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APPENDIX 13-3

PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

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1.

PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 19 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 19 no. Viewpoints assessed.

Table 1-1 Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP01	View from the N60 National Road, in the townland of Brees. Located approximately 2.9km north from the nearest turbine (T7).	E: 529,299 N: 781,449
VP02	View from the L5536 Local Road in the townland of Knockaunakill. Located approximately 690m north from the nearest turbine (T6).	E: 529,063 N: 779,060
VP03	View from the L1506 Local Road in the townland of Ahena. Located approximately 3.2km south from the nearest turbine (T5).	E: 528,538 N: 774,669
VP04	View from the L1505 Local Road in the townland of Knockrickard. Located approximately 1km south from the nearest turbine (T1).	E: 527,782 N: 776,968
VP05	View from the L5636 Local Road along Lough Carra. View also from Co. Mayo Scenic Route 1. Located approximately 9.2km south-west from the nearest turbine (T1).	E: 520,002 N: 773,747
VP06	View located along the L1506 Local Road in the townland of Oory. Located approximately 4km southwest from the nearest turbine (T1).	E: 525,939 N: 774,668
VP07	View from the L15057 Local Road in the townland of Knockroe. Located approximately 700m west from the nearest turbine (T1).	E: 527,520 N: 777,903
VP08	View from the L55398 Local Road in the townland of Lehanagh. Located just outside Mayo Abbey church and ruins. Located approximately 2km northwest from the nearest turbine (T7).	E: 526,467 N: 779,553
VP09	View from Mayo Abbey, located approximately 2.1km north-west from the nearest turbine (T7).	E: 526,425 N: 779,602
VP10	View from the L5653 Local Road in the townland of Caherwiclaun. Located approximately 16.9km south from the nearest turbine (T5).	E: 526,966 N: 761,022
VP11	View from the L5766 Local Road in the townland of Carrowkeel. Approx. 10km north. Representative of long-ranging views towards the turbines from an elevated vantage point.	E: 524,056 N: 787,906
VP12	View from the R300 Regional Road along Lough Mask. View also located on Co. Mayo Scenic Route 2. Located approximately 18.9km south-east from the nearest turbine (T1).	E: 511,092 N: 770,018

VP13	View from the N60 National Road in the townland of Claremount, exiting Claremorris. Located approximately 4.7km east from the nearest turbine (T5).	E: 533,613 N: 776,138
VP14	View from the L5537 Local Road in the townland Clogher Beg. Located approximately 1.4km south-east from the nearest turbine (T5).	E: 529,938 N: 776,557
VP15	View from the N60 National Road in the townland of Birchfield. Located approximately 2.5km from the nearest turbine (T4).	E: 531,420 N: 779,290
VP16	View from the N17 National Road in the townland of Ballyhowly. Located approximately 10km east from the nearest turbine (T4).	E: 538,207 N: 782,403
VP17	View from the R324 Regional Road, in the townland of Ballymaccloughlin. Located approximately 6.8km from the nearest turbine (T7).	E: 526,212 N: 785,102
VP18	View from the L5537 Local Road in the townland of Drumady. Located approximately 660m east of the nearest turbine (T5).	E: 529,839 N: 777,819
VP19	View from the L1706 Local Road in the townland of Doonnamona. View also on the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail. Located approximately 8.5km north-west from the nearest turbine (T7).	E: 520,256 N: 781,286

1.1

Viewpoint Selection

The tables included in this appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the photomontage visualisations of the 19 no. viewpoints (VP01-VP19) presented in the *ELAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* and detailed in Chapter 13, Section 13.5.4 Viewpoint Selection: Photomontage Viewpoints (VPs). Viewpoints VP01-VP19 were selected for the production of photomontages and comprehensive assessment following a detailed and extensive process including a review of baseline information, data gathered during site visits and review of high-quality photographs taken at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area.

The photomontages for VP01-VP19 are classified as “Type 4 Visualisations” of Development Proposals according to the LI TGN 06/19 (2019) for the assessment of visual effects in accordance with LVIA guidance and are comprehensively assessed in the tables of this appendix. The photomontages are presented in the *Photomontage Booklet*, which should be read in conjunction with this appendix.

1.2

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

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 Wind Farm are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 13.6 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 Wind Farm. 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.

1.3

Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables

1.3.1

VP01: Brees

Viewpoint 01 – Brees	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from N60 National Road in the townland of Brees. - Located approximately 2.9km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). - Grid Reference: E: 529,299, N: 781,449 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU - East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM)
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- Residential receptors within 3km – High - Commuters on the N60 National Road – Low. - Local road users - Low
Description of “Existing View”	Short-ranging view from the N60 National Road, overlooking gently rolling agricultural fields. The terrain rises away from the viewpoint, limiting long-range views into the adjoining agricultural fields. Groups of mature trees and hedgerows are seen to the left-hand side of the view and along the ridgeline. The overall character of this landscape is rural and agricultural. No existing wind farms are visible from this viewpoint.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible within this view. 4 no. turbines (T5, T4, T2, and T7) are largely screened by mature vegetation and the intervening rise in terrain. The proposed turbines form a coherent, linear array of turbines, visually set-back beyond the ridgeline and occupy a relatively small horizontal extent. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the right of turbine T1 as a tall, thin lattice structure.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint was given a “Medium” sensitivity on balance, accounting for high sensitivity local residential receptors within 3km of the proposed turbines and the low sensitivity of users on local roads in a sparsely settled area of low landscape sensitivity.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are partially visible, occupying a relatively short horizontal extent.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

