

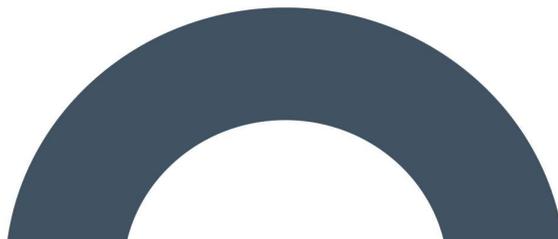
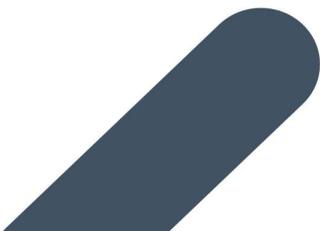
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Carrig Renewables Wind Farm EIAR

Appendix 14-2

Landscape Character Assessment Tables

Tipperary Planning Authority - Inspection Purposes Only!



1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 Tipperary Landscape Character Areas

Tipperary LCA 7 – Borrisokane Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	The proposed turbines are located within this LCA. At its furthest point, the LCA extends approximately 20.1km southwest of turbine T04.
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(TCDP Volume Three, Appendix 3; Landscape Character Assessment & Schedule of Views and Routes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › <i>“Farmed landscape dominated by limestone pasture interspersed with major communication routes to Portumna and Birr in adjoining Counties.</i> › <i>Occasional farmed ridges and gently undulating areas add landscape diversity to this large area.</i> › <i>Long settlement history spanning from the Neolithic tombs at Ardcroney, and Dominican priory at Lorrha to the Cromwellian development of Cloughjordan and Borrisokane.</i> › <i>Very high density of ‘Big Houses’ with tree lined avenues and cut stone outbuildings.</i> › <i>Scattered settlement with principal nucleated settlement of Borrisokane located at junctions of major and regional roads.</i> › <i>Due to generally low-lying landform, long views are afforded from occasional ridges across to Offaly, the western drumlin belt and the Silvermines.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>As detailed in Section 14.4.1.1.4 – <i>Landscape Sensitivity Designations</i>, the landscape policy indicates that LCA 7 has a relatively low sensitivity designation in the context of all other LCAs in Co. Tipperary (lowest 30-40%) and a high compatibility to wind energy development in terms of land use (peat bogs and agricultural land).</p> <p>It is also noted that the wind energy policy for the Proposed Development Site does not designate the site as ‘Unsuitable for Further Development’ by virtue of landscape considerations.</p> <p>It is noted in the LCAT (Tipperary Landscape Character Assessment) that this LCA is given a <i>“Dominant Sensitivity Rating”</i> of Class 2 – Transitional Sensitivity in the LCAT, the third lowest of six sensitivity classes in assigned to LCAs within County Tipperary. This sensitivity is described as <i>“having moderate sensitivity to change”</i> and the objective for this type of sensitivity in the LCAT is as follows: <i>“Facilitate development that with capacity to continue and enhance established patterns of use and settlement without significant change to appearance or character having a moderate sensitivity to change.”</i></p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Table 6.2</i> of the LCAT, this LCA is classified as having Low compatibility with windfarm land use, which is the second lowest out of four compatibility classifications assigned to an LCA in the LCAT. However, in relation to land use types, the Proposed Development itself is primarily located on cutover peat bog and</p>

