



## **APPENDIX 13-2**

### **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENTS**

# 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

Note: The cumulative effects on landscape character associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm are included in the Residual Effect determination given for each LCU. These wind farms are categorised according to three scenarios (Existing, Do-Nothing Scenario, and Proposed) that are more fully outlined in Section 13.6 of the EIAR. However, it is noted that all cumulative effects on landscape character are incorporated in the residual effect determined for each LCU assessed below.

## 1.1 County Mayo

LCU E – North Mayo Mountain Moorland	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	19 No. proposed Sheskin South turbines are located within this LCU.
<b>LCU Key Characteristics</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> This area is the mountainous spine of northern Mayo and can be characterised as a barren montaine, moorland with steep flowing slopes. This mountain range is a focal point for northern Mayo, which makes up the primary boundary determinant for this LCU.</p> <p><b>Land Uses:</b> The main agricultural activity in the area is livestock production. Although peat bogs cover most of the area, agricultural and pasture lands, together with conifer and broad-leafed forests, present significant land uses in the region.</p> <p><b>Critical Landscape Factors (Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Steep Slopes: Steeply sloping land provides both a potentially increased elevation and an immediate back drop for development, intensifying its visual prominence over greater distances, therefore is sensitive to development that might impact on that character.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Prominent Ridge Lines: These occur as either primary ridgelines (visible only against the sky from any prospect) or secondary ridgelines (visible at least from some prospects below a distant primary ridge line). Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments. As with other natural linear features such as shorelines it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of primary ridgelines.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Smooth Terrain: Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Low Vegetation: Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by Moorland grasses, therefore allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.”</i></li> </ul>

<p><b>Visibility within LCU</b></p>	<p>The ZTV indicates that there is full and partial theoretical visibility within 5km of the Proposed Development Site, with mainly no theoretical visibility outside of 5km. Viewpoints 5 and 13 are located within this LCU. Visibility on the ground is constrained from the N59 National Road, the main receptor with theoretical visibility in this LCU. There are very limited number of receptors within areas where theoretical visibility exists as large tracts of blanket bog prevent access to the majority of these areas. There is some additional screening of the Proposed Development provided by vegetation in the landscape and built infrastructure within Bangor-Erris.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Context</b></p>	<p>Existing: There are no turbines existing within this LCU. Existing Oweninny 1 turbines are visible from locations within this LCU.</p> <p>Do Nothing Scenario: 2 of the turbines in the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm will be located within this LCU in a Do-Nothing Scenario, close to the proposed Sheskin South turbines. The permitted ABO Sheskin wind farm will also be visible from locations within this LCU.</p> <p>Proposed: The proposed Oweninny 3 wind turbines from LCU F (east of this LCU) are located within 6km to the east of the proposed Sheskin South turbines near the border of this LCU.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Landscape Status (Do-Nothing Scenario)</b></p>	<p>2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s. While there are turbines visible from locations within LCU E, primarily to LCU F to the east, these are heavily screened by the intervening topography. LCU E is large and there are vast areas without turbines or where no turbines are visible. Turbines are not a defining characteristic of the landscape. It is noted that the proposed Glenora development is also located within this LCU, which, if permitted would mean that the baseline status of this LCU would be ‘3. Landscape character area with wind turbines’.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b></p>	<p>The Proposed Development will change the status identified above to ‘3. Landscape character area with wind turbines.’ However, it is noted that the topography surrounding the site provides screening of the proposed turbines from much of the LCU. The ZTV and on-site appraisal indicate that visibility is primarily limited to within 5km of the proposed turbines, with the remainder of this large LCU having no or limited theoretical visibility. This area in close proximity to the Proposed Development is also remote therefore has few receptors. As a whole, the addition of the proposed Sheskin South turbines will not substantially add to the cumulative impact on the key landscape characteristics of this LCU, given the restricted visibility of the Proposed Development and the overall size and character of the LCU.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b></p>	<p>This LCU contains a scenic route to the south (although there is no theoretical visibility indicated) as well as several Visually Vulnerable Areas. The area is of high scenic quality due to the visual attractiveness of the landscape and prominent ridgelines which occupy the area.</p> <p>Areas within this LCUA are designated within the WES as areas of ‘Open to Consideration’ and ‘Tier 1 Preferred (Large Wind Farms)’. Open to Consideration is described in the MCDP as “areas which may be considered for wind farms or small clusters of wind turbines but where the visual impact on sensitive or vulnerable landscapes, listed highly scenic routes, scenic routes, scenic viewing points and scenic routes will be</p>

