APPENDIX 13-2

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENT TABLES

1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER 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.

The impact assessment for each LCA is set out in its own table below. In the tables, the discussion of theoretical visibility in each LCA refers to Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping as outlined in Section 13.3 'Visibility of the Proposed Project' of Chapter 13.

It is recommended that the impact assessments in this appendix are read in conjunction with Figure 13-17: Landscape Character Areas with ZTV in the main chapter. This map illustrates the boundary of each LCA and is overlain by the Half-Blade ZTV, which extends to the 15km LCA Study Area for the assessment of effects on designated LCAs; the brief and full methodologies for determining the LCA Study Area boundary are provided respectively in Section 13.2.2 'Scope of the LVIA and Study Areas' of the main chapter and in Section 1.4.2 in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

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 Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Assessment Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1*.

1.1.1 KCDP LCA 04 – Bog of Allen

KCDP LCA 04 – Bog of Allen	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	The Proposed Turbines are located within this LCA. At its furthest point, this LCA extends approximately. 15.7km northeast from Proposed Turbine T46. The Proposed Grid Connection is located within this LCA.
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character Assessment 2025 (KLCA)*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"This large character area encompasses part of the former Bog of Allen, the largest raised peat bog in Ireland. County Offaly forms the western boundary, and the Grand Canal crosses this LCA in an east-west direction. This area is characterised by flat topography, smooth terrain and a high-water table. Long straight roads traverse the peatlands, characterised by uneven surfaces and large wide ditches on either side. The roads generally offer extensive views, which are intermittently obscured by fringe vegetation, such as wetland scrub and hedgerows. Most of this LCA is categorised as 'Rural' and settlements are sparse, with a few small villages on the periphery of the peatlands and low population density with scattered settlements such as Prosperous."* Section 4.5.2 of the KLCA notes that: *"This area is characterised by flat topography, smooth terrain and a high-water table comprising:* › *Historically a significant area of peat extraction and relics of this abound through roads, housing and narrow-gauge railway lines,*

KCDP LCA 04 – Bog of Allen	
	reflecting the economic significance of peatlands to the region and a strong peatlands community. › *Three former industrial peatlands are included in the Bord na Mona Peatlands Climate Action Scheme for post extraction decommissioning and rehabilitation, at Lodge, Timahoe South and Prosperous.* › *Most of this area is categorised as 'Rural' and under moderate to high urban influence, settlements are sparse, with a few small villages or farmsteads on the periphery of the peatlands, low population density with scattered settlements such as Prosperous. The Grand Canal crosses this area in an east west direction.* › *Long, very straight roads traverse the peatlands, characterised by uneven surfaces and large wide ditches on either side.* › *Generally extensive views, intermittently obscured by fringe vegetation, such as wetland scrub and hedgerows.* › *The open character and expansive scale create a remote character to much of this LCA providing a distinctive aesthetic value."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium/High"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"Medium"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium to Medium/High"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"High"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Medium to Low"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 04 as having a *"Medium to High"* sensitivity and has an overall 'Medium' compatibility to Wind Energy development, which is the most compatible of all the ratings as there are no LCAs with a higher compatibility. The KWES further consolidates landscape sensitivities into three sensitivity classifications. LCA 04 is designated as being of *"Class 2 – Medium Landscape Sensitivity (Medium to High Sensitivity)"*, which is designated as an area 'Open for Consideration' for wind energy development. There are some areas designated as 'Not Normally Permissible' within this LCA. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **Medium**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There is predominantly full theoretical visibility across this LCA within the LCA Study Area, except for localised pockets of no theoretical visibility resulting from localised topographical undulations. However, in reality, as demonstrated in Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet, visibility and scale of the Proposed Turbines within these flat landscapes diminishes significantly with distance.
Cumulative Context	There is 1 no. turbine of the existing Cushaling Wind Farm located at the western extent of this LCA, located approximately. 1km west of the nearest Proposed Turbine within this LCA (T42). In a potential future receiving environment, the proposed Drehid Wind Farm would be located in the north-eastern extent of this LCA, approximately 7.4km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine T46.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Cumulative Comparative ZTV illustrates that much of this LCT has theoretical visibility of both Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines. There are likely to be views in combination and in succession of turbines

