APPENDIX 13-3

Photomontage Viewpoint Impact Assessment Tables

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1. PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 20 No. Viewpoints presented in EIAR Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the Photomontage Booklet. The table below provides location information about the 20 no. Viewpoints assessed.

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP01	View from a T-junction just off the R-693 Regional Road in the townland of Mountfinn, located approximately 5.1km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T05).	E: 629,353 N: 663,716
VP02	View from the L-5753 Local Road and designated Laois scenic view (L-SV-04) in the townland of Aharney, located approximately 7.9km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T09).	E: 639,416 N: 673,623
VP03	View from the R-693 Regional Road in the townland of Buananiska, located approximately 3.7km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T02).	E: 639,568 N: 665,140
VP04	View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Ballyragget, located approximately 10.2km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).	E: 645,028 N: 670,591
VP05	View from L-1804 Local Road along the North Kilkenny Cycle Route in the townland of Balleen Lower, located approximately 1.9km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).	E: 637,481 N: 667,223
VP06	View from the L-1805 Local Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-14) in the townland of Ballycuddihy, located approximately 1.2km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T07).	E: 632,480 N: 666,523
VP07	View at Taillte Eireann Viewing Point (no.165) just off the L-1805 Local Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-14) in the townland of Frankford/Ballykieran, located approximately 0.9km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08).	E: 634,107 N: 667,934
VP08	View from the L-1805 Local Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-14) in the townland of Frankford/Ballykieran, located approximately 1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08).	E: 634,700 N: 668,068
VP09	View from the L-1805 Local Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-14) in the townland of Foyle North, located approximately 1.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08).	E: 635,031 N: 668,073

VP10	View from the R-694 Regional Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-12) in the townland of Finnan, located approximately 13km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).	E: 647,330 N: 672,388
VP11	View from the R-693 Regional Road, across from Clomantagh Castle in the townland of Clomantagh Lower, located approximately 1.4km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).	E: 634,743 N: 663,778
VP12	View from within the grounds of Clomantagh Castle/Church in the townland of Clomantagh Lower, located approximately 1.4km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).	E: 634,806 N: 663,812
VP13	View from farm trail just off the L-1810 Local Road in the townland of Garranamanagh, located approximately 1.5km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T02).	E: 637,241 N: 665,881
VP14	View from the R-693 Regional Road in the townland of Barna, located approximately 1.1km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).	E: 636,599 N: 664,289
VP15	View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Ardaloo, located approximately 12.2km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T02).	E: 647,844 N: 662,951
VP16	View from the R-435 Regional Road in the townland of Donaghmore Lower, located approximately 3.1km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T07).	E: 630,593 N: 666,124
VP17	View from the L-5840 Local Road along KCCDP designated scenic route (KK-SV-19) in the townland of Ballynalacken, located approximately 14.7km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).	E: 647,575 N: 675,235
VP18	View from within Clomantagh Hillfort at Clomantagh Hill, located approximately 0.8km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T05).	E: 633,219 N: 665,594
VP19	View from L-57581 Local Road which makes up part of the Gathabawn Loop walking trail in the townland of Gorteennahilla, located approximately 4.6km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08).	E: 635,666 N: 671,570
VP20	View from the R-689 Regional Road and designated Tipperary Scenic Route (T-SR-31) in the townland of Mellisson, located approximately 15km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T09).	E: 625,752 N: 653,442

1.1 Viewpoint Selection

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a highly detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Many locations, which based on desktop review had the potential for views of the Proposed Turbines, had complete intervening visual screening or were visually screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. In certain instances, viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet as a nearby viewpoint more appropriate in relation to the nearby receptors was produced instead. The Photomontages presented in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet are assessed in the tables below therefore show some of the most open views of the Proposed Turbines from sensitive visual receptors. See Section 1.8 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology* for details on Photomontage viewpoint selection.

*Note on Photomontage Viewpoint 18

The Photomontage Booklet shows the Proposed Turbines within two slightly differing fields of view from photomontage viewpoint 18. The imagery presented for this viewpoint was captured from the same location but shows an 'A' view in one direction and a 'B' view in the other direction. The photomontage was presented as such in order to ensure most of the Proposed Turbines are visible within a 53.5° photomontage. The differing 90°and 53.5° view extents for views A and B are marked on the key image sheet to show the differing directional (A and B) views. The descriptions of the differing fields of view have been kept within the same table. Assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint accounts for the full horizontal extent of both photomontages in corresponding A and B views.

1.2 Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the 'Assessing Visual Effects' methodology set out in Section 1.8 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Project are included in the assessment tables below.

Regarding the 'Significance of Potential Effect' and 'Residual Visual Effect' ratings in the tables below: the definitions of classification are taken from the 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' of the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland (EPA) 2022); refer to Section 1.8.3 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' and Section 1.9 'Determination of Residual Effects' in *Appendix 13-1 Methodology*.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 13.7 and 13.8.3.2 of Chapter 13, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their interactions with the Proposed Project. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document use the photomontages in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. Potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the 'Magnitude of Change' row in each impact assessment table and are considered in the 'Residual Visual Effect' determination given for each Viewpoint.

1.2.2 Viewpoint Assessments

1.2.2.1 VP01: Urlingford

Viewpoint 01: Urlingford	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the north-east from a T-junction just off the R-693 Regional Road. › This viewpoint is located in the townland of Mountfinn, on the outskirts of Urlingford. › Located approximately 5.1km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T05). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 629,353; N 663,716. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 6 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A1 Slieveardagh Western Transition zone: **Low** › Clomantagh Hill: **High** (Landscape Feature of Cultural Heritage Value)
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Urlingford (Rural Town/Village): **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a medium range view from a junction along a regional road overlooking a gently rolling, rural landscape comprising agricultural fields delineated by mature boundary vegetation. Clomantagh Hill is seen in the centre mid-ground of the image, characterised by a patchwork of agricultural fields, rough grassland, and tracts of commercial forestry. The character of the view is of a modified working landscape. There are no existing wind farms visible in this view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The most visible turbine, T07 appears as a prominent feature within the view. Three of the Proposed Turbines (T06, T05, and T01) and the blade of T04 are seen beyond the ridgeline, largely screened from view by the intervening landform. All other turbines are not visible in the view. The proposed met mast is also in view as a slender lattice structure positioned between T06 and T07. A number of the proposed Gathabawn turbines are seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines as seen in the 90-degree field of view.
Cumulative Context	In an uncertain future receiving environment, the Proposed Turbines would be seen in combination with the proposed Gathabawn turbines, though there is a degree of visual separation between the two developments.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** This viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity on account of the settlement of Urlingford.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint, are of small scale relative to the landscape and are partially visible. The Proposed Turbines comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.

