

Viewpoint 1 - Sylau

Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Sylau. 17.9 kilometres east of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 132148 N 232654 No. of turbines visible: 16/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 5 – Northeast Galway (Moderate sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Low
Existing View	The view shows an open, generally flat expansive landscape with open views. Lough Corrib lies in between the viewpoint and the site but cannot be seen due to flat intervening topography. Fields and individual trees are visible in the foreground against a backdrop of the undulating hills that make up the East Connemara Mountains.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	Several wind farms are visible from this location, seen against the skyline, along the hilltops in the distance. They are already an element of the landscape, but due to the distance from the viewing location they are not a very obvious feature. The difference between the landscape in the foreground and the hills in the distance is clear, and the turbines appear as a distant element of the upland landscape. The photomontage also shows the proposed Ardderroo turbines, of which 16 are visible. The turbines appear against the skyline, and some are partially screened by the ridge. Many of the Ardderroo turbines appear against a backdrop of permitted and existing wind turbines and therefore are not a new element in this landscape.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Low - These include viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.		
Significance of Effect	Low x Slight = Minor / Negligible Minor / Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>The distance also reduces the visual impact, and the turbines are not visually dominant from this location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		

Viewpoint 2 - Luimnagh

Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the slipway in the townland of Luimnagh, on the eastern shore of Lough Corrib. 16.3 kilometres northeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 129601 N 241221 No. of turbines visible: 25/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 11 – Lough Corrib and environs (Moderate - High sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Lake users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows a primarily open landscape, in which Lough Corrib is a key feature. The vegetation to the right of the image restricts views, but to the left of the image, long distance views over the lake are available, and hills in the background, are visible. Wind turbines are seen in the background on these hills against the skyline, but appear as a distant element, not a dominant feature of this landscape nor one that detracts from the view of the lake.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative photomontage shows the proposed Ardderroo turbines appear to the centre of the image, and are partially screened by mature vegetation. The proposed turbines appear in the same field of view as the existing or permitted turbines also seen in the baseline view, and are not a new element in this landscape. The proposed turbines are visible in the very farm background, appearing quiet detached from Lough Corrib, although still within the same view.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>The distance also reduces the visual impact, and the turbines are not visually dominant from this location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.		

Viewpoint 3 - Carrowmoreknock

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Carrowmoreknock. 8.3 kilometres northeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 121258 N 240258 No. of turbines visible: 14/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 11 – Lough Corrib and environs (Moderate - High sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows an open landscape, and relatively flat topography in the foreground, with hills visible in the background. The landcover is composed of some grassland but mainly moorland. Vegetation is low and mainly found along the roadside, which, combined with the flat landscape, allows long ranging views to the hills. The existing view shows several wind farm developments (including Galway Wind Park) appearing along the skyline of these hills and are a visible but not dominant feature of the landscape.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The cumulative photomontage shows the existing operational turbines are visible against the skyline, along with the proposed Ardderroo turbines, a number of which appear against the skyline. 14 of the proposed 25 turbines are visible, and some are partially or fully screened by the topography. Wind turbines appear as an element in this landscape, and the proposed turbines will appear as an addition to the turbines already in the existing view.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>The distance also reduces the visual impact, and the turbines are not visually dominant from this location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a "Strategic Area" and partially within an area "Open For Consideration" in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site's Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		

Viewpoint 4 - Lemonfield

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the quay in the townland of Lemonfield, on the western shore of Lough Corrib. 8.1 kilometres north of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 113332 N 243981 No. of turbines visible: 5/25 (theoretical) 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 11 – Lough Corrib and environs (Moderate – High sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Lake users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows a view from the western shore of Lough Corrib, which is a landscape of unique sensitivity. The lake is the main element of the view. A dwelling with substantial vegetation in the foreground restricts views, while to the right of the image there are clear views of the hills in the background, On the skyline behind these hills, several existing wind turbines are visible, but these appear in the distance.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative photomontage shows the view with the proposed Ardderroo turbines included. While this location is included in the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map as an area where between 6 and 10 of the Ardderroo turbines are theoretically visible, there are no Ardderroo turbines visible due to the intervening screening vegetation. As shown by the wireframe image in the absence of any screening, only three of the Ardderroo would be partially visible.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor / Negligible Minor / Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect. The screening vegetation in the intervening landscape prevents any view of the proposed Ardderroo turbines. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.		
Residual Effect	Given that no proposed turbine will be visible from the vicinity of this viewpoint around the pier at Lemonfield, the assessment matrix-derived finding of “Not Significant” is considered too great, as there will be no noticeable changes in the character of the landscape/ environment. On this basis, and with the benefit of professional judgement, the residual effect is deemed to be “Imperceptible”.		

