



APPENDIX 13-3

**PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES**

Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables

Proposed Slievegrine
Renewable Energy
Development, Co.
Waterford





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1.

PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

Section 1 of this appendix should be read in conjunction with the **EIAR Volume 2A Photomontage Booklet** which is the A1-banner photomontage booklet presenting verified photomontage visualisations from 20 no. representative viewpoints showing views of the Proposed Turbines.

1.1

VP01: Dungarvan

Viewpoint 01: Dungarvan	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5 and R911 Regional Road within the townscape of Dungarvan on Youghal Road, located on the Sean Kelly Cycling Route. > Approximately 5.3km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 625454; N 592709. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 8 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-7C Dungarvan Environs. > Classed as 'Least Sensitive' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Least', 'Low' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Most Sensitive' area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5: High. > Dungarvan (Key Town beyond 5km): Medium. > National cycling route (beyond 5km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	A townscape view on the outskirts of Dungarvan with a mix of houses, walls/gates, utility poles and scattered mature vegetation along the main road in the view, featuring a partial view of upland marginal landscape across the background in the distance. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the wireline imagery of the 90-degree view but in reality is not visible in the view due to screening.
Description of 'Proposed View'	A small number of the Proposed Turbines are visible along the upland terrain in the distance, sited on the far side of the ridgeline with blades and hubs fully above the horizon. The visible Proposed Turbines are evenly spaced and perceived at uniform size and scale. Most of the Proposed Turbines are screened from view from this vantage point. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the wireline imagery of the 90-degree view but in reality is not visible in the view due to screening. No proposed wind farms are within or nearby the viewpoint.
Description of Cumulative Effects	In a journey scenario along this road, the existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona may be intermittently perceived at very small scale in long-distance views to the northwest in combination or in succession with the partial view of the Proposed Turbines to the southwest.

Viewpoint 01: Dungarvan	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ While the viewpoint is located on SR5 which is approximately 25km total length, this is one of the only locations along the route where some of the Proposed Turbines are clearly visible from the northeast, and the view itself does not represent a stopping point or scenic destination where receptors come specifically to experience landscape views, rather it represents a view in passing. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are well set back from the population centre, within the distant landscape, and most are not visible for being sited beyond the ridge of the upland terrain. ➤ The townscape itself provides natural screening by buildings, vegetation and other features within the settled area. ➤ Receptors located further south on the scenic route will likely have limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines as the terrain is lower elevation along the bayfront and further screening is provided by intervening above-ground features looking inland such as buildings and mature trees. ➤ The primary scenic views of the route are of Dungarvan Bay to the southeast of this viewpoint location, from which there will be limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines in this area adjacent to the coast, thus the Proposed Turbines will not impact the key scenic sensitivities of the route. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route which in this case includes views to/from the sea to the southeast.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.2

VP02: Copper Coast Geopark

Viewpoint 02: Copper Coast Geopark	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark on Co. Waterford Scenic Route 14 and the R675 in Knockmahon. > Approximately 25.1km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 644902; N 598754. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 23 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-1C Copper Coast East - Very High > Classed as 'Most Sensitive' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Low,' 'High,' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Most Sensitive' area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark: Very High. > Co. Waterford Scenic Route 14: High. > Waterford Greenway offroad walking/cycle trail (beyond 25km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	Sweeping panoramic view of ocean and coastal cliffs along a major road and walking/cycling greenway from an elevated vantage point within the UNESCO geopark landscape. The distant upland terrain of Helvick Head is visible across the background of the view and a portion of the settlement of Dungarvan is partially visible in the distant midground at the top of the roadway. The existing Ballycurreen and Woodhouse wind farms are located within the distant landscape and their turbines are marked on the wireline imagery but in reality are not discernible at this distance.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are hardly discernible within the upland terrain across the background, being located at a significant distance from the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines are viewed as very small background features and are not prominent or even moderately noticeable in the view. The Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast are marked within the wireline but in reality will not be discernible at this distance. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm and the proposed Moanbrack Wind Farm are located within the distant landscape and their turbines are marked on the wireline imagery but in reality will not be discernible at this distance.
Description of Cumulative	The cumulative turbines are visible in the wireline at the same perceived size and scale as the Proposed Turbines and are not likely to be discernible at this distance.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = Very High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Negligible. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

Viewpoint 02: Copper Coast Geopark	
Initial Significance of Effect	Very High × Negligible = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines and all cumulative turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the sweeping panoramic setting, thereby not significantly or even moderately impacting the character of the view. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are hardly discernible at this distance and do not obscure views or draw focus from the scenic setting of the ocean, cliffs and landscape. ➤ As a UNESCO global geopark, the Copper Coast Geopark landscape is subject to the same planning policy as is listed in the WCCDP 2022-2028 and there are no unique sensitivities of this landscape requiring protection in the local planning policy. This LVIA considers the landscape as a Very High Sensitivity receptor and it can be seen in the photomontage that the Proposed Turbines do not impact significantly or even moderately on any key sensitivities of the scenic views available from this location. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route including ‘<i>views to and from the sea, rivers, landscape features, mountains, landmark structures and urban settlements</i>’ and there is no ‘<i>obstruction or degradation of views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas</i>’ as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast will not be discernible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.3

VP03: SR4 at Camphire Bridge

Viewpoint 03: SR4 at Camphire Bridge	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 4 at Camphire Bridge crossing of L6020. > Approximately 9.6km northwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 607985; N 592326. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 19 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-4A Blackwater Estuary. > Classed as 'Most Sensitive' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Low,' 'High,' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located within the 'Most Sensitive' area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Co. Waterford Scenic Route 4: High. > National cycling route (beyond 5km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	An open countryside view of the River Bride as viewed from the bridge on the scenic route in passing (no layby or footpath). The long-distance nature of views is somewhat obscured by riparian vegetation in the foreground. The undulating upland terrain comprising forestry and pasture can be seen across the entire view in the distance, with few residences and buildings among the fields. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is visible along the horizon at the left of the view.
Description of 'Proposed View'	A small number of the Proposed Turbines are visible along the upland terrain in the distance, sited on the far side of the ridgeline, some have only blades showing and a small number have blades and hubs fully above the horizon. . The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is visible upon the elevated terrain to the centre left of the photomontage adjacent to the existing Woodhouse Wind Farm.
Description of Cumulative	The Proposed turbines are visible in combination with the existing Woodhouse Wind Farm and permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm along the horizon in the distant background. The Proposed Turbines contribute to widening the horizontal extent of visible cumulative turbines across the view.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i>

