



APPENDIX 13-2

LCA ASSESSMENT TABLES

Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables

Proposed Slievegrine
Renewable Energy
Development, Co.
Waterford





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1.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA (LCA) ASSESSMENT TABLES

This appendix comprises an impact assessment addressing the landscape effects of the Proposed Project upon each designated Landscape Character Area (LCA) scoped in for assessment in Chapter 13 of this EIAR; please refer to the main chapter, Section 13.4.2.3 Preliminary Analysis: LCAs.

Regarding the ‘Significance of Effect’ ratings in the tables below: The definition of classification is taken from the ‘*Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*’ of the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland (EPA) (2022); refer to *Appendix 13-1*, Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Assessment Matrix.

In this appendix, reference is made to the following policy documents:

- Waterford City and County Development Plan (WCCDP) 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment, Scenic Routes and Protected Views.
- WCCDP Appendix 8 ‘Table A8.3 Sensitivity Classifications and Areas,’ listing LCA sensitivity in table form.
- WCCDP Appendix 8 ‘Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity,’ mapping landscape sensitivity areas that overlap with LCA boundaries.
- WCCDP Appendix 7 Renewable Energy Strategy (hereafter, Waterford RES) Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map).
- Cork County Development Plan (CCDP) Vol.1 Appendix F Landscape Character Assessment.
- CCDP Vol.1 Main Policy Material, Chapter 14 Green Infrastructure and Recreation, Section 14.7 Landscape.
- CCDP Vol.1 Ch.13 Energy and Telecommunications, Section 13.6 Wind Energy and the map Figure 13.2 Policy Considerations for Wind Energy Projects.

1.1

LCAs containing the Proposed Project

1.1.1

LCU-5E: Drumhills

Waterford LCU-5E: Drumhills	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-5E
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	Contains all Proposed Turbines and almost all Proposed Project infrastructure, including the Proposed 110kV Substation, the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation, and most of the Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route.
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 LCU-5E is listed as the ‘Foothills Landscape Type’ and the landscape of the LCU comprises mainly pastureland and coniferous plantations. Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-5E is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>‘Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> In WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-5E is listed as ‘High Sensitivity’ which is incongruous with Map A8.3. The higher sensitivity rating is due to the presence of ‘Hills’ as ‘High Sensitivity’ features and in LCU-5E this includes Carronadavderg Hill and Slievegrine Hill. However, in addition, within the same Table A8.3, Carronadavderg Hill and Slievegrine Hill are <u>also</u> listed as ‘Low Sensitivity’ features under ‘Coniferous Plantations’ which is not associated with any LCA, so the two hills are given both ‘High’ and ‘Low’ sensitivity ratings within the same table. Section 13.4.1.2 of the LVIA explains that based on fieldwork observations and desk study, the two hills are considered Low Sensitivity features in this LVIA, as they comprise low-sensitivity forestry and pastureland. The closest Proposed Turbine to Carronadavderg Hill is T13, located approximately 600m east of the summit and the closest to Slievegrine Hill is T7 located approximately 630m southeast of the summit.
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	From the Waterford RES Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map: ➤ <i>‘Preferred.’</i> All land area of the LCA which contains the Proposed Project infrastructure falls within the designation of ‘Preferred’ area for wind energy development.

Waterford LCU-5E: Drumhills	
	The large scale, sparse population and land use characteristics such as commercial forestry make this LCA a highly suitable landscape for accommodating wind energy development, giving it a low susceptibility to change.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Low. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	Onsite visibility appraisal found that there is likely to be limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines from large areas of this LCA, due to the Proposed Turbines being sited within this LCA. Viewpoints VP04, VP16, VP17, VP18 and VP19, as well as four supplementary photowires (PW-C, PW-F, PW-H and PW-I) are located within this LCA and represent views towards the Proposed Turbines from within the landscape area. Photowire PW-D is located within the Proposed Wind Farm site and represents views towards the Proposed 110kV Substation, as well as the Proposed Turbines. In addition, one photowire (PW-L) was captured within this LCA and represents views towards the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation in the west part of the Site, which will also be limited. Effects of the non-turbine components of the Proposed Project on landscape character are highly localised to the site itself and its immediate landscape setting within this LCA.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	Cumulative landscape effects on this LCA occur with the existing Woodhouse Wind Farm which is located within this LCA, approximately 4.9km northwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine T1. In addition, the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is to be located between Woodhouse and the Proposed Turbines, with its closest turbine 2.9km northwest of T1. The combination of these cumulative developments being seen within the landscape is likely to have limited impact on the overall character of the LCU.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Low × Moderate = Minor = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ All areas of the LCA containing the Proposed Project infrastructure falls within the designation of ‘Preferred’ area for wind energy development according to the Waterford RES 2022-2028. ➤ All areas of the LCA containing the Proposed Project infrastructure comprise coniferous forestry and pastureland and falls within ‘Low Sensitivity’ landscape according to WCCDP Appendix 8 Map A8.3.

