

Table *Error! No text of specified style in document.-1* Viewpoints

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
1	View from the N62 national road in the townland of Stonestown, approximately 2.17 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 207,683 N 217,765
2	View from the No. L-07009 local road in the townland of Stonestown, designated as County Offaly scenic view V12, approximately 1.27 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 209,529 N 218,300
3	View from Chapel Lane on the outskirts of Ferbane Town in the townland of Ballyclare, approximately 7.28 km north of the nearest turbine at Ballyclare. Designated as a scenic view V10.	E 209,889 N 224,339
4	View from the R357 regional road in the townland of Lea Beg, designated as County Offaly scenic view V16 and on Northern Scenic Amenity Route (R357 from Blueball to Shannonbridge), approximately 8.7 km north-east of the nearest turbine.	E 217,829 N 220,500
5	View from the R437 in the townland of Broughal, on the western edge of Lough Boora Parklands, approximately 4.5 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 214,590 N 216,796
6	View from the No. L-06034 local road in the townland of Kilgolan Upper, designated as County Offaly scenic view V17, approximately 10.0 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 220,753 N 212,875
7	View from the R421 regional road in the townland of Coolacree, on County Offaly Southern Scenic Amenity Route (R440 and R421 Birr to Kinitty and Ballard to Kinitty), approximately 13.57 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 223,504 N 209,335
8	View from the N52 national road in the townland of Glenamony Glebe, approximately 2.6 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 212,198 N 212,123
9	View from the L-04025 local road in the townland of Cumber Lower, designated as County Offaly scenic view V16, approximately 14.53 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 218,120 N 203,371
10	View from the N62 national road in the townland of Galros East, approximately 2.35 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 207,688 N 210,542
11 East	View from the N62 national road in the townland of Derrinlough, approximately 1.5 km west of the nearest turbine to the east.	E 208,152 N 214,386
11 West	View from the N62 national road in the townland of Derrinlough, approximately 0.96 km south-east of the nearest turbine to the north-west.	E 208,152 N 214,386
12	View from the R438 regional road in the townland of Glaster, approximately 5.03 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 202,080 N 210,133
13	View from the junction of Birr Road, Cluain Rynagh and the L7016 local road adjacent to the Banagher church of Ireland in the townland of Feeghs in Banagher Town, approximately 3.75 km west of the nearest turbine.	E 201,396 N 214,812

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
14	View from the R356 regional road in the townland of Gortaloughane, approximately 11.4 km west of the nearest turbine.	194,058 217,315
15	View from the L3010 local road in the townland of Coolfin, approximately 2.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 203,202 N 215,944
16	View from the R357 regional road in the townland of Lecarrow, approximately 10.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 199,848 N 224,017

1.1

Visual Effects: Mitigating Factors:

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA study area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the proposed development. The various locations where no visibility was observed are shown on Figure 12.8 for information purposes. It is therefore considered important to describe the nature of the proposed site and surrounds in order to provide context for this and avoid repetition in the viewpoint assessment tables below.

In general, flat midland wind farm sites and their surrounds tend to be capable of absorbing suitably designed wind farm projects of scale, due to some key reasons which are outlined below and will be evident in the photomontages:

1. The Flat Nature of the Site and its Surrounds

The level terrain results in an even overall height of all the wind turbines, this means that visual confusion caused by turbines at various heights does not arise. For Derrinlough, the visual receptors in the surrounding landscape are also at or slightly above the base level of the proposed turbines i.e. the turbines are not situated on elevated lands and so the potential for clear and open views of the project from receptors at lower elevations does not arise. This topographic feature of the Derrinlough site and surrounds mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects provided sufficient setback from receptors is designed into the project. It also means that separation distances between receptors and turbines becomes important as the turbines appear smaller in scale quickly when viewed in this planar view.

2. Presence of Mature Hedgerows, Mature Tree Lines and Commercial Forestry

The reduced potential for clear and open views and the associated potential domineering effects described in Point 1 above is subsequently compounded by the presence of mature hedgerows, mature tree lines and stands of commercial forestry which are a feature of this site and surrounds. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, obscuring large numbers of turbines (including the existing & permitted turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. The effect of this screening is amplified for turbines in flat landscapes in terms of impeding views of the turbines. The ZTV does not take into account this screening and hence ZTV mapping can only be considered accurate where no visibility is indicated. In areas where theoretical visibility

is indicated this is very often not borne out by actual visibility on the ground, in particular for sites of flat topography such as Derrinlough.