KCDP LCA 04 – Bog of Allen	
	from the Proposed Project and the existing Cushaling Wind Farm, as well as other windfarms in the wider landscape (e.g. existing Cloncreen Wind Farm and other cumulative windfarms in Co. Offaly) from locations within this LCA. There is also potential for views in opposing direction with the proposed Drehid Wind Farm. However, visibility of the Proposed Turbines with cumulative wind farms will generally be limited by the high levels of vegetation within the very flat landscape within in the LCA. Given the existing density of wind energy development in very close proximity of this LCA, and extent of the Proposed Turbines, cumulative landscape effects are anticipated from the addition of the Proposed Project within this LCA. Cumulative effects that do occur are incorporated into the magnitude of change.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Moderate.** Rationale: The Proposed Wind Farm will materially alter the physical fabric of this LCA, as a result of the Proposed Project, which will be primarily confined to the Project Site itself. The wider extent of this LCA, will remain unaffected. In terms of visibility, visibility will be most prominent to the immediate vicinity of the Project Site, with visibility rapidly diminishing with distance. On balance, the magnitude of change to this LCA deemed to be 'Moderate'. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting and design of the Proposed Turbines were developed for peatland landscape character types within which the Proposed Turbines are located. › The majority of this LCA's land area is designated as 'Open for Consideration' by the KWES, including the location of the Proposed Wind Farm. › Section 2.3.1 of the KCDP Wind Energy Strategy recognises *"that Bord Na Móna's Strategic Framework for the Future Use of Peatlands identifies cutaway bogs as areas which may be suitable for renewable energy as long-term alternative uses of these sites".* › The flat nature of the Proposed Wind Farm and the surrounding landscape (and this LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the Proposed Turbines will reduce significantly with distance. › As shown in the photomontages (EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet) and described throughout the photomontage assessment tables (see *Appendix 13-3*), due to the very flat landscape characteristics and disproportionate screening effect (See Section 13.3.2 in Chapter 13), only a very small proportion of the overall Proposed Wind Farm is ever seen and experienced from any low-lying vantage point, including those receptors in close proximity. It is only

KCDP LCA 04 – Bog of Allen	
	occasionally, from more elevated vantage points where the full impact of all 46 no. Proposed Turbines are experienced by a visual receptor in one view, where they are seen as a single cluster of turbines within the landscape. › KCDP Chapter 13 describes this LCA as 'Rural' and notes that *"settlements are sparse, with a few small villages on the periphery of the peatlands and low population density with scattered settlements..."* indicating a sparsely settled landscape with a relatively low density of visual receptors, particularly in the vicinity of the Proposed Wind Farm. › The effect of the flat LCA is compounded by the presence of hedgerows, mature treelines, and dense forestry within the landscape. This vegetative screening, located between visual receptors and the Proposed Turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, removing large numbers of Proposed Turbines from views, or making those views of the Proposed Turbines (as well as the Proposed Onsite Substation) intermittent in nature. The effect of this screening is amplified in terms of impeding views of the Proposed Turbines for such a flat site. Therefore, the greatest effect on landscape character will be localised to the parts of this LCA in close proximity to the Project Site. › A minimum setback from the Proposed Turbines was implemented to mitigate effects related to the Grand Canal located within this LCA, the 4x-tip-height set back distance (880m) typically used for residential amenity was deemed appropriate and was implemented for the Proposed Project, with T32 (the nearest Proposed Turbine) sited approximately 880m from the southern edge of the canal. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.2 KCDP LCA 01 – Carbury Boyne Lowlands

KCDP LCA 01 – Carbury Boyne	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 1.5km north from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T32).

