



Appendix 7

Landscape Review

Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

Article 1.a of the European Landscape Convention

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Glossary of Terms

GHG – Greenhouse Gas

GIS – Geographical Information System

GW - Gigawatt

LARES – Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy

MW - Megawatt

NHA – Natural Heritage Area

pNHA – proposed Natural Heritage Area

NIAH – National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

RE – Renewable Energy

RES – Renewable Energy Strategy

RMP – Record of Monuments and Places

SAC – Special Area of Conservation

SEAI – Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

SPA – Special Protection Area

WFD – Water Framework Directive



1. Introduction

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as “*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*”. How an individual or community perceive a landscape is informed by how they interact with the landscape. A landowner sees a working landscape, a tourist sees a beautiful landscape, and a family the backdrop to their daily lives. Landscapes have cultural, historical and literary values. A landscape historian, a native or a rural dweller sees in the landscape a visual representation of the social, cultural and economic development of society, making the landscape a part of Ireland’s identity. In addition, the intangible but important characteristics of a landscape, such as emotional responses, are also important. Take for example the Great Blasket Island which evokes feelings about the people who once lived there, or a feeling of tranquillity which might be felt in a remote and beautiful landscape.

Landscape continuously evolves, both naturally and by human impact. Changes to the landscape may result from:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Housing
- Infrastructure (e.g. power lines, substations)
- Extraction (e.g. quarry)
- Renewable Energy (e.g. wind, solar)

Much of this development has been permitted subject to a planning application, however some developments are ‘exempted development’ under the planning regulations and may proceed without planning permission. The Planning Department actively monitors completed developments in order to assess and ascertain the assimilative capacity of the landscape to absorb further development.

Kerry’s landscape has a significant economic value, providing the setting for economic activity and is a central factor in attracting business and tourism. It has a social and community value, as an important part of people’s lives, contributing to our sense of identity and well-being, and bringing enjoyment and inspiration. It also has an environmental value, as a home for wildlife and as a cultural record of past society’s use of the land. It is important therefore that the county’s sensitive landscapes and views & prospects are identified and protected from inappropriate development.

A review of the landscape of County Kerry has been undertaken which is a process of identifying and describing variations in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive.

Landscape sensitivity refers to the inherent sensitivity to change of the landscape resource, in terms of both its character as a whole and its individual elements, as well as the visual sensitivity of the landscape in terms of views, visibility, number and nature of viewers and scope to mitigate visual impact (*Scenic Landscape Feasibility Study*, Bord Fáilte 2007).

Landscape capacity is defined as “the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character, or overall change of landscape character type. Capacity is likely to vary according to the type and nature of change being proposed” (*Carys Swanwick and Land Use Consultants, Landscape Character Assessment Guidance, Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002*).

Environmental, Natural, Cultural and Social features can be considered when determining visual sensitivity or capacity. These features are wide ranging but play a role in how they shape the county’s landscape. An area is classified as being increasingly sensitive if more of these factors are present in the same place.



The objective of this review is:

1. To examine the landscapes around the county.
2. To determine to what level these landscapes have been altered.
3. Assess their visual sensitivity to further development.
4. To identify landscapes that should be protected in the County Development Plan as visually sensitive areas and/or views & prospects (see Chapter 11 – Environment)

A Landscape Character Assessment was previously carried out for Kerry which informed the preparation of the “Renewable Energy Strategy 2012”. That Assessment described the area, defined the type of landscape, and assessed its development capacity for wind energy. It is replaced by this Landscape Review.

Landscape Review Methodology

In this landscape review, the landscape of the county has been described in terms of its type (Section 2), the impact of various types of development on the landscape is assessed (Section 3), landscape character areas have been defined (Section 4), with the visual of sensitivity of these landscape character areas then being determined (Section 5). The landscape review also includes descriptions of each landscape character area (Section 6).

Identification and Classification of Landscape Types

Landscape character types are defined in the Landscape Character Assessment – Baseline Audit and Evaluation prepared by the National Heritage Council (2006) as *“natural distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas or different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, and historical land use and settlement pattern”*. For example, drumlins and mountain moorlands are recognisable and distinct from other landscape types.

Landscape Character Areas

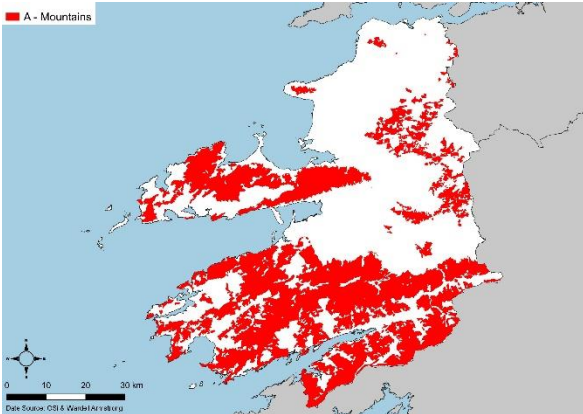
Landscape character areas are defined by the Heritage Council in its Baseline Audit as *“unique, geographically-specific areas of a particular landscape type. Each has its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type”*. This distinction is reflected in the naming of types and areas: landscape character types have generic names, but landscape character areas take on the names of specific places such as the Paps Mountains.



2. Landscape Types

Landscape types⁷ include the physical elements and components of the landscape which result from a combination of landform (including topography and drainage) and landcover (both natural and man-made).

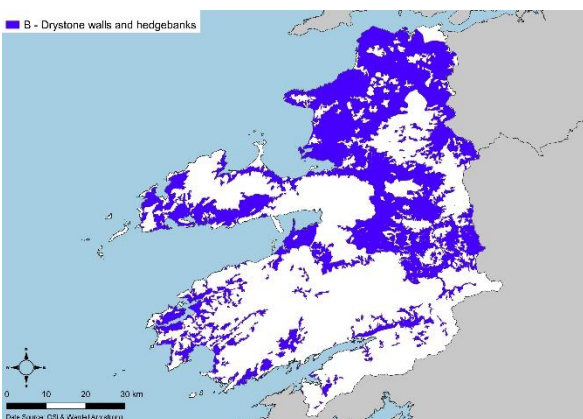
Type A – Mountains



Map 7.1: Mountains

This type characterises much of the high topography within County Kerry. It comprises open wild looking areas with wet, acid soils. Vegetation is typically a combination of acid grassland, upland heath and rush pasture with blanket and raised peatbog.

Type B – Pasture with Dry Stone Walls and Hedgebanks

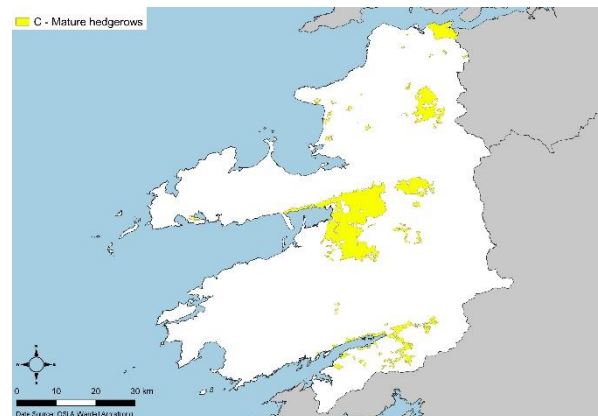


Map 7.2: Pasture with Drystone Walls and Hedgebanks

This type is widely distributed, often forming the major constituent of the landscape, especially on the lower slopes of the hills and in the drained

lowlands. It comprises agriculturally improved or semi-improved pasture enclosed within dry stone walls (especially notable at higher elevations) and/or raised stone hedgebanks. The extent of colonisation by vegetation varies considerably throughout the County giving rise to a wide range of variants. In landscape terms the extent of this colonisation (or planting) by vegetation is a major influence on the sense of visual enclosure generated. This enclosure strongly influences the degree of visual capacity to absorb development and visual change.

Type C – Pasture with Mature Hedgerows



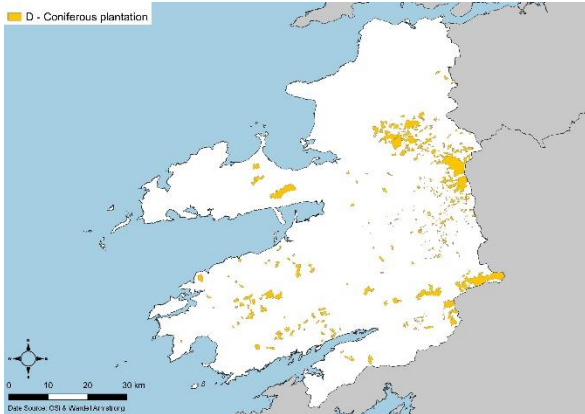
Map 7.3: Pasture with Mature Hedgerows

Planted hedgerows within the County are generally located away from exposed coasts, being a common constituent of the landscape in more sheltered areas with deeper soils, which give rise to higher agricultural land quality. Agriculturally improved grassland predominates within this enclosure. Hedges with trees may be planted on level ground or on earth mounds. This physical unit includes tree belts and areas of woodland, with hedgerows often forming linkages between them. The enclosure provided by the mature hedgerows and trees ensures that a strong sense of visual enclosure is generated within this physical unit, strongly influencing its capacity to absorb change.

⁷ Landscape types are based on the Landscape Character Assessments prepared by Colin Buchanan & Partners and Wardell Armstrong, May 2004.



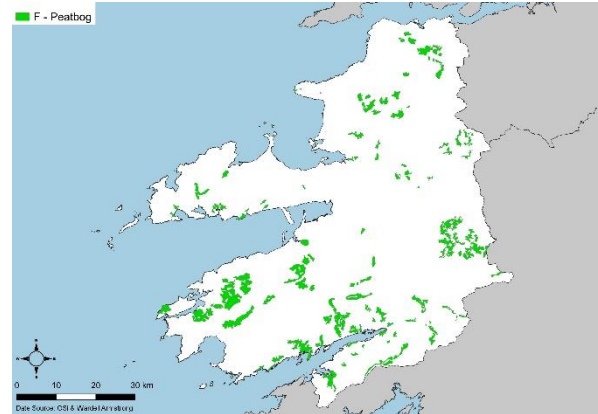
Type D – Coniferous Plantation



Map 7.4: Coniferous Plantation

This type is generally located on the lower slopes of the mountains and hills within the County, with some planting being carried out within areas of peatbog within valley bottoms. Larger plantations are found in more elevated areas.

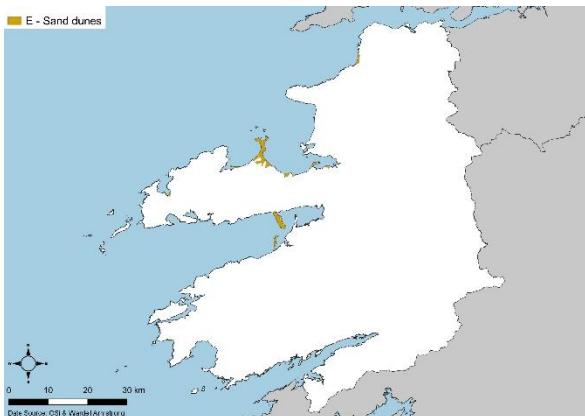
Type F – Peatbog



Map 7.6: Peatbog

This type is found in wide, poorly drained valleys within the County. It comprises both raised peatbog and valley mires. Peatbog can also be found in mountainous areas.

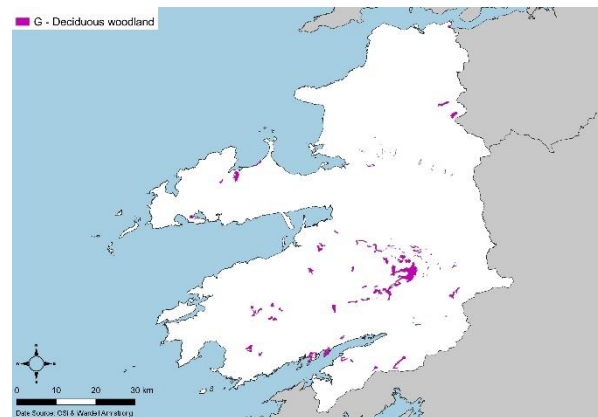
Type E – Sand Dunes



Map 7.5: Sand Dunes

This distinct coastal habitat is characterised by sand dunes colonised by Marram grass adjoining sandy beaches. It is an open type of area with no boundaries or trees. Sand dunes can be as high as 40m.

Type G – Deciduous Woodland

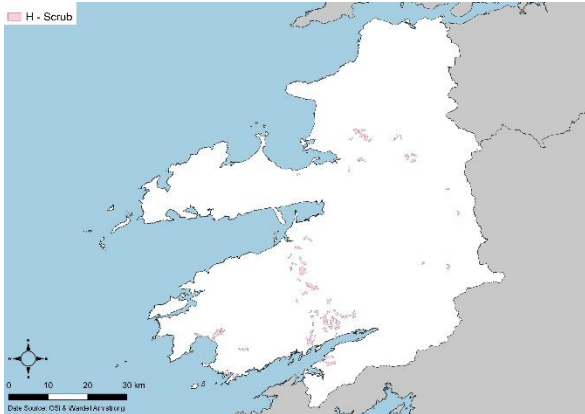


Map 7.7: Deciduous Woodland

This type is found throughout the County and is generally located on the lower slopes of the hills or along river valleys. There is considerable variation in species composition and physical structure, largely depending upon soils, elevation, drainage and the degree of exposure near the coast. The larger areas of deciduous woodland are found in Killarney National Park.



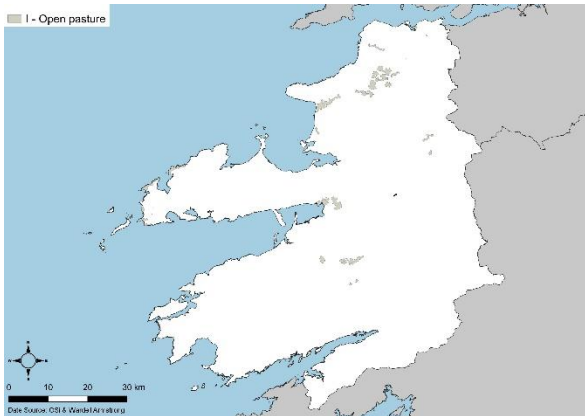
Type H – Scrub



Map 7.8: Scrub

Scrub is found on shallow soils and marginal land.

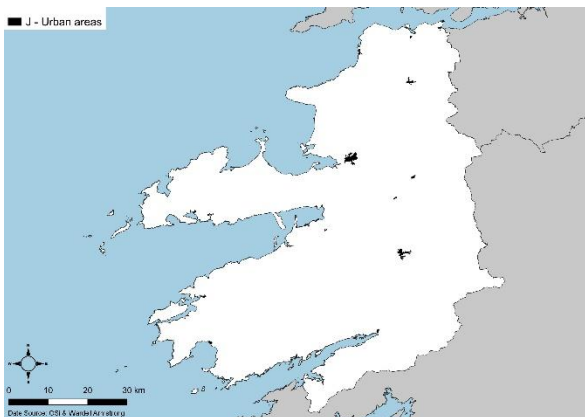
Type I – Open Pasture



Map 7.9: Open Pasture

Open, unenclosed pasture is relatively infrequent within the County. The larger areas are located in North Kerry.

Type J – Urban Areas

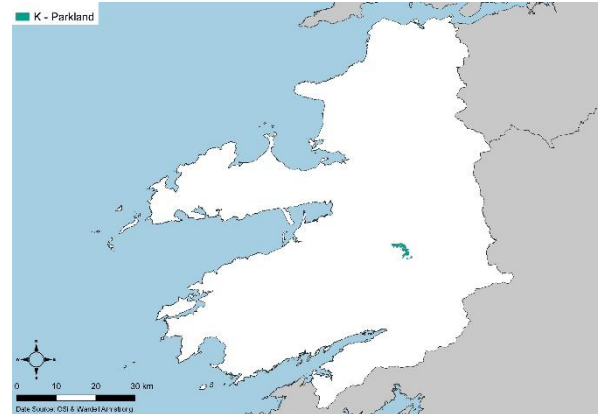


Map 7.10: Urban Areas

The landscape type mapping includes urban areas. This occurs within the most landscape types, which will influence the capacity of these areas to

extend beyond their current boundaries. Kerry Airport has been included within this type.

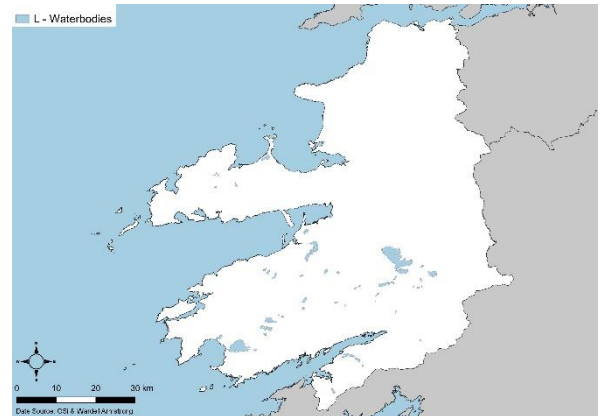
Type K – Parkland



Map 7.11: Parkland

Semi-open parkland, comprising grassland planted with individual/groups of standard trees often surrounded by areas of mature woodland is present on the shores of Lough Leane.

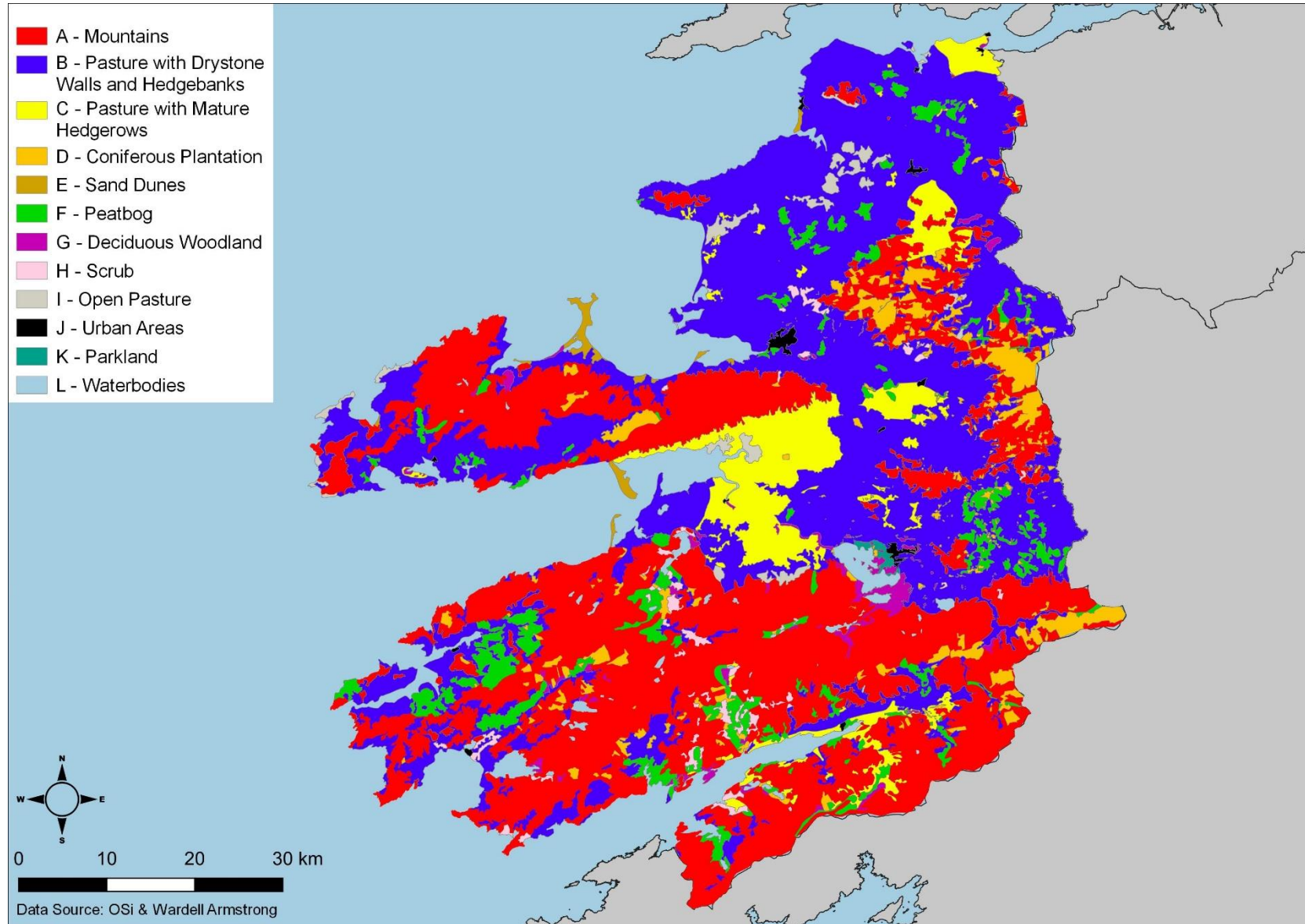
Type L – Parkland



Map 7.12: Waterbodies

Waterbodies, watercourses and lagoons are included in the Landscape Type mapping to ensure complete coverage. Kerry has a number of notable lakes, including the Lakes of Killarney, Caragh Lake and Lough Currane.

The physical extent of these landscape types is **indicative**.



Map 7.13: Physical Units (indicative)



3. Existing Development in the Landscape

This section outlines some of the changes that have taken place to the landscape or changes that are yet to take place. These changes affect the capacity of the landscape for further change.

Settlement

There is a dense network of settlements of various types and size spread across the county, each of which has an impact on the landscape.

Buildings

GeoDirectory was jointly established by An Post and Ordnance Survey Ireland to create and manage Ireland's only complete database of commercial and residential buildings. As such it is a useful tool to identify the location and type of building, particularly in rural areas outside of a settlement.

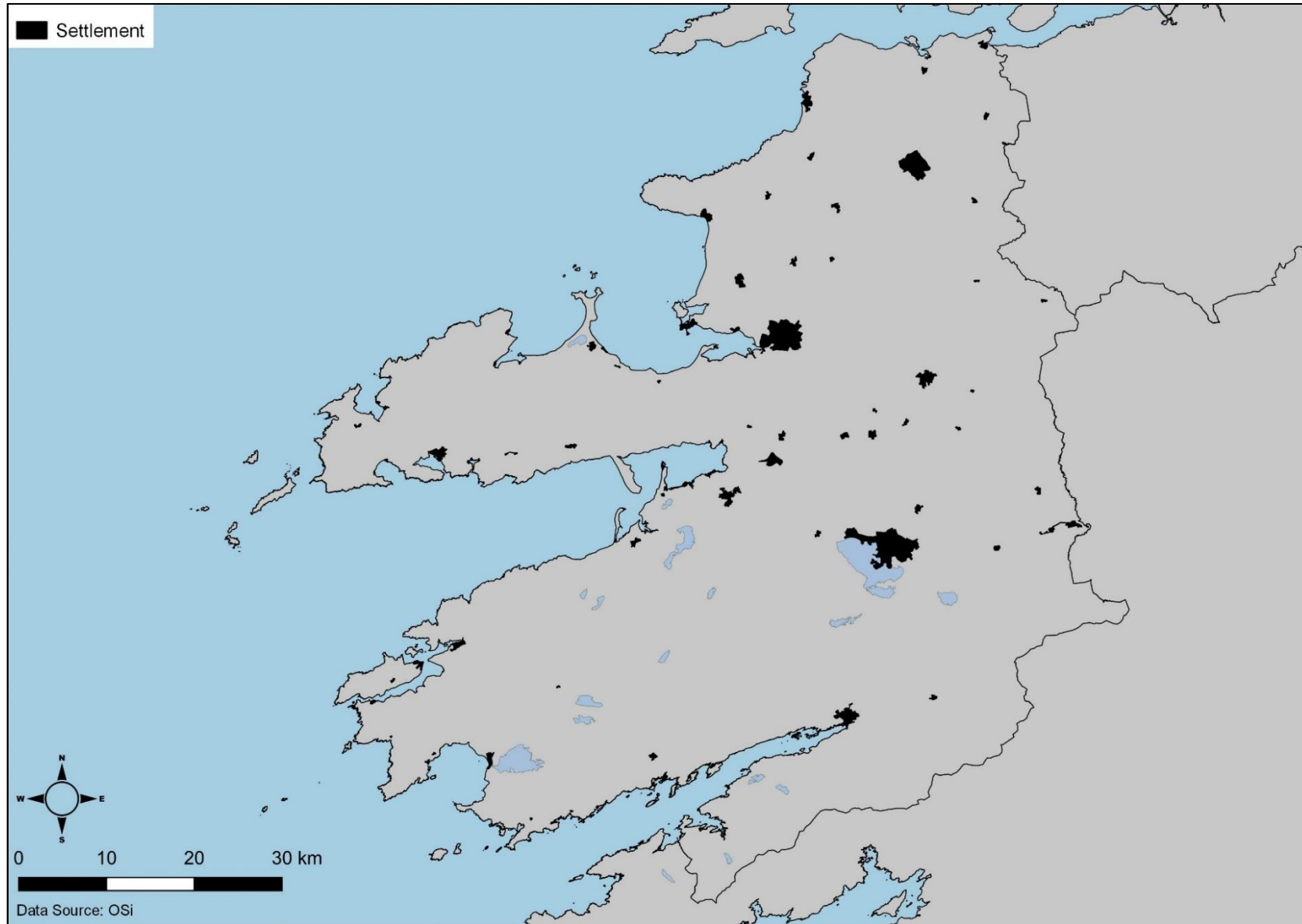
According to GeoDirectory (Quarter 1, 2020) there 79,509 structures in the County, of which 73,099 are classed as having a residential use. Of the remainder, 3,793 have a commercial use and 2,617 are unknown. Outside of the settlements, as defined by the Local Area Plans, there are 44,348 buildings with a residential use. 60.7% of residential buildings are therefore located outside of any settlement and are indicated on Map 7.15. This level of rural development would concur with the Census 2016 figures regarding the urban/rural population split.

In order to measure the extent to which these houses impact on the landscape, housing density has been calculated, with the area of the settlements and houses in the settlements excluded from calculations.

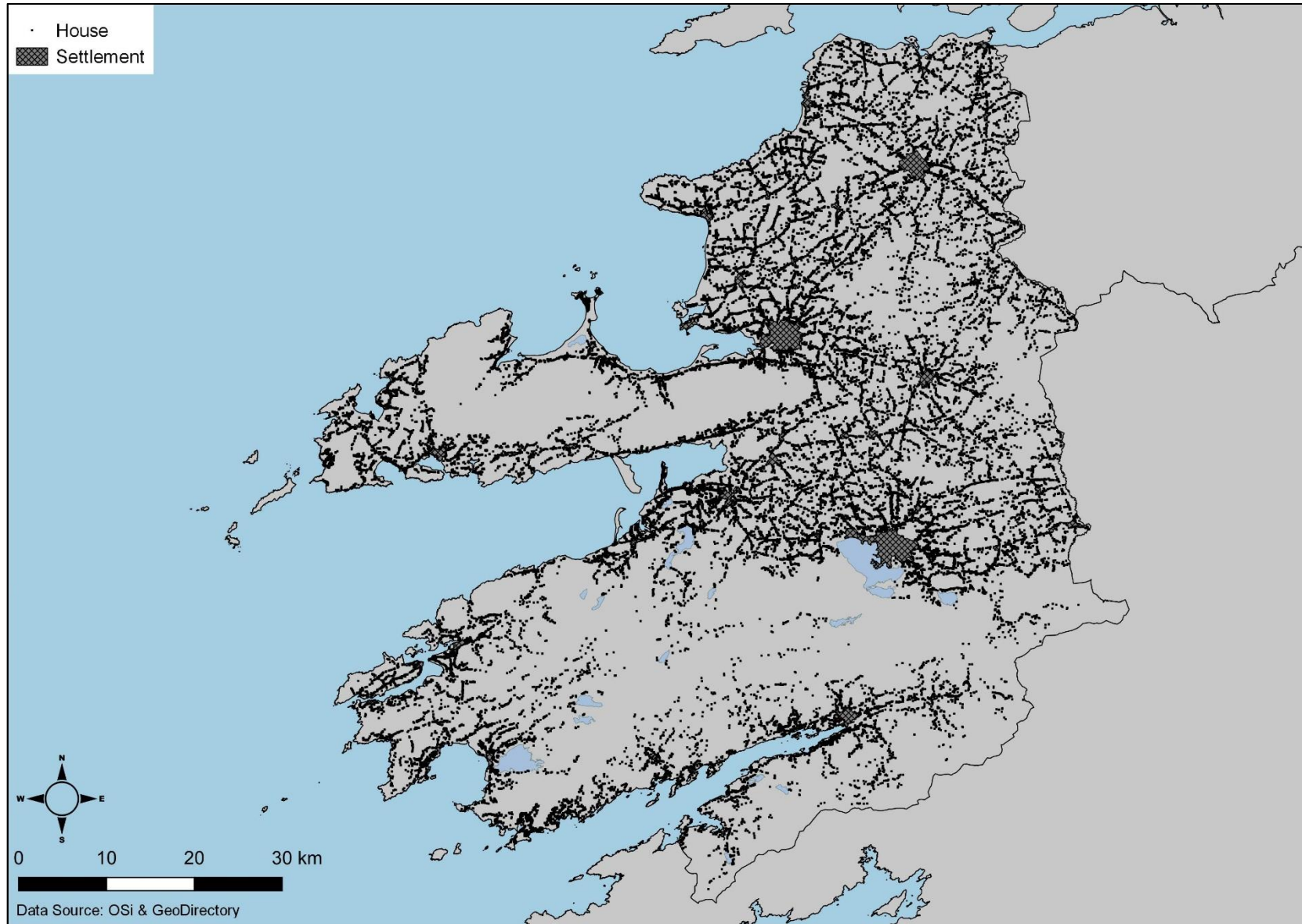
Proposed Development

Permitted developments not yet constructed within and ancillary to existing settlements do not have a significant impact on the landscape due to their location adjacent to built-up areas. The study area for this exercise is therefore the area of the county outside of the defined settlements.

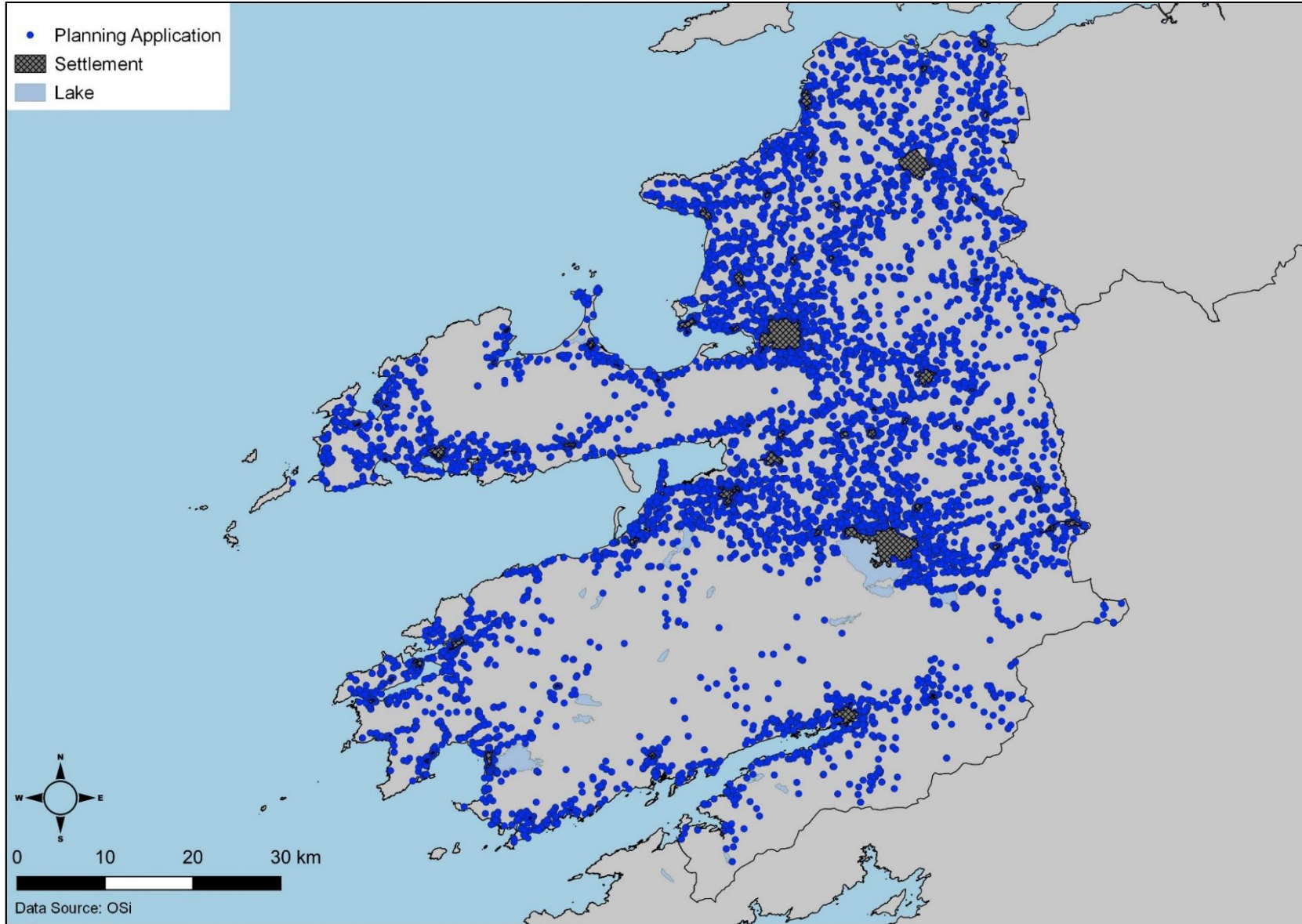
Kerry County Council received 9,401 planning applications between 2010 and 2020, the location of which was outside of settlements. The location of these applications, which are for varying types of development, gives an idea of where development pressures exist.



