



APPENDIX 13-2

LCA ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1

County Westmeath

LCA 3 – River Deel Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	16 No. turbines are located within this LCA.
LCA Key Characteristics (Chapter 13 of the Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The River Deel, the Stonyford River and their hinterlands form this landscape character area typified by low-lying pasture punctuated with small lakes which are flanked by scrub and wet woodland.</i> ➤ <i>These rivers form part of the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC complex. The area east of Delvin and running south along the Meath Border is characterised by cutover, cutaway bogs and small tracts of intact bog.</i> ➤ <i>This part of the county has a strong historic landscape component with several demesne landscapes occurring within the area.</i> ➤ ➤ <i>The main transportation corridors include the N51 and N52</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	There is little amenity value or landscape importance on a regional or national scale attributed to this LCA, despite this LCA containing several sensitive landscape features including the River Deel and the Stonyford River. The WCDP outlines this LCA (and the majority of the county) as having a Low capacity for wind energy development, therefore this LCA is assigned a Medium landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
Visibility of the proposed turbines within the LCA	The ZTV indicates that there is widespread theoretical visibility within this landscape character area. Viewpoints 10, 17 and 18 located within this LCA.
Cumulative Baseline	The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located within this LCA. Other permitted and proposed turbines are not visible from adjacent LCAs within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	There are likely to be views in combination (see VP10 and VP18 for example) and in succession of turbines from the Proposed Development and the permitted Bracklyn turbines from locations within the LCA, however, cumulative visibility of these two proposed wind farms will be limited by the high levels of vegetation present in the LCA.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Moderate: <i>“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.”</i>

Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are not located in close proximity to any sensitive landscape features. ➤ Siting and design were developed for peatland landscape character types within which the proposed turbines are located. ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ The effect of the flat LCA is compounded by the presence of mature hedgerows, mature tree lines and stands of commercial forestry which are a feature of this LCA. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, removing large numbers of turbines from views (including the existing and permitted turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. The effect of this screening is amplified in terms of impeding views of the turbines for such a flat site.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

LCA 1 Northern Hills and Lakes	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 7 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 32 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: This Landscape Character Area consists of prominent hills topped with chert or cherty limestone with enclosed lakes and areas of peat deposits, mostly fen.</p> <p>Significance: The area is also of high nature conservation value with many NHAs and SACs. Afforestation occurs around Finnea and at Fore and there is an extensive beech plantation at Mullaghmeen. Dispersed glacial deposits occur and there are a number of quarries operating in the area.</p> <p>Features: 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.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This LCA is identified in the Westmeath County Development Plan as a “ <i>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.</i> ” Therefore, the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
Visibility within LCA	Primarily full theoretical visibility throughout the part of the LCA located within the 15km LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character, with

	some patches on no theoretical visibility, notably with one around the shores of Lough Lene.
Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing or permitted wind farms within this LCA and wind turbines outside this LCA, if visible will be at considerable distances. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 7.1km south of this LCA at its closest point.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with the Bracklyn turbines where the northern cluster of turbines of the Proposed Development is visible.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible - A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines limits visibility in many places ➤ Intervening distance

LCA 4 Central Hills and Lakes	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 4 kilometres away from the nearest proposed turbine at its closest point, and 37.4 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics (Chapter 13 of the Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The Central Hills and Lakes Character Area is located to the north of the centre of the County. This area is typified 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.</i> ➤ <i>The high scenic quality and amenity value of this area is reflected by the high number of preserved views.</i> ➤ <i>A number of fens occur throughout the area, the most notable being Scragh Bog which is of international importance.</i> ➤ <i>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.</i> ➤ <i>The lake edges are attractive location for recreation and amenity.</i>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This LCA includes two large areas designated as Areas of High Amenity, and the LCA description outlines the area is of “ <i>high scenic quality with several attractive lakes including Lough Derravaragh and Lough Owel.</i> ”