Viewpoint 03: SR4 at Camphire Bridge	
	Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines are well set back from the scenic route, within the distant landscape, and most are not visible or only have blades visible for being sited beyond the ridge of the upland terrain. ➤ The Proposed Turbines have a small contribution to the overall cumulative visual effects experienced by receptors at this viewpoint, they are only seen within a small horizontal extent of the overall view. ➤ The key sensitivities and character of the view as scenic, open countryside featuring the River Bride, mature vegetation and a vista of sparsely populated fields and marginal upland terrain, is largely unchanged by the Proposed Turbines seen beyond the distant ridgeline. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not '<i>block or detract</i>' from the key sensitivities of the scenic route which in this case may include views to/from 'landscape features,' though specific landscape features are not defined in the WCCDP.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.'</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.4

VP04: SR5 / N25 at Mweeling

Viewpoint 04: SR5 / N25 at Mweeling	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5 and the N25 National Road in the townland of Mweeling. ➤ Approximately 2.3km south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 620590; N 584628. ➤ No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 23 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	➤ W-LCU-5E Drumhills. ➤ LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	➤ Co. Waterford Scenic Route SR5 / N25: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	This view is divided into View A and View B. The key image view is medium-range to long-range, looking over open countryside of distant upland terrain as viewed in passing from the national road/scenic route (no layby). The hilly terrain of the midground is obscured by mature roadside vegetation lining the roadway. Stands of commercial forestry can be seen along the ridgelines in the distance, particularly towards the left, and some peaks of the Comeragh Mountains are visible at substantial distance towards the right. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are visible in staggered formation across the midground of both View A and View B, sited in front of and behind the ridge and setback from the scenic route. The Proposed Turbines are visible across a wide horizontal extent from this vantage point. The Proposed Turbines are partially screened by the terrain and vegetation from this vantage point, and it is noted that screening by vegetation will be greater than that shown, during the summertime when vegetation has filled in. The height profile of visible turbines follows naturally with the undulation of the terrain and some turbines are screened by roadside vegetation. All Proposed Turbines visible from this vantage point are perceived at fairly uniform size and scale, with blades and hubs above the horizon. The proposed met mast is marked within the wireline of View B but in reality will be primarily screened by vegetation and is not likely to be highly noticeable due to its significantly lower height than the Proposed Turbines. A few blades of the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm are partially visible in the distance, beyond the horizon, in combination with the Proposed Turbines which are more prominent in the view. The permitted Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm is marked in the wireline of View A and the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm is marked within the wireline of View B, but in a future receiving environment these wind farms will not be visible from this vantage point due to full screening by terrain and forestry.
Description of Cumulative	In a future receiving environment, the Proposed Turbines will be visible in combination with a few blades of the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm located in the far distance.

Viewpoint 04: SR5 / N25 at Mweeling	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ While the viewpoint is located on SR5 which is approximately 25km total length, this is the only location along the route where all of the Proposed Turbines are clearly visible, and the view itself does not represent a stopping point or scenic destination where receptors come specifically to experience landscape views, rather it represents a view in passing. ➤ The key visual amenity of the scenic route is focused on views to the east and south towards the sea, in the opposite direction of the Proposed Turbines. Therefore, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which in this case includes views to/from the sea to the east and southeast. ➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ The layout of the Proposed Turbines as viewed from this vantage point is aesthetically balanced in terms of uniform size/scale, even spacing and appropriate height profile which follows naturally with the undulating terrain. ➤ There is a high degree of visual screening by vegetation along the scenic route which obscures views in the direction of the Proposed Turbines. ➤ The proposed met mast is of much lower height than the Proposed Turbines and will not significantly contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.5

VP05: SR5 / N25 at Ballybrusa West

Viewpoint 05: SR5 / N25 at Ballybrusa West	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5 and N25 National Road in the townland of Ballybrusa West. - Approximately 4.3km south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 617415; N 581746. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 14 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-2F Kinsalebeg. - Classed as 'Low Sensitivity' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Low,' 'High,' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Low' sensitivity area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	- Co. Waterford Scenic Route SR5 / N25: High. - Grange (Rural Node within 5km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	Open countryside view over pastureland bounded by mature hedges, trees and vegetation throughout, as viewed in passing from the national road/scenic route (no layby). Scattered residences are visible between fields, and mature woodland and commercial forestry stands are visible along the horizon. Carronadavderg Hill in the centre background forms part of the scenic amenity of the view.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are visible in the background on either side of Carronadavderg Hill, well set back from the scenic route and set within the forestry stands or over the ridgeline, perceived as relatively small features. T22 and T23 are visually separated from the rest, seen at the left in the distance. The remaining Proposed Turbines diminish in perceived size and scale from this angle, mostly showing blades and hubs above the horizon but with several turbines almost entirely screened by the terrain and/or vegetation in the midground of the landscape. The Proposed Turbines occupy a relatively small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, though T22 and T23 are separated. The proposed met mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned in the centre of the Proposed Turbines at the right, but in reality it will be predominantly screened behind intervening topography, buildings and vegetation.
Description of Cumulative	No existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)

Viewpoint 05: SR5 / N25 at Ballybrusa West	
	<i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ The character of the view as open countryside featuring sparsely populated pastureland with mature trees and vegetation and Carrondavderg Hill in the background, is not significantly altered. ➤ The height profile of the Proposed Turbines follows naturally with the undulating terrain. ➤ The key visual amenity of the scenic route is focused on views to the east and south towards the sea, in the opposite direction of the Proposed Turbines. Therefore, the Proposed Turbines do not <i>‘block or detract’</i> from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which in this case includes views to/from the sea. ➤ The proposed met mast will not significantly contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.6

VP06: Youghal

Viewpoint 06: Youghal	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from R634 Regional Road in the town of Youghal, Co. Cork. > Approximately 10.1km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 610807; N 577089. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 18 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> CLCA-2 Broad Bay Coast. > LVIA deems 'High Sensitivity.' > Designated 'High Value Landscape' (CCDP 2022-2028): High.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Youghal (Main Town beyond 10km): Medium. > Youghal Pier and Promenade: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	Long-distance view inland from the outer edge of the bay at Youghal, with developed settlement features (hotel, park/gazebo, pier and promenade, etc.) in the foreground and the tip of Ferry Point in the midground at the right. Carronadavderg Hill is set in the distant background of the view amongst commercial forestry stands and pastureland. Expansive, open views of the ocean are directed behind the viewpoint to the left, and are the primary focus of views for receptors visiting this location to experience landscape views. No other existing wind farms are visible.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are visible in the distant background on either side of Carronadavderg Hill, set back beyond the ridgeline and perceived as relatively small features. T22 and T23 are somewhat visually separated from the rest, seen at the left of the hill. All visible Proposed Turbines are uniform in perceived size and scale and most of them have blades and hubs above the horizon. The Proposed Turbines occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast is partially visible above the horizon between T20 and T16 within the centre of the Proposed Turbines. No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.
Description of Cumulative Effects	The wireline view shows that the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is positioned within the landscape to the left of the Proposed Turbines but will not be seen from receptors at this vantage point. Three permitted Knocnamona turbines may be visible in combination with the Proposed Turbines from other vantage points. Cumulative effects are limited given the given the screening effects of buildings within Youghal and the substantial distance of turbines from these receptors.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