Viewpoint 5 - Dereenmeel

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road (and Western Way route) in the townland of Dereenmeel. 9.05 kilometres northwest of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E110817 N244759 No. of turbines visible: 4/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 11 – Lough Corrib and environs (Moderate – High sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users – Medium
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows a local landscape which is gently undulating, and is enclosed in parts. There is a variety of land cover types in this view, ranging from agricultural fields, and moorland/bog, with tracts of coniferous forestry in the foreground and middleground. In the background, a ridgeline of higher ground is visible against the skyline. Many of the existing Galway Wind Park turbines are visible from the general locality of the viewpoint on that ridgeline, although screened from view by the intervening vegetation from the actual viewpoint.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The cumulative photomontage shows that only four Ardderroo turbines only will be visible, and these occupy a limited spatial extent. Some are partially screened by the ridge. The Ardderroo turbines are visible in a small cluster to the left of the existing Uggool turbines. Existing Lettercraffroe and permitted Knockranny turbines are also visible.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>Only four of the proposed 25 turbines are visible from this general location. The distance also reduces the visual impact, and the turbines are not visually dominant from this location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		

Viewpoint 6 - Glengowla West

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the N59 Galway to Clifden National Secondary Route in the townland of Glengowla West. 7.75 kilometres northwest of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 108169 N 242194 No. of turbines visible: 3/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains (Low – Moderate sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Low Nearby residents – Low
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows a relatively open, expansive landscape. The topography is very gently undulating, while largely flat in the foreground and middle-ground, and higher ground to the right of the photomontage, falling off in height further to the left of the view. The landcover in the upland area is typical mountain moorland but with large areas of forestry also visible. Dwellings are visible to the right of the view, facing towards the N59 road and away from the site. Some of the Galway Wind Park turbines are visible as an element in the landscape to the far right of the image, but do not form a dominant element.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The cumulative photomontage and wireframe shows that just three Ardderroo turbines are visible, two with just the turbine blade tips peaking above the ridgelines and the third with the turbine hub visible. To the right, the existing turbines are visible but appearing in almost isolation, are not dominant in any way.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Low - These include viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Slight = Minor / Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>Only one of the proposed 25 turbines is really visible from this general location. The distance also reduces the visual impact, and the turbines are not visually dominant from this location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		

Viewpoint 7 - Clooshgheen

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Clooshgheen. 4.2 kilometres northwest of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 111443 N 239926 No. of turbines visible: 3/25 			
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity </td> <td> Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity </td> <td> Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Low (houses orientated towards Lough Corrib, in opposite direction to site) </td> </tr> </table>	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Low (houses orientated towards Lough Corrib, in opposite direction to site)
LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Low (houses orientated towards Lough Corrib, in opposite direction to site)		
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows an open, expansive landscape. The topography is undulating, with several areas of higher ground in the centre and right of the image. The landscape is composed of moorland in the foreground and in the background are some rocky outcrops. A relatively remote road bisects the view, which also includes individual isolated dwellings generally orientated to face away from the site and towards Lough Corrib. A number of turbines Galway Wind Park (Uggool and Seecon) turbines are visible from behind the ridge, and appear against the skyline.</p>			
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The cumulative photomontage shows that four Ardderroo turbines are partially visible, one just showing blade tips and three showing turbine hubs. These appear in the centre of the image, and are partially screened by the topography. Where they are visible, the turbines are visible within a “saddle” in the landscape, with higher ground flanking the view on both sides.</p>			
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>			
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>			
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>			
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>Only four of the proposed 25 turbines are visible from this general location. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>			
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>			