KCDP LCA 01 – Carbury Boyne	
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character Assessment 2025 (KLCA)*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"This LCA extends along the western boundary of the county, adjoining County Offaly and County Meath. The River Blackwater and River Boyne form the southern and northern boundary respectively. There are major transport corridors traversing the LCA, close to the border with County Meath, such as the M4 Motorway. The landscape is strongly shaped by its agricultural activities, extensive pasturelands and some tillage farming interspersed with occasional mixed woodland and small forestry. The low-lying topography provides broad, open views across agricultural fields punctuated by Carbury Hill, which offers panoramic views across agricultural fields. While the M4 Motorway transport corridor has influenced settlement within this LCA, it has experienced less development than other northern parts of the county."* Section 4.2.2 of the KLCA notes the following key characteristics: › *"The River Boyne rises at Carbury Bog but is traditionally associated with the Trinity Well on Carbury Hill. Bordered by the Grand Canal on the Northern Side and the River Boyne on the Western edge, these water features influence the character of the area.* › *Carbury Hill is a prominent landmark, noted for its historic and topographical significance. Extensive panoramic views across the county and northwest to County Meath are possible from the hilltop.* › *The area historically served as a borderland with several defensive settlements, including castles and fortifications.* › *The low-lying topography provides broad, open views across agricultural fields.* › *The landscape is strongly shaped by its agricultural activities, with extensive pasturelands and some tillage farming.* › *Villages such as Johnstownbridge are small with rural dispersed settlement pattern; Carbury and Derrinturn are the principal nucleated settlements.* › *The absence of large towns in the LCA, contributes to a predominantly rural landscape that maintains a largely peaceful and tranquil character.* › *Tree-lined hedgerows, demesne woodland, small, forested areas, occasional mixed woodland, and sparse coniferous forestry confer a more wooded feel to the landscape."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium/High"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"Medium"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium/High Medium"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"Medium"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Medium"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 1 as having a *"Medium"* sensitivity and has an overall 'Medium' compatibility to Wind Energy development, which is the most compatible of all the ratings as there are no LCAs with a higher compatibility. The KWES designates LCA 01 as being of *"Class 1 – Low Landscape Sensitivity (Medium to Low Sensitivity, Medium Sensitivity)"*, which is designated as an area 'Acceptable in Principle' for wind energy development.

KCDP LCA 01 – Carbury Boyne	
	In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **Low**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There is predominantly full theoretical visibility within this LCA, with the exception of a localised pocket of no theoretical visibility resulting from localised undulations approximately. 10km north of the Proposed Turbines.
Cumulative Context	4 no. turbines of the proposed Drehid Wind Farm are located on the eastern extent of this LCA, located approximately 7.4km northeast from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T46).
Cumulative Landscape Effects	As illustrated by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, there is predominantly full theoretical visibility of both the Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines within this LCA, with small pockets of only cumulative wind farms theoretically visible within this LCA. Generally, within this LCA, the Proposed Turbines and proposed Drehid turbines will be viewed in opposite directions, and therefore, will not be visible within the same field of view. There is also potential for visibility of the Proposed Turbines in combination with the cumulative turbines in Co. Offaly. As such, cumulative effects may occur where both the Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines are visible from localised points in elevation within the landscape. However, within this generally low-lying flat landscape, long-range views of the Proposed Turbines will be limited by intervening vegetation. As such, while some degree of cumulative landscape effect is anticipated from the addition of the Proposed Turbines in the wider landscape (beyond this LCA), visibility will be distant, with the turbines appearing visually set back and often screened by intervening vegetation. Cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The Proposed Project does not materially alter the physical fabric or affect the key characteristics of this LCA. The addition of the Proposed Turbines in the wider landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscape views from this LCA. Therefore, the Proposed Project is considered to have an overall Slight effect on the overall landscape character of this LCA. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

KCDP LCA 01 – Carbury Boyne	
Mitigation Factors	› The generally flat and low-lying nature of the LCA means that the perception of the scale of the Proposed Turbines will reduce significantly with distance (beyond 5km of the Proposed Turbines) › As shown in the photomontages (EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet) and described throughout the photomontage assessment tables (see *Appendix 13-3*), due to the very flat landscape characteristics and disproportionate screening effect (See Section 13.3.2 in Chapter 13), only a very small proportion of the overall Proposed Wind Farm is ever seen and experienced from any low-lying vantage point, including those receptors in close proximity. It is only occasionally, from more elevated vantage points where the full impact of all 46 no. Proposed Turbines are experienced by a visual receptor in one view, where they are seen as a single cluster of turbines within the landscape. › There are large parts of this LCA where there will be no visibility of the Proposed Turbines due to vegetative screening occurring from the dense mature treelines and field boundary vegetation. › The theoretical visibility of the Proposed Turbines largely overlaps with areas already subject to theoretical visibility of cumulative turbines. There are very few locations where the Proposed Turbines would introduce turbine developments as entirely new or novel elements within the landscape. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from the north, including this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.3 KCDP LCA 03 – River Liffey Valley and Plains