Viewpoint 06: Youghal	
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines are significantly set back from the viewpoint, located over the distant ridgeline, and are perceived at very modest size and scale from this distance. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are sited within the inland view from this location, which is in the opposite direction of the primary scenic views of expansive coastline and open ocean to the south. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are seen at significant distance and are therefore not prominent within the view, thereby minimising impact on the key landscape and scenic sensitivities. ➤ Several of the Proposed Turbines are partially or entirely visually screened by the terrain and those which are visible have blades above the horizon which avoids visual confusion. ➤ The Proposed Turbines being set on either side of Carronadavderg Hill provides a sense of visual balance.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.'</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.7

VP07: SR7 at Helvick Head Harbour

Viewpoint 07: SR7 at Helvick Head Harbour	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 7 and Protected View 23 Helvick Head Harbour. > Approximately 8.9km east of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 630644; N 589134. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 6 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-1E Dungarvan Harbour. > LVIA deems 'Medium Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Co. Waterford Scenic Route 7: High. > Co. Waterford Protected View V23: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	Sweeping panoramic view of the harbour and Dungarvan Bay from the location of the protected view on the scenic route, with the Comeragh Mountains visible in the distant background to the right. Upland terrain is visible in the centre-background of the view and the settled coastline of Helvick Head is in the left of the image, comprising a landscape of pastureland, mature vegetation and sparse residences sloping down towards the bay, with modest size coastal cliffs at the base. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is just discernible, partially visible beyond the distant ridgeline to the right of the Existing View and one turbine of the existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm is partially visible at the left periphery of the view.
Description of 'Proposed View'	Only six of the Proposed Turbines (T1-T6) are visible, set along the ridgeline of upland terrain in the distance, all other Proposed Turbines are not visible for being set beyond the terrain. The Proposed Turbines are viewed as small background features and are not prominent in the view. All visible Proposed Turbines are uniform in perceived size and scale and have blades and hubs above the horizon. The visible Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned between T5 and T3, but in reality will not be discernible at this distance. Several turbines of the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm are visible in the distance beyond the sloping ridgeline to the centre-right of the photomontage. One of the proposed Moanbrack turbines will be visible within a shorter ranging view to the left of the photomontage in a potential future receiving environment.
Description of Cumulative	Cumulative visual effects occur with the other existing, permitted and proposed turbines. The Proposed Turbines are set within the middle of visible cumulative turbines, effectively absorbed into the expansive landscape views at this perceived size and scale. The existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona to the right, at greater distance from the viewpoint, are less prominent and discernible, while the existing Ballycurreen and proposed Moanbrack to the left, at closer distance, may be intermittently visible by receptors in a journey scenario moving along the coast and would not be set in

Viewpoint 07: SR7 at Helvick Head Harbour	
	the same direction as the Proposed Turbines. The position of the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm is marked on the wireline image but in reality the turbines are screened behind far-distant terrain.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the sweeping panoramic setting, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ The majority of Proposed Turbines are not visible behind the terrain and those which are visible have blades above the horizon which avoids visual confusion. ➤ Only T1-T6 are visible, they are seen as a visually coherent arrangement of turbines seen upon the distant ridgeline. In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), siting on ridgelines is appropriate and recommended for Transitional Marginal Landscape types to ensure that turbines achieve visual separation and avoid visual confusion with the complexity of lower ground. ➤ The key visual amenity of the scenic route is focused on views to the north towards the bay, in the opposite direction of the Proposed Turbines. Therefore, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which includes views to/from the sea. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which in this case includes views to/from the sea and views of mountains and there is no ‘significant alteration’ of the overall appearance or character of the view. ➤ The proposed met mast will not be discernible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

VP08: L2039 at Coolnagour

Viewpoint 08: L2039 at Coolnagour	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from L2039 Local Road northeast of the Proposed Wind Farm site near the townland of Coolnagour. - Approximately 2.3km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 622087; N 591345. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 6 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-2E Blackwater & Bride Lowlands. - LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	Residential receptors (within 3km): High.
Description of 'Existing View'	A mid-range countryside view looking towards the marginal uplands from the local road, with undulating terrain of commercial forestry and pastureland across the entire view. Mature hedges, trees and vegetation align most of the fields in the foreground and scattered residences and farm buildings are visible into the distance.
Description of 'Proposed View'	A small number of the Proposed Turbines are visible, well set back beyond the ridgeline in a staggered layout and with even spacing, some with blades above the horizon. The height profile of visible turbines follows the undulating topography. The Proposed Turbines occupy a moderate horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast are not marked in the imagery because they are fully screened by the terrain and will not be visible.
Description of Cumulative	No existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is located approximately 6.4km west of the viewpoint but is not visible from the viewpoint due to screening by localised terrain and vegetation, and in a future receiving environment, the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is to be located approximately 4.9km to the west and is not likely to be visible for the same reasons.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.'</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

Viewpoint 08: L2039 at Coolnagour	
Mitigating Factors	> The Proposed Project exceeds the recommended 500m setback from local residential receptors set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the prescribed 4-times-tip-height (680m-740m) setback distance from third-party properties for residential visual amenity as set out in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). > While the view features a scenic agricultural landscape setting, it is not designated as a landscape or view of county, regional or national renown in local policy and has no unique features or scenic protections in local policy. > The layout of the Proposed Turbines as viewed from this vantage point is aesthetically balanced in terms of uniform perceived size/scale, even spacing and appropriate height profile which follows naturally with the undulating terrain. > The Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as 'Low Sensitivity' and 'Preferred' for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). > Only a very small proportion of the Proposed Turbines are visible, 17 no. Proposed Turbines are screened from view by the intervening landform. > Residential receptors located between the viewpoint and the Proposed Turbines are located on a steep slope with their primary open long-ranging views directed to the northeast in the opposing direction to the Proposed Turbines. > The combination of mature vegetation, and slope gradient is likely to substantially reduce visibility of the Proposed Turbines, compared with what is presented in the photomontage, for the local residential receptors on the hill. > The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast will not be visible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.'</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.9