Viewpoint 01: Urlingford	
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)** "*An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› As part of the iterative design process, described in Chapter 3 of the EIAR, 3 no. turbines were omitted from the first iteration of the turbine layout before the final proposed turbine layout was determined. This has resulted in a substantial set-back distance between the Proposed Turbines and visual receptors to the west, ensuring that the turbines are not situated within the immediate visual context of Clomantagh Hill when viewed from the west. As demonstrated by this viewpoint, the Proposed Turbines are positioned beyond the intervening ridgeline, maintaining a clear physical and visual separation from Clomantagh Hill. › Only five out of the ten total Proposed Turbines are either fully or partially visible from this viewpoint. › The Proposed Turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline and they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of any national or international renown. › The turbines that are visible are viewed above the horizon and there is adequate visual separation from the complexity of the lower ground features as outlined in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.".*

1.2.2.2 VP02: Aharney

Viewpoint 02: Aharney	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south from the L-5753 local road, in the townland of Aharney. › This viewpoint is located at designated LCDP scenic view No. 4. › Located approximately 7.9km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T09) › Grid Reference (ITM): E 639,416; N 673,623. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 2 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills and Uplands: **Medium**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› L-SV-04 (LCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a long ranging view overlooking undulating agricultural fields of pasture delineated by mature boundary vegetation. Knockmannon Hill is seen in the centre foreground of the image, characterised by a patchwork of agricultural fields, rough grassland, and tracts of commercial forestry. The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm is visible on Knockmannon Hill within the centre of this view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	Only one of the Proposed Turbines (T07) is clearly visible in this view, to the right of Knockmannon Hill. The blades of turbine T06 are just about discernible behind the coniferous trees to the left of T07. All other turbines are fully screened from view. The proposed Gathabawn turbines are seen across a wide horizontal extent either side of Knockmannon Hill.
Cumulative Context	One proposed turbine will be seen in combination with the existing Lisdowney Wind Farm, albeit at a set-back distance from Lisdowney Wind Farm and appearing smaller in scale relative to the landscape. In an uncertain future receiving environment, the one proposed turbine may be seen in combination with the other proposed Gathabawn turbines seen within the landscape. In-combination, successional cumulative visual effects (where a viewer would need to turn around to see another development in another direction from the same location) may also occur, as the proposed Seskin Renewables Wind Farm turbines may be seen in the opposing direction, to the north-east of this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the L-SV-04.
Magnitude of Change	**Negligible:** Only one turbine is clearly visible, largely set-back from the viewpoint, comprising a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.

Viewpoint 02: Aharney	
Significance of Effect	**High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1*.
Mitigation Factors	› Only one of the Proposed Turbines (out of 10) is clearly visible from this viewpoint. › The receiving landscape already accommodates wind energy developments within this view and in the direction of the designated scenic view. As such, Turbine T07 will not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › This viewpoint was captured on a local road of low traffic density; it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or international renown.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.2.2.3 VP03: Freshford

Viewpoint 03: Freshford	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the west from the R-693 regional road, in the townland of Buananiska, on the outskirts of Freshford. › Located approximately 3.7km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T02). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 639,568; N 665,140. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors within 5km: **High** › Freshford (Rural Town/Village): **Medium** › North Kilkenny Cycle Route: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a relatively long-range view from a regional road looking towards transitional marginal foothills characterised by a rural working landscape comprising agricultural fields, tracts of commercial forestry and rough grasslands. Road signage and dwellings are seen in the relative foreground of the view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All of the 10 no. Proposed Turbines are visible on the uphills in the background of the view. Turbine T01 is inadvertently visually screened from view in this viewpoint by road signage, but otherwise, would be visible within the view. Some visual overlap occurs with some of the turbines. Turbines T05 – T10 are seen beyond the ridgeline, partially screened by intervening landform. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T06. The blade tips of two proposed Gathabawn turbines are just about discernible to the far right of the 90° image.
Cumulative Context	In an uncertain future receiving environment, the Proposed Turbines may be seen in combination with blades of the proposed Gathabawn turbines, though there is a large visual separation between the two developments, and the proposed Gathabawn turbines are barely discernible to the naked eye in this view.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** This viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the settlement of Freshford and also being along a designated cycling trail.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent*

Viewpoint 03: Freshford	
	with existing and emerging baseline trends." Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed Turbines are seen as a visually coherent arrangement of turbines seen upon the distant elevated plateau. In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 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 Proposed Turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond multiple fields and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint. › This view is not a distinctive view of any local, county, regional or national renown and is representative of typical views of agricultural fields within a working, rural landscape. › Visibility of the Proposed Turbines within the town of Johnstown will be substantially limited due to the dense visual screening from the built environment from within the settlement itself. › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and pastureland, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".* Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in *Appendix 13-1.*

1.2.2.4 VP04: Ballyragget

Viewpoint 04: Ballyragget	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the west from the N77 National Road, in the townland of Ballyragget. › Located approximately 10.2km to the east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 645,028; N 670,591. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 9 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low** › KK-LCA-H Nore Valley (South): **High**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Ballyragget (Rural town/Village): **Medium** › N77 National Road**: Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a medium to long-range view from a local road overlooking a gently undulating rural landscape. A prominent stone wall occupies the foreground, partially screening views of the surrounding landscape. Beyond the wall, mature vegetation and scattered buildings are visible in the midground, with a large residential building to the right-hand side of the view. Distant elevated ridgelines and patches of woodland form the backdrop of the view. The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm turbines are visible on the distant ridgeline to the right-hand side of the view. The existing Ballybay Wind Farm is within the view to the left-hand side, but majority visually screened through intervening topography and vegetation. The existing Foyle turbines are seen as just about discernible in the distant background to the far-left hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Proposed Turbines are visible in the distant background, along the elevated ridgeline in the centre of the view. The turbines occupy a relatively limited horizontal extent of the view, partially screened by intervening vegetation and the undulating terrain of the ridgeline. The proposed met mast is also theoretically visible towards the centre of the view, but is set-back beyond the ridgeline and difficult to discern among the Proposed Turbines and existing features, including intervening broadleaved vegetation. The proposed Gathabawn and Littleton Wind Farms are theoretically visible, with the Gathabawn turbines appearing at similar height and location to both the Proposed Turbines and the existing Lisdowney turbines, and the Littleton turbines visually screened by mature vegetation on the ridgeline. The permitted Foyle Extension turbines are seen as just about discernible in the distant background to the far-left hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree field of view.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Project will be seen in combination with the existing Lisdowney Wind Farm, at similar scale and with some distance between, along the ridgeline. It will also be seen in combination with the distant and barely discernible existing Foyle Wind Farm. In combination successional views may occur with the existing Ballybay Wind Farm.