Map 7.14: Settlements



Map 7.15: Location of Rural Housing in Kerry (GeoDirectory, Q1 2020)



Map 7.16: Planning Application Locations, 2010 - 2018



Forestry

Trees and woodlands, particularly broadleaf deciduous ones, provide a valuable resource in terms of both biodiversity and by contributing to a varied, interesting and attractive landscape. Native or deciduous woodlands can, therefore, be considered to be a natural landscape element. Coniferous forestry plantations are considered to have an impact on the landscape as they would not be a natural feature.

The CORINE landcover dataset was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner across the European continent.

In terms of CORINE there are 4 types of forestry:

1. Broad-leaved forest
2. Coniferous forest (coniferous trees >75% of formation)
3. Mixed forest
4. Transitional Woodland Shrub

Using CORINE Land Cover data for forestry, which is based on Forest Service and Coillte data, 8.7% of the county is under plantation forestry.

The total amount of land under forestry according to CORINE (2018), all types, is 49,436.6 hectares. Of this, 18,427.7 hectares, are located at an elevation of over 200m above sea level. This equates to 37.3% of all forestry in the county. This elevation, combined with the area and height of the trees, contributes to a greater visual impact on the landscape.

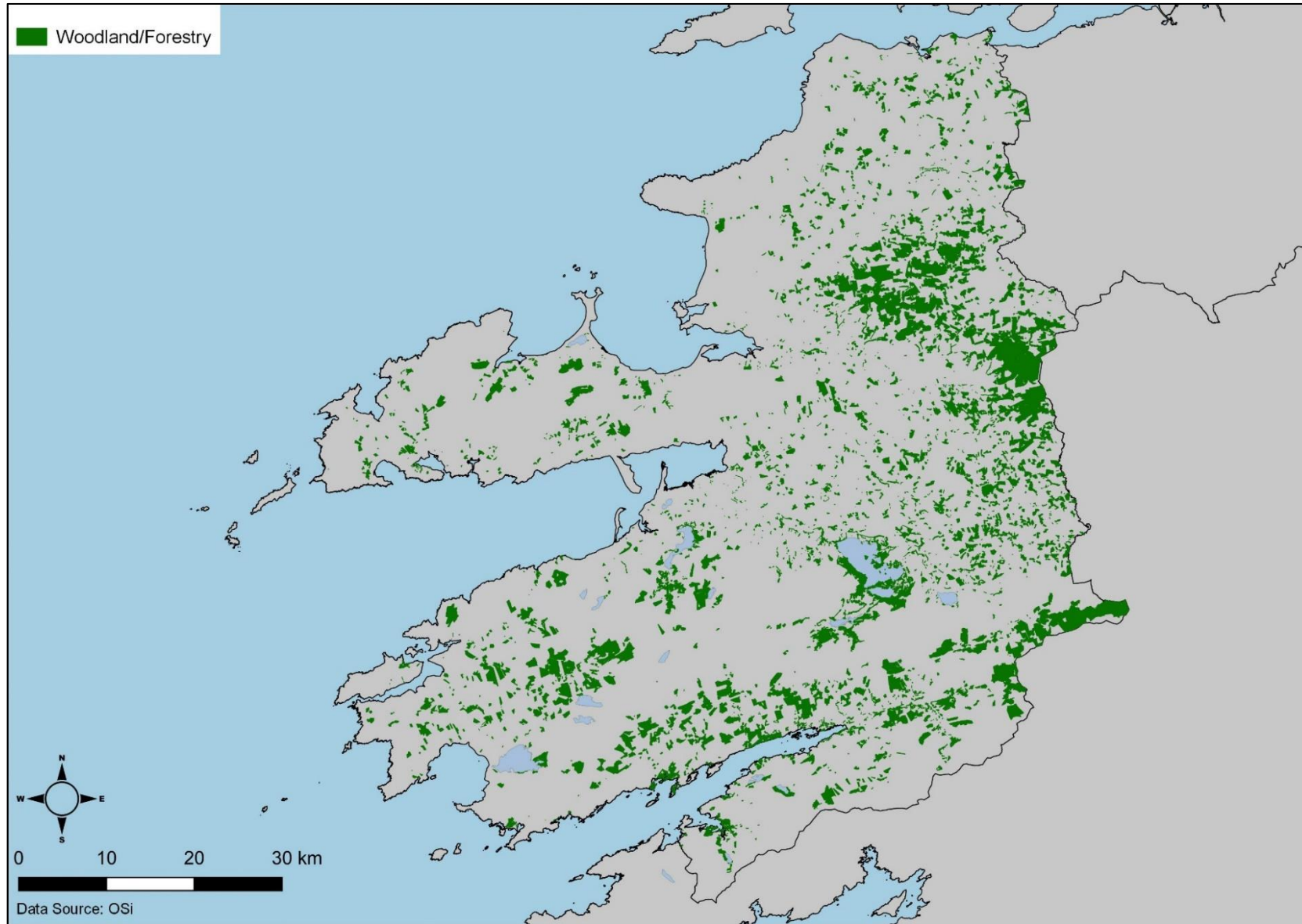
The Forest Service publishes statistics on the level of afforestation across the country. Based on 2019 Afforestation Statistics⁸ the last Public Planting took place in 2003. In the period between 1999 and 2019, total planting of forestry in the county amounted to 16,292 hectares. The breakdown of this planting between broadleaf and conifer is 22% broadleaf to 78% conifer. In the last 5 years, this share has shown an increase in broadleaf planting, with 33% of forestry planted since 2015 being broadleaf.

The level of and the location of forestry forms an important element of a landscape. It can affect how a landscape is viewed, it can contribute to the naturalness of an area, but it can also have a negative impact if planted in inappropriate locations.

The existing forest cover in the county was mapped (see Map 7.17) and was considered as part of the visual sensitivity analysis.

8

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/20201125173212/https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forests-service-general-information/forests-statistics-and-mapping/afforestation-statistics/>



Map 7.17: Forestry



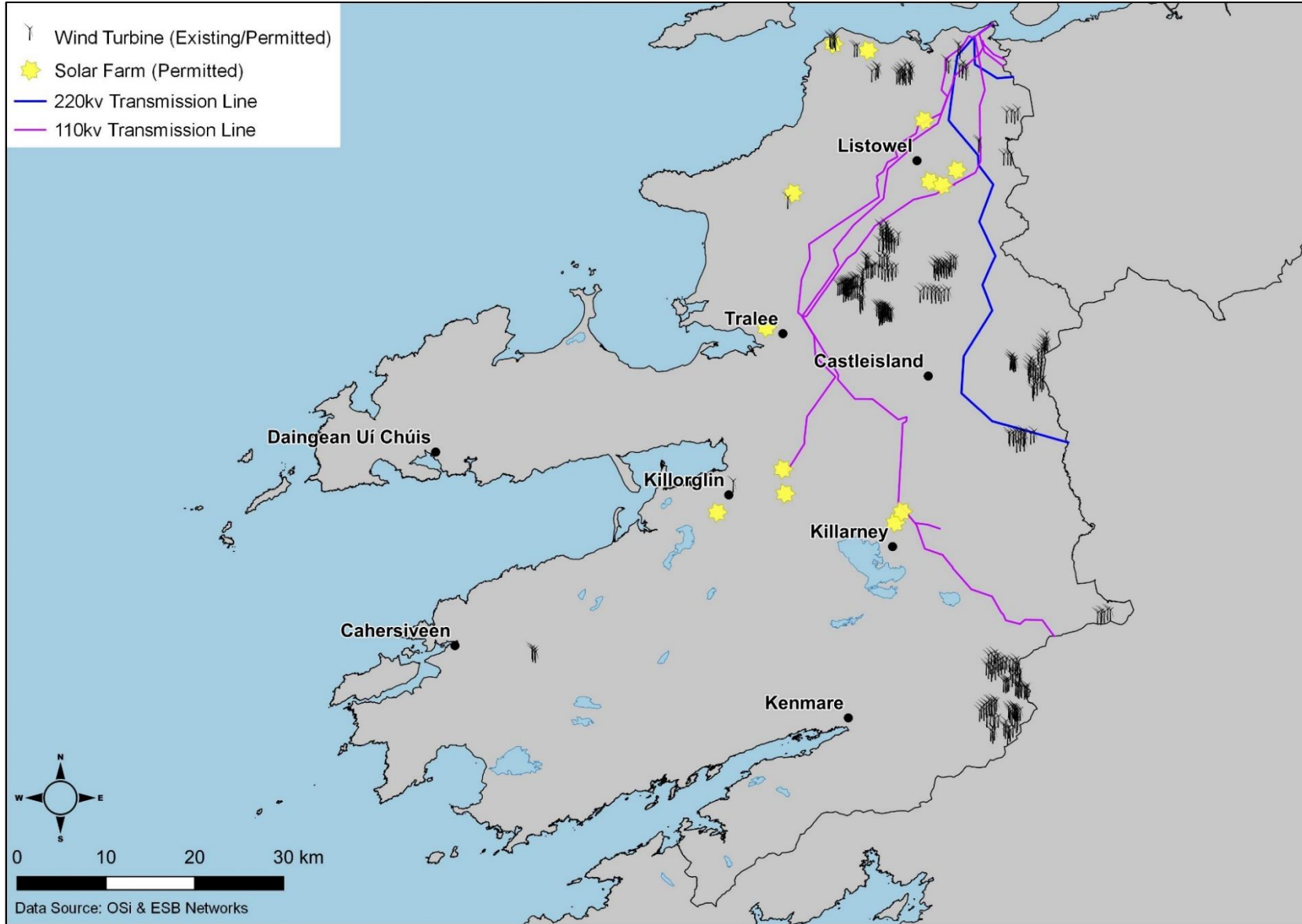
Existing & Permitted Wind/Solar Energy Development

In the last 20 years the county has seen the construction of a significant number of commercial renewable energy developments.

The first wind farm developments were granted planning permission in 1997 (4 turbine applications in Beal and 23 turbines in the Stack's Mountains). In 2015 the first solar farm was granted planning permission in Asdee. As of July 2021, 362 wind turbines have been constructed across the county. There is also permission for 12 additional turbines which are yet to be constructed.

To date it is only wind turbines that have been constructed in the county. 13 (no.) solar farms have been permitted (February 2021), however construction has not yet commenced on any of these permitted developments. The most recent application for a solar farm to be permitted covers approximately 100 hectares, but the majority of those permitted cover between 10 and 15 hectares. Given the scale of these permitted solar farms they have the potential to be a visible feature in the landscape.

The extent to which these forms of development exist across the county has been used to inform the visual sensitivity assessment.



Map 7.18: Permitted Wind & Solar Energy Developments in Kerry (July 2019)



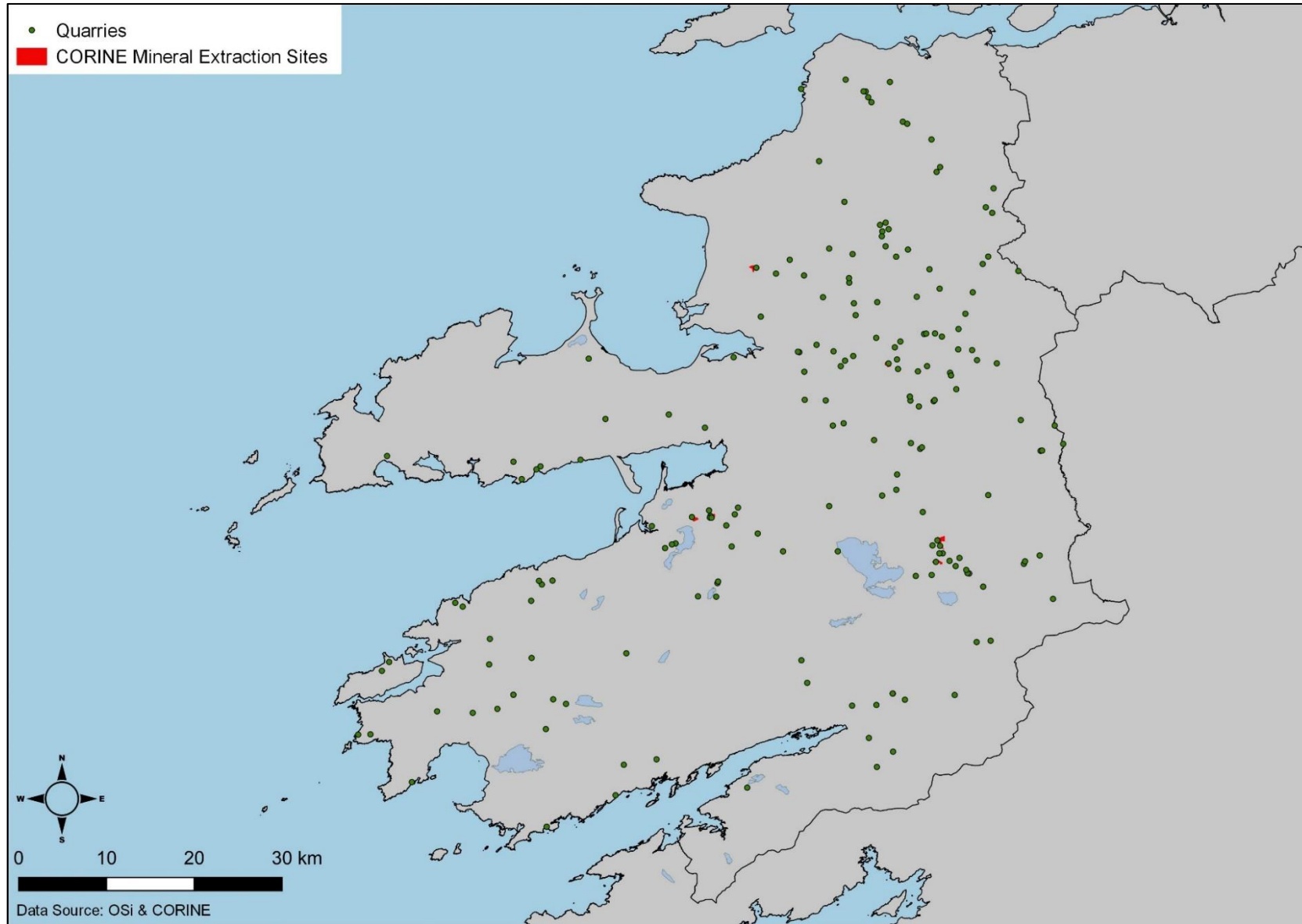
Extractive Industry (Quarries)

Extractive industries are resource and location based and the resource can be located in visually and environmentally sensitive areas or in close proximity to residential areas.

Quarries can be found in all parts of the county, and are of differing size and scale, but all can potentially impact on the landscape. Individual quarries have also been in use for different lengths of time

In certain instances, quarries can be beneficial to the environment, particularly at the decommissioning phase when opportunities for habitat creation and alternative uses can arise. This decommissioning phase can alter in a positive manner the impact a quarry has had on the landscape, but not to an extent to mitigate the impact completely.

The extent to which this form of development exists across the county has been used to inform the visual sensitivity assessment.



Map 7.19: Quarries



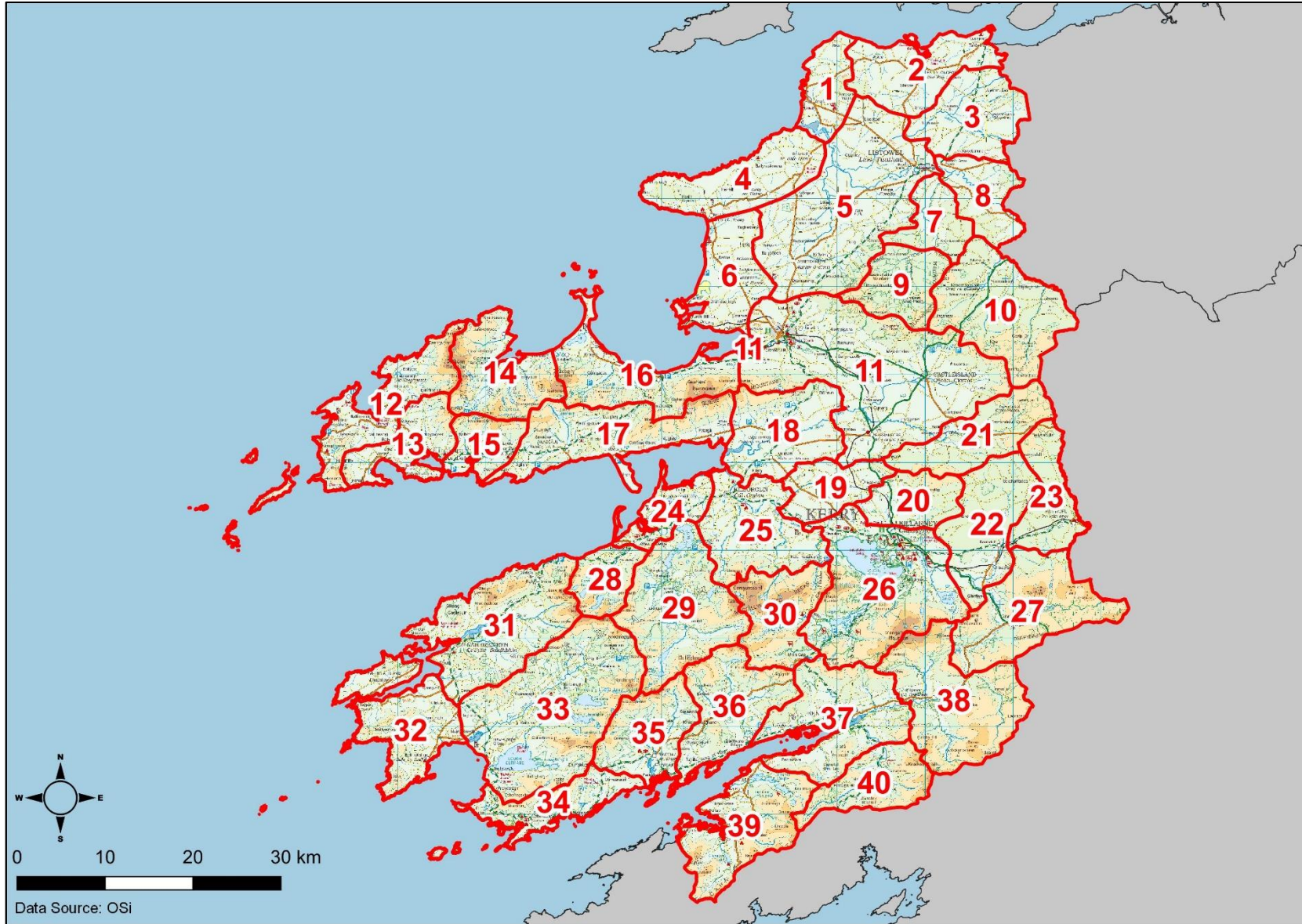
4. Landscape Character Areas

In order to carry out a review of the landscape regarding its visual sensitivity to development, it must first be broken down into smaller landscape character areas.

Following a topographical assessment, 40 (no.) areas defined by spatial enclosure and landform were identified.

The 40 landscape character areas include:

1. Beal Hill and Ballybunion
2. The Shannon Estuary
3. Bunnaruddee Bog and Galey River
4. Kerry Head and Ballyduff
5. Listowel and The Cashen River
6. Banna and Ardfert
7. Smearlagh River Valley
8. River Feale Valley
9. Stack's and Glanaruddery Mountains
10. Mount Eagle and Owveg River Valley
11. Tralee and Castleisland
12. Blasket Islands, Smerwick Harbour and Mount Brandon
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20. Deenagh and Glanoragh River Valleys
21. The Brown Flesk River Valley
22. Quagmire and Owneyskeagh Rivers
23. River Blackwater and Rathmore
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25. Killorglin and Beaufort
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35. Sneem and Ardsheelhane River Valley
36. Blackwater and Ballaghbeama
37. Kenmare
38. Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley
39. Healy Pass, Kilmakilloge Harbour and Lough Inchiquin
40. Bonane and Sheen River Valley



Map 7.20: Landscape Character Areas



5. Visual Sensitivity

Methodology

A visual sensitivity assessment is a process by which individual areas of landscape are examined to ascertain the extent their character is likely to be altered by the addition of new development. Based on this analysis, each area is then given a rating which reflects its sensitivity to the specific changes likely to be brought about by these developments.

This review considers the sensitivity of key characteristics of different landscapes within the county to changes that would be brought about by new development. The sensitivity assessment within this study assesses landscape and visual aspects only.

Visual Sensitivity

Sensitivity relates to landscape character and how susceptible this is to change. In this study, change relates to all forms of development and any findings on visual sensitivity are restricted to these developments. Sensitivity is assessed by considering the effect of development on the physical and perceptual characteristics of landscapes. In this study, the nature of views and visibility and the value associated with a landscape are also considered in determining sensitivity.

Criteria for Assessing Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity assessment considers the following criteria in assessing the potential effects of development on the landscape:

- The context of the landscape
- Landscape scale
- Landform
- Landcover pattern
- The built environment
- Perceptual qualities
- Visual amenity
- Landscape values

The context of the landscape

The characteristics of surrounding landscape areas provide a context that influences the perception of a landscape and may affect how developments are perceived. Landscapes acting as a backdrop or foreground to other areas are particularly sensitive. Landscape types that are more closely connected and contrast strongly with surrounding landscapes may be especially sensitive. Sensitivity is also likely to be increased where there is complex interplay, or where there is a high degree of inter-visibility between adjacent landscapes.

Landscape scale

Larger scale (horizontal and vertical) landscapes are generally considered more suitable to accommodate development. Such large physical areas may be able to accommodate large developments depending on the degree of relief, amount of topographical containment, degree of openness and enclosure and the extent of the land visible.

Landform

A smooth, convex or flat landform is likely to be less sensitive to development than a landscape with a dramatic rugged landform, distinct landform features (including prominent headlands and cliffs) or pronounced undulations. Larger scale landforms are also likely to be less sensitive than smaller scale landforms - because development may appear out of scale, detract from visually important landforms or appear confusing.



Built environment

Involves consideration of the pattern, density and character of settlement in an area, and the way in which development might impinge on these characteristics. Large scale buildings and built structures such as pylons also affect the sensitivity of an area.

Landcover pattern

Simple, regular landscapes with extensive areas of consistent ground cover are likely to be less sensitive to development than landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller field sizes and landscapes with frequent human scale features. Smaller scale and/or complex landscapes with a variety of land cover patterns may be more difficult to assimilate development without significant effects on landscape character, than larger scale landscapes.

Perceptual qualities

Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil (due to freedom from human activity and disturbance as well as factors such as perceived naturalness) tend to increase levels of sensitivity than man-made landscapes or landscapes that contain signs of human activity and development as wind development introduces new and uncharacteristic features to the former remote or tranquil landscape.

Visual amenity

Development has the potential to affect views and scenic qualities that are valued in a landscape because of the absence of modern man-made features. Landscapes that have a high scenic quality and whose scenic qualities or natural beauty are likely to be affected.

Landscape value

The assessment of landscape values takes into account areas of Prime and Secondary Special Amenity as zoned in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, Killarney National Park, and the Wild Atlantic Way. The potential to review these designations is also considered as part of this section.

Assessing Overall Visual Sensitivity

Once the above criteria have been considered individually, an overall visual sensitivity assessment is made.

If one criterion has a particularly large influence on sensitivity it is given a greater weight in the judgement of overall visual sensitivity assessment.

In any given area there may be criteria that produce conflicting assessments. For example, when considering sensitivity to development, a settled landscape, while containing greater human influence (indicating a lower sensitivity), will also include more human scale features that could be affected by some forms of development (indicating a higher sensitivity). Conversely, a more remote landscape will lack human scale features but may have a higher sensitivity from a perceptual point of view.

The assessment aims to set out these details and to come to a balanced overall judgement (a professional opinion) on overall sensitivity.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly sensitive to change.
Medium/ High	The key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change
Medium	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change.
Low/ Medium	Few of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are sensitive to change.
Low	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust and are less likely to be adversely affected by change.

Table 7.1: Sensitivity levels and definitions



Broadly speaking there is an inverse relationship between visual sensitivity/value and capacity.

The overall sensitivity of an area to development cannot be considered in isolation. Policy as contained in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 must also be taken into consideration by an interested party when considering a development proposal.

Visual Sensitivity Results

Each landscape character area was considered under the criteria set out in the methodology with the results summarised in the following tables. Section 6 of this review contains the individual assessments for each area.

All forms of development including residential, renewable energy, agricultural and forestry have a cumulative effect on the landscape. Cognisance was also taken of permitted developments not yet constructed.

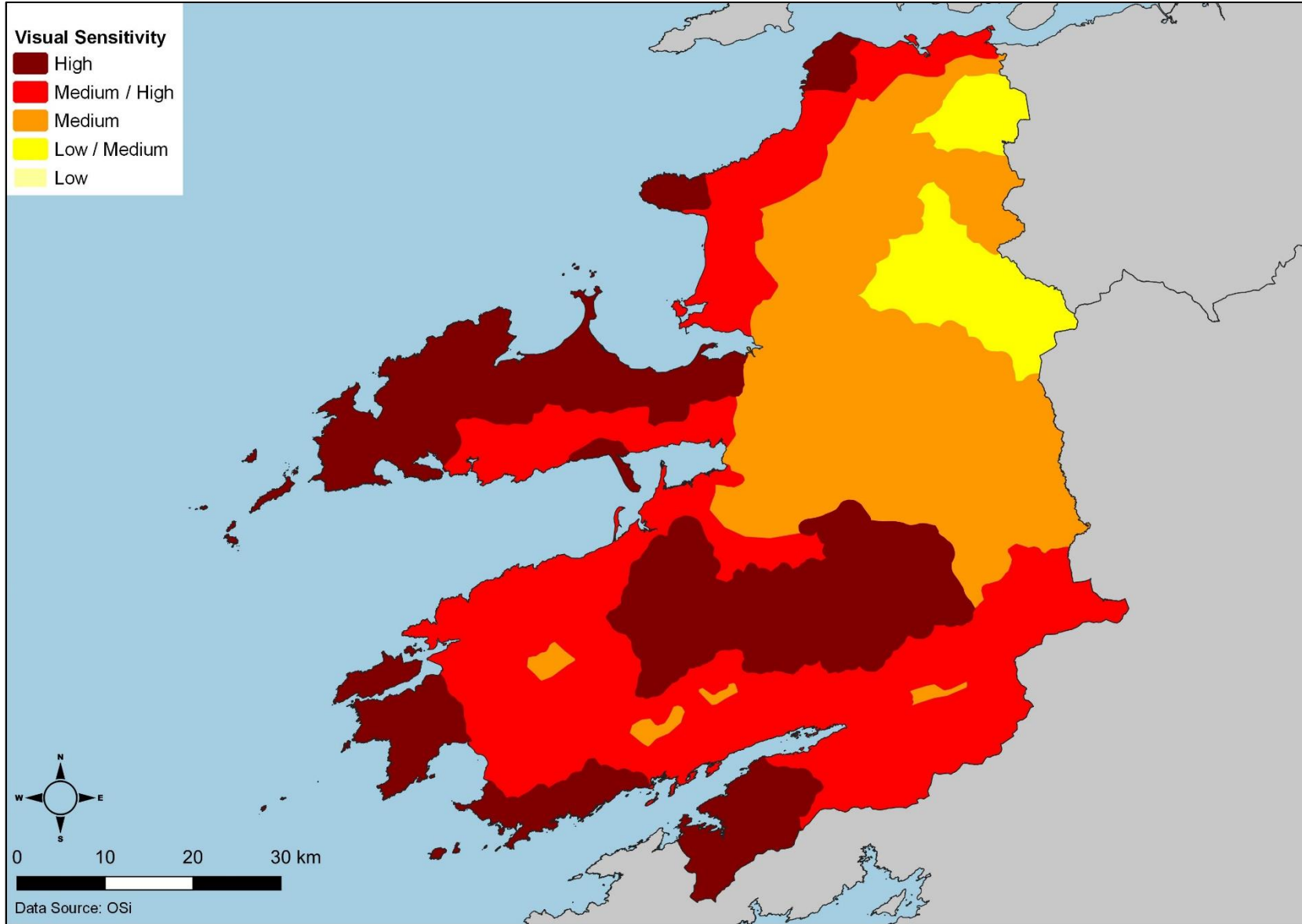
The review correlates with designated Visually Sensitive Areas in the Draft Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, but it also indicates additional areas of the landscape where sensitivity could be considered in any future planning policy review.



No.	Assessment Area	Sensitivity
1	Beal Hill and Ballybunion	High*
2	The Shannon Estuary	Medium*/ High
3	Bunnaruddee Bog and Galey River	Low / Medium
4	Kerry Head and Ballyduff	Medium / High*
5	Listowel and The Cashen River	Medium
6	Banna and Ardfert	Medium / High
7	Smearlagh River Valley	Low / Medium
8	River Feale Valley	Medium
9	Stack's and Glanaruddery Mountains	Low / Medium
10	Mount Eagle and Owveg River Valley	Low / Medium
11	Tralee and Castleisland	Medium
12	Blasket Islands, Smerwick Harbour and Mount Brandon	High
13	Ventry and Dingle Harbours	High
14	Brandon Bay	High
15	Garfinny and Owenalondrig River Valleys	Medium / High
16	Tralee Bay, The Maharees and Northern Slieve Mish Mountains	High
17	Annascaul, Inch and Southern Slieve Mish Mountains	Medium / High*
18	Milltown and Castlemaine	Medium
19	Gweestin River Valley	Medium
20	Deenagh and Glanoragh River Valleys	Medium
21	The Brown Flesk River Valley	Medium
22	Quagmire and Owneskeagh Rivers	Medium
23	River Blackwater and Rathmore	Medium
24	Rossbeigh and Cromane	Medium / High
25	Killorglin and Beaufort	Medium / High*
26	Lough Leane and Killarney National Park	High
27	Clydagh River, The Paps and the Derrynasaggart Mountains	Medium / High
28	Coomasaharan Lake and Mountain Stage	Medium / High
29	Glencar, Caragh Lake and The Bridia Valley	High
30	MacGillycuddy Reeks and The Black Valley	High
31	Cahersiveen	Medium / High
32	Valentia Island and Saint Finan's Bay	High
33	Lough Currane and Máistir Gaoithe	Medium / High*
34	Derrynane and Castlecove	High
35	Sneem and Ardsheelhane River Valley	Medium / High*
36	Blackwater and Ballaghbeama	Medium / High*
37	Kenmare	Medium / High
38	Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley	Medium / High*
39	Healy Pass, Kilmakilloge Harbour and Lough Inchiquin	High
40	Bonane and Sheen River Valley	Medium / High

Table 7.2: Visual Sensitivity of Assessment Areas

* This refers to the overall sensitivity of the area, but sub-areas of a different sensitivity are found in this area which are reflected on Map 7.21.



Map 7.21: Visual Sensitivity



6. Landscape Character Areas Descriptions

This appendix gives a description of each Landscape Character Area. In addition, there is an individual visual sensitivity assessment of each area to development.

These areas were inspected and assessed from 120 viewpoints depending on the geographical size and topography of the area. The viewpoints were visited in January/February/March 2018 and February 2019. A visual sensitivity assessment as set out in the methodology was then carried out for each area.

Each area includes a description, an indication of landcover, and details of natural/built heritage. The numbers of Protected Structures, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) structures, Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and Geological Heritage Sites refer to those found in the countryside outside of settlements.

Proposed revisions to the landscape designations and views & prospects for each area are also included.

The text identifying sensitivity of the criteria is in *italics*.



1. Beal Hill and Ballybunion

Area Description



The boundary of this small area is formed by a topography extending north of Knockanore Mountain (to Letterpoint) and south to the Ferry Bridge over the Cashen River.