Viewpoint 01 – Brees	
Mitigation Factors	> With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government [DoEHLG], 2006), hereafter the ‘the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006)’, and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government [DoHPLG] 2019), hereafter the ‘the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)’. > Commuters on the N60 will be travelling approx. 100km/hr and will have only fleeting views of the proposed turbines. > Most residential receptors are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. > 3/7 proposed turbines are almost entirely visually screened by the intervening landform and vegetation. > This is a short-range view of a 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 renown.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.2

VP02: Knockaunakill

Viewpoint 02 – Knockaunakill	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View south/south-west from the L-5536 local road. - Located approximately 690m north from the nearest proposed turbine (T6). - Grid Reference: E: 529,063, N: 779,060 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU - East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium. (lowest classification in LACM)
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- Local residents <1km – High. - Knockaunakill Waymarked Walking Trail – High-Medium.
Description of “Existing View”	Short-range view from Local Road L-5536 overlooking hilly agricultural-pastoral fields with mature trees along the ridgeline, enclosed by stone walls. The mature vegetation along the ridgelines visually screens long-range views into the adjoining fields. The character of the view is rural and agricultural. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline, occupying a wide horizontal extent. The closest turbine, T6 appears as a tall vertical feature within the view, while the remaining turbines are perceived as moderately scaled elements in the background, partially screened by intervening vegetation. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T5 and T4, as well as turbines T3 and T2. In the view, T7 is entirely visually screened behind roadside vegetation. The proposed met mast is visible to the right of T2 as a tall, thin lattice structure.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint was given a “High” sensitivity on account of residential receptors in proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – The proposed turbines are seen of a moderate scale relative to the landscape, comprising a relatively wide horizontal extent of views.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = “Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	- Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). - The proposed turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond the ridgeline and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint.

Viewpoint 02 – Knockaunakill	
	> All proposed turbines are in Co. Mayo land area designated as “Low” landscape sensitivity in the LACM, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Mayo. > The baseline view is a typical rural working landscape, and is therefore already subjected to a degree of human modification. 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 visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario for this area immediately north of the Proposed Wind Farm and will only be experienced by a very low number of receptors. > Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to further set-back distance and mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which will further reduce visibility of the proposed turbines and effects on the perceived visual amenity.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

1.3.3

VP03: Ahena

Viewpoint 03 – Ahena	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the L1506 Local Road in the townland of Ahena > Located approximately 3.2km south from the nearest proposed turbine (T5). > Grid Reference: E: 528,538, N: 774,669 > No. of turbines visible: 6/7
LCU and Sensitivity	> LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low > Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	> Residential receptors >3km – Medium. > Local road users – Low.
Description of “Existing View”	The image is of a medium-range view from a local road overlooking a working, hilly, agricultural landscape. A residential dwelling and garden is seen in the left foreground of the image. Agricultural fields delineated by mature treelines and hedgerows are seen in the far-right hand side of the image. The character of the view is of a working, rural landscape. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 no. proposed turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline, largely screened by intervening vegetation. The proposed turbines occupy a relatively short horizontal extent. There is some slight visual separation between the proposed turbines seen in this view.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea and Mace Upper wind farms are located in the centre and the far right of the viewpoint, respectively, however are not visible to the naked eye due to distance and intervening above ground structures and vegetation. As a result, these wind farms have no bearing on overall cumulative visual effects.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – On balance, this viewpoint represents ‘Medium’ sensitivity as it represents residential receptors beyond 3km situated in a low sensitivity landscape that is sparsely settled.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are seen, but are largely screened by intervening vegetation and are seen as small features relative to the landscape.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	> The 6 no. visible proposed turbines are largely screened by vegetation. > 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.

Viewpoint 03 – Ahena	
	- Most receptors are likely to experience similar or less visual impact than what is shown in the view owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and localised undulations in the hilly terrain. - All proposed turbines are in Co. Mayo land area designated as “Low” landscape sensitivity in the LACM, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Mayo.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.3.4

