



## **APPENDIX 12-2**

### **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENTS**

# 1. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

## 1.1 County Westmeath

WH LCA 2 - Inny River Lowlands	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The proposed turbines are located within this LCA.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Characterised by its low-lying ground around the Inny River from Finnea to Ballynacarrigy and the Royal Canal.</li> <li>➤ Comprises of pastoral landscapes, extensive areas of cutaway bog and conifer plantations.</li> <li>➤ Transportation infrastructure such as the N4 Corridor sits within this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Wetland areas of nature conservation interest such as Glen Lough, Lough Iron, Lough Garr and Garriskil Bog are found within this LCA.</li> <li>➤ The area contains some preserved views including a panoramic view of the countryside looking northwest from the N4 near Bunbrosna, panoramic views of Lough Iron and the surrounding countryside at Balrath and views of Glen Lough.</li> <li>➤ Settlements within this area include Lismacaffrey, Streete, Coole, Rathowen and Ballinalack.</li> <li>➤ The area between Lough Iron and Ballynacarrigy is of historical significance with the presence of Tristernagh Abbey, approximately 16km from the propose development site. The abbey dates from the twelfth century and the remains of Kilbixy once a thriving town but now contains remains of a Castle, Church and Leper Hospital dating back to the 1700-1800s. A number of fine historic houses and demesnes also occur in this area.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates that there is full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, with exception of an area with no visibility to the south east of the LCA. Photomontage Viewpoints 01, 02, 03, 06, 07, 15, 17 and 20 are located within this LCA. They show that visibility of the turbines decreases and becomes intermittent with distance from the site due to the flat nature of the site and surrounds and the intervening vegetation. This means that on an LCA level, the turbines will not impact significantly on the various landscape components which combine to give this LCA its characteristics.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .

<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	<p>It is an objective of the Council to conserve and promote the high scenic quality of the Landscape Character Areas. Photomontages have been selected at particular viewpoints which have scenic qualities to assess the capacity of the LCA to Wind Farm Development. In consideration of these designations, the landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is <b>Low</b>.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><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.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located in a working landscape which has few scenic qualities.</li> <li>➤ The primary landforms of this LCA comprises of flat landscape units with a strong capacity for absorbing wind energy developments of this scale.</li> <li>➤ The highly vegetated nature of the surrounding farmland and forestry plantations provide considerable screening of the Proposed Development, limiting the number and extent of turbines seen within the landscape from any given point.</li> </ul>

WH LCA 4 – Central Hills and Lakes	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The proposed turbines are located 3.5 km to the north of this LCA.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Characterised by undulating hills and lakes, the most prominent of which are Lough Derravaragh and Lough Owel. These lakes are designated Areas of High Amenity, SAC and SPA.</li> <li>➤ A number of fens occur throughout the area, the most notable being Scragh Bog which is of international importance. The high scenic quality and amenity value of this area is reflected by the high number of preserved views.</li> <li>➤ There are a number of demesne landscapes in the area and associated valuable areas of semi-natural woodland, including oak on some upland areas, such as around Lough Derravaragh at Knockeyon and Crookedwood.</li> <li>➤ This area has a number of small settlements such as Crookedwood, Multyfarnham and the larger settlement of Castlepollard. The Character Area reflects the historic landscape also from Bronze Age Sites on Lough Derravaragh and Frewin Hill at Lough Owel to the monastic associations of Portloman Abbey and Franciscan Friary at Multyfarnham. The lake edges are attractive locations for recreation and amenity.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates that there is only full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines in the northern area of the LCA. Photomontage Viewpoints 13, 14 and 15 are located within this LCA and show that actual visibility of the turbines is limited due to distance and vegetation screening the majority of the Proposed Development.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	It is an objective of the Council to conserve and promote the high scenic quality of the Landscape Character Areas. Photomontages have been selected at particular viewpoints which have scenic qualities to assess the capacity of the LCA to Wind Farm Development. Given the undulating hills and lakes which make up this LCA along with the associated scenic qualities, the landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is <b>Moderate</b>
<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.

<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	The turbines are not located within the LCA and will not be readily perceived from this LCA. The focus and component parts of this LCA, rolling hills and lakes will not be affected by the proposed turbines. Irregular localised topography and the highly vegetated nature of the surrounding farmland and forestry plantations provide considerable screening of the Proposed Development, limiting the number and extent of turbines seen at distance from the site.