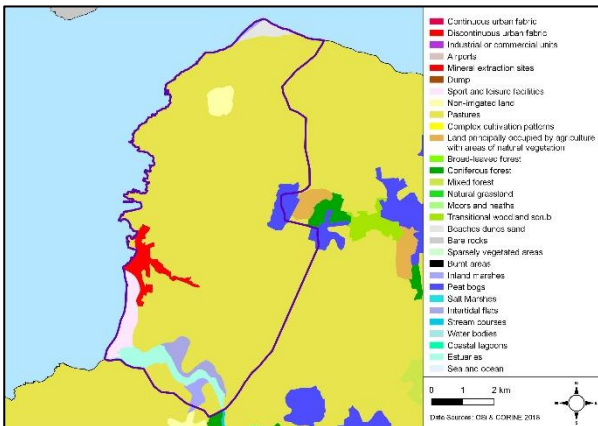
Area	55.48km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	6
RMP	157
Geological Heritage Sites	5

Area Example



Viewpoint 1.1

Area Landcover



Context

Has greater links to the east rather than to the south due to Knockanore and associated ridge. It is a small area located between a prominent hill and the Shannon Estuary and the coast.

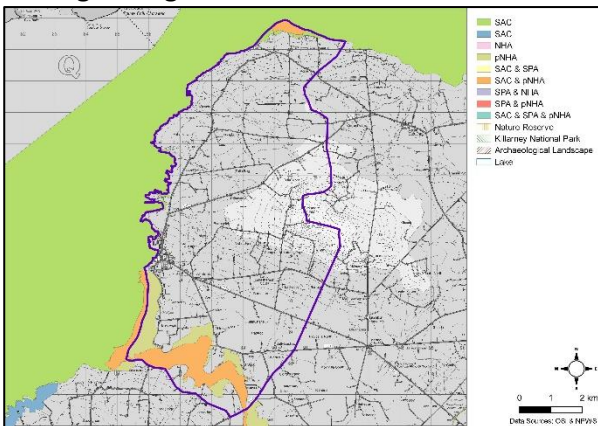
Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Area is referenced to Knockanore, with limited relief of note that contributes to scale. It is an open landscape with limited features to give enclosure.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Heritage Designations



Landform

Slopes in a north-westerly direction towards the coast from Knockanore (267m) with a number of river valleys in between this high point and a spot height (101m) to the north. Sand dunes are found to the south of the Ballybunion.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

Majority of the area is under grass with fields separated by ditches. Limited tree cover results in this area being open.

Sensitivity = Medium



Built Environment

Housing follows the roads in the area, typical linear development. There are wind turbines (6) in the area in Beal. Contains the town of Ballybunion.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Linear development of housing along the road network combined with an existing wind farm development affects the experience of this landscape. It is also an open coastal landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

It is an open landscape with panoramic views towards the sea to the west and the Shannon Estuary to the north.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

The coast road forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way with Views & Prospects along its length. The coastline is also designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 with an area of Prime Special Amenity closer to Ballybunion. Beaches and the golf course in Ballybunion are important amenities.

This area includes Knockanore which currently has no landscape designation. Due to its elevation and prominent position in a predominantly flat landscape it could therefore be considered for a landscape designation. The area currently designated along the coast could also be expanded upon.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium / High*, with the remainder *High*.

Proposed Landscape Designations





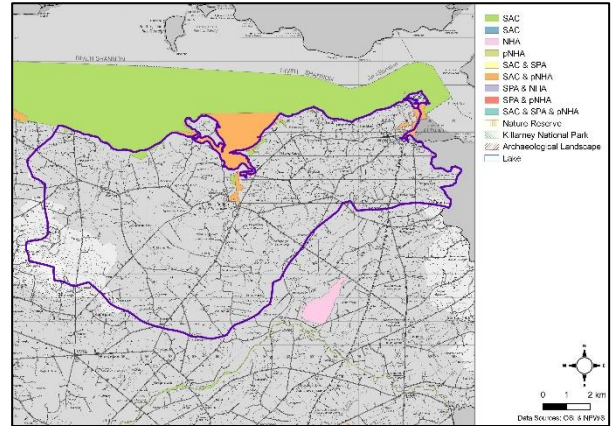
2. The Shannon Estuary

Area Description



Subtle changes in topography create the southern limit to this area. These changes run from Letter Point on Bunaclogga Bay to the summit of Knockanore Mountain before falling east to Tullahennel. The boundary of the area then follows the county boundary north to the Shannon Estuary.

Heritage Designations

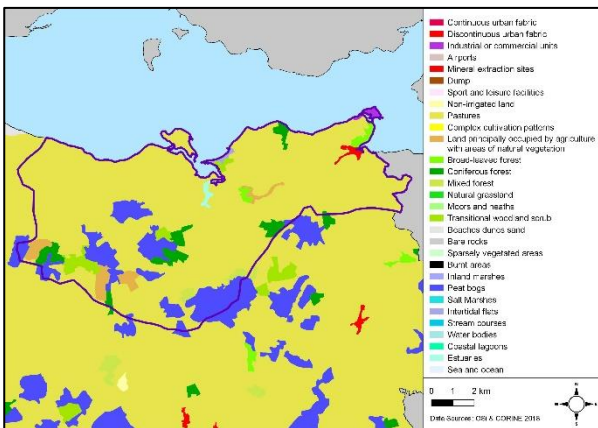


Area Examples



Viewpoint 2.1

Area Landcover



Area	103.32km ²
Protected Structures	9
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	166
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 2.2



Viewpoint 2.3

Context

This is an area where the main interaction with adjacent areas is on its southern side as the northern boundary is the Shannon Estuary. It also has a border with County Limerick on its eastern side.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

Area is enclosed by higher ground in Limerick. The central part of the area is flat in nature with little change in relief. As the central part of the area is large and mostly flat, it results in the landscape having a greater ability to relate to development.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Knockanore (267m) is a very distinctive feature in the northwestern part of the area. Lands also rise on the eastern boundary of the area. In between there are a number of rivers, but these rivers have minimal impact on the landform.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. Some pockets of forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found. Broad-leaved forestry is found to the north of Tarbert, between the town and the port area on the estuary. Some large peat bogs are also found in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

There are a number of villages in the area. Outside of them houses are found in a linear fashion along the road network. Energy infrastructure in the form of wind turbines, pylons associated with high voltage transmission lines, and a power plant in

Tarbert are all found. The Ballylongford/Tarbert Landbank is zoned for marine-related industry.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The landscape has been modified by the number of constructed elements found within it.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

Quite an open landscape with wide vistas across the area influenced by its topography. Landcover also contributes to its openness.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

The northwest of the area is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects eastwards from a local road on the western side of Knockanore, and northwards from the coast road towards the Shannon Estuary. This coast road is also part of the Wild Atlantic Way.

This area includes Knockanore which currently has no landscape designation. Due to its elevation and prominent position in a predominantly flat landscape it could therefore be considered for a landscape designation. The southeastern part of the area is flat and open, which is overlooked by higher ground, it could therefore be considered for a landscape designation.

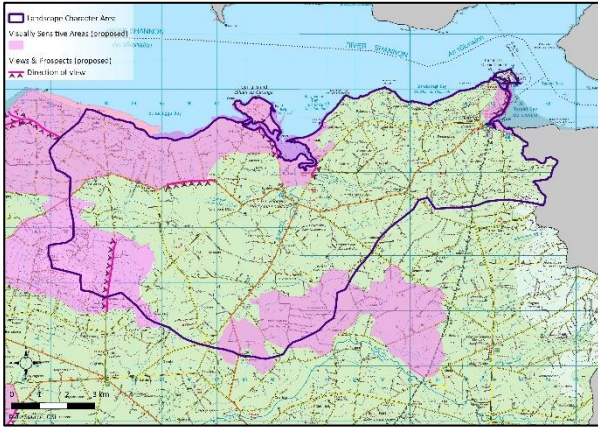
Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.



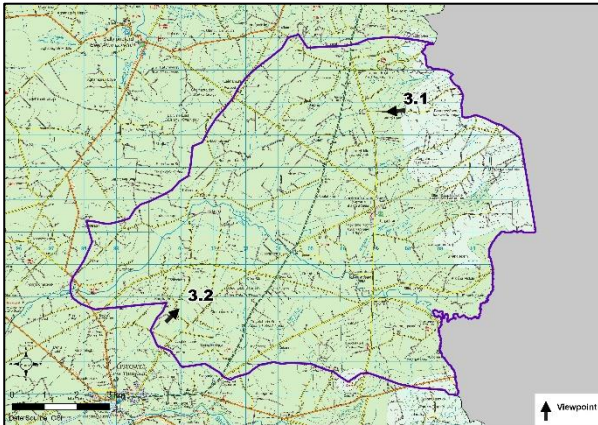
Proposed Landscape Designations





3. Bunaruddee Bog and Galey River

Area Description



The border with County Limerick forms the eastern boundary of this area. The area encloses the Galey River. The northern, southern and western boundaries are marked by subtle changes in topography.

Area	99.97km ²
Protected Structures	3
NIAH Structures	2
RMP	62
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Area Examples

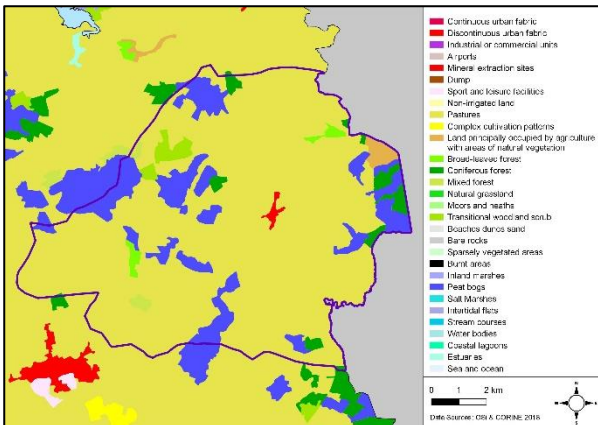


Viewpoint 3.1

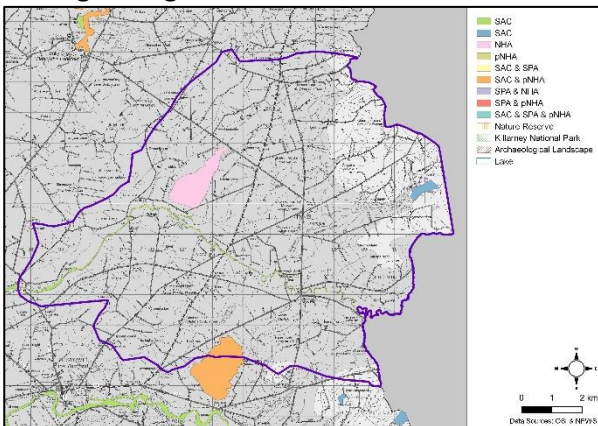


Viewpoint 3.2

Area Landcover



Heritage Designations



Context

This is a large area with similar characteristics to adjoining areas. It also has a border with County Limerick on its eastern side.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

Area is enclosed by higher ground in Limerick. The central part of the area is flat in nature with little change in relief. As the central part of the area is



large and mostly flat, it results in the landscape having a greater ability to relate to development.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Lands also rise on the eastern boundary of the area. In between there are a number of rivers, the Galey River being the most significant, but these rivers have minimal impact on the landform.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. Some pockets of forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found. Some large peat bogs are also found in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Moyvane is the main village in the area. Outside of the village houses are found in a linear fashion along the road network. Energy infrastructure in the form of wind turbines (5 constructed and 6 permitted) and pylons associated with high voltage transmission lines can be found.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The landscape has been modified by the number of constructed elements found within it. Some natural areas still exist, for example Bunnaruddee Bog.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

Quite an open landscape with wide vistas across the area influenced by its topography. Landcover also contributes to its openness.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

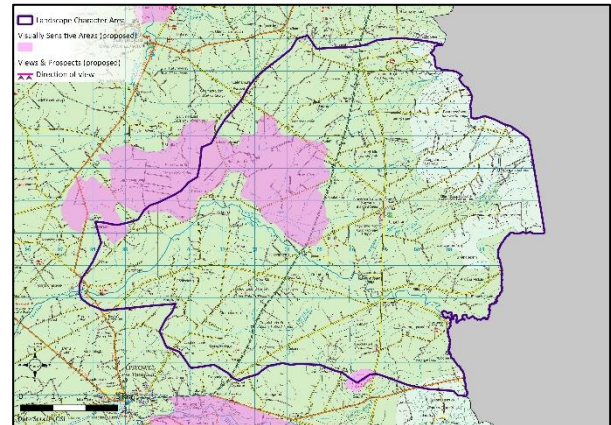
There are no designated areas in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 found in this area or views & prospects.

The southeastern part of the area is flat and open, which is overlooked by higher ground, it could therefore be considered for a landscape designation.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Proposed Landscape Designations





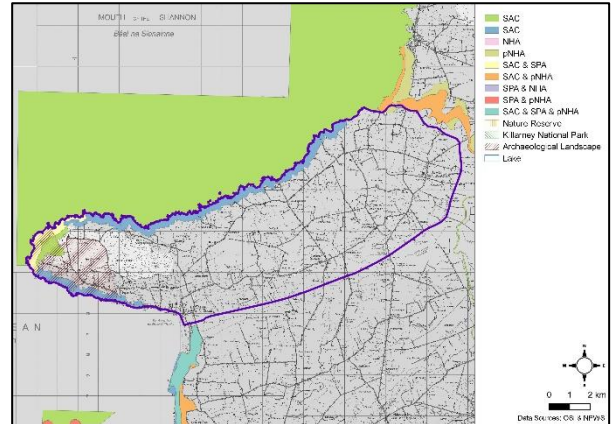
4. Kerry Head and Ballyduff

Area Description



The western boundary of this area follows the coastline starting from the northeast corner of Tralee Bay near Ballyheigue, northwards, around Kerry Head as far as the Cashen. From there the boundary heads south and then west back towards Ballyheigue

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

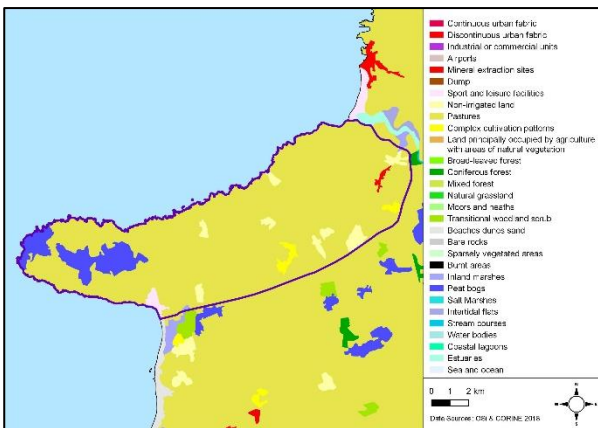


Viewpoint 4.1



Viewpoint 4.2

Area Landcover



Area	110.9km ²
Protected Structures	10
NIAH Structures	7
RMP	388
Geological Heritage Sites	3



Viewpoint 4.3

Context

There is no clear delineation between this area and adjoining areas. Adjoining areas therefore contribute to the character of this area and vice versa.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Kerry Head is a dominant feature in the landscape, it ranges from 210-217m in height.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

There is a high area of ground on Kerry Head. The remainder of the area contains a number of shallow river valleys, and would also be elevated compared to the adjoining area to the south. It forms a low ridge in the landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

Pasture covers the majority of the area. Boundaries enclosing this pasture lack tree cover resulting in an open landscape. Areas of peat bog are found on the higher ground on Kerry Head.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Contains the settlements of Ballyheigue, Ballyduff and Causeway. Housing follows the road network. An industrial complex is found to the west of Causeway.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

Human influence is reflected in the number of houses in the area and the farming landscape. Many of the houses in coastal areas would be holiday homes which would be reflective of the

type of area this is. Kerry Head is visually prominent from afar.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

It is an open landscape with limited tree cover; therefore, screening is limited. From higher ground there are extensive views.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

There are views & prospects along the coast road which also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way. Mainly views are protected in the direction of the sea but on Kerry Head they are protected in both directions. Kerry Head is designated Prime and Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Kerry Head is listed as an archaeological landscape in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.

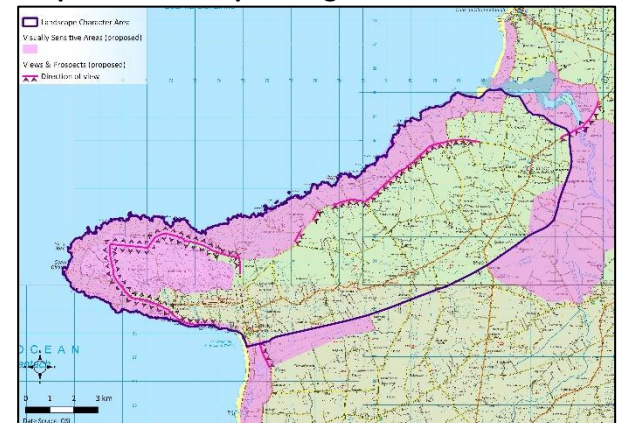
Area includes an open coastal landscape with views northwards across the Shannon Estuary from the Wild Atlantic Way. Parts of this coastal area do not have a landscape designation, consideration could therefore be given to designating this area.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *High*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.

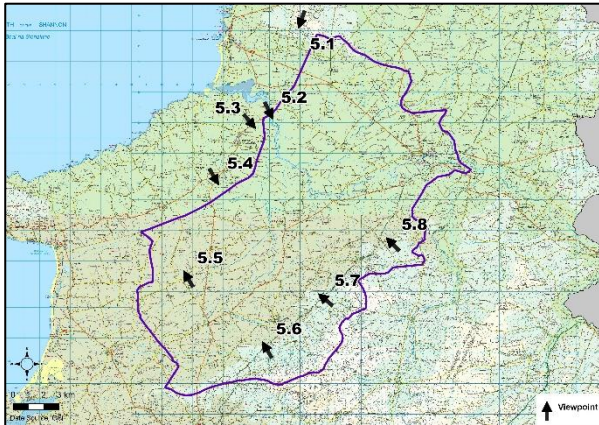
Proposed Landscape Designations



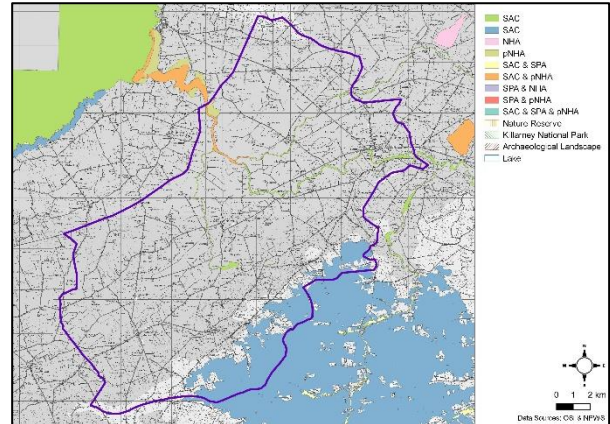


5. Listowel and The Cashen River

Area Description



Heritage Designations



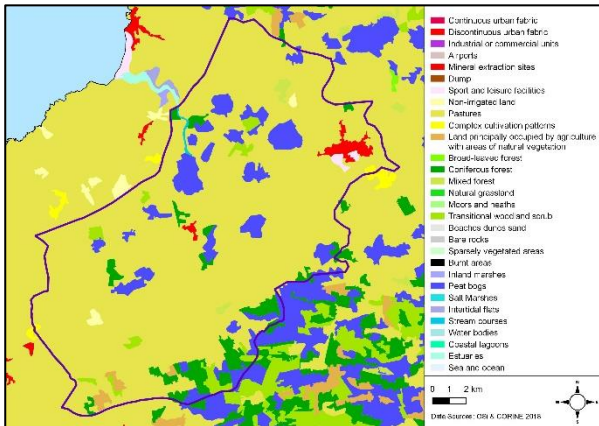
Comprises a generally flat river valley, the River Cashen & River Feale. The northern boundary of the area is formed by the ridge of topography between Doon which rises to the west of Knockanore Mountain before heading eastwards, going around the northern side of Listowel, and then heading south along the edge of the Stack’s Mountains. From Leith the boundary of the area heads north to the east of Abbeydorney and Ballyduff, in the direction of Knockanore.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 5.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 5.2

Area	268.41km ²
Protected Structures	14
NIAH Structures	10
RMP	480
Geological Heritage Sites	1



Viewpoint 5.3



Viewpoint 5.6



Viewpoint 5.4



Viewpoint 5.7



Viewpoint 5.5



Viewpoint 5.8

Context

Of similar character to adjoining areas to the east and west. The boundary between these areas is also not strongly defined.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Area is large and contained by the Stack's Mountains (ranging in height from 225 – 355m) to



the south. These hills therefore provide a measure of scale in the southern part of the area, but the remainder of the area is generally flat. As the central part of the area is large and mostly flat, it results in the landscape having a greater ability to relate to development.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

From the Stacks Mountains in the south of the area there is a fall in ground northwards towards the Cashen River and the coast. There are some changes in elevation but limited.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

Pasture/farmland covers the majority of the area which is open due to a lack of trees in the boundaries. Unlike other parts of the county, this area includes arable land. Field sizes would generally be larger than other areas. Some areas of peat bog and coniferous forestry are found in the central part of the area, with these types of areas also found along the south eastern boundary in the Stack’s Mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

The settlements of Listowel, Ballyduff, Lixnaw and Abbeydorney are spread across the area. In between them there would be significant levels of rural housing, with an absence of housing found along the Cashen. High voltage transmission lines do cross the area, from Listowel in the direction of Tralee. Wind turbines are found along the south eastern edge of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

With the number of houses, and other elements such as forestry, farming, and wind turbines to the south, this area shows signs of modification. The marshy low-lying area around the Cashen River would demonstrate an absence of housing but there is planted forestry in this area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenities

With areas of high ground to the south, with the N69 national secondary road linking Tralee to Listowel in the area, it allows for wide ranging views to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

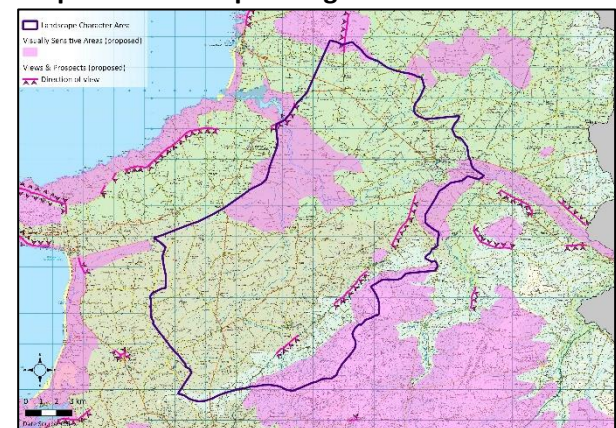
There are views & prospects by the Ferry Bridge over the Cashen River and also to the east of Ballyduff, in the direction of the coast. The coast road is part of the Wild Atlantic Way.

The elevated area to the south of Listowel provides a setting to the town. Consideration could therefore be given for a landscape designation. To the west along the Cashen, there is a large flat undeveloped area which could also be considered for a landscape designation. There are also extensive views northwards from the N69, consideration could therefore be given to designating these sections as views & prospects.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

Proposed Landscape Designations





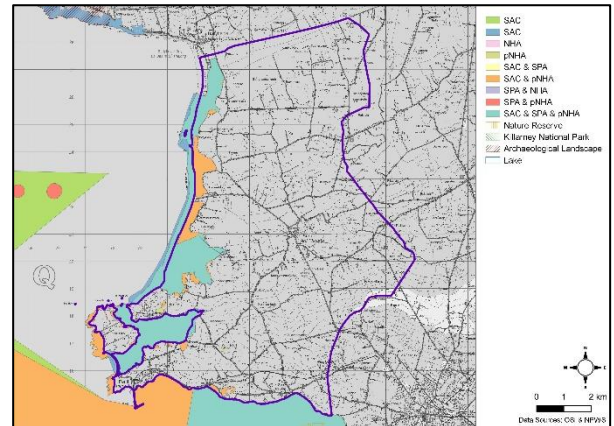
6. Banna and Ardfert

Area Description



The western boundary of this area follows the coastline starting from Tralee Bay northwards as far as Ballyheigue. The area extends inland from the coastline by approximately 6km, and then heads roughly in a southerly direction until it meets a ridge of high ground that extends westwards from the Stack's Mountains. The boundary then follows the ridge westwards to Tralee Bay.

Heritage Designations

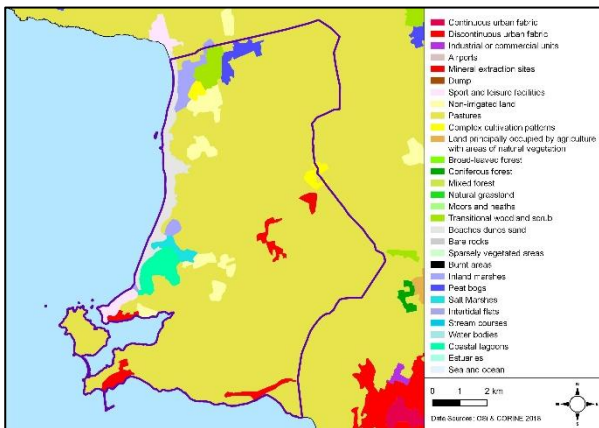


Area Example



Viewpoint 6.1

Area Landcover



Area	90.52km ²
Protected Structures	9
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	343
Geological Heritage Sites	16

Context

There are similarities with the adjoining areas to the east and south. A clear delineation between the areas does not exist. Adjoining areas therefore contribute to the character of this area and vice versa.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

It has generally flat topography. Kerry Head is a dominant feature in the landscape to the north, it ranges from 210-217m in height.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

This is a low-lying area close to the coastline.

Sensitivity = Medium



Landcover

Pasture covers the majority of the area. Boundaries enclosing this pasture lack tree cover resulting in an open landscape. An extensive area of beaches, dunes and sand plains stretches along the coastline.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Contains the settlement of Ardfert. Housing follows the road network. There is a large quarry to the east of Ardfert.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

Human influence is reflected in the number of houses in the area and the farming landscape. Many of the houses in coastal areas would be holiday homes which would be reflective of the type of area this is.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

It is an open landscape with limited tree cover; therefore screening is limited. From higher ground in the north or south of the area there are extensive views.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

There are views & prospects along the coast road which also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way. Mainly views are protected in the direction of the sea. Prime and Secondary Special Amenity areas designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 are found close to the coastline.

The coastal area south of Ballyheigue and around Banna contains an important dune system. A revision to the landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered. Around Ardfert views of Ardfert Cathedral could be considered for protection as views & prospects.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

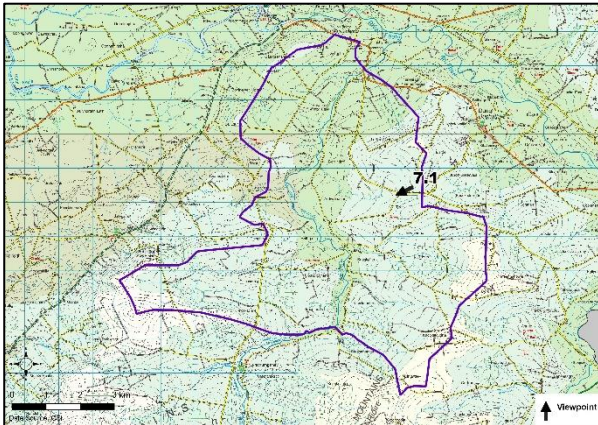
Proposed Landscape Designations





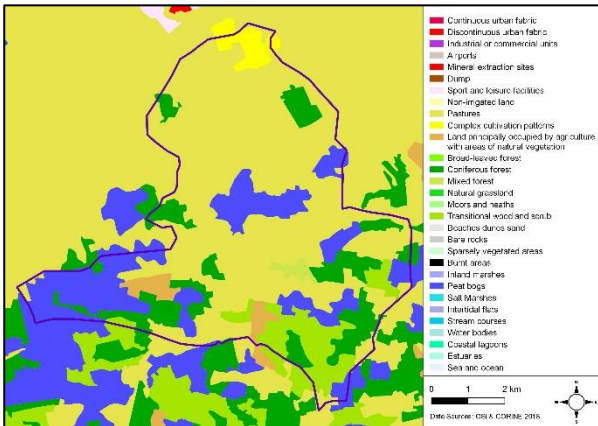
7. Smearlagh River Valley

Area Description



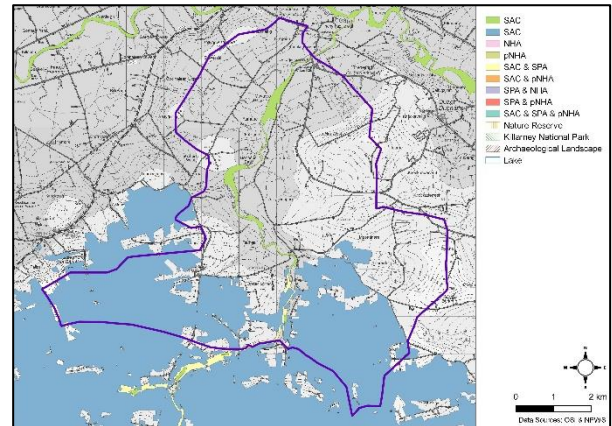
The eastern boundary corresponds with the summits of hills to the southeast of Listowel, including a spot height of 261m in the townland of Derk, and then southwards to Knockalougha. The southern boundary follows Lyracrumpane River and then the Smearlagh River. The western boundary follows the line of hills which run parallel with the N69 between Listowel and Tralee, from a spot height of 255m in the townland of Pallas and then northwards to Banemore.

Area Landcover



Area	52.21km ²
Protected Structures	0
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	23
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Heritage Designations



Area Example



Viewpoint 7.1

Context

It has some similarities with adjoining areas but due to topography it is somewhat isolated.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

It is a small area with changing topography. This topography would not be relatively high. The river valleys in the area would create a sense of enclosure.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Concentrated on the Smearlagh River valley there are a number of other river valleys off it. These flow from the higher ground which mark the area's boundaries.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Landcover

Pasture is found in the lower (northern) part of the area and in the lower parts of the valleys. The southern part of the area has substantial areas of coniferous forestry. Peat bog can be found on higher elevations.

Sensitivity = Low

Built Environment

There are existing wind turbines in the southwest corner of the area. Housing is dispersed with lower densities than areas closer to Listowel town.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Forestry and wind turbines in the area have affected the naturalness of this area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

With the area concentrated on a river valley there are views across the valley, and in a northerly direction which is lower than the southern part of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

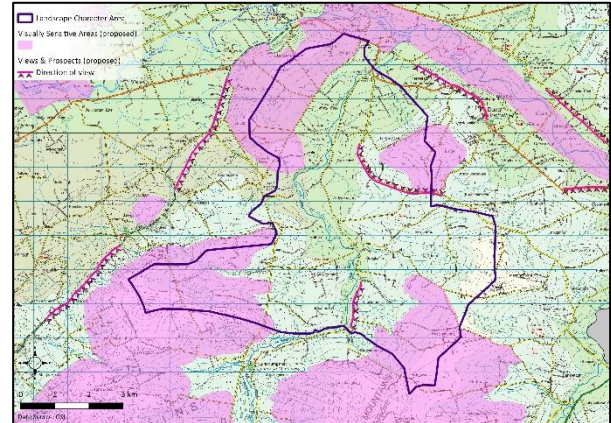
There are views & prospects on the eastern side of the Smearlagh Valley with the elevated nature of these roads contributing to the views.

