



## **APPENDIX 12-3**

**VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENTS**



*Table 1-1 Photomontage Viewpoints*

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
01	View from an un-named road in the townland of Parknabinnia, on County Clare Scenic Route 6 and the ‘Burren Way’ way marked hiking trail. The viewpoint is immediately south-west of The Burren National Park and north of Kilnaboy village. The viewpoint is located approximately 19.2 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine. The viewpoint is also representative of views from County Clare Scenic Route 3 which is located 2.5 km north-west of the viewpoint and has very similar views of the Proposed Development.	E 526,479 N 696,633
02	View from the N85 National Road as it enters the village of Inagh from the south in the townland of Carrowkeel East. The viewpoint is located opposite the Good House public house. The viewpoint is located approximately 8.1 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 520,964 N 681,338
03	View from Cloonanaha National School on the R460 Regional Road in the townland of Cloonanaha, the viewpoint is located opposite a local church. The viewpoint is located approximately 1.4 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 514,280 N 680,447
04	View from the R474 Regional Road in the townland of Doonsallagh East. The viewpoint is located on County Clare designated Scenic Route 15. The viewpoint is located approximately 3.1 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 509,949 N 676,558
05	View from the Finuremore Park Road outside of Mullagh Village in the townland of Carrowlagan. The viewpoint is located approximately 9.1 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 504,794 N 672,986
06	View from Doonbeg Golf Course where it is intersected by pedestrian access to the Blue Flag beach of Doughmore in the townland of Carrowmore. The Golf Course on which the viewpoint is located is part of the Trump International Golf Links & Hotel. The viewpoint is located approximately 16.6 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 499,216 N 668,008
07	View from N67 National Road as it exits the village of Quilty to the north, in the townland of Quilty West. The viewpoint is located on the Wild Atlantic Way, at the start/end of County Clare Scenic Route 1 and in close proximity to the Lahinch-Kilrush Dismantled Railway walking trail. The viewpoint is located approximately 10.4 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 501,951 N 675,132
08	View from the N67 National Road in the townland of Annagh. The viewpoint is located next to the Beaclugga Bridge at the junction to Spanish Point, on the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route and County Clare Scenic Route 1. The viewpoint is located approximately 8 km west of the nearest turbine.	E 503,678 N 677,101
09	View from the R474 Regional Road as it exits Miltown Malbay to the south east, in the townland of Leagard North. The viewpoint is located on County Clare designated Scenic Route 15. The viewpoint is located approximately 5.5 km west of the nearest turbine.	E 505,935 N 678,905
10	View from the Ballard Road in the townland of Tooreen. The viewpoint is representative of local residential amenity located in close proximity to the	E 510,083 N 680,359

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
	Proposed Development. The viewpoint is located approximately 1.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	
11	View from the N67 National Road and Main Street of Ennistymon Service Town in the townland of Deerpark Middle. The viewpoint is located in close proximity to the large ‘Fitzpatrick’s’ supermarket and car parking amenities. The viewpoint is located approximately 8 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 513,123 N 688,815
12	View from the R478 Regional Road in the townland of Ballyellery. The view is directed across O’Briens bridge towards the Service town of Lahinch. The viewpoint is situated north of the Lahinch Golf courses and is located on the Wild Atlantic Way, County Clare Scenic Route 1 and various recreational routes. The viewpoint is located approximately 9.1 km north-north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 509,023 N 689,424
13	View from the car park and coastal Viewing Area in the townland of Cloghaundine. It is the location of a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point, the viewing area is a popular tourist spot and is located on the Liscannor to Cliffs of Moher coastal walk. The viewpoint is located approximately 10.2 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 504,448 N 687,826
14	View from a pedestrian crossing on the R478 Regional Road in the townland of Lislorkan North. The viewpoint is located at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre on the Wild Atlantic Way, County Clare Scenic Route 1 and the Doolin cycle hub route. The viewpoint is located approximately 13.6 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 504,350 N 692,151
15	View from Main Street in the townland of Rathbaun. The viewpoint is located outside the Imperial Hotel and opposite a large car park in the town of Lisdoonvarna. The viewpoint is located approximately 17.4 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 513,477 N 698,258
16	View from the R460 Regional Road in the townland of Cloghaun Beg. The viewpoint is representative of local residential amenity located in close proximity to the Proposed Development. The viewpoint is located approximately 1.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine	E 511,088 N 677,973
17	View from the R460 Regional Road in the townland of Boolynamiscaun. The viewpoint is representative of local residential amenity located in close proximity to the Proposed Development. The viewpoint is located approximately 1.3 km south-east of the nearest turbine	E 513,635, N 679,449

