



APPENDIX 13-2
LCA ASSESSMENT TABLES

1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 County Kerry

LCA 27 - Clydagh River, The Paps and the Derrynasaggart Mountains	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	Four of the proposed turbines are located within this LCA. At its furthest point, the LCA extends approximately 18km north-east from the nearest turbine (T10).
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(Appendix 7 within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“This area’s valleys are enclosed by high mountains. This separates the area from adjoining areas.</i> ➤ <i>The changing direction of the valleys with higher ground surrounding them contributes to scale.</i> ➤ <i>Only a small amount of pasture is found in the area, on the valley floors. The remainder of the area is characterised by a combination of peat bog and forestry, mainly coniferous forest.</i> ➤ <i>This is a remote landscape with large amounts of coniferous forestry plantations on some upland areas. The Paps which are a dramatic landscape feature have cultural associations.</i> ➤ <i>Majority of the area is designated Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects on the N22 close to the county bounds and on the R569.</i> ➤ <i>There are views & prospects on the N22 close to the county bounds and on the R569.</i> ➤ <i>The Paps form part of an archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>There are two areas to the south of the LCA designated as ‘Potential Repowering Areas’, the proposed turbines are located within one of these areas to the southwest. The overall landscape sensitivity given to this LCA as designated in the KCDP (2022-2028) is Medium/High.</p> <p>The majority of the area was designated as a Secondary Special Amenity Area in the KCDP 2015-2021 and discusses within <i>Appendix 7 - Landscape Review</i> within the KCDP (2022-2028). Within the KCDP (2022-28), the majority of the area is designated as a Visual Sensitive Area, which includes the designated archaeological landscape, ‘The Paps’. The KCDP (2022-28) has designated the sensitivity of this LCA as High.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA	<p>The ZTV in Figure 13-1 of Chapter 13 of this EIAR indicates that the proposed turbines will be visible from large parts of this LCA. The majority of the visibility lies within 10km of the nearest turbine, with little theoretical visibility beyond 10km to the north of the LCA.</p> <p>As indicated on the ZTV there is mixed theoretical visibility within 5km of the site. With a section of full theoretical visibility to the west of the LCA, the majority of the LCA within 5km shows partial theoretical visibility. On-site appraisals determined that there would be limited visibility throughout the LCA due to screening from topography and vegetation, particularly within the enclosed valleys which dissect the mountainous terrain. Actual visibility of the proposed turbines will mostly be limited to areas of high elevation (e.g., The</p>

LCA 27 - Clydagh River, The Paps and the Derrynasaggart Mountains	
	Paps) within this LCA. 4 No. Photomontage Viewpoints included in the EIAR Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet are located in this LCA: VP01, VP10, VP09 and VP16.
Do-Nothing Scenario	In a Do-Nothing Scenario, 13 No. turbines (T16-T28) of the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm will be decommissioned when their planning permission expires in 2029. 7 of these turbines to be decommissioned (T22-T28) are located within this LCA. In a Do-Nothing Scenario, these turbines will not be located within this LCA, reducing the number of turbines effecting the landscape of this LCA.
Cumulative Baseline	<p>The existing Clydaghroe Wind Farm and the Clydaghroe & Cummeenabuddoge turbines are located to the east of this LCA. The proposed Cummeenabuddoge are also located to the east of this LCA. The existing Midas, Grousemount and Sillahertane/Coomagearlaghy II turbines will also be visible in parts of this LCA as they are located to the south in Kerry LCA 38. The existing Midas Wind Farm is located immediately adjacent (south) to the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm.</p> <p>From this LCA the existing Coomacheo, Curragh and Gneeves turbines are also visible in Cork LCT15b to the east. The permitted Gneeves 2 and Knocknamork turbines and proposed Inchamore turbines will also be visible from within LCA 27 where it is in proximity to these developments to the north-east.</p>
Cumulative Landscape Effects	<p>Considering the number of turbines sited in this LCA and adjacent to its boundary, some cumulative landscape effects occur, and the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm contributes toward these cumulative effects. The Proposed Development will have a similar contribution to cumulative landscape effects, although ultimately less turbines will be visible in the landscape than are currently seen at the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm. As a large number of turbines are located within and around this LCA, a lot of the area is designated as 'Potential for Repowering' in the KCDP (2022-28). Therefore, it is a landscape where it is envisioned in local planning policy where some cumulative landscape effects will occur.</p> <p>As seen within the cumulative ZTV (Figure 13-16) in Chapter 13 of the EIAR in there is a small area to the north of the proposed turbines where there is additional theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines where no other cumulative turbines are visible. However, the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm turbines are already visible in this location so the proposed turbines will not add additional turbines to the existing view. Within the rest of the LCA there are large areas of the cumulative ZTV where the proposed turbines are theoretically visible with other wind farm developments and where there is theoretical visibility of other wind farm developments without views of the proposed turbines. In reality, views of the proposed turbines will be very limited within these areas of theoretical visibility as seen in VP10 and discussed further within Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 of this EIAR.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Moderate - <i>"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."</i>

