic Route SR29 (Map. Ref. C SR29)

This scenic route is described in the CCDP as “*Road to Kealkill via Cousane Gap to Togher. Views of remote mountainous landscape.*” The route, located along the R585 Regional Road, provides access to the dramatic landscapes towards Bantry and the coastal area of West Cork (HVL LCT 4) from inland areas to the east. Site visits determined that the most sensitive views from the route occur where westbound receptors have long ranging views of the remote mountainous landscape of HVL LCT 4 which are seen in the distance, framed by the steep sided Maughanaclea valley.

Given the undulating topography, and the extent of roadside visual screening (see Section 13.3.2.4: Route Screening Analysis), visibility of the proposed turbines along the extent of the route is generally limited to partial theoretical visibility, with full theoretical visibility confined primarily to the centre of the route. Visual effects will often be momentary and the receptor traveling along this route will experience varying extents of both the northern and southern turbine clusters. Generally, a receptor would have to turn their head to see either cluster (see VP10, VP11, and VP12), however, at greater distances from the proposed turbines, visibility of both turbine clusters will occur (see VP15).

Site visits determined that potential visibility of the proposed turbines will only occur within the valley between the two clusters from the Cousane Gap in the east to Kealkill in the west (approx. 12km in total from VP10 to VP15). This stretch of the route is therefore the focus of the visual impact assessment reported below. The assessment addresses visibility and visual impacts in a journey scenario for both westbound and eastbound receptors travelling this 12km stretch of the route.

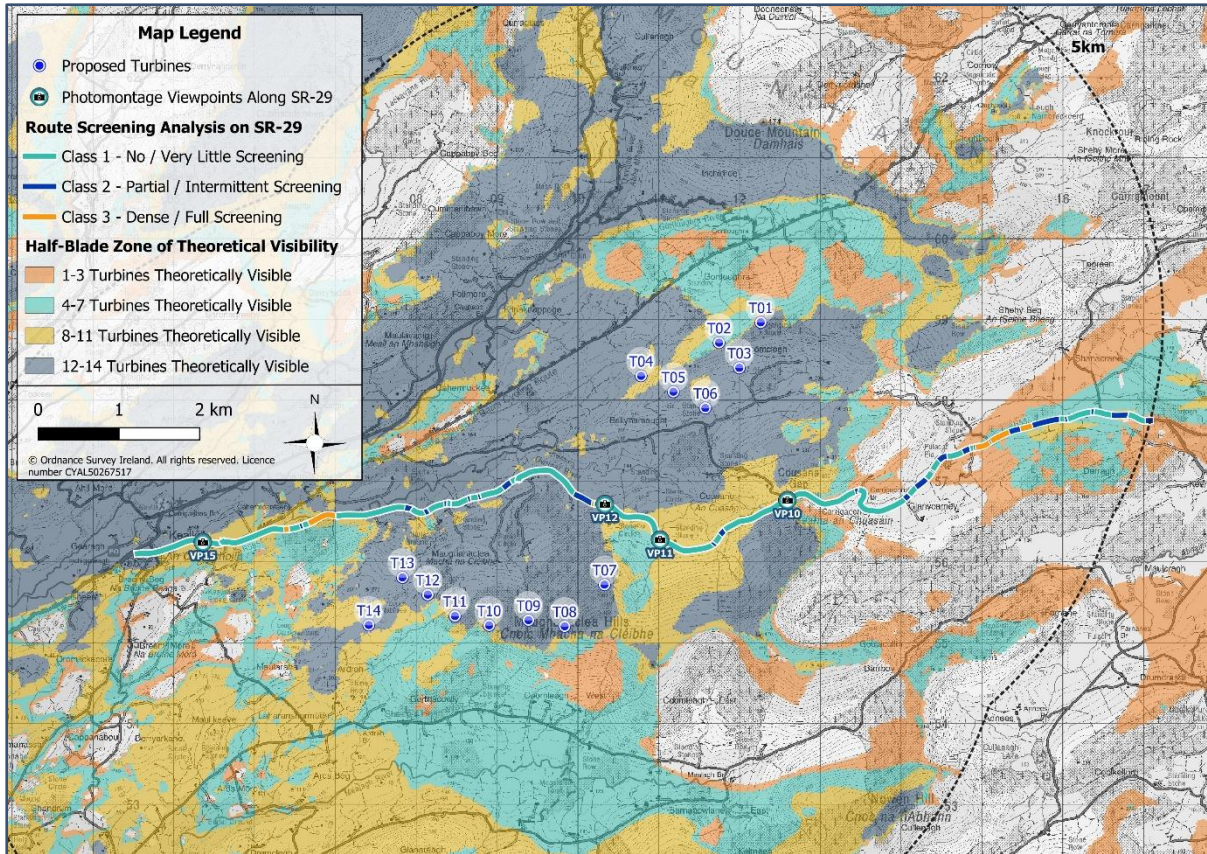


Figure 13-18 Scenic Route 29 Route Screening Analysis and ZTV

### C-SR29 - Westbound Receptors (Travelling East to West)

VP10, located at the Cousane Gap, was captured to represent views of the proposed turbines from the east, the first location on C-SR29 scenic route where the proposed turbines are visible by westbound receptors. From this viewpoint, westbound travellers emerge from the narrow pass at the Cousane Gap, where the landscape opens up, with views focused through the V-shaped Maughanaclea Valley from an elevated vantage point. The valley frames long-ranging dramatic views to the west. From this location, a small number of the proposed turbines are visible on the high ground in the periphery of views. The central views through the valley, comprising open views towards the dramatic undulating landscape remains unobstructed, preserving the principal scenic focus of the view. Furthermore, the majority of the proposed turbines (apart from turbine T07) are largely screened from view by the undulating landform, with only the blade tips visible above the ridgelines, with substantial visual separation between the northern and southern turbine clusters in terms of distance but also in terms of topography. A residual visual effect of ‘Slight’ was deemed to arise at this viewpoint.



Plate 13-9 Extract from ELAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet; VP10.90-degree FOV

As westbound receptors travel from VP10, down into the lower lying lands of the valley, the proposed turbines will remain largely obscured from view (particularly the southern turbine cluster) by the steep sides of the valley. Whilst the northern turbine cluster remains very much in the periphery of views due to the direction of travel. Most visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm occurs in a small stretch of the scenic route represented by VP11 and VP12 (centre of the scenic route – discussed below). Beyond VP12, as the westbound receptors pass by the northern turbine cluster, no visibility will occur as the northern turbines will be behind the receptor. As

westbound receptors pass to the north of the southern turbine cluster past VP12, the proposed turbines will be largely obscured by the very steep embankments and dense vegetation on the southern side of the road. For westbound receptors, visual effects only occur for approx. 2.8km stretch of the scenic route between VP10 and VP12.

### C-SR29 - Centre of the Scenic Route (VP11 and VP12)

As the Scenic Route bisects the two clusters of the Proposed Wind Farm, there are no instances where turbines from both clusters are seen within the same field of view. Typically, one would have to turn their head in either direction to perceive either cluster when travelling along the route. On the few instances where both clusters are visible from the same location, one cluster generally falls into the periphery of the view due to the setback distance and the direction of travel, rather than both being read together within the same visual field. This can be seen in both VP11 and VP12.

VP11 and VP12 were captured midway through the Maughanaclea Valley along the scenic route and are representative of the most open views of the proposed turbines when travelling this route through the valley. As shown in both viewpoints, receptors at this location would generally need to turn their head to view either turbine cluster, given their separation and their positioning on opposing sides of the valley. As reported in Appendix 13-3, residual ‘Significant’ effects occur for both viewpoints VP11 and VP12. This is due to the ‘High’ sensitivity of the visual receptors, and the relatively open nature of views along the stretch of the route. The magnitude of change for both viewpoints was deemed to be ‘Moderate’. The proposed turbines are mostly seen in the periphery of views (southern turbine cluster) or grouped on the upland, set back on the other side of the valley (northern turbine cluster). The proposed turbines do not obscure or impact any long-ranging views of the “remote mountainous landscape” in HVL LCT 4 to the west. In both viewpoints, the proposed turbines have a significant visual impact but do not significantly impact the key scenic attributes of the designated scenic route, as described in the CCDP. For westbound receptors, the visual impacts experienced at VP11 and VP12 occur for a very short duration and comprise a very small portion of the overall scenic route.

### C-SR29 - Eastbound Receptors (Travelling West to East)

Eastbound receptors on the scenic route, first see the proposed turbines outside of Kealkill, a location represented by VP15. Site visits determined that there would be limited visibility of the southern turbine cluster for eastbound receptors due to the steep landform to the south, excepting for VP15. Intermittent and open visibility occurs of the northern turbine cluster, along a 12km stretch of the route, between VP15, past VP12 and VP11, until VP10. Visual impacts from VP12, VP11 and VP10 are discussed above.

VP15 is one of the few locations where, given the set-back distance, visibility of both clusters occurs for eastbound receptors. At this location, the majority of the proposed turbines within the southern turbine cluster are screened by the intervening ridge. VP15 shows, that even where both clusters are seen within the same field of view, one cluster (the southern one) is perceived far more prominently than the other (northern turbine cluster). Overall, a residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise at this viewpoint.

### C-SR29 - Policy Considerations

In relation to policy set out in the CCDP, the Proposed Project is consistent and in line with all the policies and objectives relating to Scenic Routes. While Policy GL14-12 seeks to “*preserve the character of all important views and prospects... views of unspoilt mountains, upland... landscapes,*” the proposed turbines are located within a landscape area designated as ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development.