WH LCA 1 - Northern Hills and Lakes	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The proposed turbines are located 650 m at its nearest point to the west of this LCA.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Characterised by its prominent hills topped with chert or cherty limestone with enclosed lakes and areas of peat deposits, mostly fen.</li> <li>➤ A rural landscape of particularly high scenic quality containing a number of lakes with several preserved views, Lough Lene Area of High Amenity and Fore Special Heritage Area.</li> <li>➤ High nature conservation value with many NHAs and SACs.</li> <li>➤ Afforestation occurs around Finnea and at Fore and there is an extensive beech plantation at Mullaghmeen.</li> <li>➤ Dispersed glacial deposits occur and there are a number of quarries operating in the area.</li> <li>➤ Settlements within this landscape area include Finnea, Castlepollard, Collinstown and Drumcree. The historic settlement of Fore is of high cultural significance due to its monastic origins including many features of built and cultural interest around the site.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates that there is only full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines in the westerly area of the LCA. Photomontage Viewpoints 06, 07, 08, 10, 12, 21 and 22 are located within this LCA. Actual full visibility from within this LCA occurs in one viewpoint, viewpoint 7 which is taken in close proximity to the Wind Farm site. Visibility from the rest of this LCA is intermittent and views are screened by hedgerows and buildings.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	It is an objective of the Council to conserve and promote the high scenic quality of the Landscape Character Areas. Photomontages have been selected at particular viewpoints which have scenic qualities to assess the capacity of the LCA to Wind Farm Development. Given the high value amenity areas which are a feature of this LCA along with the associated scenic qualities, the landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is <b>Moderate</b> .
<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.

<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</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>➤ Localised screening within the LCA will mean that the actual visibility will be significantly reduced.</li> <li>➤ Irregular localised topography and the highly vegetated nature of the surrounding farmland and forestry plantations provide considerable screening of the Proposed Development, limiting the number and extent of turbines seen at distance from the site.</li> </ul>

## County Meath

MH LCA 18 - Lough Sheelin Uplands	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The proposed turbines are located approximately 6 km to the west of this LCA.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rural land uses including small pastoral fields and paddocks, outdoor recreational facilities, loughs, clusters of dwellings and forestry.</li> <li>➤ Field boundaries comprise of well managed clipped hedgerows with lots of hedgerow trees and there are numerous areas of broadleaved woodland, wet birch and willow carr in low lying areas, areas of coniferous forestry and regenerating heathland.</li> <li>➤ Wet area with large and small loughs throughout the area.</li> <li>➤ Past and present quarry sites</li> <li>➤ Villages including Ross and Ballinacree.</li> <li>➤ 2 proposed Special Areas of Conservation (CSAC), White Loughs, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo, areas of wet woodland with willow fringe and freshwater marshes. Lough Bane/ Glass – Site on Meath/Westmeath Border.</li> <li>➤ 2 proposed National Heritage Area (PNHA), Lough Sheelin, large lough fringed with lowland raised bogs. Important site for migrating birds. Lough Nanegh – Series of small lakes and associated wetland, transitional fen developing into bog.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	In general, visibility of the Proposed turbines is very limited in this LCA as indicated by the ZTV. The ZTV indicates a small area of full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines to the south west of the LCA. This area was visited during a site visit and it was determined that there was no actual visibility of the Proposed Development due to screening from landform, vegetation and built development. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility to the north-west of the LCA near Lough Sheelin. There will be some open views towards the Proposed Development from an area of high elevation to the south of Ross village.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) or any revisions thereof. This LCA is classified as being of High sensitivity and High value. In consideration of these designations, the landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is <b>High</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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is no actual visibility of the proposed Wind Farm site within this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Due to hedgerows and roadside vegetation views of the proposed Wind Farm site will be screened completely.</li> </ul>

