



## **APPENDIX 12-2**

### **LCA ASSESSMENT TABLES**

# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

## 1.1 County Roscommon

### County Roscommon LCA Values

Each Co. Roscommon Landscape Character Area (LCA) is designated one of four value classifications in the Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon (LCACR) in the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022- 2028 (RCDP); ‘Moderate’ value as the lowest value classification and ‘Exceptional’ Value as the highest classification. Sensitivity of LCAs is commonly derived from the value attributed to them as well as the susceptibility of the landscape to specific development. The Co. Roscommon LCA value ratings have informed the sensitivity ratings given to each LCA in this assessment. However, a new naming convention has been assigned to these designations to align with the assessment of landscape effects methodology detailed in Section 1.5.2.1 of *Appendix 12-1 – LVIA Methodology Appendix*. The translation of these designated LCA values are reported below. This was required to enable a full spectrum of sensitivity (including low) compared to the top heavy (exclusion of low value designations) classifications in the LCACR.

- Co. Roscommon Exceptional Value = **Very High** Sensitivity
- Co. Roscommon Very High Value = **High** Sensitivity
- Co. Roscommon High Value = **Medium** Sensitivity
- Co. Roscommon Moderate Value = **Low** Sensitivity

Roscommon LCA 34 - Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	The Proposed Development is located within this LCA. At its furthest point, the LCA extends 8.8 km north-east of turbine T4.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>  <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“This LCA is located south of the centre of County Roscommon and is one of the largest areas identified in the study.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The landform rolls from north to south and is primarily dry grassland farmland.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There is an area of low lying dry grassland in the south where eskers run in a northeast to southwest direction and make a significant contribution towards the overall character and quality of the landscape.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Lough Funshinagh is the main landscape feature in the north east.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Stone walls evolved as the system of enclosure throughout this area and in places the field sizes are particularly small contributing significantly to the landscape character and sense of place.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There are no major settlements in this area. The area is served by the local road network.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The overall image of this LCA is of a rolling stonewalled grassland landscape with a distinctive esker area to the south.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of Moderate in the LCACR which is the lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. The majority of this LCA (including the majority of the Proposed Development site) is designated as area ‘Most Favoured’ for the development of wind energy. In