Viewpoint 8 - Gortrevagh

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the National Secondary Route N59 in the townland of Gortrevagh. 5.85 kilometres north of the nearest turbine Grid Reference: E 114132 N 241582 No. of turbines visible: 4/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Medium residents – Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows a partially enclosed, pastoral landscape along the N59. Some roadside vegetation and stone walls fields are seen in the foreground, as well as some dwellings. The ground rises in the background, where the hills of Knocknalee and Buffy, north of the study area, are visible. The view shows the existing Uggool, and Seecon turbines extending along the entire visible ridgeline to the right of the image, seen against the skyline. Wind turbines are now and established and recognisable element of this landscape.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	In addition to the existing turbines, the cumulative images shows that only four of the proposed Ardderroo turbines are visible, one to turbine hub level and three as blade tips only. These are largely screened by the higher ground of Buffy Hill, which reduces the visual impact. This view is considered representative of this section of the N59 south of Oughterard, and is one of the most open views in this area		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences .		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect. Only four of the proposed 25 turbines are partially visible from this general location. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences .		

Viewpoint 9 - Gortacarnaun

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	View from the local road in the townland of Gortacarnaun. 3.05 kilometres northeast of the nearest turbine Grid Reference: E 115619 N 238490 No. of turbines visible: 4/25		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains (Low – Moderate sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows an undulating and relatively enclosed landscape, with the ground sloping to the right of the image. The landcover includes agricultural field, vegetation and several dwellings in the foreground, while in the background, higher ground is visible, the hill being one of the main elements of the view.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative view shows that no turbines other than five of the Ardderroo turbines are visible in this view. These appear to the right of the image and are partly framed by the higher ground to the right. One turbine is clearly visible, while the hub of a second is also visible against the skyline. Only the blade tips of the other three are visible. The turbines were sited in order to minimise visual impact, as the higher ground still appears as a key feature in this landscape. There are no other wind turbines visible in this image, and consequently no cumulative impact from this view.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate – The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect. Only five of the proposed 25 turbines are partially visible from this general location. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.		
Residual Effect	Given that only 4-5 of the proposed 25 turbines will be partially visible, the assessment matrix-derived effect finding of “Significant” is considered too great because the effect is not considered to alter a sensitive aspect of the environment because of the character, magnitude, duration or intensity of the effect. On this basis, and with the benefit of professional judgement, the residual effect has been reduced to “Slight” as the effect does cause noticeable change but without affecting any sensitivities of the environment.		

Viewpoint 10 - Roscahill West

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the N59 (Galway to Clifden) National Secondary Route in the townland of Roscahill West. 4.05 kilometres northeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 116646, N 239009 No. of turbines visible: 1/25 			
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity</td> <td>Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium</td> </tr> </table>	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium			
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows a view from the N59 near the settlement of Roscahill. The view is of a partially enclosed landscape in the foreground, with dwellings and vegetation visible along the main road in the foreground. In the background, behind the trees, higher ground is visible in the centre of the image. Some existing wind turbines are visible on the skyline to the right of the image.</p>			
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The proposed development is partially visible to the centre of the view, framed by the higher ground on either side. While six turbines are theoretically visible on the wireframe, the coniferous forestry and other landcover hides most from view, so partial visibility of only three turbines is likely. The remaining 19 turbines are screened by the topography. The siting of the turbines in the dip between two areas of higher ground, and the limited extent of the development from this view reduce the visual impact, and the turbines do not appear as a dominant feature. This is considered the most open view from this section of the N59.</p>			
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>			
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>			
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>			
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>Only three of the proposed 25 turbines are clearly visible from this general location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>			
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>			