	These lakes are also designated SAC and SPA sites, therefore the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity.
Visibility within LCA	Predominantly widespread full visibility to the east of the LCA with larger areas of no visibility to the west. To the southeast of the LCA there are large patches of partial or no theoretical visibility, between 5-10km from the site. Viewpoints 8 and 9 are located within this LCA.
Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing or permitted wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located to the east of this LCA and will likely be visible from locations at higher elevation within the LCA. The permitted Yellow River turbines are located approximately 10km to the south of this LCA at their closest point. The proposed Milltown Pass turbines are located approximately 4km south of this LCA at its closest point. There are potential views of these turbines away from the Proposed Development from localised areas of high elevation in this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The proposed development will generally be seen behind and through the permitted Bracklyn turbines, with in combination views of both wind farms likely when the Proposed Development is visible within this LCA. Views of the Proposed Development in combination with existing permitted or proposed wind farms other than Bracklyn are only likely to occur from isolated locations of high elevation (see VP 9 for example), where the distances involved are substantial, resulting in a low level of cumulative landscape effects.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.4.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Negligible: <i>“A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The generally flat nature of this LCA means that perception of the scale of the proposed turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ The effect of the flat LCA is compounded by the presence of mature hedgerows, mature tree lines and stands of commercial forestry which are a feature throughout much of this LCA. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, removing large numbers of turbines from views (including the existing and permitted turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. ➤ North-east of this LCA is a highly managed, settled, working landscape; Man-made vertical elements within the landscape such as telecommunication poles, overhead power lines, water towers and residential dwellings are common features in views within this landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

LCA 5 Royal Canal Corridor	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 3.8 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 35 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: The Royal Canal has been a historic feature of the Westmeath landscape since the early 1800's, flowing east to west through the county and is an important amenity feature. The canal flows through low-lying areas with the surrounding corridor typified by grassland, peatland and some areas of conifer plantation. The canal corridor is largely rural in nature, apart from the urban centre of Mullingar. To the west of Mullingar, the canal traverses a rural landscape of high scenic quality with undulating landform and a mature vegetation cover of hedgerows and trees.</p> <p>Features: Some large conifer plantations border the canal towpath and dominate the visual corridor where present.</p> <p>The canal corridor includes features of vernacular architecture and industrial heritage such as stone bridges, lock keeper's cottages, lock gates and milestones which enhance the waterway.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This LCA is located around the environs of the Royal Canal Greenway. The Westmeath County Development Plan outlines this area as being a " <i>rural landscape of high scenic quality</i> ", therefore, the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility in this LCA within 10km of the Proposed Development, with sections of partial or no visibility between 10-15km. VP 7 is located close to the eastern border of this LCA, along the Royal Canal, and is representative of views from the areas within this LCA located closest to the Proposed Development.
Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing or permitted wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located to the east of this LCA. The permitted Yellow River turbines are located approximately 8.5km to the south of this LCA at their closest point. The proposed Miltown Pass turbines are located approximately 3km south of this LCA at their closest point. The other existing, permitted, and proposed and turbines to south (see Section 13.6 of the EIAR) are unlikely to be visible given the low-lying and vegetated nature of the canal corridor.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will add views of turbines to locations at the eastern extent of this LCA, but there is unlikely to be combined views of the Proposed Development and other turbines from within this LCA as the vegetation located within the LCA screens other turbines from view (see VP7 for example).
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This LCA is located around the environs of the Royal Canal Greenway. The Westmeath County Development Plan outlines this area as being a " <i>rural landscape of high scenic quality</i> ", therefore, the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.

Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.4.2 of Methodology 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	High x Slight= Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The generally flat nature of this LCA means that perception of the scale of the proposed turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ The effect of the flat LCA is compounded by the presence of mature hedgerows and mature tree lines along the banks of the canal and bordering the adjacent fields, which are a feature throughout much of this LCA. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, removing large numbers of turbines from views (including the existing and permitted turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. ➤ The section of the canal to the west of Mullingar, that traverses a rural landscape of high scenic quality, is located outside of the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

LCA 10 Lough Ennell and South Eastern Corridor	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 4.8 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 31 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics (Chapter 13 of the Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>This Character Area comprises pastureland of mixed productivity. Lough Ennell is situated to the western side of this Landscape Character Area (LCA) and is designated as an Area of High Amenity, SPA and SAC.</i> ➤ <i>The bog areas in this LCA are mainly exploited but some have been left intact. The area around Lough Ennell and particularly to the south of the lake is characterised by scrub land with a mixture of marsh, bog, and poor pastureland.</i> ➤ <i>A number of preserved views are listed from the R446 between Tyrrellspass and Rochfortbridge.</i> ➤ <i>This area has a large number of old demesnes, which are easily recognisable in the landscape with the existence of fine mature hardwood trees and estate walls in some cases.</i>

Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This LCA contains Lough Ennell and is an Area of High Amenity, SPA and SAC designated sites. This area also contains a number of preserved scenic views. Therefore, the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility in this LCA within 10km of the Proposed Development, with larger areas of partial or no theoretical visibility beyond 10km. VP 7 is located close to the eastern border of this LCA and is representative of views from the areas within this LCA located closest to the Proposed Development. Actual visibility within this LCA is likely to be limited to areas of high elevation as screening from vegetation along the Royal Canal will limit views within the flat landscape.
Cumulative Baseline	The proposed Miltown Pass turbines are located within this LCA. The permitted Yellow River turbines are located on the opposite side of the southern border of the LCA and will likely be visible through large this parts of the LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with the Bracklyn turbines where the northern cluster of turbines of the Proposed Development is visible. Although, there are likely limited locations where this will occur given the distances and screening involved (see VP 7 for example). There will also be views in the opposite direction from the Proposed Development towards permitted and proposed turbines to the south and west (e.g. Miltown Pass and Yellow River), from locations within this LCA and views in succession travelling along transport routes, although in general, the high level of vegetation in the landscape and the distances of the LCA from the Proposed Development will result in intermittent views of the Proposed Development in combination with cumulative turbines where these are available.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.4.2 of Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Negligible – <i>“A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The generally flat nature of this LCA means that perception of the scale of the proposed turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ The effect of the flat LCA is compounded by the presence of mature hedgerows, mature tree lines and stands of commercial forestry which are a feature throughout much of this LCA. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, removing large numbers of turbines from views (including the existing and permitted turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. ➤ Lough Ennell, the most sensitive part of this LCA is located outside of the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character.

Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
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County Meath

LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	10 No. turbines from the Proposed Development are located within this LCA.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: The area is characterised by rolling hills interspersed with beech copses and well-wooded hedgerows dividing rough pasture. The main transport routes are the N4 from Enfield to Kinnegad and the Royal Canal (a tourist route).</p> <p>Significance: Views within this area are generally limited by the complex topography and mature vegetation except at the tops of drumlins and from bridges crossing the Royal Canal where panoramic views are available.</p> <p>Features: Pasture farmland is dominant although there is rough pasture in the upland areas interspersed with a mix of woodland plantations, small copses and scrubby woodland more prevalent in the southwest</p> <p>Hill of Down is a small attractive village on the Royal Canal offering business as the tourist industry is important to the village.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 15 has a “<i>Medium potential capacity to accommodate wind farms or single turbines because views within this LCA are generally short range and limited by topography and vegetation so there are opportunities for choosing locations where visual impacts are minimal.</i>”</p> <p>Therefore, the LCA is assigned a Medium landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>
Visibility within LCA	<p>Mostly full theoretical visibility in this LCA, with small sections of partial or no visibility in the south near the settlements of Ballinabrackey and Castlejordan. Viewpoints 03, 06, 07, 15 and 16 are located within this LCA.</p> <p>Visibility beyond 5km within this LCA is likely to be very limited due to the flat nature of the landscape and intervening vegetation from alongside the Royal Canal.</p>
Cumulative Baseline	There are no other existing, permitted or proposed wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 2km to the west of this LCA at its closest point. The permitted Yellowriver turbines are also located approximately 700m southwest of this LCA from its closest point. The proposed Miltown Pass turbines are located approximately 3.2km northwest of this LCA at its closest point.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with the Bracklyn turbines where the northern cluster of turbines of the Proposed Development is visible. It is unlikely that there will be visibility of the proposed turbines with the permitted Yellow River or proposed Miltown Pass turbines due to the flat nature of this LCA and intervening vegetation.

Magnitude of Change	Moderate - A more limited loss of or change to landscape features over a medium extent which will result in some change to landscape features and aesthetics. Could include the addition of some new uncharacteristic features or elements that would lead to the potential for change in landscape character in a localised area or part of a landscape character area. Would include moderate effects on the overall landscape character that do not affect key characteristics. The effects could be long to medium term and/or partially reversible.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate= Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines limits visibility in many places

LCA 5 Boyne Valley	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 10 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 43.5 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: The landscape in the Boyne Valley is characterised by a steep river valley with areas of rolling lowland adjacent to the River Boyne. The lowlands have an undulating landform with areas of wetland associated with the River Boyne, particularly surrounding the flat river plain in the narrow valley adjacent to Slane. Pasture farmland is predominant in the rolling lowland with areas of poorly drained marshland adjacent to the River Boyne.</p> <p>Significance: It is arguably the most significant and highly valued landscapes in the county because it contains the Bru na Boinne World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Features: This LCA also includes the heritage towns of Trim and Slane.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 13 has a “<i>low potential capacity to accommodate wind turbines due to the significant visual impact of such development within the valley or adjacent to the river corridor and its setting.</i>”</p> <p>Therefore, a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCA.</p>
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility with small sections of partial or no visibility scattered around Trim. Actual visibility within this LCA is considerably lower due to the flat landscape and vegetation screening. Views of the proposed turbines will be limited to the top of Trim Castle as seen in VP19.

Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing, permitted, or proposed wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 13.2km west of this LCA at its closest point. All other cumulative turbines are located >12km from this LCA and are unlikely to be visible.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	No Significant cumulative landscape effects are expected to arise within this LCA. The Proposed Development in combination with the Bracklyn turbines will only be visible from the top of Trim Castle. Views throughout the rest of the LCA will be limited due to vegetation and infrastructure screening within Trim.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible- A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor= Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines and hedgerows limits visibility in many places ➤ Intervening distance

LCA 6 Central Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 0.9 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 47 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: Large lowland landscape area composed of rolling drumlins interspersed with numerous large estates and associated parkland. Thick wooded hedgerows, with some conifer plantations, and shelterbelts of ash and larch, separate medium to large fields.</p> <p>Significance: Views within this area are generally limited by the complex topography and mature vegetation except at the tops of drumlins where panoramic views are available particularly of the Hill of Tara uplands and Skryne Church.</p> <p>Features: Deep roadside drainage ditches and banked hedgerows are a common feature of the landscape in the enclosed rural road corridors.</p>
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility, with small sections of partial visibility scattered throughout this LCA. Viewpoints 04 and 05 are located within this LCA.

Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing, permitted, or proposed wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 4.6km west of this LCA at its closest point and will be visible in combination with the Proposed Development from areas within this LCA. Other existing, proposed and permitted turbines within the LVIA Study Area are located >12km from this LCA and are unlikely to be visible.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with the Bracklyn turbines where the northern cluster of turbines of the Proposed Development is visible.
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 6 “has a Medium potential capacity to accommodate underground services as the small-scale farmland and variety of land use is not as sensitive to change and is not as archaeologically rich as other areas although the loss of landscape features such as hedgerows would need to be avoided to minimise negative impacts.” Therefore, a Medium landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCA.
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines limits visibility in many places ➤ Intervening distance

LCA 13 Rathmoylan Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 10 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 19 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	Description: The landscape is predominantly rolling hills and lowland with a mix of pastoral and arable farms. Built development is concentrated around Rathmoylan and Summerhill with detached dwellings scattered throughout the rural hinterland.

	<p>Features: Estate landscapes are prominent around Summerhill with extensive beech avenues and stone walls, further west the landscape becomes very wooded, particularly at Rathmoylan, which has a very distinctive enclosed small-scale rolling drumlin landscape interspersed with copses.</p>
<p>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</p>	<p>Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 13 has a “<i>low potential capacity to accommodate wind turbine development due to the potential visual impact of such development on a highly sensitive and high value LCA.</i>”</p> <p>Therefore, a High landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCA.</p>
<p>Visibility within LCA</p>	<p>Mostly full theoretical visibility in the north, with small patches of partial or no visibility. Actual visibility of the proposed turbines from locations within this LCA is unlikely due to screening from intervening vegetation throughout the relatively flat landscape.</p>
<p>Cumulative Baseline</p>	<p>There are no existing, permitted, or proposed wind farms within this LCA. All cumulative turbines are located >14km from this LCA and are unlikely to be visible.</p>
<p>Cumulative Landscape Effects</p>	<p>No cumulative landscape effects are expected to arise within this LCA.</p>
<p>Magnitude of Change</p>	<p>Negligible: A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible</p>
<p>Significance of Effect</p>	<p>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
<p>Mitigation Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines and hedgerows limits visibility in many places ➤ Intervening distance

LCA 16 West Navan Lowlands	
<p>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</p>	<p>This LCA is approximately 7.3 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 23 kilometres at its furthest.</p>
<p>LCA Key Characteristics</p>	<p>Description: This is a flat lowland farmland landscape interspersed with many large estate landscapes with associated parkland, which extends from</p>

	<p>the west of Navan to Athboy. There are 2 main transport routes – the N51 from Navan to Devlin, Co. Westmeath and the R154 from Trim to Athboy.</p> <p>Built development consists of scattered groups of detached dwellings and large estate houses in the hinterland with extensive ribbon development on the outskirts of Athboy and Dunderry.</p> <p>Significance: The landscape has a scrappy degraded character to the south west of Navan with poorly managed but well wooded field boundaries around Robinstown progressing to manicured estate landscape and parkland adjacent to Dunderry.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 16 has a “<i>medium capacity to accommodate wind farms or single turbines because views are often restricted and potential opportunities exist to locate such development in non-visually prominent locations.</i>”</p> <p>Therefore, a Medium landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCA.</p>
Visibility within LCA	<p>Mostly full theoretical visibility in this LCA, with sections of partial or no visibility around Rathcarran and Cortown. The landscape of this LCA is generally flat with a small area of elevation to the east (Hill of Ward). Actual visibility of the proposed turbines from locations within this LCA is unlikely due to screening from intervening vegetation throughout the flat landscape. Views from the Hill of Ward are assessed within Section 13.7.3.2.5 in Chapter 13.</p>
Cumulative Baseline	<p>There are no existing, permitted, or proposed wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 10km west of this LCA.</p>
Cumulative Landscape Effects	<p>The high level of vegetation in the landscape and the distances of the LCA from the Proposed Development will result in limited views of the proposed turbines in combination with other cumulative projects.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) 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"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines and hedgerows limits visibility in many places

