APPENDIX 13-3

PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

1. PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 Viewpoint Selection

The tables included in this appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the photomontage visualisations of the 15 no. viewpoints (VP01-VP15) presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* and detailed in Chapter 13, Section 13.5.4 Viewpoint Selection: Photomontage Viewpoints (VPs). Viewpoints VP01-VP15 were selected for the production of photomontages and comprehensive assessment following a detailed and extensive process including a review of baseline information, data gathered during site visits and review of high-quality photographs taken at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area.

The photomontages for VP01-VP15 are classified as "Type 4 Visualisations" of Development Proposals according to the LI TGN 06/19 (2019) for the assessment of visual effects in accordance with LVIA guidance and are comprehensively assessed in the tables of this appendix. The photomontages are presented in the *Photomontage Booklet*, which should be read in conjunction with this appendix.

1.2 Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessments were conducted for individual viewpoints and are reported in the tables below following the methodology set out in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects of the Proposed Project with other existing, permitted and/or proposed wind farms located in the LVIA Study Area are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Chapter 13, Section 13.6 Cumulative Context, the assessment and discussion of cumulative visual effects considers the probability of cumulative effects arising with all other wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area in the following categories, and their potential visual interaction(s) with the Proposed Project:

- "**Existing**" developments: "Certainty" of cumulative effects occurring;
- "**Permitted**" developments: "High probability" of cumulative effects occurring in a future receiving environment; or
- "**Proposed**" developments: "Uncertain scenario" in which cumulative effects may or may not occur depending on multiple factors.

The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this appendix are based on the photomontages presented in the *Photomontage Booklet* and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view in that booklet.

In each impact assessment table below, the potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the "Magnitude of Change" row and is also considered in the "Residual Significance of Visual Effect" determination given for each viewpoint at the end of each table. When determining how cumulative effects contribute to the magnitude of change, the primary focus is on considering the extent to which the Proposed Project will contribute toward cumulative effects on the particular receptors at each viewpoint under assessment.

1.3 Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables

1.3.1 VP01: Lavally Church

Viewpoint 01 – Lavally Church	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from Lavally Church in the townland of Cappadavock, near Lavally National School. › Located approximately 4.3km northwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference: E 552853, N 753839 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Church – **High.** › School – **Medium**. › Residential receptors >4km – **Medium.** › Views over Levally Lough – **Medium.**
Description of "Existing View"	This view is from the Lavally Church grounds at a slightly elevated vantage point overlooking Levally Lough, which is visually screened by aquatic vegetation, and rural, undulating terrain beyond. The landscape is characterised by agricultural fields delineated with mature hedgerows and individual mature trees. There is one tract of commercial forestry and multiple small clusters of mature trees along the ridgeline in the centre background of this view. Sparse dwellings and outbuildings are visible in the distance. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible with towers and blades primarily above the skyline in the background of the view, beyond the ridges, trees and forestry. The proposed turbines are evenly spaced over a modest horizontal extent. The proposed turbines are seen emerging above the trees along the ridgeline in this view, where the vegetation partially screens the bottom components of some of the turbines, e.g. T3 and T5. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Gannow Wind Farm (8 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline to the southeast as blades/tips only but is visually screened from view in the image by mature vegetation. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located to the northeast, behind the viewpoint.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the turbines of the proposed Gannow Wind Farm would potentially be visible, barely discernible in the background of the view as blades/tips. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm to the northeast of this location may be seen in succession with the

Viewpoint 01 – Lavally Church	
	proposed Cooloo turbines. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium –** This viewpoint represents "Medium" sensitivity receptors on account of the set-back distance from receptors such as the church as well as a nearby school being local destinations of the community, with views also available of Levally Lough. The viewpoint also represents the residential receptors within proximity to this location which again are set-back from the turbines.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight –** The proposed turbines are visible but clearly set-back from the viewpoint and are of reasonable scale in the context of the open views and topography. From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines appear as background features and are almost entirely visually screened by terrain or vegetation, occupying a modest horizontal extent of the view. › The proposed turbines are viewed within a rural working landscape that has no views of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › The proposed turbines blades are viewed primarily above the horizon and treeline, in line with guidance on good visual aesthetics set out in the wind energy development guidelines (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Slight" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.3.2 VP02: Barnaderg South