3. The Derrinlough Site's Wide Expanse

The Derrinlough lands are vast in scale. The traditional pattern of rural development comprising scattered one-off housing and ribbon development has not encroached onto the site. The majority of the turbines are therefore at significant distance from visual or residential receptors. The centre of the bogs are being developed for wind energy and larger turbines require greater separation distances from each other and so fewer turbines are being brought forward for consent and as part of the design. The effect of this is reduced spatial extent and cluttering of the view. For example, receptors to the south west of the Drinagh cluster (See Photomontage P23) will only ever perceive 4 to 5 No. turbines. The remaining turbines (including the existing and permitted) will not form part of their perception of the wind farm as these turbines are many kilometres away, at the same ground level as the receptor and are screened by multiple layers of vegetative screening.

Combined, these factors mean that significant visibility of the proposed Derrinlough turbines is limited at relatively short distances away from the project. This has meant that the majority of photomontages have been taken from within the 5km buffer area.

Viewpoint 1 – N62 (Stonestown)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N62 national road in the townland of Stonestown ➤ 2.17 km north-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 207,683, N 217,765 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 19/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>This image (2 No images presented in the Photomontage booklet to capture the cumulative project extents) is taken from the N62 heading south towards the site. In the ‘Do Nothing’ scenario, the Cloghan wind turbines are located in the middle ground, to the rear of a mature tree line and a residential dwelling on the left of the first image. The existing Meenwaun turbines are barely visible through vegetation on the right-hand side of the second image used for this location.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>From this location, the proposed Derrinlough turbines to the east (Drinagh cluster) are located to the rear of the permitted Cloghan turbines. The Derrinlough turbines are all within the existing spatial extent of these permitted turbines and as expected appear smaller and progressively more obscured by vegetation with distance. On the right-hand side of the road (second photomontage), the Clongawny cluster is partially visible (5-6 No turbines partially visible) and appears contiguous to the Meenwaun turbines. The view is open and expansive and the reduction in scale of the Derrinlough turbines with distance mitigates any potentially domineering or incongruous effects. The permitted Cloghan turbines will appear as the largest turbines with the Derrinlough and Meenwaun turbines appearing lower and more distant from this section of the route.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines increases the number of turbines visible, increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines somewhat and filling the gap between the Meenwaun and Cloghan turbines. The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads visually as one project in two clusters.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes 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>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>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines 		

Viewpoint 1 – N62 (Stonestown)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Screening obscures views of the project and distance over the flat landscape reduces the perceived scale. ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ Sparsely populated section of road and the residential properties are not orientated towards the proposed developments. ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 100 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 2 - Stonestown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the No. L-07009 local road in the townland of Stonestown ➤ Designated as County Offaly scenic view V12 ➤ Approximately 1.27 km north-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 209,529 N 218,300 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 20/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Designated View – High Local Traffic – Medium Residents - High
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>The image shows a hedgerow and agricultural lands in the foreground leading to the wide expansive commercial peatlands in the middle ground. The Slieve Bloom mountains are just visible in the distance to the left with the vast flat commercial peatland in the middle ground. The Slieve Bloom Mountains appear relatively shallow, as you are only seeing their foothills, and so the view remains vast and open.</p> <p>The permitted Cloghan turbines are prominent and appear as a relatively coherent cluster with a clear layout.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>2 No photomontages were used at this location to capture the extents of the projects. The proposed Derrinlough turbines are seen at a similarly prominent scale to the Cloghan turbines moving into the commercial peatland in the middle ground. 10 No of the Derrinlough turbines are clearly visible in the first photomontage and slightly separated from the Cloghan turbines. In the second photomontage the Derrinlough turbines will be significantly screened from view by the intervening mature treelines. The scale and layout of both projects (the visible element of both) is similar in terms of perspective and separation distance and reads in a coherent way in the open landscape. The views over the peatland and towards the Slieve Bloom Mountains, the focus of Co. Offaly designated view V10, is not obscured or obstructed by the developments, however, the turbines will be the most prominent feature in the view. The view within which the turbines are visible is not considered to have unique or sensitive aesthetic qualities due to the human intervention evident in the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the proposed Derrinlough turbines add to the spatial extent of turbines in the view of the ‘Do Nothing’ scenario. 10 No. turbines will be clearly visible adjacent the existing permitted turbines. A small number of other proposed Derrinlough turbines will be visible to the rear of the Cloghan turbines however their presence will be can be described as insignificant in the context of the immediate view in the middle ground.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed Derrinlough turbines can be accommodated at this location given the broad expansive nature of the peatland and the open view generally.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes</p>		