VP04: Knockrickard

Viewpoint 04– Knockrickard	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the L1505 Local road in the townland of Knockrickard. Located approximately 1km south from the nearest turbine (T01). - Grid Reference: E: 527,782, N: 776,968 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – South-East Mayo Plains – Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential receptors within 1km – High.
Description of “Existing View”	This image is of a medium-range view overlooking agricultural fields and low hilly terrain. Fields are demarcated by low stone walls, metal gates, and low, scrub vegetation. A low, flat hill sits in the centre of the midground blocking long-range views into adjoining fields. Mature vegetation lines the ridgeline on either side of the hill. Road signs and telephone poles are seen in the foreground of the view. Turbines from the existing Mace Upper wind farm and the existing Magheramore wind farm can be seen as very small elements relative to the landscape, in the distant background.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are seen beyond the ridgeline, and occupy a moderate horizontal extent. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T2 and T1, as well as T3 and T4. Turbines T7 and T5 appear partially set-back from the remaining turbines. The proposed met mast is visible as a tall, thin lattice structure between T2 and T7.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea wind farm is theoretically visible as seen in the wireline view, but in reality, is not visible due to visual screening due to distance and the intervening vegetation, and will therefore have no bearing on the overall cumulative visual effects. Given the set-back and separation distance, and very limited visibility of the very distant Mace Upper and Magheramore turbines, these wind farms have

Viewpoint 04– Knockrickard	
	no potential to cause cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents “High” sensitivity residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – Proposed turbines are seen of a moderate scale relative to the landscape, comprising a wide horizontal extent of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = “Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The proposed turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond the ridgeline and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint ➤ All proposed turbines are in Co. Mayo land area designated as “Low” landscape sensitivity in the LACM, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Mayo. ➤ The baseline view is a typical rural working landscape, and is therefore already subjected to a degree of human modification. 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. ➤ Most receptors are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the view owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. ➤ All proposed turbines are located in the Policy Area most favourable to wind development according to the LACM.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

1.3.5

VP05: Lough Carra

Viewpoint 05 – Lough Carra	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the L5636 Local Road along Lough Carra. - View also from Co. Mayo designated Scenic Route with Highly Scenic Vistas 1 (views directed in the opposing field of view than shown in the photomontage). - Located approximately 9.2km south-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T1). - Grid Reference: E: 520,002, N: 773,747 - No. of turbines visible: 6/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – Lakeland Drumlins – Medium - Policy Area 4A – Lakeland Sub-policy Area – Medium.
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	County Mayo Scenic Route 1 – High
Description of “Existing View”	This image is of a long-range view from a local road overlooking rolling rural fields. There are stands of mature vegetation along the roadside, and in tracts running horizontally through the agricultural fields. Dense tracts of mature vegetation and rural buildings are seen throughout the view. A dwelling is located to the right of the view. The character of the view is rural and agricultural. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The blades of 6 no. of the proposed turbines can be seen in the distant background, largely screened by the intervening treeline, occupying a very narrow horizontal extent of the background view.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea, Cloontooa, and Ballykinava windfarms are theoretically visible from this location as shown in the wireline view. However, in reality, they are not visible to the naked to eye due to distance and visual screening from the intervening vegetation. As such, these existing windfarms have no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents “High” sensitivity receptors on account of the designated scenic route SR1.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen as very small features relative to the landscape, at great distance from the viewpoint and are partially screened, comprising a very small portion of the overall view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	As discussed in Section 13.7.5.2.1 of Chapter 13, the key focus of this scenic route are the views “towards Lough Carra”, which are directed to the west, in the opposing direction of the proposed turbines and the

Viewpoint 05 – Lough Carra	
	view shown in the photomontage. Therefore, the proposed turbines do not impact the key sensitivities relating to this designated scenic route. ➤ The proposed turbines are seen as small features above the horizon in the distant background of the view. ➤ The field structure, hedgerows, and tracts of mature vegetation seen throughout the view act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond a distant treeline.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.3.6

VP06: Oory

Viewpoint 06 – Oory	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View located along the L1506 Local Road in the townland of Oory. ➤ Located approximately 4km southwest from the nearest turbine (T01). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 525,939, N: 774,668 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6/7
LCU and Sensitivity	➤ LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low ➤ Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	➤ Residential receptors >3km – Medium. ➤ Local road users – Low.
Description of “Existing View”	This view is from the L1506 local road overlooking gently rolling agricultural fields in a working rural landscape. Dense tracts of commercial forestry and some mature vegetation line the agricultural fields. A dwelling is visible to the right of the view. No existing wind farms are visible from this viewpoint.
Proposed Photomontage Description	3 no. proposed turbines are visible to their full extent, located beyond the ridgeline in the distance, occupying a short horizontal extent. Turbine T7 is just about discernible beyond the intervening vegetation. Some visual overall occurs between turbines T3 and T4, whilst T5 appears slightly offset.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea, Mace Upper, Magheramore, and Cloontooa windfarms are theoretically visible from this location as shown in the wireline view. However, in reality, they are not visible to the naked eye due to distance and visual screening from the intervening vegetation. As such, these existing windfarms have no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents “Medium” sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors located within 5km of the proposed turbines.