LCA 27 - Clydagh River, The Paps and the Derrynasaggart Mountains	
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are sited strategically within a large, upland landscape type capable of accommodating a wind energy development of this scale. The site is an area surrounded by substantial topographical features which both eliminate visibility of the turbines from a large portion of the LVIA Study Area and provide a sense of scale that causes the turbines to appear congruous and appropriately scaled in the landscape type within which they are viewed. ➤ \ ➤ There are large parts of this LCA where there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development, or where the Proposed Development will be seen as a small background feature, and so the greatest effects on landscape character will be localised to parts of the LCA to areas of high elevation or in close proximity to the site). ➤ The Proposed Development is located within a zone known as a Potential Wind Repowering Area within the KCDP 2022-2028. ➤ Whilst the Proposed Development contributes to landscape effects and some cumulative landscape effects in this LCA, this is a repowering project, and the Proposed Development ultimately includes less turbines visible in the landscape of this LCA than are currently seen at the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm. ➤ There is a slight cumulative landscape effect arising as a result of the various existing (and permitted and proposed) wind energy developments experienced within this LCA. However, the mountainous nature of the landscape and steep, defined ridgelines restrict much in combination visibility of differing wind energy developments. The various wind energy developments identified within and immediately adjacent to this LCA are mostly visually separated from each other and the Proposed Development by both distance and substantial topographical features (excepting Midas Wind Farm, mostly seen in combination with Kilgarvan). The proposed turbines can only be perceived in combination with these other developments from the most elevated vantage points in the landscape of this LCA.
Residual Effect	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

LCA 38 - Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	7 turbines of the Proposed Development are located within this LCA. The LCA extends approximately 13.2km south from the nearest turbine (T11).
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(Appendix 7 within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“The southern slopes of Mangerton are included on the list of archaeological landscapes in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.</i> ➤ <i>Large parts of the area are designated Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.</i> ➤ <i>Views & prospects are found on the R569 and the local road through the Slaheny Valley.</i> ➤ <i>The southern slopes of Mangerton are currently subject to amenity designations, as are the mountains to the south surrounding the Slaheny River Valley. The extent and type of these designations could be considered for review. There are views from the road to the Top of Coom, consideration could therefore be given to including this road as views & prospects.</i> ➤ <i>Ridges of high mountains enclose the area which contains a number of river valleys.</i> ➤ <i>The village of Kilgarvan is the main settlement in the area. Housing is concentrated on the road networks in the lower parts of the valleys, with housing become more dispersed higher up. There are a significant number of wind turbines (90) in the eastern part of the area.</i> ➤ <i>This is an elevated landscape that has many natural features. This naturalness has been lessened in the eastern part of the area with the construction of wind farms.</i> ➤ <i>A limited amount of pasture is found in the area, concentrated on the valley floor west and north of Kilgarvan. The remainder of the area is generally either forest (coniferous) or peat bog, which would be the dominant landcover of the area, reflecting the elevated and mountainous nature of this area.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>There are three areas of the LCA designated as ‘Potential Repowering Areas’, the proposed turbines are located within one of these areas. The overall landscape sensitivity given to this LCA as designated in the KCDP (2022-2028) is Medium/High.</p> <p>All of this LCA has been designated a Visually Sensitive Area within the KCDP (2022-2028), except the Kenmare Valley, that extends from within 5km of the site to the west of this LCA. Mangerton is designated as an archaeological landscape within Volume 3 of the KCDP (2022-2028) and mentioned within the Landscape Value of this LCA in <i>Appendix 7 - Landscape Review</i> in the KCDP (2022-2028). Taking these mountainous designations into consideration as well as the designated views from the road to the Top of Coom, the KCDP (2022-2028) has given the landscape value a sensitivity of Medium/High.</p> <p>Regarding the visual amenity, there are views from the R56 towards the mountains either side of the Roughty River as well as views in the Slaheny River Valley, which have been given the visual amenity sensitivity a value of Medium.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classification and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed	As indicated by the ZTV, there are large patches of full theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest turbine. Beyond 5km, the full theoretical visibility