## 1.1

# Range of Turbine Dimensions Assessed in Photomontages

The dimensions presented below are the range of hub height, blade length and overall tip height assessed within differing chapters of this EIAR and constitute a ‘reasonably limited range’:

- Turbine Tip Height - Maximum height 175 metres, Minimum height 173 metres
- Hub Height - Maximum height 108.5 metres, Minimum height 100 metres

- Blade Length - Maximum length 75 metres, Minimum length 66.5 metres.

The minimum turbine tip height within the limited range is 173 metres and the maximum turbine tip height is 175 metres. From a visual perspective, the two metre difference in tip height within this range will have a negligible effect, therefore the illustration of 175m tip height is also representative of 173m tip height. A blade length of 66.5m and a hub height of 108.5m was considered throughout this assessment as a representative illustration of the Proposed Development on the basis of professional judgement and on consideration of the range of turbines which could be installed. This combination of blade length and hub height (175m Tip) has been identified as a worst-case scenario for likely visual effects and is most representative for assessment, on the basis that the greatest extent of the entire turbine structure (blades and tower) would potentially be visible from the viewpoints assessed in the EIA. This turbine configuration (blade length of 66.5m and a hub height of 108.5m) of the reasonably limited range is termed as the ‘Highest Hub and Shortest Blade’ and is presented for all 17 No. photomontage viewpoints.

- **Highest Hub and Shortest Blade** – All 17 No. Photomontage Viewpoints.
  - Maximum Tip Height – 175 metres
  - Maximum Hub Height – 108.5 metres
  - Blade Length – 66.5 metres

Irrespective of which combination of hub height and blade length within the range outlined in this application is installed on site, the significance of residual landscape and visual effects will not be altered. However, for the avoidance of doubt, an alternative turbine configuration of the longest blade and lowest hub is presented for four selected viewpoints included in the photomontage booklet, this configuration is termed ‘Lowest Hub and Longest Blade’. The viewpoints selected are representative of short-range views (viewpoints 03 and 17, <1.5 km from the Proposed Development), a medium-range view (viewpoint 09, 5.5km from the Proposed Development) and a long-range view (viewpoint 05, 9.1km from the Proposed Development). The following summarises the ‘Lowest Hub and Longest Blade’ that is presented:

- **Lowest Hub and Longest Blade** – 4 No. Photomontage Viewpoints (Viewpoint 03 Cloonanaha; Viewpoint 05 Carrowlagan; Viewpoint 09 Leagard North; Viewpoint 17 Boolynamiscaun)
  - Maximum Tip Height – 175 metres
  - Minimum Hub Height – 100 metres
  - Blade Length – 75 metres

Irrespective of which combination of hub height and blade length within the range outlined in this application is installed on site, the significance of residual landscape and visual effects will not be altered as set out in the Assessment tables below.

## 1.2 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. 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, mountain moorland wind farm sites tend to be capable of accommodating suitably designed wind farm projects of scale. The highly vegetated farmland landscape and abundance of coniferous forestry that surround the site provide lots of screening and has the capacity to significantly mitigate

likely visual effects in close proximity to the site. Key reasons enabling the Proposed Development to be effectively absorbed by the landscape of the site and surrounding area are outlined below and are evident in the photomontages:

➤ **Strategic Siting - of the Proposed Development in a landscape designated for wind energy development.**

The Proposed Development is sited in a location specifically designated as a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the current Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 5 - CCDP, Clare County Council). The landscape to the south and east of the proposed site is an area where wind turbines are already visible elements within the landscape. The operational Slievecallan Wind Farm is located on an adjacent ridge, 1.5 km to the south east of the site in a similar visual unit, therefore the Proposed Development will be contributing additional turbines to the area instead of introducing an entirely new and novel visual element to the landscape. The proposed Slieveacurry development is strategically sited (Spatial extent, Spacing and Layout) and scaled to ensure visual harmony with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, mitigating the impact of cumulative visual effects.