Viewpoint 02 – Barnaderg South	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R332 Regional Road in the townland of Barnaderg South passing through rural node of Barnaderg. › Located approximately 3.3km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference: E 552002, N 748145 › No. of turbines visible: 7/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Barnaderg (Rural Node) – **Medium.** › Regional road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This view faces the Killererin GAA Club, whose buildings and elements including nets, flagpoles, flags and stadium lights comprise the midground of the view, beyond the carpark and wall in the foreground. Beyond the club grounds, the hilly terrain of the gently undulating rural landscape is partially visible in the distance, with agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows and mature trees. Beyond the GAA nets and flagpoles, a few residential dwellings and large sheds are visible. There is visual screening on the periphery of the view by mature roadside vegetation and the buildings of the Killererin GAA Club. Behind the dense vegetation, the terrain slopes upward, forming a low hill that is screened from view. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. The existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located behind this viewpoint to the west.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are located beyond the ridgeline of hilly terrain, with the towers and blades of about half the turbines visible above the skyline in the background. Two of the proposed turbines, T1 and T2, are entirely visually screened behind the low hill and thick vegetation. The visible proposed turbines are seen over a relatively modest horizontal extent. The proposed turbines are seen among other elements in the view from this vantage point, including the nets, flag poles, flags and stadium lights. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view. The permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine is not visible in the view but is located behind this viewpoint to the west. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located to the northeast of this viewpoint.
Cumulative Effects	Owing to the proximity of the existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm, there may be some cumulative visual effects viewed sequentially while travelling along the R332. In a future receiving environment, the permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine may be viewed sequentially with the turbines of the Proposed Project, and the turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may potentially be viewed in succession. As a result, cumulative visual effects

Viewpoint 02 – Barnaderg South	
	may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium –** This viewpoint represents "Medium" sensitivity receptors on account of the rural node of Barnaderg.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight –** The proposed turbines are visible but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of relatively modest scale and are partially visible, comprising a moderate portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The focus of views at the GAA Club will be on the sport matches and club events; receptors are unlikely to come to this location to experience landscape views. › The proposed turbines are viewed amongst features of the GAA Club visible in the foreground which affect the quality of existing landscape views, including walls, buildings, flag poles, utility poles and nets. › The proposed turbines are located beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, with some of the proposed turbines partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › The proposed turbines are seen in a rural working landscape with no views of county, regional or national renown. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Slight" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.3.3 VP03: Horseleap Cross Roads

Viewpoint 03 – Horseleap Cross Roads	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the Horseleap Cross Roads, intersection of the N63 National Road and R332 Regional Road, in the townland of Slievegorm near Brierfield National School. › Located approximately 1.3km south from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference: E 555717, N 746398 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors within 1.5km – **High.** › School – **Medium.** › National/regional road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	Beyond the crossroads, scrub and grasses lead up to undulating terrain with short-ranging views across agricultural fields. The fields are delineated by low hedgerows and mature trees. Mature vegetation at the righthand side screens visibility to the northeast. A small woodland beyond the ridgeline is visible along the centre background of the rolling terrain. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. The existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located to the west of this viewpoint.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees. T1 is closest to the viewpoint and therefore perceived at the largest scale, with its full tower and blades above the horizon. T2 and T3 are farther away with towers and blades overlapping in the centre, and the remaining proposed turbines are partially visually screened behind vegetation across the background of the view. The perspective created by the layout of the Proposed Wind Farm from this vantage point causes the turbines to diminish in perceived size when panning left to right. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline as blades/tips only. The permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine is not visible in the proposed image wireline but would be located to the west of this viewpoint.
Cumulative Effects	To the west of this viewpoint at greater than 8km distant, the existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm may be viewed sequentially with the proposed turbines with intermittent visual screening. In a future receiving environment, the permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine at greater than 8km distant may be viewed sequentially with the proposed turbines amongst intermittent visual screening.

Viewpoint 03 – Horseleap Cross Roads	
	In a future receiving environment, there will likely be no cumulative visual effects with the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm from this viewpoint; this is due to the nature of the undulating terrain which provides visual screening.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** - This viewpoint represents High sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors, as well as Brierfield National School, which are in relatively close proximity. This viewpoint also represents motorists traveling along the intersection of the N63 and R332.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate –** Some of the proposed turbines are seen at moderate and large scales and comprise a moderate horizontal extent of views, comprising most of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = "Significant" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."*
Mitigation Factors	› This is a common view from transport cross-roads featuring traffic signs and utility poles in the foreground and midground, comprising a rural working landscape with no views of county, regional or national renown. › Considering the nearby residences and national school, the siting of the proposed turbines far exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the 2006 Guidelines and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft 2019 Guidelines. › The proposed turbines are located beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, with some of the proposed turbines partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › The perceived scale (i.e. height and breadth) of the proposed turbines diminishes quickly with increasing distance owing to the flat, planar nature of the Proposed Wind Farm site and surrounding landscape, thereby reducing the scale of visual impact from this vantage point. › The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario for this area within 1.5km south of the Proposed Wind Farm site and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors. › Most receptors are likely to experience less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and localised undulations in the hilly terrain. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Moderate" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."*