	<i>principal consideration</i> ". Areas of Tier 1 Preferred (Large Wind Farms) is described as "areas in which the potential for large wind farms is greatest". Therefore, there is clearly some level of wind energy development deemed acceptable in this LCU. Overall, the sensitivity assigned to this area is considered <b>Medium</b> for wind farm development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>"Moderate 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." (Appendix 13-1 LVIA Methodology)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Siting and design were developed for Mountain Moorland landscape character types which this LCU is generally comprised of. Therefore, the layout of the wind farm is considered aligned with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) in relation to the predominant landscape type of the LCU.</li> <li>➤ The topography of the site and surrounds will screen the majority of the turbines from locations within this LCU, with full theoretical visibility restricted to locations within close proximity to the site, and large areas of the LCU having no theoretical visibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

LCU F – North Mayo Inland Bog Basin	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	2 No. proposed Sheskin South turbines are located within this LCU.
<b>LCU Key Characteristics</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> This is a large bog area of some 300 square kilometres surrounded to the north, west and south by mountains, giving it the appearance of a lowland basin. A number of wind farms occupy the northern vista.</p> <p><b>Land Uses:</b> The area is mainly covered by peat bog. However, agricultural lands with significant areas of natural vegetation, conifer forests and pasturelands represent the land uses in the region. Some natural grassland areas remain unaltered.</p> <p><b>Critical Landscape Factors (Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ "Smooth Terrain: Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without</li> </ul>

	<p><i>breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Low Vegetation: Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by Moorland grasses, therefore allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.”</i></p>
<b>Visibility within LCU</b>	<p>Predominantly widespread full theoretical visibility to the west and south with larger areas of no visibility to the north-east. Viewpoints 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are located within this LCU. On site visibility closely matches the theoretical visibility in this LCU given the lack of tall features (trees, built infrastructure) within the LCU. In general, low lying land cover and the flat topography allows for long-ranging views throughout this LCU.</p>
<b>Cumulative Context</b>	<p>This LCU contains large areas designated as ‘Consented’, ‘Tier 1 – Preferred’ and ‘Tier 2 – Open to Consideration’ in the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo 2011-2020 (RES), more so than any other LCU within Co. Mayo. As a result, there are 5 No. existing, permitted or proposed wind farms within this LCU. All other wind farms are located to the east and south-east of the proposed Sheskin South turbines, with the closest turbine, from the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm located approximately 800m away.</p> <p>Existing: The existing Bellacorrick and Oweninny 1 wind farms are located within this LCU.</p> <p>Do-Nothing Scenario: The permitted ABO Sheskin, Oweninny 2 will be located within this LCU in a Do-Nothing Scenario, close to the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p> <p>Proposed: the proposed Oweninny 3 wind turbines are also located within this LCU, 6km to the east of the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p>
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status (Do-Nothing Scenario)</b>	<p>4. Wind turbine landscape</p>
<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will add to the cumulative landscape effects, but not change the status identified above. There are already a large number of existing and permitted wind farms within this LCU and the addition of the proposed Sheskin South turbines within views from this LCU will not change the cumulative landscape status given that there are large areas of the LCU to the south where there are no turbines.</p>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p>This LCU includes a scenic route to the south (see VP 23) as well as several Visually Vulnerable Areas-waterways located throughout. This LCU contains large areas designated as ‘Consented’, ‘Tier 1 – Preferred’ and ‘Tier 2 – Open to Consideration’ in the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo 2011-2020 (RES), more so than any other LCU within Co. Mayo. Several large wind farms occupy the northern vista, therefore this LCU is assigned a <b>Low</b> landscape sensitivity.</p>