	<p>agricultural land, which are assigned the following compatibility ratings in <i>Table 6.3</i> of the LCAT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Peat Bogs – 3rd highest out of 6 classes – <i>“likely to be compatible if sited and designed with great care.”</i> › Agricultural Land with Natural Vegetation – 2nd highest out of 6 classes – <i>“likely to be compatible with reasonable care.”</i> <p>A review of the landscape policy reported in Chapter 14 (Section 14.4.1.1.3 and Section 14.4.1.1.4) concludes that the Proposed Development is sited in a Landscape Archetype, Landscape Character Type and an LCA of relatively low sensitivity, particularly when compared with other types and LCAs in County Tipperary. Whilst the compatibility of LCA 7 for Windfarm development in relation to land use in <i>Table 6.2</i> of the LCAT is deemed to be ‘Low’, it is considered that there is only a very small proportion of the county (LCAs comprising 16% of the area of the county) with any higher compatibility, and these areas are deemed to be of higher landscape sensitivity in the planning policy, as outlined above in Section 14.4.1.1.4. At a site level, land use of the site can be best described as a combination of agricultural land and peat bogs, which are deemed to be the most compatible land use types for the development of wind energy.</p> <p>The WEDGs state that landscape sensitivity is the key consideration in the evaluation of areas suitable for wind energy development, and this is noted in <i>Section 5.2</i> of <i>Appendix 1</i> of the TRES. In general, it is preferable to site commercial wind energy developments in landscapes of lower sensitivity, as the change arising will ultimately result in a lower impact upon the landscape when appropriate siting and design are followed. As discussed in <i>Appendix 14-2</i>, it is considered that while this LCA is given a Dominant Sensitivity Rating of Class 2, siting of the Proposed Development primarily on land use types with good compatibility ratings in relation to wind energy development suggests that at a project level the landscape character of the Proposed Development Site is generally suitable for this type of development. Furthermore, considering the low levels of visibility of the proposed turbines from locations beyond 5km from the site as outlined in Chapter 14, the sensitivity of the parts of this LCA where the proposed turbines will actually be seen (with these tending towards compatible land use types) is not as high as the overall rating of Class 2 – Transitional Sensitivity suggests. Furthermore, it is emphasised that the sensitivity of this LCA as outlined in the policy is still relatively low in comparison with other LCAs in the county. Taking a precautionary approach, and incorporating all factors outlined above, including the sensitivity and land use compatibility ratings, this LCA is deemed to have a ‘Medium’ sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>
<p>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</p>	<p>As indicated by the ZTV, there is primarily full theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest turbine. Beyond 5km, the majority of the LCU has theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines with some large patches of no theoretical visibility. Actual on ground visibility, assessed during site visits determined that there would be more limited visibility in parts of the LCU beyond 5km from the proposed turbines, where the relatively flat topography takes advantage of screening in the landscape to limit views of the proposed turbines. Viewpoints 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17 and 18, are located within this LCA.</p>

<p>Cumulative Effects</p>	<p>The existing Carrig windfarm is located within this LCU, approximately 3.8km southeast from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. Additionally, the existing Skehanagh Windfarm is also located within this LCA, located approximately 4.7km southeast from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>There is widespread theoretical visibility of the existing Carrig and Skehanagh turbines within this LCA shown on the Cumulative Comparative ZTV.</p> <p>The addition of the Proposed Development to this LCA in combination with the existing Carrig and Skehanagh turbines, will not amount to ‘Significant’ effects on landscape character. It is also notable in relation to this LCA that the flat agricultural plain that comprises the majority of this LCA and beyond is capable of absorbing a wind energy development of this scale, considering the existing successful accommodation of wind energy development in the landscape and the scale of the remaining landscape where turbines are not yet visible. Wind energy developments do not dominate this landscape and the addition of the Proposed Development will not substantially alter the baseline status of the LCA in this regard. There will be additional areas and locations where turbines will now be visible as a result of the Proposed Development, although again views will be intermittent as result of the flat terrain and vegetation in the landscape.</p>
<p>Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)</i></p>	<p>Moderate <i>“A more limited loss of or change to landscape features over a medium extent which will result in some change to landscape features and aesthetics. Could include the addition of some new uncharacteristic features or elements that would lead to the potential for change in landscape character in a localised area or part of a landscape character area. Would include moderate effects on the overall landscape character that do not affect key characteristics.”</i></p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p>	<p>Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
<p>Mitigation Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › There are large parts of this LCU where there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development, or where the Proposed Development will be seen as a small background feature, and so the greatest effects on landscape character will be localised to parts of the LCU in close proximity to the site (i.e. within 5km of the site). › This area within 5km of the site where there will be the greatest effects on landscape character is already subject to wind energy development and so the addition of the Proposed Development, while creating some additional cumulative effects on landscape character, will not introduce novel elements into this part of the LCA.
<p>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</p>	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Tipperary LCA 11 – Shannon Callows	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 3.5km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T6). The EIA Site Boundary of the Proposed Development extends into this LCA, although this is related to the proposed underground grid connection which will have minimal effects on landscape character considering that it is to be located underground.
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(TCDP Volume Three, Appendix 3; Landscape Character Assessment & Schedule of Views and Routes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › “Strongly rural area much influenced by Rivers Shannon and Brosna. › Historical importance of River Shannon crossing evidenced by siting of Redwood Castle, where one of Annals of the Four Masters was written and Donal O’Sullivan Beara crossed the Shannon in 1603. › Extensive raised bogs, river flood plains and nationally recognised ecological value of Shannon Callows. › Isolated and rural character with settlement constrained by callows and raised bogs. › Dispersed settlement with limited number of nucleated settlements (the villages of Rathcabbinn and Riverstown present within the character area. › Extensive views afforded southwards across flat plains towards Silvermines from regional road. › Limestone ridges afford good views over to Counties Offaly and Galway and the meandering rivers Shannon and Brosna.”
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “Dominant Sensitivity Rating” of Class 3 – Sensitive in the LCAT, the third highest of six sensitivity classes in assigned to LCAs within County Tipperary. This sensitivity is described as “<i>high sensitivity to change</i>” and the objective for this type of sensitivity in the LCAT is as follows: “<i>Facilitate development that conclusively demonstrates wise use and best choices to continue and enhance established patterns of use and settlement without significant change to, or loss of, appearance or character.</i>”</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Table 6.2</i> of the LCAT, this LCA is classified as having Least compatibility with windfarm land use, which is the lowest out of four compatibility classifications assigned to an LCA in the LCAT.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA	There is theoretical visibility indicated to the south and east of this LCA. However, there is no theoretical visibility to the northwest of the LCA, along the majority of the lands immediately adjacent to the River Shannon. Viewpoints 1 and 11 are located within this LCA.
Cumulative Effects	There are no other proposed or existing windfarms located within this LCA. There may be some intermittent views of wind turbines in the permitted Derrinlough and existing Carrig and Skehanagh wind farms from locations within this LCA, although these are all located in excess of 5km from the border of the LCA and so any potential views of other cumulative turbines will be minor with vegetation in the landscape providing substantial screening in general. As shown in the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the majority of the areas to the south-east of this LCA have theoretical visibility