MH LCA 19 - Loughcrew and Slieve na Calliagh Hills	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The proposed turbines are located approximately 12 km west of this LCA.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Loughcrew is a small range of hills that forms a landmark in the north west of Meath. It is significant for a series of passage tombs at the top of the hills dating from around 3000BC.</li> <li>➤ Parts of the hills are covered by conifer plantations and birch whilst other parts are covered by grazing land and large swathes of gorse.</li> <li>➤ The eastern setting of Loughcrew is characterised by remote open farmland in relatively poor condition. There is a lot of mature tree cover, mainly beech and sycamore growing on banks along roads and between fields.</li> <li>➤ Built development is predominantly vernacular – small farmhouses and cottages. The rolling lowlands to the south of Loughcrew are an attractive patchwork of regular shaped, medium-sized fields divided by hedgerows and trees. To the north there are small areas of broadleaved woodland and rough scrub but few hedgerows.</li> <li>➤ The landscape to the west of Loughcrew has a demesne character with lots of parkland trees, demesne walls fringing roads, beech avenues and woodland copses.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates that there will only be theoretical visibility from high elevations in the west of the LCA. Photomontage Viewpoint 11 is located within this LCA and has been taken within this area of theoretical visibility. The photomontage shows that the Proposed Development will only comprise a very small spatial extent of views from that area.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) or any revisions thereof. This LCA is classified as being of High sensitivity and High value. The CDP states that this LCA has no potential capacity for wind turbines due to the historic significance, relative remoteness and unspoilt nature of this LCA, particularly its hilltops. In consideration of these designations, the landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development is <b>High</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.

<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The ZTV shows that there is no potential for effects for the majority of this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Where visibility is possible, the intervening distance and screening mean that the turbines will not effect the components which combine to give this LCA its characteristics.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development will not materially alter this landscape.</li> </ul>

## County Longford

LD Landscape Character Unit 5 - Inny Basin	
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The Landscape Character Unit 5 Inny Basin lies adjacent to the site to the west.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The landcover in this area is dominated by peatlands and mixed woodlands interspersed with pastures of varying quality.</li> <li>➤ The area maintains a relatively flat and level topography.</li> <li>➤ There are two designated settlements in this unit, one in the south at Forgney and the other in the North at Lisryan. Settlement is greatest in the areas outlying Legan and Edgeworthstown, while Lisryan in particular has experienced some growth in recent times.</li> <li>➤ The area is roughly bisected between north and south by the N4 and the Dublin-Sligo rail line running parallel.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	There is full visibility of the proposed turbines in the majority of this LCA, as indicated by the ZTV. Viewpoint 19 is located within this LCA.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	There is no landscape of significance within this LCA. This LCA is a working landscape with evidence of this throughout, with landcover dominated by peatlands with mixed woodlands interspersed of pastures of varying quality. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered <b>Low</b> .
<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>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</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>➤ This LCA is a working landscape which has few scenic qualities.</li> <li>➤ The primary landforms of this LCA comprises of flat landscape units with a strong capacity for absorbing winds energy developments of this scale.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The highly vegetated nature of the surrounding farmland and forestry plantations provide considerable screening of the Proposed Development, limiting the number and extent of turbines seen within the landscape from any given point.</li><li>➤ The Proposed Development does not materially alter this landscape</li></ul>
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LD Landscape Character Unit 1 – Northern Drumlin Lakeland	
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The Landscape Character Unit 1 Northern Drumlin Lakeland lies adjacent to the site to the north-west.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Landcover consists of predominantly small agricultural holdings, interspersed with bogland, which becomes more dominant toward the eastern boundary of the unit and lakeland areas that dominate on the western County Boundary.</li> <li>➤ The area primarily consists of rolling drumlin landscape, with agricultural land tending to be tightly enclosed and bounded by small but well-established hedgerow species,</li> <li>➤ Drumlish and Ballinamuck are the only settlements in the area, with the main concentration of development centred on these villages.</li> <li>➤ Agriculture tends to be extensive and part-time in nature, given the limited capacity of the soils in the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	There is full visibility of the proposed turbines in the majority of this LCA, as indicated by the ZTV. Viewpoint 5 is located within this LCA.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within this LCA. Wind farms in the wider landscape, beyond the study area are visible from areas of high elevation within this LCA, although visibility is greatly limited by distance.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	There is no landscape of significance within this LCA. This LCA is a working landscape with evidence of this throughout, with dense field patterns and substantial boundaries provide an enclosed landscape that can accommodate appropriately sited development without major landscape change. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered <b>Low</b> .
<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>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</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>➤ The primary landforms of this LCA comprises of flat landscape units with a strong capacity for absorbing winds energy developments of this scale.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not materially alter this landscape.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The highly vegetated nature of the surrounding farmland and forestry plantations provide considerable screening of the Proposed Development, limiting the number and extent of turbines seen within the landscape from any given point.</li></ul>
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LD Landscape Character Unit 2 – Northern Upland	
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The Landscape Character Unit Northern Upland is located approximately 3km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the unit comprises rolling topography and lies above the 100m contour line to the north of the county, it contains the high elevations of Corn Hill, Edenmore and Crott which are distinguishing features in the flat midland landscape.</li> <li>➤ Forestry is well established in the area with large coniferous and mixed forestry tracts and smaller pockets scattered throughout the area. Boggy areas predominate to the western boundary in the lower reaches of the river valleys.</li> <li>➤ The main settlements within this unit are Granard, supported by the villages of Abbeylara, Moyne, Legga, Bunlahy and Aughnacliffe.</li> <li>➤ Agriculture tends to be extensive and part-time in nature, given the limited capacity of the soils in the area.</li> <li>➤ This more open feeling in the landscape may also be attributed to the elevated nature of the topography.</li> <li>➤ There are archaeological associations associated with this landscape, notably Granard Motte which is located in the LVIA Study Area.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV map indicates that there is full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines to the east of the LCA where it is closest proximity to the Proposed Development. There is very limited visibility in areas of this LCA beyond 8 km from the Proposed Development. The landscape gently rises to the west from the flat basin at the eastern extent of the LCA. High elevations such as Aghnagarron (9.6 km from the proposed turbines) obscure visibility from the central and western areas of the LCA.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within areas of this LCA that are located within the LVIA study area for landscape character. The existing Ballyjamesduff turbine may be visible from the high elevation at Granard Motte which is located in this LCA.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The Longford Landscape Character Assessment classifies this LCU as having a medium to high landscape sensitivity. However, This LCA is a working landscape with evidence of this throughout, with dense field patterns and substantial boundaries provide an enclosed landscape that can accommodate appropriately sited development without major landscape change. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered <b>Moderate</b> .
<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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Moderate x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</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>➤ The Proposed Development does not materially alter this landscape.</li> <li>➤ There is only likely to be views of the Proposed Development from a very small portion of this LCA, therefore these indirect landscape effects will be highly localised and will have an insignificant effect on the landscape character of the LCA as a whole.</li> </ul>