Viewpoint 11 - Ross Demesne

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the N59 National Secondary Road (Galway to Clifden) in the townland of Ross Demesne. 3.6 kilometres northeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 117089 N 237953 No. of turbines visible: 2/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	The view from along the N59 is relatively enclosed and gently undulating in the foreground, composed of agricultural fields, along the main road, with hedgerows containing some vegetation. The hills visible in the background are of an open nature and of a larger scale. A dwelling is visible to the right of the image. The existing view wireframe view does show some of the existing Galway Wind Park and permitted Knockranny turbines visible in the far distance, but these are entirely screened in the photographs.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative view shows that blade tips of three of the proposed Ardderroo turbines are visible, in the centre of the image, with no proposed turbine's hub being visible, due to screening by the local topography. When additional screening landcover are taken into consideration, the three sets of blade tips may not even be visible.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>Only three sets of blade tips of the proposed 25 turbines might possibly be visible from this general location.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site's Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		

Viewpoint 12 - Doon

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Doon. 2.35 kilometres east of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 116413 N 236631 No. of turbines visible: 1/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users – Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, undulating upland landscape which lies immediately to the east of the site. Landcover includes open heath, with rocky outcrops. There are no dwellings in this view. The Doon Road is the access route to the Galway Wind Park and to the location of the proposed development. Existing 110kV overhead power lines and polesets are visible against the skyline.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative photomontage shows one proposed Ardderroo turbine and the permitted Knockranny turbines. The intervening hills provide considerable screening to the study area from this viewpoint. The turbine towers are entirely hidden behind the topography, resulting in the blades of one turbine only appearing to break the skyline in the view. The permitted Knockranny turbines appear in a distinct cluster to the left of the image, but the Ardderroo turbines will not contribute to a noticeable cumulative impact.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect. Only one set of blade tips of the proposed 25 turbines might possibly be visible from this general location. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		

Viewpoint 13 - Knockbane

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the National Secondary Route N59 in the townland of Knockbane. 4.7 kilometres east of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 118993 N 235246 No. of turbines visible: 9/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users - Medium Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	The existing view from the N59 looking west shows a gently undulating agricultural landscape in the foreground, the topography and vegetation and scattered buildings providing some sense of enclosure and restricting views. In the background, to the left of the image, higher ground is visible.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative photomontage wireframe shows ten of the proposed Ardderroo turbines are partially visible. The proposed Ardderroo turbines are almost entirely hidden by the topography and the buildings and vegetation, and are difficult to identify in this view. The permitted Knockranny wind farm’s turbines form a much more visible and distinctive cluster visible to the left of the view. The proposed Ardderroo turbines do little to detract from the cumulative view.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect. Only one turbine hub and blade set of the proposed 25 turbines might possibly be visible from this general location. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		

Viewpoint 14 - Oghery

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Oghery. 3.3 kilometres east of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 117595 N 234334 No. of turbines visible: 6/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains (Low – Moderate sensitivity)	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents - Medium
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows an undulating landscape, limited by the ridgelines forms be the hilltops in the background of the view. The view, taken from a local road, takes in roadside vegetation and an area of lower ground which lies in the centre and foreground of the image. Land cover includes a considerable amount of trees on the boundaries of small agricultural fields. In the far distance, higher ground covered by a coniferous plantation is visible. Some of the existing Galway Wind Park turbines appear behind the ridge.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The cumulative photomontage shows six of the proposed Ardderroo turbines visible in a cluster sitting atop the ridgeline in the far background. The Ardderroo turbines visible appear to the rear of and distinctly different in scale to the permitted Knockranny turbines, which occupy the left of the image in much closer proximity to the viewpoint. The proposed Ardderroo turbines, although six are partially visible, do not appear dominant due to the distance and the siting between the hills.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Moderate – The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Moderate = Moderate Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>Only six turbines of the proposed 25 turbines might be partially be visible from this general location. The permitted Knockranny wind farm is significant more dominant in the view.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Given that only a maximum of six of the proposed 25 turbines will be visible from this location, the assessment matrix-derived effect finding of “Significant” is considered too great because the effect is not considered to alter a sensitive aspect of the environment because of the character, magnitude, duration or intensity of the effect. On this basis, and with the benefit of professional judgement, the residual effect has been reduced to “Moderate” because even ignoring the permitted Knockranny project, the effect on the character of the environment is of a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>		

