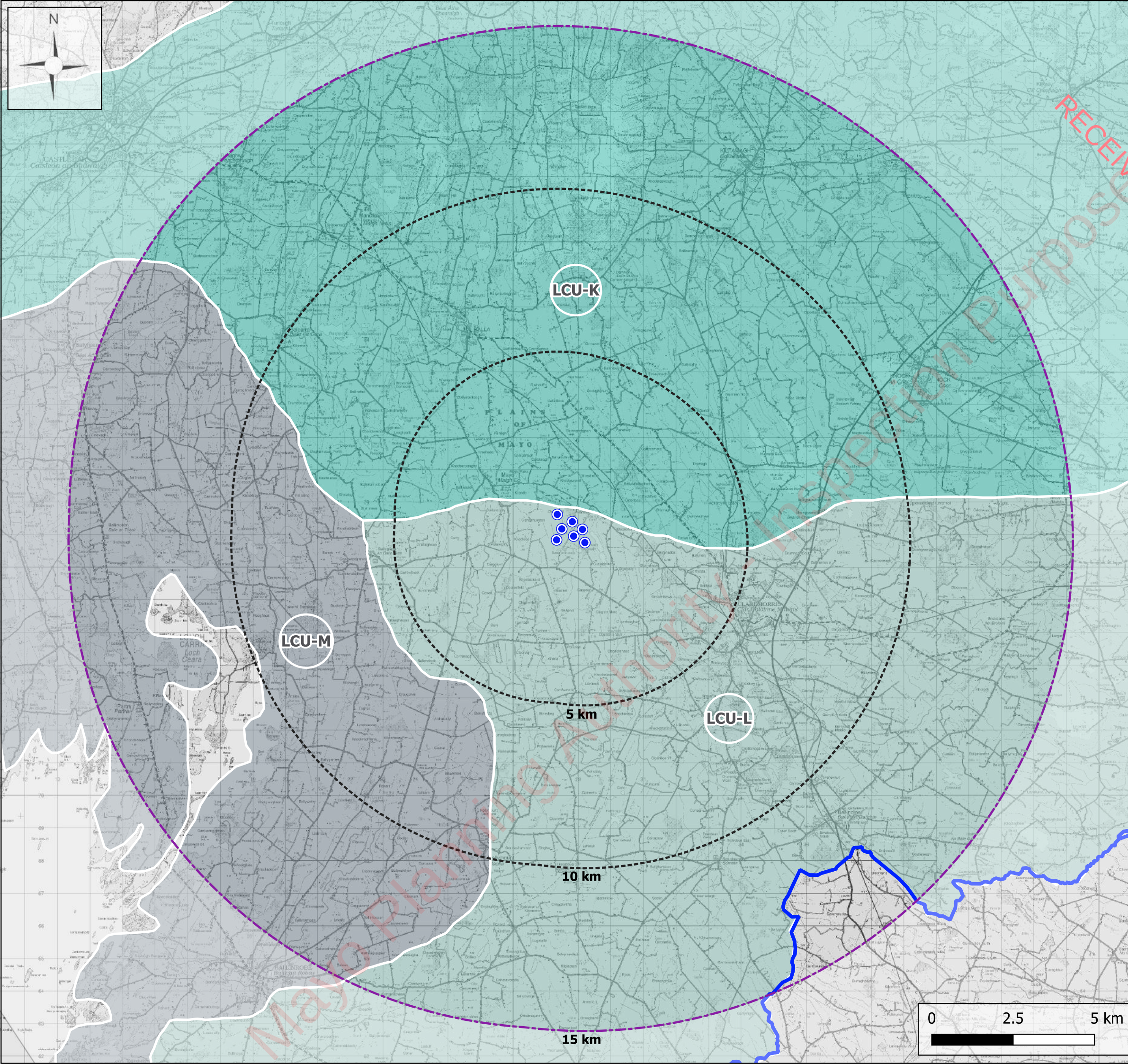




Map Legend

- LCA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines

Co. Mayo Landscape Character Units

- LCU-K: East-Central Drumlin Spine
- LCU-L: South East Mayo Plains
- LCU-M: Lakeland Drumlins

© Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number CYAL50267517

Drawing No.