Viewpoint 2 - Stonestown	
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	High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open and expansive view of a location designated for wind turbines ➤ A proportion of proposed wind farm will be screened by intervening vegetation ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both projects (their visible elements), cumulatively reading as one coherent project of similar scale. ➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation in the CDP. The proposed layout does not obscure or obstruct the views over the Slieve Blooms or the Lough Boora Parklands.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 3- Ferbane, Ballyclare			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Chapel Lane on the outskirts of Ferbane Town in the townland of Ballyclare ➤ 7.28 km north of the nearest turbine ➤ Designated ➤ Grid Reference: E 209,889 N 224,339 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	North-western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View-High Residents – High Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>This image is taken from Chapel Lane, an elevated position relative to other areas of Ferbane. The ZTV for Ferbane and its surrounds shows that there will be no or only partial views of the proposed development in other parts of the village. This is due to the influence of individual hills, such as Cloghan Hill, which obstructs views of the site. The chosen viewpoint presents perhaps the most open view of the site from this general area and is also on a section of road designated as Co. Offaly protected view V10 in the CDP for views ‘southwards towards Slieve Bloom Mountains’. The Slieve Bloom Mountains are located to the left (barely visible in the 120-angle view), away from the proposed turbines.</p> <p>The image shows a wide and expansive view over agricultural pasture lands descending southwards towards a line of low-rise houses seen through trees located on a cul de sac local roadway and towards the N62 roadway. There are one-off low-rise houses located adjacent to this photo location.</p> <p>Cloghan Hill forms the backdrop to the houses at the lower elevation and it is behind this hill that the Cloghan turbines are located. They are partially screened by the hill. The existing Meenwaun turbines are located to the right of these, but are more distant and therefore perceived as smaller.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Derrinlough project introduces new turbines to the left and right of the Cloghan turbines. These turbines appear at a similar scale and layout type to the permitted turbines. The proposed turbines to the left appear in front of the existing Meenwaun turbines. Again, these are of similar scale and layout as the existing turbines although they are partially obscured.</p> <p>In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with all three projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no differences in layout, scale or design. While the turbines will be visible over a wider extent than in the ‘Do Nothing’ scenario, the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p> <p>The view towards the Slieve Bloom Mountains will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view.</p>		

Viewpoint 3- Ferbane, Ballyclare	
Cumulative Effects	Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines increases the number of turbines visible on the left-hand side of the image i.e. increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines and also filling the gap between Meenwaun and Cloghan. The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads as one project.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes 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 view which 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/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partial screening of the turbines by topography ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The nearest turbine is approximately 7 km from this location
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 4 - Lea Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R357 regional road in the townland of Lea Beg ➤ On the Offaly Way walking route ➤ 8.7 km north-east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 217,829, N 220,500 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 0/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Offaly Way-High Residents – High Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>The view is close to the Offaly Way walking route (as marked on OSI Mapping) and shows the R357 and low-rise, one-off housing along the roadway to the left of the image. The foreground comprises a flat agricultural pasture field with low rise housing and farm buildings in the middle ground. There are mature trees in the backdrop to the housing as well as vegetative screening in the immediate vicinity of the houses. The Lough Boora Parkland is located behind the housing.</p> <p>Vertical elements such as electricity poles and street lighting poles are scattered across the view. This open expansive view is a good representation of the predominant views created by the flatness of the wider landscape within the majority of the study area.</p> <p>The existing Leabeg turbines are located further along this roadway but are not perceptible in the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	There will be no change to the ‘Do Nothing’ scenario. The proposed development will not be visible due to the distance across such a flat landscape and the disproportionate effect of even low-rise screening to eliminate potential views.		
Cumulative Effects	No impact		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes 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 view which are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	No Change		
Significance of Effect	No effects		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The intervening distance over the flat landscape ➤ Screening, building and vegetative 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	No Effect		