Waterford LCU-5E: Drumhills	
	➤ The design of the Proposed Project complies with the design requirements for this type of landscape (Transitional Marginal) as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The potential visibility of the Proposed Turbines within this LCA is extensive; however, there are limitations locally due to the highly undulating nature of the local terrain where the Proposed Project infrastructure is to be located, which provides intermittent visual screening and thereby helps to preserve landscape character of the LCA. ➤ The distance between the Proposed Turbines and cumulative developments within the same LCA, as well as the siting of the Proposed Turbines among undulating terrain, is enough that material changes to the immediate physical landscape will not be cumulative.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.1.2

LCU-2D: Clashmore & Newport Lowlands

Waterford LCU-2D Clashmore & Newport Lowlands	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-2D
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	Contains a short length (approximately 1.5km) of the Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route that follows local and regional public roadways. At its two closest points, LCU-2D is located approx. 400m southwest from the edge of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation (in the northeast of the LCA) and approx. 850m west of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T22) (in the east of the LCA).
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 LCU-5D is listed as the ‘Farmed Lowland Landscape Type’ and the landscape of the LCU comprises mainly pastureland. In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-2D is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> In WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-2D is listed as ‘Low Sensitivity.’
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	From the Waterford RES Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map: ➤ <i>‘Preferred.’</i> All land area of the LCA which contains the Proposed Project infrastructure falls within the designation of ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development. The large scale, sparse population and land use characteristics, namely pastureland, make this LCA a highly suitable landscape for accommodating wind energy development, giving it a low susceptibility to change.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Low. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 – LVIA Methodology.</i>
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	Regarding the Proposed Turbines, although the ZTV shows large areas of full theoretical visibility within this LCA, the onsite visibility appraisal found that the actual potential for visibility in the direction of the Proposed Turbines is reduced due to the visual screening by topography (from low elevation vantage points) and roadside vegetation or mature forestry. There

Waterford LCU-2D Clashmore & Newport Lowlands	
	is potential for some visibility from higher elevation areas within this LCA. Viewpoint VP15 as well as two supplementary photowires (PW-E, PW-J) are located within this LCA and represent views towards the Proposed Turbines from within the landscape area. Regarding the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation, onsite visibility appraisal determined that there is potential to experience views of the Proposed Project infrastructure from higher elevation roads within this LCA which open clear views to the north, namely L-2011 where it traverses low hills approximately 1km southwest of the location of the proposed compound. One photowire (PW-M) was captured in this LCA and represents views towards the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	No cumulative developments are located in this LCA.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Negligible. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Low × Negligible = Negligible = ‘Imperceptible’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ All land area of the LCA containing the Proposed Project infrastructure falls within the designation of ‘Preferred’ area for wind energy development according to the Waterford RES 2022-2028. ➤ All land area of the LCA containing the Proposed Project infrastructure falls within ‘Low Sensitivity’ landscape according to WCCDP Appendix 8 Map A8.3. ➤ The Proposed Project footprint within this LCA covers a very small extent of the total area of the LCA and comprises underground cabling features along public roads, thereby constituting very minor change in character to the overall landscape, without affecting key characteristics, once the short-term physical effects of the construction works have been completed and vegetation along the roadway has reinstated.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Imperceptible’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.2