Elevated areas near Listowel and either side of the Smearlagh River Valley could be considered for a landscape designation.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Low / Medium

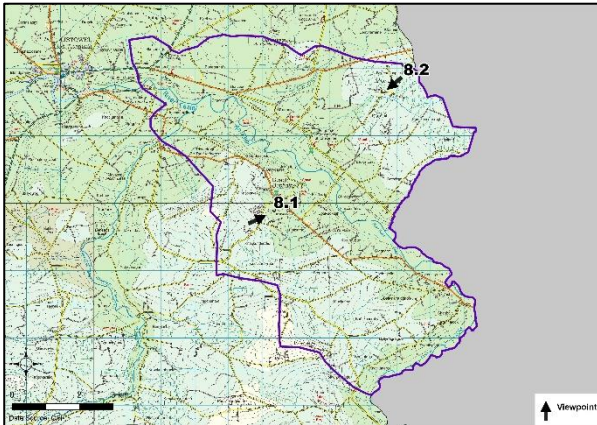
Proposed Landscape Designations





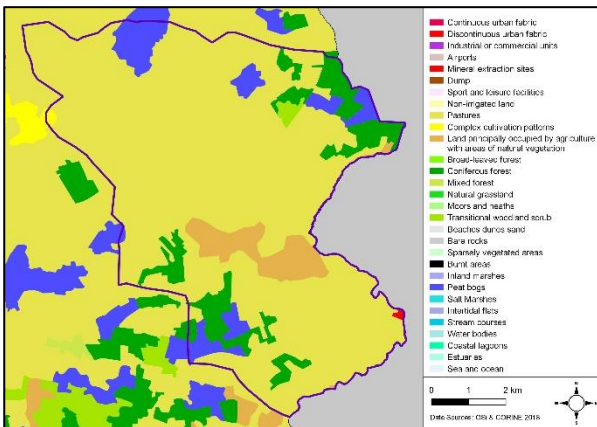
8. River Feale Valley

Area Description



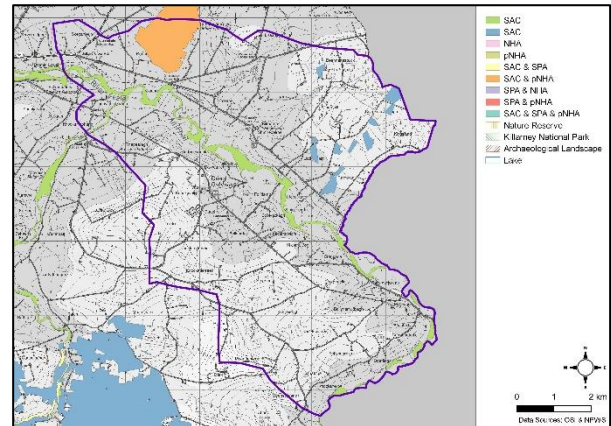
Comprises the river valley and high topography surrounding the River Feale to the east of Listowel. The northern boundary is formed by a subtle rise in topography to the northeast of Listowel which continues across the summits of low hills in the direction of Knockathea. The southwestern boundary crosses the valley of the Smearlagh River before following the summits of hills to the southeast of Listowel to a spot height of 261m in the townland of Derk and then south to Knockalougha.

Area Landcover



Area	63.92km ²
Protected Structures	0
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	62
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Heritage Designations



Area Examples



Viewpoint 8.1



Viewpoint 8.2

Context

Mostly isolated from surrounding areas but on its eastern side there would be links. This area would have different characteristics to adjoining areas.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Scale

It is contained within higher ground on its north and south sides. It is a narrow area divided by the Feale River.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

The River Feale Valley is a distinctive landform and it would be a unique feature as there would not be a similar one elsewhere in the county.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. In the northeast and south of the area coniferous forestry is found. There are also areas of peat bog adjoining these areas of forestry. Fields along the river valley would be small in size.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Duagh is the main settlement in this area with housing concentrated near the village and in the Kilmorna area. A lower density of housing compared to other areas would be found in the remainder of the area. 220kv and 110kv transmission lines cross the area with substations at Trien and Kilmorna. Wind turbines (3) have also been permitted in the northeast corner of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

With the constructed elements found in the landscape it does affect its naturalness. The large areas of forestry found in the area are also planted.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

There are views from both sides of the River Feale across the valley with these views contained within the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

The River Feale adjacent to Listowel is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects on both sides of the River Feale.

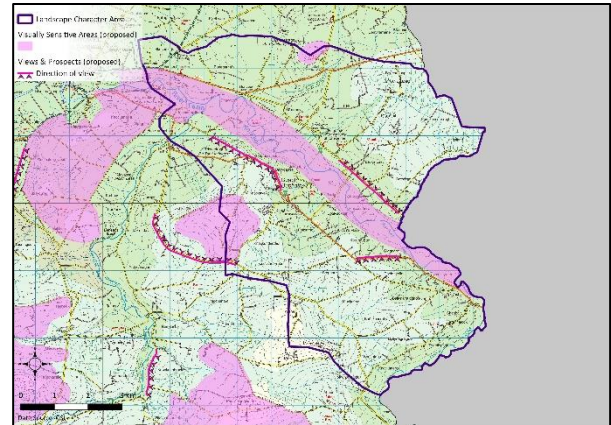
An elevated area west of Duagh could be considered for a landscape designation. The River

Feale passes through the area and its setting is also worthy of protection.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

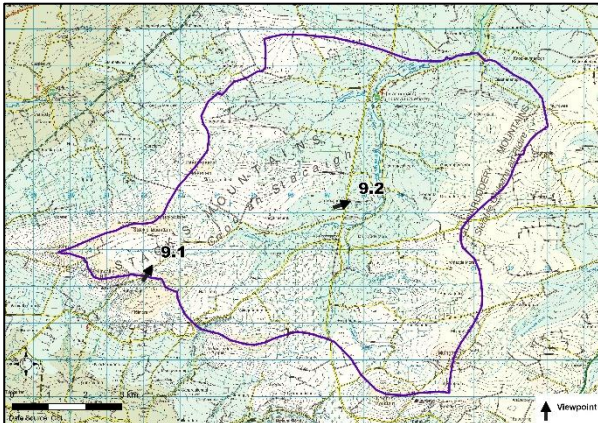
Proposed Landscape Designations





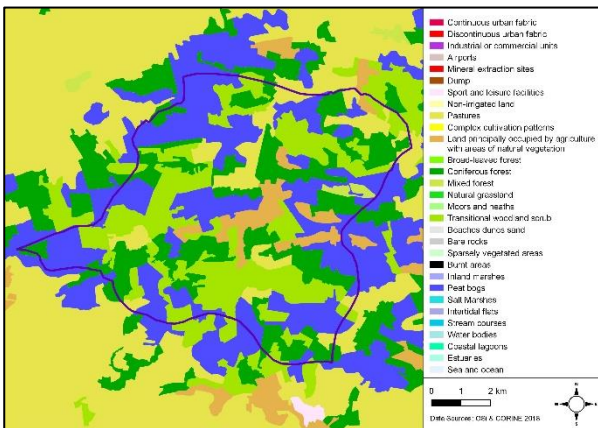
9. Stack's and Glanaruddery Mountains

Area Description



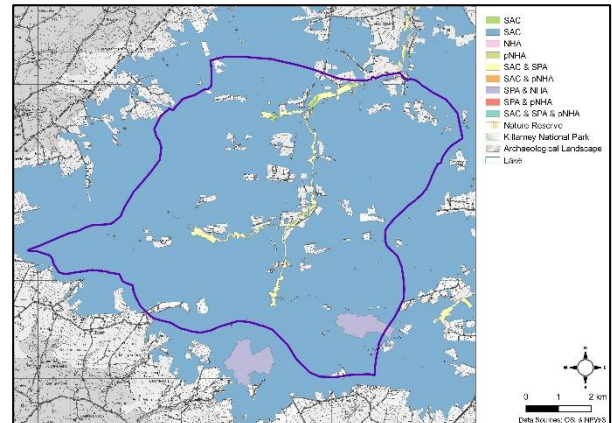
The northern boundary of this area is formed by the Municipal District boundary with Listowel. The western boundary is formed by the ridge of topography formed by Crusline, Stack's Mountain and Beennageeha Mountain. The southern boundary is formed by high topography between Crusline and Knight's Mountain, with the eastern boundary continuing along the Glanaruddery Mountains.

Area Landcover



Area	72.38km ²
Protected Structures	1
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	3
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Heritage Designations



Area Examples



Viewpoint 9.1



Viewpoint 9.2

Context

Adjacent areas are separated by the high ground that surrounds the area. Characteristics found in this area would be found to the north and east.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Scale

The area is enclosed by high ground with river valleys dissecting the area. This separates the parts of the area. The changes in relief are not pronounced with the valley floor being at around 100m.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

High areas of ground that slope down to a centrally located river valley. The various river valleys result in separation between parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

There is a limited amount of agricultural land in this area. The majority of land is covered in coniferous forestry plantations at different stages of maturity. The remainder of the area is peat bog.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

This area contains numerous wind turbines (94) close to the edges of the area. The small village of Lyreacrompane is located in the area. Housing is dispersed along the limited road network.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The area has a remote feel due to its landform, landcover and distance from larger settlement. The naturalness of the area is affected by the forestry plantations in the area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

Forestry in the area has an effect on views in conjunction with the numerous river valleys. Views do exist from higher parts of the area down and up the valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

There are no designations in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 found in this area.

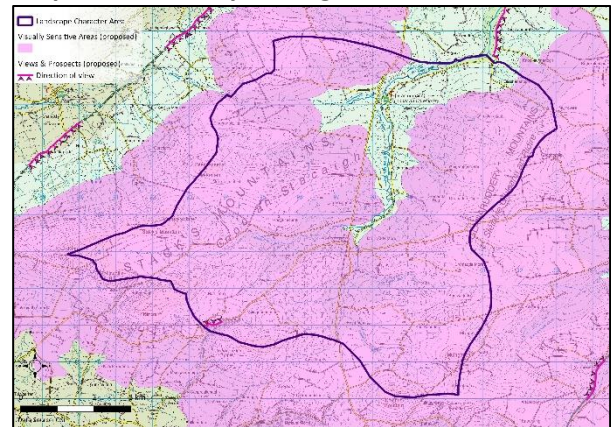
The southern part of the area forms part of the setting for the Tralee-Castleisland Valley, a landscape designation could therefore be considered in this area. The majority of the area is elevated with limited housing, visible from across the area due to topography, a widespread

landscape designation could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Low / Medium

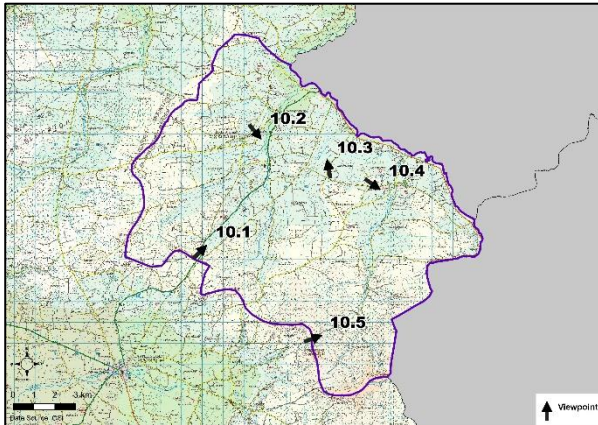
Proposed Landscape Designations



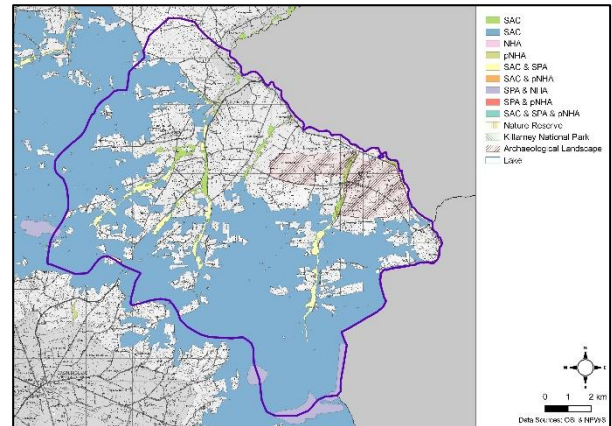


10. Mount Eagle and Owveg River Valley

Area Description



Heritage Designations



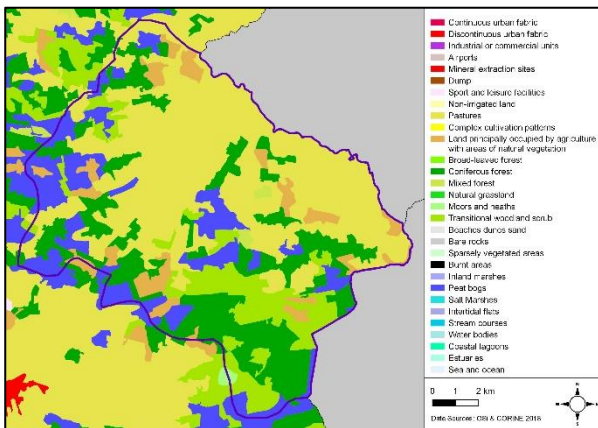
The western boundary is formed by the Glanaruddery Mountains with the southern boundary corresponding to the ridge of topography between Knight’s Mountain, Mount Eagle and Knockanefune. The eastern boundary follows the county boundary with Cork. The northern boundary follows the River Feale, which is also the boundary with County Limerick.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 10.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 10.2

Area	154.69km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	50
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 10.3



Viewpoint 10.4



Viewpoint 10.5

Context

This area is isolated from adjoining areas due to changes in topography. The same can be said for its relationship with Cork to the east and Limerick to the north.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

The landscape is characterised by river valleys that are orientated north/south flowing in the

direction of the River Feale which makes up the northern boundary of the area. These valleys are separated by higher ground which is c.200m in height.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

The Clydagh and Owveg River valleys split the area. Both of these rivers flow in a northerly direction towards the River Feale. In between these valleys and to their sides are higher areas which contain smaller river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

Pasture covers a large part of the western and northern part of the area. There would also be almost an equal amount of coniferous forestry in the area, with a significant area of this in the southeastern corner. Forestry is also found in the western part of the area. Moors and heathland, along with peat bog can also be found, reflective of the elevated nature of parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Contains the villages of Knocknagoshel and Brosna. Outside of these villages housing is dispersed across the area with an absence of housing in forested areas, in particular the southeast corner of the area exhibits a lack of habitation. Wind turbines are found close to the western boundary (12 turbines) and in the southeastern corner of the area (34 turbines). The 220kv transmission line also crosses the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Human intervention exists in a number of ways, roads, housing, wind turbines, and the use of the land, be it for agriculture or coniferous forestry impacting higher parts of the landscape. The area is remote in terms of its distance from the main settlements in the county and in the manner in which it is cut off from the rest of the county by high ground.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

The area falls generally from the south to the north. There would be views from the N21 in this direction.

Sensitivity = Medium / High



Landscape Values

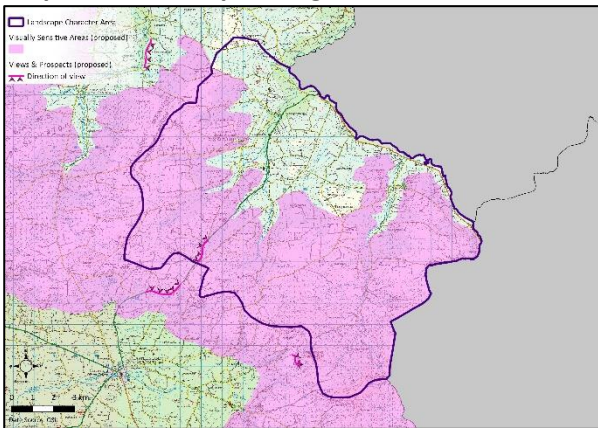
The southeastern corner is designated an area of Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 in the Brosna area. There are also views & prospects on the N21.

This area is in general elevated, with views across the area. A landscape designation could therefore be considered for this area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Low / Medium

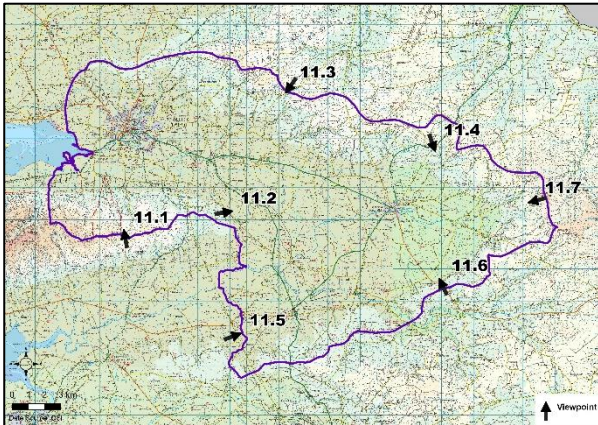
Proposed Landscape Designations



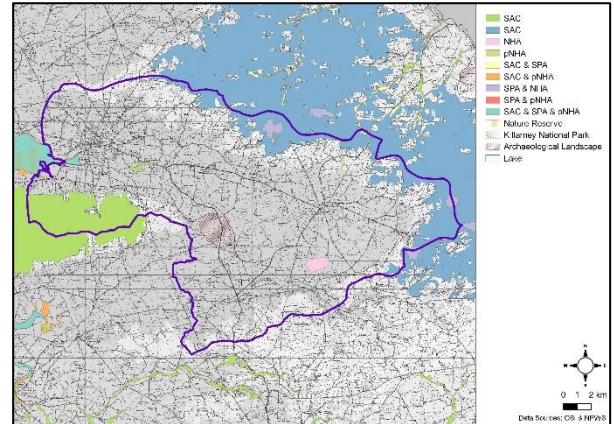


11. Tralee and Castleisland

Area Description



Heritage Designations



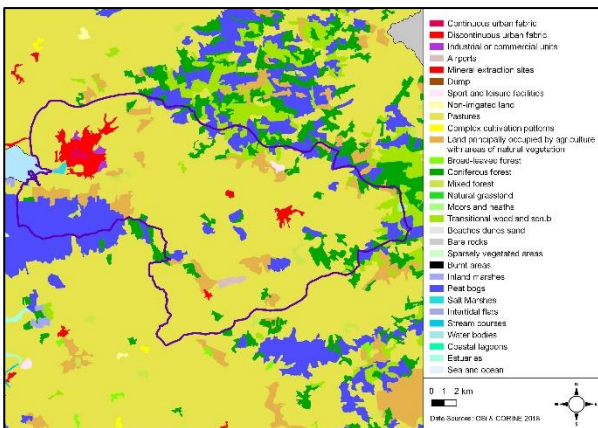
The northern and eastern boundary is formed by the edge of the Stack’s Mountains and includes Ballincollig Hill, Knight’s Mountain, Crinny Mountain and Mount Eagle as you head further east. The western boundary is formed by the Slieve Mish Mountains and Tralee Bay.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 11.1

Area Landcover



Area	341.52km ²
Protected Structures	28
NIAH Structures	16
RMP	1,200
Geological Heritage Sites	6



Viewpoint 11.2



Viewpoint 11.3



Viewpoint 11.6



Viewpoint 11.4



Viewpoint 11.7



Viewpoint 11.5

Context

This area because of its size forms borders with a number of other areas which it may affect the character of. There are similarities in terms of the landscape between these areas. Wind turbines in other areas are visible.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

This area is surrounded by a ridge of mountains, but the remainder of the area is a very wide river valley. The landscape therefore is open as a result. As the area is large and mostly flat, it results in the landscape having a greater ability to relate to development.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landform

The Slieve Mish Mountains are a distinctive landmark in close proximity to Tralee Bay. The flat part of the area contains a number of rivers with the ridge of high ground surrounding the area enclosing the lower area.

Sensitivity = Medium



Landcover

In general pasture covers most of the area. Around the edges other forms of landcover are found such as coniferous forestry on the northern and eastern edges. Peat bog is also found on these edges with some bog also found low lying in the centre of the area. Other landcover types of note include the airport, mineral extraction site and sports and leisure facilities. The field pattern is varied.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

This area contains the towns of Tralee and Castleisland. Outside of these towns rural housing is densely dispersed across the area. There are a number of quarries in the area. Both the 220kv and 110kv transmission lines cross the area. Wind turbines (24) can also be found in the northern part of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a farming landscape which has been subject to long term modification.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

Surrounding most of the area is high ground from which there are views down into the area and across it. Similarly from the lower parts of the area there are views upwards.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

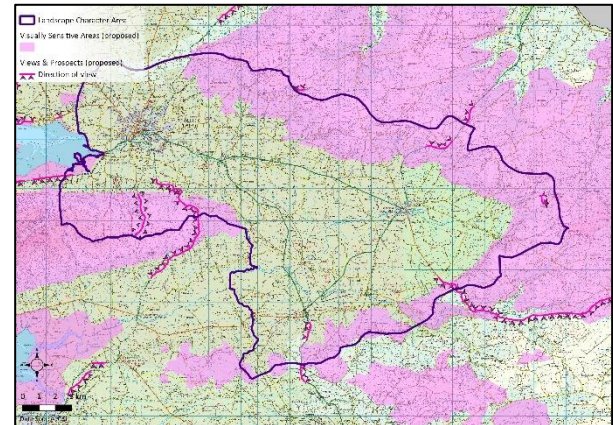
The Slieve Mish and Mount Eagle mountains are designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Views & prospects are found on the N21, N22 and in the Slieve Mish area. There are two archaeological landscapes listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 found in this area.

The sides of the valley provide a setting for the area, a landscape designation could therefore be considered here. The Slieve Mish Mountains and their designation could also be considered. There are views across the area from the N70 and the R577 where views & prospects could be considered.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

Proposed Landscape Designations





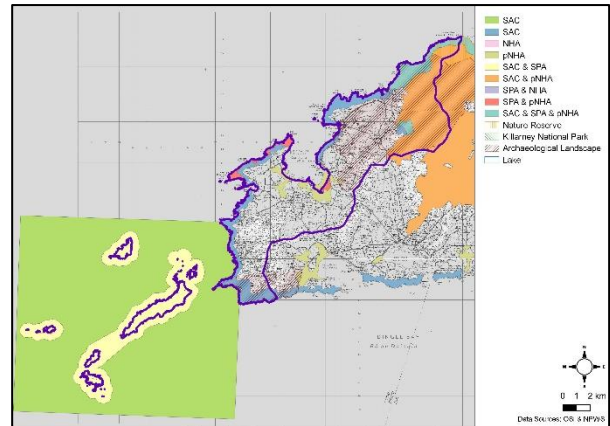
12. Blasket Islands, Smerwick Harbour and Mount Brandon

Area Description



This area is at the northwest end of the Dingle Peninsula and is surrounded by a ridgeline of topography to the south and east. This ridge runs eastwards from Mount Eagle to Ballynana and Reenconnell before continuing to the high ridge between Brandon Peak, Brandon Mountain and Más an Tiompáin before descending to the coastline to the west of Deelick Point. The Blasket Islands located west of Sleá Head also form part of this area.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

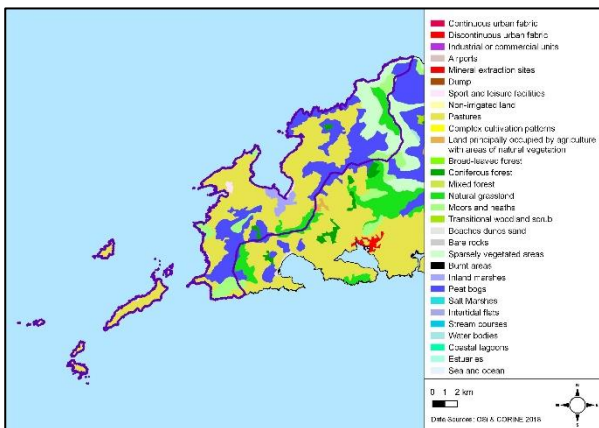


Viewpoint 12.1



Viewpoint 12.2

Area Landcover



Area	112.97km ²
Protected Structures	42
NIAH Structures	11
RMP	1,101
Geological Heritage Sites	12



Viewpoint 12.3



Viewpoint 12.4

Context

Located at the end of the Dingle Peninsula with higher ground separating it from adjacent areas.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Mount Brandon on the eastern side of the area provides a measure of scale for the area. The distance though from the mountains to the sea provides little opportunity for the mountains to lessen the impact of development.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

Contains a number of high mountains with some lower hills in between. These hills slope towards the coast.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

This area contains pasture. There are also areas of moor and heathland, natural grassland, and peat bog. These types of landcover are associated with

the more mountainous parts of the area. The golf course at Ceann Sibéal is classified as Sport and Leisure Facilities. An area of beach/dunes is also identified south of An Mhuiríoch. One area of coniferous forestry can also be seen on the landcover map.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Housing is concentrated in the small villages and on the areas of low ground close to the coast. Holiday homes would be prevalent in the area. There would be an absence of large industrial features in this landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

The mountain areas would be remote and natural with human modification limited to low lying areas. The scale of the mountains along with a dramatic coastline increases their impact on quality.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

Dramatic coastal views, including views towards the Blasket Islands, along with views towards the mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

Mountain Brandon and Mount Eagle both form part of archaeological landscapes as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Large parts of the area are designated Prime and Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Views & prospects area also found on large sections of roads in the area. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area.

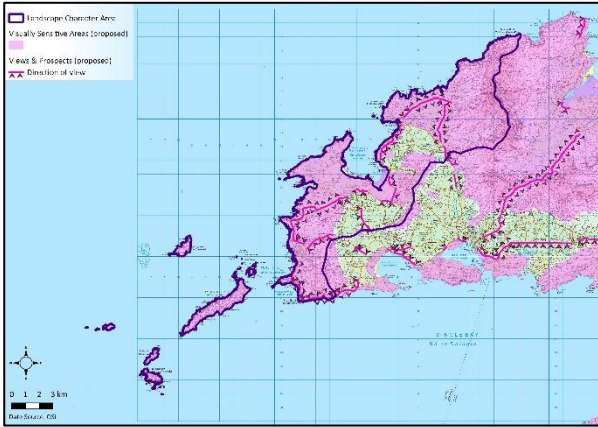
Current amenity designations are sporadic and piecemeal in places. A review of all landscape designations in this area is therefore required to reflect the quality of the landscape in this area.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High



Proposed Landscape Designations





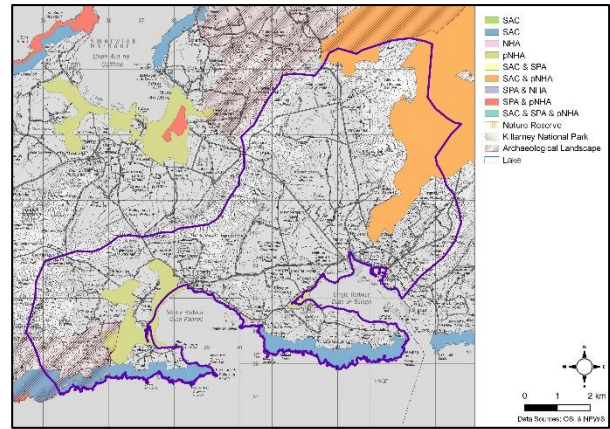
13. Ventry and Dingle Harbours

Area Description



Ridgelines of high topography encircling Ventry and Dingle Harbours form the boundaries to this area. This visual boundary extends from the coastline near Slea Head up to the peak of Mount Eagle, before descending across to Coumaleague Hill and climbing up to the ridge above Rahinnane. It then falls in elevation before rising to the peaks of Leataoibh Meanach, before another valley with the peaks of Ballysitteragh and Beennabrack on the other side. It then heads south from the Conor Pass road and continues along a ridge of topography into Dingle Harbour.

Heritage Designations



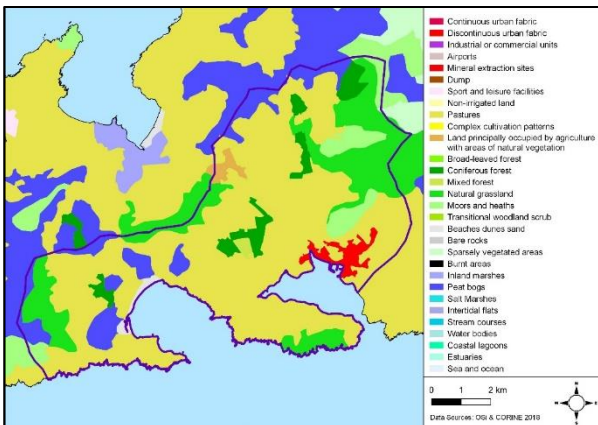
Area	70.72km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	609
Geological Heritage Sites	3

Area Examples



Viewpoint 13.1

Area Landcover





Viewpoint 13.2



Viewpoint 13.3

Context

Located at the end of the Dingle Peninsula with higher ground separating it from adjacent areas.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Mount Eagle (516m) and Ballysitteragh (623m) provide scale at either end of the area. This scale is limited, particularly in the western part of the area, by the proximity of the coastline.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

Area is surrounded by higher ground sloping towards the southern side of the Dingle Peninsula. The Milltown River is located in the eastern part of the area. A headland separates Dingle and Ventry Harbours.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. Some pockets of forestry (coniferous plantations)

can be found in the centre of the area. Peat bog can be found in some low-lying areas and at higher elevations. At higher elevations areas of moors and heathland can be found, along with some natural grassland.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

The town of Dingle is the main settlement in the area along with the village of Ceann Trá. Rural housing is concentrated in coastal areas. Apart from an industrial estate outside of Dingle large industrial type features would be absent from this landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

The mountain areas would be remote and natural with human modification limited to low lying areas. The scale of the mountains along with a dramatic coastline increases their impact on quality.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

Dramatic coastal views, including views out over Dingle and Ventry Harbours, along with views towards the mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

An archaeological landscape is listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 at Mount Eagle. There are areas of Prime and Secondary Special Amenity as designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, both in coastal and mountain areas. The Sleah Head road would have a number of views & prospects and is an important tourist route on the peninsula. The Wild Atlantic Way also passes through the area.

Parts of this area are currently subject to amenity designations. Due to the quality of the landscape in parts of this area, a review of all landscape designations is therefore required, particularly in coastal and elevated areas.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High



Proposed Landscape Designations



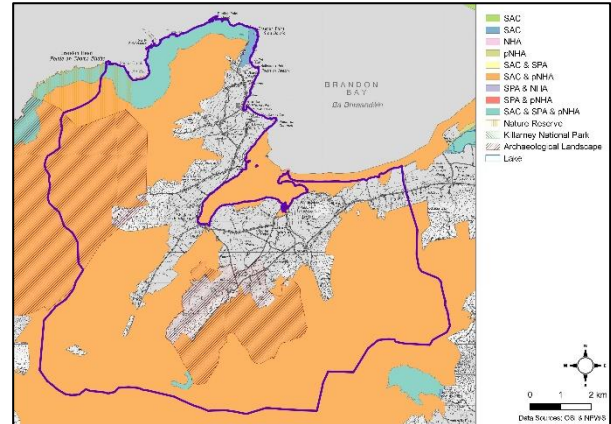


14. Brandon Bay

Area Description



Heritage Designations



This area centred on Brandon Bay and the valley of the Owenmore River is ringed by mountains. The boundary extends from the coast at Brandon Head to the mountain range between Ballysitteragh and Brandon Peak (including Brandon Mountain) before heading east to Connor Hill and Slievanea. From here the topography weaves north eastwards to Stradbally Mountain before descending to the coast west of Stradbally.

Area Examples

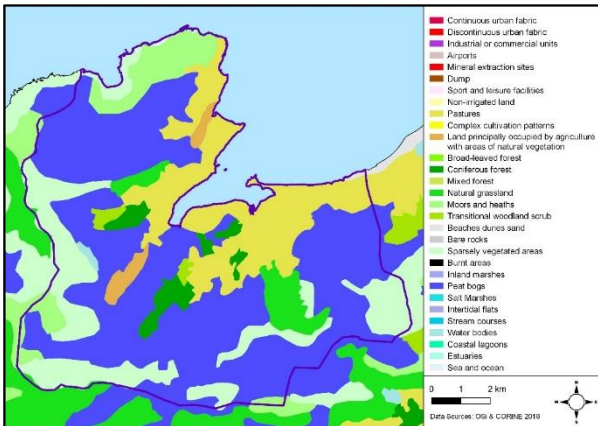


Viewpoint 14.1



Viewpoint 14.2

Area Landcover



Area	105.81km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	300
Geological Heritage Sites	4



Viewpoint 14.3

Context

Generally isolated from surrounding areas due to very high ridges separating it from its neighbours, along with Brandon Bay to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Brandon Mountain (952m) on the western side of the area has an associated ridge generally over 750m in height. The southern side of the area contains a ridge of around 500-600m in height as far as Beenoskee (826m). This high topography results in there being a narrow area between the mountains and the coastline.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

High topography surrounds the area with numerous glaciated valleys and the larger Owenmore River Valley. There are sharp changes in elevation with the mountains and valleys having steep sides.

Sensitivity = High

Landcover

In general pasture in this area is limited to an area close to the coastline. The more elevated areas are either peat bog, of which there are significant areas, or areas of moors and heathland. There are a number of lakes in the area. Finally, coniferous forestry can also be found.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Very much concentrated on the coastline with very limited settlement on higher ground away from the coast. An absence of any industrial features.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

There is some forestry in the area but there is an absence of human impact in most of the area. Generally considered to be remote given the mountainous nature.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

As much of the area is mountainous with not many features to interrupt views, visibility would be high in these areas. There are views from the coast inland, there would therefore be visual amenity from this direction, and also from the Conor Pass towards the coast.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

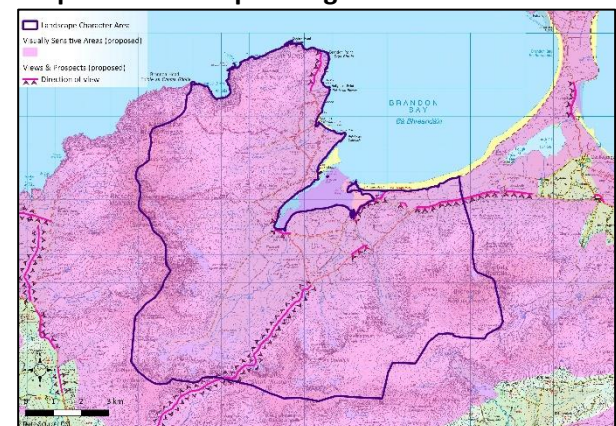
Has a high recreational value, the Conor Pass is located in the southwest corner of the area, with the Wild Atlantic Way passing through the area. The Conor Pass road is an important tourist route, with large sections designated Views & Prospects in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. The majority of the area is either Prime or Secondary Special Amenity as designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. An archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 is also found in the area.