	consideration of these designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>Low</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	<p>The ZTV indicated that the Proposed Development will be visible from most areas in this LCA. On-site appraisals actual visibility will be limited in areas to the north-east of the LCA. Localised topography undulations and vegetation screening will also limit visibility from many areas in this LCA.</p> <p>Photomontage Viewpoints 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 16 and 18 are located within this LCA.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other existing, permitted or proposed turbines exist in this LCA. The two existing Skrine turbines and the proposed Kilcash turbine may be visible from very localised areas of high elevation in this LCA. Cumulative effects upon landscape character are likely to be very minor.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<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
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will only materially alter a very localised portion (0.2%) of this LCA (Infrastructure footprint = approximately 0.3 km<sup>2</sup> the LCA = 139 km<sup>2</sup>).</li> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is located on lands designated ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy potential in this LCA.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is not located in close proximity to the sensitive landscape feature Lough Funshinagh.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development will not impact the esker belt in the south of the LCA (See Chapter 8 – <i>Geology and Soils</i>).</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 8 - Lower Lough Ree and Athlone Environs	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 7.4 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“The Lower Lough Ree and Athlone Environs character area stretches southwards from Hudson's Bay to north of the Cornafulla area.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The western boundary is delineated by the zone of visibility from the River Shannon. This low lying area is predominantly made up of dry grassland and raised bog, most of which is reclaimed, as well smaller pockets of wet grassland and wetland. Conifer plantations also exist in the area.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Two esker ridges run through the LCA - one running in a northerly direction towards the Hudson Bay peninsula, the other running in a westerly direction from just outside of Athlone.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>This character area includes areas in County Roscommon which form part of the NPF designated Regional Growth Centre of Athlone. The Monksland / Bellanamullia area of Athlone is continuing to grow as an urban residential area and also has a strong industrial base.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Rural areas to the north of Athlone, off the N61, and west of Monksland / Bellanamullia display significant evidence of continuing development pressure for one off rural housing.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The overall image of the Lower Lough Ree and Athlone Environs character area is of a peri-urban lakeshore area which is continuing to experience development pressure.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of ‘Very High’ in the LCACR which is the second highest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. High value and sensitivity is afforded to the presence of the Shannon River corridor and Lough Ree to the east. In consideration of the designation of this LCA as an area ‘Not Favoured’ for wind energy development, sensitivity is deemed to be <b>High</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development in areas west of Athlone and very limited theoretical visibility upon the western banks of Lough Ree. On-site appraisals determined that there would be no visibility (or very limited visibility) around the Lower Lough Ree area, Hudson’s Bay and low lying areas around the Shannon. Visibility is only likely to occur upon few localised areas of higher elevation to the west of the LCA.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No existing, permitted or proposed turbines are located within this LCA. The two existing Skrine turbines and the proposed Kilcash turbine may be visible from very localised areas of high elevation in this LCA. Cumulative effects upon landscape character are likely to be very minor and not significant.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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 = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The infrastructure of the Proposed Development will not materially alter the landscape of this LCA.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is unlikely to be visible from sensitive landscape receptors such as areas surrounding lower Lough Ree, the River Shannon or Hudson's Bay.</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 9 - Cloonown and Shannon Callows	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 11.2 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“This landscape character area is located on the southern tip of County Roscommon and is the flattest character area in the county. It is made up of mostly raised bog, a lot of which is a mix of reclaimed and cutover bog, as well as dry grassland along the shoreline with small patches of wet grassland in places.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The western boundary is defined by the location where the River Suck and River Shannon join at Shannonbridge and by the only major road in the area (the R357).</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There is a very loose network of regional roads leading down into the Callows (grassland flooded in winter). Many of the smaller roads leading into the raised bog were built to remain above the water level in times of flooding, creating a causeway effect in winter months.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Land along the banks of the River Shannon is protected by a number of natural heritage designations (River Shannon Callows SAC and Middle Shannon Callows SPA). An esker ridge runs in an east west direction through Cornaveagh.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>A number of Scenic Views provide extended vistas across the River Shannon into adjoining counties. One view is of a particularly high esker in County Offaly, at Clonmacnoise.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of ‘Very High’ in the LCACR which is the second highest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. In consideration of the designation of this LCA as an area ‘Not Favoured’ for wind energy development, sensitivity is deemed to be <b>High</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	Longer distance views to the north towards the Proposed Development are very limited within this flat bogland landscape. Actual visibility of the Proposed Development is only likely to occur in localised areas of slightly higher elevation located within this LCA.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No wind turbines are located within this LCA. Other existing, permitted or proposed turbines are unlikely to be visible from within this LCA. No cumulative effects on landscape character are likely to occur.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from</i>	<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.

Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)	
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ As noted in the key characteristics of this LCA (above), scenic vistas are directed across the Shannon to the south and east, away from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not intrude upon any of the scenic amenity of value in this LCA.</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 12 - Athleague and Lower Suck Valley Grasslands and Esker Ridges	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 1.7 km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> (The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“The western edge of the Athleague and Lower Suck Valley character area is bounded by the River Suck while its eastern boundary is delineated by an elevated ridge line as far east as Skrine Hill.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>It is the longest character area in the county extending from the village of Castlecoote in the north to the R446 (former N6) near Ballinasloe in the south.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The land form gently undulates from the north to south petering into flat low land where it meets the flood plains of the Suck Callows east of Ballinasloe.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Dry grassland dominates the elevated regions in the north, while raised bog and reclaimed bog, as well as wet grassland, occur in the lowlands in the south.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There is a designated Scenic View to the south of Castlecoote with extended views overlooking the Suck River and farmland valley. There are natural heritage designations all along the Suck River.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The R357, R363 and R446 are the main regional roads. Built development is generally evident throughout the rural area and there is an increase in concentration along roads leading into a number of settlements, including Athleague, Ballyforan, Athleague, Castlecoote, Dysart and Taghmaconnell.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The overall image of this character area is of a gently undulating dry grassland farmland with the River Suck winding its way through creating a subtle valley.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of ‘High’ in the LCACR which is the second lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. The LCA comprises areas both ‘Not Favoured’ and ‘Less Favoured’ for Wind Energy Development. Value and sensitivity is attributed to the River Suck corridor landscape type and its associated habitats and ecology (natural heritage). In consideration of these factors, sensitivity of the LCA is deemed to be <b>Medium</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed</b>	The proposed turbines are likely to be visible from within this LCA where the Proposed Development is located in close proximity to the LCA. As shown by the ZTV, theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is