<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p><i><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.” (Appendix 13-1 LVIA Methodology)</i></p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p><b>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
<p><b>Mitigation Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Siting and design were developed for Mountain Moorland landscape character types which this LCU is generally comprised of. Therefore, the layout of the wind farm is considered aligned with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) in relation to the predominant landscape type of the LCU.</li> <li>➤ The Do-Nothing Scenario for this LCU contains a large number of other wind farm developments, which appear more visually prominent than the Proposed Development from most locations within this LCU, therefore reducing the relative impact on the landscape character that the proposed Sheskin South turbines will have. Although, it is noted that the addition of the Proposed Development does increase the density of turbines seen in this part of the LCU, with overlap of turbine components and visual stacking occurring here.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b></p>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

LCU D – North Coast Plateaux	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	This LCU is approximately 12.2 kilometres away from the nearest proposed Sheskin South turbine at its closest point, and 29.6 kilometres at its furthest.
<b>LCU Key Characteristics</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> This is a thin strip of often steeply sloping terrain, which has a combination of pasture and moorland on its planar seaward slopes above sea cliffs and abrupt gullies. The unit and coastline runs east-west and provides vistas of the sea to the north.</p> <p><b>Land Uses:</b> Peat bogs and small patches of natural grassland dominate this area. The agricultural potential of the area is revealed by occasional pasturelands but with significant areas of natural vegetation.</p> <p><b>Critical Landscape Factors (Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Smooth Terrain: Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Low Vegetation: Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by Moorland grasses, therefore allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Elevated Coastal Vistas: Due to the uncomplicated straight arrangement of this coast, and the elevated road level, stunning vistas of a considerable distance along the coastline are available. The main concern for natural linear features such as coastlines and ridgelines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such elements.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCU</b>	Partial theoretical visibility to the north-west with a large pocket of no theoretical visibility to the north-east. Visibility of the Proposed Development is somewhat constrained from this LCU given the intervening distance from the Proposed Development and the presence of commercial forestry and other vegetational elements along the roadside. Views inland from elevated locations (i.e. the peaks of Glinsk and Knockaduff) will likely have visibility where theoretical visibility is shown. VP 8 is located close to the border of this LCU and is representative of the scale of turbines where they will be visible from within LCU D
<b>Cumulative Context</b>	There are no existing, permitted or proposed wind farms within this LCU and wind turbines outside this LCU, if visible will be at considerable distances.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status  (Do Nothing Scenario)</b>	1. Landscape character area with no wind turbines

<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	The Proposed Development will slightly add to the cumulative landscape effects, but despite some long-range views of turbines, overall will not change the status identified above.
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	This LCU contains two designated scenic routes and views as well as Visually Vulnerable Areas, including the scenic coastline of north Mayo. Therefore, the LCU is assigned a <b>High</b> landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“Negligible - 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.” (Appendix 13-1 LVIA Methodology)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is no theoretical visibility from the majority of this LCU, including from the two scenic routes in the east of the LCU as well as the Ceide Fields, the most sensitive visual receptor within the LCU.</li> <li>➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines (coniferous forestry) and hedgerows limits visibility in many places.</li> <li>➤ The intervening distance between the proposed turbines and areas where theoretical visibility occurs will reduce the visual prominence of the turbines in terms of their horizontal and vertical extent in any views.</li> <li>➤ A large proportion of this LCU is outside of the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character (15km).</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities



LCU C – North-West Coastal Bog	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	This LCU is approximately 5 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 25.7 kilometres at its furthest.
<b>LCU Key Characteristics</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> This area is the low-lying bog strip located between the western coastline and the Beg Range to the east. It has a homogenous, exposed, moorland appearance throughout.</p> <p><b>Land Uses:</b> Although peat bogs cover most of the area to the north-west of the County, the land is mainly used for pasture, i.e. livestock production. Natural grasslands and transitional woodland scrub patches occur throughout the major land cover types.</p> <p><b>Critical Landscape Factors (Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Smooth Terrain: Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Low Vegetation: Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by Moorland grasses, therefore allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCU</b>	Large area of partial visibility to the west with larger sections of no visibility to the northeast and south. Viewpoints 1, 3, 7 and 8 are located within this LCU. Visibility of the Proposed Development is somewhat constrained from this LCU given the intervening distance from the Proposed Development and the presence of commercial forestry and other vegetational elements along the roadside.
<b>Cumulative Context</b>	<p>Existing: The existing Bunnahowen turbines partially located within this LCU, approximately 16km to the west of the proposed Sheskin South turbines. The Oweninny 1 wind turbines can be seen between 10-15km away from parts of this LCU.</p> <p>Do Nothing Scenario: There are a number of wind farms (under construction Oweninny 2, permitted ABO Sheskin) that will be seen between 10-15km away from parts of this LCU.</p> <p>Proposed: The Oweninny 3 wind farm will be seen between 10-15km away from parts of this LCU.</p>
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status (Do-Nothing Scenario)</b>	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	The Proposed Development will slightly add to the cumulative landscape effects, but not change the status identified above, given that the proposed

	<p>turbines are located a substantial distance, in the opposite direction, from the existing turbines within this LCU. In addition, the proposed Sheskin South turbines will be viewed 5km from this LCU at its closest point, and other cumulative turbines in the Do-Nothing Scenario will be visible at a greater distance than the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p> <p>All turbines in the Do-Nothing Scenario and Proposed Scenario to the east of this LCU will be seen in the background of views at a substantial distance (between 5 and 15km away) from the closest point in this LCU.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b></p>	<p>This LCU contains some designated scenic routes and views to the southwest and north-east and Visually Vulnerable Areas throughout. Carrowmore Lake is a scenic landscape setting and is located in the southern boundary of this LCU.</p> <p>This LCU is located within the WES areas of ‘Open to Consideration’ and ‘Tier 1 Preferred (Large Wind Farms)’. Open to Consideration is identified in the MCDP as “areas which may be considered for wind farms or small clusters of wind turbines but where the visual impact on sensitive or vulnerable landscapes, listed highly scenic routes, scenic routes, scenic viewing points and scenic routes will be principal consideration”. Areas of Tier 1 Preferred (Large Wind Farms) is described as “areas in which the potential for large wind farms is greatest”. Therefore, the LCU is assigned a <b>Medium</b> landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b></p>	<p><i>“Slight - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.” (Appendix 13-1 LVIA Methodology)</i></p>
<p><b>Significance of Effect</b></p>	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
<p><b>Mitigation Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is only partial theoretical visibility indicated from the majority of the areas with theoretical visibility within this LCU, with relatively small areas where there is full theoretical visibility. In addition, large areas of the LCU have no theoretical visibility.</li> <li>➤ The intervening distance between the proposed turbines and areas where theoretical visibility occurs will reduce the visual prominence of the turbines in terms of their horizontal and vertical extent in any views.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b></p>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

LCU B – North-West Coastal Moorland	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	This LCU is approximately 8.3 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 39.8 kilometres at its furthest. This LCU is only partially within the LVIA 15km Study Area for effects on landscape character, with approx. 67km <sup>2</sup> out of 361km <sup>2</sup> within 15km of the Proposed Development.
<b>LCU Key Characteristics</b>	<p><b>Description:</b> This area occupies the north-western extremity of the County, north of Achill Island and includes the Bellmullet peninsula. It can be generally described as a complex of low-lying islands and peninsulas with varying topographical and land cover characteristics but unified by its proximity to the coast.</p> <p><b>Land Uses:</b> The main agricultural activity in this area is livestock production. Extensive areas of pasture and peat lands occur in the region.</p> <p><b>Critical Landscape Factors (Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Smooth Terrain: Smooth terrain, as is characteristic of this unit, allows vistas over long distances against a planar surface without breaking up fore and middle ground. In such terrain, distances can appear shorter and development closer or larger. As a result, development can have a disproportionate visual impact in such terrain, due to an inherent inability to be absorbed, physically or visually.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Low Vegetation: Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by Moorland grasses, therefore allowing long distance visibility. This inability to absorb development identifies low vegetation as a critical landscape factor.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Coastal Vistas: Being a complex arrangement of islands and peninsulas, there is a disproportionate length of coastline visible over this comparatively small area. Uninterrupted vistas across the water of bays and channels to opposing shorelines are abundant from areas of the public realm. The main concern for natural linear features such as coast lines and ridge lines is to avoid penetration by development that will interrupt and reduce the integrity of such elements.”</i></li> <li>➤ <i>“Prominent Ridge Lines: These occur as either primary ridgelines (visible only against the sky from any prospect) or secondary ridgelines (visible at least from some prospects below a distant primary ridge line). Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments. As with other natural linear features such as shorelines it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of primary ridgelines.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCU</b>	The ZTV indicates that there is mainly partial visibility within 15km of the Proposed Development. Viewpoints 2 and 6 are located within this LCU. Visibility of the Proposed Development is somewhat constrained from this LCU given the intervening distance from the Proposed Development and the presence of commercial forestry and other vegetational elements along the roadside. There is visibility of the Proposed Development in the background of coastal views where views of the coastal inlets are directed partially towards the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development introduces turbines into parts of views of coastline areas

	where there were previously no or very limited visibility of turbines (e.g. VP2). In all views within this LCU the Proposed Development will be seen at a substantial distance and occupy a limited spatial extent.
<b>Cumulative Context</b>	<p>Existing: 1 No. of the existing Bunnahowen turbines is located within this LCU, approximately 16km to the west of the proposed Sheskin South turbines. There is a limited number of occasions when the existing Oweninny 1 turbines will be visible from this LCU, approximately 17km away at the closest point.</p> <p>Do Nothing Scenario: The permitted ABO Sheskin turbines and under construction Oweninny 2 turbines will be visible from a limited number of locations in this LCU in the Do-Nothing Scenario, again in the background of views, approximately 10km away at the closest point to this LCU.</p> <p>Proposed: The Oweninny 3 wind farm will be seen between 15km away from the closest point in this LCU.</p> <p>Views of existing, permitted, and proposed turbines from this LCU (excepting the existing Bunnahowen turbines) will only be visible at very limited numbers of locations within this LCU, and will be seen a substantial distance from this LCU.</p>
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b> <b>(Do-Nothing Scenario)</b>	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will slightly add to the cumulative landscape effects, but not change the status identified above, given that the proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the existing turbines within this LCU. In addition, the proposed Sheskin South turbines will be viewed 8.3km from this LCU at its closest point, and other cumulative turbines in the Do-Nothing Scenario will be visible at a greater distance than the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p> <p>All turbines in the Do-Nothing Scenario and Proposed Scenario to the east of this LCU will be seen in the background of views at a substantial distance (between 10 and 20km away) from the closest point in this LCU.</p>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	This LCU contains several designated scenic routes and views as well as Visually Vulnerable Areas. The critical landscape features outlined above and in the MCDP state that this is a visually prominent landscape area, therefore this LCU is assigned a <b>High</b> landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“Negligible - 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.” (Appendix 13-1 LVIA Methodology)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

<p><b>Mitigation Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Only a relatively small portion of this LCU falls within the LVIA 15km Study Area.</li> <li>➤ There is only partial theoretical visibility indicated from the majority of this LCU, with relatively small areas where there is full theoretical visibility. In addition, large areas of the LCU have no theoretical visibility.</li> <li>➤ The intervening distance between the proposed turbines and areas where theoretical visibility occurs will reduce the visual prominence of the turbines in terms of their horizontal and vertical extent in any views.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b></p>	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b>          An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>