LCA 38 - Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley	
Development within the LCA	<p>is concentrated along the Kenmare Valley to the west of the LCA with a few large patches of full theoretical visibility to the north and small patches of mixed theoretical visibility to the south.</p> <p>Site visits determined that actual visibility is likely to be limited in the majority of these areas due to screening from vegetation and infrastructure from settlements within the Kenmare Valley. Actual visibility will be limited to areas within 5km of the site or elevated vantage points. 5 No. Photomontage Viewpoints included in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet are located in this LCA (VP02, VP08, VP03, VP07 and VP17).</p>
Do-Nothing Scenario	<p>In a Do-Nothing Scenario, 13 No. turbines (T16-T28) of the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm will be decommissioned when their planning permission expires in 2029. 6 of these turbines to be decommissioned (T16-T21) are located within this LCA. In a Do-Nothing Scenario, these turbines will not be located within this LCA, therefore reducing the number of turbines effecting the landscape of this LCA. The 15 Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm turbines which will not be decommissioned will remain located within this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Baseline	<p>The existing Midas, Silahertane/Coomagearlagh and Grousemount turbines are all located within this LCA. The existing Midas Wind Farm is located immediately adjacent (south) to the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm. It is unlikely that there will be any views of turbines of other wind farm development outside this LCA due to the topography screening the majority of turbines to the east excepting from very elevated vantage points such as the peak of Mangerton.</p>
Cumulative Landscape Effects	<p>Considering the number of turbines sited in this LCA, some cumulative landscape effects occur, and the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm contributes toward these cumulative effects. The Proposed Development will have a similar contribution to cumulative landscape effects, although ultimately less turbines will be visible in the landscape than are currently seen at the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm. As a large number of turbines are located within and around this LCA, a lot of the area is designated as ‘Potential for Repowering’ in the KCDP (2022-28). Therefore, it is a landscape where it is envisioned in local planning policy where some cumulative landscape effects will occur.</p> <p>As seen on the cumulative ZTV in Figure 13-16 in Chapter 13, there is theoretical visibility of the turbines with other wind farms in a large part of this LCA. There are very limited areas within the LCA where there is only theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>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.”</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</p>
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are sited strategically within a large upland landscape capable of accommodating a wind energy development of this scale. The site is an area surrounded by substantial topographical features

LCA 38 - Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley	
	<p>which both eliminate visibility of the turbines from a large portion of the LVIA Study Area and provide a sense of scale that causes the turbines to appear congruous and appropriately scaled in the landscape type within which they are viewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are less in number and are sited within the existing footprint of the existing turbine layout. ➤ There are large areas within this LCA where there is no theoretical visibility of the turbines of the Proposed Development. Hence, there will be limited visual effects of the landscape within this LCA. ➤ The Proposed Development is located within a zone dedicated as a Potential Wind Repowering Area in the KCDP 2022-2028.
Residual Effect	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