VP09: Protected View V17 Knockyoolahan East

Viewpoint 09: Protected View V17 Knockyoolahan East	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View southwest from the location of Protected View 17 Knockyoolahan East at the junction of Co. Waterford SR13 and SR14, looking southwest towards Ballynacourty Headland and An Rinn, located on the Waterford Greenway. - Approximately 13.0km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 633203; N 595020. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 21 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-1D2 Copper Coast West. - Classed as 'Most Sensitive' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Low,' 'High,' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Most Sensitive' area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	- Co. Waterford protected view V17 Knockyoolahan East: High. - Co. Waterford SR13 & SR14: High. - Waterford Greenway offroad walking/cycle trail (beyond 10km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	Sweeping panoramic view of Dungarvan Bay, coastal cliffs and lowland coastal terrain from the location of the protected view, where the two scenic routes join together. The distant upland terrain crosses the background of the view, with Helvick Head towards the left. Forestry stands and scattered residences along the roadway can be seen along the coastline to the right, with buildings of Dungarvan beginning to become visible in the mid-ground distance. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon in the right of the view and the existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon in the left of the view.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are discernible upon elevated terrain in the background of the view. The Proposed Turbines are viewed as very small background features and are not prominent in the view. The visible Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed relay mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned between T5 and T4, but in reality it will not be discernible at this distance. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is visible on the distant horizon in the vicinity of the Existing Woodhouse Wind Farm and the proposed Moanbrack Wind Farm is visible in the vicinity of the existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm.
Description of Cumulative	The Proposed Turbines are set within the middle of cumulative turbines spaced out in a few small clusters across the horizon, at the same perceived size and scale as the Proposed Turbines, none of which are likely to be discernible at this distance.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High.

Viewpoint 09: Protected View V17 Knockyoolahan East	
	For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines and all cumulative turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the sweeping panoramic setting and long-ranging, expansive views, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are visible, sited in distant foothills comprising marginal upland zoned for wind energy development in local planning policy, they do not significantly impact the integrity of the coastal setting in the foreground of the view. ➤ The proposed relay mast will not be discernible at this distance and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.10

VP10: SR13 at Barnawee Bridge

Viewpoint 10: SR13 at Barnawee Bridge	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 13 and the R675 Regional Road, northeast of Dungarvan and Barnawee Bridge. > Approximately 8.7km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 628497; N 594423. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 20 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-1E Dungarvan Harbour. > LVIA deems 'Medium Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Co. Waterford Scenic Route 13: High. > Waterford Greenway offroad walking/cycle trail (beyond 5km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	Open, expansive views of an inland portion of Dungarvan Bay from the scenic route and greenway at lower elevation. The distant upland terrain crosses the background of the view, with Helvick Head towards the left. The major road can be seen hugging the coastline in both directions, lined with banks of mature trees, and developed features such as fencelines, stone walls and utility poles are visible throughout the view. The existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona wind farms are fully screened from view by thick woodlands in the midground of the view. The existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm is located off the left edge of the key image and may be visible from this vantage point on the distant horizon at small scale.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are discernible as very small features within the terrain in the background, located at a significant distance from the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines are not prominent in the view. Several of the Proposed Turbines are partially screened or not visible from being located beyond the ridgeline. The visible Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Proposed Turbines T1-T6 are slightly more prominent in the view, with towers and blades fully above the horizon. The proposed relay mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned next to T13, but in reality will not be discernible at this distance. In a future receiving environment, the permitted Moanbrack Wind Farm (screened behind the road sign in the foreground from this vantage point) will be visible on the distant horizon to the left.
Description of Cumulative	The Proposed Turbines will be visible in combination with other cumulative wind farms, viewed as separate units across the horizon in the distance, with all turbines perceived at small size and scale relative to the landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight.

Viewpoint 10: SR13 at Barnawee Bridge	
	For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The key visual amenity of the scenic route is focused on views to the south towards the bay and open ocean, with the Proposed Turbines being on the periphery of these views. Therefore, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which includes views to/from the sea. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the sweeping panoramic setting, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ The visible Proposed Turbines are primarily visible along the distant ridgeline. In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), siting on ridgelines is appropriate and recommended for Transitional Marginal Landscape types to ensure that turbines achieve visual separation and avoid visual confusion with the complexity of lower ground. ➤ From the perspective of local policy, there is no ‘<i>obstruction or degradation of views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas</i>’ as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ While the viewpoint is located on SR13 which is approximately 42km total length, this is the one of the only locations along the route where the Proposed Turbines are clearly visible, and the view itself does not represent a stopping point or scenic destination where receptors come specifically to experience landscape views. ➤ The proposed relay mast will not be discernible at this distance and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.11

VP11: Ardmore Round Tower

Viewpoint 11: Ardmore Round Tower	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View north from the location of Protected View 28 Ardmore Round Tower on New Line Road at Ardocheasty townland, located on the Ardmore Cliff Walk. - Approximately 8.7km south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 618867; N 577312. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 18 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-1G Ardmore Head. - Classed as 'Most Sensitive' in Table A8.3 with mixed areas of 'Low,' 'High,' and 'Most Sensitive' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Most Sensitive' area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	- Co. Waterford Protected View V28: High. - Ardmore Cliff Walk: Medium. - National cycling route >5km: Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	View looking inland from the cliff walk/cycling route near the protected view location, with the Round Tower and heavily vegetated landscape of Ardmore Head with some pastureland and fencing in the foreground. The distant landscape of upland terrain, forestry and pastureland is partially visible, with long-range views interrupted by thick vegetation in the foreground. A small portion of the ocean can also be seen through the vegetation.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are discernible as very small features within the terrain in the background, located at a significant distance from the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines are not prominent in the view. T22 and T23 are somewhat visually separated from the rest, seen at the left of the hill. The Proposed Turbines can be seen in a staggered layout located on either side of the ridge. The visible Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast is visible, positioned between T15 and T16.
Description of Cumulative	No existing or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is not visible owing to screening by the terrain.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i>

Viewpoint 11: Ardmore Round Tower	
	Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Mitigating Factors	➤ The focus of the protected view, defined as ‘<i>View from Ardmore Round Tower over Ardmore Bay</i>’ comprises ocean views to the northeast of the tower location and these views are not significantly impacted by the Proposed Turbines which are located inland at significant distance from the viewpoint. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are sited within the inland view from this location, which is in the opposite direction of the scenic views of expansive, open ocean to the east and south. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the expansive view setting, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route including ‘<i>views to and from the sea, rivers, landscape features, mountains, landmark structures and urban settlements</i>’ and there is no ‘<i>obstruction or degradation of views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas</i>’ as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The proposed met mast is of much lower height than the Proposed Turbines and will not significantly contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) ‘<i>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</i>’ Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.12