LD Landscape Character Unit 4 – Central Corridor	
<b>Distance from Site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The Landscape Character Unit ‘Central Corridor’ is located approximately 4.3 km west of the nearest proposed turbine.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As with the rest of the County, the main landcover constituent in this unit consists of agricultural pastures. The urban fabric of Longford Town, Edgeworthstown and Newtownforbes also cover extensive areas. Deciduous and mixed forestry are present in pockets throughout the centre of the unit, notably at Carrickglass and Farraghroe.</li> <li>➤ The land in this unit is relatively flat and low-lying, rarely breaking the 100-metre contour line, meaning that trees, field boundaries, buildings and other features generally restrict views over any significant distance. This is contrasted with areas of distinct demesne type landscapes such as at Moatfarrell/Corbeagh.</li> <li>➤ The urban network is strongest in this area of the County, with a defined hierarchical system dominated by the settlements of Longford, Edgeworthstown and Newtownforbes, which lie along the main transport routes.</li> <li>➤ Agriculture in this area is well developed in comparison to much of the County, with a wide range of agricultural activity, from large-scale dairying activity to smaller scale extensive uses, particularly to the west of the area.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV map indicates that there is full theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines to the east of the LCA where it is closest proximity to the Proposed Development. Beyond 10 km from the Proposed Development, visibility in this LCA is sparse and intermittent and only likely to occur upon isolated peaks of elevated land.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	There are no existing wind farms within areas of this LCA that are located within the LVIA study area for landscape character. The existing Ballyjamesduff turbine is likely to be visible from high elevations with open views to the east of the LCA.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	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 does not change the status of the LCA identified above, therefore, cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The Longford Landscape Character Assessment classifies this LCU as having a low sensitivity. This is a settled working landscape with the highest population density in the county. Therefore, the sensitivity is considered <b>Low</b> .
<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.

<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</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>➤ The Proposed Development does not materially alter this landscape and effects on landscape character are indirect.</li> <li>➤ Only approximately 7% of this LCA has areas of full theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ Where theoretical visibility does occur in the flat landscape to the east of the LCA, the highly vegetated landscape will cause a disproportionate screening effect, significantly obscuring views of the proposed turbines, mitigating any potential effects on landscape character.</li> </ul>