Viewpoint 06 – Oory	
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are partially visible and clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of modest scale relative to the landscape, comprising a relatively small portion of the field of view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ All visible proposed turbines appear beyond the horizon and well set-back from this vantage point, appearing to have a relatively even profile. ➤ Most of the 7 no. proposed turbines are partially or entirely visually screened from view by intervening vegetation. ➤ The baseline view is a typical rural working landscape, and is therefore already subjected to a degree of human modification. It is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value. ➤ All proposed turbines are located in the Policy Area most favourable to wind development according to the LACM.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.3.7

VP07: Knockroe

Viewpoint 07 – Knockroe	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the L15057 Local Road in the townland of Knockroe - Located approximately 700m west from the nearest turbine (T1). - Grid Reference: E: 527,520, N: 777,903 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- Residential receptors <1km – High - Local road users – Low
Description of “Existing View”	This is a long-ranging view of gently rolling, grassy agricultural pasture fields. Low, scrubby hedgerows, stone walls, and fences delineate the fields, with occasional mature trees. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible as tall vertical features in the view, occupying a wide horizontal extent. The closest turbines (T1 and T2) appear as tall vertical features within the view, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled features, set-back beyond multiple agricultural fields. Majority of the proposed turbines form a coherent cluster of turbines, with one turbine, T7, appearing set-back to the left. The proposed met mast is visible as a tall, thin lattice structure between T6 and T7.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents “High” sensitivity receptors on account of residential receptors within 1km.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – The proposed turbines are of large scale relative to the landscape and prominent within the view, comprising a large horizontal extent.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = “Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	- Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). - The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario and will only be experienced by a low number of localised receptors; most receptors are likely to have a lesser degree of visual impact than what is shown in the viewpoint owing to intermittent or dense visual screening by roadside vegetation.

Viewpoint 07 – Knockroe	
	> The proposed turbines read coherently in the view. The arrangement and spacing of the proposed turbines give an orderly and visually coherent appearance within the view, with limited overlap of turbine components, avoiding visual confusion and supporting their assimilation into the landscape. > The proposed turbines appear visually set back from this viewpoint, beyond multiple agricultural fields, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint. > This view is of a 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 renown. > All proposed turbines are in Co. Mayo Policy Area 4, designated as “Low” landscape sensitivity in the LACM, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Mayo. > All proposed turbines are located in the Policy Area most favourable to wind development according to the LACM.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

1.3.8

VP08: Lehanagh

Viewpoint 08 – Lehanagh	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the L55398 Local Road in the townland of Lehanagh > This viewpoint was chosen to show potential impacts on the setting of Mayo Abbey Church and Ruins. > Located approximately 2km northwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). > Grid Reference: E: 526,467, N: 779,553 > No. of turbines visible: 6/7
LCU and Sensitivity	> LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low > Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Mayo Abbey Church and ruins – High. Residential receptors <3km – High. Mayo Abbey town – Medium
Description of “Existing View”	This is a short-ranging view overlooking agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows and stone walls in a rural, working, agricultural landscape. The terrain gradually ascends towards a low hill, and there are mature trees and vegetation both delineating the agricultural fields. To the far right, a portion of the Mayo Abbey cemetery is visible. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.

Viewpoint 08 – Lehanagh	
Proposed Photomontage Description	All proposed turbines are partially visible beyond the ridge, occupying a relatively short horizontal extent relative to the landscape. Turbines T1, T2, and T7 are the most prominent, whilst the remaining turbines are largely screened from view, with only the blades visible.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents “High” sensitivity receptors on account of the cultural heritage receptor of Mayo Abbey nearby, as well as residential receptors in close proximity.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are partially visible, comprise a relatively small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = “Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ The majority of the proposed turbines (apart from turbine T1, T2, and T7) are largely screened from view by the intervening landform, with only the blades visible above and beyond the ridgeline, and occupy a short horizontal extent. ➤ All turbine components are viewed above and beyond the distant ridgeline and treelines, and do not obstruct or intrude upon scenic views of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint, and they are not designated or protected views. ➤ The baseline view is typical of a rural working landscape. This is a view and landscape setting already subjected to a degree of human modification. The visual setting of the Mayo Abbey Church and Ruins is therefore already influenced and characterised by the existing trend of development. ➤ This viewpoint was captured at one of the more elevated vantage points with clear views in the direction of the proposed turbines to show a worst-case scenario. Many locations from within Mayo Abbey itself have no visibility of the proposed turbines (e.g. PWVP-A in Chapter 13). Visual receptors visiting the Abbey will have no visibility of the proposed turbines in and around the abbey itself – which is the key focal point and sensitivity of the area. ➤ Potential visual impacts on the setting of the monastic site are considered reversible, given the proposed turbines are Long-Term in nature and have a defined operational lifespan of 30 years (see Operational Effects, Section 13.7). ➤ Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022)

Viewpoint 08 – Lehanagh	
	<i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