Figure 13-5

Drawing Title

Landscape Character Units

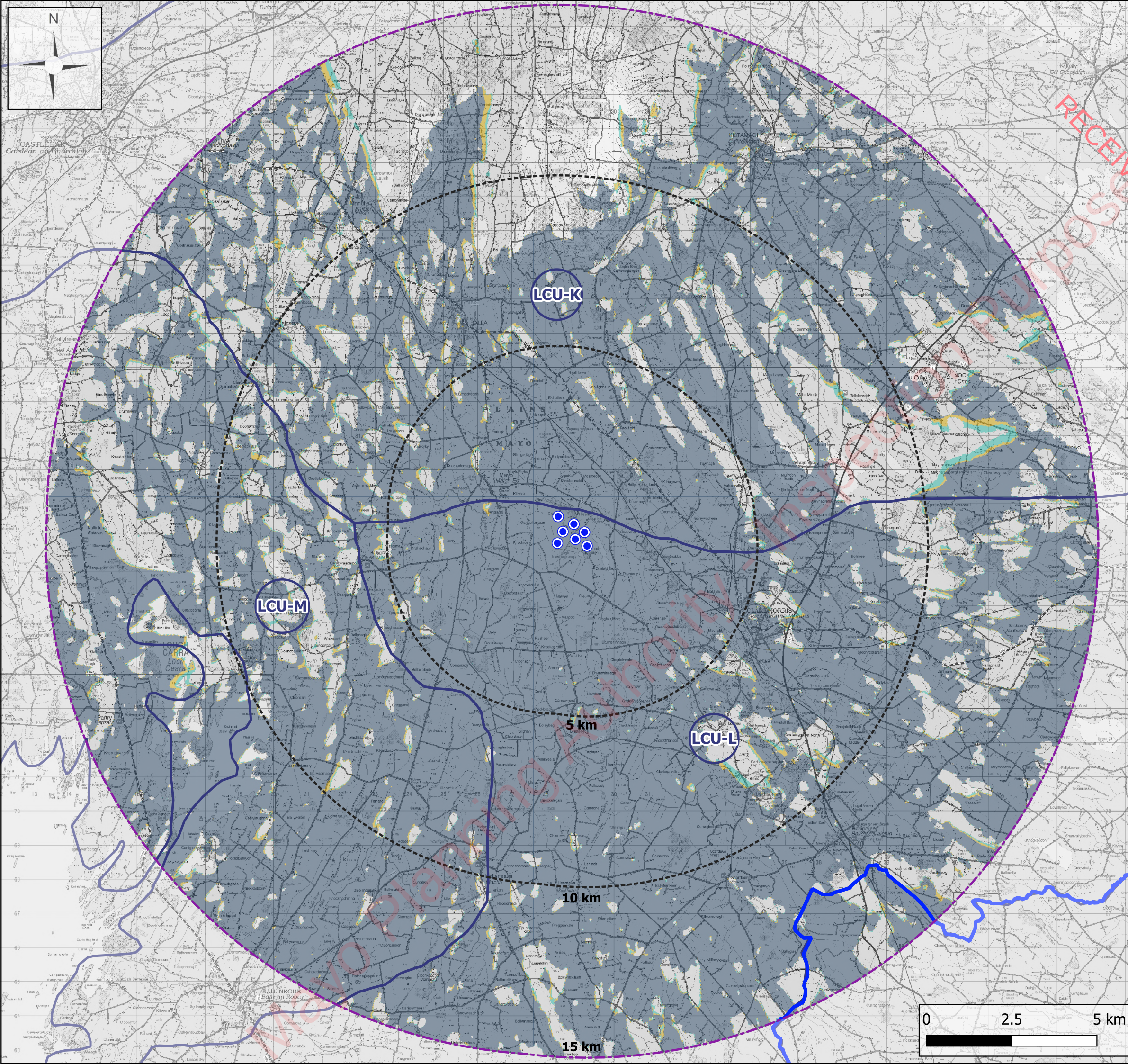
Project Title

Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:110,000	220825	15.04.2026	GL	DM



Planning and Environmental Consultants



Map Legend

- LCA Study Area
- County Border
- Proposed Turbines
- Co. Mayo Landscape Character Units**
 - LCU-K: East-Central Drumlin Spine
 - LCU-L: South East Mayo Plains
 - LCU-M: Lakeland Drumlins
- Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
 - 1-2 Turbines Theoretically Visible
 - 3-4 Turbines Theoretically Visible
 - 5-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible

© Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number CYAL50267517
Drawing No.