Viewpoint 04: Ballyragget	
	In an uncertain future receiving environment, the Proposed Turbines may be seen in combination with the proposed Gathabawn turbines, at similar scale and with some visual overlap with the Proposed Turbines. Cumulative visual effects that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** With consideration of its proximity to the 'High' sensitivity LCA, location within a 'Low' sensitivity LCA, and the settlement of Ballyragget, on balance, this viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development; › The Proposed Turbines are seen mostly beyond the ridgeline and, and they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of any national or international renown; › The large scale of the landscape has the capacity to effectively accommodate the Proposed Turbines as well as other existing wind energy developments; › The turbines that are visible are viewed above the horizon and there is adequate visual separation from the complexity of the lower ground features as outlined in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019); › The receiving landscape already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view.
Residual Visual Effect	**Not Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."*

1.2.2.5 VP05: Balleen Lower

Viewpoint 05: Balleen Lower	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the west from the L-1804 local road, in the townland of Balleen Lower. › This viewpoint is located along the North Kilkenny Cycle Route. › Approximately 1.9km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 637,481; N 667,223. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High** › North Kilkenny Cycle Route: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	A short ranging view overlooking an agricultural field and a horizontal line of mature boundary vegetation in the midground. The landscape in view is rural in character. The topography slopes upwards in the background forming a large ridgeline in the background of the view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The upper portion of turbines T10 and T04 are clearly seen within the view above and beyond the ridgeline. Turbine T01, T02, T03 and T05 are partially seen beyond the ridgeline, partially screened by intervening vegetation. Some visual overlap occurs with some of the turbines. No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Cumulative Context	Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, the existing Lisdowney turbines and the proposed Gathabawn turbines, which would only be seen in an uncertain future receiving environment are located in the opposing direction (to the north of this viewpoint). In combination successional cumulative visual effects will occur with the proposed Gathabawn and existing Lisdowney turbines where a receptor will need to turn their head to experience turbines in either direction. Cumulative visual effects that do occur are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of existing residential receptors.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are partially visible, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.

Viewpoint 05: Balleen Lower	
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› This is a short-range view of a typical rural working landscape, it is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. › The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any sensitive or scenic views from this location; they are only seen above the horizon in the background of the view. › Due to the intervening landform and mature boundary vegetation in the landscape, the lower turbine components are largely obscured from view, reducing their visual prominence within the view. › As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 13, this viewpoint is located on one of the few locations in this area to the north-east of the Proposed Wind Farm with open visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. Other sections of the road are primarily characterised has having dense roadside screening from mature vegetation, limiting visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. › The variations in scrub and tree vegetation in the foreground softens the visual impact of the Proposed Turbines within the view as they provide varying levels of visual screening. › In a journey scenario, the turbines are not located in the direction of travel and will only experience momentary views of the Proposed Turbines which are located perpendicular to the direction of travel. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) from residential dwellings and also provides for the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** "*An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.6 VP06: Ballycuddihy (KK-SV-14)

Viewpoint 06: Ballycuddihy (KK-SV-14)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the east from the L-1805 local road, in the townland of Ballycuddihy. › This viewpoint is located along the designated KKCDP scenic view No. 14. › Located approximately 1.2km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T07). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 632,480; N 666,523. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 3 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High** › KK-SV-14 (KCCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a short ranging view overlooking agricultural fields which rise to form a ridgeline, restricting long-range visibility beyond. The fields are delineated by stone walls and maintained hedgerows. A number of deciduous trees are also visible within the view in linear array across the ridgeline. Coniferous forestry is seen on the distant hill to the left-hand side of the image. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The closest turbine, turbine T07 is seen as a tall, prominent feature within the view. Only the blades of turbines T09 and T05 are seen beyond the ridgeline, partially screened by intervening vegetation. No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible within the view.
Cumulative Context	Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, the existing Lisheen and Bruckana turbines are located in the distant background, in the opposing direction (to the west of this viewpoint). In combination, succession al cumulative visual effects will occur with the existing Lisheen and Bruckana turbines where a receptor will need to turn around to face the opposite direction to experience turbines in either direction.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the KK-SV-14.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** Only 1 turbine of the 10 proposed is seen to its full extent within the view. The remaining turbines are either fully screened, or partially visible, comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*

Viewpoint 06: Ballycuddihy (KK-SV-14)	
Mitigation Factors	› The long ranging, expansive, panoramic scenic views are located to the north-west, in the opposing direction to that of the Proposed Turbines. › The proposed turbine and blades are seen beyond the ridgeline of a working, rural landscape. These views eastward (towards the Proposed Turbines) are not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. Such views are located to the west and north-west (away from the Proposed Turbines). › Only one proposed turbine (and the blades of 2 other turbines) are visible from this viewpoint (out of ten). › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) from residential dwellings and also provides for the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). › For residential receptors in close proximity to the viewpoint, the key scenic views are orientated over the long ranging expansive panoramic views to the north / north-west. The Proposed Turbines, which are located in the opposing direction, do not disrupt the views of these long ranging views from the residential receptors. › In a journey scenario, when travelling from the west along this local road; the expansive, long-ranging panoramic views open up to the north-east. The Proposed Turbines are located within the working landscape to the south and will appear at the periphery of these views.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in *Appendix 13-1*.

1.2.2.7 VP07: Taillte Eireann Viewing Point

Viewpoint 07: Taillte Eireann Viewing Point	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south from the L-1805 local road, in the townland of Frankford/Ballykieran. › This view from the designated KCCDP scenic view No. 14 (which is directed in the opposing direction of this view). › This view is from a car park of a Taillte Eireann Viewpoint (where views are directed in the opposing direction of this viewpoint) › Located approximately 0.9km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 634,107; N 667,934. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-SV-14 (KCCDP): **High** (orientated in the opposing direction) › Taillte Eireann Viewing Point: **High** (orientated in the opposing direction) › Residential receptors: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is primarily a medium range view across an agricultural field enclosed by a stone wall and boundary vegetation. Spa Hill is seen beyond the agricultural field characterised by extensive tracts of commercial forestry. Long-range views can be seen in the distant background to the far left-hand side of the view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 10 no. of the Proposed Turbines are visible across the full horizontal extent of the 90-degree view. Turbines T05, T07 and T08 are seen as tall, prominent features within the view. The remaining Proposed Turbines are seen reducing in apparent scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. There is a degree of visual separation between the Proposed Turbines to the left and to the right-hand side of the view. Some visual overlap occurs with a number of the Proposed Turbines to the left-hand side of the view. The proposed met mast is seen to the right-hand side as a slender lattice structure. The blade tips of 3 of the permitted Briskalagh turbines are just about discernible in the distant background to the left-hand side of the view as seen in the 53.5-degree field of view.
Cumulative Context	Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, the existing Lisdowney and the proposed Gathabawn turbines are located in the opposing direction (to the north and north-east of this viewpoint). The existing Bruckana and Lisheen turbines are also discernible in the distant background of this expansive view located in the opposing direction of the Proposed Turbines. In combination successional cumulative visual effects will occur with these turbines where a receptor will need to turn their head to experience turbines in either direction. The blades of three of the permitted Briskalagh turbines are seen as very small features in the distant background, although they are heavily screened by intervening vegetation.