Viewpoint 5 - Broughal			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R437 in the townland of Broughal, on the western edge of Lough Boora Parklands ➤ 4.5 km east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 214,590, N 216,796 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 18/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	The Birr Plains Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic-Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	The image shows a low hedgerow adjacent to the roadway in the foreground bounding a large agricultural field with groups of mature trees and hedgerows in the middle and background. The main areas of the Lough Boora Parklands are 2km to the rear of the photographer east of this location.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines from all three projects should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual receptor on flat terrain., meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. Furthermore, it is also a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as relatively low hedgerows and intermittent trees is illustrated. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent as there is significant local screening along the road. The spatial extent of the project is also not excessive given the wide expanse of the view.		
Cumulative Effects	The existing Meenwaun turbines are not visible from this location and most of the lower parts of the Cloghan turbines are screened adjacent the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The intermittent nature of any views along here will mean that the projects do not read as incongruously different to each other. Their scale and distribution means that they will appear as one project.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Low: Includes 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 = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type 		

Viewpoint 5 - Broughal	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coherent wind farm layout, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor which means the intervening distance (c 4.5 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and form field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the projects. ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel, hence the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</p> <p>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 6 - Kilgolan Upper			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View taken from L-06034 local road in the townland of Kilgolan Upper adjacent to designated County Offaly View and Prospect V17 ➤ 10.0 km east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 220,753, N 212,875 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	The Birr Plains Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High Scenic View – High Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>The view is just to the north of the stretch of road designated as protected view V17 in the CDP, looking across the lowlands to the north west. The designated view includes views over the lowlands to the north east including Lough Boora, albeit, the eastern part of these wetlands is out of view to the right. The view is from elevated ground overlooking the village of Kilcormac (c 2km to the north west) and the commercial peat extraction lands in the background. There is a large 110kv electricity pylon and associated electricity wires prominent in the view, towards the north-west. The existing Leabeg turbines are only just discernible, but the Meenwaun turbines are not visible, possibly due to weather conditions.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Derrinlough project introduces new turbines to the front and either side of the Cloghan turbines. These turbines are of a similar scale and layout type to the permitted turbines. The new turbines bridge the gap between the Cloghan and Meenwaun, also appearing in front of the existing Meenwaun turbines. Again, these are of similar scale and layout as the existing turbines.</p> <p>In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with all three projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no visual differences in layout, scale or design. While more turbines will be visible the overall spatial extent will only marginally increase, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p> <p>The panoramic view towards the lowlands including the Lough Boora parklands will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view. This viewpoint is considered sensitive due to the CDP designation, but is of a landscape with significant human intervention in the form of built infrastructure, commercial peat lands and electricity infrastructure.</p> <p>Protected views designated in Offaly CDP are along stretches of road in one or consecutive townlands. In the case of V17 the view is described as being in ‘Road No. L-06034 in the townlands of Knockhill and Drinagh’. This area falls into an area shown as having no visibility on the ZTV maps, hence this view is located as close to the designated view as possible, but not actually at the protected view. Therefore, it could be concluded that V17 will not be impacted by the proposed development.</p>		

Viewpoint 6 - Kilgolan Upper	
	Note: The adjacent existing Meenwaun turbines cannot be made out in these images. Although to err on the side of caution, the computer-generated images of the proposed turbines were deliberately rendered to make them visible it is more likely that their visibility will be very similar to that of the adjacent existing turbines.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Derrinlough turbines act as infill between the existing Meenwaun turbines and the permitted Cloghan turbines. The spatial extent of turbines will not be increased but there will be the addition of more turbines into the landscape. The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads as one project.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes
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	High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type. ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The turbine bases are at a lower level to the receptor mitigating potential domineering effects ➤ Intervening distance (c 10 km) ➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation in the CDP but includes a landscape with significant human intervention. The proposed layout does not obscure or obstruct the views over the Lowlands or the Lough Boora parklands.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 7 – Coolacrease			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R421 regional road in the townland of Coolacrease, on section of road designated as a scenic amenity routes in County Offaly ➤ 13.57 km south-east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 223,504, N 209,335 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Slieve Bloom Upland Area Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View – High Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	This view is from a local road on slightly elevated ground overlooking farmland, categorised by a patchwork of fields bordered by mature tree lines and hedgerows in the fore and middle ground. There is a line of commercial forestry in the middle ground.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Derrinlough project introduces new turbines in front and slightly to the right of the Cloghan turbines. New turbines are also introduced to the right of the existing Meenwaun turbines, bridging the gap to the existing Meenwaun turbines. These proposed turbines are of a similar scale and layout type to the existing and permitted turbines.</p> <p>In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with all three projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no visual differences in layout, scale or design. While the turbine density will increase between the existing and permitted turbine cluster, the overall spatial extent will not increase significantly, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed Derrinlough turbines act as infill between the existing Meenwaun turbines and the permitted Cloghan turbines. The spatial extent of turbines will not be increased, but there will be the addition of more turbines into the landscape.</p> <p>The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads as one project.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes		
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	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends		