Policy GL14-12 also notes to preserving “*views of natural beauty.*” While the proposed turbines inevitably introduce new elements into the scenic views from this scenic route, they are primarily perceived on the periphery of such views, and the key scenic attributes of the dramatic West Cork landscape (HVL LCT 4) remain largely unobstructed, as demonstrated in VP10, VP11, and VP12 above. Accordingly, the Proposed Project aligns with Policy GL14-14, as it avoids “*obstruction*” or “*degradation*” of protected views through careful “*design*”, “*site layout*”, and the incorporation of “*mitigation*” measures, as outlined by the CCDP.

Furthermore, as noted previously in Section 13.4.4, the Proposed Wind Farm adheres to guidance set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) for Mountain Moorland.

### C-SR29 Summary of Visual Effects

Overall, while the proposed turbines inevitably introduce new elements into the scenic views from this scenic route, they are primarily perceived on the periphery of such views, within a landscape that has the capacity to accommodate a wind energy development of this scale without undermining the key scenic qualities of the route as outlined in the CCDP or the key scenic attributes of the dramatic West Cork landscape (HVL LCT 4).

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR29 range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Significant’ (occurs for a very short duration and comprise a very small portion of the overall scenic route). On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.2 Designated Scenic Route SR28 (Map Ref. C-SR28)

This scenic route is described as “*Scenic road at the Pass of Keimaneigh to Gougane Barra. Views of the surrounding remote rural landscape & rugged mountains*” in the CCDP. The ZTV analysis shows that the route has primarily full theoretical visibility within 5km of the proposed turbines, with no theoretical visibility beyond due to topographical screening from Doughill mountain. The Route Screening Analysis (See Section 13.3.2.4), shows that the road is primarily characterised by stretches of either ‘Dense/Full’ or ‘Partial/Intermittent’ visual screening with very limited instances of ‘Little/No’ visual screening. Photomontage viewpoint locations were captured at these locations where ‘Little/No’ visual screening occurs.

The focus of this scenic route, described in the CCDP is the “*surrounding rural landscape & rugged mountains*”. However, south of Doughill Mountain, where the route travels southward within the narrow valley (the Pass of Keimaneigh), general visibility is very short-range, and very enclosed by elevated embankments on either side, with no long-range views of the surrounding landscape, as can be seen in Plate 13-10 below. Site visits have determined that visibility of the proposed turbines within this narrow valley does not occur.



Plate 13-10 Drone Image: Views westward along the C-SR28 Scenic Route along the R584 Regional Road

VP7 was captured just beyond the valley, within an area of ‘Little/No’ visual screening, at the point where the enclosed valley view first emerges and opens out across the broader, long-ranging undulating landscape. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, the proposed turbines are visible in the background, within a marginal upland

landscape comprised of commercial forestry and moorland. The proposed turbines adopt a degree of irregular spacing and layout, which responds to the natural landform of the landscape and ensures the proposed turbines read coherently within the landscape view.

The view, as represented in VP7, is typical of a working landscape, comprising agricultural lands in the lower valley and conifer plantations in the upland areas. While the view possesses some scenic qualities, it does not comprise of any unique or distinctive features of national or international renown. Both turbine clusters appear visually connected from this location and form a coherent array across the undulating landscape in the background of the view. An overall residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed for this viewpoint in Appendix 13-3.

VP14 was captured further along the road in the lower valley, where a break in the otherwise very densely vegetated route allows for open visibility, as illustrated in the Route Screening Analysis (see Section 13.3.2.4). From this location, the proposed turbines are grouped in coherent clusters within the landscape, arranged in a staggered linear array, following the natural contours of the undulating landform, allowing the proposed turbines to read coherently within the landscape view. A residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise at this viewpoint. However, such views and visual effects are momentary for visual receptors on the scenic route, as the majority of the route further south from this location remains heavily vegetated and very little visibility of the proposed turbines occur.

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR28 range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Moderate’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.3 **Designated Scenic Route SR27 (Map Ref. C-SR27)**

This scenic route, which traverses LCT 15a, is described in the CCDP as the *“Local Road between Guagán Barra and the Mouth of the Glen. Views of Coomataggart Mountain, hills, valleys & Guagán Barra”*. Theoretical visibility indicates that there is only a small stretch of the overall route that is likely to experience partial theoretical visibility. A photowire (PWVP-A) was captured from along this route (see below) and shows that very limited visibility of the proposed turbines actually occurs, where only a very small number of the proposed turbines would be seen as small-scale features in the distant background (approx. >11km).

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR27 range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Not Significant’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.



Plate 13-11 Extract of Photowire PWVP-A

#### 13.7.3.4.4 **Designated Scenic Route SR111 (Map Ref. C-SR111)**

This scenic route is described in the CCDP as: *“Road from Bantry, Snave, Ballylickey and Glengarriff. Views of Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Glengarriff Harbour & Mullaghmesha, Sheehy, Coomhola & Cobduff Mountains.”* The route predominantly follows the coastline, with views, as described in the CCDP, primarily oriented away from the proposed turbines. Where theoretical visibility does occur, visibility from this road along the low-lying terrain, is further limited by the built form and roadside vegetation which provide dense visual screening in the direction of the proposed turbines (see photowire PWVP-E below).



Figure 13-19 Photowire PWVPE - proposed turbines **Not** visible from this Viewpoint on SR111 (N71 National Road)

VP8 was captured approx. 230m west from this scenic route, where more open views in the direction of the proposed turbines occur. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, the proposed turbines appear as distant features, occupying a limited horizontal extent, partially obscured by intervening landform and vegetation, resulting in a low level of change within the broader panoramic setting. Residual visual effect was deemed to be ‘Slight’ for VP8.

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR111 range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Slight’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.5 **Designated Scenic Route SR110 (Map Ref. C-SR110)**

This scenic route, located within the West Cork Peninsula (LCT 15a), is described in the CCDP as “Roads from Bantry via Gerahies to Kilcrohane. Views of Dunmanus Bay & Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough & Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bear Island & the Beara Peninsula”. VP2, located 143m north from this scenic route at Bantry Bay, is a representative viewpoint of this scenic route. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, at this distance, the proposed turbines appear as small distant elements, in the very distant background. This viewpoint has been assigned a ‘High’ sensitivity, with a ‘Negligible’ magnitude of change, with an overall ‘Not Significant’ residual visual effect. Furthermore, it is noted that the designated focus of this scenic route are the “views of Dunmanus Bay and Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough and Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bere Island, and the Beara Peninsula.” In this context, the proposed turbines would occupy only a relatively small extent of the overall panoramic view, occupying only a limited distant backdrop to the primary scenic features.

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR110 are deemed to be ‘Not Significant’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.6 **Designated Scenic Route C-SR-113 (Map Ref. C-SR113) / WAW Discovery Point – Whiddy Island View**

This scenic route, located on the West Cork Peninsula (LCT 15a), is described in the CCCDP as “572 Regional Road between Glengarriff, Trafresk, Ardrigole and Castletownbere Views of Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay, Whiddy & Bear Islands, Bear Haven, Shrone & Hungry Hills, & the Gowlbeg, Sugarloaf, Caha, Adrigole & Slieve Miskish Mounta”. There are only a few instances on the entirety of the route where theoretical visibility occurs. VP13 was captured at one of these locations where theoretical visibility occurs, at Whiddy Island Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, at a set-back distance of approx. >16km, the proposed turbines are seen as very small features in the distant background, where they are located to the north-east from this viewpoint (far right-hand side of the image), on the periphery of the high-quality views of the dramatic rugged landscape, and are therefore, not located within the highly scenic portion of the view. An overall residual effect of ‘Slight’ was deemed to arise at this viewpoint.

Overall, residual visual effects on Designated Scenic Route C-SR113 range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Slight’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### 13.7.3.4.7 **Osi Viewing Area – Wild Atlantic View / Vaughan’s Pass**

The Wild Atlantic View (also known as ‘Vaughan’s Pass’), located south of Bantry upon Seskin Hill, provides panoramic views of Bantry Bay and the rugged coastline, and mountainous landscape of the Beara Peninsula (HVL LCT4). This viewing area includes a car park, picnic area, and a signage post identifying and describing the various features of the landscape visible from this location. As indicated by the landscape signage post at this viewpoint, the key focus of the views from this location are to the north and northwest of Bantry Bay, and towards the coastal mountainous landscape of the Beara Peninsula.