KCDP LCA 03 – River Liffey Valley and Plains	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is located approximately 11km east from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T01). The Proposed Offsite Substation is located within this LCA.
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"This extensive character area forms a boundary with South County Dublin to its east. The M7 Motorway forms its southeastern boundary. The River Liffey drains much of the LCA, and connects the towns of Clane, Straffan, and Sallins. The landscape is shaped by the River Liffey and its valley with mature vegetation along the river which is evidence of current and former*

KCDP LCA 03 – River Liffey Valley and Plains	
Assessment 2025 (KLCA)	*designed demesne landscapes. Many of these former estates now serve a recreation use. The landscape is predominantly grass-based agriculture with well-maintained hedgerows and small areas of woodland."* Section 4.4.2 of the KLCA notes the following key characteristics: › *"Historical associations and surviving built heritage evidenced in clustering of demesne lands and large, predominantly 18th century estates. Frequently overlooking or adjacent to the River Liffey as it meanders from source towards Leixlip at county boundary with South Dublin and Fingal.* › *Historical affluence and influence also noted through the presence of key communication corridors, Grand Canal and railway, parts of the Pale ditch traverse this LCA.* › *Predominantly pasture on fertile farmland with limited tillage.* › *This area is characterised by the predominantly flat terrain, offering open, expansive views, across farmland.* › *Areas of older woodland associated with the many former estates flanking the Liffey.* › *Dense network of well-maintained hedgerows with medium to large-sized fields.* › *Rural area under urban influence, away from the main settlements the area still maintains a rural character.* › *Sizeable and fast-growing urban centres include Clane.* › *Low-lying floodplains close to rivers and streams, with drainage ditches evident on many roadsides."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium/High"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"Medium"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium to High Medium"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"Medium/High"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Low to Medium"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 3 as having a *"Medium to High"* sensitivity and has an overall 'Low' compatibility to Wind Energy development. The KWES designates LCA 03 as being of *"Class 2 – Medium Landscape Sensitivity (Medium to High Sensitivity)"*, which is designated as an area 'Open for Consideration' for wind energy development. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **Medium**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	Full theoretical visibility is primarily indicated in this LCA where it falls within the LCA Study Area, with some patches of no theoretical visibility.
Cumulative Context	There are no other wind farms located within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	While there are currently no other wind farms located within this LCA, the Cumulative Comparative ZTV indicates pockets of theoretical visibility of both the Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines, with some patches of cumulative-only theoretical visibility occurring along the northeast extent of the LCA. Any cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.

KCDP LCA 03 – River Liffey Valley and Plains	
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The Proposed Offsite Substation and part of the Proposed Grid Connection will materially alter the physical fabric of this LCA, which will be primarily confined to a very small portion of this LCA. Changes to the landscape as a result of the Proposed Offsite Substation will be most evident at local level. The wider extent of this LCA, beyond the immediate context of the Proposed Grid Connection will remain unaffected. No other elements of the Proposed Project are located within this LCA. The addition of the Proposed Turbines in the wider landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscape views from this LCA. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Large parts of this LCA are located outside of the LCA Study Area for effects on landscape character. › Effects on landscape character of this LCA as a result of the Proposed Project is substantially mitigated by distance, with the Proposed Turbines primarily seen as small elements relative to the landscape in the background of views. › Visibility is limited due to the intervening vegetation bordering the agricultural fields that dominate the landcover of this LCA. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from the east (including this LCA).
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.4 KCDP LCA 05 – Barrow-Grand Canal Corridor

KCDP LCA 05 – Barrow-Grand Canal Corridor	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to	This LCA is located approximately 520m south from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T14).