	> Intervening distance
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LCA 17 Southwest Kells Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 3.2 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 18.8 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: This LCA is characterised by rolling lowland farmland with remnants of parkland landscapes. The southern part of this LCA is similar to the western part with areas of parkland but more coniferous plantations. There are no major settlements in this LCA with the exception of Kells on the eastern edge and Athboy on the southern edge.</p> <p>Significance: The landscape forms the setting for the southern side of the Loughcrew Hills and is quite unspoilt by modern development.</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	<p>Appendix 5 of the Landscape Character Assessment for Co. Meath states that LCA 17 “<i>has a Low potential capacity to accommodate wind farms or single turbines because views within this LCA, and from the Loughcrew Hills LCA, are often extensive and such development is likely to be highly prominent.</i>”</p> <p>Therefore, a Medium landscape sensitivity to wind farm development is assigned for this LCA.</p>
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility in this LCA, with sections of partial or no visibility in the north near the village of Crossakeel. Actual visibility within this LCA is considerably lower due to the flat landscape and vegetation screening. There may be views of the proposed turbines in areas of high elevation towards the north of this LCA approximately 12km from the Proposed Development. Vegetation screening restricts open views of the entire Proposed Development. Viewpoints 01 and 13 are located within this LCA.
Cumulative Baseline	There are no existing, permitted, or proposed wind farms within this LCA. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are located approximately 4.6km southwest of this LCA at its closest point and will be visible in combination with the Proposed Development from areas within this LCA.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	The Proposed Development will be seen in combination with the Bracklyn turbines where the northern cluster of turbines of the Proposed Development is visible. Although in general, the high level of vegetation (as seen in VP01 and VP13) in the landscape and the distances of the LCA from the Proposed Development will result in intermittent views of the Proposed Development in combination with cumulative turbines where these are available.
Magnitude of Change	Slight- The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level

	and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Limited theoretical visibility ➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance. ➤ Vegetation, such as mature treelines and hedgerows limits visibility in many places ➤ Intervening distance

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County Kildare

LCA 1 North-western Lowlands	
Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA	This LCA is approximately 7.2 kilometres away from the nearest proposed turbine at its closest point, and 21 kilometres at its furthest.
LCA Key Characteristics	<p>Description: The area is characterised by generally flat topography and smooth terrain, gently undulating around Carbury, to a maximum elevation of 142m O.D. at Carbury Hill. The occurring open lands with medium to large field patterns are bordered by well-maintained and low hedgerows, which contain scattered trees along some sections of the field boundaries.</p> <p>Features: Distant views include the skylines of Newtown Hills to the east and Allen Hill to the south-east</p>
Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development	This area has little amenity value or landscape importance and has been designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity in the Kildare County Development Plan. It is therefore assigned a Low landscape sensitivity to wind farm development.
Visibility within LCA	Mostly full theoretical visibility to the north, with sections of partial or no visibility in the south near Clogharinka and Carbury.
Cumulative Baseline	The proposed Ballydermot turbines are located approximately 2.3km south of this LCA at its closest point. The permitted Bracklyn Wind Farm (adjacent to the Proposed Development) is located 14.4km north of this LCA at its closest point.
Cumulative Landscape Effects	It is unlikely that the Proposed Development will be visible in combination with the Bracklyn turbines from this location due to the distance and screening within the landscape. Due to the flat nature of the intervening landscape views of the proposed turbines in combination with other permitted or proposed wind farms is unlikely. There may be views from areas of higher elevation such as Carbury Hill which is located outside of the LVIA Study Area for effects on landscape character.
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The loss of or change to landscape features of limited extent, or changes to landscape character in smaller areas. Changes would not affect key characteristics. The addition of any new features or elements to the landscape would only result in low-level changes to the overall aesthetics of the landscapes. Changes to the landscape are more evident at a local level and not over a wide geographical area. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
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	<p>➤ The flat nature of the site and surrounds (and the LCA generally) means that perception of the scale of the turbines will reduce significantly with distance.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Limited theoretical visibility> Vegetation, such as mature treelines and hedgerows limits visibility in many places> Intervening distance
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