Viewpoint 07: Taillte Eireann Viewing Point	
	Cumulative visual effects that do occur are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the local residents, as well as its position on a designated scenic route and a Taillte Eireann Viewing Point (opposite direction than shown in the viewpoint).
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** All of the Proposed Turbines are visible across a relatively wide horizontal extent of the view, but at varying set-back distances, with their apparent scale reducing as they recede into the distance.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1*.
Mitigation Factors	› The KKCDP defines KK-SV-14 as "*Views north and east on the Johnstown/Gattabaun Road*". From this viewpoint, the highest quality of views; including the long ranging, expansive, panoramic scenic views are located to the north and east, in the opposing direction to that of the Proposed Turbines (which are located to the south). The Proposed Turbines are not located within the scenic portion of the view. › The proposed turbine are seen within a working, rural landscape. This view southward (towards the Proposed Turbines) are not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. Such views are located to the north (away from the Proposed Turbines). › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › The Proposed Turbines are seen at varying set-back distances, with the more distant turbines appearing progressively smaller in scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. › The receiving landscape (in the direction of the scenic view) already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 13, this viewpoint is located on one of the few locations along this scenic view where there is open, unobstructed visibility in the direction of the Proposed Turbines. Other sections of the road are primarily characterised has having dense roadside screening from mature vegetation, limiting visibility towards the Proposed Turbines (as seen in VP06, VP08, and VP09). › Apart from turbines T08, T07, and T06, the remaining turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond multiple fields and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). › The Proposed 110kV Substation is not visible from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 07: Taillte Eireann Viewing Point	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.9 Determination of Residual Effects in *Appendix 13-1*.

1.2.2.8 VP08: Frankford/Ballykieran (KK-SV-14)

Viewpoint 08: Frankford/Ballykieran (KK-SV-14)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south from the L-1805 local road, in the townland of Frankford/Ballykieran. › Designated KKCDP scenic view No. 14 (which is directed in the opposing direction of this view). › Located approximately 1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 634,700; N 668,068. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High** › KK-SV-14 (KCCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a short to moderate-ranging view overlooking a working rural landscape. A local access track can be seen in the centre foreground with pasture fields to the left-hand side. Distant undulating lands of agricultural fields and tracts of commercial forestry form the background of the view. A residential dwelling can be seen to the far-right hand side as seen in the 90-degree field of view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The closest turbines, T09 and T08 are seen as seen as prominent features within the view. The remaining turbines are seen reducing in apparent scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. Some visual overlap occurs with a number of the Proposed Turbines to the left-hand side of the view. Turbines T06 and T07 are screened from view due to intervening vegetation. The blades of the permitted Briskalagh Wind Farm is just about discernible in the distant background, behind the Proposed Turbines.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Turbines will be seen in combination with the blades of the permitted Briskalagh turbines, though these are barely discernible in the view. Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, the existing Lisdowney and the proposed Gathabawn turbines are located in the opposing direction (to the north and north-east of this viewpoint). The existing Bruckana and Lisheen turbines are also discernible in the distant background of this expansive view located in the opposing direction of the Proposed Turbines. In combination successional cumulative visual effects will occur with these turbines where a receptor will need to turn their head to experience turbines in either direction. Cumulative visual effects that do occur are incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the KK-SV-14.

Viewpoint 08: Frankford/Ballykieran (KK-SV-14)	
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a relatively large horizontal extent of views. Some of the Proposed Turbines are screened from view by intervening vegetation.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The long ranging, expansive, panoramic scenic views are located to the north, in the opposing direction to that of the Proposed Turbines. › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a working, rural landscape. These views southward (towards the Proposed Turbines) are not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. Such views are located to the north (away from the Proposed Turbines). › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › The Proposed Turbines are seen at varying set-back distances, with the more distant turbines appearing progressively smaller in scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. › The receiving landscape (in the direction of the scenic view) already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). › Although the residential receptors in close proximity to the viewpoint are orientated towards the Proposed Turbines, the key scenic views are in the opposite direction overlooking the long ranging expansive panoramic views to the north / north-west. The Proposed Turbines do not disrupt the views of these long ranging views from the residential receptors. › The Proposed 110kV Substation is not visible from this viewpoint.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** "An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".

1.2.2.9 VP09: Foyle North (KK-SV-14)

Viewpoint 9: Foyle North (KK-SV-14)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south from the L-1805 local road, in the townland of Foyle North. › Designated KKCDP scenic view No. 14 (which is directed in the opposing direction of this view). › Located approximately 1.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T08). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 635,031; N 668,073. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High** › KK-SV-14: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a short- to medium-ranging view from an agricultural access road overlooking a gently undulating pastoral landscape. The agricultural fields in the centre of the view slopes upward into hillsides which are covered by large pockets of coniferous forestry. There are more open, long-ranging views available to the left of the view which overlooks flat plains made up of agricultural fields. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The closest turbines, T09 and T08 are seen as seen as tall, prominent features within the view. The remaining turbines are seen reducing in apparent scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. Some visual overlap occurs with a number of the Proposed Turbines to the left-hand side of the view. Turbines T06 and T07 are partially screened from view due to intervening vegetation. No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Cumulative Context	Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, the existing Lisdowney and the proposed Gathabawn turbines are located in the opposing direction (to the north and north-east of this viewpoint). The existing Bruckana and Lisheen turbines are also discernible in the distant background of this expansive view located in the opposing direction of the Proposed Turbines. In combination successional cumulative visual effects will occur with these turbines where a receptor will need to turn their head to experience turbines in either direction.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the KK-SV-14 (KCCDP).

Viewpoint 9: Foyle North (KK-SV-14)	
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a relatively large horizontal extent of views. Some of the Proposed Turbines are screened from view by intervening vegetation.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The KKCDP defines KK-SV-14 as "*Views north and east on the Johnstown/Gattabaun Road"*. These views of scenic quality are focused to the north and east along this road, overlooking the expansive lowland areas stretching out in to L-LCA-2. The Proposed Turbines are located in the opposing direction of such views. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › The Proposed Turbines are seen at varying set-back distances, with the more distant turbines appearing progressively smaller in scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. › The receiving landscape (in the direction of the scenic view) already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › In a journey scenario, when travelling from the east along this local road; the expansive, long-ranging panoramic views open up to the north-east. The Proposed Turbines are located within the working landscape to the south and will appear at the periphery of these views. › The Proposed 110kV Substation is not visible from this viewpoint.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** "*An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".*