➤ **Strategic Siting - of the Proposed Development on a hilltop ridge.**

The proposed Slieveacurry development is sited upon a hilltop ridge adjacent to the high elevation of Slieve Callan; as the highest landform in West Clare, Slieve Callan provides significant topographical screening of the Proposed Development from most areas in the LVIA study area to the south and east, reducing visibility and mitigating visual effects in an extensive area. The exposed, and simple landform of the elevated moorland landscape enables the proposed development to be seen as a neat and coherent cluster, separate from other complex landscape features surrounding the site such as farmland and settlements. This mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects whilst providing adequate setback from visual receptors. Siting of the proposed turbines on the elevated ridge ensure they are predominantly viewed above the horizon, reducing the capacity for visual clutter and confusion as there is minimal overlapping with other landscape elements.

➤ **Screening from surrounding landscape elements - commercial forestry and highly vegetated agricultural land.**

Stands of coniferous forestry are a prominent landscape feature of the proposed site and the surrounding landscape, also, agricultural land and roads in the surrounding areas are regularly bordered by mature hedgerows and pockets of woodland shrub. Located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines, these vegetational elements of the landscape provide screening, obscuring views towards the proposed turbines or making those views intermittent in nature. 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, actual visibility on the ground is diminished by screening factors, in particular for landscape types such as those immediately north and east of Slieveacurry.

- **The Proposed Development does not obstruct landscape views of the West Clare coastline and does not materially impact scenic amenity attributed to the coast.** Valuable scenic views located in the LVIA study area are predominantly attributed to the coastal flavour of the region, providing significant amenity for recreation and tourism, resulting in receptors of high sensitivity (e.g. The Cliffs of Moher, The Wild Atlantic Way, Lahinch, Spanish Point, Doughmore Beach). Valuable views are principally focussed in an offshore direction towards the coastline and the ocean, not inland towards the proposed Slieveacurry development. The proposed Slieveacurry turbines will not materially impact any sensitive scenic amenities attributed to the coast.

Viewpoint 01 – Parknabinnia			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View taken from an un-named road in the townland of Parknabinnia.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on County Clare Scenic Route 6 and The Burren Way way-marked hiking trail.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the road next to the Parknabinnia historical monument, 1.5 km south-west of The Burren National Park.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is also 2.5 km east of County Clare Scenic Route 3 which has similar (but intermittent) views towards the Proposed Development site.</li> <li>➤ 19.2 km north-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 526,479; N 696,633.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA1: The Burren Uplands – <b>High</b> Landscape Receptor of International Renown.	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic/Recreational Routes – <b>High</b> The Burren Way - <b>High</b> Motorised Traffic - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The image shows an open and expansive view of an undulating landscape from an elevated position in close proximity (&lt;1.5 km) to The Burren National Park. The landscape immediately surrounding this viewpoint is relatively barren, landcover comprises scrub, gorse and small trees. A field of agricultural pasture is seen in the foreground bordered by low drystone walls and gorse hedges, the Parknabinnia Wedge Tomb is seen in the foreground to the right of the image.</p> <p>In the middle distance a large tract of coniferous forestry is seen to the left of the image, elsewhere the landscape comprises a mix of agricultural land, clusters of deciduous trees and small settlements or dwellings in the lower valley. Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry are large gently sloping hills forming the background of the view.</p> <p>Approximately 18 no. turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible within the background of this view. At this distance (&gt;19km) they are visible as very small features within the landscape.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The full extent of all proposed turbines are visible within the photomontage. The Proposed Development is seen as a coherent cluster upon the elevated site of Slieveacurry. At this distance (&gt;19 km), the proposed turbines are seen as very small features within the extensive panoramic view available from this elevated location and they consume a very small spatial extent of the landscape, enabling them to be effectively absorbed within the view. From this perspective, there is some visual stacking between turbines T8 &amp; T6 and T5 &amp; T7, any visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance. The proposed met mast is located behind turbine T6 and will not be discernible from this viewpoint.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. When viewed alongside the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, the siting of the proposed Slieveacurry development at a similar elevation on an opposing ridge enables it to be seen as a visual counterbalance within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments.</p>		