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1.3.9

VP09: Mayo Abbey

Viewpoint 09 – Mayo Abbey	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from Mayo Abbey. > Located approximately 2.1km north-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). > Grid Reference: E: 526,425, N: 779,602 > No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	> LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low > Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	> Mayo Abbey Church and Ruins - High
Description of “Existing View”	This is a medium ranging view overlooking the Mayo Abbey cemetery in the foreground. Mayo Abbey can be seen in the far-right hand side of the view. Beyond the cemetery, the view comprises a rising hill characterised by agricultural fields delineated by hedgerows and mature trees. The visual setting is strongly influenced by existing residential buildings (as seen to the left-hand side of the view), and overhead lines within the view. Excepting the Mayo Abbey cemetery and Church Ruins, the overall character of the landscape is of a modified rural area. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All proposed turbines are partially visible beyond the ridge, occupying a relatively short horizontal extent relative to the landscape. Turbines T1, T2, and T7 are the most prominent, whilst the remaining turbines are largely screened from view due to their set-back distance and intervening vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents “High” sensitivity receptors on account of the cultural heritage receptor of Mayo Abbey.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small extent relative to the landscape.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = “Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	> The proposed turbines are not seen within the immediate visual context of the cemetery, and are viewed above and beyond the distant ridgeline.

Viewpoint 09 – Mayo Abbey	
	> This is a short-range view and is not a distinctive or protected view of any local, county, regional or national renown and is representative of typical Irish rural landscape. > The lower tower sections of the proposed turbines are screened from view by the intervening landform and mature vegetation, reducing their visual prominence in this view. > While there is an impact on the visual setting of the landscape from the proposed turbines, this visual setting is already characterised by existing residential development, agricultural land-use, as well as overhead lines and utility poles. > This viewpoint was taken during winter (February), when many of the mature trees are bare. During summer months, increased foliage would provide additional vegetative screening in the direction of the proposed turbines, further reducing their visibility from the cemetery. > This viewpoint was captured at one of the more elevated vantage points with clear views in the direction of the proposed turbines to show a worst-case scenario. Many locations from within Mayo Abbey itself have no visibility of the proposed turbines (e.g. PWVP-A in Chapter 13). Visual receptors visiting the Abbey will have no visibility of the proposed turbines in and around the abbey itself – which is the key focal point and sensitivity of the area. > Potential visual impacts on the setting of the monastic site are considered reversible, given the proposed turbines are Long-Term in nature and have a defined operational lifespan of 30 years (see Operational Effects, Section 13.7).
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.3.10

VP10: Caherwiclaun

Viewpoint 10 – Caherwiclaun	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the L5653 Local Road in the townland of Caherwiclaun. > Located approximately 16.9km south from the nearest proposed turbine (T5). > Grid Reference: E: 526,966, N: 761,022 > No. of turbines visible: 4/7
LCU and Sensitivity	> LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low > Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	> Killeman Loop Trail – Medium
Description of “Existing View”	This medium-range view looks out from a small local road onto open pastoral, relatively flat fields with low stone and brick walls. Tracts of mature trees can be seen dispersed throughout the view. Agricultural buildings and dwellings can be seen dispersed throughout the view.

Viewpoint 10 – Caherwiclau	
	No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	4 no. proposed turbines are visible in the distant background, beyond the mature vegetation along the horizon, occupying a narrow horizontal extent of the view. Turbine T5 is visible to its full extent, whilst turbines T7, T1, and T4 are largely screened by intervening vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea, and Mace Upper windfarms are theoretically visible from this location as shown in the wireline view. However, in reality, they are not visible to the naked eye due to distance and visual screening from the intervening vegetation. As such, these existing windfarms have no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents “Medium” sensitivity due to recreational receptors along the Killernan Loop Trail.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at great distance from the viewpoint and are partially visible, comprising a very small portion of the overall view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = “Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the mature vegetation along the horizon, seen in the distant background of views, largely screened by intervening vegetation. ➤ The proposed turbines are seen within a rural working landscape with no views of county, regional or national renown.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.3.11

VP11: Carrowkeel

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowkeel	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the L5766 Local Road in the townland of Carrowkeel. ➤ View from the Crucspullagadaun Loop Trail. ➤ Located approximately 10km north-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 524,056, N: 787,906 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	➤ LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low ➤ Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowkeel	
	> Vulnerable Feature
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	> Crucspullagadaun Loop Trail – Medium.
Description of “Existing View”	This is a long-ranging view overlooking the expansive, gently undulating landscape, which is primarily comprised of agricultural fields delineated by trees and shrub vegetation. Tracts of commercial forestry can also be seen within the view. Four existing wind farms – Magheramore, Mace Upper, Cloontoa, and Ballykinava – are visible beyond the distant horizon and are essentially imperceptible in the landscape.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible in the distant background, arranged in a staggered, coherent, linear array, occupying a limited horizontal extent within the view. The existing Ballykinava Wind Farm is visible in the photomontage to the far left-hand side of the proposed turbines.
Cumulative Effects	. In combination simultaneous cumulative visual effects will occur with the existing Ballykinava, Cloontoa, Mace Upper, and Magheramore wind farms. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing wind energy developments. From this viewpoint, the landscape is capable to effectively absorbing the proposed turbines and all other cumulative turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents ‘High’ sensitivity receptors on account of the elevated vantage point over a long-ranging view from an LACM designated Vulnerable Feature.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale relative to the landscape and comprise a relatively small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = “Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	> The proposed turbines are effectively absorbed in the expansive, flat landscape view, where they occupy a very small horizontal extent of the panoramic views from this location. > The proposed turbines appear in a linear, coherent layout with minimal visual overlap from this viewpoint, corresponding to the underlying field pattern, in line with best practice for the ‘Hilly and Flat Farmland’ landscape character type from wind energy guidelines for siting and design of wind farms (the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)). > The proposed turbines occupy a very small portion of the expansive, open, and flat panoramic landscape, which has the capacity to