1.2.2.10 VP10: Finnan (KK-SV-12)

Viewpoint 10: Finnan (KK-SV-12)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the west from the R-694 regional road, in the townland of Finnan. › Located at designated KKCDP scenic view No. 12. › This viewpoint is located approximately 13km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T10). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 647,330; N 672,388. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-B Castlecomer Plateau: **High**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-SV-12 (KKCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a long-range view across a rural valley landscape. It is a settled landscape, with residential dwellings and farm buildings visible throughout. The land rises towards rolling hills in the distant background. The character of the view is of a settled, working, rural landscape. The existing Foyle, Ballybay, an Cnoc Wind Farms, and the existing Gurteen Lower Single Wind Turbine are just about discernible in the distant background. The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm is also visible within the view, seen on Knockmannon Hill in the centre-right of the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All of the Proposed Turbines are seen on the elevated plateau in the centre midground of the image within the agricultural fields and coniferous forestry. The turbines are arranged in a coherent, staggered linear array, occupying a limited horizontal extent within the view. Four of the proposed Gathabawn turbines are seen in front of the Proposed Turbines in the centre of the view. The proposed Littleton turbines are seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines, at a larger set-back distance. The proposed Seskin Renewables Wind Farm is seen to the right-hand side of the 90-degree view. The permitted Briskalagh, Foyle Extension, and Farranrory turbines are just about discernible in the distant background to the far-left hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree field of view.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Turbines would be seen within the same line of sight as the existing Lisdowney turbines, albeit some visual separation between the two developments. The Proposed Turbines would be seen within the same landscape view as the existing Foyle, Ballybay, an Cnoc Wind Farms, and the existing Gurteen Lower Single Wind Turbine, as well as the permitted Briskalagh, Foyle Extension, and Farranrory turbines to the left of the Proposed Turbines. However, these developments are situated at considerably greater set-back distances and would be barely discernible to the naked eye.

Viewpoint 10: Finnan (KK-SV-12)	
	In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Littleton turbines would be seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines, whilst the proposed Seskin Renewables turbines would be seen to the right, closer to the viewpoint. In an uncertain future receiving environment, 4 of the proposed Gathabawn turbines would be seen in front of the Proposed Turbines. The Proposed Turbines add to the extent of turbines potentially visible from this viewpoint, occupying the gap between other cumulative developments within the view. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of these cumulative developments. Cumulative visual effects that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the KK-SV-12 (KCCDP).
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** "*An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.*" Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the Proposed Turbines as well as other existing wind energy developments. › The receiving landscape (in the direction of the scenic view) already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › This viewpoint (and VP17) represents the greatest extent of visibility from Protected View 12, as there will be very limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines due to roadside screening from most other points on any of the local roads comprising Protected View 12. Consequently, a visual receptor driving on this road will only experience these visual effects momentarily. › The Proposed 110kV Substation is not visible from this viewpoint.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.11 VP11: Clomantagh Castle

Viewpoint 11: Clomantagh Castle	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R-693 regional road facing north, in the townland of Clomantagh Lower. › Located approximately 1.4km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T01). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 634,743; N 663,778. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 6 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Visitors to Clomantagh Castle: **High** › Residential receptors: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a short- to medium-range view from a regional road, with the stone boundary wall and headstones of a cemetery visible in the foreground. Clomantagh Castle is partially visible in the centre mid-ground, largely screened by dense intervening vegetation. Beyond this, the landform rises gradually towards Clomantagh Hill beyond the viewpoint. The elevated slopes comprise a patchwork of agricultural fields and tracts of commercial coniferous forestry, reflecting the working rural character of the surrounding landscape. The ruins of Clomantagh church are seen in the far right-hand side of the 90-degree FOV. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The closest turbine, turbine T01 is seen as a tall and prominent feature within the view. Turbines T02, T04 and T05 are seen, further set-back from the viewpoint, beyond the ridgeline. Only the blades of T06 and T07 are visible, whilst T08, T09, T10 and T03 are screened from view due to intervening landform and vegetation. No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Cumulative Context	Whilst not visible in this viewpoint, some of the existing Ballybay turbines are located in the opposing direction (to the south of this viewpoint), largely set-back from the viewpoint on the elevated terrain. In combination successional cumulative visual effects will occur with the existing Ballybay turbines where a receptor will need to turn their head to experience turbines in either direction.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are partially seen, set back from the viewpoint. The Proposed Turbines that are visible comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.

Viewpoint 11: Clomantagh Castle	
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1*.
Mitigation Factors	› The visible Proposed Turbines are mostly viewed above and beyond the ridgeline, and they do not obstruct or intrude upon any scenic views of county, regional or national renown. › On-site visibility appraisals determined that there are long-range panoramic views of scenic quality in the opposing direction to the south towards the Slieverdagh Hills, away from the Proposed Turbines. › 4 out of the 10 of the Proposed Turbines are visually screened from view and not visible from this road due to screening from intervening landform or vegetation. › As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 13, this road where the viewpoint was captured is primarily characterised has having dense roadside screening from mature vegetation, limiting visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. › As a result of previous design iterations, the removal of turbines previously located west of the westernmost ridgeline reduces the number and horizontal extent of the Proposed Turbines in views from Clomantagh Castle. › With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, they exceed the minimum 500m set back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006), and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). › The turbines are not in the direction of travel, therefore, are not in the direct line of vision of motorists along the road.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.12 VP12: Clomantagh Castle/Church Grounds

Viewpoint 12: Clomantagh Castle/Church Grounds	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the north from within the grounds Clomantagh Lower Church, just off the R-693 regional road, in the townland of Clomantagh Lower. › View is towards Clomantagh Castle. › Located approximately 1.4km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T01). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 634,806; N 663,812. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 6 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Clomantagh Castle: **High** › Clomantagh Church and Cemetery: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a short to medium-range view from within the graveyard overlooking a gently undulating rural landscape. An agricultural field is seen in the foreground enclosed by mature boundary vegetation. Clomantagh castle and a cottage is seen in the centre of the image enclosed by deciduous trees. Elevated agricultural land and tracts of woodland form the backdrop of the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	Proposed Turbines T02, T03, and T10 are clearly seen within the view, with T02 and T10 partially visually screened by mature trees and topography. The remaining turbines are largely screened from view due to the intervening landform and the mature vegetation enclosing the cemetery. As this image was taken in July, T04 may become visible in Winter months due to reduced density of visual screening from foliage.
Cumulative Context	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view. As such, no cumulative visual effects arise between the Proposed Turbines and other wind energy developments from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of Clomantagh Castle, and Church and Cemetery.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are partially seen, set back from the viewpoint. The turbines that are seen comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The dense, mature vegetation surrounding Clomantagh Castle, the church and cemetery, together with intervening field boundary vegetation,

Viewpoint 12: Clomantagh Castle/Church Grounds	
	provides substantial visual screening, restricting visibility of many of the Proposed Turbines from this viewpoint. › This is a short-range view and is not a distinctive or protected view of national or international renown and is representative of typical working, rural landscape. › As a result of previous design iterations, the removal of turbines previously located west of the westernmost ridgeline reduces the number and horizontal extent of the Proposed Turbines in views from Clomantagh Castle. › The Proposed Turbines are not situated within the immediate visual context of the castle, or the cemetery, as they are seen beyond ridgelines and treelines, and as such, do not result in Significant visual effects on receptors experiencing the monastic site. An impact assessment on the Cultural Heritage and setting of Clomantagh castle and the cemetery is included in Chapter 13. › Only one turbine (T03) of the Proposed Wind Farm is clearly seen within the view, all other turbines are either largely or fully screened by intervening landform and vegetation. › Clomantagh Castle and the adjoining church and cemetery are primarily sensitive in a local context and are not widely recognised tourist destinations attracting large numbers of visitors. As such, views of the proposed turbines from this location would only be experienced by a relatively limited number of people who visit the site, thereby limiting the overall extent of visual effects.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** "An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."