Viewpoint 7 – Coolacrease	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The turbine bases are at a lower level to the receptor ➤ Intervening distance (c 13.5 km) ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors <p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation in the CDP.</p>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences</p>

Viewpoint 8- Glenamony Glebe			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N52 national road in the townland of Glenamony Glebe ➤ 2.6 km south-east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 212,198, N 212,123 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 13/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	The Birr Plains Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>In this view, and along extensive stretches of this national road (N52) the open peatlands are not visible as the roadway is to the south of a shallow ridge running from this location, through Five Alley to Birr. The impact of this rise in elevation between the N52 and the proposed development can be seen on the ZTV map, which shows patches of intermittent theoretical visibility. This is also evident in this photomontage, which is described below.</p> <p>The ‘Do Nothing’ image shows the shallow rise in elevation from the roadway which comprises agricultural pasture lands surrounded by hedgerows and tree lines in the middle ground. Two sets of 38 kV poles and their associated lines are visible in the view. These are the tallest vertical elements in the existing view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>There are no open views of the site or a large portion of the turbines from this location. 5 No turbines will be seen from upper tower/hub height upwards and only the blade tips of a further 3 No turbines may be visible from this location. These will appear lower than the existing 38 kV pole sets in the within the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Neither the Meenwaun nor Cloghan turbines will be visible cumulatively with the proposed Derrinlough turbines.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes 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 = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The intervening topography as well as the hedgerows and tree lines screen views of the site ➤ Sparsely populated section of road ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 100 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting 		

Viewpoint 8- Glenamony Glebe	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 9 – Cumber Lower			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View taken from the L-04025 local road in the townland of Cumber Lower at designated County Offaly View and Prospect V16 ➤ 14.53 km south-east of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 218,120, N 203,371 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Slieve Bloom Upland Area Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View – High Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>This view is from a local road on slightly elevated ground overlooking farmland, categorised by a patchwork of fields bordered by mature tree lines and hedgerows in the fore and middle ground. The commercial cutover peatlands form the background. It is an open and expansive view showing a wide horizon between land and sky. The CDP designation (V16) at this location is of views ‘westward over farmland’. Although present in the image, the existing and permitted Meenwaun and Cloghan turbines will only be discernible with the naked eye in certain weather conditions.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Derrinlough project introduces new turbines in front and slightly to the right of the Cloghan turbines. New turbines are also introduced to the right of the existing Meenwaun turbines, bridging the gap to the existing Meenwaun turbines. These proposed turbines are of a similar scale and layout type to the existing and permitted turbines.</p> <p>In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with all three projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no visual differences in layout, scale or design. While the turbine density will increase between the existing and permitted turbine cluster, the overall spatial extent will not increase significantly, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p> <p>The view towards the farmland will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed Derrinlough turbines act as infill between the existing Meenwaun turbines and the permitted Cloghan turbines. The spatial extent of turbines will not be increased, but there will be the addition of more turbines into the landscape.</p> <p>The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads as one project.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes</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</p>		

Viewpoint 9 – Cumber Lower	
	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	High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The turbine bases are at a lower level to the receptor ➤ Intervening distance (c 14 km) ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation in the CDP. The proposed layout does not obscure or obstruct the views over the Farmland.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences

Viewpoint 10 - Galros East			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N62 national road in the townland of Galros East ➤ 2.35 km south of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E207708, N210708 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 20/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	The image shows the N62 roadway bisecting the flat open Bord na Móna lands which are generally at a lower elevation to the roadway itself. The roadside hedgerows and tree lines enclose slightly the views from the roadway but in general the view is wide and expansive.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines from all three projects should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at or lower to the elevation of the visual receptor which means that, at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. It is also a good example of how relatively low-level screening, in the form of hedgerows and trees has a significant influence on the perceptibility of the scale of the project. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent with the turbines located on lower elevations within a wide and expansive landscape. 3 to 4 No turbines will be visible on the right-hand side of the road and 3 to 4 turbines will be visible on the left ad side of the road. Both sets of turbines are divided by the road and the screening afforded by the hedgerows along the road.		
Cumulative Effects	The existing Meenwaun turbines are barely perceptible to the far left from this location and the Cloghan turbines are too significant a distance to be perceived from this area (they are barely perceptible at the end of the road view). The intermittent nature of any views along here will mean that the projects do not read as incongruously different to each other. Their scale and distribution means that they will appear as one project.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Low: Includes 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 = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character types ➤ The turbines are at a low elevation relative to the receptor 		