Viewpoint 01 – Parknabinnia	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is likely to be upon the landscape or scenic view. This is a relatively remote and isolated viewpoint location and there will not be a massive volume of visual receptors passing this point, however, it is representative of views from The Burren National Park which is a landscape receptor of International importance.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Negligible:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located in a position designated for wind energy development by the current Clare County Council Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ At this distance the Proposed Development is visible as a small, neat and coherent cluster of turbines, which are effectively absorbed within this wide and expansive view.</li> <li>➤ This is one of the closest points within The Burren where there is a clear and open view of the Proposed Development, most other locations with visibility will be at a distance greater than this where visual effects will be significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ At this distance a visual receptor is required to actively search the landscape in order to identify turbines of the Proposed Development. They are only just distinguishable in this photomontage which displays optimal weather and visibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Not Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 02 – Carrowkeel East			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N85 National road in the townland of Carrowkeel East.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located in the village of Inagh opposite the ‘Good House’ public house.</li> <li>➤ 8.1 km east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 520,964, N 681,338.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 16: Cullenagh River Farmlands - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Inagh - <b>Medium</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b> N58 Road users - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>The foreground of this view comprises the streetscape of Inagh village as the N85 National road enters from the south-east. Across the road from the viewpoint is ‘The Good House’ restaurant, public house and car parking amenities, as well as a signpost directly across the road from the viewpoint. The left of the image comprises a semi-rural landscape with mixed trees, bushes and scrub interspersed with several mixed-use buildings. In the middle distance a cemetery is seen across a small valley to the left of the image, beyond which the land rises to a hill covered in coniferous forestry. The high elevations of Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry are visible in the background of the image just above the treeline and buildings of the middle-ground.</p> <p>Turbine blades of six turbines and one turbine tower of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible above the horizon to the left of centre.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All of the proposed Slieveacurry turbines are visible in the photomontage. Turbines T7 and T8 are partially screened by intervening vegetation in the middle ground and only blade tips of turbines T1 and T2 are visible due to screening from a man-made, vertical pole in the foreground. The horizontal extent of the proposed turbines seen within the landscape is small. A small amount of visual stacking occurs between Turbines T3 and T4 from this viewpoint location. At this distance the turbines are visible as small background features above the horizon of the landscape and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The proposed met mast is just discernible as a discrete vertical line to the left of turbine T8.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will be viewed in conjunction with six of the existing Slievecallan turbines and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. The two developments are seen to be of similar scale. The separation between the two wind farms across a saddle of slightly lower ground clearly defines the two wind farms as separate visual units.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Includes visual receptors such as residents of Inagh, traffic travelling along the N85 from Ennis to Ennistymon or Lahinch.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><b>Slight:</b> 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.</p>		