1.2.2.13 VP13: Garranamanagh

Viewpoint 13: Garranamanagh	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the west from a farm trail just off the L-1810 local road, in the townland of Garranamanagh. › Located approximately 1.5km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T02). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 637,241; N 665,881. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a medium-range view across an undulating rural agricultural landscape, comprising pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and mature tree vegetation. Scattered residential dwellings and agricultural buildings are visible throughout the midground. The landform gradually rises towards an elevated plateau in the background, with patches of commercial forestry. The character of the view is rural and agricultural. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Proposed Turbines are seen across a wide horizontal extent of the view, arranged across the gently undulating landform, with some visual separation between individual turbines. Turbines T01, T02 and T03 are seen as tall, prominent features within the view, whilst the remaining turbines are located at greater set-back distances, beyond the intervening ridgeline. Three of the turbines are largely screened from view, with only the blade of T08 visible above the ridgeline.
Cumulative Context	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view. As such, no cumulative visual effects arise between the Proposed Turbines and other wind energy developments from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate**: The Proposed Turbines are seen of relatively large scale comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*

Viewpoint 13: Garranamanagh	
Mitigation Factors	› This is a medium-range view of a working landscape comprising agricultural fields and mature boundary vegetation and does not include any distinctive or unique landscape features of county, regional or national renown. › Turbines T02 and T03 are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. The remaining turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline, set-back from the viewpoint. › As demonstrated by the Route Screening Analysis presented in Chapter 13, on-site visibility appraisals established that many of the roads to the east of the Proposed Turbines are characterised by dense roadside vegetation, comprising mature hedgerows and treelines, which substantially restricts visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. › This location represents one of the few areas to the east where such open views toward the Proposed Turbines occur, afforded by an unobstructed view from an elevated vantage point. Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to roadside screening and due to mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which further obscures views of the Proposed Turbines. › The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the Proposed Turbines, with Proposed Turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. › This is a sparsely settled area and this viewpoint only represents a very small number of residential receptors. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".*

1.2.2.14 VP14: Barna

Viewpoint 14: Barna	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View facing north-west from the R-693 regional road, in the townland of Barna. › Approximately 1.1km south-east from the nearest Proposed Turbine (T01). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 636,599; N 664,289. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Residential receptors: **High** › R-693 Regional Road: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a medium-range view from a regional road looking out towards a rolling agricultural landscape comprising pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and treelines and areas of woodland. Dense commercial forestry is seen on the ridge in the centre background of the view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view. **This image was taken in 2022. Site appraisals undertaken in 2026 determined that from this location, views in the direction of the Proposed Wind Farm are fully screened by tall, mature roadside vegetation, with no open views available in the direction of the Proposed Wind Farm (see Route Screening Analysis in Section 13.3.3 of Chapter 13). This image has been included to illustrate a potential worst-case visual scenario from this viewpoint, in the absence of intervening roadside vegetation.*
Proposed Photomontage Description	The closest turbine, turbine T01 appears as a tall, and prominent feature within the view. The remaining turbines are seen reducing in apparent size and scale relative to the landscape as they recede into the distance. Only the blade of turbine T08 is visible, a blade tip of turbine T06, whilst turbine T07 is screened from view due to the intervening landform. Some visual stacking occurs with Proposed Turbines T02 and T03. No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Cumulative Context	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind energy developments are identified within this field of view. As such, no cumulative visual effects arise between the Proposed Turbines and other wind energy developments from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors.

Viewpoint 14: Barna	
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Turbines are seen of a large scale comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› This is a medium-range view of a rural, working landscape comprising agricultural pasture fields and mature boundary vegetation and does not include any distinctive or unique landscape features of county, regional or national renown. › The visible Proposed Turbines are mostly viewed above and beyond the ridgeline, set-back from the viewpoint. › In a journey scenario, the turbines are not located perpendicular to the direction of travel and, travelling 80 km/hr, there would only be fleeting views of the Proposed Turbines. › As demonstrated by the Route Screening Analysis presented in Chapter 13, on-site visibility appraisals established that there are large stretches along this road that are characterised by dense roadside vegetation, comprising mature hedgerows and treelines, which substantially restricts visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. › Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to roadside screening and due to mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which further obscures views of the Proposed Turbines. › The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the Proposed Turbines, with Proposed Turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. › Siting of the Proposed Turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 740m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."*

1.2.2.15 VP15: Ardaloo

Viewpoint 15: Ardaloo	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the north-west from the N77 National Road in the townland of Ardaloo. › Located approximately 12.2km south-east of the nearest Proposed Turbine (T02). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 647,844; N 662,951. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 9 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low** › KK-LCA-H Nore Valley (South): **High**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› North Kilkenny Cycle Route: **Medium** › N77 National Road**: Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a long-ranging view across a relatively flat, open rural agricultural landscape from a national road. The foreground and midground comprise extensive pastoral fields enclosed by low hedgerows and fencing, with scattered agricultural buildings throughout and woodland to the right-hand side. Gently undulating hills and distant elevated ridgelines with agricultural fields and stands of commercial forestry form the backdrop of the view. The existing Lisdowney turbines are seen from this viewpoint but are just about discernible in the distant background to the right-hand side of the view
Proposed Photomontage Description	9 no. of the Proposed Turbines are seen as small-scale features in the distant background, along an elevated ridgeline. The turbines occupy a relatively limited horizontal extent of the view, with some visual overlap occurring between individual turbines. A large tree obstructs T06. In a journey scenario along the N77, this tall intervening vegetation would likely obstruct one to two turbines from most locations. The proposed Gathabawn turbines are visible to the right of the Proposed Turbines but have a large degree of separation and are partially screened from view by intervening vegetation.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Turbines would be seen in combination with the existing Lisdowney turbines, albeit with clear visual separation between the two developments, and seen at differing scales. In an uncertain future receiving environment, in combination views with the proposed Gathabawn turbines would be visible to the right of the Proposed Turbines, with clear visual separation between the two developments. Both developments would occupy relatively limited horizontal extents of the distant landscape, with the intervening landform and vegetation providing further visual separation. The Proposed Turbines would add to the overall extent of wind energy development potentially visible from this viewpoint. However, the considerable viewing distances and small apparent scale of the turbines, together with the

Viewpoint 15: Ardaloo	
	expansive nature of the landscape, limit their combined prominence within the view. Cumulative visual effects that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium:** With consideration of its proximity to the 'High' sensitivity LCA, location within a 'Low' sensitivity LCA, and its proximity to the North Kilkenny Cycle Route, on balance, this viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed Turbines are seen as small features within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 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.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.16 VP16: Johnstown

