

13.

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT TABLES

LCU 4 – Coastal Zone	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCU</b>	All 14 No. turbines are located within this LCU.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>  <b>Renewable Energy Strategy 2013 (Wexford County Council, 2013)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Landscape Type:</b> Coastal.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landform:</b> Relatively flat, comprises of small sand dunes along the east coast.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landcover:</b> Flat coastal landscape. Straight coasts comprising of sand or shingle backed up by low cliffs and sand dunes.</li> <li>➤ <b>Human Influence:</b> Medium. There are several towns and villages, including Wexford Town located within this LCU.</li> <li>➤ <b>Quality of Landscape:</b> Coastal lowland landscape with several long beaches and dune systems, including tourist designations.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landscape Designations:</b> Several areas of Landscape of Greater Sensitivity are located within this LCU including Lady’s Island and Tacumshin Lakes, the Inish and Ballyteige Slobbs, Carnsore Point, Ballyteigue Burrow and Bannow Bay. The Hook peninsula has a variety of interesting and distinctive landscapes.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	The ZTV indicates that there is mainly full widespread theoretical visibility within this LCA and larger patches of no visibility are located along the north-eastern coast.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	No other wind farms are located within this LCA within the study boundary.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	1. Landscape character area with no wind turbines
<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	<p>The proposed development will change the status identified above to:</p> <p>2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s</p> <p>Therefore, the cumulative landscape effects are <b>Moderate</b>.</p>
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	This LCU is located within a designated Wind Energy Zones of Not Normally Permissible. The WCDP states the following with regards to wind energy development in this LCU: <i>Low capacity due to the scenic, tourism and recreation value of this area combined with a number of small settlements, high concentrations of one-off houses and a significant number of nature conservation sites</i> , therefore the LCA is assigned a High landscape sensitivity
<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. The effects could potentially be medium to short term and/or reversible.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visibility of the proposed development from the landscape receptors located along the southern and eastern shores is reduced significantly by distance and vegetation screening.</li> <li>➤ The flat nature the LCA means that perception of the scale of the proposed turbines will reduce significantly with distance.</li> <li>➤ Local changes in topography including the sand banks located along the southern and north-eastern shores mitigate views towards the proposed development.</li> </ul>

LCU 2 – Lowland Zone	
<b>Distance from site to Nearest/Furthest Area of LCA</b>	This LCU is approximately 6.7 kilometres away from the nearest turbine at its closest point, and 66.6 kilometres at its furthest.
<b>LCA Key Characteristics</b>  <b>Renewable Energy Strategy 2013 (Wexford County Council, 2013)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Landscape Type:</b> Hilly and Flat Farmland.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landform:</b> Relatively flat with gently undulating hills.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landcover:</b> Pasture and arable lands. It is an open landscape with the higher levels of population and more intensive agriculture.</li> <li>➤ <b>Human Influence:</b> High. This is a managed landscape. Several towns and villages as well as intensive agricultural lands exist in this landscape zone.</li> <li>➤ <b>Quality of Landscape:</b> Lowland landscape with several prominent hills including the ‘Kettle Kame’ which is distinct and interesting and is also highlighted as a Landscape of Greater Sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ <b>Landscape Designations:</b> Several areas of Landscape of Greater Sensitivity are located within this LCU. Wind energy</li> <li>➤ One small area of Rural Secondary Special Amenity to the north east of the LCA, east of Listowel. No other Landscape Zoning Designations located in both the LCA and the LVIA Study Area for landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Visibility within LCA</b>	There is mainly full to partial visibility of the proposed development within this LCU. Larger pockets of no theoretical visibility are located to the northwest of the site in this LCU.
<b>Cumulative Baseline</b>	Richfield Wind Farm (located just outside the study boundary 15.5km west of the site) is located in the southern part of this zone.
<b>Cumulative Landscape Status</b>	2. Landscape character area with occasional wind turbines in it and/or intervisible in another landscape character area/s
<b>Cumulative Landscape Effects</b>	The proposed development will not change the status identified above, therefore the cumulative landscape effects are considered <b>Low</b> .
<b>Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Farm Development</b>	Designated Wind Energy Zones of Open to Consideration and Acceptable in Principle are located within this LCU. The WCDP states the following with regards to wind energy development in this LCU: <i>there are opportunities to accommodate wind farm development in the zoned areas subject to careful layout and siting that avails to topographical screening where possible</i> , therefore the LCA is assigned a <b>Low</b> landscape sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
<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 but without significant consequences.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The flat nature of the coastal plain comprising this LCU means that perception of the scale of the proposed turbines will reduce significantly with distance.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The presence of mature vegetation in this busy landscape provide a significant amount of intermittent screening of the proposed development.</li> <li>➤ Much of this LCA is a highly managed, settled, working landscape; Man-made vertical elements within the landscape such as telecommunication poles, overhead power lines, and residential dwellings are common features populating views within this landscape.</li> </ul>
--	--