VP12: SR8 at Luskanargid

Viewpoint 12: SR8 at Luskanargid	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 8 and the R672 Regional Road northwest of Dungarvan at Luskanargid townland, located on the Sean Kelly Cycling Route. > Approximately 5.4km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 624363; N 593786. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 8 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-1E Dungarvan Harbour. > LVIA deems 'Medium Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Co. Waterford Scenic Route 8: High. > National cycling route (beyond 5km): Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	View from the scenic route/cycling route over a developed area on the outskirts of Dungarvan, with heavy roadside vegetation and residential houses and utility poles in the foreground. The marginal upland terrain of forestry and pastureland is visible in the distance across the entire background of the view. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is shown on the wireline image but in reality is screened behind the houses in the foreground.
Description of 'Proposed View'	A small number of the Proposed Turbines are visible along the upland terrain, set back beyond the ridgeline, most of the Proposed Turbines are not visible or have partial blades only showing which are screened by above-ground features. The Proposed Turbines are not prominent in the view. All visible Proposed Turbines are uniform in perceived size, scale and spacing and have blades and hubs above the horizon. The visible Proposed Turbines occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed relay mast is marked within the wireline but in reality will not be visible. 2 no. turbines of the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm are just visible in the distance to the right of the Proposed View.
Description of Cumulative	2 no turbines of the permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm are visible along the distant horizon, perceived at a slightly smaller size and scale than the Proposed Turbines, viewed as a separate unit from the Proposed Turbines.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)

Viewpoint 12: SR8 at Luskanargid	
	<i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ Most of the Proposed Turbines are not visible or are screened from view and those that are visible are not prominent in the view and occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. ➤ Roadside screening in the summertime may be significantly increased with the thickening of vegetation along this part of the scenic route. ➤ While the viewpoint is located on SR8 which is approximately 94km total length, this is one of the only locations along the route where the Proposed Turbines are clearly visible, and the view itself does not represent a stopping point or scenic destination where receptors come specifically to experience landscape views, rather it represents a view in passing. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which in this case include views to/from ‘landscape features’ and ‘mountains.’ ➤ The proposed relay mast will not be visible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.13

VP13: SR1 at Cappoquin

Viewpoint 13: SR1 at Cappoquin	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 1 in the town of Cappoquin, in close proximity to Protected View 13. ➤ Approximately 13.1km northwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 611197; N 599420. ➤ No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 11 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	➤ W-LCU-5D Knockmealdown Foothills. ➤ Classed as 'High Sensitivity' in Table A8.3 with areas of 'Low' and 'High Sensitivity' according to Map A8.3 (WCCDP 2022-2028), and the viewpoint is located in the 'Low' sensitivity area.
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	➤ Co. Waterford Scenic Route 1: High. ➤ Close proximity to Co. Waterford Protected View V13: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	Long-distance view to the southeast over open countryside from the scenic route and nearby the protected view, which is directed to the south. Heavy roadside vegetation can be seen along the road in both directions and mature trees line the borders of pastureland in the foreground and midground. The marginal upland terrain of forestry and pastureland are partially visible in the distance across most of the background. Scattered homes and utility poles are visible in the foreground. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is visible in the centre background of the view, with turbines on the near side of the terrain.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are discernible as small features along the ridgeline in the background, located at a significant distance from the viewpoint, with cumulative turbines seen in the same area (see 'Description of Cumulative'). None of the Proposed Turbines appear prominent in the view, with several of the Proposed Turbines are not visible from being located beyond the ridgeline. The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast are not marked in the imagery because they are fully screened by the terrain and will not be visible. The permitted Knocknamona turbines (pink in the wireline view) are visible as a linear array on the ridgeline between with the existing Woodhouse turbines (seen in front) and the Proposed Turbines (seen behind).
Description of Cumulative	Cumulative visual effects occur where the Proposed Turbines are viewed in combination and in the same direct field of view as the existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona Wind Farms and will extend the horizontal extent of visible turbines from this vantage point, though all turbines will be perceived at small size and scale from this distance and will be mostly set back beyond the horizon. In a future receiving environment, behind this vantage point to the north, the proposed Scart Mountain and Dyrick Hill Wind Farms may be visible, set within the higher elevation landscape of Scart Mountain and its foothills at a similar distance away from the viewpoint as the Proposed Turbines, therefore in combination successional visual effects could occur with the Proposed Turbines.

Viewpoint 13: SR1 at Cappoquin	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed Turbines are set within landscape to the southeast relative to this vantage point and are therefore not within the protected view to the south, defined as views of ‘<i>the surrounding countryside</i>’ with ‘<i>the hills in the background</i>’ being the important feature of the view. ➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route which in this case may include views to/from ‘landscape features,’ though specific landscape features are not defined in the WCCDP. ➤ The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast will not be visible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.14

VP14: SR11 at Kilgobnet

Viewpoint 14: SR11 at Kilgobnet	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 11 in the townland of Kilgobnet. - Approximately 8.1km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 624598; N 596581. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 18 (out of 23) with nearly half of these being blades only.
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-5C Tooraneena Foothills. - LVIA deems 'Medium Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	Co. Waterford Scenic Route 11: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	Open, expansive view from high elevation comprising low-lying pastureland and marginal upland terrain across the background in the distance, with a small portion of Dungarvan Bay visible at the left of the image. Scattered residences are located along the scenic route, with mature hedgerows and utility features in the foreground. Scattered residences and features such as pylons are seen throughout the lowland landscape. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is visible along the distant horizon at the right of the image.
Description of 'Proposed View'	A small number of the Proposed Turbines are visible along the upland terrain, set back beyond the ridgeline, most of the Proposed Turbines are not visible or have only partial blades showing. The visible Proposed Turbines are uniform in perceived size, scale and spacing and have blades and hubs above the horizon. The Proposed Turbines occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed relay mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned next to T4, but in reality it will not be discernible at this distance. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farms is visible along the distant horizon at the right of the image.
Description of Cumulative	The existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona Wind Farms are visible along the distant horizon to the west from this vantage point, viewed as a separate unit from the Proposed Turbines and perceived at a slightly smaller size and scale. The permitted Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm is shown in the wireline, but not visible in the photomontage, if visible from receptors near this vantage point, they will be very small and distant within the landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

Viewpoint 14: SR11 at Kilgobnet	
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ The Proposed Turbines and all cumulative turbines are viewed at moderate distance and are effectively absorbed into the expansive view setting, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ From the perspective of local policy on the protection of scenic routes and views, the Proposed Turbines do not ‘<i>block or detract</i>’ from the key sensitivities of the scenic route including ‘<i>views to and from the sea, rivers, landscape features, mountains, landmark structures and urban settlements</i>’ and there is no ‘<i>obstruction or degradation of views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas</i>’ as a result of the Proposed Project. ➤ The proposed relay mast will not be discernible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.15