LCAs of the Wider 15km LCA Study Area

1.2.1

LCU-1E: Dungarvan Harbour

Waterford LCU-1E: Dungarvan Harbour	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-1E
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, LCU-1E is located approx. 750m east of the nearest proposed turbine (T6).
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-1E comprises a mix of ‘Low,’ ‘High’ and ‘Most Sensitive’ classifications. The land area closest to the Proposed Project is the west portion of the LCA and is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> In WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-2D is listed as ‘Most Sensitive’ which likely relates to the eastern portion of the LCA shown in Map A8.3 as ‘High Sensitivity’ and ‘Most Sensitive’ and which occupies the coastal edge of the LCA north and east of SR7—this area of the LCA is farthest from the Proposed Project and is located on landscape that slopes down and away from the Low Sensitivity portion, towards Dungarvan Harbour and the ocean. ‘Most Sensitive’ characteristics include: ➤ <i>Very distinctive features with a very low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations of existing character over an extended area.</i> ➤ <i>Represents the principal features which create and sustain the character and distinctiveness of the surrounding landscape.</i> ➤ <i>To be considered for permission, development in or in the environs of these areas must be shown not to impinge in any significant way upon its character, integrity or uniformity when viewed from the surroundings.</i> ➤ <i>Particular attention should be given to the preservation of the character and distinctiveness of these areas as viewed from scenic routes and the environs of archaeological and historic sites.’</i>

Waterford LCU-1E: Dungarvan Harbour	
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA. According to the Waterford RES Appendix 2 'Wind Energy Strategy' Map, the LCA contains a mix of 'Preferred' and 'Exclusion' areas for wind energy development. The 'Low Sensitivity' land areas closer to the Site are designated as the former.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Medium. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	A large portion of this LCA falls within 5km of the Proposed Turbines and thus there is the potential to experience views of the Proposed Turbines from this landscape. Onsite visibility appraisal found that there is potential for some visibility from areas within this LCA; however, the terrain of the LCA within 5km comprises steep slopes which visually screen many of the Proposed Turbines and low elevation areas around the harbour located at greater distance from the Site. Viewpoints VP07, VP10, VP12 and VP20, as well as one supplementary photowire (PWVP-B) are located within this LCA and represent views towards the Proposed Turbines from within the landscape area.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	At the farthest eastern corner of the LCA from the Proposed Turbines, the proposed Moanbrack Wind Farm is to be located at the borders of LCU-1E, LCU-5E and LCU-1F. Moanbrack would consist of 2 no. turbines of 120m tip height and would be located nearly 6km east of T12 and would be within 400m of the existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm, consisting of 2 no. turbines of the same tip height immediately to the east. Given the distance between Moanbrack / Ballycurreen and the Proposed Turbines, there is no potential for material cumulative impacts.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.'</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA; therefore, no material impacts to the physical fabric of the landscape in this LCA will arise as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ Most of the Proposed Turbines are screened from view within this LCA by undulating terrain and roadside screening from woodland and

Waterford LCU-1E: Dungarvan Harbour	
	forestry, throughout the LCA, thereby preserving the landscape character of the LCA relating to its scenic amenity value. > From the 'Most Sensitive' area of the LCA, onsite visibility appraisal found that there is likely to be limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines and VP01 represents views from this location of the LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect	'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.'</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.2.2

LCU-2E: Blackwater & Bride Lowlands

Waterford LCU-2E Blackwater & Bride Lowlands	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-2E
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, LCU-2E is located approx. 260m northwest from the closest edge of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation compound and approx. 2km north of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T2).
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-2E is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> In WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-2D is listed as ‘Low Sensitivity.’
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA. According to the Waterford RES Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map, most of the LCA is classified as ‘Preferred’ area for wind energy development.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Low. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology.</i>
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	The Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation is in close proximity to this LCA and a large portion of the LCA also falls within 5km of the Proposed Turbines, thus there is the potential to experience views of the Proposed Project infrastructure from this landscape. Regarding the Proposed Turbines, onsite visibility appraisal found that there is some potential for visibility of the Proposed Turbines in areas to the south of this LCA. The majority of this LCA will not have visibility of the Proposed Turbines due to the high degree of visual screening by roadside vegetation or mature forestry, and the nature of most of the Proposed Turbines being enclosed within undulating terrain to the south of the LCA. Viewpoint VP08 and photowire PWVP-K are located within this LCA and represent views of the Proposed Turbines from within the landscape area.