1.3.4 VP04: Moylough

Viewpoint 04 – Moylough	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the N63 National Road heading west out of the town of Moylough, at the junction with the R328 Regional Road in front of the statue of St. Mary. › Located approximately 4.5km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T8). › Grid Reference: E 561426, N 748845 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› Castlegar Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Moylough (Small Growth Village) – **Medium.** › National/regional road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This view is from a relatively elevated vantage point overlooking the rural outskirts of the village of Moylough. A small enclosure with a statue of St. Mary is located at this junction, along with utility poles, fencing and low concrete walls. Vegetation around this enclosure visually screens long-ranging views of the rural landscape. Mature trees, scrub and fencing along the R328 also reduce open views of the rural landscape. Beyond the statue enclosure, long-ranging views are partially visible, comprised of agricultural fields with mature treelines along the horizon. The existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline as blade tips only; there is no actual visibility of the turbines in the image due to visual screening by topography and vegetation.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are located beyond the ridgeline in the distance, with most of the proposed turbines visually screened behind mature vegetation and built structures in the foreground. Some proposed turbines have blades and nacelles visible, with T8 being the most visually exposed, situated beyond the N63 as it crosses the ridgeline. All proposed turbines appear as background features, most of them screened from this vantage point behind mature trees, utility poles and built structures in the foreground. The permitted Cloonsacragh Single Turbine is marked in the centre of the proposed image wireline but is not visible in the wireline or the image owing to its modest perceived scale and position directly behind T4 of the Proposed Project. The proposed Laurclavagh Wind Farm (8 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline as background feature on the horizon but is not visible in the image owing to its significant distance from the viewer. The turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) are partially visible in the proposed image wireline with turbines and blades seen above the horizon but are not visible in the image owing to visual screening by terrain in the foreground.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 04 – Moylough	
	In a future receiving environment, the turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be seen in succession with the proposed turbines in a journey scenario from this viewpoint. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium** – This viewpoint represents "Medium" sensitivity receptors on account of the local residential receptors of the village of Moylough.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight –** The proposed turbines are partially visible but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of modest perceived scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› This is a common view from transport cross-roads featuring road signs, utility poles and fencing, comprising a rural working landscape with no views of county, regional or national renown. › Most of the proposed turbines are partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and/or vegetation. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, seen amongst built structure and features in the foreground, including utility poles, which affect the quality of existing landscape views. › This viewpoint represents views on the outskirts of Moylough, demonstrating the worst-case scenario for this area 4.5km east of the Proposed Wind Farm and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors outside Moylough. › The actual visibility for receptors within Moylough is limited due to visual screening by the built environment. › Receptors at this viewpoint will travel along the route where visibility of the proposed turbines would be intermittent and temporary in a journey scenario. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Not Significant" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.3.5 VP05: Cloonboo Beg

Viewpoint 05– Cloonboo Beg	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the local road in the townland of Cloonboo Beg. › Located approximately 1km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Divided into two views: SE and SW. › Grid Reference: E 556270, N 751286 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors within 1km – **High.**
Description of "Existing View"	This view looks out over agricultural fields and low hilly terrain comprising earthen mounds from a previous excavation. Low and mature vegetation in the midground results in short-ranging views. The roofs of three small sheds are visible, along with fencing, utility poles and powerlines. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are located beyond the ridgeline and hilly terrain, coherently spaced with turbines at the periphery and in the centre of the view. T6 and T7 are closest to the viewpoint and are therefore perceived at the largest scale, with minimal visual screening at the bast of the towers. The lower elements of T4, T5, T8 and T9 are predominantly screened by intervening vegetation and hilly terrain. Some of the proposed turbines are seen to form modest clusters: T8 and T9 at the left, and T5 and T4 at the centre. T1, T2 and T3 are predominantly screened by the terrain, with only blades or blade-tips visible above the vegetation and earthen mound. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is not visible in the proposed image wireline but is located behind this viewpoint, to the north.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be seen in succession with the proposed turbines, as the two wind farms are approx. 5.3km apart. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** – This viewpoint represents "High" sensitivity residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate –** The proposed turbines appear at modest to large scales and occupy a large horizontal extent of the view, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.

Viewpoint 05– Cloonboo Beg	
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = "Significant" (EPA, 2022) *An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."*
Mitigation Factors	› Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the 2006 Guidelines and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft 2019 Guidelines. › The presence of earthen mounds reduces the range of visibility and aesthetic qualities the view, such that the proposed turbines can be seen as adding to the baseline view of development in the area, particularly around the existing sheds. › The proposed turbines are located beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, seen amongst existing built structure including sheds, and features including utility poles, in the foreground, which affect the quality of the existing landscape views. › Views of this rural landscape are limited and short-ranging and do not comprise scenic views of county, regional or national renown. › The perceived scale (i.e. height and breadth) of the proposed turbines diminishes quickly with increasing distance owing to the flat, planar nature of the Proposed Wind Farm site and surrounding landscape, thereby reducing the scale of visual impact from this vantage point. › The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario for this area immediately north of the Proposed Wind Farm and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors. › Most receptors are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Moderate" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."*