	of both cumulative and proposed turbines, whereas areas to the north-west have theoretical visibility of the cumulative turbines only. Again, it is noted that actual visibility of these turbines is substantially limited by vegetative screening present in the landscape.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)	Slight “The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › There is a large area within this LCA where there is no theoretical visibility of the turbines of the Proposed Development. This area of no visibility contains the highest sensitivity landscape features within the LCA, including the River Shannon and its banks, Redwood Castle, Redwood Bog. › Viewpoint 1 shows that even from the southern border of this LCA, the proposed turbines will be small background elements within views and are viewed as within another landscape character area, protecting the integrity of the landscape character of the Shannon Callows.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Tipperary LCA 10 – Upper Lough Derg	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 8km west of the nearest turbine (T5) and approximately 25.7km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics (TCDP Volume Three, Appendix 3; Landscape Character Assessment & Schedule of Views and Routes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › “Highly scenic area with recognised ecological and cultural values. › A number of well-maintained villages including Dromineer and Terryglass, that support recreation and tourism activities evidenced by a number of jetties and small harbours. › Settlement quite sparse on shoreline with small lanes accessing houses from the main road. › This settlement pattern is interspersed with a number of ‘Big Houses’ and former estates including Drominagh, Belle Isle and Slevoir, reflecting the popularity of siting large dwellings with lake views from the eighteenth century onwards. › The importance of the lake as an economic resource is evidenced by a number of mills such as the woollen mill at Dromineer and corn mill on Ballinfinboy River close to Ballinderry. › Lake shores commonly fringed by broadleaved woodland including Oak and Yew. The area is drained by a number of rivers with drumlin belt containing numerous small lakes.