Viewpoint 02 – Carrowkeel East	
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The built form of the Inagh streetscape significantly screens visibility of the proposed turbines in almost all other areas of the village.</li> <li>➤ Due to screening from local topography and roadside vegetation there is very limited visibility of the Proposed Development from other areas of the N85, both on the approach to Inagh from Ennis and also on the route between Inagh and Ennistymon.</li> <li>➤ The N85 is primarily oriented in a direction perpendicular to the Proposed Development, therefore, road users are likely to be concentrating on the road ahead instead of actively searching the landscape for turbines in the periphery of their vision.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are seen as small and suitably scaled features in the background of the view and visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development comprises a small horizontal extent within the view and does not obstruct landscape views from this location. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon, mitigating any visual confusion that may occur as a result of visual stacking.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 03 - Cloonanaha			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R460 Regional Road in the townland of Cloonanaha.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located adjacent to Cloonanaha National School and in close proximity to the local church.</li> <li>➤ 1.4 km east of the nearest turbine</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 514,280; N 680,447</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 17: Slieve Callan Upland – <b>Medium to Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Residents – <b>High</b> ; Visual Receptors attending the church and school – <b>Medium/High</b> ; Road users – <b>Low</b> .
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>This image shows a view along the R460 regional road towards a local church in the townland of Cloonanaha. The foreground comprises agricultural fields bordered by mature hedgerows and a cluster of deciduous trees surrounding the church. Cloonanaha National School is located to the left of the image, immediately adjacent to the viewpoint. Several telecommunication poles and netting uprights from the nearby GAA pitch are seen on both sides of the road in close proximity to this viewpoint, these are prominent, man-made, vertical features in the image. There are open views of agricultural fields in the middle distance bordered by the occasional cluster of deciduous woodland. The topography rises in the right of the image towards Slieveacurry, the hill on which the Proposed Development is to be located. Tracts of coniferous forestry are seen across the steeper elevations of the hill, the crest comprises of moorland landcover.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image. A temporary met mast is just discernible upon the highest elevation in the centre of the image, this will be dismantled at the end of the wind monitoring campaign that is currently on-going.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All proposed turbines will be visible from this perspective, although Turbines T1, T7 and T3 are partially screened by the intervening topography. Turbine T5 is located in very close proximity to this viewpoint (1.4 km) and is therefore seen as a relatively prominent feature of the landscape. All turbine components of the Proposed Development are visible above the horizon in this photomontage and they do not obstruct any landscape views from this viewpoint. There is a difference in vertical alignment between several of the turbines, mitigating visual stacking that occurs between Turbines T3 and T4 from this perspective. The proposed met mast is not visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> Sensitivity is considered high for local residents living in close proximity (&lt;1.5 km) to the Proposed Development. The school and church are both receptors of medium to high sensitivity. Other landscape and visual receptors in the immediate vicinity of this viewpoint are deemed to be of low sensitivity.</p>		

Viewpoint 03 - Cloonanaha	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Moderate:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is visible as a neat cluster within a landscape designated as strategic for wind energy development.</li> <li>➤ There is partial screening of the turbines by topography and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon, mitigating any potential visual effects.</li> <li>➤ There are many large, vertical, man-made uprights visible within the foreground of the photomontage (telecommunication poles, road sign).</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct any landscape views from this perspective.</li> <li>➤ Screening from both vegetation and sides of the steep valley intermittently screens the Proposed Development from view along sections of the R460 as it heads west from this viewpoint.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 04 – Doonsallagh East			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R474 regional road in the townland of Doonsallagh East.</li> <li>➤ Designated County Clare Scenic Route 15.</li> <li>➤ 3.1 km south-south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 509,949; N 676,558.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 17: Slieve Callan Upland - <b>Medium to Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Designated Scenic Route – <b>High</b> ; Local Traffic – <b>Moderate</b> ; Residents – <b>Moderate</b> ;
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The image shows an open agricultural landscape, with a view looking north from the R474 and County Clare Scenic Route 15. A roadside settlement, dry stone walls and a country track are shown in the foreground of the image. Open fields of pasture, scrub and moorland comprise the middle distance as the land rises steeply to a hilltop ridge in the centre of the image. Several dwellings and farmsteads are seen across the relatively undulating landscape as well as telecommunication and electricity poles. A ridge of high ground in the centre of the image (Slieveacurry hill) has a large tract of coniferous forestry which runs across the skyline of the highest elevation. Coniferous forestry is also seen to the right of the image, where the land rises to the peak of Slieve Callan.</p> <p>11 No. turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible in the right of the image. No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>Three No. turbines of the Proposed Development are fully visible from this viewpoint. Intervening landform and coniferous forestry partially screens some of the Proposed Development from view. Only blade tips of turbines T1 and T2 are visible and the towers and lower blade arcs of turbines T4 and T5 will be screened from view. The lower tower of turbine T3 is screened from view while almost all components of turbines T6, T7 and T8 will be visible. The proposed met mast is viewed as a short, thin, vertical line amongst the cluster of turbines, in comparison with telecommunication and electricity poles seen in the foreground the met mast is a very discrete feature of the landscape.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development is viewed in conjunction with the Slievecallan Wind Farm, which is seen to the right of the photomontage. There is no visual overlap between the two wind energy developments from this perspective, therefore the Proposed Development increases the horizontal extent of turbines seen within the landscape. Both developments are seen to be of similar scale and design specification, they frame the valley of lower ground located between them (right of centre), the Proposed Development will be seen as a visual counterbalance to the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> Includes viewers driving on the designated Scenic Route 15 and viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint.		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Moderate:</b> The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline		