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowkeel	
	effectively accommodate both the proposed turbines and other cumulative wind energy developments within this lowland midland setting. ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct any landscape features or significantly impact the quality or sensitivities of this long-ranging panoramic view.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.12

VP12: Lough Mask

Viewpoint 12 – Lough Mask	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the R300 Regional Road in the townland of Shanvallyard. - View from Co. Mayo Scenic Route 2. - Located approximately 18.9km south-east from the nearest proposed turbine (T1) - Grid Reference: E: 511,092, N: 770,018 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – Lakeland Drumlins - Medium - Policy Area 3A – Lakeland Sub-policy Area – Medium.
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- LACM Scenic Route and Scenic Views 2 –High. - In close proximity of OSi Viewing point – Very High
Description of “Existing View”	This is a long-ranging, expansive view over Lough Mask. The eastern shore (beyond Lough Mask) is visible along the horizon and is relatively flat, stretching the full length of the view. There is a small hill rise in the distant right-hand side of view. Low, mature shoreline vegetation with a few taller trees is visible in the foreground of the view. No existing wind farms are visible from this viewpoint.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are seen as small features relative to the landscape, occupying a very narrow horizontal extent in the distant background of the view. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view.
Cumulative Effects	The existing Cuillalea, Mace Upper, Magheramore, Cloontooa, and Ballykinava wind farms are theoretically visible from this location as shown in the wireline view. However, in reality, they are not visible to the naked eye due to distance and visual screening from the intervening vegetation. As such, these existing windfarms have no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High - This viewpoint represents ‘High’ sensitivity receptors on account of the high scenic value of the designated route and close proximity to the Tailte Eireann viewing point.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at great distance from the viewpoint and partially visible, comprising a very small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	This is not the only view of the lake, as there are numerous locations from which the lake can be seen without any turbines in view. From this viewpoint, the proposed turbines occupy a relatively small horizontal extent and are well absorbed within the many wide-angle

Viewpoint 12 – Lough Mask	
	views available across the lake. As such, the proposed turbines only form a very minor component within a single view of the wider lake setting. ➤ Given the setback distance from this viewpoint, the proposed turbines, while visible, do not affect the sensitivity of the view derived from the lakes amenity value nor the character of its surrounding environment. ➤ The proposed turbines are set-back well beyond the shoreline, seen in the distant background of views, and are not seen against the backdrop of any scenic landscape view. ➤ The proposed turbines are visually screened by vegetation and are not visible from the car park where people would stop to appreciate and enjoy the view. ➤ Most receptors travelling on the scenic route are likely to have less visual impact than what is shown in the viewpoint owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain. Visual effects on the designated receptor will not be significant.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.13

VP13: Claremorris

Viewpoint 13 – Claremorris	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the N60 National Road in the townland of Claremount, exiting Claremorris. ➤ Located approximately 4.7km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T5). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 533,613, N: 776,138. ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	➤ LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low ➤ Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	➤ Residential Receptors >3km – Medium ➤ Claremorris Town - Medium
Description of “Existing View”	This is a medium-ranging view from the N60 overlooking rolling agricultural fields of pasture bounded by stone walls, hedgerows, and mature vegetation. There are tracts of commercial forestry beyond the more immediate agricultural field. In the far distance, mountains form the backdrop of the view. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible, occupying a short horizontal extent, with an even height profile. The proposed turbines are set back beyond the tracts of commercial forestry. Visual overlap occurs within turbines T6 and T7. The proposed met mast is seen as a slender vertical lattice structure in between turbines T2 and T4.

Viewpoint 13 – Claremorris	
	No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents ‘Medium’ sensitivity receptors as an average of the Tier 1 settlement and the National Road.
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint, are small scale relative to the landscape, and comprise a relatively small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ This view is of a 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 renown. ➤ The proposed turbines appear visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond the ridgeline and treelines, giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint. ➤ The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. ➤ Visibility from Claremorris town will be much more limited due visual screening from the built environment and intervening vegetation.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.14