Figure 13-6

Landscape Character Units with Zone
of Theoretical Visibility

Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:105,000	220825	15.04.2026	GL	DM

13.4.1.1.3 Landscape Sensitivity Designations

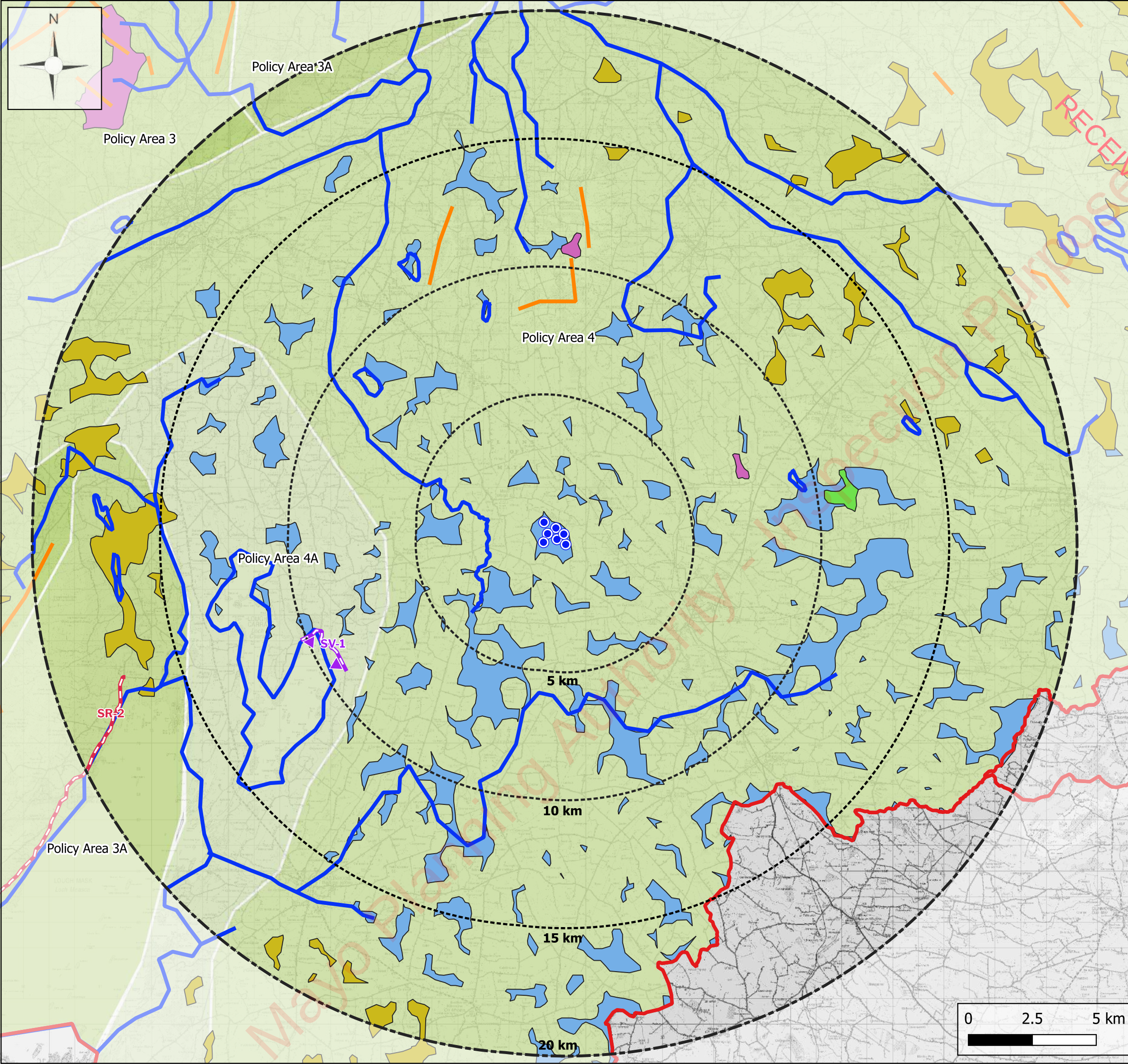
The *Development Impact – Landscape Sensitivity Matrix* outlined in the LACM as well as in Figure 10.1 of the MCDP (reproduced in Figure 13-6 below), provides a general indication of the likelihood of success of planning applications for each development type. Under the Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo, the Proposed Wind Farm is located within Policy Area 4, which is shown in Plate 13-4 as having the lowest potential for creating adverse impacts from wind farm developments when compared with the other Policy Areas, stating that it has:

“medium potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Such developments are likely to be clearly discernible and distinctive, however with careful siting and good design, the significance and extent of impacts can be minimised to an acceptable level”

Development Impact - Landscape Sensitivity Matrix								
	Wind farms	Power lines	Quarrying/ Extraction	Forestry	Commun- ication Masts	Industrial/ Commercial	Rural Dwellings	Road Projects
Policy Area 1								
Policy Area 2								
Policy Area 3								
Policy Area 4								
Key								
= High potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Having regard to the intrinsic physical and visual characteristics of the landscape area, it is unlikely that such impacts can be reduced to a widely acceptable level.								
= Medium potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Such developments are likely to be clearly discernible and distinctive, however with careful siting and good design, the significance and extent of impacts can be minimised to an acceptable level.								
= Low potential to create adverse impacts on the existing landscape character. Such development is likely to be widely conceived as normal and appropriate unless siting and design are poor.								
ig								