Plate 13-12 Direction of view from the Wild Atlantic View as shown by signage (proposed turbines in opposing field of view)

VP9 was captured from this viewing area, overlooking the large-scale, undulating expansive landscape. As detailed in Appendix 13-3, this viewpoint has been assigned as having ‘Very High’ sensitivity on account of the high-quality scenic views from this location. From this viewpoint, the highest quality views are focussed on the dramatic landscape of the mountains and coastline of the Co. Cork High Value Landscape to the north and north-west (as per the sign in the foreground). The proposed turbines are located to the north-east, to the far-right hand side of the view and are not located within this highly scenic portion of the view which is to the left of the photomontage towards Bantry Bay. The proposed turbines are contained in a very limited horizontal extent within the otherwise wide and expansive landscape view that has the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines from this viewpoint. A ‘Slight’ magnitude of change was deemed to arise at this viewpoint in Appendix 13-3, with an overall ‘Moderate’ residual visual effect. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### 13.7.3.4.8 **Designated Cultural Heritage Receptor - Kealkill Stone Circle / Breeny More Stone Circle**

Kealkill Stone Circle (Ciorcal Cloch), is located approximately 2km west from the nearest proposed turbine T14, located within an area of partial theoretical visibility. VP4 was captured from within the Kealkill Stone Circle to represent views towards the proposed turbines from this location. The stone circle is located on an elevated vantage point permitting scenic panoramic views of the West Cork Mountains and Bantry Bay where the landscape opens up to the west. The sensitivity of this viewpoint was deemed to be of ‘High’ sensitivity. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, the proposed turbines are seen in the distant background along the mountainous ridgeline, occupying a relatively compact cluster comprising a small horizontal extent within the view. The highest quality views are focused on the dramatic landscape of the mountains of the Co. Cork High Value Landscape (LCT4), which is located to the west and north-west of this view, in the opposing direction to the proposed turbines. While the proposed turbines are visible (only the northern turbine cluster at a large set-back distance), they are seen to the east (right of the field of view), on the periphery of such views, and do not interfere with the scenic quality of panoramic views of the mountainous landscape and Bantry Bay. A ‘Slight’

magnitude of change was deemed to arise at this viewpoint in Appendix 13-3, with an overall ‘Slight’ residual visual effect.

Breeny More Stone Circle is located approximately 450m south of Kealkill Stone Circle. Given the close geographic proximity to Kealkill Stone Circle and geographic orientation, VP4 is considered representative of views from Breeny More Stone Circle. As such, a ‘Slight’ residual visual effect is deemed to arise for this receptor. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.9 **Designated Cultural Heritage Receptor– Carriganass Castle**

Carriganass Castle is a local heritage feature of archaeological importance (See Chapter 14: Cultural Heritage for further information), largely enclosed by dense forestry. PW VP-C was captured from a public parking bay for visitors to Carriganass Castle off the R584 Regional Road as it leaves/enters Kealkill at the north-eastern extent of the village. The castle is seen from the road to the north, in an opposing direction to the proposed turbines. As seen in the photowire below, the proposed turbines are largely visually screened by intervening trees and landform, even when trees have lost their foliage. Overall, visual effects on the Carriganass Castle arising from the proposed turbines are deemed to be ‘Not Significant’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.



Plate 13-13 Photowire PWVP-C

#### 13.7.3.4.10 **Settlement of Kealkill**

Kealkill is a small village located approximately 2.8km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T14). The settlement is located on the coastal plain between Bantry Bay (to the west) and the mountainous landscape inland (to the east, north and south). This village is located within HVL LCT4 and is locally sensitive. ZTV analysis shows primarily full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines within the settlement. However, on site appraisals determined that actual visibility is far less, due to visual screening from the built environment and surrounding vegetation within this low-lying settlement within the narrow valley. This can be seen in Photowire PWVP-C (above), captured along the R584 Regional Road at the north-eastern entrance/exit to the village, whereas discussed above, the proposed turbines are located beyond the intervening landform, largely screened by intervening vegetation.

Visibility of the proposed turbines is largely confined to the outskirts of the village, where the density of the built environment reduces and receptors would experience more open, long-ranging views across the wider landscape. VP15 was captured at one of such views, on the R584 Regional Road, as one exits the village in an eastward direction. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, an overall residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise. Visibility of the proposed turbines from Kealkill village will be much reduced in comparison to this viewpoint. Accordingly, an overall ‘Slight’ residual visual effect is deemed to arise for the settlement of Kealkill, with a ‘Moderate’ residual visual effect arising for receptors on the outskirts of the settlement. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.11 **Settlement of Bantry**

The settlement of Bantry is located approx. 15km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine, T14, and has pockets of full theoretical visibility. The settlement is located at Bantry Bay, within HVL LCT4 and is locally sensitive. VP2 was captured from Bantry, overlooking Bantry Bay with views towards the proposed turbines. At

this distance, as discussed in Appendix 13-2, the proposed turbines appear as small elements relative to the landscape in the distant background. An overall ‘Not Significant’ residual visual effect was deemed to arise at this viewpoint. However, within the town of Bantry itself, visibility will be further reduced due to the dense visual screening from the built environment and vegetation within the town. An overall ‘Not Significant’ visual effect was deemed to arise for the settlement of Bantry. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.12 **Settlement of Ballylickey**

The settlement of Ballylickey is located approx. 7km west from the nearest proposed turbine within the lowlands of the HVL LCT4 coastline and has pockets of full theoretical visibility. VP8 was captured from within the settlement of Ballylickey and is representative of the views from this village. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, a large number of proposed turbines, particularly within the northern turbine cluster are obscured from view due to intervening landform and vegetation, whilst the proposed turbines that are visible, are arranged in a staggered linear array in the distant background, along the ridgeline. An overall residual visual effect of ‘Slight’ was deemed to arise for this viewpoint. Accordingly, an overall ‘Slight’ visual effect was deemed to arise for the settlement of Ballylickey. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

#### 13.7.3.4.13 **Recreational Routes**

##### **Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route (also referred to as Beara Way / Beara Way Cycle Route)**

The Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route (approx. >300km) runs in a north-east to south west direction from Cork City to the Beara Peninsula, primarily travelling the local road network within the LVIA Study Area. ZTV Analysis (Figure 13-13) shows that full theoretical visibility of this route is primarily confined within 5km of the proposed turbines.

Visual effects on this cycle route will occur in closest proximity to the proposed turbines (within 1km of the proposed turbines), such as along the L-8776 local road, which has ‘Little/No’ visual screening (see RSCR - Section 13.3.2.4), and is located approx. 660m north from the nearest proposed turbine T04 at its closest point. VP6 was captured along this road, where an overall ‘Significant’ residual visual effect was deemed to arise. This is one of the few locations where such visual effects occur.

Along the entirety of the route within the LVIA Study Area, views will be limited while travelling the undulating roads with varying levels of topographical and vegetative screening, which can be seen at VP15 (approx. 2.4km west from nearest turbine, residual ‘Moderate’ visual effect) and at VP8 (approx. 6.8km from nearest turbine, residual ‘Slight’ visual effect).

Overall, residual visual effects on this recreational route range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Significant’ (occurs for a very short duration and comprise a very small section of the route in close proximity to the proposed turbines). On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

##### **Pass of Keimaneigh**

The Pass of Keimaneigh is a mountain pass along the R584 Regional Road. As discussed previously (Section 13.7.3.5 – Scenic Route SR28 and Section 13.3.2.4 Route Screening Analysis), visibility within the valley is predominantly short-range, due to its enclosure by elevated terrain on either side. VP7 was captured along this walking route, just beyond the valley, within an area of ‘Little/No’ visual screening. As discussed previously, from this viewpoint, both turbine clusters appear visually connected from this location and form a coherent array across the undulating landscape in the background, contributing to a sense of order within the wider landscape context. An overall residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed for this viewpoint in Appendix 13-3. No theoretical visibility occurs to the north beyond 5km along this recreational route. Overall, residual visual effects on this recreational route range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Moderate’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### Sli Galetacht Mhuscraí

The Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí, which forms part of the St Finbarr Pilgrim’s Way is located approx. 2.9km from the nearest proposed turbine, T14, travelling along a network of local roads. Within the LVIA Study Area, theoretical visibility is very limited, primarily confined to elevated vantage points. VP18 was captured along this route, where the proposed turbines are visible in a sparsely populated upland moorland landscape comprised of commercial forestry. From this viewpoint the proposed turbines are mostly viewed above the horizon, and they do not obstruct or intrude upon highest quality views of the trail. An overall residual effect of ‘Slight’ was deemed to arise for this viewpoint.

As the route itself is undulating and has varying levels of topographical and vegetative screening, visibility of the proposed turbines is far more obscured from other sections of the route. This can be seen in photowire PWVP-C (2.8km from the nearest turbine) (seen previously), where the proposed turbines are seen beyond the intervening ridge and treelines, as well as photowire PWVP-D (12.6km from the nearest turbine), and photowire PWVP-A (8.2km from the nearest turbine) where the proposed turbines are seen in the distant background, largely screened by intervening landform. Overall, the residual visual effect on the Slí Gaeltacht Mhúscraí recreational route within the LVIA Study Area is deemed to be ‘Slight’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.



Plate 13-14 Photowire PWVP-D



Plate 13-15 Photowire PWVP-A – Two proposed turbines visible.

### Mealagh Valley Loop / Mealagh Woods Loop

The Mealagh Valley Loops comprise a series of short, looped walking trails located approximately 1km south of the nearest proposed turbine T10. VP3 was captured from one of the more open locations of the route within an area identified as having ‘Little/No’ visual screening (See Section 13.2.3.2). As detailed in Appendix 13-3, only five proposed turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline, where they are seen above the horizon. A residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise at VP3. Site visits determined that visibility along the other sections of the loops is intermittent and largely screened by intervening vegetation, particularly within the wooded sections of the Mealagh Woods Loop. Overall, Overall, residual visual effects on this recreational route range from ‘Slight’ to ‘Moderate’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

## Sheep's Head Way (incl. Kealkill – Sron na Gaoithe, Kealkill/Poc an Tairbh, Barnageehy Loop, Glanlough Loop) / Sheep's Head Looped Cycle Route

The Sheep's Head Way is a long-distance walking route that extends from approximately 5 km to over 25 km from the nearest proposed turbine. The route includes a number of shorter looped walks that branch from the main trail that have been scoped in for further assessment (Section 13.5.1), including the Kealkill – Sron na Gaoithe, the Kealkill/Poc an Tairbh, Barnageehy, and Glanlough loops. In addition to the walking routes, the Sheep's Head Looped Cycle Trail follows the coastline of the West Cork Peninsula.