KCDP LCA 05 – Barrow-Grand Canal Corridor	
Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character Assessment 2025 (KLCA)*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"This character area is located along the western boundary of the county with County Laois where the tributaries of the Barrow River form a natural boundary. The strong influence of historical transportation routes, through Monasterevin and Athy is associated with the railway line and the Grand Canal-Barrow route and the cultural heritage associated with these routes is evident in related infrastructure such as bridges, stone walls and mills. Land is predominantly pasture to the north, with a higher percentage of tillage towards the south. While the area is predominantly rural in character, it contains the fast-growing settlements of Monasterevin and Athy. In places, the flat landscape restricts views, while on the canal, the views from the canal bridges allows for long linear views."* Section 4.4.2 of the KLCA notes the following key characteristics: › *"Strong influence of historical transportation routes, westwards routes through Monasterevin, railway line and the Grand Canal Barrow spur.* › *This creates a distinctive industrial heritage legacy with canal settlements and related historical canal infrastructure including bridges, stone walls, mills etc.* › *Demesne and ecclesiastical legacy of Moore Abbey and grounds south of Monasterevin.* › *Rathangan and Athy are the other principal nucleated settlements. The former was remodelled in the late 18th century with the extension of the Grand Canal to Monasterevin and Athy.* › *Old farm buildings and stone walls are a feature of parts of this character area.* › *Strong influence of the River Barrow water table in the wetlands, floodplains etc.* › *Legacy and potential of Bord na Móna peatlands e.g. Ummeras Bog straddling the Kildare Offaly border north of Monasterevin (part of the Bord na Móna Coolnamona group of works; been in active peat production since 1980, with industrial peat production ceased in 2019.* › *The largely flat topography creates an open, expansive character to much of this character area, with long views afforded east to LCA 6 The Six Hills. Along the canal corridor, vistas are directed along the canal itself from canal arch bridges and frequent attractive woodland vegetation and industrial heritage.* › *More enclosed and intimate character closer to Monasterevin particularly around the Moore demesne."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"Low/Medium"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"Medium"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Medium"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 5 as having a *"Medium"* sensitivity and has an overall 'Medium' compatibility to Wind Energy development, which is the most compatible of all the ratings as there are no LCAs with a higher compatibility. The KWES designates LCA 05 as being of *"Class 1 – Low*

KCDP LCA 05 – Barrow-Grand Canal Corridor	
	Landscape Sensitivity (Medium to Low Sensitivity, Medium Sensitivity)", which is designated as an area 'Acceptable in Principle' for wind energy development. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **Low**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There is primarily full theoretical visibility within 5km of the Proposed Turbines, with increasing sections of no theoretical visibility beyond 5km.
Cumulative Context	There are currently no existing wind farms located within this LCA. In a potential future receiving environment, 4 no. turbines of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm are located within the northwest of this LCA, approximately 7.7km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T14).
Cumulative Landscape Effects	As shown by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the vast majority of the area within this LCA has stretches of both cumulative theoretical visibility as well as cumulative only theoretical visibility. Cumulative effects may occur where both the Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines (within this LCA as well as those in Co. Offaly) are visible from localised points in elevation within the landscape. However, within this generally low-lying flat landscape, long-range views of the Proposed Turbines will be limited by intervening vegetation. As such, while some degree of cumulative landscape effect is anticipated from the addition of the Proposed Turbines in the wider landscape, visibility is primarily confined within 5km of the Proposed Turbines. Any cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The Proposed Project does not materially alter the physical fabric of this LCA. In terms of changes to the landscape character of this LCA, the greatest effects will occur within a small area at the northernmost extent of the LCA, where it borders LCA 04. In terms of visibility, visibility will be most prominent to the immediate vicinity of the Project Site (within 5km from the Proposed Turbines), with visibility rapidly diminishing with distance. On balance, the magnitude of change to this LCA deemed to be Slight. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Significance of Effect	**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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.

KCDP LCA 05 – Barrow-Grand Canal Corridor	
Mitigation Factors	› The generally flat and low-lying nature of the LCA means that the perception of the scale of the Proposed Turbines will reduce significantly with distance (beyond 5km of the Proposed Turbines). › There are large parts of this LCA where there will be no visibility of the Proposed Turbines due to vegetative screening occurring from the dense mature treelines and field boundary vegetation. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from the south, including this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.5 KCDP LCA 06 –The Six Hills