A large part of this area is currently subject to amenity designations. The extent and type of these designations could be reviewed to reflect the quality of this landscape.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

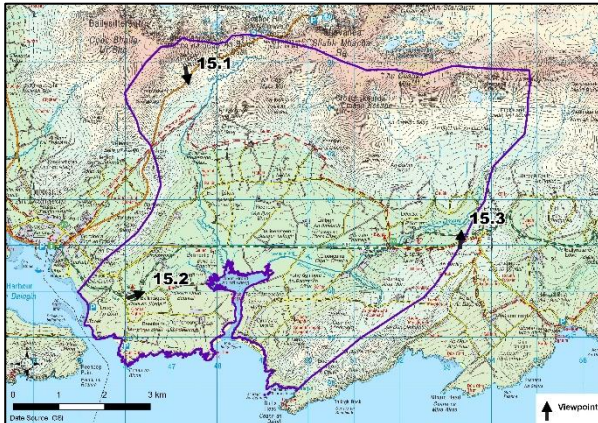
Proposed Landscape Designations





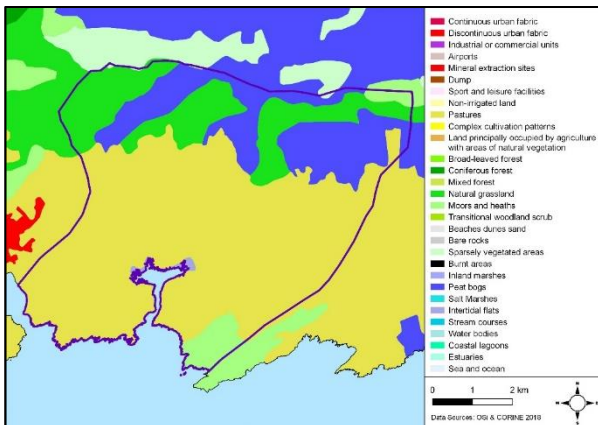
15. Garfinny and Owenalondrig River Valleys

Area Description

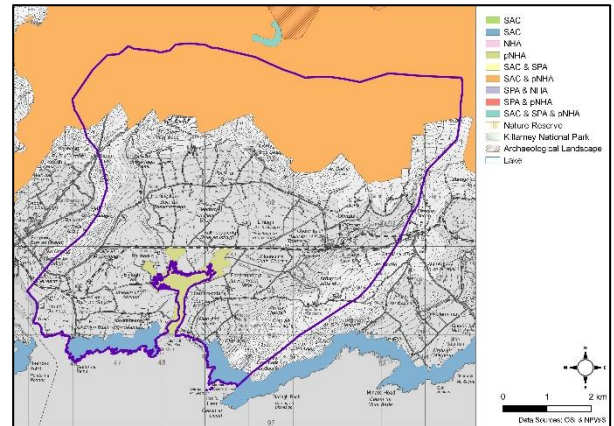


Consists of high topography surrounding the valley of the Owenalondrig and Garfinny Rivers. This high topography rises from the sea at Bull’s Head to Na Dunta Thiar before continuing northeastwards rising up to Cnoc Mhaoilionáin. The boundary then continues westwards along the mountain ridge to An Cnapán Mór, Croaghskearda and Slievanea before crossing the Conor Pass and rising to Beennabrack. The boundary created by the ridge of topography then continues southwards to the Sugar Loaf and on to near the mouth of Dingle Harbour to the east of Dingle.

Area Landcover



Heritage Designations



Area	48.71km ²
Protected Structures	4
NIAH Structures	3
RMP	358
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Area Examples



Viewpoint 15.1



Viewpoint 15.2



Viewpoint 15.3

Context

Would share characteristics with the adjoining areas to the east and west but separated from them by topography.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

The high mountains on the northern boundary of the area provide scale. They range in height from 600 - 650m. The proximity of the coastline also affects scale.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

River valleys meeting at an estuary surrounded by a high ridge of mountains to the north, with lower ridges to the east and west. This encloses the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. The remainder of the area, which equates to approximately the northern third of the area which is also the more mountainous part of the area, is either peat bog or moors and heathland. Field boundaries contain limited numbers of trees, therefore screening in the area is reduced.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Contains the settlement of Lios Póil. Housing is found in the valley, the lower parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The mountains that surround the area give it a natural and dramatic setting. The coast also contributes to the perception of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

The bowl type shape of the area results in views across the area from both sides, towards the coast and the mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

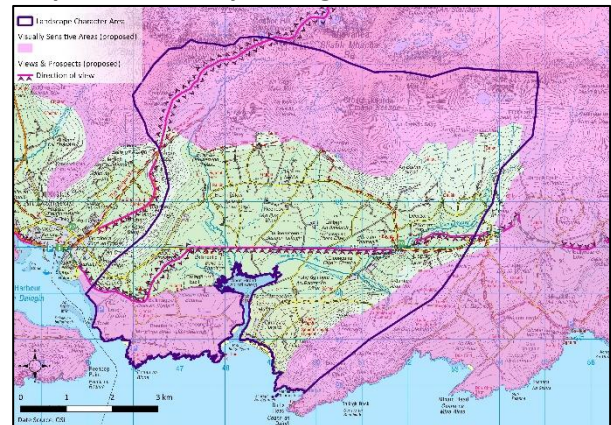
The mountains are designated as Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects on the N86 towards the coast and the mountains. The Conor Pass road is of extremely high tourism importance. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area.

The southern part of this area forms the north coast of Dingle Bay. Due to its coastal setting a review of landscape designations in this part of the area could be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

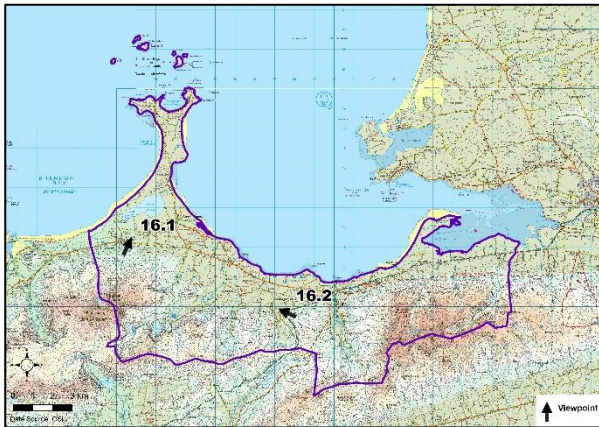
Proposed Landscape Designations





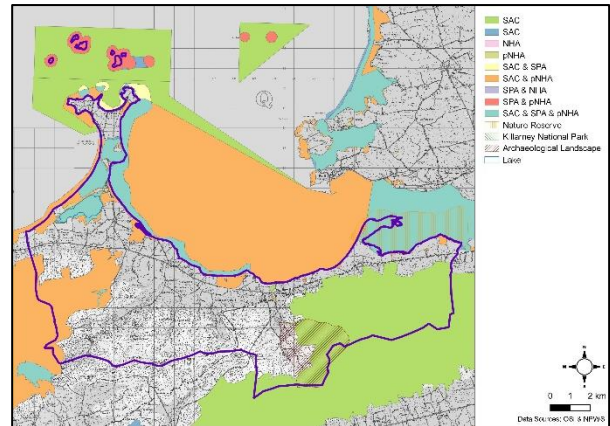
16. Tralee Bay, The Maharees and Northern Slieve Mish Mountains

Area Description



This area overlooks Tralee Bay. The boundary extends eastwards from Stradbally Mountain including the area of the Maharees to the north, before linking to the ridge of mountains which form a central east-west spine along the Dingle Peninsula running from Reamore to Knockbrack and the ridge of Slieve Mish Mountains. A series of steep river valleys flow from the mountains and upland loughs into Tralee Bay.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

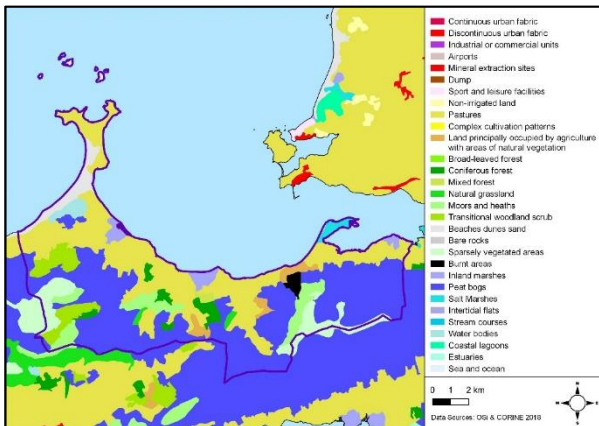


Viewpoint 16.1



Viewpoint 16.2

Area Landcover



Area	121.84km ²
Protected Structures	11
NIAH Structures	8
RMP	356
Geological Heritage Sites	6



Context

Visible across Brandon and Tralee Bays, development in this area could therefore affect the character of these areas.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

The high mountains on the southern boundary of the area provide scale but the proximity of the coast must also be taken account of.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

A high ridge of mountains dominates the southern part of the area. The Maharees north of Castlegregory is a flat coastal area defined by extensive sand dune systems. Glacial valleys are also found in the mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

Landcover is differentiated in this area by elevation. The lower parts of the area are pasture, lakes, or beaches/dunes. The higher areas are mainly peat bog, with some areas of natural grassland, and moors and heathland. Coniferous forestry can also be found in the western and central parts of the area. Trees on field boundaries would be low.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Built Environment

The main villages are Castlegregory and Camp. Rural housing is concentrated in the coastal area with a large number of holiday homes in the Maharees along with some caravan parks along the coast.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

It is a coastal area with long beaches with the proximity of the mountains enhancing the naturalness of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views from the main road through the area, which is the N86 in the eastern part, towards the coast and the mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

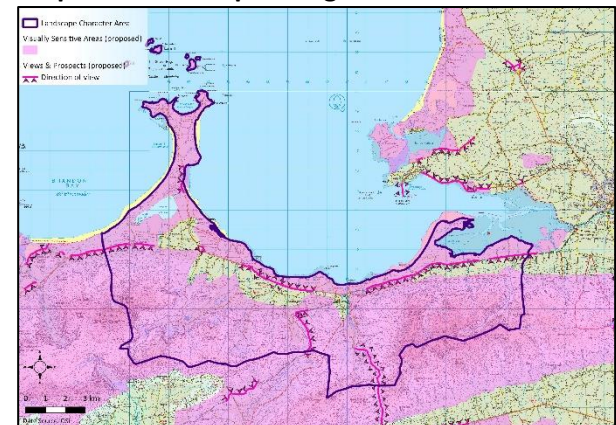
The mountains and parts of the coastline are designated as Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 with other areas Secondary Special Amenity. Large sections of road are designated views & prospects. The Wild Atlantic Way also passes through the area.

Large parts of this area are subject to designations but due to the quality of the landscape, in particular the elevated and coastal areas, a revision of these designations could be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

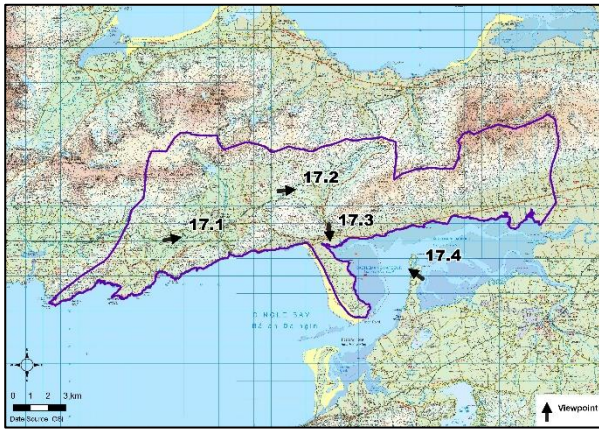
Proposed Landscape Designations





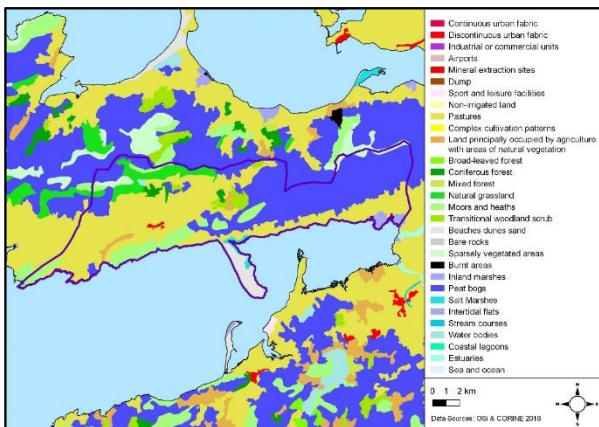
17. Annascaul, Inch and Southern Slieve Mish Mountains

Area Description

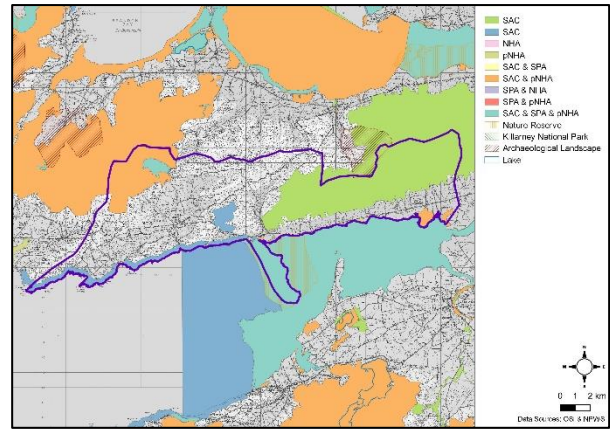


This area is centred on the settlement of Annascaul and encompasses the river valleys of the River Owenascaul with its tributaries and the Emlagh River. The boundary is formed by high topography rising from the coast at Bull’s Head to the mountain of Cnoc Mhaolionáin, from where it continues eastwards, skirting the crest above Lough Anscaul and following the ridge of mountains to Knocknakilton and Knockbeg to Knockbrack and Lack Mountain. From here it heads southwards where it meets the sea between Fybagh and Boolteens.

Area Landcover



Heritage Designations



Area	145.2km ²
Protected Structures	2
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	486
Geological Heritage Sites	8

Area Examples



Viewpoint 17.1



Viewpoint 17.2



Viewpoint 17.3



Viewpoint 17.4

Context

As the area is enclosed by mountains it is relatively isolated apart from on its eastern side. With Dingle Bay/Castlemaine Harbour being narrow, development in this area could have an affect across this body of water.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Mountains provide scale, but the coastline is in close proximity for most parts of the area. Inland the river valleys are also enclosed.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

High mountain ridges with glaciated valleys, of which there is a fine example to the north of Annascaul. A large area of sand dunes can also be found at Inch.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

The river valleys and the coastal zone in the eastern part of the area are pasture. Some areas of moors and heathland along with natural grassland are found, on elevated ground. Coniferous forestry is located in the central part of the area. Peat bog dominates at higher elevations, particularly in the eastern half of the area. Beaches and dunes are found at Inch.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Annascaul is the main settlement in the area with some tourist related development in the Inch area. Housing is concentrated on lower elevations and along the coast.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

The mountains are natural, but the areas of coniferous forestry do have the effect of reducing this naturalness. The coastline is dramatic with the sand dunes at Inch being a prominent feature.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are wide ranging views from the coast road across the bay/harbour and also towards the mountains. The N86 also has important views.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

Higher areas are designated as Prime and Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, with coastal areas having similar designations. There are views & prospects from the coast road and on the N86. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area.

Existing designations are limited to some coastal areas. Due to the quality of the landscape, its coastal setting and elevated areas, a review of these designations could be considered.

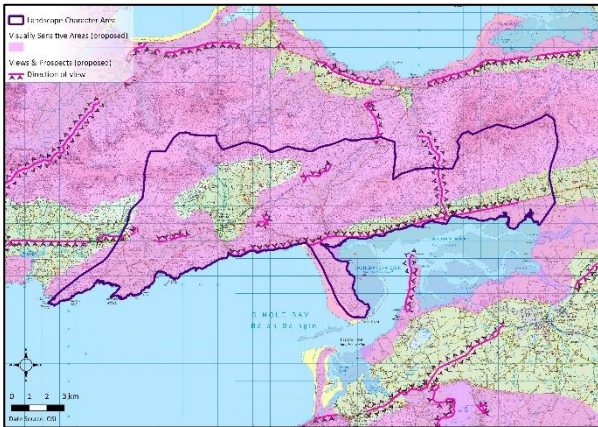
Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *High*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.



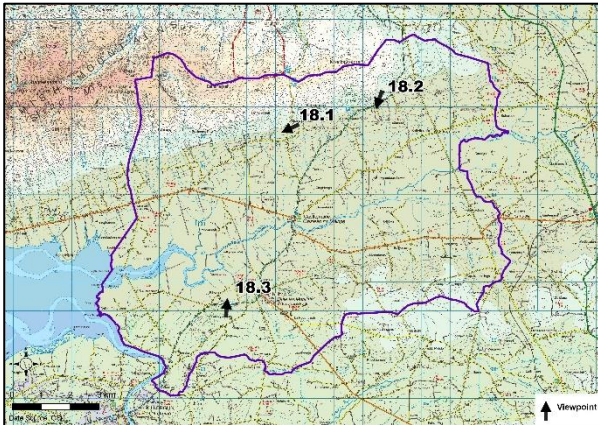
Proposed Landscape Designations





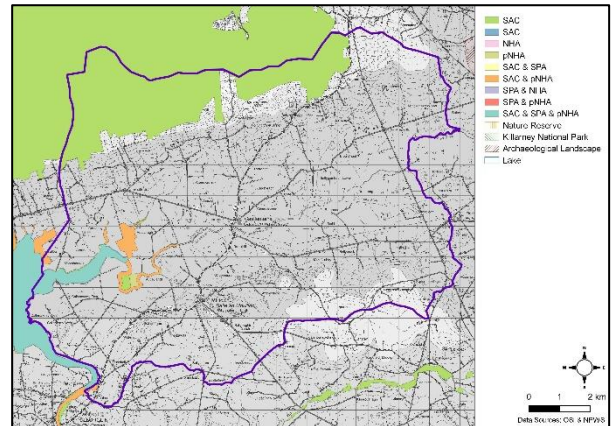
18. Milltown and Castlemaine

Area Description



Laghtacallow Point defines the western limit of this area. To the east of this point the area is characterised by a flat plain between the hills and the bay. The northern boundary ends on the lower slopes of the Slieve Mish Mountains. The southern boundary is a low ridge of hills that run in an easterly direction from Milltown.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

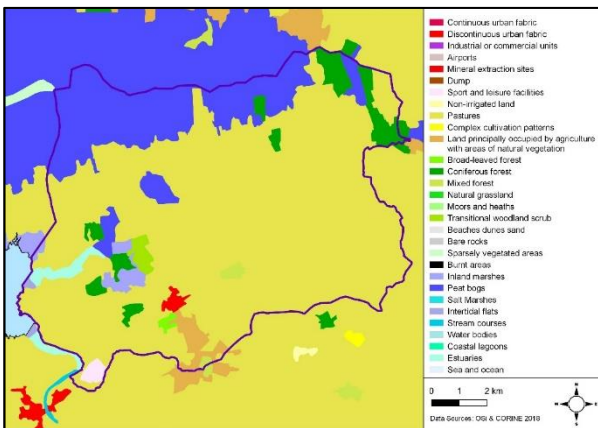


Viewpoint 18.1



Viewpoint 18.2

Area Landcover



Area	117.87km ²
Protected Structures	14
NIAH Structures	5
RMP	241
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 18.3

Context

It shares characteristics with some of the areas surrounding it, in particular the areas to the east and south.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

The mountains (340 - 597m) on the northern side of the area create a measure of scale. The ridge on the southern side of the area would be lower. The area is large with the central part low lying.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landform

A ridge of mountains on the northern boundary slopes southwards to the River Maine. The river valley is enclosed by a low ridge on the southern boundary of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. The northern edges are peat bog reflecting its elevated nature. Some areas of forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found. Associated with the main water body, the River Maine, there are inland marshes. Field sizes differ depending on the location, with larger fields found in the southern part of the area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Contains the villages of Milltown and Castlemaine. Outside of the villages rural housing is concentrated along the road network. There would be an absence of housing in the mountains and close to the River Maine.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

This area is at the start of Castlemaine Harbour enclosed by mountains which contribute to its setting. It is mostly a farming landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

From the N70 there are views to the south as far as MacGillycuddy’s Reeks and westwards to the sea. There are views of the Slieve Mish mountains from the Fieries-Castlemaine road (R561).

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

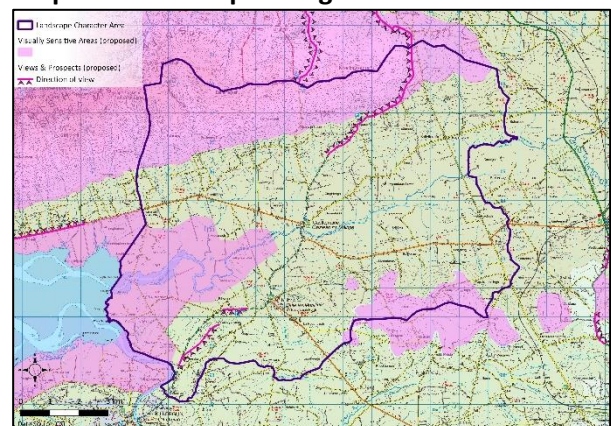
The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area. The mountains are designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects to the west of Milltown on the N70.

Designations in this area are limited to elevated areas associated with the Slieve Mish Mountains. The River Maine enters Dingle Bay on the western side of the area. Elevated areas on the southern side of the area also provide a setting to the River Maine Valley. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered. There are extensive views across the area from sections of the N70, including the new section of road between Milltown and Killorglin where views & prospects could be considered.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

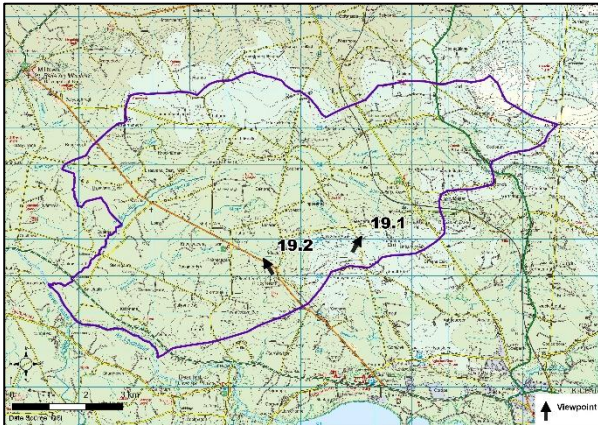
Proposed Landscape Designations





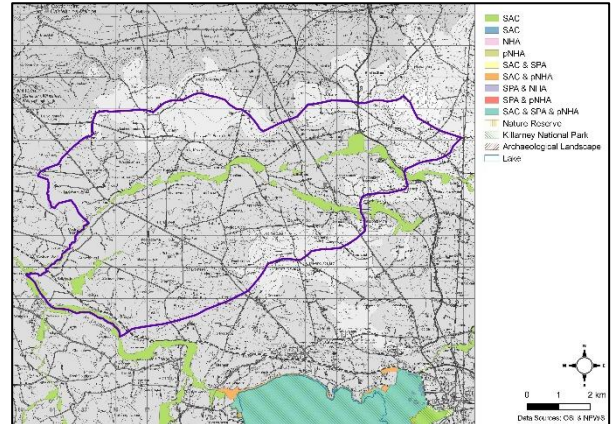
19. Gweestin River Valley

Area Description



This area extends from the River Laune where it meets the Gweestin River in an easterly direction as far as the N22, taking in the small settlements of Listry, Faha and Ballyhar. The northern boundary of the area is formed by a low ridge, with a ridge also defining the southern boundary.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

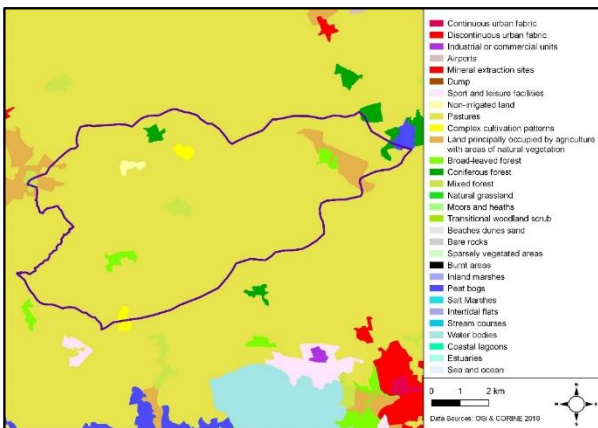


Viewpoint 19.1



Viewpoint 19.2

Area Landcover



Area	61.11km ²
Protected Structures	2
NIAH Structures	1
RMP	308
Geological Heritage Sites	5

Context

Shares similar landscape characteristics with adjoining areas. The boundaries between the areas are also not distinctive.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Scale

There are no large features in this landscape. The area is generally low lying in the central part of it. As the area is large and mostly flat, it results in the landscape having a greater ability to relate to development.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

There are low ridges on the northern and southern sides of the area which enclose the Gweestin River. Smaller river valleys are also found.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. Some pockets of woodland/forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found. Field boundaries do include trees which would aid screening.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Contains small villages, namely Faha, Listry and Ballyhar. Outside of these settlements along the road network there would be one-off housing. The Tralee-Killarney rail line also passes through the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

This is a landscape characterised by farming, it therefore is a landscape that has been subject to change.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

As the Gweestin River is enclosed there are skylines on the south and northern sides of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

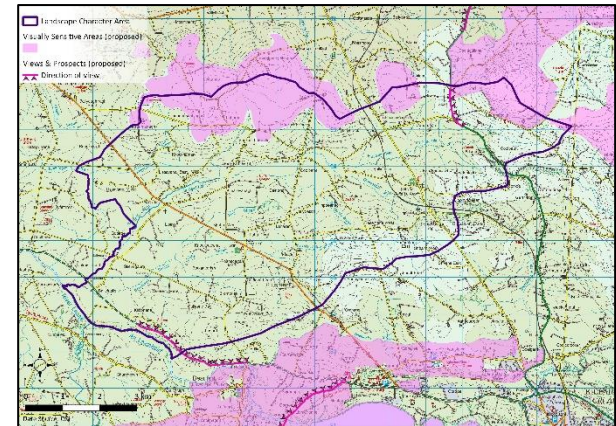
There are views & prospects from the N72 in a southerly direction across the River Laune to MacGillycuddy’s Reeks.

There are no amenity designations in the area. Elevated areas in the northern part of the area provide a setting to this river valley. A review of landscape designations could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

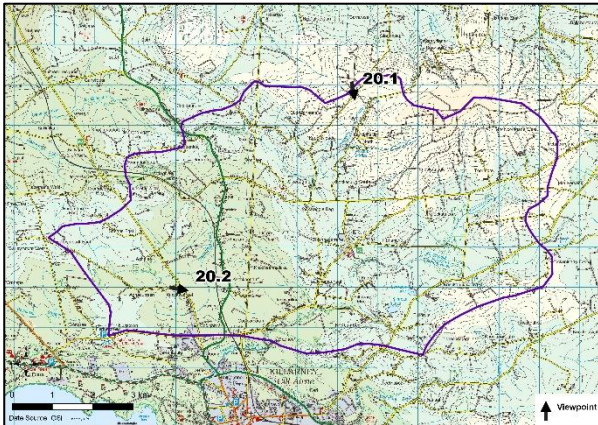
Proposed Landscape Designations





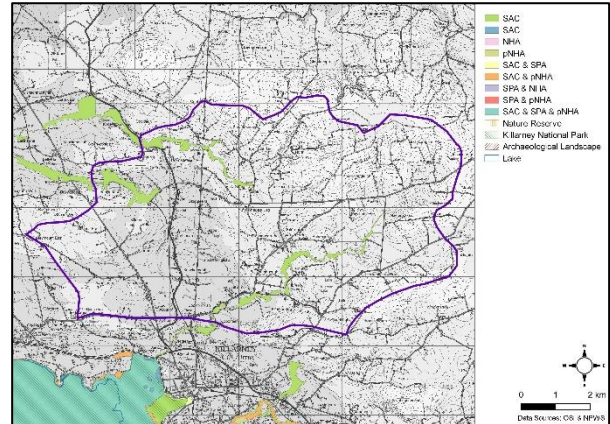
20. Deenagh and Glanoragh River Valleys

Area Description



The northern boundary of the area is defined by the high line of hills that are located between Kilcummin and Currow. They rise to a height of over 300 metres. The southern boundary is the urban boundary with the town of Killarney. A low ridge to the east of Kilcummin, around Mastergeeha, is the eastern boundary and the western boundary is marked by the low hills that run in a northerly direction from Aghadoe.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

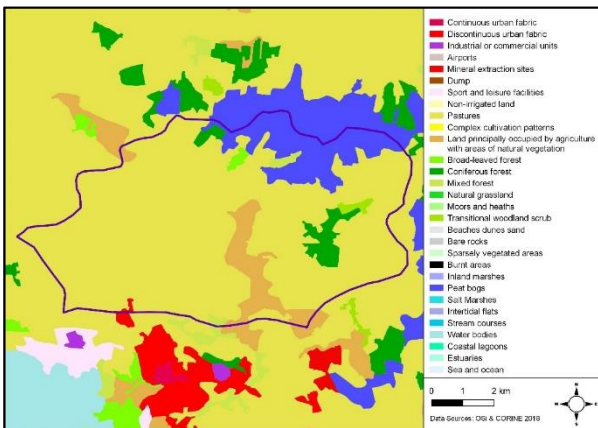


Viewpoint 20.1



Viewpoint 20.2

Area Landcover



Area	60.95km ²
Protected Structures	1
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	453
Geological Heritage Sites	2

Context

There are subtle changes in topography between this area and adjoining areas, with there being similar landscape characteristics.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Scale

There is higher ground (329m) in the northern part of the area with the remainder of the area generally over 100m in height. There are a number of river valleys and small hills in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

The northern part of the area is an elevated landscape which is visible from large parts of the area, a landscape designation could therefore be considered in this area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landform

Higher ground in the northern part of the area with lands then falling in a southerly direction. The area is dissected by the Deenagh River and the Glanooragh River. Low ridges separate river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

The majority of the area is pasture. Some areas of transitional woodland scrub, which would include young plantations of coniferous forestry are located in the eastern and northern parts of the area. Peat bogs are also found covering the elevated ground in the northern part of the area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

The main settlement is Kilcummin. As this area is in close proximity to Killarney there is a high density of rural housing. The Tralee-Killarney rail line runs through the area. There is a 110kv transmission line running through the area.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

A farming landscape that has the signs of human modification.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

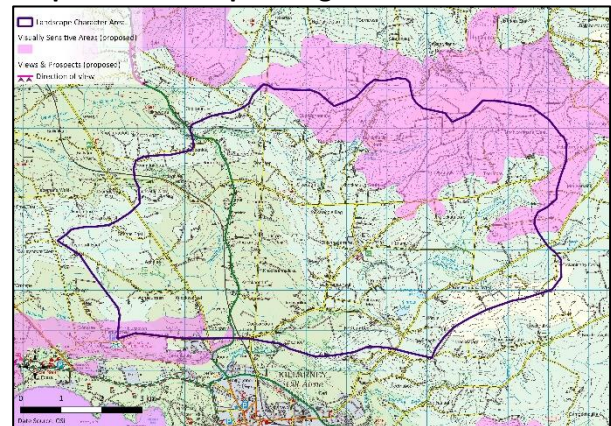
From the N21 there are views southwards towards MacGillycuddy’s Reeks. Due to the general fall in the area from north to south, there are views towards the Reeks from large parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

The higher ground in the northeast corner of the area is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, with Secondary Special Amenity also found in the Aghadoe area. There are small lakes (Kilbrean and Lackagh Lakes) near Kilcummin, these would be an uncommon landscape feature outside of the mountains.