Visual effects along these routes will be greatest within 5km of the proposed turbines, where the majority of theoretical visibility occurs. VP4, located approx. 140m east of the recreational route, was captured at an elevated vantage point at Kealkill Standing Stones, where the northern turbine cluster is seen in the distant background along the undulating mountainous ridgelines. From this viewpoint, the highest quality views are focused on the dramatic landscape of the mountains of the Co. Cork High Value Landscape, which is located to the west and north-west of this view, in the opposing direction to the proposed turbines. An overall residual visual effect of 'Slight' was deemed to arise at this viewpoint. Other viewpoints captured along this route within 5km of the proposed turbines (VP3, VP5, and VP18), result in either 'Moderate' (VP3) or 'Slight' (VP5 and VP18).

Visibility beyond 5km along these routes becomes much more limited, with isolated pockets of full theoretical visibility only occurring at elevated vantage points within the LVIA Study Area. From these locations, the proposed turbines are seen as small features in the distant background relative to the landscape, where the large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments. This can be seen at VP9 and VP17, where residual visual effects were deemed to be 'Moderate' and 'Slight' respectively.

Overall, the Sheep's Head Way loops and cycle trail traverse a large portion of the LVIA Study Area and are valued for walking, cycling and experiencing the surrounding dramatic, undulating ridgelines of the West Cork landscape (HVL LCT4). Where visibility of the proposed turbines does occur, they are either seen on the periphery of the most scenic views (e.g. VP4) or appear as small elements relative to the landscape in the distant background (VP9 and VP17). Overall, residual visual effects on these recreational routes range from 'Imperceptible' (where no visibility occurs) to 'Moderate'. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### Rooska Loop

The Rooska Loop is walking route along the West Cork Peninsula that overlaps with the Sheep's Head Cycle Trail and has primarily full theoretical visibility. VP17 was captured along this loop. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, the proposed turbines are seen as very small features relative to the landscape in the distant background, where large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments. The residual visual effect for this viewpoint was deemed to be 'Slight'. An overall 'Slight' residual visual effect has been assigned to this recreational route. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### Wild Atlantic Way (WAW)

The Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) is a well-known tourism trail extending approximately 2,600km along Ireland's western coastline. Within the LVIA Study Area, only approx. 11km of the entire WAW exhibits full or partial theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, as illustrated by the ZTV mapping. Due to the low-lying nature of the WAW along the coastline, visibility of the proposed turbines as it passes through settlements such as Ballylickey and Bantry is limited, due to visual screening from vegetation and the built form of the settlement. Where instances of open visibility do occur, the proposed turbines appear as small elements relative to the landscape in the distant background within marginal uplands, well set back from the coastline as seen in VP2, and VP13. At both these viewpoints, the magnitude of change was deemed to be 'Negligible' and 'Slight' respectively, resulting in residual visual effects of 'Not Significant' and 'Moderate'. In both cases, the large scale

of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments.

Given the overall scale of the Wild Atlantic Way (approximately 2,600km in length), and the limited extent within the LVIA Study Area that exhibits potential visibility (approximately <11km) of the overall route, the proposed turbines are not considered to have a significant impact on the route as a whole. Overall, residual visual effects on this recreational route range from ‘Imperceptible’ (where no visibility occurs) to ‘Moderate’. On balance, these effects are not considered significant.

### 13.7.3.5 Residential Receptors

During the iterative design process, early stage LVIA appraisals identified local residential receptors as some of the most locally sensitive receptors with the greatest potential to be impacted by the proposed turbines with regard to visual impacts. Consequently, effects on residential receptors was of key consideration throughout the iterative design process for the Proposed Project. This section of the LVIA firstly states how design measures have been used to mitigate the potential for significant visual effects on some areas of residential amenity, then gives an overview of the residential context in terms of population density in the surrounding area and the geographic arrangement of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site. Finally, a visual impact assessment of each cluster of residences is reported, these assessments use analysis of aerial maps, photomontages and photowire visualisations with the intention of identifying the worst-case scenario for potential visual effects on these residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site.

The design of the Proposed Wind Farm has been informed by industry best practice set-back distances, with regard to the siting of the proposed turbines relative to residential receptors, including the following measures:

- › All proposed turbines exceed the mandatory 500m set-back distance from residential receptors set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006).
- › All proposed turbines adhere to the recommended 4-times-tip-height set-back distance from third-party receptors for residential visual amenity as prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).

#### Residential Context: Population Density and Arrangement of Dwellings

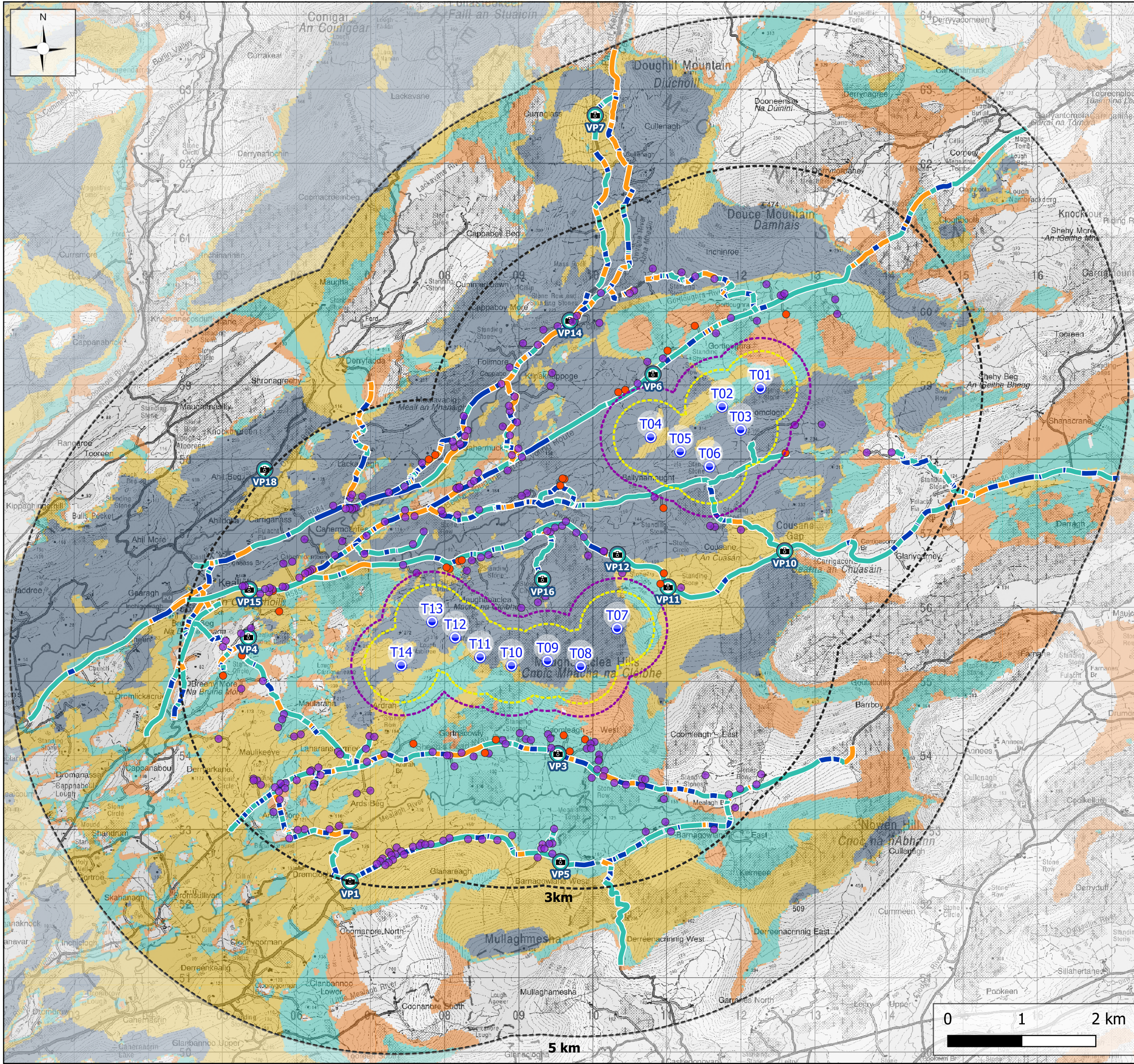
As previously reported in the landscape baseline (see previous Section 13.4.2 Landscape Character of the Proposed Wind Farm site), the Proposed Wind Farm itself is located within a remote marginal upland landscape. The surrounding area, where the proposed turbines are visible, is a sparsely settled rural landscape. It is not a densely populated area, with residential receptors primarily situated within the lower-lying depressions of the landscape, following the narrow valleys adjacent to rivers and fertile lowland, with localised undulations and varying levels of vegetation providing visual screening of the proposed turbines.

