



APPENDIX 12-2

LCA ASSESSMENT TABLES



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1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 County Cork

LCT 15a Ridged and Peaked Upland	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCT	The proposed turbines are located within this LCT.
LCT Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Comprises a rolling mountainous topography at a relatively high elevation which includes the Shehy Mountains. › Soil is of low fertility and experiences relatively high levels of rainfall due to its elevation, resulting in poor growing conditions and limited vegetation including moorland, heath and scrub. › Isolated or clusters of fields, are scattered along lower slopes, giving this landscape type a small-scale dimension, to the otherwise open moorland. › Large tracks of coniferous forestry evident particularly in upland areas. › Patches of fertile land within the landscape › The main agricultural practice in these upland areas is sheep farming. › Field boundaries are mainly stone walls and lowland hedges.
Visibility within LCT	Approximately half this LCT will have no visibility of the proposed turbines as indicated by the LCT, with greatest visibility concentrated around the areas of the proposed turbines and to their east. Viewpoints 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 are located within this LCT.
Cumulative Baseline	Some of the Derragh and most of the Cleanrath turbines are just within the northern part of this LCT. The Shehy More turbines are on the eastern edge of the LCT and the Derreenacrinning and Carrigariark are just outside the LCT.
Cumulative Landscape Status	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will add to the cumulative landscape effects but not change the status identified above, as the ZTV mapping indicates that visibility within this LCT is intermittent. Therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered Low .
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>The 2007 Cork County Draft Landscape Strategy states that <i>‘windfarms can be seen off in the distance from certain elevated views within this landscape type. While their presence is noted, their visual impact is not major but an accumulation of more windfarms could have a more intolerable visual impact in the future’</i></p> <p>Therefore, a Moderate landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCT.</p>
Magnitude of Change	Moderate A more limited loss of or change to landscape features over a medium extent which will result in some change to landscape features and aesthetics. Could include the addition of some new uncharacteristic features or elements that would lead to the potential for change in landscape character in a localised area or part of a landscape character area. Would include moderate effects on the overall landscape character that do not affect key



	characteristics. The effects could be long to medium term and/or partially reversible.
Significance of Effect	Moderate x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Siting and design were developed for transitional marginal landscape character type.› Roadside screening is predominantly dense, limiting views of the proposed turbines

LCT 4 Rugged Ridge Peninsulas	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCT	This LCT is approximately 4.1 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point and 67.3 kilometres at its furthest.
LCT Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Rugged ridges stretching out towards the sea or forming peninsulas like fingers with relatively low-lying bays between them. › Submerged upland coast comprising of drowned bays or rias. › Lofty ridges and peaks are characterised by a jagged profile while others like Mizen Head are more subdued and rounded, Hungry Hill is the most dramatic of these rugged mountains. › The rocky peninsulas comprise of thin blanket peat accommodating open moorland of heather and wild grasses. Relatively fertile patches of farmland and woodland indicate glacial till locations. › Drifts of bracken typically identify the interface of upper ground with thin blanket peats and fertile soils at lower levels. Broadleaves are located on the fertile low ground and smaller patches of coniferous plantations are found on the higher ground. › Occasional clusters of small pasture fields located on the more fertile ground mark farming activity. › Fields of regular shape are more prevalent inland on the flatter ground but become more irregularly shaped and less fertile on the slopes of the surrounding hills, and include patches of bracken, rush and scrub as well as a mix of broadleaf hedgerows and coniferous shelterbelts. › The old oak woodlands in Glengarriff are believed to be ancient supporting an extraordinarily diverse range of invertebrate and other species.
Visibility within LCT	A band of intermittent full visibility runs from the townland of Maughanaclea to Bantry Bay. There is also another running in parallel to the south on the northern slopes to the south of Bantry Bay. Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, and 4 are located within this LCT.
Cumulative Baseline	The Glanta/Ballybane turbines are on the eastern boundary of this LCT and some just within this LCT.
Cumulative Landscape Status	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will add to the cumulative landscape effects but not change the status identified above. Therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered Low .
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>The 2007 Cork County Draft Landscape Strategy states that ‘<i>much of this LCT has high wind speeds, but also great landscape sensitivity, hence there are not strategic search areas, and much of the area is identified as “Strategically Unsuitable”.</i></p> <p>Therefore, a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCT.</p>
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and



	not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Siting and design were developed for transitional marginal landscape character type.› Generally dense roadside vegetation prevents views towards the Proposed Development

LCT 16a Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCT	This LCT is approximately 1.2 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point and 9.2 kilometres at its furthest.
LCT Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Some forestry but located on the side of the elevated area. › At the centre of this LCT is Gougane Barra a scenic area. It is evident why this is a tourist area due to its historical and picturesque setting with the lake and dramatic background. › To the south is the more enclosed Gougane Barra Forest Park. › To the south the valley is very lush with evidence of farming and farm buildings. › The roadside is lined with ditches and bushes. › The area is very dramatic to the west as the road climbs slowly up the area towards the Kerry border. › This is a landscape formed by intensive glacial erosion, leaving armchair-like forms gouged out of the mountain side. Gougane Barra provides an excellent example of these. › The mountain sides are steeply scarped, falling to a flat but limited valley floor which typically accommodates a small lake and/or river. In the case of Gougane Barra, the river in question is the Lee, which rises here meandering its way to the sea at Cork Harbour in the east.
Visibility within LCT	The ZTV indicates that there is full or partial theoretical visibility only in the far eastern and western parts of this LCT. The central part, the majority of this LCT will have no visibility of the proposed turbines. Viewpoints 10 and 11 are located within this LCT.
Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing turbines within this LCT, however the Grousemount turbines and Coomagearlachy turbines to the north in County Kerry as well as the Shehy More turbines to the east may be visible in parts of this LCT
Cumulative Landscape Status	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will slightly add to the cumulative landscape effects, but not change the status identified above. Therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered Low .
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>The 2007 Cork County Draft Landscape Strategy states that <i>‘this LCT has great landscape sensitivity hence the area is identified as “Strategically Unsuitable” for windfarm development. Such developments would dominate the surrounding landscape.’</i></p> <p>Therefore, a Very High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCT.</p>
Magnitude of Change	Negligible - a change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	Very High x Negligible = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends



Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Siting and design were developed for transitional marginal landscape character type.› Limited theoretical visibility
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