<b>Development within the LCA</b>	limited in areas to the north of the LCA. On-site appraisals determined that actual visibility will be quite limited in the flat, low-lying areas around the Suck River due to the effects of disproportionate screening in the flat and vegetated landscape on the eastern banks of the River Suck.  Photomontage Viewpoints 10 and 12 are located in this LCA.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No existing, permitted or proposed turbines are located within this LCA. The two existing Skrine turbines and the proposed Kilcash turbine may be visible from very localised areas of high elevation in this LCA. Cumulative effects upon landscape character are likely to be very minor.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines is expected to be limited in sensitive areas on the eastern banks of the River Suck.</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 32 - Roscommon Town and Hinterland	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 9.7 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Roscommon Town is the county town and is centrally located in the very heart of the county. It is also designated in the National Planning Framework as a Key Town.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Outside of the town the landcover in this area is mostly low lying dry grassland with some areas of reclaimed raised bog and forestry to the south.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The rolling drumlin hills in the north slope and drain in an easterly direction in the Hind River which connects to Lough Ree. Skrine Hill defines the boundary in the south.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Roscommon town itself has a very distinctive character and comprises many features of important cultural heritage including the remains of Roscommon Castle (on the northwestern side of the town), as well as the ruined Friary on the south eastern side of the town centre. Both of these features have been preserved and are open to the public in very pleasant settings. They provide not only cultural interest but are also of high amenity value. The castle is located in the context of a large public park, with lake, tree planting and playground and provides an excellent backdrop to views of the Church in the middle ground.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There is also an important amenity area to the south of the town at Mote Park, providing walking routes in a woodland setting.</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>A considerable level of development both commercial and residential, took place on the eastern and northeastern approaches to the town in the 2000's.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The town is very well connected with a number of regional roads converging in the town. The Dublin to Westport railway line also passes through this LCA.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The overall image for this LCA is of a nodal county town of rich cultural heritage located in the context of fertile farmland."</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of 'High' in the LCACR which is the second lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. The value designation reflects the high quality of cultural heritage features to be found in the town environs. In consideration of these factors, sensitivity of the LCA is deemed to be <b>Medium</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	There are large areas of no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development in this LCA, as indicated by the ZTV. On-site appraisals determined that there will be very limited visibility of the proposed turbines within the centre of Roscommon Town from cultural heritage features of interest, such as Roscommon Castle. Localised areas of slightly higher elevation within the LCA are likely to have distant views of the proposed turbines. Photomontage Viewpoint 09 is located within this LCA at an elevated vantage point to the north-west of Roscommon Town.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The two permitted Derrane turbines will be constructed in this LCA. The existing Skrine turbines and Proposed Kilcash turbine are visible within the neighbouring LCA. The proposed turbines may be visible in conjunction with these other turbines, cumulative effects upon landscape character will be significantly mitigated by distance.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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>Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Effects on the landscape character of this LCA as a result of the Proposed Development is significantly mitigated by distance.</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 33 - Skrine Hill and Limestone Pavement	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 5.8 km north-north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“Situated just south of Roscommon Town in the centre of the county, this upland LCA is defined by its relative elevation compared to the surrounding lowlands.</i></li> </ul>