The Residential Visual Amenity Map (See Figure 13-20 below) illustrates how the proposed turbines are set-back from residential receptors in the surrounding landscape with respect to distances compliant with guidance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). There are 33 residential receptors located within 1 km of the proposed turbine locations. The closest sensitive receptor, belonging to an involved landowner, is located approximately 682m from the nearest turbine (T03). The closest third-party sensitive receptor is located approximately 682.6m from the nearest proposed turbine (T01), i.e. over the recommended 4x tip height setback (676m) from properties not involved in the project (as recommended in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)). It is to be anticipated that wind farms inevitably cause some ‘Significant’ visual effects on proximate sensitive visual receptors due to the prominence of turbines within landscape views and the ‘Substantial’ magnitude of change which will arise in close proximity to a wind farm development. A key focus in this LVIA is identifying the scenarios where the greatest likelihood of significant effects occurs. Significant residual visual impacts have been determined from 4 photomontage viewpoint representing residential receptors in closest proximity to the proposed turbines (see Appendix 13-3). It is key to note that the residual significant impacts only occur for a very small number of residential receptors and is not representative of effects on residential receptors in a vast proportion of the LVIA Study Area.

## Assessment of Residential Amenity – Photomontages

13 photomontage viewpoints were taken within 5km of the proposed turbines to represent the residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site.

Photomontages are just one of the tools employed during the LVIA that was conducted in order to inform the assessment of landscape and visual effects. The visual impact assessment is strongly informed by site visits and the reading of the landscape on the ground. It would be a disproportionate measure to include an individual photomontage from every residential receptor, and this is not required to conduct a thorough and robust assessment of landscape and visual effects. In line with the guidance laid out in GLVIA3, the viewpoints selected for the LVIA conducted were informed by a range of factors including the *“ZTV analysis, by fieldwork, and by desk research”* (para 6.18, GLVIA3). Furthermore, GLVIA3 states that representative viewpoints are *“selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ”* (para 6.19 GLVIA3). The large number of viewpoints used in the conduct of the LVIA particularly in very close proximity to the proposed turbines are sufficient to represent the residential receptors within the LVIA Study Area, including the *“distribution of population”* (para 6.18, GLVIA3).



**Map Legend**

- Proposed Turbines
- EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet
- 500m Buffer (DoEHLG, 2006)
- 4x Tip-Height Set-Back Distance Buffer (DoHPLG, 2019)

**Residential Receptors**

- Involved Landowners
- Residences

**Route Screening Analysis**

- Little / No Visual Screening
- Intermittent / Partial Visual Screening
- Dense / Full Screening

**Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 1-3 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 4-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 8-11 Turbines Theoretically Visible
- 12-14 Turbines Theoretically Visible

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Drawing No.

Figure 13-20

Drawing Title  
**Residential Visual Amenity**

Project Title  
**Maughanaclea Renewable Energy Development**

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:50,000	240225	09.03.2026	GL	JW



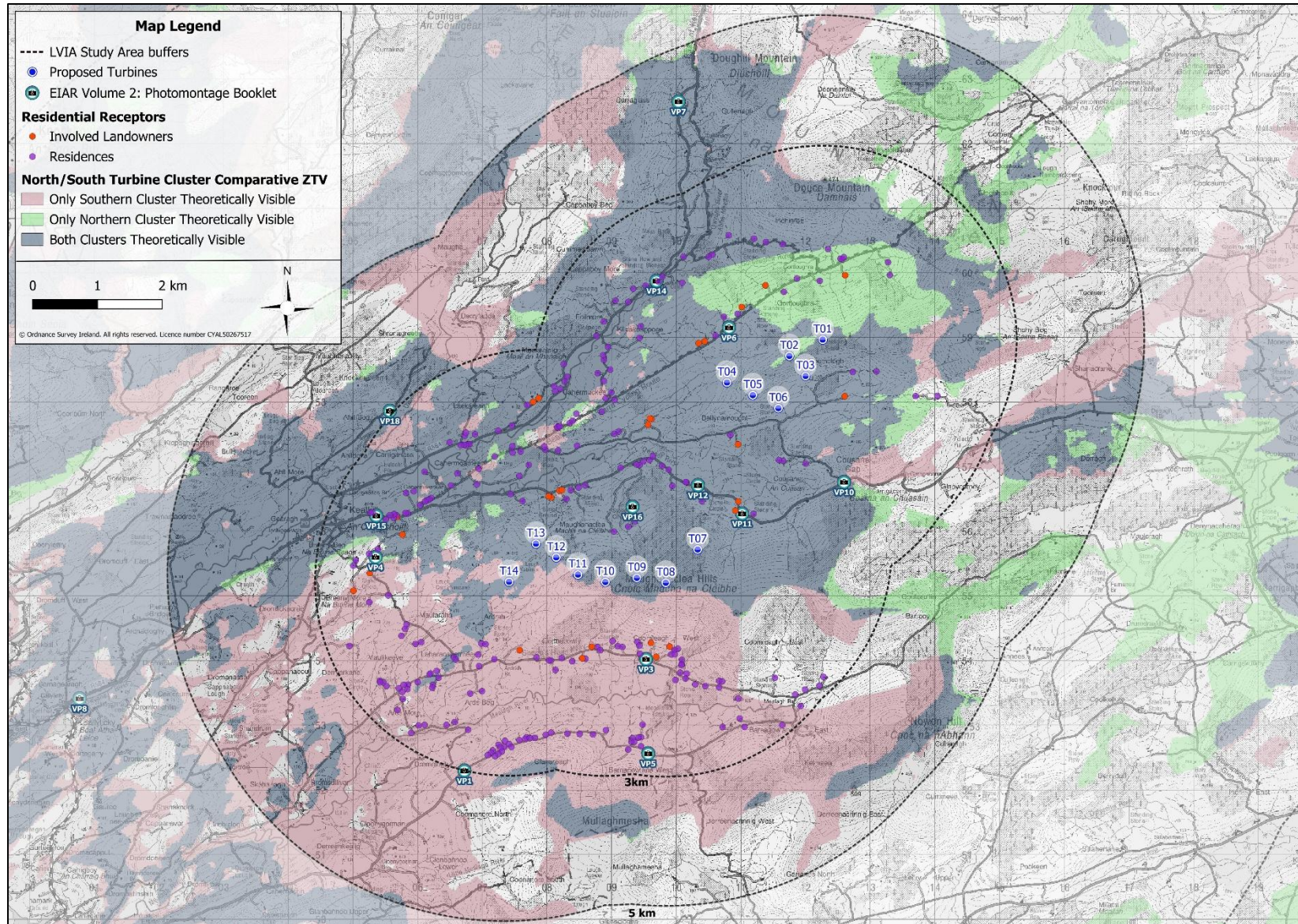


Figure 13-21 Residential Amenity with North/South Turbine Cluster Comparative ZTV

## Assessment of Residential Receptors

### Residential Receptors between the southern and northern turbine cluster (Maughanaclea Valley)

Residential receptors between the two turbine clusters within the low-lying Maughanaclea Valley are primarily situated in a linear arrangement along the local road network (including the R585 Regional Road, the L-8776, and the L-8777 Local Roads). These roads primarily have theoretical visibility of both turbine clusters, with the majority of the routes experiencing ‘Little/No’ visual screening, as shown in the Route Screening Analysis in Section 13.3.2.4 previously.

There are very few residential receptors to the eastern extent of the valley, with the majority of receptors situated to the west, where the landscape opens out westward towards the expansive, undulating landscape of HVL LCT4 (as seen in VP10). From these locations, the proposed turbines are mostly seen within the periphery of views (southern turbine cluster) or grouped on the upland, set back on the other side of the valley (northern turbine cluster), as seen in VP11 and VP12. This careful siting and design of the proposed turbines, effectively avoids unacceptable surrounding effects on residential receptors within the Maughanaclea Valley. The separation and set-back distance between the two clusters and the residences, the large expansive landscape, and the way in which views are framed within the valley (westward), ensure that no enclosing or unacceptable surrounding effects occur for these residential receptors.

VP11 and VP12, captured along the R585 Regional Road, are representative of residential receptors situated between the Northern and southern turbine clusters. In relation to these receptors, the Proposed Wind Farm adheres to the recommended <500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance from third-party residential receptors for residential visual amenity as prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). The sensitivity of these viewpoints was deemed to be ‘High’. As shown by the photomontages, views of turbines in opposing directions only occur for a very small portion of the road, and therefore for a very small number of residential receptors. With both turbine clusters located on separate ridgelines, they are visually set back from the lower valley, which allows for sufficient visual separation for the residential receptors located between the turbine clusters on the regional road. From these viewpoints, both turbine clusters are seen but occupy a relatively moderate horizontal extent within each viewing direction, as discussed in Appendix 13-3. The magnitude of change was deemed to be ‘Moderate’ for both viewpoints (VP11 and VP12). In both viewpoints, the proposed turbines have a ‘Significant’ visual impact for the very small number of residential receptors in this area, and the proposed turbines are set-back beyond the 4x tip height set back distance as per the Draft Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2019).

The greatest visual effects on residential receptors will occur for receptors in closest proximity to the proposed turbines, such as those located at an elevated vantage point on the L-95853 Local Road, immediately north of the southern turbine cluster. VP16 was captured along this local road to represent the views experienced by these receptors in the townland of Maughanaclea. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, from this viewpoint, the northern turbine cluster is largely screened from view, while the southern turbine cluster, which is the most visible cluster, is arranged in a relatively staggered linear array, following the natural contours of the undulating landform, allowing the proposed turbines to read coherently within the landscape view. A residual visual effect of ‘Significant’ was deemed to arise for this viewpoint given the wide horizontal extent of turbines visible and the close proximity to these receptors. For all receptors within this area, the proposed turbines to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Wind Farm exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006), and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance from third-party properties set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). It is also noted that, whilst the proposed turbines do constitute a ‘Substantial’ change at this viewpoint, such visibility occurs only for a very limited number of residential receptors. For the majority of residential receptors within the Maughanaclea Valley, views will be similar to those shown in viewpoints VP11 and VP12.