VP15: Killea above the Blackwater River Valley

Viewpoint 15: Killea above the Blackwater River Valley	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the townland of Killea near the R634 Regional Road, representing long-distance open landscape views from west of Blackwater River Valley. - Approximately 9.6km southwest of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 606952; N 581452. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 23 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-2D Clashmore & Newport Lowlands. - LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	Regional Road R634 above the 'High-sensitivity' Blackwater River Valley landscape area with long-distance views from beyond 9km: Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	Open, expansive view of countryside comprising pastureland as viewed from above the Blackwater River Valley, with Carronadavderg Hill framed in the distant background. Mature vegetation and hedgerows are visible throughout the foreground, along with sparse residences and features such as utility poles and overhead lines. The existing Woodhouse Wind Farm is visible in the left of the view with the turbines perceived as shorter than the surrounding topography. The existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm is marked on the wireline image but is not discernible at this distance.
Description of 'Proposed View'	The Proposed Turbines are discernible as small features on either side of the ridge in the background, located at a significant distance from the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines are not prominent in the view. Several of the Proposed Turbines are partially screened or not visible from being located beyond hill. The Proposed Turbines occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The proposed met mast is marked on the wireline image, positioned behind T19, but in reality it will not be discernible at this distance. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is visible in the left of the view. The proposed Moanbrack Wind Farm is marked on the wireline image but is not discernible at this distance.
Description of Cumulative	The Proposed Turbines are viewed as a separate unit from the existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona wind farms positioned at the left of the image, with wide spacing between the developments. The cumulative turbines are perceived at small size and scale relative to the landscape. The existing Ballycurreen and proposed Moanbrack wind farms are marked on the wireline image but in reality are not visible beyond the distant terrain.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = Medium. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight.

Viewpoint 15: Killea above the Blackwater River Valley	
	For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Initial Significance of Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = ‘Slight’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ While the view features a wide expanse of scenic landscape in the distance, it is not designated as a view of county, regional or national renown and has no unique features or scenic protections in local policy. ➤ The Proposed Turbines and all cumulative turbines are viewed at significant distance and are effectively absorbed into the expansive view setting, thereby not significantly impacting the character of the view. ➤ The proposed met mast will not be visible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Not Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.16

VP16: Ballycurrane

Viewpoint 16: Ballycurrane	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the townland of Ballycurrane on an unnamed local road, south of Proposed Turbines T22 and T23. - Approximately 1.1km south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 615971; N 585229. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 11 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-5E Drumhills. - LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	Residential receptors within 1-2km of the Proposed Turbines: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	This view is divided into View A and View B. The key image view comprises open countryside of transitional marginal uplands with dense commercial forestry stands and pastureland. Carronadavderg Hill is located to the centre-right, with a visible pylon at the top. Scattered residences and the local road network with fencing and boundary vegetation are visible throughout the foreground.
Description of 'Proposed View'	In View A, Proposed Turbines T22 and T23 are fully visible in the mid-ground at large scale relative to the landscape (owing to the close up vantage point), set back behind the closest ridge within forestry blocks, with considerable spacing between the two turbines. In View B to the right of Carronadavderg Hill, a small number of the remaining Proposed Turbines are partially visible at moderate perceived size/scale and several are fully screened or have only partial blades showing, for being set beyond the ridgeline within the enclosure of the undulating landscape. Overall, the Proposed Turbines occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view and will be viewed in succession from this vantage point. The proposed met mast is partially visible, positioned between T9 and T19.
Description of Cumulative	No existing or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view. The permitted Knocknamona Wind Farm is not visible owing to screening by the terrain and groundcover. The existing Ballycurrane and proposed Moanbrack wind farms are marked on the wireline image but in reality are not visible beyond the distant terrain.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022)

Viewpoint 16: Ballycurrane	
	<i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The location of VP16 represents a vantage point with the worst-case scenario view—meaning unobstructed open views in the direction of the Proposed Turbines. Most parts of the local road network will have less visibility than that shown in the photomontage due to screening by terrain and roadside forestry, vegetation or woodland. ➤ The Proposed Project exceeds the recommended 500m setback from residences set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the prescribed 4-times-tip-height (680m-740m) setback distance for residential visual amenity in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ While the view features rural, upland landscape, it is not designated as a view of county, regional or national renown and has no unique features or scenic protections in local policy. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pasture which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ The proposed met mast is of much lower height than the Proposed Turbines and will not significantly contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Moderate’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.17

VP17: Drumslig

Viewpoint 17: Drumslig	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the townland of Drumslig on the L2023 Local Road where it passes through the Proposed Wind Farm site, southeast of Carronadavderg Hill. Selected to show the landscape context within the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm site. > Approximately 330m south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 619740; N 586432. > No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 21 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-5E Drumhills. > LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Local road: Medium/Low. > Residential receptors are located approx. 500m to the south further set back from the Proposed Turbines than this Viewpoint: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	This view is divided into View A and View B. The key image view is a short-range, unobstructed view from the local road network within the 4-times-tip-height buffer, showing wide pastureland and undulating terrain of commercial forestry stands in the distance. The peak of Carronadavderg Hill is visible at the left, with communications towers at the top set amongst forestry stands. Low scrub and vegetation align the roadside in the foreground and the rooftops of scattered residences and buildings can be seen beyond the field, amongst the undulating terrain. A few features such as post-and-wire fencing, utility poles and overhead lines are visible in the field.
Description of 'Proposed View'	In View A, several of the Proposed Turbines are visible at various perceived sizes and scales, ranging from very large (T17) to moderate. The proposed met mast is visible next to T15 within the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm and comprises a slender lattice structure of shorter height than the turbines within the view. In View B the perceived size and scale of turbines is smaller than that in View A—diminishing quickly with distance from the viewer as they set back further beyond the horizon in the short range-view. In both views, all visible turbines are set back beyond various ridgelines within the undulating terrain. Several turbines have blades and towers fully visible above the skyline, while those in the distance are partially screened by terrain. Overall, the Proposed Turbines occupy a wide horizontal extent of the view.
Description of Cumulative	No existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = Medium. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Substantial. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

Viewpoint 17: Drumslig	
Initial Significance of Effect	Medium × Substantial = Moderate = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ The location of VP17 represents a vantage point from an open view on the brow of a hill showing the full horizontal extent of the Proposed Turbines with the worst-case scenario visual impact from the public realm and local road network—meaning unobstructed open views in the direction of the Proposed Turbines from a location closer to the turbines than the residential receptors in the area. Most parts of the local road network will have less visibility than that shown in the photomontage due to screening by terrain and roadside forestry, vegetation or woodland. ➤ Residential receptors approximately 500m south of this viewpoint at lower elevation, further set back from the Proposed Turbines, will have less visual impact than what is shown in the photomontage due to enclosure and visual screening from localised landform and mature treelines, with substantially less horizontal extent of turbines seen. ➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ Note that this photomontage was captured from within the 500m buffer to show landscape context only—no third-party receptors are located within 500m of the Proposed Turbines. The Proposed Project exceeds the recommended 500m setback from residences set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the prescribed 4-times-tip-height (680m-740m) setback distance for residential visual amenity in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ While the short-range view features a rural landscape, it is not designated as a view of county, regional or national renown and has no unique features or scenic protections in local policy. ➤ The proposed met mast is of much lower height than the Proposed Turbines and will not significantly contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.18