	<p>› <i>Long views afforded across the Lake to the Sliabh Berragh and Sliabh Aughties in Clare and Galway. The lake and lakeside views are highly scenic and reflect management regimes in these adjacent counties.”</i></p>
<p>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</p>	<p>This LCA is given a “Dominant Sensitivity Rating” of Class 3 – Sensitive in the LCAT, the third highest of six sensitivity classes in assigned to LCAs within County Tipperary. This sensitivity is described as “<i>high sensitivity to change</i>” and the objective for this type of sensitivity in the LCAT is as follows: “<i>Facilitate development that conclusively demonstrates wise use and best choices to continue and enhance established patterns of use and settlement without significant change to, or loss of, appearance or character.</i>”</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Table 6.2</i> of the LCAT, this LCA is classified as having Least compatibility with windfarm land use, which is the lowest out of four compatibility classifications assigned to an LCA in the LCAT.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High.</p>
<p>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</p>	<p>There are patches of full, partial, and large areas of no theoretical visibility in this LCA. Considering the distances involved there will be a very limited number of instances where views towards the proposed turbines are possible. The landform is undulating providing topographical screening and the vegetation existent within the landscape (noted above in the description of the LCA characteristics) will provide further screening, in particular from the lakeshore. Viewpoint 15 is located within this LCA and shows one of the most open views of the Proposed Development from within the LCA.</p>
<p>Cumulative Effects</p>	<p>There are no other proposed or existing windfarms located within this LCA. There are patches of both theoretical visibility of both cumulative turbines and the proposed turbines, as well as patches of visibility of cumulative turbines only existent within the parts of this LCA located within the LVIA Study Area. Considering the distances involved and the undulating topography and vegetation present in the landscape, there will be limited instances overall where the Proposed Development is seen in combination with other wind turbines. As noted previously in relation to the Proposed Development, this is particularly the case from locations around the lakeshore.</p>
<p>Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)</p>	<p>Slight “<i>The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.</i>”</p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p>	<p>High x Slight = Moderate / Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
<p>Mitigation Factors</p>	<p>› Large areas within the parts of this LCA within the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character have no theoretical visibility, with</p>

	<p>further screening provided by the vegetation existent within the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › One of the highest sensitivity landscape features within the LCA, the lake and lakeshore have primarily no theoretical visibility, and are bordered by vegetation that will screen views of the proposed turbines. › Large parts of the LCA are located outside of the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character. › Effects on the landscape character of this LCA as a result of the Proposed Development is significantly mitigated by distance. › Views towards the sensitive landscape features and scenic amenity within the LCA is focused to the west, towards Lough Derg and away from the Proposed Development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

1.2

Offaly Interim Landscape Character Areas

County Offaly does not have any designated LCAs. As reported in Section 14.4.1.2.1 of Chapter 14 of this EIA - Landscape Character Areas – Other Counties in the LVIA Study Area, MKO has prepared interim Landscape Character Areas (undesignated) for the area of County Offaly located within the LVIA Study Area (15 km for Landscape Character). There are three interim LCAs located within the LVIA Study Area and all has been comprehensively described and assessed below. The description and sensitivity of these interim LCAs (ILCA) has been derived from site visits, desk studies and assessments conducted by the MKO Landscape & Visual team (as well as being used previously for the assessment of LCAs in the LVIA for the permitted Derrinlough Wind Farm).

Offaly ILCA 1 – Birr Plains	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of ILCA	At its closest point, this ILCA is located approximately 3.8km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).
ILCA Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Generally, land gradually/gently rises eastwards towards the Slieve Bloom Mountains › Series of hills running southwest to northeast parallel to Slieve Bloom Mountains including Kiltubbrid Island, Knockhill and Drinagh, Mountbolus › Orderly agricultural field patterns predominant › High degree of tree cover in the form of mature hedgerows › Few isolated areas of forestry or bog
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	The only designated Areas of High Amenity from the OCDP 2021-2027 located within the parts of this ILCA within the LVIA Study Area are designated as ‘Other Eskers’. From <i>Map 10</i> within the OCDP, the area of Offaly located within this ILCA is deemed as not suitable for wind energy development, although it is noted that the Proposed Development is not located within this ILCA. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low .