Plate 13-4 MCDP Landscape Sensitivity Matrix

The Landscape Sensitivity Matrix suggests that all Policy Areas are sensitive to wind farm development, which is in some contradiction to the current MCDP wind energy strategy (RES 2011-2022) which designates areas as ‘Priority’, ‘Tier 1 – Preferred (Large Wind Farms)’, ‘Tier 1 – Preferred (Cluster of Turbines)’, and ‘Open to Consideration’ (as discussed in the following section) within landscape Policy Areas marked as having *“high potential to create adverse impacts”*. It is reiterated again that Policy Area 4 is identified as having the lowest sensitivity to wind farm development compared to the other Policy Areas.



Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Borders
- Proposed Turbines
- Co. Mayo Scenic Designations**
 - Scenic Routes
 - Scenic Routes with Views
- Co. Mayo Wind Energy Strategy (2011-2022)**
 - Consented Windfarm
 - Existing Windfarm
 - Tier 1 - Preferred (Cluster of Turbines)
 - Tier 2 - Open for Consideration
- Co. Mayo Vulnerable Areas**
 - Skylines
 - Coastline, River Banks, and Lake Shorelines
- Co. Mayo Policy Areas**
 - Policy Area 3
 - Policy Area 3A
 - Policy Area 4
 - Policy Area 4A

© Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number CYAL50267517

Drawing No.