KCDP LCA 06 – The Six Hills	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 3.2km southeast from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T01).
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character Assessment 2025 (KLCA)*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"This character area comprises the Kildare Hills or the Chair of Kildare, as the area is also known as. The area is bounded on the north by Robertstown and Bog of Allen character area wraps around the northern part of the LCA. Kildare Town and the Curragh Plains are located on the southern boundary. The topographic landscape of the Six Hills character area is a characteristic feature of the generally flat Kildare landscape. Land use is pasture with some mixed woodland and coniferous plantations. Despite proximity to fast growing urban settlements and the M7 Motorway transport corridor this LCA has a dispersed rural settlement pattern spread around the lower elevations of the hills."* Section 4.7.2 of the KLCA notes the following key characteristics: › *"This character area consists of a number of hills that interrupt the continuity of the Kildare plains. Located north of Kildare town this series of hills run in a north-easterly direction* › *The elevated nature of this area provides highly scenic views over the central plains and boglands of Kildare. These hills and their*

KCDP LCA 06 – The Six Hills	
	characteristic ridgelines are a significant feature in the surrounding landscape. › *The local roads curve around and up the hills conferring a sometimes hilly and disorientating feel to parts of the LCA. This contrasts with the long views afforded from some hills particularly south and west.* › *Mature tree lined roads, and well-manicured hedgerows are a feature of this LCA, reflecting primarily pastural land use with increase in equestrian uses closer to the Curragh and Kildare.* › *Mixed woodland and coniferous plantation are visible on some of the flanks of the hills such as Boston Hill.* › *Hill of Allen associations with folklore and Fionna Mac Cumhaill and the Fianna."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	KCDP Chapter 13, Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"Medium/High"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium to Medium/High"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"Medium"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Medium/Low"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 6 as having a *"Medium"* sensitivity and has an overall 'Medium' compatibility to Wind Energy development, which is the most compatible of all the ratings as there are no LCAs with a higher compatibility. The KWES designates LCA 06 as being of *"Class 1 – Low Landscape Sensitivity (Medium to Low Sensitivity, Medium Sensitivity)"*, which is designated as an area 'Acceptable in Principle' for wind energy development. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **Low**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There is primarily full theoretical visibility within the northern extent of this LCA with large patches of no theoretical visibility due to topographical screening from Redhill, Dunmurry Hill, Hill of Allen, and other localised undulations.
Cumulative Context	There are no other wind farms located within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	While there are currently no other wind farms located within this LCA, the Cumulative Comparative ZTV shows stretches where both the Proposed Turbines and cumulative turbines are theoretically visible. The introduction of the Proposed Turbines will give rise to some cumulative effects, particularly when viewed from elevated vantage points. Cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The Proposed Turbines will not alter the physical fabric of this LCA. The Proposed Turbines will be visible, but will not materially alter the key sensitivities of this LCA. On balance, the magnitude of change to this LCA deemed to be 'Slight'. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

KCDP LCA 06 – The Six Hills	
Significance of Effect	**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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The hilly nature of this LCA limits theoretical visibility on the south-west extent of this LCA. › Mature roadside and field boundary vegetation limit actual visibility of the Proposed Turbines from location in this LCA. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from the south-east, including this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.6 KCDP LCA 07 - The Curragh Plains

KCDP LCA 07 – The Curragh Plains	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 6.5km southeast from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T01).
LCA Key Characteristics *(Kildare County Development Plan Appendix 13 – Landscape Character Assessment 2025 (KLCA)*	Table 13.2 of KCDP Chapter 13 notes that: *"The Curragh Plains character area comprises extensive flat open plains located in the centre of County Kildare and includes the settlements of Newbridge, Athgarvan, Kilcullen and Kildare Town. This landscape area is traversed by the former National primary route, the railway line and the M7 Motorway transport route. The dominant land use is grassland, and the unenclosed landscape allows long uninterrupted vistas and views to higher ground to the east and beyond the county boundary. This LCA has strong connections to Saint Brigid with the town of Kildare and the cloak of Brigid in folklore defining the extent of the Curragh plains. Dún Ailinne is located at the southern fringe of the Curragh plains and is listed on the tentative list of Royal Sites for UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination."* Section 4.8.2 of the KLCA notes the following key characteristics: › *"This is a diverse and contrasting LCA. The Curragh Plains have an expansive, open scale with extensive commonage, grazed by sheep.*

