

LCA 10	East Connemara Mountains
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	Site is located within this LCA, but the LCA extends 30 kilometres to the west and 8 kilometres to the west.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	Class 3 (High) with pockets of and Class 4 (Special) (Note: Site lies entirely within Class 3)
<b>LCA Description</b>	The landscape is largely mountainous with slopes covered with coniferous forestry. The lower areas comprise rocky outcrops and areas of rough grassland around the many small loughs and turloughs. The landscape is scenic although not remarkable.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No.'s 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p>Low – <b>Moderate</b>. The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “Low to Moderate” where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA.</p> <p><i>“This large-scale landscape is less sensitive to wind energy development. The forestry plantations and accompanying clearfelling and access tracks decrease overall sensitivity and the area is not adjoining any significant tourism, scenic or recreational areas. The topography also offers opportunities for screening.”</i></p> <p>Based on professional judgement, and the limited visibility of the proposed development from the majority representative viewpoints within this LCA, the Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development of LCA is considered to be “Low”, but a sensitivity of “Moderate” will be used for assessment purposes.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Moderate</b> - 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. The effects could be long to medium term and/or partially reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Moderate = Moderate / Minor</b> <b>Moderate / Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<p>The Galway Wind Energy Strategy deems the site to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” for wind energy development.</li> <li>• Within an LCA which has a low-moderate sensitivity to large of very large wind farms. At 25 turbines, the proposed development would be classified as “Large”.</li> <li>• Within LCA 10, the only LCA containing any ‘Strategic Area’ and also containing 75% of the ‘Acceptable in Principle’ area, clearly identifying this LCA as an area in which wind farm development is to be concentrated.</li> </ul>

LCA 5	Northeast Galway
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	14.63 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 53.64 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	Class 1 (Low) with pockets of Class 2 (Moderate)
<b>LCA Description</b>	Landscape is flat, fertile pastoral land bound with field hedgerows. There is little or no coniferous forestry or deciduous woodland. There are no areas of particular scenic value.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No. 1
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<b>Low</b> – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “Moderate” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA. In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 14.63 kilometres, and based on professional judgement, the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development, is further reduced to Low.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight</b> - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible</b> <b>Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This LCA is two LCA’s removed from the LCA in which the site is located.</li> <li>• Although visible from this LCA across flat open views, the visibility of the proposed development will not change the character of this particular LCA, given the separation distance of at least 14.63km from the nearest LCA boundary to the closest turbine.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>

LCA 9	Inveran to Galway City coastline
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	8.2 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 19.5 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	High
<b>LCA Description</b>	The coastline is flat, comprising rocks and sand merging with natural grassland towards the R336. The coast line commands striking views of County Clare and the Aran Islands. Further Inland from the R336 route, there are some light industrial developments which have lowered the scenic value in this area.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No.'s 20, 21
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	High – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “High” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA. In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 8.2 kilometres, and based on professional judgement and the limited visibility of the project from viewpoints in this LCA, the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development, is further reduced to <b>Moderate</b> .
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Negligible</b> - A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Negligible = Minor/Negligible</b> <b>Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This LCA is two LCA's removed from the LCA in which the site is located.</li> <li>• The proposed development is only intermittently visible from this LCA, and where so, is only marginally visible, primarily with turbine blades or blade tips in view.</li> <li>• The defining feature of this LCA is the view of and towards the coast and Galway Bay, in the opposite direction to the site.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site's Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>