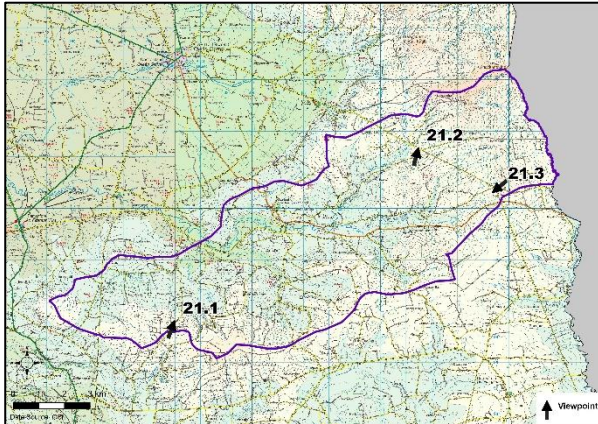
Proposed Landscape Designations



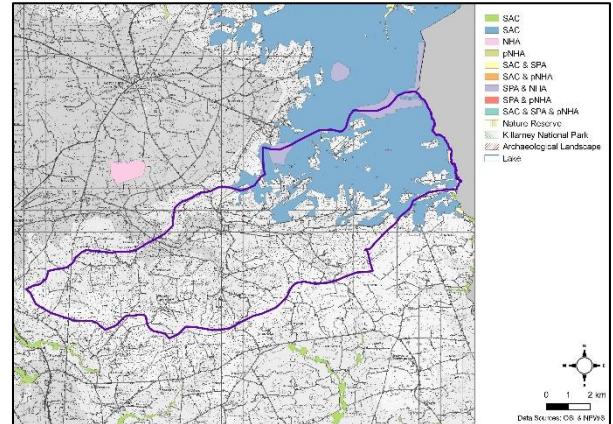


21. The Brown Flesk River Valley

Area Description



Heritage Designations



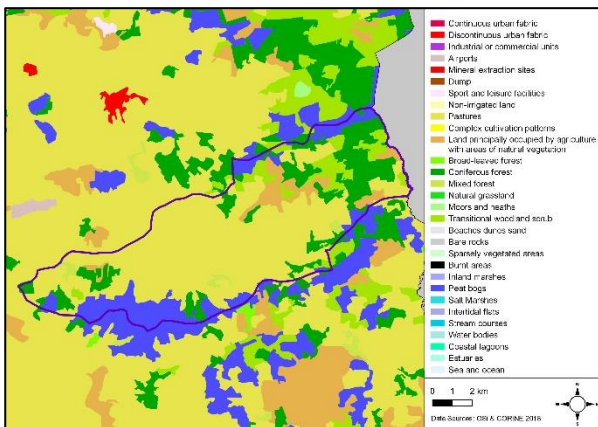
This area is centred on the Brown Flesk River valley. The Glantane River valley also forms part of the area. It extends from Newmarket Cross Roads in the northeast in a westerly direction as far as Currow Hill. A low ridge of topography defines the northern boundary and a higher ridge of topography defines the southern boundary. The River Blackwater forms the county boundary with Cork to the east, with the source of this river being in the area. It would include the summits of Knockfeha (451m) and Knockanefune (438m).

Area Examples



Viewpoint 21.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 21.2

Area	95.44km ²
Protected Structures	3
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	128
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 21.3

Context

Shares characteristics with adjoining areas to the north and south but due to topography is visually separated from them to some degree.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Scale

The steeply sided river valleys create a sense of scale combined with the more elevated parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landform

Ridges are dissected by a number of river valleys. These separate the various parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

Pasture is the main landcover in the central part of the area. The eastern side of the area is characterised by forestry and peat bogs. A similar pattern is exhibited in the western part of the area, which reflects the topography of the area. Forestry plantations in the area have matured resulting in an increase in their height and subsequently an increase in their impact on the landscape.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Scartaglin is the main village in the area with housing dispersed across the area. Due to the remoteness of the area housing density would be lower than areas closer to Tralee and Killarney.

Wind turbines (20) are found in Barna and Baraveha. The 220kv transmission line crosses the area in the east and the 110kv transmission line

runs north/south through the western part of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

This is a remote area characterised by farming in the southern part of the area and by coniferous forestry plantations in the north.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Visual Amenity

There are views from the R577 as it goes through the Brown Flesk River valley. Due to the changes in elevation across the area this leads to the creation of views.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

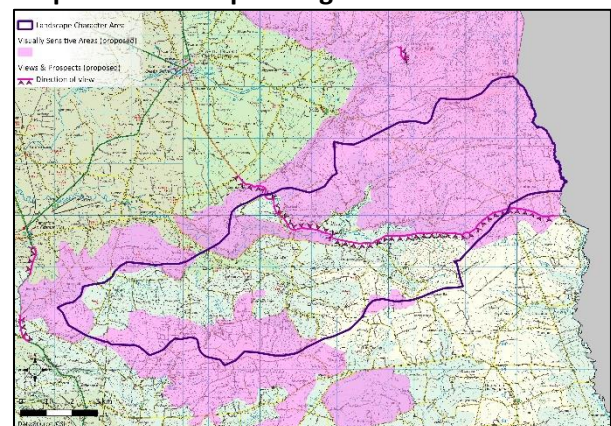
Areas designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 as Secondary Special Amenity along the Brown Flesk River, on ridge to south, and a large area in northeast corner. The sensitivity of some of these areas would be affected by the planting of forestry.

There are views from the R577 on the Scartaglin to Ballydesmond road, consideration could therefore be given to designating this section of road for views & prospects. The undulating and elevated nature of the landscape makes this area worthy of consideration for a landscape designation.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

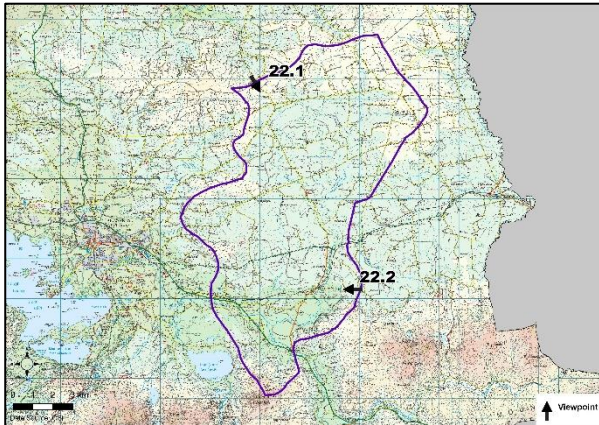
Proposed Landscape Designations



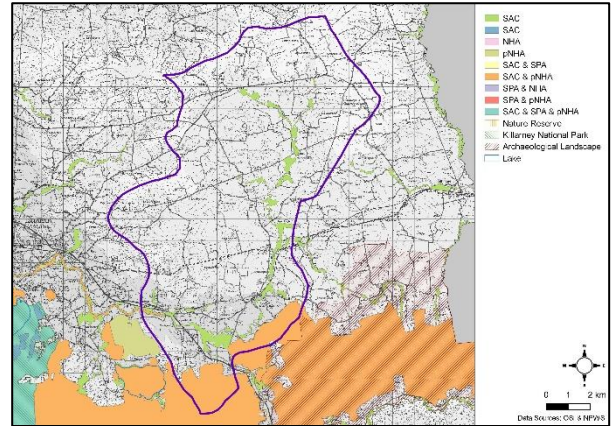


22. Quagmire and Owneyskeagh Rivers

Area Description



Heritage Designations



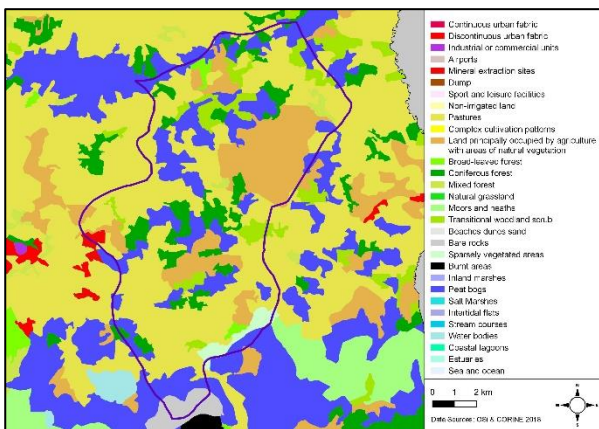
This area comprises a broad flat valley centred on the Quagmire River surrounded by a ring of hills to the west Ballahacommane (256m) and Knockaninane West (246m), north (Knockataggle More, 329m) and northeast (Barna, 321m) with more subtle changes in topography linking the area to Crohane via Glenflesk after crossing the River Flesk Valley in the south. The Quagmire River feeds into the Owneysekagh River which in turn joins the River Flesk in the southern part of the area.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 22.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 22.2

Area	115.7km ²
Protected Structures	1
NIAH Structures	1
RMP	120
Geological Heritage Sites	1



Context

Adjoining areas would contribute to the character and setting of this area. Subtle changes in topography mean that development in this area would affect adjoining areas.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Changes in topography are gentle with the central part of the area being level.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Focused on the rivers that feed the River Flesk in the southwestern corner of the area. The river valley narrows south of Barraduff but to the north it is wider with the landscape more open.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

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.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Barraduff is a village found in the area. Rural housing is denser in the southwestern part of the area which is close to the town of Killarney. The main Cork-Killarney road (N22) is located in the southern part of the area with the Killarney-Mallow train line crossing the centre of the area. A 110kv transmission line is also found in the south of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The land is generally marginal with areas of forestry. Southern areas being more of a farming landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

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.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

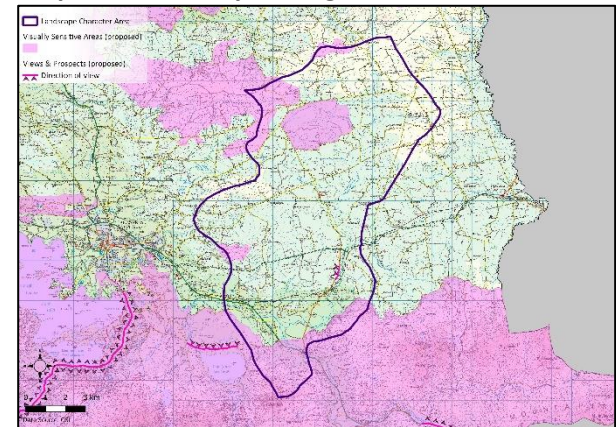
Crohane is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, as is an area in Annaghbeg. There are views & prospects on the Barraduff-Glenflesk road (R570) in the direction of The Paps.

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 Ballahacommane could also be considered for a landscape designation.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

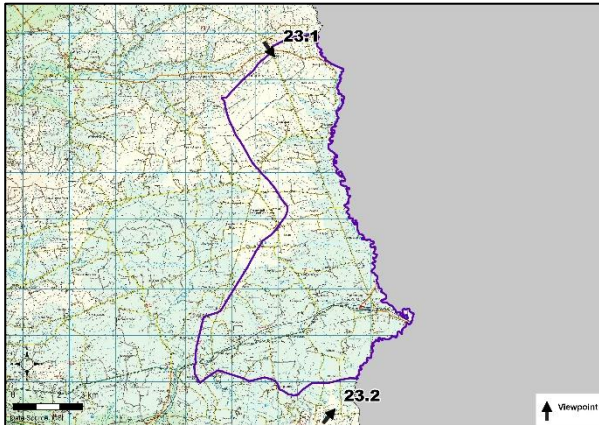
Proposed Landscape Designations





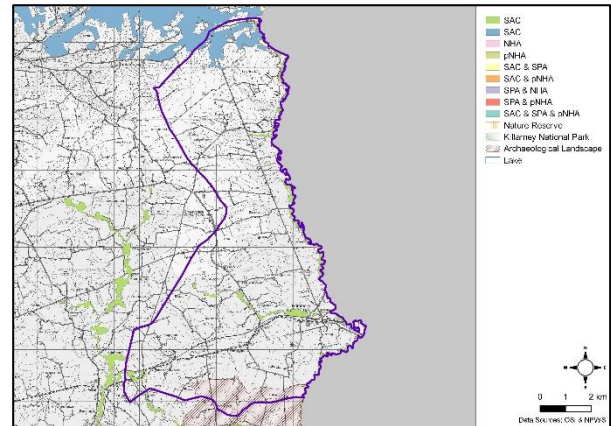
23. River Blackwater and Rathmore

Area Description



This area runs parallel to the River Blackwater which forms the boundary with County Cork to the east. High topography delineates the northern boundary. This northern boundary generally follows the R577. Barna (320m) marks the northwest corner, and the boundary then generally heads in a southerly direction towards the Paps as far as Shrone. More subtle changes in topography delineate the southern half of the western boundary to this area.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

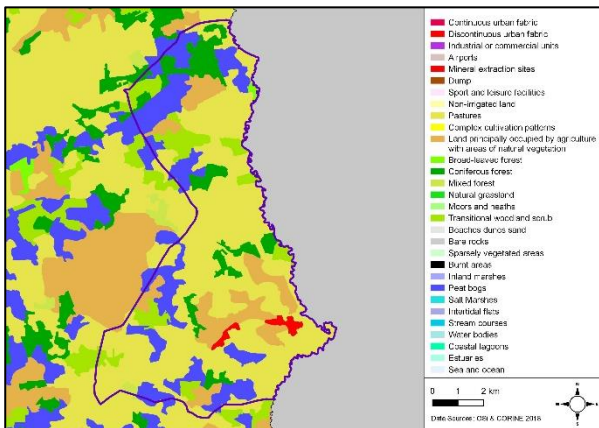


Viewpoint 23.1



Viewpoint 23.2

Area Landcover



Area	73.05km ²
Protected Structures	0
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	70
Geological Heritage Sites	1

Context

Would share characteristics with neighbouring areas as well as having similar landscape characteristics to County Cork to the east.

Sensitivity = Medium



Scale

There is limited change in elevation in the area but with higher ground to the north, this contributes towards a measure of scale.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

The highest part of the area is in the north with it being 321m high. In between it and the southern part of the area, which is lower, there is undulation brought about by a number of river valleys draining eastwards to the River Blackwater which marks the eastern boundary of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

Predominantly agricultural land (pasture) but large areas of coniferous forestry plantations and some areas of bog. Forestry and bog is concentrated in the northern and southern parts, but forestry can be found throughout the area.

Sensitivity = Low

Built Environment

Linear housing development along the road network in the area with less housing found in more remote parts. The 220kv transmission line passes through the northern part of the area with an associated substation near Ballydesmond. There is an existing wind farm in the northeast corner of the area with another wind farm permitted to the east and south of it.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Due to the level of human intervention, housing, wind farms and forestry, this area’s perception has been lowered.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenities

The topography of the area allows for long vistas, in addition to views from outside the area. The Paps Mountains to the south are visible from large parts of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

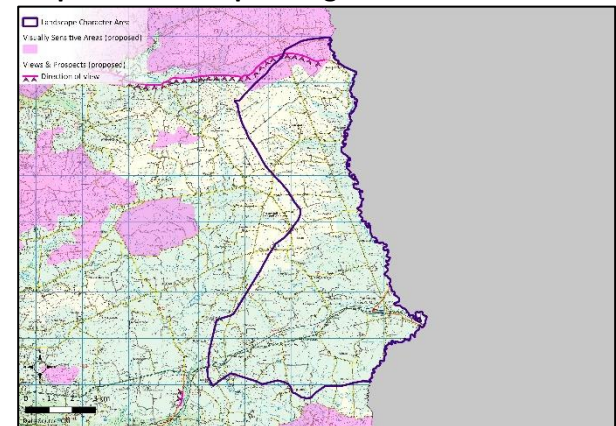
Part of the Paps archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 extends into the southern part of this area. There are no other designations as included in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.

There are views from the R577 Scartaglin to Ballydesmond road, consideration could therefore be given to designating a section of this road for views & prospects.

Sensitivity = Medium

Overall Sensitivity = Medium

Proposed Landscape Designations





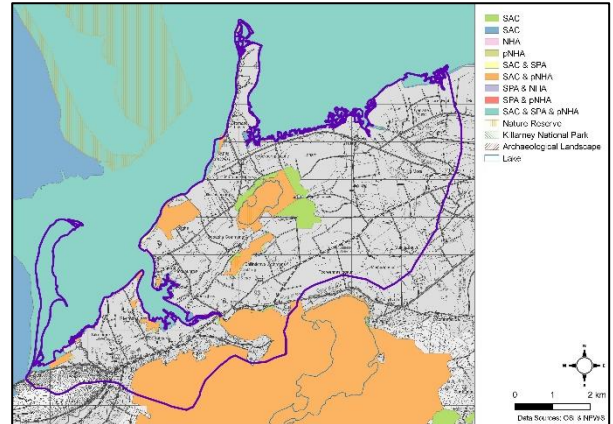
24. Rossbeigh and Cromane

Area Description



Most of the area is relatively flat below a backdrop of some high hills to the south. It adjoins Castlemaine Harbour and extends from Rosbehy Point to the west of Glenbeigh to Seefin (493m). The boundary then continues to the north of Caragh Lake and across to high ground to the west of Killorglin.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

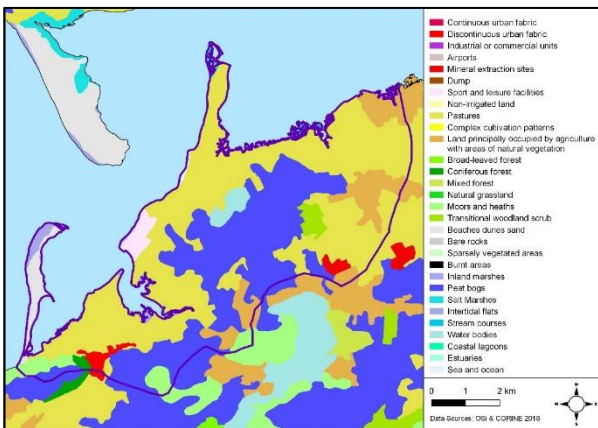


Viewpoint 24.1



Viewpoint 24.2

Area Landcover



Area	48.42km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	1
RMP	23
Geological Heritage Sites	5



Context

Topography separates this area from adjoining areas to the south but there would be links to the adjoining area to the east and also across Castlemaine Harbour.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Limited area between high ground to the south and Castlemaine Harbour to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

Mostly a low-lying area with some higher ground on the southern boundary of the area. Also contains Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

Pasture covers areas close to the coastline and in the eastern part of the area. The central and more elevated areas are peat bog. Beach and dunes are found in Rossbeigh in the west of the area. Some moors and heathland are found in the east and south of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Contains the villages of Glenbeigh and Cromane. A high number of houses are found along the road network outside of the villages, with a significant number of holiday homes in the area. There is a golf course adjacent to the coastline at Dooks.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

A coastal landscape with areas of bog increasing the naturalness of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

Views across Castlemaine Harbour and south towards mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

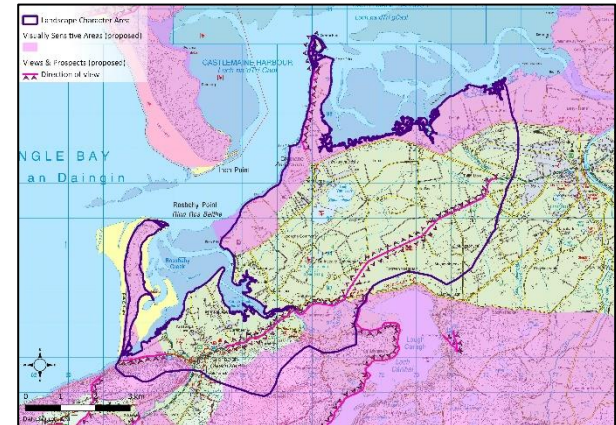
Areas designated along the coast as Prime and Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, and there is also Secondary Special Amenity on the Caragh Lake side of the area. Views & prospects can be found along most of the N70 Ring of Kerry road. This road also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way.

The northern part of this area bounds Castlemaine Harbour and includes the distinctive Cromane Peninsula. The southern part of the area borders the Caragh Lake area and includes the slopes of Seefin. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered. There are views from Cromane across Castlemaine Harbour, consideration could therefore be given to designating these as views & prospects.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

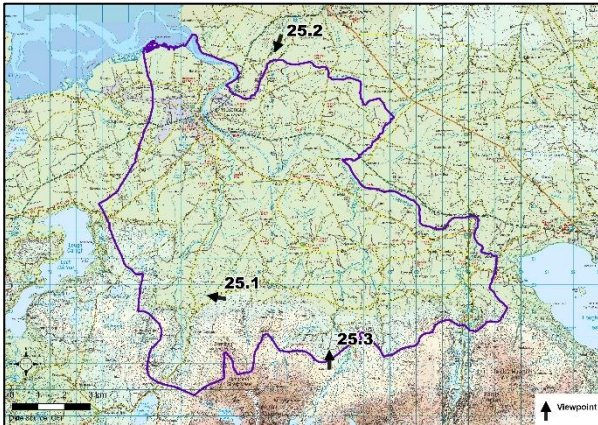
Proposed Landscape Designations





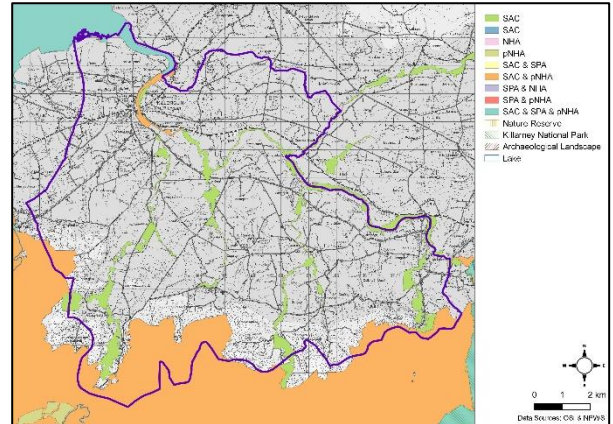
25. Killorglin and Beaufort

Area Description



This area extends from north of Killorglin town across to the lower north facing slopes of Knockbrack and Skregbeg (the foothills of the MacGillycuddy Reeks) and along the high ridge of topography to the east of Caragh Lake.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

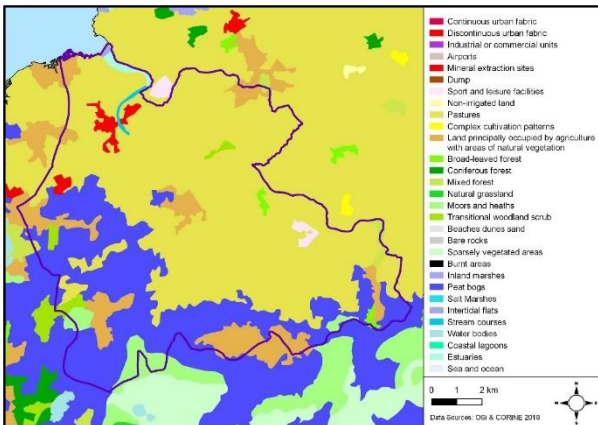


Viewpoint 25.1



Viewpoint 25.2

Area Landcover



Area	123.76km ²
Protected Structures	8
NIAH Structures	8
RMP	298
Geological Heritage Sites	1



Viewpoint 25.3

Context

Area provides a setting for MacGillycuddy’s Reeks. There are landscape similarities with areas to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

The Reeks on the southern side of the area provide scale to what is a large area.

Sensitivity = Low

Landform

There is a general fall northwards from the Reeks to the River Laune. Some steeper sided valleys in the mountains widen out to a flatter landscape further north.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

In general pasture covers the northern half of the area. Landcover associated with higher ground is then found in the south and west of the area, namely peat bog, and moors and heathland. A mineral extraction site is also found in the area. Some pockets of woodland/forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Killorglin is the main town in this area. Next to the town as part of an industrial complex there is a single wind turbine. One-off housing is prevalent in the area but would be less so in the higher areas to the south.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The Reeks give the area a dramatic backdrop. The area is a farming landscape interspersed with housing.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

There are views from the N72 southwards to the Reeks.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

Secondary Special Amenity area designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 along the edge of the MacGillycuddy Reeks, and also on the elevated ground near Caragh Lake. Views & prospects can be found on the road up to the Gap of Dunloe. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through Killorglin.

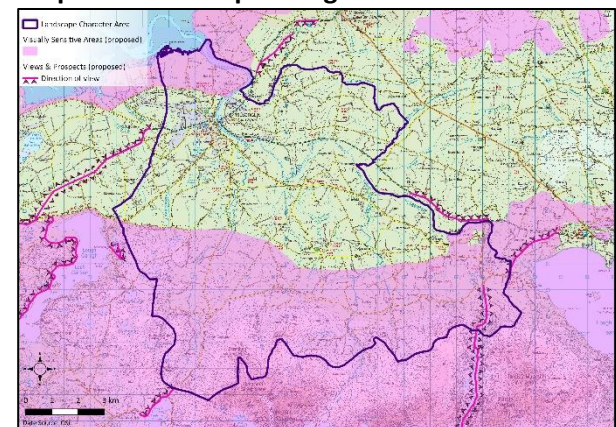
The northern part of the area bounds Castlemaine Harbour. The southern part includes the northern slopes of the MacGillycuddy Reeks. A review of landscape designations in these areas could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.

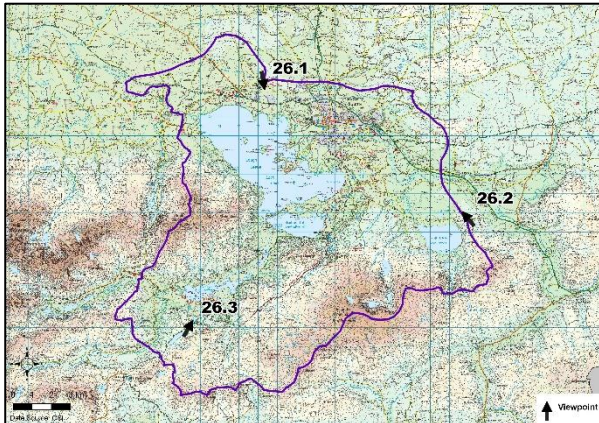
Proposed Landscape Designations



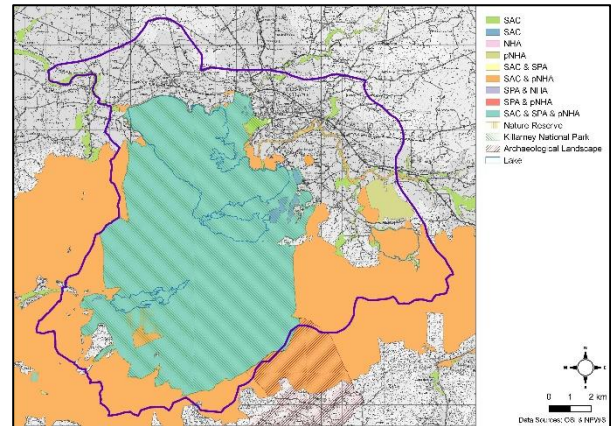


26. Lough Leane and Killarney National Park

Area Description



Heritage Designations



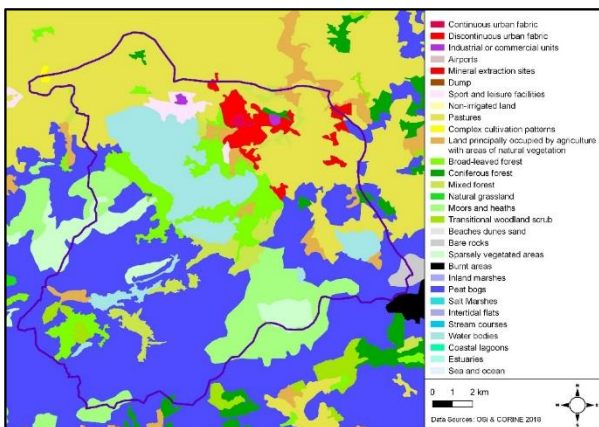
This large area is delineated to the north by a ridge of topography linking the hills to the north of Killarney. The southern boundary follows the ridge of mountains between Crohane, Stoompa (694m), Mangerton Mountain (839m), Dromderalough (612m) and Knockbrack (582m). The western boundary runs from to the north of Beaufort south to Tomies Mountain (735m) before crossing the Black Valley, following the Owenreagh River and rising to Foardal (400m), Windy Gap, Knockrower (554m) and Knockbrack.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 26.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 26.2

Area	219.31km ²
Protected Structures	19
NIAH Structures	18
RMP	460
Geological Heritage Sites	14



Viewpoint 26.3

Context

This is a unique landscape containing high mountains surrounding Lough Leane. There are views into the area from the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Is influenced by the mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Landform

The Killarney lakes are the main feature which are surrounded by high mountains and deep valleys.

Sensitivity = High

Landcover

Varying forms of landcover are found in the area. Pasture is found to the north and east of Killarney, along with some industrial areas near the town. Mineral extraction sites can also be found to the east of Killarney. South of Killarney and the lakes, there is peat bog on higher ground, with significant areas of both broad-leaved and mixed forest.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Built Environment

Contains the town of Killarney. On the flatter parts of the area in close proximity to Killarney there would be high levels of one-off housing. The N22 and the Killarney-Mallow train line also are found in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This landscape contains the Lakes of Killarney and Killarney National Park which are significant natural features.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

Views of and across the lakes towards the mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

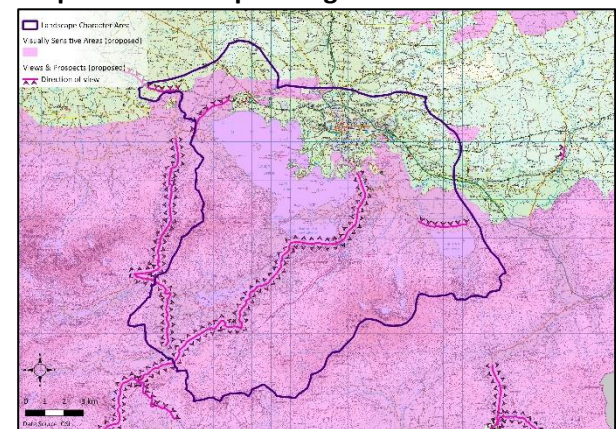
Majority of the area is designated as Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 with other areas Secondary Special Amenity. There are views & prospects from a number of roads. The area contains Killarney National Park.