Viewpoint 10 - Galros East	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 2.35 km) ➤ The proposed development is partially screened
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 11 Derrinlough East -			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N62 national road in the townland of Derrinlough ➤ 1.5 km west of the nearest turbine to the east ➤ Grid Reference: E 208,152, N 214,386 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residences -High Road Users - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	<p>This image is taken from the N62 heading south of the entrance to the Derrinlough Briquette factory. The view is looking out on the Drinagh cluster of turbines with the Clongawny turbines locate to the rear of the photographer (See PL39 West for the corresponding photomontage looking west).</p> <p>In the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the view comprises a flat expansive landscape dominated by mature tree lines and hedgerows. There are a number of electricity poles and associated wires in the view. To the south of this location there is cluster of three one-off low-rise houses along, which have the potential to perceive the proposed wind farm to the east and to the west. Views from these houses are, however, either screened by mature tree lines and / or farm buildings to the east or west. Therefore, their views are generally restricted to seeing either the Drinagh or the Clongawny cluster, but not both. No existing or permitted turbines will be visible in this view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>From this location looking eastwards, 7-8 No of the proposed Derrinlough turbines to the east (Drinagh cluster) are visible. The Derrinlough turbines introduce turbines to the view although in a coherent and readable manner. The turbines are of similar scale and are evenly distributed within the project extents. All turbines are partially visible, obscured to a varying degree by intervening vegetation This mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects. Given the close proximity of this viewpoint location to the site, the scale and extent of the turbines is not incongruous and is readily absorbed into what is a relatively open expansive view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other turbines visible in this view.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes 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 view which 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/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)		

Viewpoint 11 Derrinlough East -	
	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor which means the intervening distance (c 1.5 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and the field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the turbines. ➤ The residential properties have sufficient separation distance from the proposed turbines to ensure residential visual amenity is not affected. In addition to this, the residences along this roadway are screened either to the front of rear of the dwellings by either mature tree lines, hedgerows or farm buildings, restricting potential views of the site. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 100 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</p> <p>An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 11 Derrinlough West -			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N62 national road in the townland of Derrinlough ➤ 0.96 km south-east of the nearest turbine to the north-west ➤ Grid Reference: E 208,152, N 214,386 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residences -High Road Users - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	<p>This image is taken from the N62 heading south of the entrance to the Derrinlough Briquette factory. The view is looking out on the Clongawny cluster of turbines with the Drinagh turbines locate to the rear of the photographer (See PL40 East for the corresponding photomontage looking east).</p> <p>In the 'Do Nothing' scenario, the view comprises a flat expansive landscape dominated by a large pastoral field bordered by mature tree lines and hedgerows. Extensive coniferous plantation can be seen on the horizon. There are a number of electricity poles and associated wires in the view. The existing Meenwaun turbines are visible in the distance. To the south of this location there is cluster of three one-off low-rise houses along, which have the potential to perceive the proposed wind farm to the east and to the west. Views from these houses are, however, either screened by mature tree lines and / or farm buildings to the east or west. Therefore, their views are generally restricted to seeing either the Drinagh or the Clongawny cluster, but not both. No existing or permitted turbines will be visible in this view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>From this location looking westwards, the proposed Derrinlough turbines to the west (Clongawny cluster) are located to the right and left of the existing and permitted Meenwaun turbines. Four of the Derrinlough turbines are visible contiguous to the Meenwaun turbines to the left of a large stand of mature trees which separates the view of the projects. c4 No turbines are visible on the right-hand side of the mature tree stand, 3 No of which are partially obscured by layers of intervening vegetation. 1 No. turbine is clearly visible from this location. Given the close proximity of this viewpoint location to the site, the scale and extent of the turbines is not incongruous and is readily absorbed into what is a relatively open expansive view with various vertical elements present in the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Derrinlough turbines increases the number of turbines visible on the right-hand side of the image while increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines. The Meenwaun turbines are visible from this location with the addition of partial views of c 6-7 Derrinlough turbines.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes 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 view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Substantial: Substantial change, where the proposals 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</p>		