Waterford LCU-2E Blackwater & Bride Lowlands	
	Regarding the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation, onsite visibility appraisal found that there is potential to experience partial views of some aspects of the Proposed Project infrastructure from within the LCA. VP21 is located in this LCA and represents views of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation from within 600m.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	No cumulative developments are located in this LCA.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Low × Slight = Minor/Negligible = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA; therefore, no material impacts to the physical fabric of the landscape in this LCA will arise as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The majority of this LCA will not have visibility of the Proposed Turbines due to the high degree of visual screening by roadside vegetation or mature forestry and the nature of most of the Proposed Turbines being enclosed within undulating terrain to the south of the LCA, thereby preserving landscape character of the LCA related to its scenic amenity, in most areas.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.2.3

LCU-5C: Tooraneena Foothills

Waterford LCU-5C: Tooraneena Foothills	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-5C
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, LCU-5C is located approx. 6.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-5C is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>‘Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> Similar to LCU-5E, in WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-5C is listed as ‘High Sensitivity’ which is incongruous with Map A8.3, due to the presence of hills, which in LCU-5C this includes the foothills of Comeragh Mountains through which SR8, SR10, SR11 and other scenic routes traverse. The closest Proposed Turbine to this hilly terrain is T6, located approximately 7.8km southwest of the foothills. ‘High Sensitivity’ characteristics include: ➤ <i>‘Distinctive character with some capacity to absorb a limited range of appropriate new developments while sustaining its existing character.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have a distinctive, homogenous character, dominated by natural processes.’</i>
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA. According to the Waterford RES Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map, most of the LCA within the 15km LCA Study Area is classified as ‘Preferred’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ areas for wind energy development.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Medium. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology.</i>
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	This landscape area contains high-elevation hills and has pockets of full theoretical visibility in high points with open views in the direction of the Proposed Turbines, thus there is the potential to experience views of the Proposed Project infrastructure from these vantage points.

Waterford LCU-5C: Tooraneena Foothills	
	Onsite visibility appraisal found that the potential for visibility of the Proposed Turbines will mostly be in the south of this LCA. Viewpoint VP14 is located within this LCA and represents views towards the Proposed Turbines from within the landscape area.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	No cumulative developments are located in this LCA.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA; therefore, no material impacts to the physical fabric of the landscape in this LCA will arise as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ Proposed Turbines visible from this LCA will be seen at a distance of greater than 8km and therefore will not be prominent in any views, thereby minimising impact on the landscape character of the LCA relating to its scenic amenity value.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.2.4

LCU-5F Glendine Foothills

Waterford LCU-5F: Glendine Foothills	
Map Ref.	W-LCU-5F
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, LCU-5F is located approx. 10.6km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T22).
LCA Key Characteristics	In WCCDP 2022-2028 Appendix 8 Map A8.3 Landscape Sensitivity the land area aligning with LCU-5F is mainly classified as ‘Low Sensitivity’ with the following characteristics: ➤ <i>‘Low sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Pasture Land, Coniferous Plantations.</i> ➤ <i>A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have potential to absorb a wide range of new developments subject to normal planning and development control procedures.</i> ➤ <i>In these areas the Planning Authority will have regard to general restrictions to development such as scenic routes, siting, road set backs, road widening plans, parking numbers, road and sewage disposal criteria.’</i> Similar to LCU-5E and 5C, in WCCDP Appendix 8 Table A8.3, LCU-5F is listed as ‘High Sensitivity’ which is incongruous with Map A8.3, due to the presence of hills, which in LCU-5F includes Ballycondon Hill. ‘High Sensitivity’ characteristics include: ➤ <i>‘Distinctive character with some capacity to absorb a limited range of appropriate new developments while sustaining its existing character.</i> ➤ <i>These areas have a distinctive, homogenous character, dominated by natural processes.’</i>
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA. According to the Waterford RES Appendix 2 ‘Wind Energy Strategy’ Map, nearly all of the LCA within the 15km LCA Study Area is classified as ‘Preferred’ area for wind energy development.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = Low. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology.</i>
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	This landscape area contains high-elevation hills with pockets of full theoretical visibility in the direction of the Proposed Turbines, thus there is the potential to experience views of the Proposed Turbines from high points with open visibility.