There are significant areas with amenity designations in this area. A review of the areas that are included could be considered, in particular areas that are elevated.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

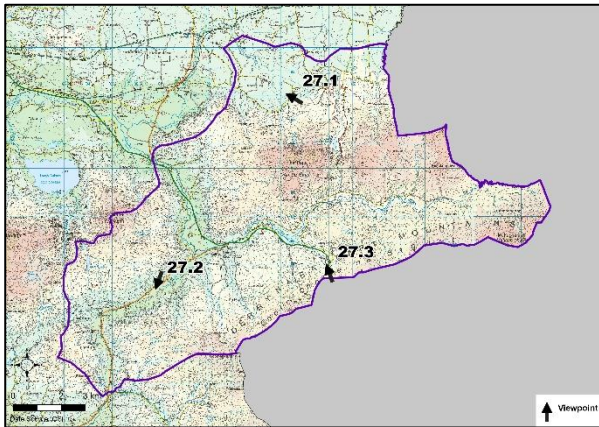
Proposed Landscape Designations





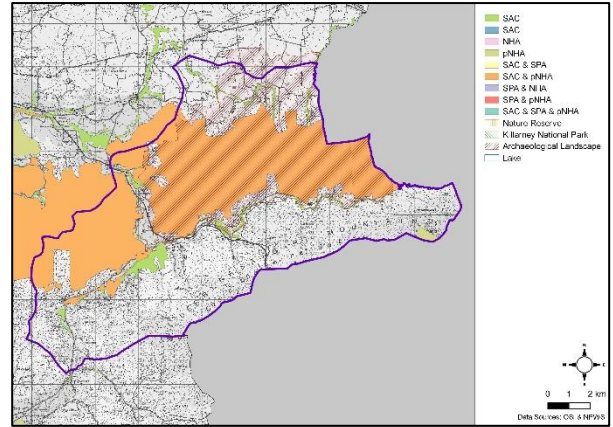
27. Clydagh River, The Paps and Derrynasaggart Mountains

Area Description



This area is surrounded by a rim of mountains with the exception of the Loo River and the River Flesk valleys to the west. The Clydagh River valley is also contained within the area. The northern boundary is formed by the ridge of mountains extending from Crohane, north of The Paps and on to Knocknabro. The southern boundary of the area is made up of the Derrynasaggart Mountains. The western boundary continues on an arc of high topography connecting to Crohane.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

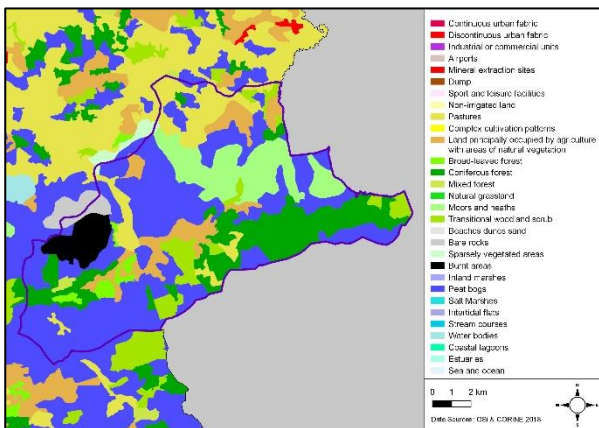


Viewpoint 27.1



Viewpoint 27.2

Area Landcover



Area	145.46km ²
Protected Structures	3
NIAH Structures	3
RMP	300
Geological Heritage Sites	3



Viewpoint 27.3

Context

This area’s valleys are enclosed by high mountains. This separates the area from adjoining areas.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

The changing direction of the valleys with higher ground surrounding them contributes to scale.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landform

Valleys are enclosed by high mountains. The valley sides are steep in places. Off the valleys there are smaller valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

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. Large areas of coniferous forestry can be found in the eastern part of the Clydagh Valley. The upper part of Crohane Mountain is described as being bare rock.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

Housing is confined to the valley floors and due to the remoteness of the area housing numbers would be lower than areas closer to Killarney. Wind turbines are found at higher elevations in the east (6) and south (8) of the area. 110kv transmission lines are also found in the area. The N22 Cork-Killarney road passes through the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

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.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

The N22 as it goes across the County Bounds is located at approximately 290m above sea level. As a result, there would be significant views along this route.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

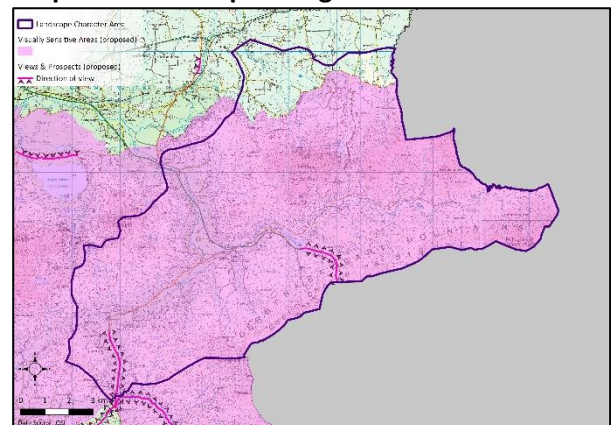
Landscape Values

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. The Paps form part of an archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

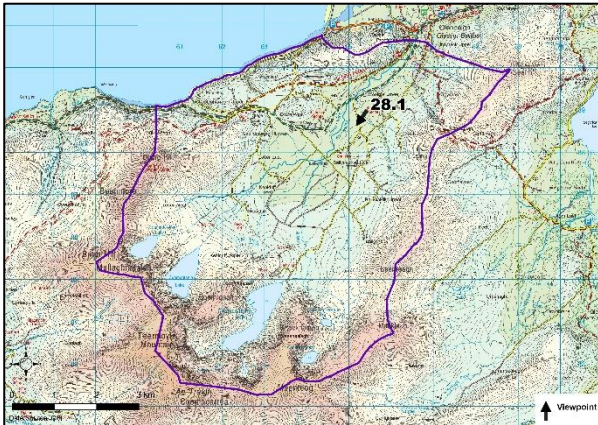
Proposed Landscape Designations





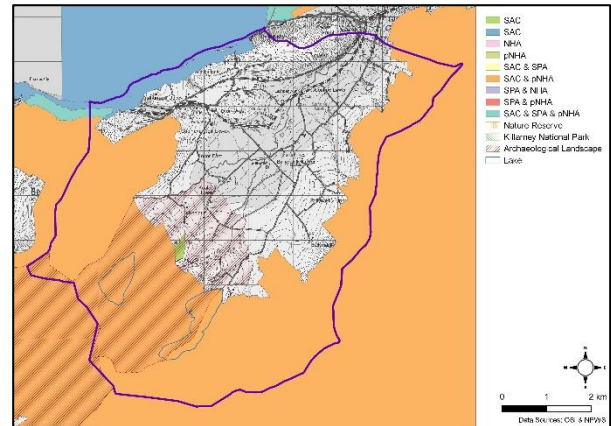
28. Coomasaharn Lake and Mountain Stage

Area Description



This area comprises a contained valley encircled by high topography. Its northern boundary is formed by hills to the west of Glenbeigh. An arc of topography around the valley extends from Drung Hill to Teermoyle Mountain and Coomacarrea, continuing to Meenteog and Macklaun, and then to Seefin to the east of Glenbeigh.

Heritage Designations

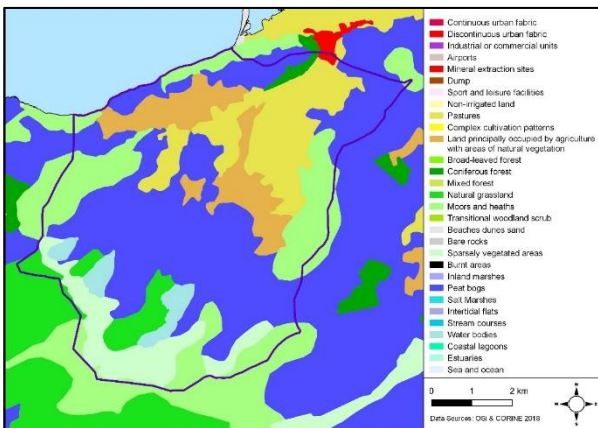


Area Example



Viewpoint 28.1

Area Landcover



Area	49.77km ²
Protected Structures	0
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	222
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Context

This area is isolated from adjoining areas by the mountains surrounding it. This area contains a number of glacial lakes.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Teermoyle is 760m in height but due to the enclosed nature of the area by mountains this affects scale.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

A high ridge of mountains surrounds the area with the River Behy flowing through the area. Glacial lakes are found in the southern part of the area. Another ridge of hills separates the area from the coast.

Sensitivity = Medium



Landcover

Pasture is found in the central part of the area, the valley floors. Peat bog is then found surrounding this on the valley sides. At higher elevations lands are sparsely vegetates, moors and heathlands, or natural grassland. There is an area of coniferous forestry in the northern part of the area. The three water bodies reflect the lakes in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Housing is concentrated in the Mountain Stage area. Isolated dwellings are found in the upper reaches of the valley. The N70 passes through the area.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a remote landscape with it having a natural feel.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views from the N70 up the valley towards Coomasaharn Lake.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

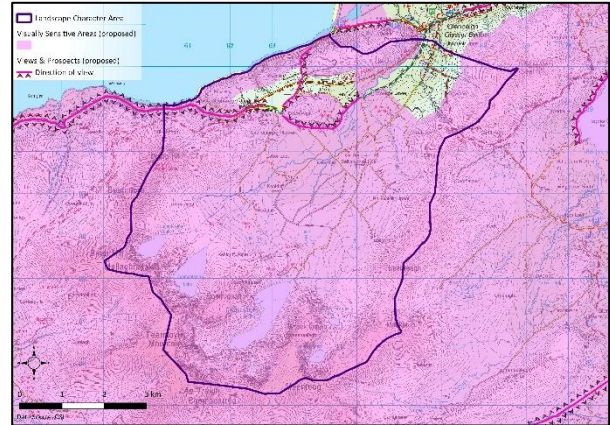
The upper part of the valley is listed as an archaeological landscape in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. The coastal strip is designated as Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, with the mountains surrounding the area Secondary Special Amenity. There are views & prospects on the N70. This road forms part of the Ring of Kerry and Wild Atlantic Way. The Kerry Way also passes through the area.

The mountains in this area have an amenity designation but due to their quality, a review of this designation could be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

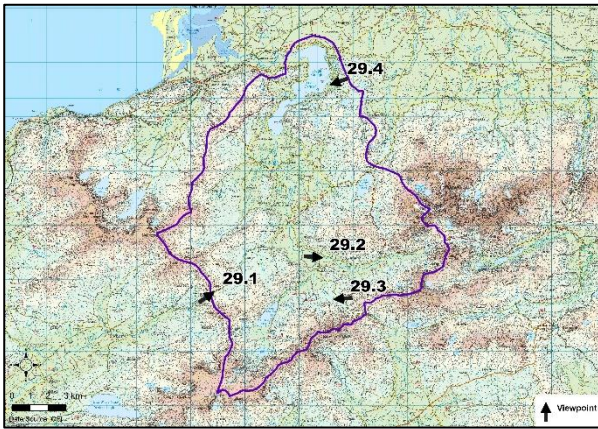
Proposed Landscape Designations





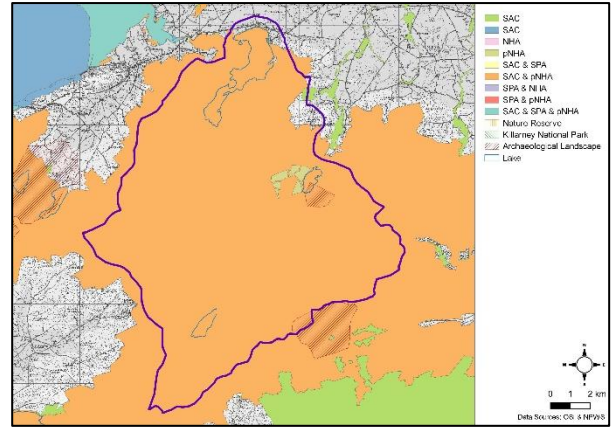
29. Glencar, Caragh Lake and The Bridia Valley

Area Description



This area is enclosed by high ridges of mountains. These ridges start on the east and west sides of Caragh Lake. To the east the ridge includes Caher in the MacGillycuddy Reeks, before heading in a westerly direction from Broaghnabinnia, including Mullaghanattin and Finnararagh. From this peak the boundary follows the mountains north to Meenteog, following a spur down to Seefin and Caragh Lake.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

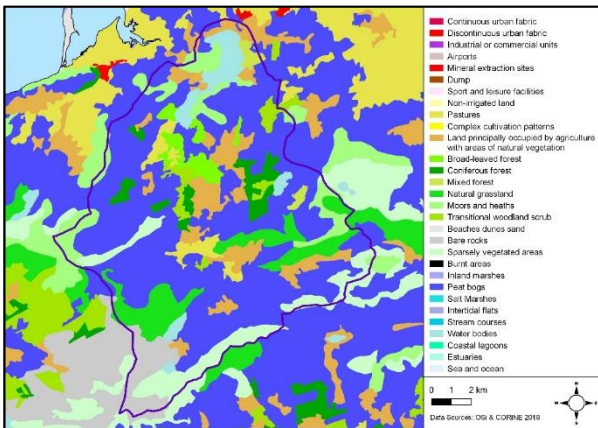


Viewpoint 29.1



Viewpoint 29.2

Area Landcover



Area	165.07km ²
Protected Structures	3
NIAH Structures	3
RMP	169
Geological Heritage Sites	1



Viewpoint 29.3



Viewpoint 29.4

Context

The MacGillycuddy Reeks to the east play a role in the character of this area. It is enclosed by higher ground which visually separates it from adjoining areas. This area is remote and relatively untouched.

Sensitivity = High

Scale

There are high mountains on three sides of the area. The area is then divided by valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Very high mountains which slope down to the Caragh River which heads in a northerly direction to Caragh Lake. A number of other valleys are also found.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

There is a mix of landcover in this area with peat bog being dominant. This would reflect the

mountainous nature of the area. Moors and heathland, along with natural grassland are also found at higher elevations. Some pasture is found on the valley floors. The number of lakes in the area is reflected in the water bodies visible. In the central part of the area there are also areas of coniferous forest. An area of mixed forest is also located adjacent to Caragh Lake.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Built Environment

This area would have an absence of built features with house numbers in the area low.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

A significant amount of the area would be considered to be remote and would have a natural feel made up of mountains and lakes.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

There are views of Caragh Lake in the north of the area, and in the remainder, MacGillycuddy's Reeks dominate the skyline. There are also a number of viewing points in the area from which there are significant vistas.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

Areas are designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 as Prime Special Amenity in the mountains, with an area of Secondary Special Amenity around Caragh Lake. There is an archaeological landscape listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 south of Lough Acoose. The main road running through the area has views & prospects. The Kerry Way passes through the area, it is an important walking route.

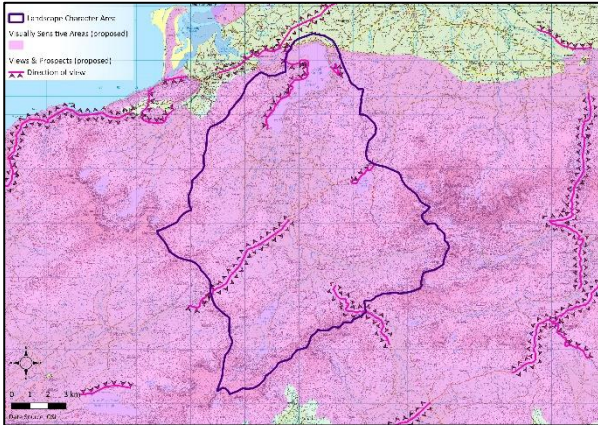
This area is surrounded by mountains which provide a setting to scenic mountain valleys and lakes. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered. There are also views across Caragh Lake from both sides that are worthy of consideration for inclusion as views & prospects.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High



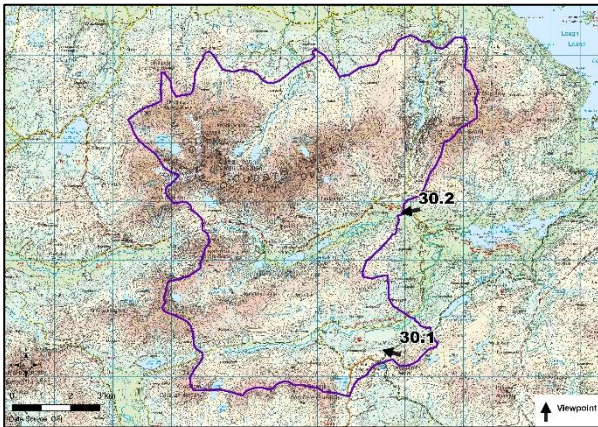
Proposed Landscape Designations





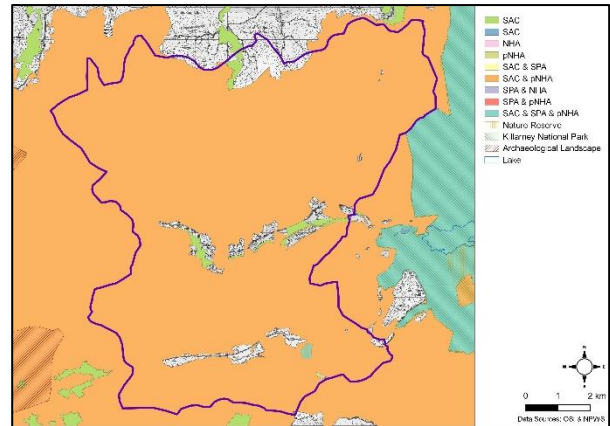
30. MacGillycuddy Reeks and The Black Valley

Area Description



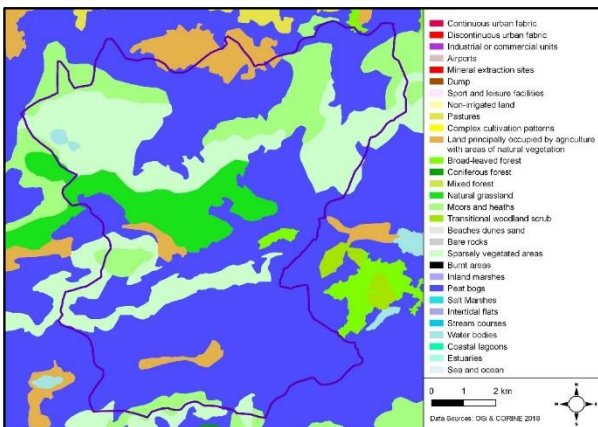
The area comprises a number of enclosed steep sided valleys within the area delineated by Skregbeg and Knockbrack in the northwest and a ridgeline of mountains between Caher and the Gap of Dunloe to the east. The Gap of Dunloe forms part of the area to the east and two further valleys form additional areas to the south. These valleys are the Black Valley/Cummeenduff Glen and the valley between Molls Gap and Knocknabreeda. The area includes MacGillycuddy’s Reeks, Ireland’s highest mountain range.

Heritage Designations



Area	92.86km ²
Protected Structures	0
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	130
Geological Heritage Sites	6

Area Landcover



Area Examples



Viewpoint 30.1



Viewpoint 30.2



Context

This is a unique landscape containing glaciated valleys surrounded by Ireland’s highest mountains.

Sensitivity = High

Scale

The mountains would give scale to development but due to the topography this would result in a dominant effect.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

Deep glaciated valleys including the Gap of Dunloe and Black Valley. A high ridge of mountains contains Carrauntoohill (1040m), Ireland’s highest mountain. There are also a number of lakes both in the valleys and in the mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

This area has very limited amounts of farm land which is located on the valley floors. The majority of the area is covered in peat bog, reflective of the mountainous nature of the area. A lot of the area is defined as being sparsely vegetated. Areas of moors and heathland are also found. Some coniferous forestry is also found in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Due to the elevated nature of the area human habitation is limited to a small number of houses on the valley floors.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a dramatic mountain landscape which is both remote and natural.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

Significant views of the mountains due to their height.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

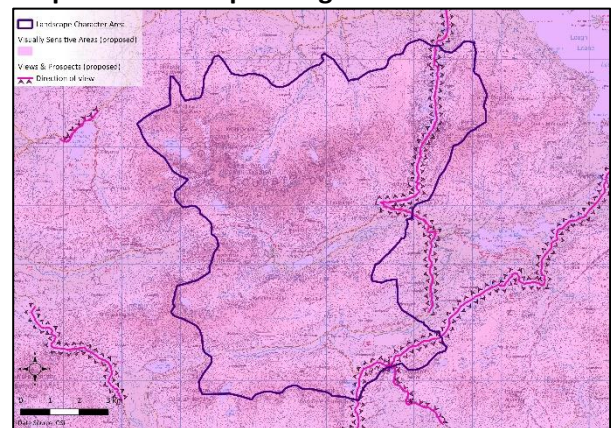
The area is either designated Prime Special Amenity or Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. The Gap of Dunloe road and the N71 by Molls Gap road have views & prospects. The N71 also forms part of the Ring of Kerry.

This area is currently subject to amenity designations, the type of designation could be considered due to the elevated nature of this landscape.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

Proposed Landscape Designations





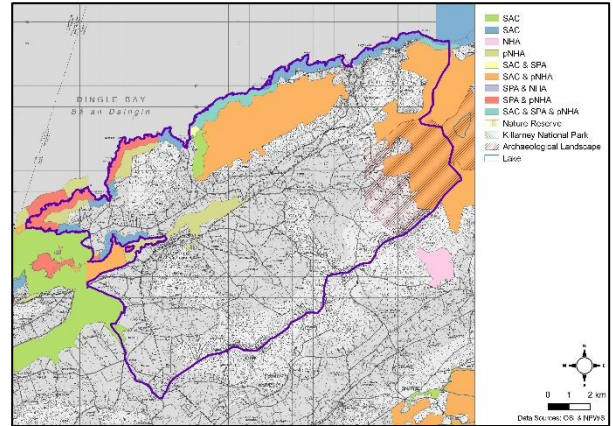
31. Cahersiveen

Area Description



This area is centred on the town of Cahersiveen and delineated by the sea to the north and west and by a line of mountains to the south and east. This topography extends from Dingle Bay to the east of Kells in a clockwise direction to Aghatubrid. The boundary of the area then heads in a northerly direction as far as Cahersiveen.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

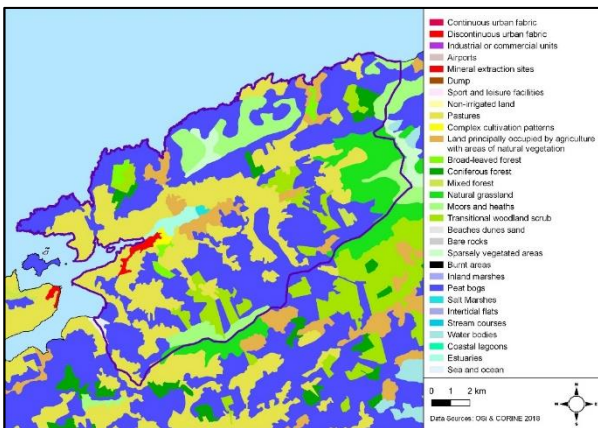


Viewpoint 31.1



Viewpoint 31.2

Area Landcover



Area	175.89km ²
Protected Structures	14
NIAH Structures	6
RMP	598
Geological Heritage Sites	3



Viewpoint 31.3

Context

Shares similar characteristics with landscapes to the south but topography does result in some degree of separation.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

It is generally a narrow area, with limited distance between higher ground and the sea.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

High mountains enclose a wide valley on the eastern side of the area with hills on the eastern side sloping down to the sea.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

A wide variety of landcover can be found in the area. Pasture is found along the valley extending eastwards from Cahersiveen. Extensive areas of peat bog can be found, both at lower and higher elevations. Other forms of landcover associated with high elevation like moors and heathland can also be found. There are also areas of coniferous forestry.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Housing is confined to lower elevations with the town of Cahersiveen being the main settlement in the area. A high number of holiday homes are spread across the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

This is considered to be a scenic coastal landscape surrounded by high mountains.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views from the N70 in the vicinity of Kells westwards towards Cahersiveen and Valentia, and from other high parts of the area.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

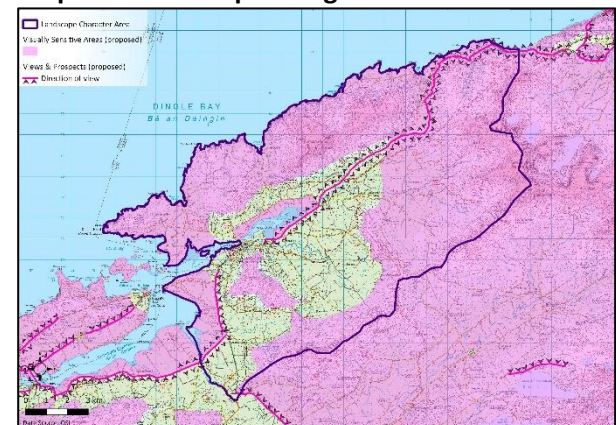
There is an archaeological landscape listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 in the eastern part of the area. There are large areas of both Prime and Secondary Special Amenity designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects on the N70 and on other roads. The N70 forms part of the Ring of Kerry with the Wild Atlantic Way also passing through the area.

This area contains a mountainous coastline with mountains also located on its southern and eastern sides. Benteen above Cahersiveen is a prominent hill. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Proposed Landscape Designations





32. Valentia Island and Saint Finan’s Bay

Area Description



This area includes Valentia Island, Saint Finan’s Bay and the northern side of Ballinskelligs Bay. The eastern boundary of the area is marked by the Derreen River.

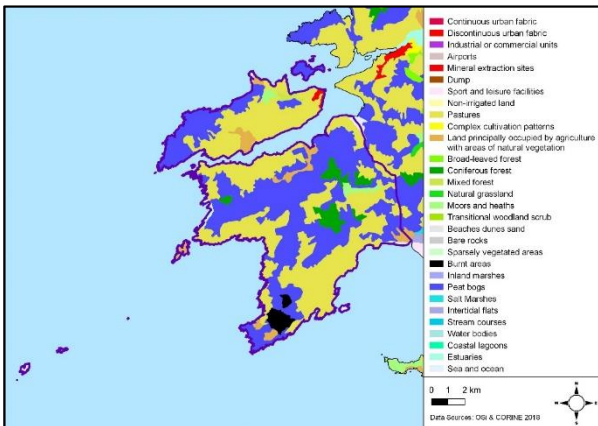
Area	121.22km ²
Protected Structures	13
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	692
Geological Heritage Sites	6

Area Examples



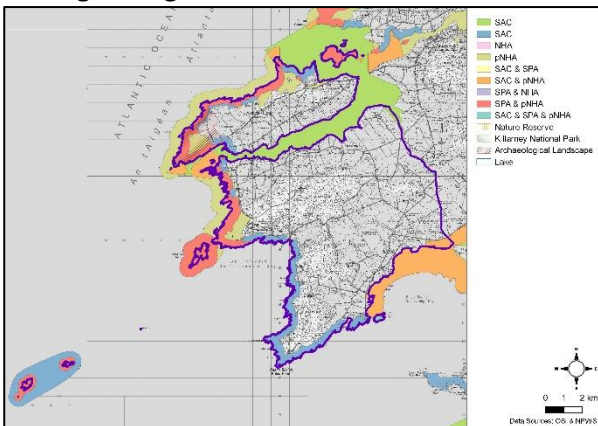
Viewpoint 32.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 32.2

Heritage Designations



Viewpoint 32.3



Viewpoint 32.4

Context

Shares similar characteristics with landscapes to the east but topography does result in some degree of separation.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

There is a limited distance between higher ground and the sea.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

High ground encloses a valley on the southern side of the area with hills on the eastern side, including on Valentia, sloping down to the sea.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

A wide variety of landcover can be found in the area. Pasture is found on the southern side of Valentia Island and close to the coast. Extensive areas of peat bog can be found, both at lower and higher elevations. Other forms of landcover associated with high elevation like moors and heathland can also be found. There are also areas of coniferous forestry.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Housing is confined to lower elevations with the villages of Portmagee and Knightstown being the main settlements in the area. A high number of holiday homes are spread across the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

This is considered to be a scenic coastal landscape.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views from high roads on Valentia, on the Portmagee Road across the channel to Valentia, and in the Ballinskelligs area.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

There is an archaeological landscape listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 on Bray Head (Valentia Island). There are areas of both Prime and Secondary Special Amenity designated in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects along extensive stretches of the roads along the coast. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area.

Includes coastal, island and elevated landscapes of a high quality. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

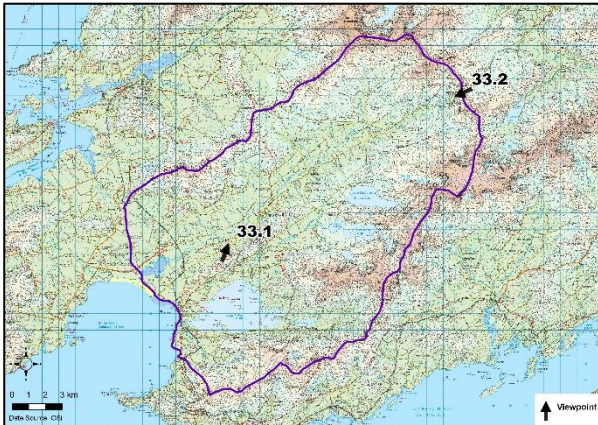
Proposed Landscape Designations





33. Lough Currane and Máistir Gaoithe

Area Description



A ring of mountains and high topography bound this area on three sides with Ballinskelligs Bay forming the western boundary. This topography encloses the Inny Valley and Lough Currane.

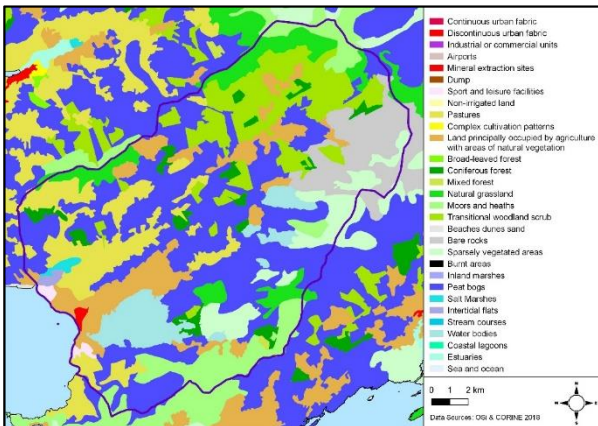
Area	263.61km ²
Protected Structures	2
NIAH Structures	2
RMP	559
Geological Heritage Sites	1

Area Examples



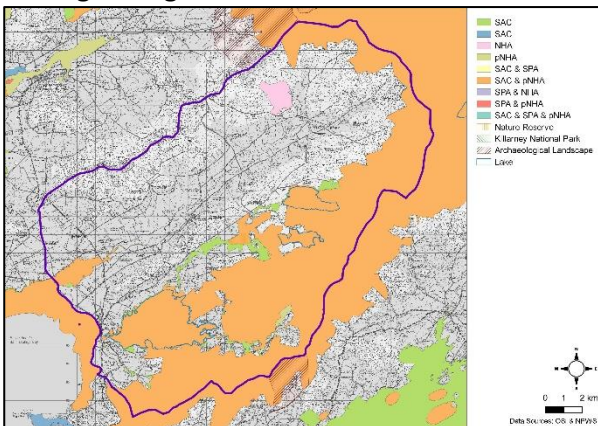
Viewpoint 33.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 33.2

Heritage Designations



Context

Inland the area is surrounded by high mountains which separates it from adjoining areas but in the northwest corner there would be closer ties with the area to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

The high mountains give this area scale inland. Nearer the coast this has an effect on scale, as does Lough Currane.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium



Landform

The River Inny valley which is surrounded by high mountains. There are glaciated valleys containing lakes in the mountains. Lough Currane is found near Waterville. The area also gives enclosure to Ballinskelligs Bay.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

There are a mix of landcovers, with pasture being found in the lower parts of the Inny Valley. Peat bog is prevalent on higher ground. There are a number of large water bodies (lakes) in the area which would include Lough Currane. Substantial areas of coniferous forestry can also be found in the Inny Valley.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Waterville is the main settlement. Housing is focused close to the coast with housing becoming less frequent further up the Inny Valley. There would be a high level of holiday homes in the area. A 4 turbine wind farm can be found at Knockeneden in the northern part of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

The Inny Valley would be seen as being remote and natural. Ballinskelligs Bay is the focus for the coastal part of the area with a higher level of settlement. This splits the area into distinct parts.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

There are views up the Inny Valley from the coast and vice-versa. Some of these views would be from elevated locations, for example the viewing point at Bealach Oisín.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

The mountains around Bealach Oisín are designated as Prime Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, with Secondary Special Amenity being found near the coast and in the mountains. There are numerous views & prospects in the area. The Wild Atlantic Way driving route, Ring of Kerry, and Kerry Way walking route pass through the area.

This remote valley is surrounded by mountains with the valley relatively unspoilt. A review of

landscape designations in this area could be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.

Proposed Landscape Designations





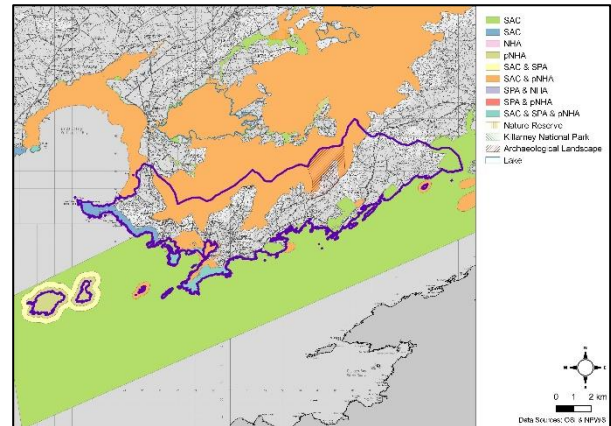
34. Derrynane and Castlecove

Area Description



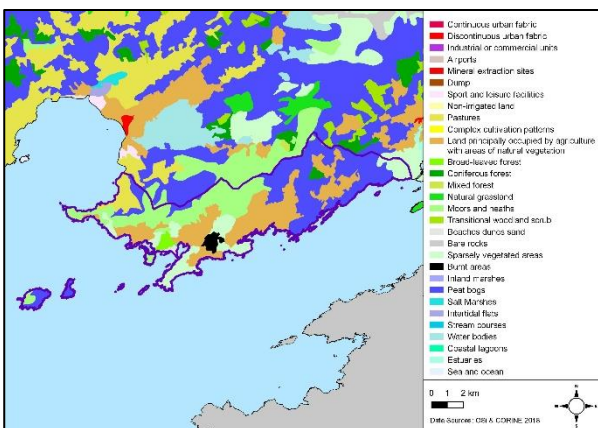
This area is surrounded by the sea on its southern side. A ridge of topography rising from Ballinskelligs Bay to Cahernageeha Mountain eastwards defines the northern boundary before it again reaches the sea on the western side of Sneem River. The contorted coastline provides a series of rocky bays and inlets with numerous islands extending out to sea. Scariff and Deenish Islands are clearly visible from this coastline. Steep cliffs characterise the western extremities of the coastline and a sand bar extends across Derrynane Bay.

Heritage Designations



Area	73.17km ²
Protected Structures	5
NIAH Structures	6
RMP	318
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Area Landcover



Area Examples



Viewpoint 34.1



Viewpoint 34.2



Viewpoint 34.3

Context

This area is unique in its form and is separated by high topography from adjoining areas.