1.3.6 VP06: Tuam

Viewpoint 06 – Tuam	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R332 Regional Road on the eastern outskirts of Tuam. › Located approximately 10.7km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). › Grid Reference: E 544932, N 751026 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› Tuam LCU Urban Environs Landscape – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Tuam (Key Town) – **Medium.** › Regional road – **Low**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a short-ranging view of flat agricultural lands, looking southeast along the R332 with vegetation screening views beyond scattered, rural housing. There are open views looking across the agricultural fields between utility poles and networks of powerlines, with a large agricultural shed and houses visible within the fields. Stone walls and concrete fencing line the fields and house properties in the foreground. Mature trees line the background of slightly longer-ranging views, with commercial forestry along the distant ridgeline. The topography is flat, with localised undulations. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. The existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located south of this viewpoint.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible as background features, set-back beyond the distant ridgeline and mature treeline. The proposed turbines are coherently spaced with an even height profile that does not raise the existing skyline from this vantage point, comprised of distant utility poles. The proposed turbines are partially visually screened by vegetation and utility poles in the midground and foreground. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no.) turbines are visible as blade-tips only on the horizon, to the north. The proposed Gannow Wind Farm (8 no. turbines) is located to the south, but the turbines are not discernible from this distance.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be seen in succession with the proposed Cooloo turbines. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system. Should they occur, they will be not significant as the Clonbern turbines are largely obscured from view by the intervening vegetation.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium** – This viewpoint represents "Medium" sensitivity receptors on account of the nearby population centre.

Viewpoint 06 – Tuam	
Magnitude of Change	**Negligible –** The proposed turbines are seen as background features at over 10km distance from the viewpoint, comprising a modest portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = "Not Significant" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the distant ridge of the flat terrain, appearing as background features and occupying a very small horizontal extent of the view. › This viewpoint represents the only available views of the proposed turbines from Tuam, which are on the outskirts of Tuam; there would be no actual visibility for receptors within Tuam due to visual screening by the built environment. › The proposed turbines are viewed within a rural working landscape that has no views of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines are viewed from this vantage point amongst features visible in the foreground and midground, including utility poles and overhead lines. › From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway. › The proposed turbines are seen among the trees along the background of this view and do not interfere with sensitive landscape receptors.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Not Significant" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.3.7 VP07: Carrowmanagh

Viewpoint 07– Carrowmanagh	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from a local road in the townland of Carrowmanagh, near St. Mary"s Church of Killerein. › Located approximately 3.9km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference: E 551414, N 747062 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Local church – **High/Medium**. › Residential receptors >3km – **Medium**. › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a medium-ranging view from an elevated vantage point along a local road with open views to the east over agricultural fields and hilly terrain; St. Mary"s Church of Killerein is immediately beyond the mature tree stand at the left of the image and will have similar a similar view. The fields to the east are delineated by mature hedgerows and trees, with one mature deciduous tree stand in the foreground screening long-ranging views to the northeast. Utility poles and powerlines lines are visible along with stone walls and fencing. A low number of residential dwellings and outbuildings are visible on the hill slope. No existing wind farms are visible in the view–the existing Clooncon East Single Turbine is located to the northeast but is not discernible at this distance. The existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located behind this viewpoint to the west.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible beyond the hilly terrain, almost entirely screened from view by the topography or vegetation. T1 and T2 are clearly visible to the east, with full blades and most of their towers visible above the treeline. The blades of T6 are visible above the ridgeline to the northeast, with the rest of the proposed turbines entirely or mostly screened except for blade tips. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. 3 no. turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm are visible in the 90-degree wireline view, to the northeast. The permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine is not visible in the view but is located behind this viewpoint to the west.
Cumulative Effects	The are no cumulative visual effects with permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. Owing to the proximity of the existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm, there may be some cumulative visual effects viewed sequentially with the proposed Cooloo turbines.

Viewpoint 07– Carrowmanagh	
	In a future receiving environment, the Cloonascragh Single Turbine may be viewed sequentially with the proposed Cooloo turbines, and the turbines of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be viewed in succession. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium** – This viewpoint represents Medium sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors and locally sensitive church with views from an elevated vantage point albeit over 3km from the nearest turbine.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight –** The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of modest scale and are partially or entirely visually screened, comprising a narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hill, with most of the proposed turbines partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and/or vegetation. › The proposed turbines are viewed within a rural working landscape that has no views of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Slight" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.3.8 VP08: Glenamaddy Turlough

Viewpoint 08 – Glenamaddy Turlough	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the north banks of Glenamaddy Turlough, GCDP Protected View 42, in the townland of Mountkelly. › Located approximately 13.8km from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). › Grid Reference: E 563885, N 761506 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› Springfield Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Protected View at Glenmaddy Turlough – **High.**
Description of "Existing View"	The viewpoint looks out from GCDP Protected View 42 over Glenamaddy Turlough and the recreational picnic area, partially enclosed by deciduous vegetation and the local cemetery (not pictured) to the northwest. The view shows a low volume of water at the time this viewpoint was captured. The turlough extends to the flat land around the body of water, allowing for open, wide-ranging views from this location. The landscape beyond the turlough comprises open agricultural fields, with tracts of deciduous woodland along the distant horizon. From this vantage point, a mature bush is situated in the foreground, representative of similar roadside screening along the roadways of this area. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are barely discernible as blades/tips only, situated beyond the distant treeline, over a very narrow horizontal extent of the background view. Whilst the mature bush in the foreground provides foreground visual screening of a few proposed turbines from this vantage point, it can also be seen from the matching wireline image that the proposed turbines are almost entirely visually screened by the distant vegetation on the horizon. Irrespective of visual screening by vegetation in the foreground, the proposed turbines are still barely discernible along the horizon. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline, as blades/tips only, to the west.
Cumulative Effects	The are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm would be visible to the west of the turbines of the Proposed Project, similarly situated beyond the distant ridgeline with only blades showing above the horizon and predominantly screened behind the treeline. There may be greater visibility of the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm in seasonal months when there is less growth on the vegetation. The Proposed Project and the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm would be viewed as two separate developments. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.