LCA 11	Lough Corrib and environs
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	5.3 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 21.2 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	Outstanding
<b>LCA Description</b>	Lough Corrib is a wide, dramatic, expanse of water including many islands supporting deciduous woodland. The land around the northern part of the Lough is undulating heath, bog and coniferous forestry whereas the land surrounding the southern section is flat, open grassland. The landscape of the Lough and its surrounds is highly scenic and includes many facilities for visitors.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No.'s 2, 3, 4, 5
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p><b>Moderate</b>–High Sensitivity – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “Moderate - High” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA.</p> <p>In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 5.3 kilometres, and based on professional judgement, the limited visibility or considerable distance of the project from viewpoints in this LCA the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development, is deemed to be <b>Moderate</b>.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><b>Slight</b> - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Moderate x Slight = Minor</b>  <b>Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The defining landscape feature of this LCA is Lough Corrib and the views towards it. From the western lake shore, any views towards the lake will be in the opposite direction to the site. From the eastern lake shore, any views of the lake feature the proposed turbines, but at considerable distance.</li> <li>• The views from the eastern shore of the lake already includes wind turbines, without detracting from the character of the lakeshore landscape.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>

LCA 12	South Foothills of East Connemara
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	2.6 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 14.6 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	Medium
<b>LCA Description</b>	The landscape of the foothills is undulating heath and scrubland with regular rocky outcrops. The area is generally undeveloped and has expansive views in a southerly direction across Galway Bay towards County Clare.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No.'s 17, 18, 19
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p><b>Moderate</b>–High Sensitivity – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “Moderate - High” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA.</p> <p>In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 2.6 kilometres, and based on professional judgement, the limited visibility of the project the majority of this LCA as represented on ZTV mapping, the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development, is deemed to be <b>Moderate</b>.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><b>Slight</b> - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Moderate x Slight = Minor</b>  <b>Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the proposed turbines will be visible from some parts of this LCA, they are not located within it.</li> <li>• The character of this LCA is already framed by Galway Bay to the south and the existing Galway Wind Park’s 80+ turbines to the north, which the proposed development won’t change.</li> <li>• The proposed development, as seen from this LCA, is consistent with recent and emerging trends in this landscape.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>

LCA 16	West Foothills of East Connemara
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	7.95 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 15.5 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	High
<b>LCA Description</b>	The landscape is flat to undulating, open with little vegetation and comprises lakes and bog land. There is very little development in this area yet it is not of high scenic value.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No. 22
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	High Sensitivity – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “High” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA. In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 7.95 kilometres, and based on professional judgement, the limited visibility of the project from viewpoints and other wind farms already visible within this LCA, the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development is further reduced to <b>Moderate</b> .
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Negligible</b> - A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Negligible = Minor/Negligible</b> <b>Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This LCA will see little or none of the proposed development’s turbines, due to the intervening topography.</li> <li>• Turbines are already visible from this LCA, although located outside the LCA in the Galway Wind Park.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>

LCA 17	Carraroe
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	13.6 kilometres from the closest point of the LCA to the nearest proposed turbine and 25.5 kilometres to the furthest point of the LCA.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity (General)</b>	High
<b>LCA Description</b>	This area is flat, open and exposed. The landscape comprises wetland and rocky outcrop in between the many scattered residential dwelling. The landscape is developed yet not spoilt and the overall setting of the coastal inlet and Kilkieran Bay is quite scenic.
<b>Representative Viewpoints</b>	No. 23
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p><b>Moderate</b> – High Sensitivity – The Landscape Sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is “Moderate - High” according to the Galway WES, where wind farms are proposed <u>within</u> this LCA.</p> <p>In this instance, where the proposed wind farm will only be seen from the LCA at a minimum distance of 13.6 kilometres, and based on professional judgement, the limited visibility of the project the majority of this LCA as represented on ZTV mapping, the sensitivity of the LCA with regard to the proposed development, is deemed to be <b>Moderate</b>.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Negligible</b> - A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Moderate x Negligible = Minor/Negligible</b>  <b>Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>
<b>Mitigation Measures &amp; Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This LCA is two LCA’s removed from the LCA in which the site is located.</li> <li>• The proposed development is only intermittently visible from this LCA, and where so, is only marginally visible, with only turbine blades tips in view.</li> <li>• The defining feature of this LCA is the view of and towards the bays and inlets around this LCA, in the opposite direction to the site.</li> <li>• The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</li> </ul>