Sensitivity = High

Scale

Cahernageeha Mountain (499m) and Eagles Hill (540m) contribute to giving this area scale in terms of height. The effect of this scale is impacted upon by the proximity of the coastline.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

A ridge of high mountains on the northern side of the area slopes to the south towards the coastline which is broken up by many small bays, inlets and islands.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

There is a mix of landcover types in the area. Farmland including pasture is found close to the coast. Areas of peat bog are found at high elevations and in the eastern part of the area. Sparsely vegetated areas and natural grassland area also found, generally associated with more mountainous ground. An area of beaches, dunes and sand plains is found in Derrynane with an area of broad-leaved forest adjacent to this.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

There are small villages at Caherdaniel and Castlecove. Outside of these villages housing is dispersed, generally close to the coast. There would be a very high share of holiday homes in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Very scenic coastal landscape.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

Extensive views from the N70 which are also elevated around Coomakista.

Sensitivity = High

Landscape Values

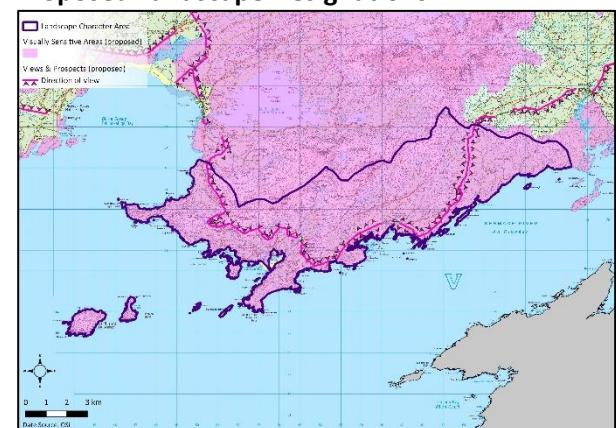
Large areas designated Prime and Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are extensive lengths of the N70 that are views & prospects. An archaeological landscape is designated in the eastern part of the area that includes Staigue Fort. The N70 forms part of the Ring of Kerry and is also part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The Kerry Way walking route passes through the area. Derrynane National Historic Park is located in the area.

This area contains a mix of amenity designations. It is located in a scenic coastal area. A review of landscape designations could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = High

Proposed Landscape Designations





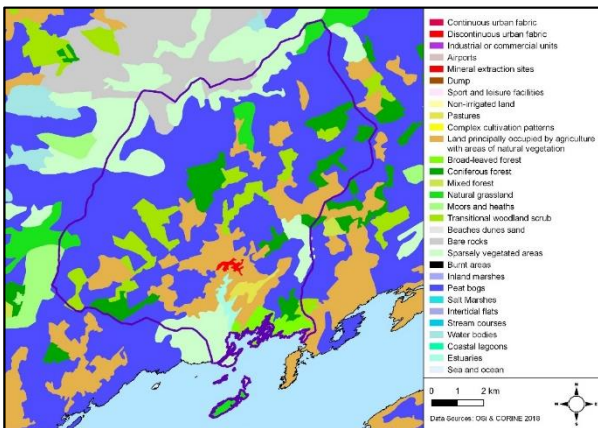
35. Sneem and Ardsheelhane River Valley

Area Description



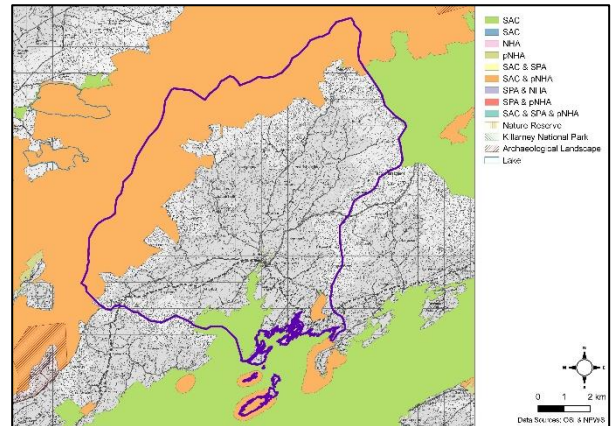
The western boundary starts on Kenmare Bay on the western side of the mouth of the Sneem River, follows a ridge of topography westwards as far as Coomcallee Mountain where the boundary then follows the ridge of mountains in a northeasterly direction as far as a spot height of 752m to the west of Mullaghanattin. The boundary then heads south following a low ridge to meet Kenmare Bay again.

Area Landcover



Area	92.91km ²
Protected Structures	4
NIAH Structures	3
RMP	127
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Heritage Designations



Area Examples



Viewpoint 35.1



Viewpoint 35.2

Context

Low hills separate this area on its eastern and western sides. This area would be similar in type to the adjoining area to the east.

Sensitivity = Medium



Scale

Coomcallee (650m), Knocknagantee (676m) and Finnararagh (637m) on the northern boundary of the area give the area scale.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

The high mountains on the northern side of the area have low ridges extending to the coast which encloses the river valleys in the centre of the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landcover

This area has a mix of landcover types with the predominant type being peat bog. This is generally located in the more elevated parts of the area but with some on the valley floor. Pasture is found around Sneem. The area also contains a large amount of coniferous forestry.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

The town of Sneem is located centrally in the area. There would be more houses located closer to the coast than inland but in general this area is lightly populated.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This area is remote with the lack of human modification through the presence of housing noticeable. Coniferous forestry plantations do affect the area’s naturalness.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenities

There are elevated views from the N70 and from the R568 which links Sneem to Killarney via Molls Gap.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

The mountains and the coastal area are designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are views & prospects on the N70 and R568. The N70 forms part of the Ring of Kerry and Wild Atlantic Way. The Kerry Way Walking route also passes through the area.

The mountains that form this area’s northern boundary are currently subject to an amenity designation, but a review of this designation could

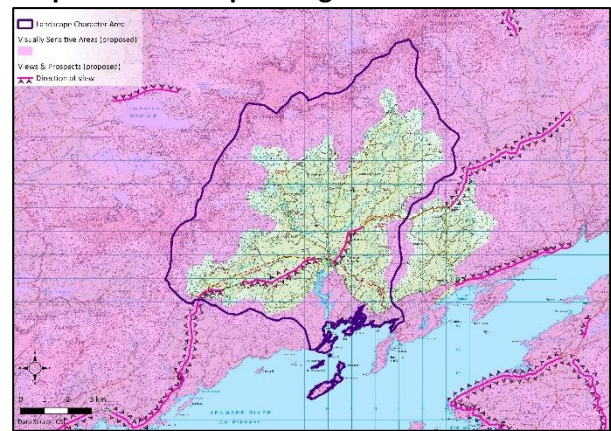
be considered. This review could also consider the coastal parts of this area.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.

Proposed Landscape Designations



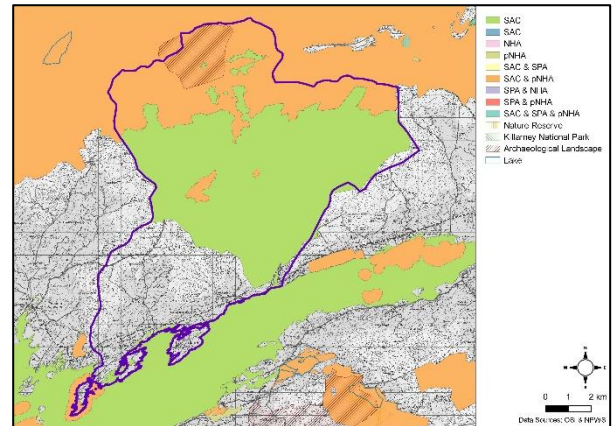


36. Blackwater and Ballaghbeama

Area Description



Heritage Designations



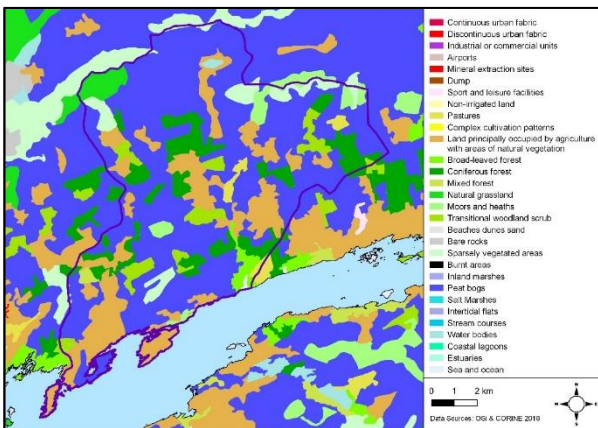
This area extends from the mountains of Mullaghanattin and Knocklomena in the north, along the valleys of the Rivers Blackwater, Kealduff and Derreendarragh. It also includes the Tahilla River valley. The area is enclosed by ridges of high topography which gradually fall towards Kenmare River to the south of the area.

Area Examples



Viewpoint 36.1

Area Landcover



Viewpoint 36.2

Area	119.36km ²
Protected Structures	3
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	329
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 36.3



Viewpoint 36.4



Viewpoint 36.5

Context

Low hills separate this area on its eastern and western sides. This area would be similar in type to the adjoining area to the west.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

The mountains in the north of the area, Mullaghanattin (773m) and Knocklomena (641m),

do provide scale for the area which is also broken up by river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

High mountains in the northern part sloping southwards to Kenmare Bay. The area is broken up by a number of river valleys.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

Pasture is found in the river valleys. The main types of landcover would be peat bog and coniferous forestry. The peat bog is located at both high and low elevations. The forestry is generally found in the valleys.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

The majority of houses in this area are located close to the coastline with more dispersed housing found in the valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a remote landscape with many natural elements.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

Ballaghbeama is a mountain pass which would have views of the mountains. The N70 also has coastal views.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

There is an archaeological landscape as listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 found in the north of the area. Elevated areas and areas near the coast are designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 with an area of Prime Special Amenity in the Ballaghbeama area. There are views & prospects on the N70 and R568. The Ring of Kerry (N70) passes through the area which is also part of the Wild Atlantic Way. The Kerry Way walking route is also found in the area.

There are mountains and scenic valleys which currently have limited amenity designations. A review of these areas could be considered.

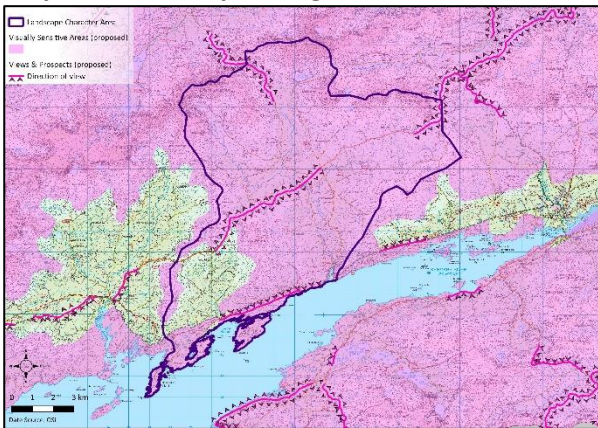
Sensitivity = High



Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.

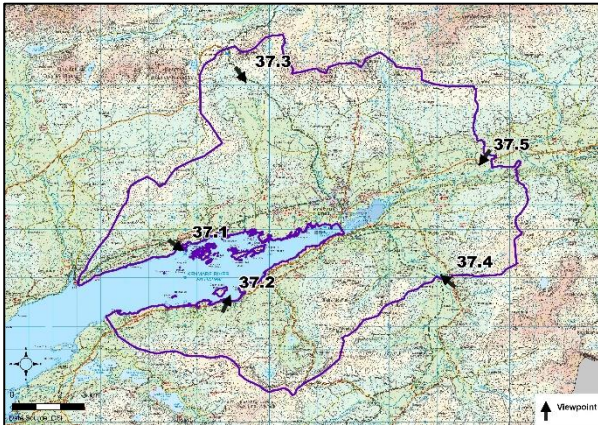
Proposed Landscape Designations





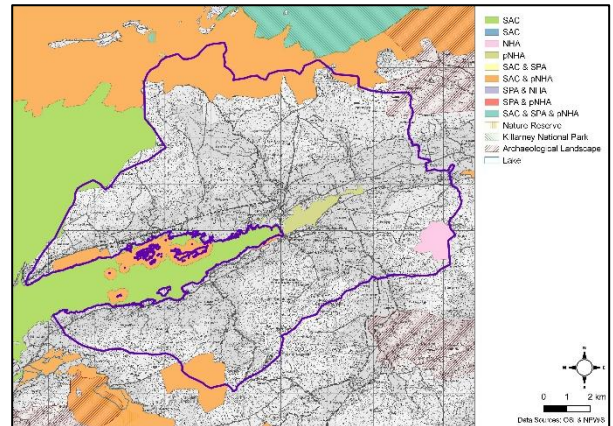
37. Kenmare

Area Description



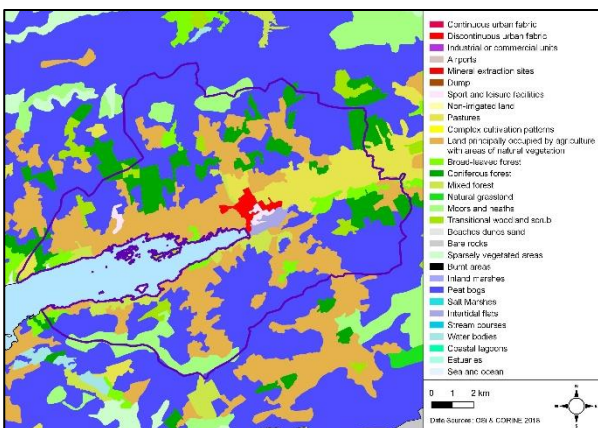
A range of rounded hills enclose the Kenmare River Valley. The northern boundary of this area extends from Lackeen Point on the Kenmare River to the ridge of topography between the peaks of Knockanaskill, Letter South and Derrygarriff. The southern boundary starts at Reennaveagh on the Kenmare River rising to high topography to the south of Muckera and onto Knocknagorraveela. It then continues eastwards to Derrynacaheragh and Knockeirka from where the topography falls to the Sheen River. The boundary continues to the east of the river valley, rising to Knockbrack.

Heritage Designations



Area	148.15km ²
Protected Structures	22
NIAH Structures	12
RMP	418
Geological Heritage Sites	2

Area Landcover



Area Examples



Viewpoint 37.1



Viewpoint 37.2



Viewpoint 37.3



Viewpoint 37.4



Viewpoint 37.5

Context

Would have similar characteristics to adjoining areas. Linkages with adjoining areas are formed through river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Scale

Mountains on the northern side, Peakeen Mountain (555m), and mountains of similar height

on the southern side, do provide height from which to measure scale, but this scale is also affected by the proximity of the bay.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

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.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landcover

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.

Sensitivity = Medium

Built Environment

Kenmare town is the main urban area. Outside of the town housing is concentrated on the coastline. There would be a high level of holiday homes in the area.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

Higher ground and the bay provide a scenic setting for Kenmare.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views to and from the mountains with Kenmare Bay being the main focus for views from the higher ground.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

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.

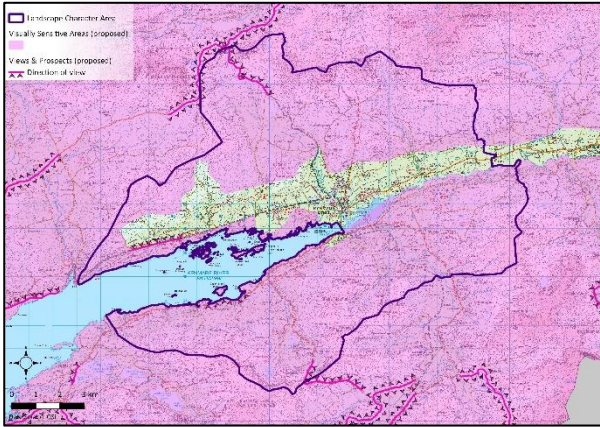
Areas of elevation are currently subject to limited amenity designations. A review of these landscape designations could therefore be considered.

Sensitivity = High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High



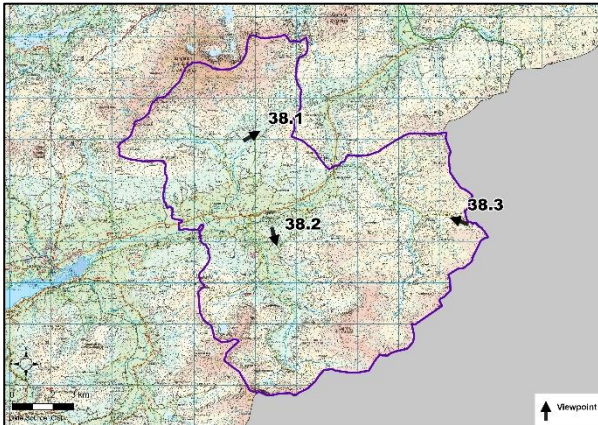
Proposed Landscape Designations



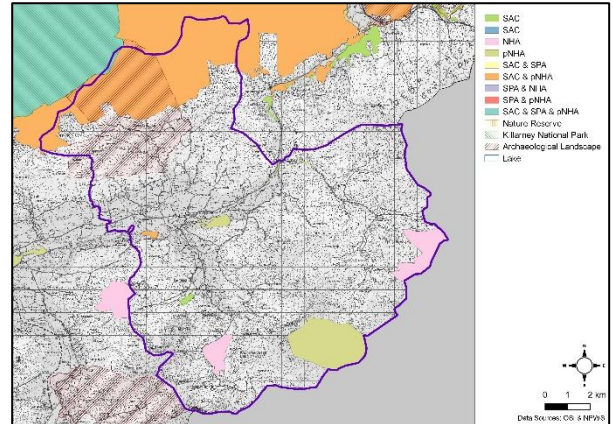


38. Kilgarvan and Roughty River Valley

Area Description



Heritage Designations



This area is surrounded by mountains. The northern boundary corresponds to the mountain ridge between Knockbrack, Dromderalough, Mangerton Mountain and Stoomba, extending eastwards to the western end of the Derrynasaggart Mountains. The southern boundary is marked by the high ridge that divides Kerry from Cork. It contains the Owbaun, Slaheny and Roughty River Valleys.

Area Examples

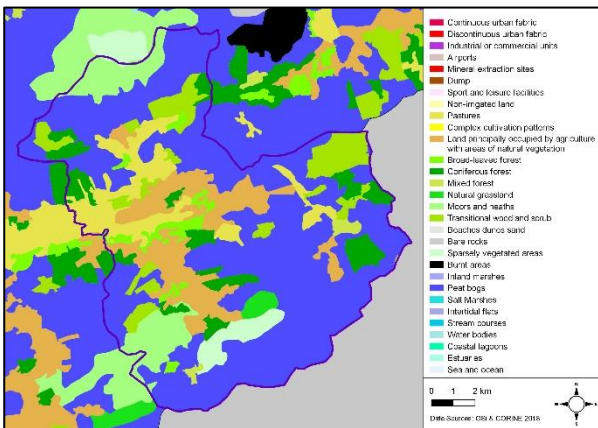


Viewpoint 38.1



Viewpoint 38.2

Area Landcover



Area	170.45km ²
Protected Structures	6
NIAH Structures	4
RMP	314
Geological Heritage Sites	1



Viewpoint 38.3

Context

Only linked to adjoining areas through narrow river valleys. High ground also separates this area from those around it.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Mangerton Mountain (839m) in the north provides scale, as does Carran (604m) in the south. In between ridges of high ground separate steeply sided river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

Ridges of high mountains enclose the area which contains a number of river valleys.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

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.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Built Environment

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.

Sensitivity = Medium

Perceptual Qualities

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.

Sensitivity = Medium

Visual Amenity

There are views from the R569 towards the mountains on both sides of the Roughty River Valley. There are also views in the Slaheny River Valley.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landscape Values

The southern slopes of Mangerton are included on the list of archaeological landscapes in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Large parts of the area are designated Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. Views & prospects are found on the R569 and the local road through the Slaheny Valley.

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.

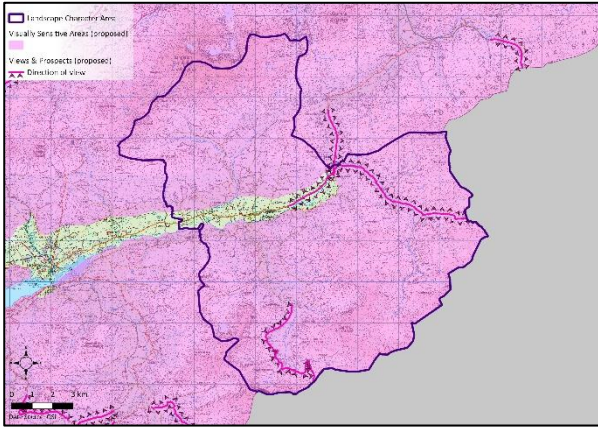
Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Based on the sensitivity of each criteria and the nature of this landscape, part of the landscape is an overall sensitivity of *Medium*, with the remainder *Medium / High*.



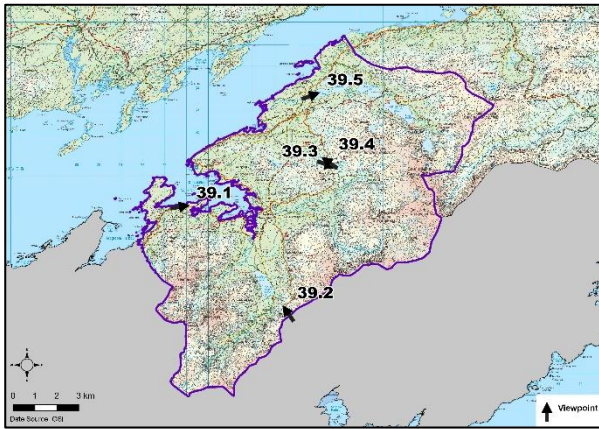
Proposed Landscape Designations





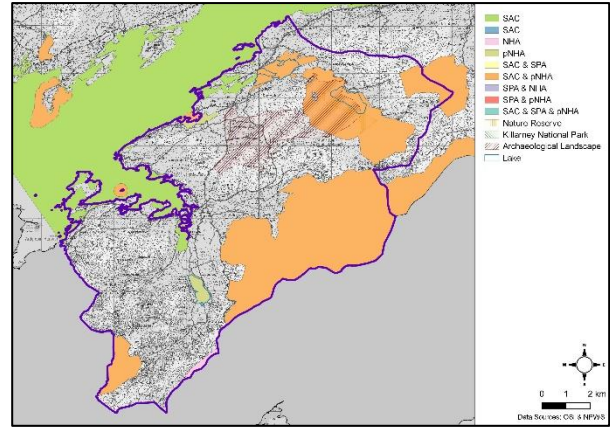
39. Healy Pass, Kilmakilloge Harbour and Lough Inchiquin

Area Description



The western extent of this area is defined by the border with County Cork in Ardroom Harbour. The boundary then follows the high ridge of topography of the Caha Mountains. The northern boundary is defined by the shoreline of Kenmare Bay. The eastern boundary is the ridge of topography on the eastern side of Lough Inchiquin, which runs from Caha to Coomnadiha and then onto Knocknagorraveela before following the ridge down to Kenmare Bay at Reennaveagh.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

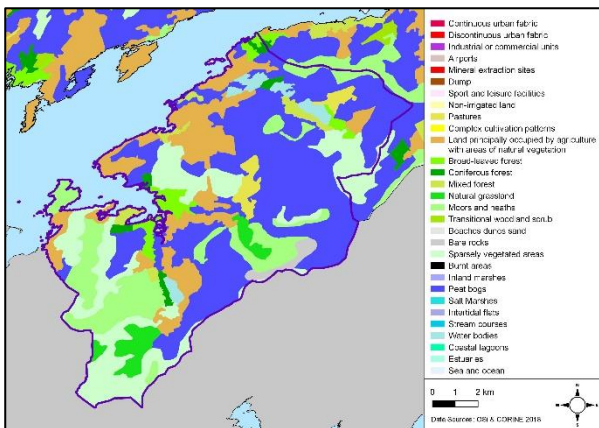


Viewpoint 39.1



Viewpoint 39.2

Area Landcover



Area	129.24km ²
Protected Structures	7
NIAH Structures	6
RMP	540
Geological Heritage Sites	0



Viewpoint 39.3



Viewpoint 39.4



Viewpoint 39.5

Context

Separated by varying forms of topography from adjoining areas, by mountains and by water. It would share characteristics with adjoining areas.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Scale

Mountains such as Hungry Hill (685m), Knockowen (658m) and Coomnadiha (644m)

provide a measure of height. The setting of these mountains are river valleys and the coast.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landform

A high ridge of mountains encloses the area which contains a number of glacial valleys with lakes. Ridges of mountains separate the valleys. This landscape also surrounds Kilmakilloge Harbour.

Sensitivity = High

Landcover

In general pasture covers the majority of the area. Some pockets of woodland/forestry (coniferous plantations) can also be found.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Built Environment

There are settlements at Lauragh and Tuosist, limited housing outside of these areas but there is a higher concentration closer to the coast. A high percentage of holiday homes in the area.

Sensitivity = High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a very scenic landscape with many natural features which contributes to the setting of Kenmare Bay.

Sensitivity = High

Visual Amenity

There are views from the R571, both towards the mountains and the sea.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

An archaeological landscape is listed in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 in the northern part of the area. Most of the area is either designated as Prime Special Amenity or Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. There are long stretches of views & prospects both along the coast and on the Healy Pass Road. The Wild Atlantic Way passes through the area.

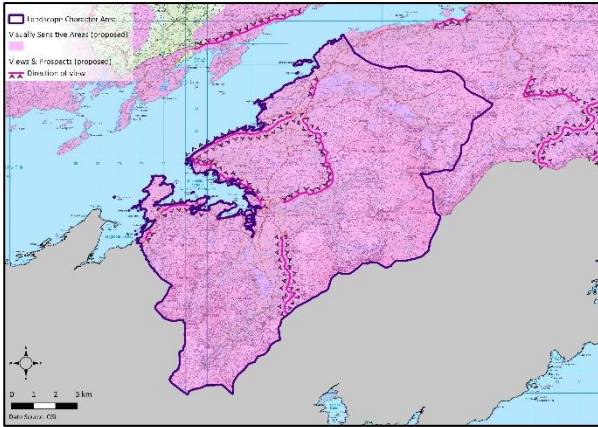
This area contains a number of high mountain ridges surrounding deep valleys. A review of the landscape designations in this area could be considered.

Sensitivity = High



Overall Sensitivity = High

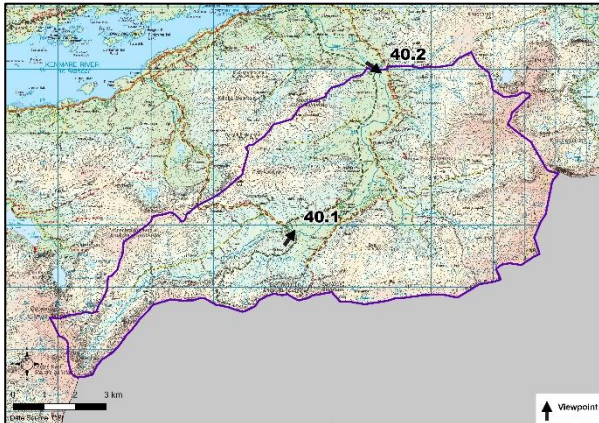
Proposed Landscape Designations





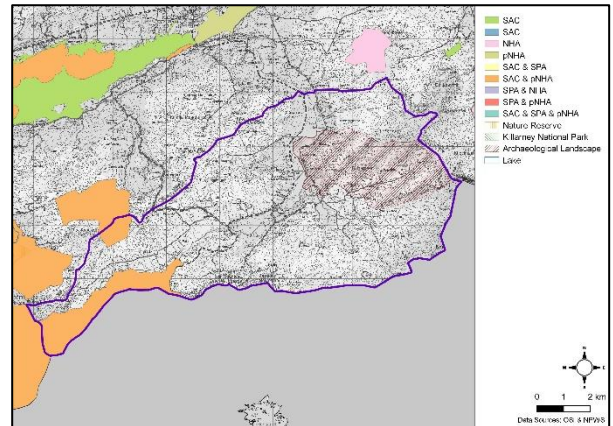
40. Bonane and Sheen River Valley

Area Description



A valley surrounding the upper reaches of the River Sheen to the south of Kenmare, surrounded by a ring of high topography. The Caha Mountains, separating Kerry from Cork, form the southern limit of this area with the crest of topography to the east. A further ridge of topography forms the western and northern boundary of the area, extending from Caha (608m) to Knocknagorraveela (507m) and Knockeirka (426m) linking across the river valley.

Heritage Designations



Area Examples

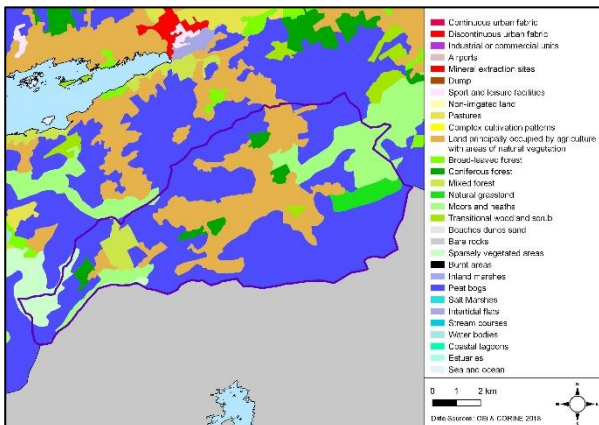


Viewpoint 40.1



Viewpoint 40.2

Area Landcover



Area	77.83km ²
Protected Structures	2
NIAH Structures	0
RMP	435
Geological Heritage Sites	0

Context

Topography separates this area from other areas. The landscape of this area would have similar characteristics to areas to the north.

Sensitivity = Medium / High



Scale

The mountains on the southern boundary of the area provide a measure of scale but these enclose steeply sided river valleys.

Sensitivity = Medium

Landform

High mountains form the boundaries of the area with river valleys dissecting the area. These valleys are separated from each other by ridges.

Sensitivity = Low / Medium

Landcover

The main type of landcover in the area is peat bog, which reflects its mountainous nature. Some of the mountains are also covered with moors and heathland. The lower part of the valley has pasture. The upper reaches of the Baurearagh River Valley contain areas of coniferous forest.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Built Environment

There is a small settlement at Bonane with low numbers of housing outside of the settlement.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Perceptual Qualities

This is a remote area that contains natural features.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Visual Amenity

There are views from the N71 as it passes through the valley.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Landscape Values

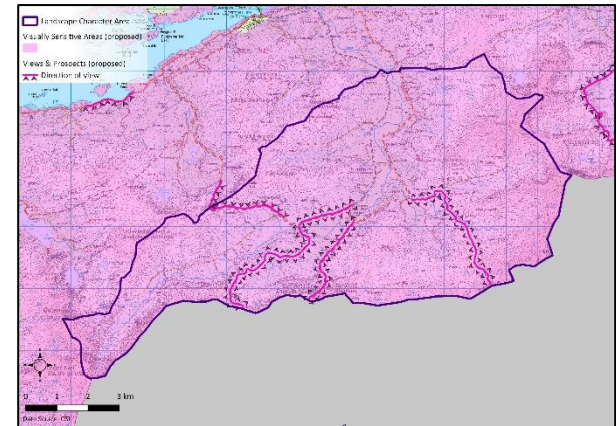
Part of the area is included as an archaeological landscape in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. The southern part of the area is designated as Secondary Special Amenity in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021. The N71 has views & prospects.

The mountain ridges in this area surround and provide a setting for the Sheen River Valley. A review of landscape designations in this area could therefore be considered. There are a number of elevated roads in the area where consideration could be given to designating them as views & prospects.

Sensitivity = Medium / High

Overall Sensitivity = Medium / High

Proposed Landscape Designations





Landscape Reference Documents

These documents are referenced in this document or have informed the preparation of this landscape review.

A Guide to Commissioning a Landscape Capacity Study

Scottish Natural Heritage

An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment

October 2015

Christine Tudor, Natural England

Argyll and Bute Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study

August 2017

Carol Anderson Landscape Associates

Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments

March 2012

Scottish Natural Heritage

Cornwall Renewable Energy

Planning Advice

Annex 1: An assessment of the landscape sensitivity to on-shore wind energy & large-scale photovoltaic development in Cornwall

March 2016

Cornwall Council

Devon Landscape Policy Group Advice Note No.2: Accommodating Wind and Solar PV Developments in Devon's Landscape

June 2013

LUC Environmental Planning Design & Management

Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines

December 2019

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Electoral Areas of Dingle, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Tralee Landscape Character Assessments

May 2004 (unpublished)

Colin Buchanan & Partners and Wardell Armstrong

European Landscape Convention

2004

Council of Europe



Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

3rd Edition 2013

Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment

Landscape and Landscape Assessment

Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities

June 2000

Department of the Environment and Local Government

Landscape Capacity Studies in Scotland – a review and guide to good practice

2009

Scottish Natural Heritage

Landscape Character Assessment

Guidance for England and Scotland

2002

The Countryside Agency / Scottish Natural Heritage

Landscape Character Assessment

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Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity

The Countryside Agency / Scottish Natural Heritage

Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies

2012

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025

2015

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

2018

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government