LCA 22 - Quagmire and Owneyskeagh Rivers	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 5.8km north-west from the nearest proposed turbine T6 and extends past the 15km LVIA Study Area.
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(Appendix 7 within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Crohane is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, as is an area in Annaghbeg. There are views & prospects on the Barraduff-Glenflesk road (R570) in the direction of The Paps.</i> ➤ <i>The southern part of the area includes parts of Crohane Mountain and The Paps, a review of landscape designations in these areas could be considered. The prominent hill in Ballahaconnane could also be considered for a landscape designation.</i> ➤ <i>There are a mix of landcover types in this area. The central part and the elevated areas to the south have a peat bog landcover. There are also significant stands of forestry plantations. The areas of forestry and peat bog are ringed by pasture. The northern slopes of Crohane Mountain are classified as being bare rock. A mineral extraction site (quarry) can also be found in the western part of the area.</i> ➤ <i>The land is generally marginal with areas of forestry. Southern areas being more of a farming landscape.</i> ➤ <i>There are views from the N22 and N72 to the mountains. From local roads in the northern part of the area due to the topography there are also views southwards to the mountains.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>The overall landscape sensitivity given to this LCA in the KCDP (2022-28) is Medium. Crohane was designated as a Secondary Special Amenity area in the KCDP (2015-2021) and mentioned in <i>Appendix 7 - Landscape Review</i>, within the KCDP (2022-2028). There are a few areas within this LCA designated as a Visually Sensitive Area in the KCDP (2022-2028). Crohane, located to the south of this LCA is located within this visually sensitive area. The KCDP (2022-2028) has given the landscape value of this LCA a Medium sensitivity.</p> <p>In regard to such classifications in the KCDP (2022-2028), landscape sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is deemed to be Medium.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed	As indicated by the ZTV, there is very limited theoretical visibility within 10km of the site due to the topography screening from the mountainous

LCA 22 - Quagmire and Owneyskeagh Rivers	
Development within the LCA	landform around Crohane and the Paps. There is no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from the designated Visually Sensitive Area, within 10km from the site. There is a large patch of theoretical visibility beyond 10km as the topography rises out of the valley. The village of Barraduff is located within this LCA, the ZTV shows that there is partial theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from this location. Site visits determined that there is very limited actual visibility from within this LCA due to the distance and screening from the topography and vegetation.
Cumulative Baseline	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments are located within this LCA. The existing Scartaglen turbines are located north of this LCA. As shown in the cumulative ZTV in Figure 13-16 in Chapter 13 of this EIAR, there is theoretical visibility of other wind farm developments from within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	As seen in the comparative cumulative ZTV there is theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines with other wind farms in parts of this LCA. There are limited areas within the LCA where there is only theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. Due to the mountainous nature of the landscape to the south of this LCA, there are limited views of turbines from the majority of areas within this LCA due to screening from topography and vegetation. On site appraisals determined that there will be very limited actual visibility of the proposed turbines from within this LCA and it therefore has a very limited contribution to cumulative effects on the landscape character.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Slight: <i>“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.”</i>
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor – Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA. ➤ Any aesthetic or perceptual effects on landscape character are significantly mitigated by distance from the Proposed Development. ➤ There are large areas of no theoretical visibility within this LCA and given the distance of the Proposed Development, there will be very limited views of the turbines from this LCA.
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

LCA 37 - Kenmare River Valley	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 9.4km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine, T10. This LCA extends out south-west, past the LVIA Study Area.