### Residential Receptors to the South (Mealagh Valley)

To the south, within the Mealagh Valley, a relatively sparsely populated area, residential receptors are primarily situated along the L-4718 and L-4717 local roads, which as shown in Figure 13-21, have varying levels of

roadside screening, ranging from ‘Little/No’, to ‘Partial/Intermittent’ to ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening. Within this enclosed, lower lying areas of the upland valley to the south, residential receptors benefit from topographical screening from the steep landforms to the north, which restricts visibility of many of the proposed turbines, particularly, that of the northern turbine cluster which is not visible.

Within the valley, residential receptors have their primary scenic amenity directed across the valley to the west, towards the undulating landscape of HVL LCT4, away from the proposed turbines. Where the proposed turbines are visible, they are seen on the periphery of such views, above and beyond the ridgeline.

VP3 was captured within the townland of Coomleagh West, approx. 1.2km south from the nearest proposed turbine, T08, and is representative of views experienced by residential receptors within the northern extent of the Mealagh Valley. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, only 5 turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm (only that of the southern turbine cluster) are visible above and beyond the ridgeline. The siting of the proposed turbines beyond the landform gives a sense of set-back from residential receptors to the south of the Maughanaclea Ridge. For all receptors within this area, the proposed turbines adhere to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Wind Farm exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006), and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance from third-party properties set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). A ‘Moderate’ magnitude of change was deemed to occur for this viewpoint, with an overall residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’.

VP1 and VP5 were captured further setback, located 2.9km and 2.6km respectively, from the nearest proposed turbine and are representative of residential receptors located on the southern side of the Mealagh Valley. In both viewpoints, the proposed turbines are visually set back beyond the ridgeline, reducing their overall visual prominence within the view. From these perspectives (VP1 and VP5), the proposed turbines read as a coherent array, with even spacing and a profile that reflects the natural undulations of the ridgeline, resulting in the proposed turbines appearing visually balanced within the receiving landscape. The steep-sided nature of the valley (as seen in VP5), combined with mature boundary vegetation and the set-back of turbines just beyond the ridgeline, further minimises the overall visual impact and visual prominence of the proposed turbines on this small number of residential receptors to the south of the Maughanaclea Ridge. An overall residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise for VP1, while a residual visual effect of ‘Slight’ was deemed to arise for VP5.

### **Residential Receptors to the North / North-East**

To the north, residential receptors are primarily located along the R584 Regional Road and the L-8776 Local Road, which are connected by smaller local roads such as the L-8779 and L-8778. As per the Route Screening Analysis, the majority of these routes exhibit a mosaic level of roadside vegetative screening, ranging from ‘Little/No’ to ‘Partial/Intermittent’ and ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening.

To the north, the greatest visual effects on residential receptors will occur within the townland of Gortloughra, in closest proximity to the proposed turbines. However, as seen in Figure 13-21, within the townland of Gortloughra, due to its low-lying valley setting enclosed by the Shehy Beg Ridge to the south, only the northern turbine cluster is theoretically visible. As a result, for many residential receptors, visibility is primarily limited to the northern turbine cluster only.

VP6 was captured along the L-8776 Local Road within the townland of Gortloughra as it exits the valley, within an area of ‘Little/No’ visual screening, permitting slightly longer-ranging views towards the southern turbine cluster. Given the proximity of this viewpoint to the proposed turbines (850m), the proposed turbines of the northern turbine cluster appear as large-scale features in close proximity to the viewpoint, situated beyond the ridge, while the southern turbine cluster appears slightly smaller in scale relative to the landscape, in the distant background, arranged in a coherent linear array along the Maughanaclea Ridge. Due to the differing set-back distances from this viewpoint, the two turbine clusters are perceived to be of differing scale. Residual visual effects of ‘Significant’ were deemed to arise for this viewpoint. It is also noted that, whilst the proposed turbines do constitute a ‘Substantial’ change, such visibility and visual effects occur for a very limited number of residential receptors. For many residential receptors, including the majority of residential receptors within the townland of Gortloughra, visibility is limited to the northern turbine cluster only. As such, many residential receptors within this townland will not experience combined views of both turbine clusters from their dwellings.

Furthermore, the proposed turbines adhere to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Wind Farm exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006), and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance from third-party properties set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).

Beyond the L-8776 Local Road, many residential receptors along the L-8779 and L-8778 Local Roads, and the R584 Regional Road, benefit from further visual screening due to dense roadside vegetation, as shown in Figure 13-21. VP14 was captured further set back from the proposed turbines along the R584 Regional Road, within an area of ‘Little/No’ visual screening. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, at a set-back distance of approximately 1.9km north, the proposed turbines are grouped in coherent clusters within the landscape, arranged in a staggered linear array along the ridgelines, achieving a clear visual separation from the complexity of the lower ground and contributes to an ordered and coherent appearance within the landscape. For residential receptors at this distance, residual visual effects are ‘Moderate’.

### Residential Receptors to the West

To the west, towards the settlement of Kealkill, the local road network has a mosaic of varying roadside screening, primarily ‘Partial/Intermittent’ and ‘Dense/Full’ visual screening, obscuring views in the direction of the proposed turbines. VP15 was captured along the R585 Regional Road and is representative of residential receptors to the west. As discussed in Appendix 13-3, the majority of the proposed turbines within the southern turbine cluster are screened by the intervening ridge. Overall, a residual visual effect of ‘Moderate’ was deemed to arise. At these distances, the proposed turbines are of moderate scale relative to the landscape.

### Residential Receptors Summary

Within the LVIA Study Area, the visual impact on residential receptors ranges from ‘Imperceptible’ to ‘Significant’ (for a small number of residences in very close proximity). Given the adherence to the 4x tip height set-back distance to protect visual amenity, on balance, effects on residential receptors are mitigated and are therefore not significant.

## 13.7.3.6 Visual Effects of the Proposed 110kV Onsite Substation

As established in the baseline investigations, the proposed substation has been strategically sited within an existing tract of commercial conifer forestry. This location is physically enclosed and visually contained by prominent landforms and mature vegetation. As a result, the proposed 110kV Onsite Substation will not be visible from nearby visual receptors, including residential receptors (closest residential receptor is located approx. 325m north-east of the proposed substation) and commuters on the R585 Regional Road (which is also the designated Scenic Route C-SR29). Accordingly, no visual effects on the R585 Regional Road nor the adjacent residential receptors will arise as a result of the proposed 110kV Onsite Substation.

## 13.7.3.7 Discussion of Cumulative Visual Effects

There are many potential scenarios and interactions where cumulative visual effects may occur. These scenarios can include interactions between the Proposed Wind Farm, other energy developments (wind farms or grid infrastructure), as well as other man-made landscape features (quarries, transport networks, overhead telecommunication lines). Guidance for assessment of cumulative effects of onshore wind farms (SNH,2012) & (NatureScott, 2021) clearly states the following:

*“At every stage in the process the focus should be on the key cumulative effects which are likely to influence decision making, rather than an assessment of every potential cumulative effect.”*

*“The level of information generated can distract attention from the most significant cumulative effects which are likely to influence the consenting decision. Assessments should therefore focus on the most significant cumulative effects and conclude with a clear assessment of those which are likely to influence decision making.”*

Following this guidance, a primary focus is given to the cumulative effects likely to occur as a result of other wind turbines identified in the LVIA Study Area. Also, cumulative effects reported in this section also describes cumulative visual interactions between the Northern and southern turbine clusters as experienced by relevant visual receptors.

The discussion of cumulative visual effects in this section uses the term ‘in combination’ where the proposed turbines will be seen with other turbines from a particular vantage point representing visual receptors. In combination ‘simultaneous’ visual effects occur where the proposed turbines are seen with other cumulative turbines within the same or similar field of view. In combination ‘successional’ visual effects occur where the proposed turbines are seen with other turbines from the same viewpoint but in an alternative field of view where the receptor will need to turn to face a different direction to experience cumulative effects.

### 13.7.3.7.1 Cumulative Visual Effects (Other Wind Farms)

As discussed previously, within the LVIA Study Area (25km radius) there are 19 no. existing wind farms, 6 no. permitted wind farms and 4 no. proposed wind farms, which are listed in Table 13-15 previously. The Cumulative Comparative ZTV of all cumulative turbines with the proposed turbines can be seen in Figure 13-16. The proposed turbines only give rise to a few very small areas (shown in teal), where the proposed turbines may add additional theoretically visible as a result of the construction of the Proposed Wind Farm. As such, there are only very few theoretical locations where the Proposed Wind Farm would introduce turbines as entirely new or novel elements within the landscape. These small pockets of where only proposed turbines are theoretically visible are primarily situated to the south-east of the proposed turbines within 5km along stretches of the local road network where residential receptors are situated.

Areas of theoretical visibility of both the proposed and cumulative turbines are primarily confined to the immediate vicinity of the proposed turbines, within approximately 5 km, extending in a westward direction towards Bantry Bay and the ridged, peaked upland landscape of HVL LCT4. The siting of the proposed turbines on the Maughanaclea and Shehy Beg ridges, in combination with the horse-shoe shaped series of landforms, which encloses and frames the proposed turbines, largely limits combined theoretical visibility of both cumulative and proposed turbines to the east, north and south. As a result, combined visibility as experienced by visual receptors of both the proposed and cumulative turbines becomes increasingly limited beyond 5km in these directions due to the horse-shoe shaped enclosure. Consequently, the majority of the wider LVIA Study Area is characterised by theoretical visibility of cumulative turbines only, as illustrated in Figure 13-16, with cumulative visual effects (of the proposed turbines and other wind farms) will therefore be primarily confined to within 5km, and to the west. The nature of these cumulative interactions, as experienced by visual receptors, is discussed in the subsections below.