KCDP LCA 07 – The Curragh Plains	
	This confers a naturalised character for much of the plains of the Curragh. › *This contrasts with the busy towns of Kildare and Newbridge, connected via communications corridors that comprise the former N7, railway line and the M7 motorway, the busiest road in Ireland.* › *The smooth and gently undulating topography creates very long views and large expanses of open sky is a distinctive character.* › *The motorway infrastructure is a key influence whilst also opening up views on occasion across to the Dublin and Wicklow mountains and occasional long views across the plains themselves.* › *Away from the motorway, and busy towns, a more rural character dominates with high banked hedgerows a notable feature combined with stone walls of estates outside the commonage.* › *Military and equestrian uses have long associations with the LCA and is a distinctive influence on the character of this area. Paddock fencing is notably associated with some equestrian training or farms.* › *This LCA has strong connections to St Brigid with the town of Kildare and the cloak of Brigid in folklore defining the extent of the Curragh plains."*
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Annex C 'Landscape Character Sensitivity Assessment' of the KLCA, assigned an overall *"Medium/High"* Landscape Character Sensitivity rating, an overall *"High"* Visual Sensitivity, a *"Medium/High to High"* Landscape Sensitivity, and a *"High"* Landscape Value, all of which corresponds to a Landscape Character Capacity of *"Low"*. Table 13.4 of KCDP Chapter 13 identifies LCA 7 as having a *"High"* sensitivity and has the 'Least' compatibility to Wind Energy development. The KWES designates LCA 07 as being of *"Class 3 – High Landscape Sensitivity (High Sensitivity)"*, which is designated as an area 'Not Normally Permissible' for wind energy development. This LCA is also a designated AHA. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be **High**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There are very few areas with full theoretical visibility within this LCA. There is primarily patches of partial theoretical visibility within the entirety of this LCA with pockets of no theoretical visibility. Where visibility does occur, views towards the Proposed Turbines from this LCA will be long distance views whereby the Proposed Turbines will be viewed as small background features relative to the landscape in the distant landscape.
Cumulative Context	There are no other wind farms located within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	As shown by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the vast majority of the area within this LCA, has stretches of both cumulative theoretical visibility as well as Proposed Turbines only theoretical visibility. Cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The Proposed Project does not materially alter the physical fabric of this LCA. In terms of visibility, full theoretical visibility constitutes to only a very limited geographical extent of the entirety LCA. Additionally, views

KCDP LCA 07 – The Curragh Plains	
	within this LCA will be largely visually screened by mature vegetation along local roads and walkways, making full views of the Proposed Turbines intermittently obscured. Visibility is only likely to occur from elevated vantage points. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
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".* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› There are large areas of this LCA within the LCA Study Area where there is no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Turbines; › The Proposed Project is not located within this LCA, and therefore does not materially alter the physical fabric of the key sensitivities of this LCA; › The key sensitivities of this LCA have little to no theoretical visibility within the LCA Study Area and are approximately. 10km from the nearest Proposed Turbines. Therefore, where visibility may occur, the turbines will appear as small elements relative to the landscape in the distant background. › Effects on landscape character of this LCA as a result of the Proposed Project is substantially mitigated by distance. › Dún Ailinne located within this LCA has patches of partial theoretical visibility. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from the south-east, including this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities".* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.1.7 Offaly LCA

As detailed in Section 1.7.3 of *Appendix 13-1*, a landscape character assessment has not yet been conducted or published for County Offaly. Consequently, County Offaly does not have designated LCAs. Therefore, MKO has prepared an 'Offaly LCA' for the area of County Offaly within the LCA Study Area (15km from the Proposed Turbines for assessment of landscape character). The description and sensitivity of this Offaly LCA were determined from site visits, desk studies and designations in the Offaly County Development Plan.