LCA 37 - Kenmare River Valley	
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(Appendix 7 within the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Area is enclosed by high ground surrounding Kenmare Bay. There are a number of valleys in the area which break it up and separate the various parts.</i> ➤ <i>In general pasture is found along the valley floors, both the main and sub valleys. The more elevated areas are characterised by a land cover of peat bog or moors and heathland. Large areas of coniferous forestry are also found in the area.</i> ➤ <i>There are areas designated Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 on the coast with areas of Secondary Special Amenity on both the coast and on elevated ground. The N70 is the Ring of Kerry which also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The Kerry Way passes through the area.</i> ➤ <i>Areas of elevation are currently subject to limited amenity designations. A review of these landscape designations could therefore be considered.</i> ➤ <i>There are views to and from the mountains with Kenmare Bay being the main focus for views from the higher ground.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>The overall landscape sensitivity given to this LCA in the KCDP is Medium/High. All of this LCA is designated as a Visually Sensitive Area within the KCDP.</p> <p>Multiple areas within this LCA were designated, in the KCDP (2015-2021), as Prime Special amenity Areas along with areas of Secondary Special Amenity Areas. Areas along the coast are referred to within Appendix 7 - Landscape Review, of the KKCDP (2022-2028), as landscape value for this LCA. The overall landscape value of this LCA was deemed High sensitivity.</p> <p>With views to and from the mountains with Kenmare Bay being the main focus for views from the higher ground, the KCDP has given the visual amenity a sensitivity of Medium / High. The Ring of Kerry along the N70, the KCDP has classified the landscape values with a high sensitivity to change.</p> <p>In consideration of the above classifications in the KCDP, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA	<p>As observed by the ZTV, approximately half of the LCA within the LVIA Study Area has full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. This section of full theoretical visibility stretches from the east to the west down the Kenmare Valley. There is no theoretical visibility to the north and south of the LCA within the LVIA study area due to the dense undulation within the topography. Actual visibility will be limited due to screening from vegetation along roadsides and residential infrastructure. Views will be limited to open views across Kenmare River and intermittent views along the R569 Regional Road from Kenmare to Kilgarvan. Viewpoint 13 is located within this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Baseline	<p>No wind farm developments are located within this LCA. As shown in the cumulative ZTV in Figure 13-16 in Chapter 13 of this EIAR, there is theoretical visibility of the existing Midas and Grousemount from within this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Landscape Effects	<p>As seen in the comparative cumulative ZTV there is theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines with other wind farms in parts of this LCA. There are limited areas within the LCA where there is only theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines.</p>

LCA 37 - Kenmare River Valley	
	On site appraisals determined that there will be very limited visibility of the proposed turbines from within this LCA and it therefore has a very limited contribution to cumulative effects on the landscape character. Where there are limited views towards the Proposed Development, the Midas and Grousemount turbines may be visible in combination with the proposed turbines. The Proposed Development will have a similar contribution to cumulative landscape effects, although ultimately less turbines will be visible in the landscape than are currently seen at the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Slight - <i>“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.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are sited strategically within a large, upland landscape type capable of accommodating a wind energy development of this scale. The site is an area surrounded by substantial topographical features which both eliminate visibility of the turbines from a large portion of the LVIA Study Area and provide a sense of scale that causes the turbines to appear congruous and appropriately scaled in the landscape type within which they are viewed. ➤ Large areas within the parts of this LCA within the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character have no theoretical visibility, with further screening provided by the vegetation existent within the landscape. ➤ Given the distance of this LCA from the proposed turbines, there will only be views of the proposed turbines from isolated elevated locations within this LCA. Where turbines of the Proposed Development will be visible, they will be viewed as small background elements, with consequently a low level of change to landscape character.
Residual Effect	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

1.2

County Cork

LCT 15b - Ridged and Peaked Upland	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 0.4km east from the nearest proposed turbine, T1. The EIAR Site Boundary of the Proposed Development extends into this LCA, although this is related to the proposed underground grid connection which will have minimal effects on landscape character (only minor localised effects during the construction phase) considering that it is located underground.