Viewpoint 08 – Glenamaddy Turlough	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** – This viewpoint represents "High" sensitivity receptors on account of the designated viewpoint in the GCDP 2022-2028.
Magnitude of Change	**Negligible** - The proposed turbines are seen as background features at great distance from the viewpoint and are almost entirely visually screened, comprising a very narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are visible as background features—blade-tips only, as all of the proposed turbines are almost entirely visually screened by vegetation. › The proposed turbines do not impact the Protected View G-V42 as described in the GCDP: *"The focus of this view is Glenamaddy Turlough. The wooded shores that form the background are an important feature of the view."* The proposed turbines are seen above and behind the wooded shores of the Turlough and do not obstruct views of the turlough itself or the wooded shores. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or other protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Imperceptible" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences."*

1.3.9 VP09: Killavoher

Viewpoint 09 – Killavoher	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from a local road immediately south of the R328 Regional Road in the townland of Killavoher. › Located approximately 7.6km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). › Viewpoint was chosen to show potential cumulative effects in a future receiving environment. › Grid Reference: E 555625, N 758089 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors >7km – **Medium/Low.** › Regional/local roads – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This long-ranging view looks out from a small local road bordered by low grasses and a tall hedgerow. The view looks over an agricultural field which is typical of the surrounding area, comprising a flat rural landscape with dense, mature vegetation across the background and distant views of flat topography. No existing wind farms are visible in the view—the existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is located to the southwest but is not discernible at this distance.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are situated in the background beyond the mature vegetation along the horizon, comprising a narrow horizontal extent of the view; note that the proposed turbines are perceived in the image as smaller features between the noticeably larger e turbines of the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (discussed in the next paragraph). From this field of view, the proposed turbines T8 and T9 are separated to the southeast, while T2, T3, T6 and T7 are visually overlapping to the southwest, and T4 and T5 are clustered in the centre. All proposed turbines are of appropriate scale with an even height profile, with full towers and blades above the horizon and very little visual screening at the base of the towers. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm is visible in the foreground of the proposed view. The proposed Gannow Wind Farm is located to the south but is not discernible at this distance.
Cumulative Effects	The are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the proposed Clonberne turbines will potentially be visible as a prominent development from this viewpoint, with the turbines of the Proposed Project visually separate in the distant background. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system. Should they occur, both projects will read in the landscape clearly as separate projects.

Viewpoint 09 – Killavoher	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium** – This viewpoint represents medium sensitivity receptors on account of residential receptors at this elevated vantage point with long-ranging landscape views.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight** - The proposed turbines are visible but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of modest scale, comprising a relatively narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the distant ridge of the hilly terrain and are partially visually screened at the base of the towers by vegetation. › For most locations along the R328 Regional Road, there is less availability of views similar to this viewpoint due to intervening hilly terrain and intermittent mature roadside vegetation. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028 and are seen in a rural working landscape with no views of county, regional or national renown. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Slight" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.3.10 VP10: Cooloo Mountain

Viewpoint 10 – Cooloo Mountain	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the L-2302 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo Mountain. › Located approximately 1.5km southeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T8). Divided into two views: W and NW. › Grid Reference: E 557692, N 748028 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors at 1.5km – **High.** › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a short-ranging view looking north up the slopes of hilly terrain from the junction of a local road and local access road. The slope comprises agricultural fields bordering the access road. Scattered rural residential dwellings are visible in the fields. Mature trees and hedgerows delineate the horizon of the hilly terrain, and clusters of scrub and vegetation screen visibility to the west along the local road. Utility poles, overhead lines and fencing are visible. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view in a staggered linear layout beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, seen scattered amongst other vertical features such as utility poles and fencing. The proposed turbines are equally spaced in modest clusters, with T3 and T4 in the centre, T5 and T6 beyond the rural housing, and T8 and T9 beyond the fields and vegetation to the north. The towers and blades of the proposed turbines are mostly seen above the horizon, and some of the proposed turbines appear less tall than some of the existing vertical features in the foreground, e.g. utility poles. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view.
Cumulative Effects	The are no cumulative visual effects with existing, permitted or proposed wind farms from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** - This viewpoint represents High sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors in close proximity.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate –** The proposed turbines are seen of a moderate to large scale and occupying a large vertical and horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = "Significant" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."*
Mitigation Factors	› Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the 2006 Guidelines