Viewpoint 15 - Slieveaneena

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Slieveaneena. 2.15 kilometres to the southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 114548 N 231253 No. of turbines visible: 25/25 			
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity</td> <td>Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity</td> <td>Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium</td> </tr> </table>	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium
LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium		
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, large scale, gently undulating landscape. Moorland is visible in the foreground and middleground, with some rock outcrops, while in the background several hills and large tracts of forested land are visible. Wind turbines appear as a key element of this landscape, visible against the skyline along the hilltops in much of this view. The turbines appear to be in two main clusters from this view. Some dwellings in the near-middleground are the only evidence of settlement in the view.			
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	All of the proposed Ardderroo turbines will be clearly visible from this viewpoint. A number of the turbines closest to the viewpoint appear large, due to their proximity to the viewing location causing the turbine hubs and blades to be viewed above the hilltop ridgeline in the far background of the view. The addition of the Ardderroo turbines to the existing/permitted turbines, results in a turbine-dominated landscape. While not preventing or blocking the view of the landscape, the cumulative view of all turbines dramatically alters what would have been view without any wind turbine. However, there are 80 existing or permitted turbines already within the view, which has been highly modified as a result.			
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.			
Magnitude of Change	Substantial – Where the proposal would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline though removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the proposed development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer. This change could be long term or of a long duration.			
Significance of Effect	Medium x Substantial = Major/Moderate Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.			
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>There is no through-traffic using the route on which the viewpoint is located, and the view is largely limited to the occupants of the houses making up the settlement seen in the view and adjoining landowners.</p> <p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development. The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p> <p>(Viewpoint assessment continued on next page)</p>			

Residual Effect

The assessment matrix-derived effect finding of “Very Significant” is considered too great because although all 25 proposed turbines are visible, given that the existing Galway Wind Park and permitted Knockranny wind farm already form part of this view, the proposed development is not considered to give rise to an effect which alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment. Most of the sensitive aspect of the environment has already been altered as a result of the existing/permitted projects, as would have been intended and deemed to be acceptable in accordance with the provisions and policies of the Galway Wind Energy Strategy. The Slí Chonamara is currently not open and advertised to recreational users (receptors) as a walking route and that there are only six occupied properties that will have a similar view, very much limiting the number of receptors at this viewpoint. On this basis, and with the benefit of professional judgement, the residual effect has been reduced from Very Significant to **“Significant”** as the proposed turbines coming closer to the viewpoint and residential properties are still deemed to alter a sensitive aspect of the environment, albeit on a more limited basis than the definition of “very significant”.

Viewpoint 16- Keeagh

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local Moycullen – Spiddal road in the townland of Keeagh. 5.85 kilometres southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 102861 N 231253 No. of turbines visible: 8/25 			
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity</td> <td>Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity</td> <td>Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium</td> </tr> </table>	LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium
LCA 10 – East Connemara Mountains Low – Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium Recreational users - Medium		
Existing View	The existing view shows a gently undulating and hilly landscape, which is relatively enclosed by topography and with vegetation framing the view to the distance. The centre of the image shows the land cover to be a mixture of open grassland, scrub and moorland, with some scattered dwellings. The hilltops of land of higher topography rises gently in the far background, in the view behind the house. Some of the existing Galway Wind Park turbines appear behind the dwelling.			
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	This cumulative images shows a stacked cluster of three separate wind farms, which actually read as a single project in the view. The spatial separation between the proposed Ardderroo, permitted Knockranny and existing Galway Wind Park, is not apparent from the cumulative view from this viewpoint. Six proposed Ardderroo turbines are visible in a cluster, appearing interspersed between the permitted Knockranny turbines. Given their relative distances, the Knockranny turbines appear larger and the Galway Wind Park turbines appear smaller than the proposed Ardderroo turbines.			
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.			
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.			
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.			
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	All proposed Ardderroo turbines appear within the confines of the other existing or permitted turbines in the view. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development. The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.			
Residual Effect	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.			