VP14: Clogher Beg

Viewpoint 14 – Clogher Beg	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the L5537 Local Road in the townland Clogher Beg. - Located approximately 1.4km south-east from the nearest proposed turbine (T5). - Grid Reference: E: 529,938, N: 776,557 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- Residential receptors <2km – High. - Local road users – Low.
Description of “Existing View”	This is a medium- to long-ranging view from a local road overlooking hilly agricultural fields with rural housing and agricultural buildings scattered throughout. Some low hedgerows and treelines delineate the fields. Cuillalea Hill is seen in the distant background of the view to the right. The blades of the existing Cuillalea Wind Farm are just about discernible in the distant background, beyond Cuillalea Hill.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 of the proposed turbines are seen in the centre mid-ground of this view, set-back beyond multiple agricultural fields, occupying a relatively moderate horizontal extent. Turbine T3 appears slightly separated from the other proposed turbines. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T3 and T7, as well as T5 and T6.
Cumulative Effects	Given the set-back and separation distance, and very limited visibility of the existing Cuillalea mountain, the existing Cuillalea Wind Farm has no potential to cause cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents ‘High’ sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Wind Farm with views in the direction of the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – The proposed turbines are seen of a moderate scale relative to the landscape comprising a moderate horizontal extent of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = “Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	- Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). - The baseline view is a typical, degraded rural working landscape. It is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is

Viewpoint 14 – Clogher Beg	
	therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity. ➤ 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. ➤ The field structure and hedgerows seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond distant fields and treelines. ➤ The baseline view is generally unremarkable and is typical of many other views of agricultural fields within the surrounding area. ➤ All proposed turbines are in Co. Mayo land area designated as “Low” landscape sensitivity in the LACM, the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in County Mayo. ➤ The proposed turbines are located in the Policy Area most favourable to wind development according to the LACM.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

1.3.15

VP15: Birchfield

Viewpoint 15 – Birchfield	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the N60 National Road in the townland of Birchfield. Located approximately 2.5km north-east from the nearest proposed turbine (T4). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 531,420, N: 779,290 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	➤ LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low ➤ Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	➤ Residential receptors <3km – High. ➤ Commuters on National Road – Low/Medium
Description of “Existing View”	This is a short-range view overlooking an agricultural field on a gently rising hill. Low, scrubby mature vegetation enclose the field. A commercial forestry tract lines the centre ridgeline. Mountains are visible in the distant background, beyond the immediate rise in topography. The character of the view is rural and agricultural. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible, across a relatively short horizontal extent in the centre background, beyond the intervening tract of commercial forestry which partially screens the proposed turbines.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.

Viewpoint 15 – Birchfield	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents ‘High’ sensitivity visual receptors due residents within 3km of the proposed turbines.
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 screened by intervening vegetation.
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = “Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The upward-sloping agricultural field and roadside shrub vegetation provide further screening of the lower sections of the turbines, creating a sense that the turbines are visually set back from the viewpoint. This reduces the overall visual prominence of the proposed turbines for residential receptors in this direction. ➤ Commuters on the national road would be travelling at approx. 100km/hr and would have only fleeting, intermittent views. ➤ All turbine components are viewed above and beyond the ridgeline and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of local, county, regional or national sensitivity from this 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. ➤ Many residential properties in this area have mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, further reducing visibility of the proposed turbines and visual amenity on the houses in this general area to the east of the proposed turbines.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.16

VP16: Ballyhowly

Viewpoint 16 – Ballyhowly	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the N17 National Road in the townland of Ballyhowly, exiting Knock. ➤ Located approximately 10km east from the nearest proposed turbine (T4). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 538,207, N: 782,403 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7

Viewpoint 16 – Ballyhowly	
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Commuters on the National Road exiting Knock – Low/Medium.
Description of “Existing View”	This view is of a long-ranging view from the N17 National Road overlooking agricultural fields. Tracts of mature vegetation, residential dwellings and buildings are seen scattered throughout the view. Undulating mountainous topography can be seen along the horizon, forming the backdrop of the view. Croagh Patrick can also be seen as a distant feature to the right-hand side of the view. The existing Mace Upper Wind Farm is visible from this viewpoint, with 3 no. turbines all clearly visible in the centre-left of the view as tall, vertical structures.
Proposed Photomontage Description	The blades of all of the 7 no. proposed turbines are visible in the distant background, occupying a narrow horizontal extent, largely set back from the viewpoint and visually screened by intervening vegetation and urban fabric. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T3, T4, and T1, as well as turbines T2 and T6.
Cumulative Effects	In combination simultaneous cumulative visual effects occur where the proposed turbines are seen in combination with the existing Mace Upper Wind Farm. Due to the difference in distance, the turbines are clearly separate developments and they comprise a very small portion of the overall view from this vantage point. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents ‘Medium’ sensitivity receptors on account of receptors travelling on the national road exiting Knock.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen as small features relative to the landscape and are partially visible, comprising a very small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Negligible = Minor = “Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	- The proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the viewpoint and are substantially screened by intervening vegetation. - Due to vehicles travelling approx. 80km/hr on this regional road, any views towards the turbines will be intermittent and momentary. - The proposed turbines are not visible in Knock.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Not Significant” (EPA, 2022)

Viewpoint 16 – Ballyhowly	
	<i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