Viewpoint 10 – Cooloo Mountain	
	and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft 2019 Guidelines. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hill, with all of the proposed turbines partially visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › The proposed turbines are seen amongst features in the foreground, including utility poles, which affect the quality of existing landscape views from this vantage point. › The proposed turbines are viewed amongst features visible in the foreground from this vantage point which affect the quality of existing landscape views, including utility poles and overhead lines. › The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors. › Most receptors are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Moderate" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."*

1.3.11 VP11: Oakwood South

Viewpoint 11– Oakwood South	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the L-7138 Local Road in the townland of Oakwood South. › Located approximately 7.3km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference: E 551682, N 741217 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› Southern River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors >7km – **Medium.** › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This image shows long-ranging views from an elevated vantage point overlooking the generally flat landscape of vegetated fields and slightly hilly terrain. The character of the landscape is rural and agricultural. Mature roadside vegetation throughout the area where this viewpoint is located provides intermittent visual screening. The distant trees slightly rise above the skyline. One tall pylon tower and a second shorter pylon tower can be seen in the centre background along the skyline, with connecting overhead lines between. No existing wind farms are visible in the view—the existing Cloncoon East Single Turbine is located to the northeast but is not discernible at this distance.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible across a narrow horizontal extent in the background, visually overlapping with both pylons from this vantage point. T6 and T7 stand visually separated from the main cluster of proposed turbines, with even spacing. The layout of the proposed turbines results in minimal visual stacking, with some overlapping blades. At this distance, the turbines appear appropriately scaled for this landscape type, particularly when compared to the pylon tower which is perceived at a larger scale from this distance. T7 is slightly separated from the wind farm cluster, from this viewpoint angle. This extends the lateral extent of the turbines somewhat. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is visible in the proposed image wireline to the north but is visually screened from view in the image by mature vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	The are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be visible in succession or in combination as a separate development comprising very modest features on the distant horizon and would likely be intermittently screened by vegetation or hilly terrain. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.

Viewpoint 11– Oakwood South	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium** – This viewpoint represents medium sensitivity receptors on account of residential receptors at this elevated vantage point with long-ranging landscape views.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight** - The proposed turbines are visible but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of relatively modest scale and are partially visually screened amongst other vertical features including existing pylons. T7 is slightly separated from the main cluster from this angle; however, the overall horizontal extent of the wind farm comprises a relatively narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are seen as background features within a view of rural working landscape that has no designations of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of distant hilly terrain, seen from this vantage point amongst other features of greater perceived scale, i.e. pylons. › The dense vegetative screening along the roadside at this and surrounding locations means that such a view is only experienced intermittently as road users travel along the road. › From this vantage point, T7 is slightly separated from the main cluster however this is not considered significant in the context of the generally consistent height profile, showing a relatively coherent layout broadly in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Not Significant" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.3.12 VP12: Gurteen

Viewpoint 12 – Gurteen	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the L-3136 Local Road in the in the rural node of Gurteen, passing through the townland of Glennamucka. › Located approximately 13.3km southeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference: E 562070, N 736138. › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Gurteen (Rural Node) – **Low.** › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a long-ranging view over flat agricultural fields bounded by coniferous forestry to the northwest and mature boundary vegetation and stands of woodland throughout fields to the north. The fields are bounded by stone walls, amongst visible scattered houses. The distant landscape is gently undulating. No existing wind farms are visible in the view–the existing Cloonlusk Wind Farm (2 no. turbines) is located to the northwest but is not visible behind distant forestry.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible over a very narrow extent of the centre background, with even spacing and an even height profile of modest scale. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view–the permitted Cloonascragh Single Turbine is located to the northwest but is not visible behind distant forestry. The Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm is visible to the north, partially visually overlapping with the turbines of the Proposed Project at its northern end and partially visually screened by distant coniferous forestry, with full blades above the horizon.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm will be visible behind the Proposed Project, perceived at even smaller scale given it is 7km further north. The two developments will be viewed as one wind farm development. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Low** – This viewpoint represents low sensitivity receptors on account of the rural area at >13km from the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	**Negligible –** The proposed turbines are seen as background features at great distance from the viewpoint, comprising a very narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.

Viewpoint 12 – Gurteen	
Significance of Visual Effect	Low × Negligible = Negligible = "Imperceptible" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are seen as background features within a view of rural working landscape that has no designations of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the distant hilly terrain. › All of the proposed turbines are partially visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Imperceptible" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences."*

1.3.13 VP13: Carrownagappul

Viewpoint 13 – Carrownagappul	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the Carrownagappul Walk - The Living Bog, in the townland of Carrownagappul. › Located approximately 10.7km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T8). › Grid Reference: E 567657, N 750411 › No. of turbines visible: 9/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› Castlegar Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Views of The Living Bog landscape – **High.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a long-ranging view from the boardwalk over "The Living Bog" and flat landscape beyond which feeds into gently undulating terrain. The Living Bog recreational area occupies the full width of the view and stretches to the horizon. Coniferous plantations and some deciduous trees are perceived as very small elements along the horizon in the distance. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 9 no. proposed turbines are visible across a very narrow extent in the centre background, predominantly screened by the intervening treeline. At this distance, the proposed turbines have even spacing and an even height profile and are seen in the background, among the tree stands. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The Proposed Gannow Wind Farm is visible to the southeast as blades/tips only.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. The Proposed Gannow Wind Farm and the turbines of the Proposed Project would be viewed as separate developments, with the treeline along the horizon filling in the visual gap between them and almost entirely visually screening the infrastructure of both wind farms. All visible turbines would be perceived as very modest features on the distant horizon or blades/tips only. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** – This viewpoint represents high-sensitivity receptors on account of its recreational amenity and views over the intact bog within a rural landscape.
Magnitude of Change	**Negligible -** The proposed turbines are visible as background features at great distance from the viewpoint and are almost entirely visually screened, comprising a very narrow portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.