Visibility of the Proposed Development within the ILCA	<p>There are large areas of theoretical visibility within this ILCA, in particular to the northeast and southeast, with areas of no theoretical visibility to the east as a result of some rising hills towards Slieve Bloom, and a large area of no theoretical viability to the south of the ILCA, as a result for the topographical screening provided by Knockshigowna. Viewpoints 3, 8, and 10 are located within this ILCA.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other windfarms located within this ILCA, however, the existing Skehanagh and existing Carrig wind farms are located close to the western border of the ILCA and are visible from locations to the south of the ILCA nearby these wind farms, and from elevated locations to the east of the ILCA. The majority of the area has theoretical visibility of both cumulative turbines and the proposed turbines. There are also large areas of theoretical visibility of cumulative turbines only, located within areas where large topographical features that the Carrig and Skehanagh wind farm are located upon screen views of the Proposed Development.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p>Slight <i>“The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”</i></p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Slight = Minor / Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>
Mitigation Factors	<p>› In reality, views towards the Proposed Development from locations beyond 5km from the nearest proposed turbine (which includes the vast majority of the parts of this LCA within the LVIA Study Area) will be limited due to the hedgerows which predominate in the ILCA bordering the field boundaries (See Viewpoint 10, for example).</p>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Offaly ILCA 3 – Central Wetlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of ILCA	At its closest point, this ILCA is located approximately 7.7km northeast from the closest turbine (T2).
ILCA Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Previously cutaway bogs in the process of transition from industrial uses, after-use › Revegetation to wetland area › Landscape pattern not clearly distinct › Generally characterised by open, expansive vistas with sparse vegetation › Largely free of buildings and associated installations such as overhead wires
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	The only designated Areas of High Amenity from the OCDP 2021-2027 located within the parts of this ILCA within the LVIA Study Area are designated as ‘Other Eskers’. From Map 10 within the OCDP, large areas of County Offaly located within this ILCA are deemed as not suitable for wind energy development. However, there is also a large area of cutover bog to the northeast of the LVIA Study Area within this ILCA that is designated as ‘Areas Open for Consideration’. In consideration of the above noted landscape features, classifications, and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Medium .
Visibility of the Proposed Development within the ILCA	There is primarily full theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development throughout the parts of this ILCA that are located within the LVIA Study Area. Viewpoint 4 is located within this ILCA, and Viewpoint 14 is located close to the southern border of this ILCA.
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Derrinlough wind farm is located within this ILCA, approximately 12.9 km northeast from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. The existing Meenwuan and Cloghan wind farms are also located within this ILCA approximately 12.2km northeast from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>There is theoretical visibility of both the proposed and cumulative turbines from the majority of this ILCA. However, considering the distances involved, the Proposed Development will only be visible from elevated locations from within this ILCA and the proposed turbines will appear as small background elements within these views. See VP4 for example. Therefore, the addition of the Proposed Development will not amount to substantial cumulative visual effects.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)	Slight “The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Given the distance of the ILCA from the proposed turbines, there will only be views of the proposed turbines from isolated elevated locations within this ILCA. Where turbines of the Proposed Development will be viewed as small background elements in any case, with consequently a low level of change to landscape character. › This ILCA is already subject to wind energy development and so the addition of the Proposed Development, while creating some minor additional cumulative landscape effects on landscape character, will not introduce novel elements into this part of the LCA.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Offaly ILCA 4 – River Shannon and Callows	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of ILCA	The ILCA is located along the western border of County Offaly. At its closest point, this ILCA is located approximately 6.6km north-east of the nearest turbine (T2).
ILCA Key Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Lands liable to flooding › Water meadows, important breeding grounds for migrant birds › Local scenic views along the river › Includes local heritage sites such as Clonmacnoise and the Callows, although these are located outside of the LVIA Study Area.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	There are two designated Areas of High Amenity from the OCPD 2021-2027 located within the parts of this ILCA within the LVIA Study Area. These are designated as ‘Other Eskers’ and ‘River Shannon and Callows’, which covers a large portion of this ILCA. From <i>Map 10</i> within the OCPD, all areas within this ILCA are deemed as not suitable for wind energy development. In consideration of the above noted landscape features, classifications, and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be High .
Visibility of the Proposed Development within the ILCA	There are large patches of full theoretical visibility within this ICLA, primarily where the ILCA follows the Little Brosna River to the east. Where this LCA is located around the River Shannon itself, theoretical visibility is mix of full, partial, and no theoretical visibility. Viewpoint 14 is located within this LCA.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing or permitted windfarms are located within this ILCA. In locations where there is theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from within this LCA, there is combined visibility of the Proposed Development and cumulative turbines indicated. From areas of this LCA where there is no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, there is theoretical visibility of cumulative turbines. However, views of the Proposed Development are extremely limited from this LCA given the presence of vegetation along the riverbanks, particularly in relation to the River Shannon, where the low elevation of this part of the ILCA results in a substantial screening effect from this vegetation. There will be limited locations where visibility towards the Proposed Development occurs from

	within this ILCA and so cumulative visual effects resulting from the addition of the Proposed Development are not considered to be substantial.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 14-1)</i>	Slight - <i>“The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate / Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Given the distance of the ILCA from the proposed turbines, there will only be views of the proposed turbines from isolated elevated locations within this ILCA. Where turbines of the Proposed Development will be viewed as small background elements in any case, with consequently a low level of change to landscape character. › From the most sensitive parts of this ILCA (River Shannon), the vegetation along the riverbanks will provide substantial screening in the direction of the Proposed Development, with limited views in this direction available from this low lying area.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

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