VP18: SR6 in Reanaviddoge

Viewpoint 18: SR6 in Reanaviddoge	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 6 in the townland of Reanaviddoge, within the Proposed Wind Farm site. ➤ Approximately 700m south of the nearest Proposed Turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 621463; N 588339. ➤ No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 16 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	➤ W-LCU-5E Drumhills. ➤ LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	➤ Co. Waterford Scenic Route 6: High. ➤ Residential receptors within 1km of the Proposed Turbines: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	This view is divided into View A and View B. The key image is an open view from a high elevation point on the scenic route showing distant undulating terrain of marginal upland comprising commercial forestry stands and pastureland. Views to the left (southeastwards) are more open and medium-ranging, while views to the right (westwards) are a mix of medium-range and short-range enclosed by mature roadside vegetation along the scenic route and forestry along the rising terrain to the north. Slievegrine Hill and Carronadavderg Hill are features within the distant undulating terrain to the south and west; however, the peaks are not prominently recognisable from this vantage point. The landscape slopes steeply downward from right to left (i.e. north to south). Mature forestry and vegetation align the roadway and thick stands of forestry are visible south of the road, occupying the downward slope. Utility poles and overhead lines are located throughout the view and very few scattered residences are visible amongst the fields, both in the foreground and in the distance.
Description of 'Proposed View'	In View A, T12 and T11 are prominently visible at moderate to large perceived scale, with considerable spacing between them that allows for long-distance views. In View B, the remaining visible Proposed Turbines are seen to diminish quickly in perceived size/scale with distance from the viewer, and the turbines are somewhat visually stacked, occupying a relatively moderate horizontal extent of the view. T22 and T23 are fully screened by the topography except for partial blades, as they are sited within lower elevation terrain well beyond the visible ridge. All visible Proposed Turbines in the view are set back from the scenic route and are seen within the landscape of forestry blocks and pastureland, with partial screening of the tower bases and blades mostly above the horizon. The proposed met mast is visible next to T15 within the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm and comprises a slender lattice structure of shorter height than the turbines within the view. Off the right edge of View B, Proposed Turbines T1-T6 (not pictured) are sited along the northern upland terrain and are fully screened from view by dense forestry.
Description of Cumulative	No existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view.

Viewpoint 18: SR6 in Reanaviddoge	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ This is one of the only locations on SR6 where the Proposed Turbines are clearly visible. The total length of the scenic route is approximately 46km and the visual effects shown in the photomontage apply to a very small proportion of the route and will likely only be experienced briefly for receptors travelling on the route. ➤ Site visits determined that the scenic amenity of greatest quality and sensitivity for SR6 are long-ranging landscape views to the northwest towards Knockmealdown Mountains and west overlooking Blackwater River Valley; these views occur from the portion of SR6 orientated NE-SW beginning approximately 3km west of this viewpoint and are not available from this portion of the scenic route. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not interfere, obstruct or significantly impact the key scenic amenity of long-ranging landscape views from the scenic route. ➤ From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ Considering the local policy on scenic routes to ensure that <i>‘there will be no obstruction or degradation of the views towards visually vulnerable features nor significant alterations to the appearance or character of sensitive areas,’</i> the landscape features and areas impacted in this view (forestry blocks and pastureland) are not visually vulnerable features or set within a sensitive area, as per the definitions of local planning policy. ➤ Residential receptors in this area will inevitably experience surrounding effects of the Proposed Turbines, being situated between the northern and middle turbine clusters; however, the nature of the residences being set mainly within a landscape of commercial forestry subject to rotational-block felling of trees during harvest means that some degree of screening by forestry will likely always be present in the views, thereby lessening the overall visual impact. ➤ The sloped nature of the topography in this area and the strategic siting of turbines in a staggered formation ensures that visible turbines will be seen set back within the landscape and partially visually screened by the undulating terrain, with turbines at lower elevations having less overall visual impact.

Viewpoint 18: SR6 in Reanaviddoge	
	> The Proposed Project exceeds the recommended 500m setback from residences set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the prescribed 4-times-tip-height (680m-740m) setback distance for residential visual amenity in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). > The number of receptors who will experience views as shown in the photomontage is very low; moreover, the photomontage shows the worst-case scenario view, thus views experienced by most receptors in the nearby area will be of lesser impact than that shown in the photomontage. > The proposed met mast is of much lower height than the Proposed Turbines and will not significantly contribute to the visual impact. > The Proposed 110kV Substation (not marked or rendered in the image) is to be located within the field of view of the photomontage, positioned between T7 and SR6 in the distance, and will not be visible due to its setting at lower elevation within undulating terrain.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.19

VP19: Toor North

Viewpoint 19: Toor North	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the L2023 Local Road in the townland of Toor North within the Proposed Wind Farm site. ➤ Approximately 685m west of the nearest Proposed Turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 618668; N 587869. ➤ No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only) in the wireline: 14 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	➤ W-LCU-5E Drumhills. ➤ LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	➤ Residential receptors within 1km of the Proposed Turbines: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	This view is divided into View A and View B. The key image is an open view from the local road network near Slievegrine Hill looking down over wide pastureland, with commercial forestry stands along the right foreground and at the left edge of the view, in the mid-distance. Undulating terrain of marginal upland can be seen across the background at the right of the image. Low scrub and vegetation align the roadside in the foreground. A few features such as post-and-wire fencing, utility poles and overhead lines are visible throughout the fields. Local residences (not pictured) are located immediately behind the viewpoint location. The existing Ballycurreen Wind Farm is marked on the wireline image but in reality are not visible in the view because the turbines are screened behind the terrain.
Description of 'Proposed View'	In View A, which is primarily a medium-range view, the Proposed Turbines are visible across the background, seen in staggered formation across the high ground and set back within forestry stands. The Proposed Turbines are well set back within the landscape and the blades are visible above the horizon. The proposed relay mast is partially visible above the horizon between T4 and T5. In View B, which is a mixed medium and long-range view, Proposed Turbines T7-T12 are visibly stacked at the left, with T7 seen at the largest size/scale and the rest diminishing quickly in perceived size/scale due to the linear layout as viewed from this vantage point. T17 is perceived at moderate size/scale, set back beyond a distant block of forestry, with considerable separation from T7-T12 and long-ranging views available between them. Behind the dense forestry at the right of View B, T15, T16 and the proposed met mast are fully screened from view at this location.
Description of Cumulative	Behind this vantage point to the northwest, the existing Woodhouse and permitted Knocknamona Wind Farms are located between 3-5km from this vantage point but there is no potential for cumulative visibility owing to screening by the intervening steep topography and mature forestry which enclose the viewpoint location .
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High.