Figure 13-7

Drawing Title

Landscape Baseline

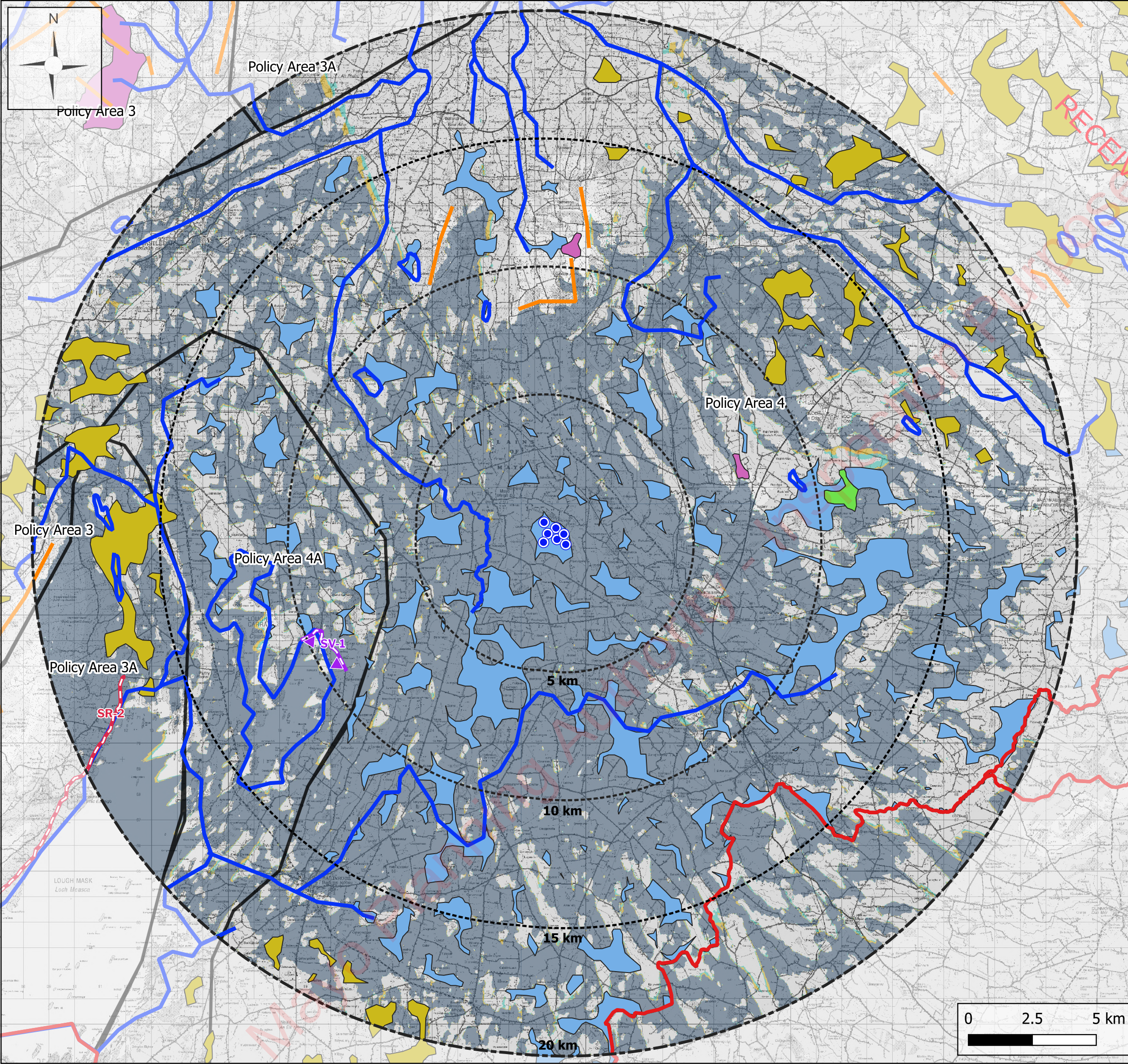
Project Title

Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:140,000	220825	16.03.2026	GL	DM



Planning and Environmental Consultants



Map Legend

- LVIA Study Area
- County Borders
- Proposed Turbines
- Co. Mayo Policy Areas
- Co. Mayo Scenic Designations**
 - Scenic Routes
 - Scenic Routes with Views
- Co. Mayo Wind Energy Strategy (2011-2022)**
 - Consented Windfarm
 - Existing Windfarm
 - Tier 1 - Preferred (Cluster of Turbines)
 - Tier 2 - Open for Consideration
- Co. Mayo Vulnerable Areas**
 - Skylines
 - Coastline, River Banks, and Lake Shorelines
- Half-Blade Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
 - 1-2 Turbines Theoretically Visible
 - 3-4 Turbines Theoretically Visible
 - 5-7 Turbines Theoretically Visible

© Ordnance Survey Ireland. All rights reserved. Licence number CYAL50267517
Drawing No.

Figure 13-8

Drawing Title				
Landscape Baseline with ZTV				
Project Title				
Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project				
Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:140,000	220825	08.05.2026	GL	DM

13.4.1.1.4 County Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy

The MCDP refers to the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) for County Mayo (2011-2020) and states that *“Mayo County Council will commence the review and update the Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy within one year of adopting this plan.”* The RES outlines the strong need for wind energy developments in the county and states:

“any proposals for on-shore wind farm developments will be determined in accordance with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (DoEHLG) 2006 or any subsequent guidelines and the requirements set out in Section 6.5”.

Section 6.4.1 of the RES outlines areas within the county suitable for onshore wind energy development. These 4 classifications areas are as follows:

- **“Priority Areas:** are areas which have secured planning permission and where on shore wind farms can be developed immediately.
- **Tier 1 – Preferred (Large Wind Farms):** are areas in which the potential for large wind farms is greatest.
- **Tier 1 – Preferred (Cluster of Turbines):** are areas identified as being most suitable for smaller clusters of wind turbines (clusters of up to three to five turbines depending on site conditions and visual amenity).
- **Tier 2 – Open to Consideration:** identifies areas which may be considered for wind farms or small clusters of wind turbines but where the visual impact on sensitive or vulnerable landscapes, listed highly scenic routes, scenic routes, scenic viewing points and scenic routes will be the principal consideration. The Tier 2 classification will be reviewed by the Council following a determination by EirGrid of grid infrastructure for the County.”

The proposed turbines are located within the classification area ‘Tier 1- Preferred (Cluster of Turbines)’ as set out in the RES for County Mayo and seen in County Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy.

Section 6.5.14 of the Renewable Energy Strategy continues to give guidance relating to landscape, stating that:

“Renewable energy developments shall avoid sensitive and vulnerable landscapes, listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes where detailed visual analysis demonstrates that the development will have an adverse effect on those landscapes.

Renewable energy developments shall be sited and designed to minimise the visual amenity of the surrounding area.”

As detailed throughout this LVIA, the Proposed Project complies with good siting and design for the landscape type and avoids materially altering any sensitive and vulnerable landscapes or scenic views/routes.

The review of the Draft Variation No. 2 (‘the variation’) of the MCDP (as varied) was published on 28 April, 2026 seeking to update the Mayo RES. This is currently out to consultation. In absence of this update and / or adoption of a finalised RES, the RES (2011 – 2020) is referred to in relation to policy relevant to landscape and visual effects in the LVIA Study Area.

Draft Variation No. 2 of the MCDP Renewable Energy Strategy (RES)

A new Proposed Draft Variation No. 2 ('the variation') of the MCDP (as varied) was published on 28 April, 2026 seeking to update the Mayo RES.