Viewpoint 17 - Lettermas

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	View from the local road in the townland of Lettermas. 3.2 kilometres southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 112903 N 228876 No. of turbines visible: 23/25		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 12 – South Foothills of East Connemara Moderate – High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, large scale expansive landscape. The landcover in the foreground is composed of moorland, with some vegetation and isolated dwellings visible in the middleground. The landscape is gently undulating, and higher ground lies in the background, and tracts of coniferous forestry are visible in the background to the left of the image. Wind turbines are an element of this landscape, the Galway Wind Park turbines visible behind the dwellings extending over a large part of the view.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The proposed Ardderroo turbines are all theoretically visible from this location, although some are partially screened by trees which surround the closest dwelling. The Ardderroo turbines appear against a backdrop of existing and permitted turbines to the left and centre of the image, and form a cluster to the right of the image. The permitted Knockranny turbines frame out the right side of the view.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Substantial – Where the proposal would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline though removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the proposed development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer. This change could be long term or of a long duration.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Substantial = Major/Moderate Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	There is no through-traffic using the route on which the viewpoint is located, and the view is largely limited to the occupants of the houses seen in the view and adjoining landowners. The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development. The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.		
Residual Effect	The assessment matrix-derived effect finding of “Very Significant” is considered too great because although all 25 proposed turbines are visible, given that the existing Galway Wind Park and permitted Knockranny wind farm already form part of this view, the proposed development is not considered to give rise to an effect which alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment. Most of the sensitive aspect of the environment has already been altered as a result of the		

existing/permitted projects, as would have been intended and deemed to be acceptable in accordance with the provisions and policies of the Galway Wind Energy Strategy. The four occupied properties that will have a similar view are the only receptors of this viewpoint. On this basis, and with the benefit of professional judgement, the residual effect has been reduced from Very Significant to **“Significant”** as the proposed turbines coming closer to the viewpoint and residential properties are still deemed to alter a sensitive aspect of the environment, albeit on a more limited basis than the definition of “very significant”.

Viewpoint 18- Knock

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Knock, on the Spiddal to Moycullen road. 6.85 kilometres southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 115645N 226323 No. of turbines visible: 24/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 12 – South Foothills of East Connemara - Moderate – High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows an open, expansive large-scale landscape, relatively flat or gently sloping. Landcover includes a broad expanse of peatland and some trees in the foreground with a conifer plantation to the right of the image. Key elements include the existing Letterpeak wind turbines in the foreground. In the background, wind turbines are seen against a backdrop of hills in the distance. A second cluster of turbines in Knockalough is visible in the foreground to the right of the image. Wind turbines are a key element of the landscape character, visible to the left of the image in the foreground, as well as in the far distance.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The addition of the proposed Ardderroo turbines to the cumulative views shows them appearing in the background of the image. The much closer Letterpeak and Knockalough wind farms remain the dominant focus in the view. The cumulative wireframes show the Ardderroo turbines interspersed amongst the much greater number of Galway Wind Park turbines. The majority of those Ardderroo turbines are just barely visible to turbine hub height, above the intervening screening topography.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered, but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		

Viewpoint 19 - Forramoyle West

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road in the townland of Forramoyle West. 11.65 kilometres southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 121483 N 224347 No. of turbines visible: 7/25 		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 9 – Inveran to Galway City Coastline - High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Nearby residents – Medium
Existing View	<p>The existing view shows an open, large scale, expansive landscape. The topography is generally flat with some rock outcrops, allowing long views. The landcover includes scrub and moorland, as well as scattered dwellings in the locality. A number of wind turbines appear in this view, including Uggool and Lettercraffroe and Shannagurraun wind farms, and are an element of the landscape, visible against the skyline to the right and centre of the image.</p>		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	<p>The addition of the Ardderroo turbines make little or no difference to the cumulative view. At most, blade tips of the Ardderroo turbines might extend over the intervening topography, but the additional land cover visible in the images is likely to even screen these from view. The existing Knockalough and Lettergunnet are visible in the intervening landscape, beyond which the Ardderroo site is found. In the same line of sight, only the highest Galway Wind Park turbines appear on the skyline where they might come into view.</p>		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	<p>Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p>		
Residual Effect	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		