<p>of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The landform is generally quite complex with hills and hollows and steep slopes particularly to the north.</li> <li>➤ This LCA is known locally for its limestone pavements. Areas of exposed flat rock as well as naturally occurring and hewn rock faces provide strong visual contrast with to the otherwise softness of well drained grassy fields.</li> <li>➤ Landcover is generally very well drained comprising predominantly dry grassland, with very small patches of wet grassland in places. The land cover is a result of the well drained limestone geology found throughout.</li> <li>➤ The area is sparsely populated and served only by a local road network.</li> <li>➤ The overall image of the area is one of a well drained and complex upland with unusual rock outcrops and panoramic views.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b></p>	<p>The LCA is given a landscape value of ‘High’ which is the second lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. This LCA is designated as an area ‘Most Favoured’ for the development of wind energy. As stated in the LCACR, “there are elevated panoramic views in the direction of Lough Ree to the east and its unique limestone pavement and rock faces”. In consideration of all these designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be Medium.</p>
<p><b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b></p>	<p>The ZTV indicates full theoretical visibility to the south of this LCA and very limited theoretical visibility to the north of the LCA, beyond Skrine Hill. Visibility of the proposed turbines is very likely from areas south of Skrine and Glenfin Hill. Full visibility of the Proposed Development is likely to occur from the elevated lands in this LCA.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Effects</b></p>	<p>The two existing Skrine turbines and Proposed Kilcash turbine are located in this LCA. The two permitted Derrane turbines are likely to be visible from within this LCA. The proposed turbines will add additional turbines to the landscape surrounding this LCA.</p>
<p><b>Magnitude of Change</b> (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</p>	<p><b>Slight:</b> The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area.</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>Mitigating Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not obstruct locally valuable views to the east over Lough Ree from locally important viewpoints.</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 35 - Brideswell Esker Belt	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 2.5 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“This landscape character area is located in the south of the county and has been defined to the north and south primarily on the basis of land cover and to the east and west primarily on the basis of subtle enclosure by landform.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The area is predominantly low lying and flat with just a few low hills located to the west and east.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The flatness of terrain has had a significant impact on drainage of the LCA, creating extensive areas of raised bog and reclaimed raised bog throughout.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The predominance of bogland tends to dissipate towards the east of the LCA, being replaced by dry grassland, reclaimed raised bog and some patches of wet grassland.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>In contrast to the planar bogs, there are a series of ridges located in the northeastern end of the LCA. These eskers fan out from the Athlone environs to the north and west.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Land cover in the northeastern corner is complex, combining a mix of both wet and dry environments.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There are three regional roads which pass through this LCA and the Dublin to Galway railway line also passes through this LCA running in a straight line from east to west.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The overall image of this landscape is one of bogs and eskers experiencing localised development pressure from nearby urban area.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of Moderate which is the lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. A majority of this LCA is designated as area ‘Most Favoured’ for the development of wind energy. In consideration of these designations, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>Low</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	<p>The ZTV indicates full theoretical visibility throughout much of the LCA, although there is some limited theoretical visibility to the north-east. It is likely that the proposed turbines will be visible from most areas in close proximity to the north and west of the LCA, as well as areas of higher elevation such as the esker ridges throughout the LCA. Visibility of the Proposed Development will be limited in bogland areas where mature woodland within the flat landscape will cause a disproportionate screening effect.</p> <p>Photomontage Viewpoints 01 and 06 are located in this LCA.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No Wind turbines are located within this LCA. The two existing Skrine turbines may be visible from very localised areas of high elevation in this LCA. Cumulative effects upon landscape character are likely to be very minor.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<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
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development will not impact the Castlesampson esker which is deemed to be of moderate geological and landscape value (see Chapter 8 – <i>Geology and Soils</i>).</li> </ul>

Roscommon LCA 36 - Ballydangan Pastures	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 8.8 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(The Landscape Character Assessment of County Roscommon, RCDP 2022-2028)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>This landscape character area is located close to the southern tip of the County, defined on the basis of land cover comprising of well drained farmland and contrasting strongly with surrounding LCAs which tend to be largely dominated by extensive areas of bog.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>This LCA is gently undulating, sloping very slightly from northwest to southeast in the direction of the River Shannon.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The quality of farmland here is quite good, with just small patches of wet grassland located in the southwest alongside reclaimed bogland. The landscape is quite open with loose hedgerows of broadleaf species.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The M6 Motorway passes in a southwesterly direction through this LCA. The status of roads is otherwise local. There are no large settlements in this LCA, although there are crossroads settlements and scattered single rural dwellings located throughout.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	The LCA is given a landscape value of Moderate which is the lowest value attributed to LCAs in Co. Roscommon. No specific landscape features of value are mentioned in the LCACR, therefore, sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>Low</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates full theoretical visibility in large portions of this LCA, although theoretical visibility is limited to the south of the LCA. On site appraisals determined that actual visibility will be limited to areas to the north of the M6 motorway of localised areas of high elevation within the LCA.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No Wind turbines are located within this LCA. Other existing, permitted or proposed turbines are unlikely to be visible from within this LCA. No Cumulative effects are likely to occur.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Any aesthetic or perceptual effects on landscape character are significantly mitigated by distance from the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>

1.2

## County Galway

Galway LCA 1 - North East Galway (Balinasloe to Ballymoe)	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 3.5 km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b> <i>(GCDP 2015-2021 Landscape and Landscape Character Assessment)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Landscape is flat to undulating open pastoral land bound by field hedgerows, with small scattered coniferous plantations of 1-6 km<sup>2</sup> in size.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There are no areas of particular scenic value.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>This area is primarily rural and includes the settlements of Ballinasloe, Mountbellew Bridge, Glennamaddy, Ballymoe and Dumore.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	In general, this LCA is designated as a landscape is of Low Value (Class 1) and Low Sensitivity (Class 1). There are areas designated as Medium (Class 3) and Moderate (Class 2) sensitivity surrounding the River Suck to the east of the LCA and in close proximity to the Proposed Development. In consideration of these designations, landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>Medium</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	<p>The ZTV indicates full theoretical visibility in large portions of this LCA in close proximity to the site. Theoretical visibility is limited to west and north-west of the LCA. On site appraisals determined that actual visibility will be quite likely from elevated landform approximately 5km West of the River Suck.</p> <p>Photomontage viewpoint 17 is located within this LCA.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No Wind turbines are located within areas of this LCA located in the LVIA Study Area. Other existing, permitted or proposed turbines may be visible from within this LCA, but at such great distances, cumulative effects upon landscape character are not significant.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Actual visibility from sensitive landscape receptors such as areas surrounding the River Suck and the flat boglands to the east of the LCA is likely to be very limited.</li> </ul>