While the Mayo RES remains the relevant renewable energy strategy in force for County Mayo at the time of submission, this Draft Mayo RES has been reviewed and taken into consideration for the purposes of this Chapter and the overall EIAR. Within the Draft Mayo RES, there are three essential categories for suitability of wind energy development:

- Open for Consideration: where *'applications for utility scale wind farms in these areas will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, subject to viable wind speeds, environmental resources and constraints and cumulative impacts in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats and EIA Directives'*
- Repowering Potential: where, subject to reassessment, there is potential with regard to existing wind farms to *'replace some or all [of] the existing turbines, thereby extending the site's operational life'*
- Unsuitable: ~~However,~~ where the twenty-five categories of constraints designated in the Draft RES have indicated that wind energy developments are unsuitable

The Proposed Project is within the newly designated 'Open for Consideration' category under the Draft Mayo RES. In relation to landscape, the Draft Mayo RES includes policy RPO 5.2, which has three subsections, two of which are relevant to the Proposed Project:

- a) *"Protect manage and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of our Landscapes and seascapes."*
- b) *"The Assembly supports co-operation and co-ordination between Local Authorities in determining landscape character along their borders. A targeted review should be undertaken to ensure consistency in classification and policy in adjoining areas of similar character."*

The Proposed Project does not intrude on any distinctive landscape of any local, national, or international renown, nor do the bordering regions with Counties Galway and Roscommon have any contradictory landscape classifications or sensitivities.

Section 5.8.2 of the Draft Mayo RES also states:

"Preservation of landscape character and visual amenity should be considered when planning renewable energy developments, as specified in the Planning and Development Act 2000. The Landscape Appraisal for County Mayo [LACM] includes detailed recommendations for the management, protection and conservation of its unique landscapes."

As discussed throughout the chapter and its appendices, this LVIA has been prepared in full accordance with the LACM. A summary map of potential landscape impacts derived from the LACM was included in the Draft RES and is reproduced as Plate 13-5 below. The Proposed Project is within an area determined to be 'Medium Potential to Create Adverse Impacts' – the lower of two categories.

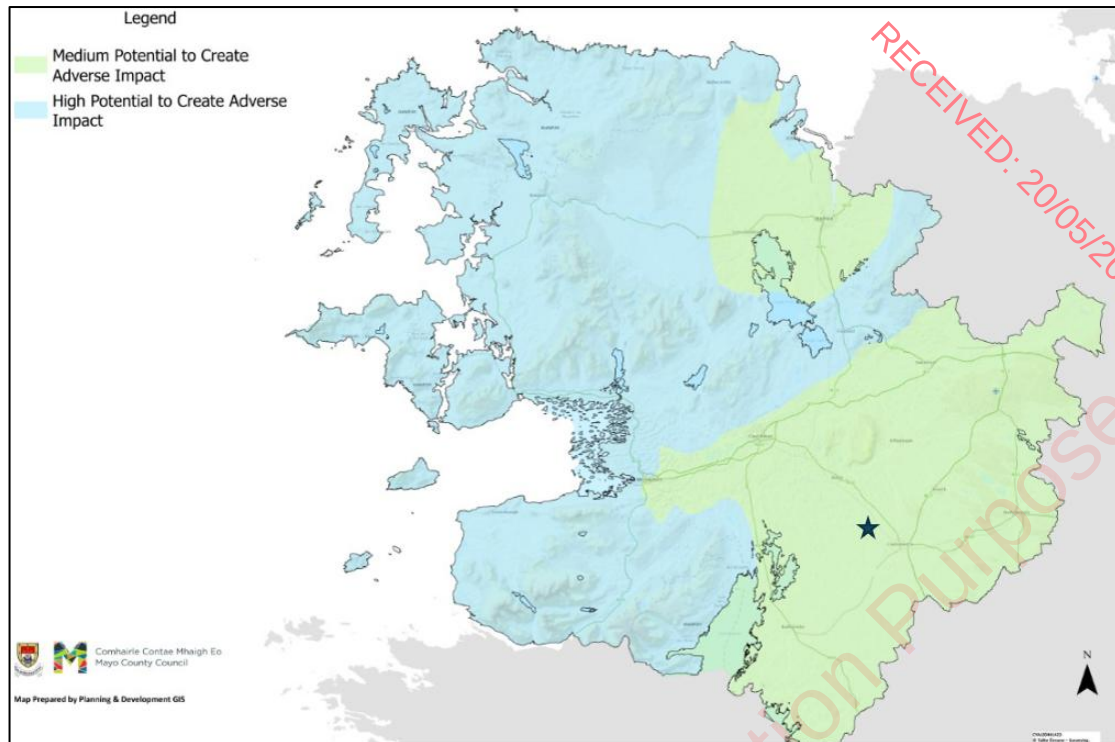


Plate 13-5 Map 5.5 from the Draft RES indicating potential of wind energy developments to create adverse landscape effects with the approximate location of the Proposed Project indicated with a star.