Viewpoint 20 - Cartronlahan

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the local road (off the R336) in the townland of Cartronlahan. 11.66 km southeast of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 103495 N 222521 No. of turbines visible: 0/25 	
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 9 – Inveran to Galway City Coastline High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity Nearby residents – Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, large scale, expansive, rugged landscape. The land cover is composed of moorland with frequent rock outcrops. There are some turbines (which are visible only as blade tips) in the background, in the centre of the image but these are almost imperceptible from this view, the majority of the turbines being hidden by the intervening topography.	
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative view shows the proposed Ardderroo turbines appearing to the left of the image, the tips of which are just visible above the intervening landform. Although turbine blade tips from a number of the existing wind farms are shown as visible on the cumulative wireframe image, as blade marginally sweeping over the skyline, and at distances of over 10 kilometres to the majority of turbines, they will make little or no appreciable difference to the landscape from this viewpoint.	
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.	
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.	
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.	
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development. The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.	
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.	

Viewpoint 21- Glenicmurrin

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Glenicmurrin. 7.87 kilometres southwest of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 102748, N 230701 No. of turbines visible: 16/26 			
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>LCA 16 – West Foothills of East Connemara High sensitivity</td> <td>Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity</td> <td>Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Medium</td> </tr> </table>	LCA 16 – West Foothills of East Connemara High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Medium
LCA 16 – West Foothills of East Connemara High sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Medium		
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, large scale upland landscape. Moorland is visible in the foreground and middleground, and the Sheannapheasteen road lies to the left. In the background, higher ground is evident to the centre and left of the image. The topography is gently undulating, and a small lake is found in the centre of the view. The existing view shows a number of wind turbines visible against the skyline. The existing Galway Wind Park turbines are the dominant turbines in the view, being the closest to the viewpoint.			
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The cumulative view shows the proposed development, with 15 of the proposed 25 turbines partially visible over the horizon. Of the proposed turbines visible, only four are visible to the turbine hub, with blade tips only visible in the remainder. The addition of the proposed turbines to this view makes minimal difference to the landscape as seen from this viewpoint.			
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.			
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.			
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.			
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	<p>The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development.</p> <p>The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.</p>			
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.			

Viewpoint 22- Clynagh

Viewpoint Description & Distance to Nearest Turbine	View from the Regional Road R343 in the townland of Clynagh (near Casla) 15.1 kilometres southwest of the nearest turbine. Grid Reference: E 95993 N 227599 No. of turbines visible: 3/25		
LCA & Sensitivity to Wind Farms	LCA 17 – Carraroe Moderate sensitivity	Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Nearby residents – Medium
Existing View	The existing view shows an open, undulating and slightly rugged landscape, which is relatively complex in terms of landscape elements. Grass, scrub and rocky outcrops are evident in the foreground, and the settlement of Casla is evident in the foreground, with the coastline visible in the right of the image. In the background, distant hills are evident, giving the view a scenic quality. Other elements which are noticeable include the telecommunications tower, wooden poles carrying electricity/phone lines. Some of the existing Galway Wind Park turbines appear in the background to the left of the image, but due to the distance are not perceived as a key element of the landscape.		
Cumulative View Description (including Ardderroo)	The proposed development appears as just three turbines in the wireframe image, only whose blade tips are visible. In reality, these blade tips of the proposed turbines will be screened by the topography. The proposed development will not be noticeable from this distance, and will be imperceptible from this viewpoint.		
Visual Sensitivity of Receptor(s)	Medium - These include viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views that are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible – Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Measures & Mitigating Factors	The site is largely located in a “Strategic Area” and partially within an area “Open For Consideration” in the Galway Wind Energy Strategy, which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and deemed the site’s Landscape Character Area to have a Low-Moderate sensitivity to wind farm development. The siting and design was developed in accordance with the DoEHLG Guidelines (2006) for Mountain Moorland in terms of location, spatial extent, spacing, layout, height and cumulative effect.		
Residual Effect	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		