Viewpoint 13 – Carrownagappul	
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = "Slight" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are perceived as modest background features. › From this viewpoint there are very wide expansive long-ranging views in all directions of the bog itself, therefore the focus of views is on the surrounding landscape and not the horizon. › The panoramic nature of the views has capacity to accommodate the turbines. › Most of the proposed turbines are almost entirely visually screened by terrain and vegetation, set-back beyond the ridge of the distant hilly terrain. › From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are viewed as evenly spaced with a consistent height profile, showing a coherent, connected layout in line with guidance for "Hilly and Flat Farmland" from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (2006 Guidelines and draft 2019 Guidelines). › The proposed turbines do not impact any designated scenic routes or protected views as set out in the GCDP 2022-2028. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Not Significant" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.3.14 VP14: Tigreenaun

Viewpoint 14 – Tigreenaun	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from a local road in the townland of Tigreenaun. › Located approximately 1.3km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). Divided into two views: NE and SE. › Grid Reference: E 554371, N 749541 › No. of turbines visible: 6/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors at 1.3km – **High**. › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a short-ranging to medium-ranging view over low hilly terrain from a local access road with scattered rural housing in close proximity. The landscape comprises undulating agricultural fields bordered by mature hedgerows. More distant views of agricultural fields can be seen beyond the hilly terrain. Modest clusters of mature trees line the background of the view where the horizon is visible. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 No. proposed turbines are clearly visible in the mid-ground of this proposed view, situated both in front and behind the low hills. T6 is the closest proximity to this viewpoint thus it is perceived at the largest scale. T3 is partially screened by mature vegetation, with full blades appearing above the treeline. T1 and T2 to the southeast are screened by mature vegetation and are not visible. T7, which is not visible in the image, is situated in the field behind the dwelling and is visually screened by the dwelling from the road. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view. The proposed Gannow Wind Farm is located to the southeast at great distance but is not visible in the image owing to visual screening by vegetation. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is not visible in the proposed image wireline but is located to the north. The Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm is located 6.3km directly north of this viewpoint (outside the field of view) and may be visible in succession. The Proposed Gannow Wind Farm is located 20.6km southeast of this viewpoint and may be visible as background features at great distance in the flat landscape in a journey scenario; however, it is entirely visually screened from this vantage point by mature scrub and vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted windfarms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, there is potential for cumulative visual effects with the Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm in succession from this viewpoint. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.

Viewpoint 14 – Tigreenaun	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** – This viewpoint represents high-sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm with open views in the direction of the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	**Substantial** – The proposed turbines are perceived at a large scale and are prominent within views, occupying a large vertical and horizontal extent of views, comprising greater than the two 90-degree fields of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = "Very Significant" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude duration, or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment."*
Mitigation Factors	› Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the 2006 Guidelines and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft 2019 Guidelines. › Views of this rural landscape are limited and relatively short-ranging and do not comprise scenic views of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, with some of the proposed turbines partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario for this area immediately north of the Proposed Wind Farm and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors. › Most receptors are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Significant" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."*

1.3.15 VP15: Cloondahamper (Brown)

Viewpoint 15 – Cloondahamper (Brown)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from a local road in the townland of Cloondahamper (Brown). › Located approximately 1km northwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). › Grid Reference: E 555150, N 751420 › No. of turbines visible: 7/9
LCA and Sensitivity	› North River Clare Basin Unit – **Low.**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors within 1km – **High**. › Local road – **Low.**
Description of "Existing View"	This is a short-ranging view overlooking a green pastural field bordered by hedgerows, walls and mature trees. The terrain gradually ascends towards a low hill in the centre, where the bordering hedgerows and trees screen long-ranging views. Residential dwellings are visible along the background of the view; the dwelling in the foreground is not occupied. To the east, mature deciduous trees are scattered amongst buildings, thereby screening views in that direction. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines T8 and T9 are visually screened behind the empty dwelling in the foreground. The remaining proposed turbines occupy a relatively narrow horizontal extent in the centre of the view yet vary greatly in perceived scale owing to the field of view from this angle, in which the proposed turbines diminish in perceived scale with distance. T7 is the closest turbine and is perceived as the largest while the remaining proposed turbines appear progressively smaller. T1 and T4 are predominantly screened from view by intervening vegetation and dwellings, with primarily only blades being visible. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view. The permitted Cloonascragh Wind Turbine is not visible in the view but will be located to the southwest, behind the viewpoint. The proposed Clonberne Wind Farm (11 no. turbines) is not visible in the view but is located to the north of this viewpoint.
Cumulative Effects	There are no cumulative visual effects with existing or permitted wind farms from this viewpoint. In a future receiving environment, the proposed Clonberne Wind Farm may be seen in succession with the turbines of the Proposed Project. As a result, cumulative visual effects may arise. These cumulative visual effects are uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High** – This viewpoint represents "High" sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm with views in the direction of the proposed turbines.