13.4.1.1.5 Designated Vulnerable Features

Section 3 of the LACM designates a number of areas within the county as vulnerable. These areas include:

- > “The coastline
- > The banks of the Rivers
- > The shoreline of all lakes
- > The skylines of upland areas
- > All headlands and promontories”

These are shown on Map 2 of the LACM (reproduced below in Plate 13-6) and in Section 13.4 – Landscape Baseline.

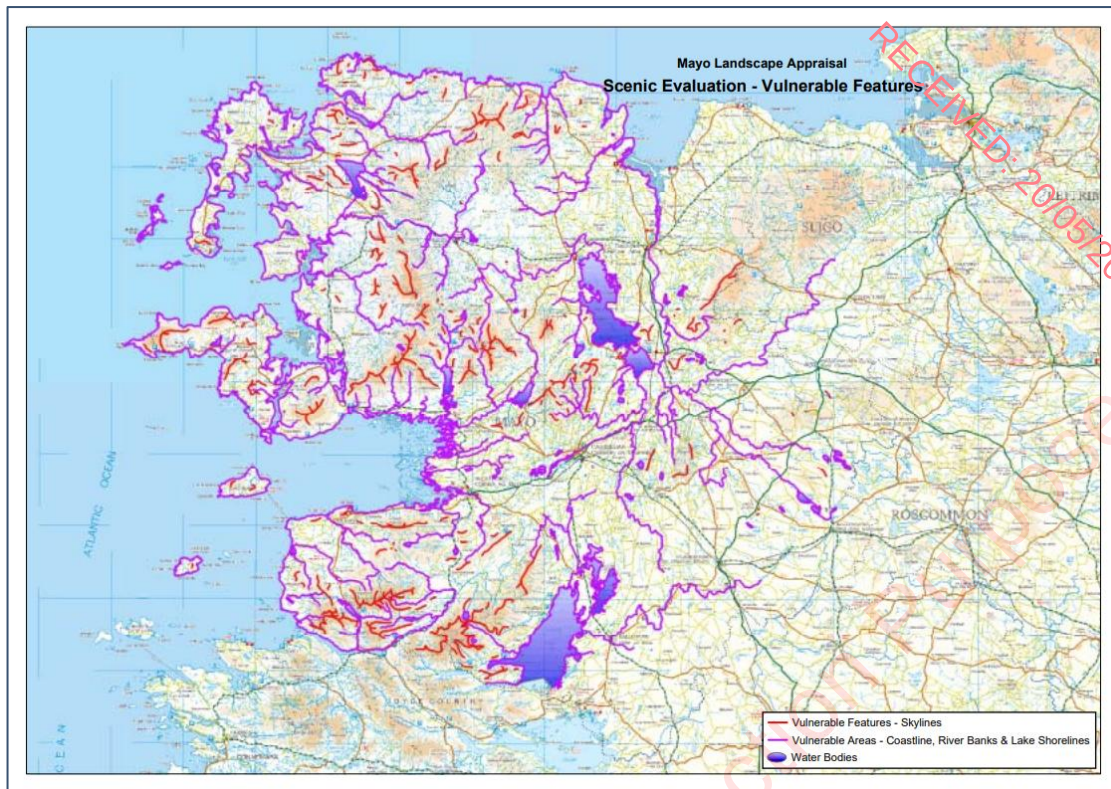


Plate 13-6 County Mayo LACM Map of Vulnerable Features

Skylines and Ridges

As seen in Figure 13-8 Landscape Baseline map with Zone of Theoretical Visibility, there are 4 'ridgelines' in the LACM designated as vulnerable located within the LVIA Study Area. These include:

- The ridgeline along the western side of the Partry Mountains approx. 20km west of the proposed turbines.
- Cruicpullagadaun (Rush Hill/Fox Hill), located approx. 10.8km north-west of the proposed turbines.
- The ridgelines of Cuillalea Hill, approx. 9km north of the proposed turbines.*
- The Sraheens Ridgeline on the west-facing side of Treannagleragh Mountain (north of Cuillalea Hill) approx. 11km north of the proposed turbines

**These ridgelines are identified as vulnerable features in 'Map 10.2: Scenic Evaluation – Vulnerable Features' of the LACM and have been mapped on Figure 13-8 Landscape Baseline map with Zone of Theoretical Visibility of this document, but have no corresponding name on the list of vulnerable skylines and ridges in Section 3.1(a) of the LACM. MKO referred to them as the ridgelines of Cuillalea Hill as this is the widely identifiable associated landform.*

According to Section 3.1(b) of the LACM, the following policy applies to these features:

“These areas or features designated as vulnerable represent the principal features which create and sustain the character and distinctiveness of the surrounding landscape. To be considered for permission, development in the environs of these vulnerable areas must be shown not to impinge in any significant way upon its character, integrity or uniformity when viewed from the surroundings. Particular attention should be given to the preservation of the character and distinctiveness of these areas as viewed from scenic routes and the environs of archaeological and historic sites.”