Viewpoint 16: Johnstown	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the east from the R-435 regional road, in the townland of Donaghmore Lower which is on the outskirts Johnstown. › Approximately 3.1km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T07). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 630,593; N 666,124. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 5 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A2 Slieveardagh Central Transition zone: **Low**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Johnstown: **Medium.** › Residential receptors: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	The view is from a regional road within a settled rural landscape. The foreground comprises the road, grass verges, field entrances, and mature hedgerows, with detached single-storey dwellings seen within the view. An elevated plateau comprising agricultural fields and areas of commercial forestry is visible in the background of the view. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	Turbines T06 and T05 are seen beyond the ridgeline. Turbine T07 is unintentionally screened from view in this viewpoint by a pole, but otherwise, would be clearly visible within the view. The blades of turbines T08 and T04 are just about discernible beyond the ridgeline. All other turbines are screened from view. No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in this view.
Cumulative Context	In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Gathabawn turbines may be seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of residential receptors.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight**: Some of turbines are seen or partially seen are clearly set back from the viewpoint. The turbines that are visible comprise a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor= Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*

Viewpoint 16: Johnstown	
Mitigation Factors	› Visibility of the Proposed Turbines within the town of Johnstown will be substantially limited due to the dense visual screening from the built environment from within the settlement itself. › The 3 no. visible proposed Turbines are viewed above and beyond the ridgeline, set-back from the viewpoint, whilst the remaining turbines are fully screened (apart from blade tips visible of turbine T08 and T05). › The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any sensitive or scenic views from this location; they are only seen above and beyond the horizon in the background of the view. › The baseline view is typical of a rural working landscape and includes features such as houses, utility poles and agricultural buildings. This is a view and landscape setting already subjected to a high degree of human modification. It does not include any distinctive or unique landscape features of regional, national or international renown. › As demonstrated by the Route Screening Analysis presented in Chapter 13, on-site visibility appraisals established that there are large stretches along this road that are characterised by dense roadside vegetation, comprising mature hedgerows and treelines, which substantially restricts visibility towards the Proposed Turbines. › Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to roadside screening and due to mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties (as seen in the photomontage), which further obscures views of the Proposed Turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.17 VP17: Ballynalacken

Viewpoint 17: Ballynalacken	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south-west from the L-5840 local secondary road, in the townland of Ballynalacken › Located at KCCDP designated scenic view No. 19 (KK-SV-19). › Located approximately 14.7km north-east from the nearest proposed turbine (T10). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 647,575; N 675,235. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-B Castlecomer Plateau: **High**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-SV-19 (KCCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a long-ranging panoramic view from Ballynalacken Hill overlooking an extensive, flat, low-lying landscape, which is primarily comprised of agricultural fields delineated by trees and shrub vegetation. Dense tracts of coniferous forestry occupy the sloping foreground to the left-hand side of the view. Several existing wind energy developments are visible in the view, including the existing Lisdowney Wind Farm, whilst the existing Foyle, Ballybay, An Cnoc, and the existing Gurteen Lower Single Wind Turbine are just about discernible in the distant background to the left-hand side of the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 10 no. Proposed Turbines are visible as small elements relevant to the landscape in the distant background on the elevated plateau, occupying a limited horizontal extent within the view. Four of the proposed Gathabawn turbines are seen in front of the Proposed Turbines in the centre of the view, with the remaining turbines located to the right of Lisdowney turbines. The proposed Littleton turbines are seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines, at a larger set-back distance. The proposed Seskin Renewables Wind Farm is seen to the right-hand side of the 90-degree view. The permitted Foyle Extension, and Farranrory turbines are just about discernible in the distant background to the far-left hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree field of view and will have little to no bearing to overall cumulative visual effects.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Turbines would be seen within the same line of sight as the existing Lisdowney turbines, albeit some visual separation between the two developments. The Proposed Turbines would be seen within the same landscape view as the existing Foyle, Ballybay, an Cnoc Wind Farms, and the existing Gurteen Lower Single Wind Turbine, as well as the permitted Briskalagh, Foyle Extension, and Farranrory turbines to the left of the Proposed Turbines. However, these developments are situated at considerably greater set-back distances and would

Viewpoint 17: Ballynalacken	
	be barely discernible to the naked eye and will have little to no bearing to overall cumulative visual effects. The existing Lisheen turbines are theoretically visible as seen in the wireline view, however due to distance and intervening vegetation are not visible to the naked eye and will have little to no bearing to overall cumulative visual effects. In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Littleton turbines would be seen to the left of the Proposed Turbines, whilst the proposed Seskin Renewables turbines would be seen to the right, closer to the viewpoint. In an uncertain future receiving environment, 4 of the proposed Gathabawn turbines would be seen in front of the Proposed Turbines. The Proposed Turbines add to the extent of turbines potentially visible from this viewpoint, occupying the gap between other cumulative developments within the view. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of these cumulative developments. Cumulative visual effects that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the KK-SV-12 (KCCDP).
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in Appendix 13-1.
Mitigation Factors	› The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the Proposed Turbines as well as other existing wind energy developments. › The receiving landscape (in the direction of the scenic view) already accommodates wind energy developments. As such, the Proposed Turbines do not introduce any new or novel element within the view. › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and agricultural fields, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development. › The Proposed Turbines are seen as a visually coherent arrangement of turbines seen upon the distant elevated plateau. In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 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. › This viewpoint (and VP10) represents the worst-case scenario of visibility from Protected View 12, as there will be very limited visibility of the Proposed Turbines from most other points on any of the local roads comprising Protected View 12. Consequently, a visual receptor driving on this road will only experience these visual effects momentarily.

Viewpoint 17: Ballynalacken	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"*An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities*".*

1.2.2.18 VP18: Clomantagh Hillfort

Viewpoint 18: Clomantagh Hillfort	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the east from on top of Clomantagh Hill, within Clomantagh Hillfort itself. › This viewpoint is located in the townland of Clomantagh (Mt. Garret). › Located approximately 0.8km to the south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T05). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 633,219; N 665,594. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low** › Clomantagh Hill: **High** (Landscape Feature of Cultural Heritage Value)
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Visitors to Clomantagh Hillfort: **High** (not accessible to the public)
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a long-ranging panoramic view from an elevated vantage point overlooking an undulating upland and expansive rural landscape. Rough grassland occupies the foreground, with extensive tracts of commercial coniferous forestry extending across the central midground. The landscape opens out to the right, affording long-ranging views across a broad agricultural valley, with distant elevated ridgelines forming the backdrop. The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm turbines are seen in the distant background in the centre of the 90-degree view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Proposed Turbines are seen as large-scale, prominent features across the elevated landscape, occupying a large horizontal extent of the view. Several Proposed Turbines (T04, T05, T07) are prominently visible above the ridgeline, while others are partially screened by intervening landform and commercial forestry, generally losing prominence to the right of the view, as well as through set-back distance. The proposed met mast is visible towards the far left of the view.
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm turbines are visible as small features in the distant background. In an uncertain future receiving environment, the proposed Gathabawn Wind Farm turbines would be visible across the left and central portions of the view, with some visual overlap occurring with the Proposed Turbines, although at smaller scale and further set–back. The proposed Seskin Renewables Wind Farm and permitted Ballynalacken Wind Farm turbines would also be visible in the central portion of the view, beyond the Proposed Turbines, forming a distant group of wind energy developments. The Proposed Turbines would introduce larger and more prominent turbine features into the upland landscape, as well as increase the overall horizontal extent of wind energy development visible from this viewpoint. While some visual overlap occurs between developments, differences in apparent scale and viewing distance provide a degree of visual separation between the Proposed Turbines and other cumulative wind energy developments.