Viewpoint 11 Derrinlough West -	
	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 = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type. ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor which means the intervening distance (c 1 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and the field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the turbines. ➤ The residential properties have sufficient separation distance from the proposed turbines to ensure residential visual amenity is not affected. In addition to this, the residences along this roadway are screened either to the front of rear of the dwellings by either mature tree lines, hedgerows or farm buildings, restricting potential views of the site. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 100 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 12 - Glaster			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R438 regional road in the townland of Glaster ➤ 4.95 km south-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 202,080, N 210,133 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	<p>The 'Do-Nothing Scenario' shows the four existing turbines (Meenwaun) evident in the distance in the centre of the image. The R438 road and hedgerow make up the foreground of the image, leading the eye to horizon to the left of the image as a result of the continuous linear pattern created by the road and road markings. There is a vast and open view which comprises a house, agricultural fields and the open worked peat lands. There are numerous electricity wires and posts which are scattered throughout the image with the majority lining the road. This view provides a panoramic long-distance view of the surrounding landscape as a result of the slightly elevated location.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows open and clear views of the proposed development along with the existing and permitted turbines. All 35 turbines (the 21 proposed turbines along with 14 existing or permitted turbines) are visible and are visually indistinguishable as separate projects. The turbines read as one coherent cluster of similar turbine scales and minimal cluttering effects. The Meenwaun turbines are to the fore and although there are only 5 No turbines their spatial extent is wide and so the majority of the remaining 30 turbines while increasing the density of turbines do not increase the spatial extent of windfarms except for 5 No turbines to the east.</p> <p>The vast, open expanse of the view allows for the assimilation of the projects into the landscape without causing an overly domineering effect.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively the projects read as one wind farm as both Meenwaun and Cloghan are relatively contiguous to the Bord na Móna land bank and the proposed Derrinlough turbines. The Meenwaun turbines are to the fore with the Cloghan turbines forming the rear. The proposed Derrinlough turbines infill between both projects and add a significant number of additional turbines to that view. The assessment therefore needs to address all 35 turbines, which is completed below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes 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>Substantial: Substantial change, where the proposals 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.</p>		

Viewpoint 12 - Glaster	
Significance of Effect	Low X Substantial = Moderate/Minor - Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ Sparsely populated section of road ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ Spatial extent of turbines in the view only slightly increased by proposed development ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 13 – Banagher Town			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View taken from the junction of the Birr Rd (R439), Cluain Rynagh and Middle Road (L7016) in the townland of Feeghs in Banagher Town ➤ 3.75 km west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E201,396 N214,812 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 3/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>The image shows the view from the junction of the R439 and a local road on the edge of eastern Banagher. The ZTV indicates limited or no visibility from the rest of Banagher in general i.e. to the rear of the photographer. The image shows the church and mature trees within the churchyard to the right. There are low-density residential properties between both roads. These are surrounded by mature landscaping including tall trees and boundary hedges. The existing Meenwaun turbines are visible when looking down the R439 and are at a lower level to the viewer.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The existing Meenwaun turbines are visible to the fore when looking down the R439 with a number of the proposed Derrinlough turbines visible to the rear of these. The remainder of the Derrinlough turbines and the Cloghan turbines are obscured from view by the intervening built infrastructure and the mature screening.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Two of the existing Meenwaun turbines are visible from this location with a number of the proposed Derrinlough turbines visible to the rear. The spatial extent of the turbines does not increase with the introduction of the Derrinlough turbines from this location.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes</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>High x Negligible= Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed development is significantly screened ➤ Intervening distance (c 3.75 km) ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor’s views are not directed towards the proposed turbines along this road 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight Effects (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		