Offaly LCA	
Distance from the Proposed Turbines to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	The Proposed Turbines are located within this LCA.
LCA Key Characteristics	› Lowland Area with minor changes in ground level › Large areas of degraded cutover bog and agricultural fields › Some areas of eskers › Large areas of existing wind energy developments
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	The Proposed Turbines are situated within an area classified as having 'Moderate' landscape sensitivity as outlined in the Offaly County Development Plan (OCDP). The OCDP notes that such areas *"can accommodate development pressure but with limitations in scale and magnitude."* Furthermore, the OCDP specifically acknowledges that cutaway bogs within these moderately sensitive areas *"may be appropriate for other sensitively designed and located developments, including* ***renewable energy****."* The Proposed Turbines are located within an area designated as 'Open to Consideration' in the OWES, within Potential Wind Energy *Area 2.* The majority of this LCA within the LCA Study Area is predominantly classified as having low or medium landscape sensitivity. A small portion of the OCDP Areas of High Amenity – Other Eskers extends into the north-western extent of the Proposed Wind Farm bisecting Ticknevin Bog and Glashabaun Bog. It is assumed that this designation relates to the remnants of an esker that extends into the agricultural lands to the north-west of the Proposed Wind Farm. Analysis of topographic data, aerial imagery and on-site verification determined that the portion of the AHA adjacent to the Proposed Project comprises private lands, scrub, residential dwellings and a motocross track. The remnants of the esker do not comprise a landscape receptor of any distinctive notoriety or sensitivity. In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be **Medium**.
Visibility of the Proposed Project within the LCA	There is predominantly full theoretical visibility across this LCA within the LCA Study Area, except for localised pockets of no theoretical visibility resulting from localised topographical undulations.

Offaly LCA	
Cumulative Context	There are 5 no. existing wind farms located within this LCA. The existing Cushaling Wind Farm straddles the Offaly-Kildare boundary, with 8 no. of its 9 no. turbines located within this LCA, approximately. 710m south of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T25). The existing Cloncreen Wind Farm (21 no. turbines) is located approximately. 2.9km west of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T22), the existing Mountlucas Wind Farm (28 no. turbines) approximately. 10.4km west of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T22), the existing Yellow River Wind Farm (29 no. turbines) approximately. 12.1km northwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T32), and the existing Moanvane Wind Farm (12 no. turbines) approximately. 13.9km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T13). In a potential future receiving environment, the permitted Clonarrow Wind Farm (4 no. turbines) would be located approximately. 12.9km west of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T22), the permitted Ballinla Wind Farm (7 no. turbines) approximately. 7.3km northwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T22), the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, with 5 no. of its 9 no. turbines located within this LCA, approximately. 7.7km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T14), and the proposed Cushina Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) approximately. 9.3km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T13).
Cumulative Landscape Effects	As shown by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the vast majority of the area within this LCA, has stretches of both cumulative and Proposed Turbine theoretical visibility. Cumulative effects that do occur have been accounted for and incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change *(Definition – from Section 1.7.4 of Appendix 13-1)*	**Magnitude = Moderate.** Rationale: The Proposed Wind Farm will materially alter the physical fabric of this LCA, as a result of the Proposed Project, which will be primarily confined to the Project Site itself. The wider extent of this LCA, will remain unaffected. In terms of visibility, visibility will be most prominent to the immediate vicinity of the Project Site, with visibility rapidly diminishing with distance. On balance, the magnitude of change to this LCA deemed to be 'Moderate'. For the definition of this rating, refer to Section 1.7.4 "Magnitude of Landscape Change" in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**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."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting and design of the Proposed Turbines were developed for peatland landscape character types within which the Proposed Turbines are located. › The majority of this LCA's land area is designated as 'Open for Consideration' by the OWES, including the location of the Proposed Wind Farm.

Offaly LCA	
	› The flat nature of the Proposed Wind Farm and the surrounding landscape (and this LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the Proposed Turbines will reduce significantly with distance. › As shown in the photomontages (EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet) and described throughout the photomontage assessment tables (see *Appendix 13-3*), due to the very flat landscape characteristics and disproportionate screening effect (See Section 13.3.2 in Chapter 13), only a very small proportion of the overall Proposed Wind Farm is ever seen and experienced from any low-lying vantage point, including those receptors in close proximity. It is only occasionally, from more elevated vantage points where the full impact of all 46 no. Proposed Turbines are experienced by a visual receptor in one view, where they are seen as a single cluster of turbines within the landscape. › As detailed in *Appendix 13-5*, the Proposed Project has gone through an extensive iterative design process to embed landscape and visual mitigation. This process included omission of visually disconnected turbines (e.g. turbines in Lodge Bog) when experiencing landscape views and landscape character from this LCA.
Residual Landscape Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.7.5 'Landscape Effects Matrix' in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.