LCT 15b - Ridged and Peaked Upland	
<p>LCA Key Characteristics (County Clare Landscape Character Assessment 2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Comprises a rolling mountainous topography at a relatively high elevation and includes the southern slopes of the Boggeragh Mountains.</i> ➤ <i>Soils are of low fertility and experience relatively high levels of rainfall due to its elevation, resulting in poor growing conditions and limited vegetation including moorland, heath and scrub.</i> ➤ <i>Isolated or clusters of fields, are scattered along lower slopes, giving this landscape type a small-scale dimension, to the otherwise open moorland.</i> ➤ <i>Large tracks of coniferous forestry evident particularly in upland areas.</i> ➤ <i>There are patches of fertile land within the landscape. The main agricultural practice in these upland areas is sheep farming.</i> ➤ <i>Field boundaries comprise mainly stonewalls and low hedges.</i> ➤ <i>With forestry over the landscape (not blocks as in other areas). Delineated by tight gorse hedgerows, walls, banks or post and wire fencing and punctuated by a coniferous or broadleaf shelterbelts around small farmsteads.”</i>
<p>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</p>	<p>The Cork County Development Plan (CCDP 2022-2028) has categorised the landscape value of this LCT to be Medium. The CCDP describes LCT’s of medium value as <i>“Landscapes with positive characters and with local or county importance”</i>. The CCDP has noted that this LCA holds a county importance.</p> <p>A large area of this LCT is designated as ‘Open to Consideration’ in the Cork Wind Energy Strategy within the CCDP 2022-28. Therefore, a large number of wind energy developments are located within this LCT.</p> <p>In addition to that, the CCDP has categorised the landscape sensitivity to be Medium, which the CCDP states that such landscapes <i>“can accommodate development pressure, but with limitation in the scale and magnitude of the development. In this rank of sensitivity, the landscape can accept some changes while others are more vulnerable to change. If pressure exceeds the landscape limitation the character of the landscape may change”</i>.</p> <p>In accordance with the above value designations and classifications, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Medium.</p>
<p>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</p>	<p>There are large areas of mixed theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines within this LCT. Within 5km of the proposed turbines there is mostly partial theoretical visibility. Between 5 and 10km there are large areas of no theoretical visibility. This Village of Coolea is located within this LCT approximately 6km from the nearest proposed turbine (T1), there is partial theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from this location. Beyond 13km there is no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines within this LCT. 3 photomontage viewpoints are located within this LCT (VP05, VP06, and VP04).</p>
<p>Cumulative Baseline</p>	<p>The existing Inchamore, Curragh, Caherdowney and Gneevs turbines and the Permitted Knocknamork turbines are located within this LCT. From this LCT, the existing Clydaghroe Wind Farm and Clydaghroe & Cummeenabuddoga turbines will be visible to the north in Kerry LCA 27. The existing Grousemount, Midas and Sillahertane/ Coomagearlachy II turbines will also be intermittently visible in parts of this LCA as they are located to the west in Kerry LCA 38.</p>

LCT 15b - Ridged and Peaked Upland	
Cumulative Landscape Effects	<p>As seen within the cumulative ZTV (Figure 13-16) in Chapter 13 of the EIAR there are areas of the cumulative ZTV where the proposed turbines are theoretically visible with other wind farm developments. Beyond 12km, there are large areas of the LCA where there are views of wind energy developments but limited views of the proposed turbines. There is a very small section where there is additional theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines where no other cumulative turbines are visible. This area is located on an isolated peak where there are no sensitive receptors.</p> <p>Considering the number of turbines sited in this LCT, cumulative landscape effects occur, and the Proposed Development contributes toward these cumulative effects. The several existing wind farm developments in County Kerry, are visually separated by distance and mainly screened by large prominent landform features. They may be experienced in combination with the proposed turbines from elevated vantage points within this LCT. A large area of this LCT is designated as ‘Open to Consideration’ in the Cork Wind Energy Strategy within the CCDP 2022-28. Therefore, a large number of wind energy developments are located within this LCT as it is a landscape where it is envisioned in local planning policy so cumulative landscape effects will occur.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>Slight: <i>“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.”</i></p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are sited strategically within a large, upland landscape type capable of accommodating a wind energy development of this scale. The site is an area surrounded by substantial topographical features which both eliminate visibility of the turbines from a large portion of the LVIA Study Area and provide a sense of scale that causes the turbines to appear congruous and appropriately scaled in the landscape type within which they are viewed. ➤ The Proposed Development is located within a zone known as a Potential Wind Repowering Area within the KCDP 2022-2028. ➤ Whilst the Proposed Development contributes to landscape effects and some cumulative landscape effects in this LCA, this is a repowering project, and the Proposed Development ultimately includes less turbines visible in the landscape of this LCA than are currently seen at the Existing Kilgarvan Wind Farm.
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>