<b>Galway LCA 3 - East central Galway (Athenry, Ballinasloe to Portumna)</b>	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 10.7 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).
<b>LCA Key Characteristics (GCDP 2015-2021 Landscape and Landscape Character Assessment)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>“The landscape is flat, coarse grassland, occasional clumps of coniferous forestry between 1- 3 km<sup>2</sup> in size, fields defined principally by stone walls.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>There are no areas of particular scenic value although the stone walls are quite distinct.”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	In general, this LCA is designated as a landscape is of Low Value (Class 1) and Low Sensitivity (Class 1). However, there are areas designated as Medium (Class 3) and Moderate (Class 2) sensitivity surrounding the River Suck to the north of Ballinasloe which are located in the LVIA study Area for assessment of landscape character (to 15km). In consideration of these designations, landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>Medium</b> .
<b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates large areas of full theoretical visibility and several large patches of no theoretical visibility, particularly to the south of Ballinasloe. In general, actual visibility is likely to be very limited in this LCA due to screening from localised topography to the north and vegetated nature of the landscape. There is likely to be visibility from localised areas of high elevation.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No Wind turbines are located within areas of this LCA located in the LVIA Study Area. Other existing, permitted or proposed turbines may be visible from within this LCA, but at such great distances, cumulative effects upon landscape character are not significant.
<b>Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</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>Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

<p><b>Mitigating Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Actual visibility from sensitive landscape receptors (e.g. River Suck) in this LCA is likely to be very limited.</li> <li>➤ This is a very large LCA (approx. 1446km<sup>2</sup>), only a very small portion of this LCA (approx. 44 km<sup>2</sup>, or 3%) located within 15km of the Proposed Development has theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines.</li> </ul>
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1.3

## County Westmeath

<p>Westmeath LCA 6 - Lough Ree/Shannon Corridor</p>	
<p><b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b></p>	<p>At its closest point, this LCA is located approximately 10.7 km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).</p>
<p><b>LCA Key Characteristics</b></p> <p>(Chapter 13 of the Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>This area includes Lough Ree, the Shannon corridor both north and south of Athlone and villages of Ballykeeran, Glasson and Tubberclare are also included.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Areas of pastureland are scattered throughout the remainder of the area along with small patches of inland marshes, coniferous forestry and other agricultural uses.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>A significant area of intact bog remains to the southeast of Athlone and worked out peatland areas are located to the north and south of the Character Area, adjacent to the callows and Lough Ree.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The area has significant conservation status, as SPA, SAC and NHA are all present therein.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>The Shannon and Lough Ree are important in terms of their recreational and amenity value, as well as their natural heritage importance, thus the quality of these assets must be protected.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>As development pressure increases around the lakeshore and floodplain, the risk of landscape deterioration also increases</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b></p>	<p>Section 13.20 (Chapter 13) of the WCDP describes the County Westmeath Lough Ree High Amenity Area, which is located within a large portion of this LCA. Considering the ecological, recreational and tourism value of this landscape receptor, the sensitivity of this LCA to wind farm development is deemed to be <b>High</b>.</p>
<p><b>Visibility of the Proposed Development within the LCA</b></p>	<p>The ZTV indicates large patches of full theoretical visibility as well as large patches of no theoretical visibility. On site appraisals determined that actual visibility will be limited in areas proximate to Athlone and the lower elevations around the eastern shore of Lough Ree. Visibility of the Proposed Development is likely to occur from localised areas of slightly higher elevation where there is an absence of screening such as the OSi viewpoint at Ballykeeran shown in photomontage viewpoint 14.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b></p>	<p>No Wind turbines are located within this LCA. Other existing, permitted or proposed turbines may be visible from within this LCA, but at such great distances, cumulative effects upon landscape character are not significant.</p>

<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.2.2 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<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 = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and development infrastructure will not materially alter this LCA.</li> <li>➤ Visibility is only likely to occur in elevated, localised areas beyond 15 km from the Proposed Development where any potential effects on landscape character are significantly mitigated by distance.</li> </ul>