Viewpoint 15 – Cloondahamper (Brown)	
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate** – The proposed turbines are visible over a moderate scale comprising a large to small vertical extent of views and occupy a wide extent of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = "Significant" (EPA, 2022) *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."*
Mitigation Factors	› Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the 2006 Guidelines and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft 2019 Guidelines. › Views of this rural landscape are limited and short-ranging and do not comprise scenic views of county, regional or national renown. › The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, with some of the proposed turbines partially or entirely visually screened by terrain and vegetation. › The perceived scale (i.e. height and breadth) of the proposed turbines diminishes quickly with increasing distance owing to the flat, planar nature of the Proposed Wind Farm site and surrounding landscape, thereby reducing the scale of visual impact from this vantage point. › The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario and will only be experienced by a low number of localised receptors; most receptors are likely to have a lesser degree of visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent or dense visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. › All proposed turbines are in Co. Galway land area designated as "Low" landscape sensitivity in the GCDP 2022-2028, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Galway.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors: **"Moderate" (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."*

1.3.16 Turbine Range Assessment: VP14 and VP15

Turbine Range Assessment: VP14 and VP15	
Viewpoints Selected for Assessment of the Turbine Envelope Range	Two viewpoints were utilised to assess the potential visual impacts of the full range of proposed turbine scenarios: Scenario 1 Minimum, Scenario 2 Median (refer to Section 13.1.4 'Range of Turbine Dimensions Assessed in this Chapter' of the LVIA): › VP14: Tigreenaun (located 1.3km west of the proposed turbines), › VP15: Cloondahamper (Brown) (located 1km northwest of the proposed turbines). In the comparative wireline imagery, the models of Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 proposed turbines are overlain on top of the Scenario 3 model shown in green—Scenario 3 is the model used in all previous photomontages and represents the maximum hub height scenario (105m) for the proposed turbines. All proposed turbines model scenarios (1 to 3) use consistent tip height—180m.
Scenario 1 (Minimum Hub)	› Tip Height: 180m. › Minimum Hub Height: 99m. › Rotor Diameter: 162m. › Shown as purple graphics, overlaid on the green Scenario 3.
Assessment of VP14 and VP15 for Scenario 1	The visuals in the *Photomontage Booklet* show that there is only a modest difference between Scenario 3 Maximum and Scenario 1 Minimum. The difference is visible in the comparative wireline imagery, described as follows. In the wireline imagery, the Scenario 1 wireline graphics indicate the minimum hub height (99m) shown in purple, overlaid on the Scenario 3 maximum hub height (105m) shown in green. For VP14, there is a modest difference between the positions of the nacelle (which sits on top of the hub)—this difference is most noticeable when looking at proposed turbine T6 in the centre-left of the image for the Northeast View, and when looking at T3 in the centre-left of the image for the Southeast View. A small space is visible between the positions of the different blades, with the Scenario 1 blades (purple) positioned lower than the Scenario 3 blades (green). For VP15, the difference is most noticeable in the comparative wireline imagery when looking at proposed turbine T7 in the centre of the image. The noticeable difference is also discernible in the proposed turbines situated farther from the viewpoint, where a small space is visible between the two blade positions.
Scenario 2 (Median Hub)	› Tip Height: 180m. › Median Hub Height: 102.5m. › Rotor Diameter: 155m. › Shown in yellow/brown graphics, overlain on the green Scenario 3.

Turbine Range Assessment: VP14 and VP15	
Assessment of VP14 and VP15 for Scenario 2	The visuals in the *Photomontage Booklet* show that there is barely a discernible difference between Scenario 3 Maximum and Scenario 2 Median. The difference is visible in the comparative wireline imagery, described as follows. In the wireline imagery, the Scenario 2 wireline graphics indicate the median hub height shown in yellow/brown, overlain on the Scenario 3 maximum hub height shown in green. For VP14, the difference is best illustrated when looking at proposed turbine T6 in the centre-left of the image of the Northeast View, where the maximum hub (green) is partially visible above the median hub (yellow/brown) and a very small difference in the position of blade tips can be discerned. The same difference in the positions of blade tips is also discernible when looking at T3 in the Southeast View. For VP15, the very small difference is only discernible in the comparative wireline imagery when looking at the horizontal blade of proposed turbine T7 in the centre of the image.
Overall Significance of Visual Effects	Neither Scenario 1 nor Scenario 2 cause a difference great enough to warrant changing of the residual visual effects reported above. Irrespective of which turbine scenario is used, the determination of residual visual effects in the above Tables 1.3.14 and 1.3.15 will not be altered.