These landscape receptors are assessed and discussed in Section 13.7.4.2.1.

The Shorelines of Lakes, Rivers, and Estuaries

There are a number of banks of rivers and shorelines of lakes that have been listed in the LACM that are located within the LVIA Study Area. The listed designations that are located within the LVIA Study Area are:

- > Meander River
- > Washpool Lough
- > Lough Naminnoo
- > Carrowmore Lough
- > Little River
- > Cloonlee River
- > Geestaun River
- > Glore River
- > Cullentragh Lough
- > Derry Lough
- > Robe River
- > Lough Carra
- > Aille River
- > Claureen River
- > Cloon River
- > Lough Mask
- > Lough Nacorra
- > Lough Nageltia
- > Castlebar River
- > Clydagh River
- > Strade River
- > Gweestion River
- > Mannin River
- > Mannin Lake
- > Bunnadober River
- > Toormore River
- > Pollagh River

The policy from *Section 3.1(b)* of the LACM quoted above in relation to skylines and ridgelines is also applicable to the shoreline designations listed above in this section.

In order to identify the likely landscape effects of greatest significance on these designations, the assessment of landscape effects concentrates on riverbanks and lakeshores that are in close proximity to the proposed turbines (within 5km). The ZTV map (Figure 13-8 Landscape Baseline map with Zone of Theoretical Visibility) was used to determine potential locations where there will likely be visibility of the proposed turbines within views of the riverbanks and lakeshores noted above, including consideration of the distance between the proposed turbines and the riverbanks and lakeshores. It was determined that potential likely significant landscape effects on the character, integrity or uniformity of these features is only potentially likely to occur for those features located in close proximity (approx. 5km) to the proposed turbines.

In addition, prominent lakes within the wider landscape (i.e. the LVIA Study Area), which function as important locations for recreational activity and visual receptors (see Section 13.5 Visual Baseline), are also considered in relation to potential visual effects experienced by users and visitors in Section 13.7.5.

The following landscape features are therefore scoped in for further assessment:

- Meander River (within 5km)
- Lough Carra (prominent lake with recreational and visual amenity value – discussed in Visual Effects, within 10km at closest point)
- Lough Mask (prominent lake with recreational and visual amenity value – discussed in Visual Effects, within 15km at closest point)

13.4.1.1.6 Scenic Routes and Scenic Routes with Views

The LACM designates Scenic Routes and Scenic Routes with Views on Map 2 – Scenic routes and Protected Views. These are described in Chapter 3 as follows:

- **“Scenic Routes:** *These are public roads passing through or close to areas of outstanding natural beauty, or places of interest, showcasing the unique landscape character and natural environment of Mayo, which would have a low capacity to absorb new development.*
- **Scenic Routes with Scenic Views:** *These are locations along Mayo’s Scenic Routes that offer the most advantageous locations to view to and from areas of outstanding natural beauty and /or places of interests, which would have an extremely low capacity to absorb new development.*
- **Lakeshores:** *These are areas along Mayo’s coastline and larger lakeshores that tend to be open in character, highly visible with intrinsic scenic qualities which have an extremely low capacity to absorb new development.”**

**Lakeshores are addressed previously in the previous section, The Shorelines of Lakes, Rivers, and Estuaries.*

Scenic Routes

The MCDP contains the following objective in relation to “Mayo’s Scenic Routes”:

- **“NEO 25:** *To consider applications for development, along Mayo’s’ Scenic routes, that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned, whilst ensuring that it:*
 - *Does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area.*
 - *Meets high standards in siting and design.*
 - *Contributes to and enhances local landscape character.*
 - *Satisfies all other criteria, with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and environmental considerations.”*

Section 3.6 (b) of the LACM notes the following policy in relation to Scenic Routes:

“Scenic routes indicate public roads from which views and prospects of areas of natural beauty and interest can be enjoyed. Sightseeing visitors are more likely to be concentrated along these routes.

The onus should be on the applicant when applying for permission to develop in the environs of a scenic route, to demonstrate that there will be no obstruction or degradation of the views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas.”

Scenic Routes and Views

Section 3.7 (b) of the LACM notes the following policy in relation to Protected Views: