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Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development EIAR

Appendix 13-2

Landscape Character Assessment Tables



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1.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1

Kilkenny Landscape Character Areas

Kilkenny LCA A – Slieveardagh Hills (South)	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	The proposed turbines are located within this LCA. At its furthest point, the LCA extends approximately 9.7km northeast of proposed turbine T02.
LCA Key Characteristics <i>(Landscape Appraisal of County Kilkenny, - Appendix C, KCDP (2008-2014))</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Rural agricultural landscape.</i> ➤ <i>The general land-use on the uplands is agricultural grazing, however some areas are occupied by conifer and broad-leaved forests.</i> ➤ <i>Land parcels are of a medium size, with a proliferation of hawthorn and gorse.</i> ➤ <i>Gently undulating topography is presented within the upland area of this character unit.</i> ➤ <i>Land parcels are of a medium size, with a proliferation of hawthorn and gorse.</i> ➤ <i>Hedgerows are generally unmaintained.</i> ➤ <i>A dispersed pattern of residential and traditional farmhouse structures are indicative of a low population density.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “<i>Class 3 – Normal</i>” sensitivity rating in the Landscape Appraisal of County Kilkenny 2008-14 (hereafter referred to as LACK), the third of five sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs within County Kilkenny. Areas classified under this sensitivity rating are described as being “<i>a common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i>” Additionally, this area is described as having “<i>no significant landscape value.</i>”</p> <p>As outlined in Figure 8 of Appendix K of the KCDP, this LCA is classified as having areas that are “<i>Acceptable in Principle</i>”, “<i>Open for Consideration</i>” as well as a small area that is classified as “<i>Not Normally Permissible</i>” for windfarm land use. Five of the proposed turbines are located within an area classified as “<i>Acceptable in Principle</i>” whilst two of the proposed turbines are located in an area classified as “<i>Open to Consideration.</i>” It is noted none of the proposed turbines are located within an area classified as “<i>Not Normally Permissible.</i>” As discussed in Section 13.4.1.1.4 of Chapter 13, all of the proposed turbines are located within a single landscape unit, characterised by a low elevation area of agricultural fields, typical of a modified, remote, working landscape of local value suitable for wind energy development.</p> <p>In relation to landscape sensitivity, the LACK outlines that “<i>areas where enclosing topography, screening vegetation and/or existing development are present should have a high potential to absorb new development</i>” while Section 8 of Document 2 of the LACK notes that the “<i>Slieveardagh Hills were generally perceived as being most suitable</i>” for various development including wind energy.</p>

	<p>The physical shielding of the Slieveardagh Hills and other rises in topography which almost enclose the proposed turbines will render them largely visually unobtrusive by enclosing vistas and providing a strong degree of visual containment</p> <p>The Guidelines state that landscape sensitivity is the key consideration in the evaluation of areas suitable for wind energy development. In general, it is preferable to site commercial wind energy developments in landscapes of lower sensitivity, as the change arising will ultimately result in a lower impact upon the landscape when appropriate siting and design are followed. The sensitivity of this LCA as outlined in the policy is low in comparison with other LCAs in the county.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	<p>As indicated by the ZTV, there is primarily full theoretical visibility within 5km of the nearest proposed turbine, with a small patch of no theoretical visibility to the northeast. Beyond 5km, the majority of the LCA has no theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines with some patches of partial and full theoretical visibility. Actual on ground visibility, assessed during site visits determined that there would be more limited visibility in parts of the LCA beyond 5km from the proposed turbines, where rises in the topography within 5km of the proposed turbines limits views of the proposed turbines, and where the dense lines of hedgerows, noted in the description of this LCA, provide substantial additional screening. Within 5km of the proposed turbines, vegetation in the form of dense hedgerows and treelines, also substantially limits actual visibility. Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 are located within this LCA. Photowire Viewpoints A, B, C, D, E, F, G, Q, and U are located within this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Context	<p>The existing Foyle wind farm as well as the permitted Foyle and Kyleballyougher turbines are located within this LCA, approximately 2.5km west from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the existing Ballybay windfarm and permitted Ballybay turbine is located within this LCA, approximately 5.8km northwest from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Project. The existing An Cnoc Wind Farm is located approximately 840 metres from the border of this LCA. Therefore, visibility of these turbines will also occur in this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>As shown by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, visibility close to the west, north and east border of this LCA is limited to the cumulative turbines only. This is due to the screening provided by the topography within 5km of the proposed turbines, which surrounds and substantially encloses the proposed turbines. There are also small patches to the east of the proposed turbines where visibility will be limited to views of the proposed turbines only. However, in the areas of this LCA in close proximity of the proposed turbines, there is visibility of both the cumulative and proposed turbines. Visibility of both cumulative and proposed turbines exists in the majority of areas within this LCA. There will be some areas within this LCA where the cumulative and proposed turbines will be located in opposite directions and hence, views of both cumulative and proposed turbines will not be in the same direction. This is evident in Viewpoints 2 and 6 and Photowire Viewpoints F and G. Many areas with views of both cumulative and proposed turbines will have limited or no actual views of the turbines due to</p>

	<p>the screening provided by dense hedgerows which are typical throughout this LCA. This is evident in Photowire Viewpoint PW-E and PW-R.</p> <p>Considering the density of turbines within this LCA, some cumulative effects will occur. This is evident in Viewpoints 1, 4 and 9. However, no Significant cumulative landscape effects are deemed to occur. Cumulative effects that do arise are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	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.”
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to substantial rises in topography to the east, north and southeast of the proposed turbines, which substantially enclose the proposed turbines within 5km, there are large areas to the north of this LCA where there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines. Therefore, the greatest effects on landscape character will be localised to parts of the LCA in relatively close proximity to the proposed turbines (i.e. within 5km). ➤ Dense and largely unmaintained hedgerows which are typical throughout this LCA (see LCA Key Characteristics) will substantially limit actual visibility of the proposed turbines within 5km of the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</p>

Kilkenny LCA A4 – Slieveardagh Southern Transition Zone	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 1.8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T04) and approximately 10.1km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics (Appendix C, KCDP (2008-2014))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “A sense of enclosure is gained through large, unmaintained hedgerows bounding the roadsides. ➤ Fields are generally of a medium size with low trees and moorland vegetation, rendering poor quality pasturelands. ➤ Predominantly low vegetation as represented in this unit by moorland and pastureland grasses is generally uniform in appearance, failing to break up vistas, and allowing long distance visibility.”

Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “<i>Class 1 - Degraded</i>” sensitivity rating in the LACK, the lowest of five sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs within County Kilkenny. This sensitivity is described as having “<i>a high potential to absorb new development.</i>” The LACK states that “<i>new development in degraded areas is desirable as a means to improve the existing character of the site.</i>”</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Figure 8</i> of Appendix K of the KCDP, this LCA has areas that are classified as “<i>Acceptable in Principle</i>” and “<i>Open for Consideration</i>” for windfarm land use.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	<p>There are patches of full and partial theoretical visibility, as well as some smaller patches of no theoretical visibility in this LCA. Rises in topography close to the proposed turbines cause patches of partial and no theoretical visibility in the centre and northeast of the LCA. No photomontage viewpoints are located within this LCA. PW R and PW S is located within this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Context	<p>There are no other windfarms located within this part of the LCA located within the LCA Study Area. The turbines of the existing Foyle, An Cnoc, Farranrory, Ballybay, proposed Foyle, permitted Ballybay and proposed Kyleballyoughter wind farms are theoretically visible from this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>The Cumulative Comparative ZTV shows that the majority of areas within this LCA has visibility of both the cumulative and proposed turbines. As demonstrated in PW R, visibility will be limited to the blades of these turbines to the south of this LCA. Due to the screening provided by dense hedgerows in this LCA, there will be limited actual visibility of the cumulative turbines. No Significant cumulative landscape effects are deemed to occur. Cumulative effects that do arise are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	<p>Slight: “<i>The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.</i>”</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>“<i>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</i>”</p>
Mitigation Factors	<p>➤ Despite the widespread theoretical visibility indicated for this LCA, in reality, views towards the proposed turbines will be limited due to largely unmaintained hedgerows which are typical of this LCA (see LCA Characteristics above), as is evident from PW R.</p>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>“<i>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</i>”</p>

Kilkenny LCA F2 – Kilkenny Western Basin	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 3.7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T04) and approximately 22.1km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics <i>Appendix C, KCDP (2008-2014))</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Characterised by predominant tillage and pastureland uses.</i> ➤ <i>The grassland, tillage fields and generally low hedgerows allows for clear open and extensive landscape views.</i> ➤ <i>Smooth terrain and the generally gentle topography and landform that characterised this landscape character unit, allows vistas over long distances since the planar surface does not break up fore and middle ground.</i> ➤ <i>Undulating topography is presented at some limited sections of this character unit.”</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “Class 3 –Normal” sensitivity rating in the LACK, the third of five sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs within County Kilkenny. Areas classified under this sensitivity rating are described as having “<i>a common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.</i>”</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Figure 8</i> of Appendix K of the KCDP, this LCA is classified as “<i>Acceptable in Principle</i>” with small areas that are classified as “<i>Not Normally Permissible</i>” for windfarm land use.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	There is primarily full theoretical visibility in the LCA with small patches of no theoretical visibility due to minor undulations in topography. There is also a large patch of partial theoretical visibility in the north of this LCA, close to the proposed turbines, as a result of topographical screening provided by Ballykeefe Hill. Viewpoints 10, 14 and 15, and PW-H,PW-I and PW-O, are all located within this LCA.
Cumulative Context	There are no other windfarms located within this part of the LCA located within the LCA Study Area. The turbines of the existing Foyle, An Cnoc, Farranrory, Ballybay and permitted Foyle, permitted Ballybay and Kyleballyougher wind farms are theoretically visible from this LCA.
Cumulative Effects	As shown on the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the vast majority of areas within this LCA have visibility of both the cumulative and proposed turbines. Full visibility of the cumulative turbines will be limited to areas within 11km of the proposed turbines. Beyond 11km of the proposed turbines, visibility of cumulative turbines will be limited to visibility of the blades only, as seen in Viewpoint 10,14 and 15. Some cumulative effects will occur due to the density of turbines visible from areas in this LCA within 11km of the proposed turbines. No Significant cumulative landscape effects are deemed to occur. Cumulative effects that do arise are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.

Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	Slight “The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”
Significance of Effect	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.”
Mitigation Factors	Large areas within this LCA are located beyond 10km from the proposed turbines and hence the effects will be mitigated by distance and intervening vegetation in the landscape (see Viewpoints 10, 14 and 15), with further screening provided by the vegetation existent within the landscape. Therefore, the greatest effects on landscape character will be localised to parts of the LCA in closer proximity to the Site (i.e. within 10km of the proposed turbines). ➤ Where visibility occurs, it will be in the background of views, turbines will be viewed as small features within the landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”

Kilkenny LCA B - Castlecomer Plateaux	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 11.7km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T02) and approximately 31.4km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics (KCDP Volume One, Appendix C; Landscape Character Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Rural landscape with many natural and scenic attractions. ➤ General landuse on the Plateau is pastureland, however, large areas have been planted with coniferous trees. ➤ Low vegetation, represented in this unit by grassland, moorland, and generally low hedgerows, provide a uniform appearance in the landscape, failing to break up vistas and allowing long distance visibility. Low vegetation fails to provide an ability to absorb development. ➤ Land parcels are medium to large-sized and hedgerows are generally low and well-trimmed. ➤ Occasional farmhouses and dispersed scattered housing can be found throughout the area. ➤ Gently undulating topography is presented within the upland area of this character unit.”
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm	This LCA is given a “Class 2 – Robust” sensitivity rating in the LACK. This is the second lowest of five sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs within County Kilkenny. LCAs with this classification are described as having a

Development	<p><i>“high potential to absorb change.”</i> The LACK also states, <i>“new development reinforces existing desirable landuse patterns within LCA’s with this classification.”</i></p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	<p>The parts of the LCA within 15km from the proposed turbines have both full and partial theoretical visibility. Between 15km and 20km, there is a mixture between full theoretical visibility and partial patches of theoretical visibility. Views towards the proposed turbines from this LCA will be long distance views whereby the proposed turbines will be viewed as small background features in the distant landscape. This is exemplified by VP7, PWJ and PW N.</p>
Cumulative Context	<p>There are no proposed or permitted wind farms within the part of the LCA within the LCA Study Area. However, the Proposed Freneystown Wind Farm (Pre-App SID) wind farm is located within LCA.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>As shown on the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the majority of areas within this LCA contains theoretical visibility of both cumulative turbines and the proposed turbines. Views towards the proposed turbines from this LCA will be long distance views whereby the proposed turbines will be viewed as small background features in the distant landscape. This is exemplified by VP7 and PW N. No Significant cumulative landscape effects are deemed to occur. Cumulative effects that do arise are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	<p>Slight <i>“The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”</i></p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Given the distance of the LCA from the proposed turbines, there will only be views of the proposed turbines from isolated elevated locations within this LCA. Where turbines of the Proposed Project will be visible, they will be viewed as small background elements, with a consequently low level of change to landscape character. ➤ VP7 and PW N show that proposed turbines will be small background elements within views and are viewed as within another LCA. ➤ Approximately 95% of the area within this LCA is located beyond 15km from the proposed turbines and hence the effects will be mitigated by distance.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

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Tipperary Landscape Character Areas

Tipperary LCA 4 - River Suir Central Plain	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 5.8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T07) and approximately 65.2km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics (TCDP Volume Three, Appendix 3; Landscape Character Assessment & Schedule of Views and Routes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Wide rolling vistas with large fertile fields, surrounded by dense hedgerows. ➤ Rich and established arable and pastoral agriculture with focus on dairying and open field of tillage crops. ➤ Agriculture is intensive, and the equine industry is especially noticeable. ➤ Strong settlement network built on an extensive transport network that includes, the M8 Motorway, the national Rail Line, the N24 and N76 and the regional and local road network. ➤ Actively growing larger towns. Villages that have to some extent stagnated in their levels of growth, especially those removed from the larger settlements and transport networks. ➤ The existence of views towards the Galtee Mountains, the Comeraghs, the Knockmealdowns and Slievenamon. Views towards one or more of these ranges can be found almost anywhere in the LCA.”
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “Class 1 – Normal Sensitivity” designation in the Landscape Character Assessment of County Tipperary (LCAT), which is Appendix 3 of Volume 3 of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-28. . This is the second lowest of six sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs in County Tipperary. This sensitivity is described as having a “<i>low sensitivity to change</i>.” The objective for this type of sensitivity in the LCAT is as follows: “<i>To facilitate development that continues established patterns of use and settlement.</i>”</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in <i>Table 6.2</i> of the LCAT, this LCA is classified as having Low compatibility with windfarm land use, which is the second lowest out of five compatibility classifications assigned to an LCA in the LCAT.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Low.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	There is primarily full theoretical visibility in the LCA within 15km of the proposed turbines (LCA Study Area). As a result of the size of this LCA and its distance from the proposed turbines, the majority of areas within this LCA will have no theoretical visibility. Tipperary Scenic Route 28 is located within this LCA although the scenic views are directed away from the proposed turbines. Tipperary Scenic Route 12 is also located within this LCA, however, dense hedgerow screening which is typical of this LCA (noted above in the description of the LCA characteristics) provides screening of the proposed turbines along this route. No viewpoints are

	located within this LCA. VP16 is located in very close proximity to the border of this LCA.
Cumulative Context	There are no other windfarms located within this part of the LCA that is located within the LCA Study Area. The Knockroe Wind Farm is located approximately 650 metres from the border of this LCA.
Cumulative Effects	As shown on the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, the vast majority of areas in this LCA within 15km have theoretical visibility of both the proposed turbines and the cumulative turbines. The Knockroe Wind Farm will be visible in the majority of areas in this LCA within 15km of the proposed turbines. Considering the large separation distance between the cumulative turbines and the proposed turbines, there are no Significant cumulative effects on landscape character of this LCA. The cumulative effects on landscape character that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change made below.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	Slight <i>“The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”</i>
Significance of Effect	Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Effects on the landscape character of this LCA as a result of the proposed turbines is substantially mitigated by distance for the vast majority of this LCA. ➤ Viewpoint 15 shows that proposed turbines will be small background elements within views and are viewed as within another landscape character area, and do not interfere with the integrity of the landscape character of this LCA.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

Tipperary LCA 14 – Slieveardagh Hills Farmland Mosaic	
Distance from the Proposed Wind Farm to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 3.9km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T07) and approximately 28.4km at its furthest point from the nearest proposed turbine.
LCA Key Characteristics (TCDP 2022-2028 Volume Three, Appendix 3; Landscape Character Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Steep scarp slope to the Northwest behind which the flattened hilltops form a plateau that descends into undulating hills and valleys that merge gradually with the plains to the South and West. ➤ Farmland mosaic, however, distinctly marginal in places, with the beginnings of incremental afforestation of private lands visible. ➤ Fields generally large and marginal in appearance, separated by low hedgerows, but with smaller fields and broadleaf-dominated hedgerows in the valleys. ➤ The mining villages, such as at Commons, being planned settlements, are distinctive features of the landscape. ➤ The spectacular view towards the north over the bogs on the plains from the top of the northern scarp slope are unique in the County context.”
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>This LCA is given a “Class 2 – Transitional Sensitivity” designation in the LCAT, the fourth highest of six sensitivity classes assigned to LCAs in County Tipperary. This sensitivity is described as having a “Moderate sensitivity to change.” The objective for this type of sensitivity in the LCAT is as follows: “Facilitate development with capacity to continue and enhance established patterns of use and settlement without significant change to appearance or character.”</p> <p>This LCA overlaps with an area designated as a Secondary Amenity Area in the TCDP.</p> <p>In relation to land-use compatibility outlined in Table 6.2 of the LCAT, this LCA is classified as having Low compatibility with windfarm land use, which is the second lowest out of five compatibility classifications assigned to an LCA in the LCAT.</p> <p>In consideration of the above noted classifications and designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Medium.</p>
Visibility of the Proposed Wind Farm within the LCA	There is primarily no theoretical visibility in this LCA due to screening from the Slieveardagh Hills. However, there are patches of full and partial theoretical visibility in the parts of this LCA closest to the proposed turbines and to the south of this LCA. Topographical screening from the Slieveardagh Hills and the vegetation existent within the landscape (noted above in the description of the LCA characteristics) will provide further screening. PW-K is located within this LCA and shows one of the most open views of the proposed turbines from within the LCA.
Cumulative Context	The existing An Cnoc windfarm is located within this LCA, approximately 7.5km west from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the existing Knockroe windfarm is located within this LCA, approximately 17.1km southwest of the nearest turbine of the Proposed Project. The existing Gurteen Lower wind turbine and the two existing Ballincurry wind turbines are located approximately 11.7km and 14.2km west of the

	nearest turbine of the Proposed Project, respectively. The permitted Farranrory turbines are also located within this LCA.
Cumulative Effects	As shown by the Cumulative Comparative ZTV, areas of this LCA beyond 10km of the proposed turbines largely are confined to views of the cumulative turbines only. This is due to the screening provided by the topography of the Slieveardagh hills, which screens views of the proposed turbines in large patches to the west of the hills. Therefore, in these areas of the LCA, no Significant cumulative effects will occur. Areas of this LCA within 10km of the proposed turbines have a relatively equal combination of theoretical visibility of all turbines and theoretical visibility of only the cumulative turbines. Considering the density of turbines in this area of the LCA, cumulative landscape effects are likely to occur, however these will be limited given the overall lack of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines from this LCA. No Significant cumulative landscape effects are deemed to occur. Cumulative effects that do arise are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 13-1)	Slight <i>“The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.”</i>
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large areas within the parts of this LCA within the LCA Study Area have no theoretical visibility, with further screening provided by the vegetation existent within the landscape. Therefore, the greatest effects on landscape character will be localised to parts of the LCA in closer proximity to the proposed turbines (i.e. within 10km). ➤ The most sensitive views within this LCA are directed north over the bogs on the plains from the top of the northern scarp slope, which is not in the direction of the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

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