Viewpoint 19: Toor North	
	For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Moderate. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	➤ While the view features a rural landscape and long-ranging characteristics, it is not designated as a view of county, regional or national renown and has no unique features or scenic protections in local policy. ➤ The number of receptors who will experience views as shown in the photomontage is very low; moreover, the photomontage shows the worst-case scenario view, thus views experienced by most receptors in the nearby area will be of lesser impact than that shown in the photomontage. ➤ The Proposed Project exceeds the recommended 500m setback from residences set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and adheres to the prescribed 4-times-tip-height (680m-740m) setback distance for residential visual amenity in the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as ‘Low Sensitivity’ and ‘Preferred’ for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ Several of the visible Proposed Turbines diminish quickly in perceived size and scale from this vantage point due to the staggered linear layout, a design feature which follows best practice guidance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The proposed relay mast is not highly visible and the proposed met mast is screened from view, thus they will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = ‘Significant’ (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

1.20

VP20: SR5 / N25 at Windgap

Viewpoint 20: SR5 / N25 at Windgap	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5 and N25 National Road at the Windgap/L2038 crossroad. - Approximately 1.3km northeast of the nearest Proposed Turbine. - Grid Reference (ITM): E 622973; N 589455. - No. of turbines visible (incl. blades or partial blades only): 3 (out of 23).
LCA and Sensitivity	- W-LCU-1E Dungarvan Harbour. - LVIA deems 'Medium Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	- Co. Waterford Scenic Route 5 / N25: High. - Residential receptors within 2km: High.
Description of 'Existing View'	View looking inland from the scenic route (away from ocean views behind) showing heavily forested and vegetated undulating upland terrain along the roadway. Scattered residences and buildings are visible pastureland with thick boundary vegetation and stands of forestry along the background. Features such as guardrails, stone walls, fencing and gate pillars are also visible along the roadway.
Description of 'Proposed View'	Only three of the Proposed Turbines are partially visible or screened behind vegetation. In a journey scenario along N25/SR5, further turbines may become partially visible above the top of the vegetation screening. the majority of the Proposed Turbines are not visible for being set well beyond the ridge and enclosed in lower elevation terrain, as shown in the wireline imagery. The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast are not marked in the imagery because they are fully screened by the terrain and will not be visible.
Description of Cumulative	No existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are in or nearby the view.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.
Mitigating Factors	The Proposed Turbines are located in the opposite direction of the focus of scenic views from the scenic route—the scenic views are directed west over Dungarvan Bay, which is behind the viewer from this vantage point.

Viewpoint 20: SR5 / N25 at Windgap	
	> From the scenic route, the Proposed Turbines are viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as 'Low Sensitivity' and 'Preferred' for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). > The key visual amenity of the scenic route is focused on views to the east and south towards the sea, in the opposite direction of the Proposed Turbines. Therefore, the Proposed Turbines do not '<i>block or detract</i>' from the key sensitivities of the scenic route, which in this case includes views to/from the sea. > The proposed met mast and proposed relay mast will not be visible and will not contribute to the visual impact.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.'</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.

2.

NON-TURBINE INFRASTRUCTURE

Section 2 of this appendix should be read in conjunction with the **EIAR Volume 2B 220kV Substation Visualisation** which is the A1-banner photomontage booklet presenting a verified photomontage visualisation of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation.

2.1

SS01: Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation

Substation 01: Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation from the R671 Regional Road near a local road junction in the townland of Ballycullane, facing southeast towards the proposed infrastructure. Selected to show only the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation and not the Proposed Turbines, which are not visible from this location. > Approximately 584m from the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation. > Grid Reference (ITM): E 612596; N 590402.
LCA and Sensitivity	> W-LCU-5E Drumhills. > LVIA deems 'Low Sensitivity.'
Visual Receptors and Sensitivity	> Residential receptor within 500m of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation: High. > Regional road: Medium.
Description of 'Existing View'	View of upward-sloping pastureland from a local drive on the regional road, lined with mature trees and woodland at the top. A local residence can be seen in the midground, with a screening of mature vegetation planted around the backside of the home. A stand of semi-dense woodland partially screens one existing pylon located in the field behind the right edge of the stand of trees, and overhead lines can be seen extending from the pylon in both directions across the adjoining fields. Whilst not pictured in this image, wind turbines of the existing Woodhouse Wind Farm are located off the left of the view, along with pylons and overhead lines.
Description of 'Proposed View – Pre-Mitigation'	The pre-mitigation proposed view shows the view prior to proposed planting following the construction phase. The proposed embankment with 1m-tall proposed berm atop it can be seen along the northwestern perimeter of the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation compound, showing revegetation of the landscape in the initial pre-mitigation stage that aligns with existing grassland groundcover and provides an initial degree of visual screening of lower-lying components of the Proposed Project infrastructure. The proposed bay and busbar configuration and proposed fencing along the northwestern edge of the proposed infrastructure compound are partially visible. One of the proposed end masts is visible at the left and the other proposed end mast to the right is almost entirely visually screened behind dense woodland. The proposed infrastructure is inset within the landform of the hill and set back beyond the brow of the proposed embankment and berm.

Substation 01: Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation	
Description of 'Proposed View – 5yr Mitigation'	The 5yr mitigation proposed view demonstrates the nature of visual screening in place following approximately five years of growth after proposed mitigation planting, which includes planting atop the proposed berm and planting to bolster the existing hedgerow west of the berm and proposed infrastructure compound. The proposed planting shown in the photomontage represents young growth and will continue to mature over time, bolstering the density of vegetation and contributing to increased partial screening of the proposed infrastructure on a permanent basis.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Sensitivity = High. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.8.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Magnitude of Visual Change	Magnitude = Slight. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.8.2 Magnitude of Visual Change in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Initial Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i> Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in <i>Appendix 13-1</i> .
Mitigating Factors	➤ The Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation is viewed within a modified working landscape of upland terrain comprising forestry and pastureland which is designated in local policy as 'Low Sensitivity' and 'Preferred' for wind energy development (WCCDP 2022-2028). ➤ The Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation compound is inset within the landform of the hill, set back beyond the brow of the proposed embankment and berm, therefore visually screening lower components from view such as the proposed control building. ➤ This viewpoint represents only one residential receptor (seen in the foreground) with potential for open views towards the Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation and these views are partially screened by the sloping characteristics and intervening vegetation out of their rear windows. Once matured, planting proposals will further mitigate visual impacts. ➤ Southbound visual receptors on the regional road will only experience these visual effects momentarily as they pass by this viewpoint. Visibility elsewhere on the regional road will be extremely limited. ➤ As reported in more detail in Section 13.7.3.4.4 of Chapter 13, visibility of the lower-lying infrastructure is very limited from visual receptors in the wider landscape, particularly to the east, south and west due to the substation compound being inset within the northern aspect of the hillside and also the forestry immediately to the west. ➤ All visible proposed infrastructure such as the endmasts are seen within a wider landscape of existing electrical and wind energy infrastructure.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigating Factors = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)

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	<i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.’</i> Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in <i>Appendix 13-1</i>.



APPENDIX 13-3

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