#### Cumulative Visual Effects Within 5km

The proposed Curraglass, Dereenacreenig West and Gortloughra Wind Farms, together with the existing Shehy More Wind Farm, are located within 5 km of the proposed turbines. As noted previously, the proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm and the existing Shehy More Wind Farm are located approximately 2km and 2.7km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T01), respectively, and are arranged in a staggered linear array (existing Shehy More Wind Farm) and a grid-like layout (proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm). These wind farms are situated at the opposite end of the Shehy Mountains and are visually separated from the northern turbine cluster of the Proposed Wind Farm, which is located on the lower slopes of the Shehy Beg ridge. The proposed Curraglass and Dereenacreenig West turbines are located to the north and south of the proposed turbines, respectively. While these wind farms are in relatively close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm site, they are separated by elevated ridges and valleys. As a result, the nature of cumulative visual effects varies in a journey scenario, with visibility of changing due to topography and other intervening landform features as receptors move through the area.

In a journey scenario, visual receptors; including local residents, commuters travelling along the local road network, and receptors along the recreational walking trails and C-SR28 and C-SR29 Scenic Routes, may experience views of other wind farms in combination with the proposed turbines, and cumulative visual effects

will occur. These cumulative interactions are illustrated in the photomontages, and discussed in Appendix 13-3, with a summary provided below:

- › **VP6 Gortloughra** – From the L-8776 local road, visual receptors, including residential receptors, local road users and recreational route users, would experience simultaneous in combination cumulative visual effects, as the proposed Gortloughra turbines would be visible in the distant background, to the left of the proposed turbines of the northern turbine cluster.
- › **VP4 Kealkill Stone Circle** – Visual receptors at Kealkill Stone Circle would experience in combination cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines and the existing Shehy More turbines, which are partially visible in the distant background of the view from this location. In combination cumulative visual effects would also occur with the proposed Gortloughra turbines, where both developments may be perceived as a single, collective cluster of turbines within the undulating upland landscape from this perspective. Sequential in combination cumulative visual effects would occur with the proposed Curraglass turbines, which would become visible only when receptors turn their heads to look northwards across the valley. From this perspective, the scale, and expansive nature of the receiving landscape is capable of accommodating these cumulative wind energy developments.
- › **VP11 Maughanaclea Valley / VP12 R585 Regional Road (C-SR-29)** – From the R585 Regional Road, visual receptors, including residential receptors, and those travelling the C-SR29 Scenic Route will occasionally experience cumulative effects.
  - **VP11** – Visual receptors would experience simultaneous in combination visual effects, as the existing Grousemount turbines would be visible within the same landscape view as the proposed turbines. The proposed Curraglass turbines would be seen to the left of the northern turbine cluster. From this perspective, the scale, and expansive nature of the receiving landscape is capable of accommodating these cumulative wind energy developments.
  - **VP12** – Visual receptors would experience simultaneous in combination visual effects, with the proposed Curraglass turbines visible to the left of the northern turbine cluster, visually separate from the proposed turbines. The proposed Gortloughra turbines would be seen in the same general direction as the proposed turbines of the northern turbine cluster, although there is a visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines. While the proposed turbines do add to the extent of turbines visible to visual receptors, they assimilate into the view, with the topographical features emphasising the separation between the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines. The expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and proposed wind energy developments.

### Cumulative Visual Effects from the West (Beyond 5km)

Beyond 5 km, cumulative visual effects as experienced by visual receptors are primarily confined to occasional elevated vantage points within the undulating coastal plain of West Cork where there are open views towards the ridged and peaked upland landscape (LCT15a) in which the Proposed Wind Farm and other cumulative wind farms (primarily the proposed Curraglass, Dereenacreenig West and Gortloughra Wind Farms, together with the existing Shehy More Wind Farm) are seen together.

From western viewpoints, where the proposed turbines are visible in combination with these other wind energy developments, visual receptors, including users of walking trails and designated scenic routes, would experience in combination cumulative visual effects, as illustrated in the photomontages. In these instances, the proposed turbines would be visible in the distant background within the marginal uplands of the Proposed Wind Farm site. At the distances, beyond 10 km, the proposed turbines and other cumulative developments would generally be perceived as small-scale elements relative to the landscape, viewed in the distant background, where they are not seen within the focal point of scenic views and are most often viewed in the periphery of the key scenic visual amenity. Multiple viewpoints were captured from elevated vantage points along the rugged ridge peninsulas (VP13, VP2, VP17 and VP9), where in combination cumulative visual effects do occur for visual receptors along recreational walking routes and designated scenic routes. From these viewpoints, while some

cumulative visual effects do occur, the receiving landscape is a vast, expansive landscape, which has the capacity to accommodate multiple wind energy developments. The proposed turbines and other developments are effectively absorbed into the landscape.

### Summary of Cumulative Visual Effects

As demonstrated throughout this LVIA chapter, including the accompanying mapping and photomontage visualisations, there is an accumulation of wind energy developments within LCT 15a, particularly within 5km of the proposed turbines, in an area where wind energy development is strategically directed by local planning policy. The cumulative photomontages presented in *ELAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* illustrate the nature and extent of potential cumulative visual effects as experienced by specific visual receptors from differing geographic perspectives surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm site. This LVIA identifies that the undulating and well-defined landform features and valleys within the LVIA Study Area, including the horse-shoe-shaped enclosure, influence the extent to which cumulative visual effects are experienced by visual receptors. Further, this LVIA notes that LCT 15a has the capacity to absorb the Proposed Wind Farm, with no unacceptable cumulative visual effects with the other potential wind energy developments identified in this LVIA.

#### 13.7.3.7.2 Cumulative Visual Effects of Two Turbine Clusters – Northern and southern turbine clusters

Both clusters form part of the same development but are positioned on separate ridgelines of the Maughanaclea Valley. Given this separation, this section discussed the potential visual effects that may arise from the 2 separate turbine clusters.

A comprehensive assessment was conducted to determine the extent of cumulative visual effects arising from receptors located between the two turbine clusters, as well as how the two turbine clusters are perceived from greater distances within the LVIA Study Area. Photomontages were captured from the road network where there are open views of both turbine clusters in opposing directions, and, where the turbine clusters appeared to be of differing scale due to the differing set-back distances. The below subsections discuss both of these instances.

#### Views of Both Turbine Clusters in Opposing Directions

As demonstrated by photomontages 10, 11, 12, and 16 in the Photomontage Booklet, there are instances where there are open views of turbines in opposing directions from receptors located between the two turbines. Therefore, in combination ‘successional’ visual effects occurs for receptors such as local residences, the local road network, and a very small portion of the C-SR-29.

From the photomontages presented in the Photomontage Booklet:

- › In VP10, proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm comprise a total of approx. 8% of possible landscape views (approx. 30° of 360°).
- › In VP11, proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm comprise a total of approx. 11% of possible landscape views (approx. 40° of 360°).
- › In VP12, proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm comprise a total of approx. 25% of possible landscape views (approx. 90° of 360°).
- › In VP16, proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm comprise a total of approx. 44% of possible landscape views (approx. 157° of 360°).

In all instances, it does not seem that the proposed turbines are visible in all directions, but two separate directions and they are not perceived to fully surround receptors in these areas. Furthermore, as seen in the photomontages, visual effects from the furthest turbine cluster is always largely mitigated by distance.

As shown by the Photomontage Booklet in VP10, VP11, VP12, and VP16, visual effects from the furthest turbine cluster is always mitigated by distance, but also in terms of topography, and other intervening landscape

features. The impact of viewing both the Northern and the southern turbine cluster in opposite directions does cause in combination ‘successional’ visual effects but does not cause any unacceptable surrounding effects.

### Views of Both Turbine Clusters in the Same Field of View

Some in combination simultaneous cumulative visual effects will occur for receptors to the north of the northern turbine cluster (see Viewpoints 6, 14), such as residences, the local road network, scenic route and the recreational walking trail. In these instances, the two turbine clusters are perceived to be of slightly different scale due to the differing set-back distances from these viewpoints. From the north, turbines of the northern turbine cluster are of a larger scale relative to nearby receptors, and therefore, appear visually separate from the smaller-scaled turbines of the southern turbine cluster, which are set-back on a more distant ridgeline.

As shown in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet, the northern turbine cluster is barely visible (blade tips only) from locations south of the southern turbine cluster (Viewpoints 1, 3, and 5) as it is screened from view by the intervening ridgeline where the southern turbine cluster is sited.

From the west of the Proposed Wind Farm, cumulative visual effects are mitigated by the visual separation between the two clusters within the expansive view (See Viewpoints 15 and 18).

### Sequential Cumulative Visual Effects (Two Turbine Clusters) – Journey Scenario (R585 Regional Road)

As discussed previously in Section 13.6.5.4.1, in a journey scenario, a visual receptor will experience varying views of the northern turbine cluster, the southern turbine cluster, or in some locations both clusters. Sequential visibility of the proposed turbines on the R585 Regional Road is reported below in

Table 13-18.