Viewpoint 14 – Gortaloughane			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View taken from the R356 in the townland of Gortaloughane ➤ 11.4 km west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E194,058, N217,315 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 19/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	East Central Galway Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>This viewpoint is from the R356 about 2 km east of Eyrecourt. The image shows the road lined by grassed roadside earth banks in the foreground with the land falling gradually descending towards some one-off housing, mature tree lines and hedgerows in the middle ground. Between these trees, there are long-distance views to the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Two of the existing Meenwaun turbines are visible in the distance to the left of a stand of mature trees, while a number of the Cloghan turbines are partially visible to the right of a mature stand of trees to the left of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the introduction of turbines between the Meenwaun and Cloghan turbines, all of which are framed by the two stands of trees. The lower half of the turbine towers are partially obscured by an elevated ridge to the east of Banagher. Due to the intervening distance, the height of the turbines appears at a lower level to the trees which frame the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted and existing turbines are barely visible in the view as they are partially screened and are relatively low on the horizon. The proposed Derrinlough wind farm introduces new turbines at similar scale between both projects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes 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 = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor, which means the intervening distance (c 11.4 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. 		

Viewpoint 14 – Gortaloughane	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway restrict views of the projects. Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ Although for traffic travelling eastwards the turbines will be in direct line of vision, road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 15 - Coolfin			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L3010 local road in the townland of Coolfin ➤ 2.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 203,202 N 215,944 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 20/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Central Wetlands - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	One off houses: Medium Road users: Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	<p>This view is representative of the area within 5km to the north west of the site. The view is relatively close at c2.4km and shows a hedgerow with occasional taller trees in the foreground running along the local road. In general, views towards the site are relatively open. There are various wooden electricity poles and a large 220 kV electricity pylon in the view. The existing Meenwaun turbines are visible to the right of the image. The proposed Cloghan wind farm turbines, when constructed will be located to the centre left of the image but are obscured by the hedgerow and intervening vegetation.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>5 to 6 No. of the proposed Derrinlough turbines are clearly visible in the view at a similar scale to the existing Meenwaun turbines. They are perceived as smaller in scale to the existing vertical elements in the view in particular the 220-kV pylon. The blade tips of 5 to 6 No. further Derrinlough turbines may be visible through and/or over the existing hedgerows or other intervening screening, however, views of these will be partial and intermittent.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>From this location the proposed Derrinlough turbines will appear as infill development between the Meenwaun and Cloghan turbines. Cumulatively, it will be the Derrinlough and Meenwaun turbines that will be perceived together and as can be seen in the photomontage the potential cumulative effects are limited by the small number of the Derrinlough turbines actually visible from this location. While the spatial extent of turbines will increase, this is not considered significant and the scale of all turbines will appear relatively modest in the context of the other vertical elements in the view. The scale of the development does not appear dominant or overbearing even though the viewpoint location is relatively close.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes 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 view which 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 = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		

Viewpoint 15 - Coolfin	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the peatland landscape character type ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for all three projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered Medium at most and could be considered Low given the existing infrastructure in the view. ➤ The proposed development is substantially screened. ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor's views are not directed towards the proposed turbines along this road
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight Effects (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 16 - Lecarrow			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R357 regional road in the townland of Lecarrow, on section of road designated as a scenic amenity routes in County Offaly (R357 Blueball to Shannonbridge) ➤ 10.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 199,848, N 224,017 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/21 		
LCA and Sensitivity	North-western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic – Low Scenic Amenity Route - High
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	<p>This location is along the R357 between Shannonbridge and Cloghan, a section of road designated as a scenic amenity routes in Offaly CDP. This road in general is located on the north side of a shallow ridge in between the River Shannon to the south and the Derrylahan commercial bog to the north.</p> <p>The image shows the road and a gradually rising agricultural pastoral field in the foreground, with some one-off, low-rise dwellings and farm buildings along the road. A 110-kV electricity line and other smaller electricity poles can be seen across the image and form vertical elements in the landscape. The permitted Cloghan turbines are barely visible just above the hedgerow adjacent to the first house and at a considerable distance. The existing Meenwaun turbines are screened by the vegetation and buildings.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	The change from the Do Nothing is imperceptible. 3 to 4 No. Derrinlough turbines are barely visible alongside the permitted Cloghan turbines. There are no other changes to the view. The proposed turbines are at a lower elevation to this area of visual receptors.		
Cumulative Effects	The addition of the Derrinlough turbines alongside the permitted Cloghan turbines will be imperceptible from this location.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes 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 view which 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 = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The intervening topography substantially screens the site from view ➤ The hedgerows and the layers of field boundary hedgerows and treelines screen views of the site ➤ The turbines are at a low elevation compared to this area and so the distance mitigates any potential visual effects. 		

Viewpoint 16 - Lecarrow	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.