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1.3.17

VP17: Ballymacloughlin

Viewpoint 17 – Ballymacloughlin	
Viewpoint Description and Details	- View from the R324 Regional Road, in the townland of Ballymacloughlin. - Located approximately 6.8km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). - Grid Reference: E: 526,212, N: 785,102 - No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – East-Central Drumlin Spine - Low - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	- Tier 3 town of Balla – Medium. - Commuters on Regional Road >5km – Low.
Description of “Existing View”	This is a medium-ranging view from a junction on the R324 overlooking rolling green pastoral fields bordered by hedgerows, trees, and stone walls. A few residential dwellings can be seen dispersed throughout the view. The view has a rural character. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 of the proposed turbines are seen in the distant background, arranged in a linear array, occupying a short horizontal extent beyond the distant ridgeline. The proposed turbines are partially screened by the rolling topography and boundary vegetation in the intervening landscape. Some visual stacking occurs between T2 and T7. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents ‘Medium’ sensitivity receptors on account of the Tier 3 town
Magnitude of Change	Slight – The proposed turbines are set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale relative to the landscape and partially visible, comprising a relatively small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = “Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	The field structure and hedgerows seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond distant fields and treelines.

Viewpoint 17 – Ballymaccloughlin	
	> The lower sections of the turbine towers are partially screened by intervening topography within the landscape, reducing their visual prominence. > All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Slight” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.18

VP18: Drumady

Viewpoint 18 – Drumady	
Viewpoint Description and Details	> View from the L5537 Local Road in the townland of Drumady. > Located approximately 660m east from the nearest proposed turbine (T5). > Grid Reference: E: 529,839, N: 777,819 > No. of turbines visible: 7/7
LCU and Sensitivity	> LCU – South-East Mayo Plains - Low > Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	> Residential receptors within 1km – High. > Local road users – Low.
Description of “Existing View”	This is a short-ranging view overlooking a rolling green pastoral field with a rural character enclosed by hedgerows and treelines. The terrain gradually ascends towards a low hill. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible beyond the ridgeline. Turbine T5 appears as a tall, prominent feature within the view, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled features, visually set-back from this viewpoint. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T4, T7, and T6. The proposed met mast is visible as a thin, short lattice structure between T2 and T4.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High – This viewpoint represents ‘High’ sensitivity receptors on account of the residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – The proposed turbines are seen of a large scale comprising a wide horizontal extent of views.

Viewpoint 18 – Drumady	
Significance of Visual Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = “Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	➤ Considering the nearby residences, the siting of the proposed turbines exceeds the minimum 500m set-back distance in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The proposed turbines are set-back beyond the ridge of the hilly terrain, with some of the proposed turbines partially visually screened by terrain and vegetation. ➤ 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. ➤ The baseline view is a typical rural working landscape, and is therefore already subjected to a degree of human modification. 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. ➤ Most receptors are likely to experience less visual impact than what is shown in the image owing to intermittent visual screening by roadside vegetation and localised undulations in the hilly terrain. ➤ As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 13, this viewpoint was captured along one of the few locations in this area to the east of the site with open visibility towards the proposed turbines. Other sections of the road are primarily characterised as having dense roadside screening from mature vegetation, limiting visibility towards the proposed turbines ➤ The visual effects shown in this photomontage represent the worst-case scenario and will only be experienced by a low number of localised receptors; most receptors are likely to have a lesser degree of visual impact than what is shown in the viewpoint owing to intermittent or dense visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in the hilly terrain.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Moderate” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

1.3.19

VP19: Doonnamona

Viewpoint 19 – Doonnamona	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from the L1706 Local Road in the townland of Doonnamona, along the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail. ➤ Located approximately 8.5km north-west from the nearest proposed turbine (T7). ➤ Grid Reference: E: 520,256, N: 781,286 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 2/7

Viewpoint 19 – Doonnamona	
LCU and Sensitivity	- LCU – Lakeland Drumlins - Medium - Policy Area 4 – Drumlins and Inland Lowlands – Medium (lowest classification in LACM).
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail – High/Medium.
Description of “Existing View”	This image is of a medium-range view from a local road, overlooking sheep pasture and an elongated hill along the ridgeline. Low stone walls and scrubby vegetation line the road and the agricultural fields, with occasional mature trees. The ruins of Doonnamona Castle can be seen in the foreground of the view. A few dwellings can be seen to the left of the view and along the right of ridgeline, and a local pub can be seen to the right of the view. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	Singular blades of 2 no. proposed turbine are just about discernible beyond the elongated ridgeline and the mature boundary vegetation. All other turbines are screened from view with. No permitted wind farms are visible in the view.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium – This viewpoint represents ‘Medium’ sensitivity receptors on account of the walkers on the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen as very small features relative to the landscape and are either largely or fully screened from view, comprising a very small portion of the view.
Significance of Visual Effect	Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = “Not Significant” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	- Only the blades of 2 no. proposed turbines are just about discernible, at great distance beyond the ridgeline and intervening treeline, rendering it difficult to see. - Vegetation is well-established in this area of the landscape and in other areas along the walking trail near this viewpoint, causing high levels of visual screening towards the proposed turbines from other locations along the road, particularly from lower-lying lands of the Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail. - From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are not obstructing or intruding upon any scenic views of county, regional or national renown.
Residual Significance of Visual Effect	“Imperceptible” (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i>