Waterford LCU-5F: Glendine Foothills	
	Onsite visibility appraisal found that the potential for visibility of the Proposed Turbines will be very limited due to the distance from the Proposed Turbines and high degree of visual screening by vegetation within this LCA. No viewpoints are located within this LCA.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	The permitted Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm is located in this LCA, to consist of 17 no. turbines of 150m tip height, primarily sited within an area of the LCA with full theoretical visibility of the Proposed Turbines. Given the distance between Lyrenacarriga and the Proposed Turbines, there is no potential for material cumulative impacts.
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Negligible. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	Low × Negligible = Negligible = ‘Imperceptible’ (EPA, 2022) Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA; therefore, no material impacts to the physical fabric of the landscape in this LCA will arise as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The potential for actual visibility of the Proposed Turbines from this LCA will be very limited due to the distance from the Proposed Turbines and the high degree of visual screening by vegetation within this LCA, thus the cumulative impacts with Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm on the landscape character of the LCA related to its scenic amenity will not be significant.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Imperceptible’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.

1.2.5

LCT-2: Broad Bay Coast

Cork LCT-2: Broad Bay Coast	
Map Ref.	C-LCT-2
Distance from the Proposed Project Infrastructure to Nearest/ Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, LCT-2 is located approx. 7.6km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T22).
LCA Key Characteristics	From the CCDP Vol.1 Appendix F and Section 14.7 Landscape: ➤ <i>‘Very High Sensitivity.</i> ➤ <i>Very High Value, County-level Importance.</i> ➤ <i>Very high sensitivity landscapes are extra vulnerable landscapes which are likely to be fragile and susceptible to change.</i> ➤ <i>Landscape Character Types which have a very high or high landscape value and high or very high landscape sensitivity and are of county or national importance are considered to be our most valuable landscapes and therefore are designated as High Value Landscapes (HVLs).</i> ➤ <i>Within HVLs, considerable care will be needed to successfully locate large scale developments without them becoming unduly obtrusive.</i> ➤ <i>Therefore, the location, siting and design of large-scale developments within these areas will need careful consideration ... of visibility and prominence of the proposed development in its immediate environs and in the wider landscape.’</i>
LCA Capacity for Wind Energy Development	No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA. According to the CCDP Vol.1 Figure 13.2 ‘Policy Considerations for Wind Energy Projects’ map, most of the LCA within the 15km LCA Study Area is classified as ‘<i>Normally Discouraged</i>’ or ‘<i>Open to Consideration</i>’ areas for wind energy development.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	Sensitivity = High. Refer to Section 1.7.3 Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology.</i>
Visibility of the Proposed Project Infrastructure from within the LCA	This landscape area has high classifications for sensitivity, value and importance within the local policy and overlaps with a separate ‘High Value Landscape’ designation in local policy, and there is the potential to experience views of the Proposed Project infrastructure from high points with open visibility in the direction of the Proposed Turbines. Onsite visibility appraisal found that there is potential for visibility of the Proposed Turbines in some areas along the coast. Viewpoint VP06 is located within this LCA and represents views from within the landscape area.
Cumulative Context within the LCA	No cumulative developments are located in this LCA.

Cork LCT-2: Broad Bay Coast	
Magnitude of Change	Magnitude = Negligible. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ No infrastructure of the Proposed Project will be located in this LCA; therefore, no material impacts to the physical fabric of the landscape in this LCA will arise as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The key landscape characteristics of this LCA relating to localised views of the coastline and views directed out over the ocean are largely preserved in that views are typically directed away from the Proposed Turbines. ➤ Proposed Turbines visible from this LCA will be seen at significant distance and will not be prominent in any views, thereby minimising impact on the landscape character of the LCA relating to its scenic amenity value.
Residual Landscape Effect	‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.7.5 Landscape Effects Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1 - LVIA Methodology</i>.



APPENDIX 13-2

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