Viewpoint 18: Clomantagh Hillfort	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location Clomantagh Hill and at Clomantagh Hillfort. **It is to be noted that the Clomantagh Hill and associated Hillfort is privately owned land and there is **no** public access to the hill or its monuments. The hill and hillfort are also know as Mount Garret hill and Mount Garret Hillfort.*
Magnitude of Change	**Substantial:** The Proposed Turbines are of a large scale and very prominent within views, comprising a large horizontal extent of views. The Proposed Turbines comprise greater than the 90-degree field of view shown in the Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1*.
Mitigation Factors	› There is no public access to the Clomantagh Hill or the hillfort, and as such, views from this location would only be experienced by the landowner and those granted access, thereby limiting the number of visual receptors who would experience such views. › The Proposed Turbines are not seen within the hillfort itself. › While there is an impact on the visual setting of the landscape, this visual setting is already subject to a high degree of human modification, as seen through vast areas containing large tracts of commercial forestry and agricultural fields. › Whilst it is a long-range, expansive view, the view is of a heavily modified landscape and does not contain any special scenic qualities of regional, national or international renown. › The Proposed Turbines do not obstruct direct intervisibility between any other heritage sites and Clomantagh Hil (Mt. Garret), although the existing view in the direction of Toor More will be altered, as detailed in Chapter 14.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment".*

1.2.2.19 VP19: Gorteennahilla

Viewpoint 19: Gorteennahilla	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the south from the L-57581 local road, in the townland of Gorteennahilla. › Located approximately 4.6km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T08). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 635,666; N 671,570. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 10 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills and Uplands: **Medium** › Cullahill Mountain: **High**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› Gathabawn Loop Walking Trail: **Medium** › Cullahill/Binnianea Walking Trail: **Medium** › L-5818 Local Road: **Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a long-ranging view across a gently undulating rural agricultural landscape. An extensive pastoral field occupies the foreground, with scattered mature trees and hedgerows defining the surrounding field boundaries. A cluster of deciduous trees is visible on the gently rising slope to the right-hand side of the view, while a series of elevated ridgelines forms the background. The landscape falls away towards a broad valley in the distance, permitting long-ranging views across the wider agricultural landscape. The existing Foyle Wind Farm turbines are discernible in the distant background, beyond the ridgeline.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Proposed Turbines are seen as moderately scaled features relative to the landscape along the elevated ridgeline in the background of the view. The height profile of the Proposed Turbines broadly follows the undulating nature of the terrain, reflecting the underlying landform. The Proposed Turbines are relatively evenly spaced, with some visual overlap occurring with T10 and T01. The proposed met mast is visible to the left-hand side of turbine T07 as a slender, lattice vertical structure. The permitted Foyle windfarm extension is seen behind the Proposed Turbines with the other existing Foyle turbines. Some of the permitted Briskalagh turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline to the left-hand side of the view. 2 of the proposed Gathabawn turbines are seen in front of the Proposed Turbines, closer to the viewpoint, while the remaining Gathabawn turbines extend to the right, beyond the field of view shown in this viewpoint.
Cumulative Context	The Proposed Turbines will be seen in combination with the existing Foyle turbines, as well as the permitted Foyle windfarm extension, and some of the turbines of the permitted Briskalagh windfarm. However, given the set-back distance of these cumulative windfarms, they are barely discernible to the naked eye and will have little to no bearing to overall cumulative visual effects. In an uncertain future receiving environment, 2 no. of the proposed Gathabawn Wind Farm turbines would be seen in combination with the Proposed Turbines, whilst the remaining proposed Gathabawn turbines extend to the

Viewpoint 19: Gorteennahilla	
	right, beyond the field of view shown in this image. Cumulative visual effects that do occur have been incorporated into the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location on the Gathabawn Loop walking route, which is located at Cullahill Mountain, a high sensitivity landscape receptor.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of relatively small scale relative to the landscape, comprising a less than the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1.*
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed Turbines are seen as a visually coherent arrangement of turbines seen upon the distant elevated plateau. In line with the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft 2019 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 Proposed Turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond multiple fields and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint. › Whilst this view has some scenic qualities, is not a view designated in the of any regional or national renown, and is representative of typical views of agricultural fields within a working, rural landscape. › The Proposed Turbines are seen within a modified, working landscape of upland terrain comprising commercial forestry and pastureland, which is considered to have relatively low sensitivity to wind farm development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** "*An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."*

1.2.2.20 VP20: Mellisson

Viewpoint 20: Mellisson	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View to the north-east from the R-689 Regional Road, in the townland of Mellisson. › Located at designated TCDP scenic view No. 31 (T-SR-31). › Located approximately 15km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T09). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 625,752; N 653,442. › No. of Proposed Turbines visible (including blades/tips): 7 (out of 10).
Landscape Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› T-LCA-14 Slieveardagh Hills Farmland Mosaic: **Medium**
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	› T-SR-31 (TCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a medium to long-range view across a gently undulating rural agricultural landscape from a regional road. Pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and dense tree vegetation occupy the foreground and midground, with scattered agricultural buildings visible throughout. Extensive tracts of woodland and forestry form the backdrop to the left-hand side of the view, while distant elevated ridgelines are visible in the centre background. No other existing wind energy developments are visible within this field of view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Proposed Turbines are seen as small features in the distant background relative to the landscape, beyond the distant ridgeline. The turbines occupy a short horizontal extent of the view, with several turbines partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The proposed Gathabawn turbines are visible to the left of the Proposed Turbines, along the lower slopes of the ridgeline.
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisheen Wind Farm III, An Cnoc, Ballybay, Lisdowney, and the permitted Ballynalacken turbines are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, however, due to distance and intervening vegetation, these developments are barely discernible to the naked eye and have little to no bearing to overall visual effects. In an uncertain future receiving environment, some of the proposed Gathabawn Wind Farm turbines would be seen within the same landscape view as the Proposed Turbines, though with some visual separation between the two developments.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the T-SR-31.

Viewpoint 20: Mellisson	
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Turbines are partially visible but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale relative to the landscape, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet.
Initial Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."* Refer to Section 1.8.3 Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1*.
Mitigation Factors	› At a setback distance of >15km, the Proposed Turbines are visible as very small features in the distant background relative to the landscape, occupying a very narrow horizontal extent of the entire wider landscape. › The stated focus of this County Tipperary scenic route is "Views to the west between Glengoole and Ballysloe, along road R689". The Proposed Turbines do not fall within this view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	**Slight (EPA, 2022)** "An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."