Table 13-18 Sequential Cumulative Visibility along the R585 Regional Road

Viewpoint (North to South)	Visibility of: northern turbine cluster, southern turbine cluster, or both Turbine Clusters	Simultaneous View or Successional View	Other Wind Farms Visible?
VP10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› northern turbine cluster – largely screened from view</li> <li>› southern turbine cluster – mostly blade tips visible (apart from T07)</li> </ul>	Successional View - Two fields of view. VP10A directed to the south-west. VP10B directed to the north-west.	No
VP11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› southern turbine cluster – only T07 and T08 visible</li> <li>› northern turbine cluster – fully visible</li> </ul>	Successional View - Two fields of view. VP11A directed to the south-west. VP11B directed to the north-east.	Yes – existing Grousemount Wind Farm and proposed Curraglass Wind Farm in VP11B.
VP12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› northern turbine cluster – fully visible</li> <li>› southern turbine cluster – largely screened from view (apart from T07)</li> </ul>	Successional View - Two fields of view. VP12A directed to the south. VP12B directed to the north-east.	Yes – existing Grousemount Wind Farm, proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm and proposed Curraglass Wind Farm in VP12B.

VP15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; northern turbine cluster – fully visible</li> <li>&gt; southern turbine cluster – mostly blade tips visible (apart from T13)</li> </ul>	Simultaneous View – One Field of view to the east	Yes – existing Shehy More Wind Farm and proposed Gortloughra Wind Farm.
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### 13.7.4 Decommissioning Phase Effects

The landscape and visual effects during the decommissioning phase are anticipated to be of a similar nature as those occurring during the construction phase.

The important element of decommissioning from an LVIA perspective is the dismantling and removal of the wind turbines. This will occur for a limited period of time and will predominately involve cranes adjacent to the proposed turbines during the dismantling process. Upon decommissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm, the wind turbines will be disassembled in reverse order to how they were erected. The turbines will be disassembled with a similar model of crane that was used for their erection. The turbines will likely be removed from the Proposed Wind Farm site using the same transport methodology adopted initially for delivery to the Proposed Wind Farm site.

Turbine foundations would remain in place underground and would be covered with earth and allowed to revegetate. This naturalisation process shall revert the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site back to a condition similar to the current landscape baseline.

Removal of the proposed turbines and ancillary infrastructure (except the proposed substation) from the Wind Farm site during decommissioning will result in ‘Short-Term’, ‘Slight’, ‘Negative’ visual effects.

### 13.8 Conclusion

This chapter reports the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the Proposed Project, focusing on the likely significant effects on landscape and visual amenity within a 25km LVIA Study Area. Although all elements of the Proposed Project are assessed, the Chapter focusses upon the proposed turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm, as they are deemed to be the primary essential aspects of the proposal under assessment from a landscape and visual perspective. The assessments were informed by site visits, verified photomontages, ZTV mapping, a Route Screening Analysis, and an impact assessment methodology which follows best practice guidance for LVIA of wind farms.

The Proposed Wind Farm is predominantly located within a marginal, working upland landscape comprising privately owned lands. There is little to no recreational value to the Proposed Wind Farm site itself, and it is a landscape which has undergone a degree of human modification due to current and historic land uses such as commercial forestry and agricultural fields. It is a large scale and sparsely settled landscape of marginal upland in an area designated as ‘Open to Consideration’ to wind energy development in local planning policy. The Proposed Wind Farm site is not located within any protected landscapes within any local landscape policy, and no sensitive landscape designations (High Value Landscapes) fall within the Proposed Wind Farm site itself. The Wind Farm site is however located adjacent to an area designated as Co. Cork High Value Landscape and assessment of effects on its key characteristics and sensitivities was a key focus of this LVIA.

ZTV and Topographical mapping shows that the proposed turbines are encircled by a horseshoe shaped series of mountainous peaks and large landforms which act as a visual barrier, enclosing the proposed turbines, reducing the visual envelope and restricting visibility of the proposed turbines beyond 5km to the north, east and south, excepting only on other mountainous peaks. As a result, within 5km, visibility of the proposed turbines is predominantly confined to the Maughanaclea valley located between the two turbine clusters and extends westwards towards Bantry Bay, as well as the Mealagh valley to the south. Beyond 5km, photomontage

visualisations and site visits determined that visibility of the proposed turbines is mostly limited to elevated vantage points within the wider LVIA Study Area. In terms of location, spatial extent, spacing and layout, the siting and design of the Proposed Wind Farm adheres to the guidance for the siting of wind farms in Mountain Moorland Landscape Types, whilst also adhering to the minimum set back distance requirements, including 500 meters from residential dwellings and four times the turbine tip height from third-party properties as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) respectively.

The overall landscape value and sensitivity of the Site is deemed to be ‘Medium, and the overall residual effects upon the landscape of the Proposed Wind Farm site itself are deemed to be ‘Moderate’.

The Proposed Wind Farm site itself is located within LCT 15a – Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet), an LCT of “local” landscape importance, which has the capability to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments. The LVIA determined a ‘Moderate’ residual effect on this LCT’s landscape character. No significant landscape effects are deemed to occur in other designated LCTs assessed in this LVIA. No significant landscape effects were deemed to arise on any designated High Value Landscapes (LCT 16a – Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gouganne Barra) or LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsulas (Castletownbere-Bantry-Schull)) located within the LVIA Study Area. There are 19 no. existing, 7 no. proposed, and 4 no. permitted wind farms within 25km from the proposed turbines, with the greatest cumulative landscape effects occurring in LCT 15a.

The assessment of visual effects was primarily informed by Photomontage Visualisations, a Route Screening Analysis, and observations recorded during site visits. Imagery was captured from 22 viewpoints within the LVIA Study Area. Out of these, 18 no. viewpoints were included in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet (including cumulative wind farms), while the remaining 4 viewpoints (PWVP-A, etc.) were used as photowires included in Appendix 13-5 (draft visualisations) to support discussion of visual effects in relation to specific receptors. The assessment concluded that no ‘Profound’ or ‘Very Significant’ effects occurred at any of the 18 photomontage viewpoints. Residual effects of ‘Significant’ occurred at 4 viewpoint locations, given the proximity of the viewpoints to the proposed turbines (<1km). All other viewpoints were assessed as Moderate (7), Slight (6) and Not Significant (1). Cumulative visual effects have greatest potential to arise with other existing, permitted, and proposed wind energy developments. Given the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm and the restricted views of it due to topographic and vegetative screening there is an inherently limited potential for significant cumulative effects. The most notable combined views of the proposed turbines and cumulative turbines occur within close proximity of the proposed turbines with the proposed Curraglass turbines and the proposed Gortloughra turbines, given their proximity. Cumulative visual effects will also occur from longer ranging views of the upland area from elevated vantage points throughout the wider landscape. No significant cumulative visual effects are deemed to arise.

In conclusion, this LVIA determined that the Proposed Wind Farm is located within a landscape that can effectively accommodate a wind energy development of this scale, given the large scale and expansive nature of the receiving environment and the mitigation measures in place to ensure no significant impact on key landscape and scenic sensitivities. The assessments have determined that the Proposed Wind Farm site is a landscape capable of effectively accommodating the Proposed Project.

## EIA Classification Summary

Please see the table below for a summary of all identified impacts for the Proposed Project relating to LVIA.

Table 13-19 Impact Assessment Classification Summary

Topic	Impact Assessment Discussion Section Reference	Residual Effect	Significance
<b>Construction Phase</b>			
Proposed Project	Section 13.7.2.1.1	Short-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Slight, Moderate	not significant
Nearby Visual Receptors	Section 13.7.2.1.2	Temporary to Short-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Not Significant, Slight	not significant
<b>Operational Phase – Landscape Effects</b>			
Proposed Project	Section 13.7.3.1.1 Section 13.7.3.1.2	Long-Term, Negative effects within the following range:  Imperceptible, Moderate	not significant
LCAs	Section 13.7.3.1.3	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Imperceptible, Slight, Moderate	not significant
Other Landscape Receptors (High Value Landscapes)	Section 13.7.3.1.3	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Slight, Moderate	not significant
<b>Operational Phase – Visual Effects</b>			
Designated Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects	Section 13.7.3.4.1 Section 13.7.3.4.2 Section 13.7.3.4.3 Section 13.7.3.4.4 Section 13.7.3.4.5 Section 13.7.3.4.6	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Imperceptible, Not Significant, Slight, Moderate, Significant	While Significant effects are identified at two viewpoint locations, these effects are very localised. On balance the overall effect on Scenic Routes, Views and Prospects are not significant.

	Section 13.7.3.4.7		
Settlements	Section 13.7.3.4.10 Section 13.7.3.4.11 Section 13.7.3.4.12	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Not Significant, Slight, Moderate	not significant
Recreational Routes	Section 13.7.3.4.13	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Imperceptible, Slight, Moderate, Significant	Significant at 1 no. locations. On balance, effects on Recreational Routes are not significant.
Recreational Destinations, Cultural Heritage and Tourism Destinations	Section 13.7.3.4.8 Section 13.7.3.4.9	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Not Significant, Slight	not significant
Residential Receptors	Section 13.7.3.5	Long-Term, Negative effects, within the following range:  Imperceptible, Slight, Moderate, Significant	Significant at 3 no. locations, not significant at all other assessed locations
<b>Decommissioning Phase</b>			
Proposed Project	Section 13.7.4	(same as construction phase effects)	not significant