Viewpoint 04 – Doonsallagh East	
	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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This is an open and expansive view of a location designated for wind turbines.</li> <li>➤ A proportion of the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not obstruct any views of the wider landscape.</li> <li>➤ Siting of the proposed turbines as a neat cluster upon the elevated ridge enables it to be effectively absorbed within the open landscape.</li> <li>➤ The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High, due to the designation in the Scenic Route, the valuable scenic amenity contributing to the designation of this scenic route is not attributable to the view shown in this view or photomontage.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 05 - Carrowlagan			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the Finuremore Park Road by Mullagh Village in the townland of Carrowlagan.</li> <li>➤ 9.1 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 504,794; N 672,986</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Residences - <b>Medium</b> Road Users - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The view shows the undulating agricultural landscape north of Mullagh Village. The landcover comprises a patchwork of agricultural farmland lined with hedgerows, scrub and small clusters of deciduous trees. This is a settled landscape, and many residential dwellings are visible at middle-distance and long-distance views, as well as several telegraph poles which are other vertical man-made features of the landscape. The high elevations of Slieveacurry and Slieve Callan are prominent landforms in the background of this view.</p> <p>Many turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are seen scattered around the coniferous forestry surrounding the peak of Slieve Callan.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the proposed Slieveacurry development are clearly visible on the high ground of the Slieveacurry plateau. As a group, the Proposed Development is seen as a neat and organised array of turbines in an area designated for the development of wind energy. There is adequate spacing between most of the turbines, although there is potential for very slight blade overlap between turbines T2 and T4, and turbines T5 and T7. There is some visual stacking between Turbines T6 and T8. Visual confusion attributed to overlapping blades is mitigated by the slight differences in nacelle heights and that all turbine components are viewed above the horizon and not a backdrop of other landscape elements. The turbines are small features in this wide and expansive view. The proposed met mast is not discernible at this distance.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. When viewed alongside the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, the siting of the proposed Slieveacurry development on an opposing ridge and at a similar elevation enables it to be seen as a visual counterbalance within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments, mitigating any cumulative visual effects potentially arising from the minor differences in turbine height and specifications of turbine envelope. The Coor West (under appeal) development is likely to be viewed as a part of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and will not infer any significant cumulative visual effect from this location.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as local residents of Mullagh and the surrounding area. Although the viewpoint is located in an LCA of high sensitivity it is not located in the County Clare Heritage landscape it is not representative of sensitive and valuable coastal landscape receptors.</p>		

Viewpoint 05 - Carrowlagan	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight</b> - 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is seen as a neat and coherent cluster located in a Strategic Area for wind energy development designated by Clare County Council in the current Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines comprise a very small spatial extent of the expansive landscape views from this location, they do not obstruct views of any other landscape elements.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is seen as a visual counterbalance to the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and Coor West (under Appeal) Wind Farm, mitigating the impact of cumulative visual effects.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 06 – Carrowmore			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Doonbeg Golf Course in the townland of Carrowmore.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the golf course where it is intersected by pedestrian access to the Blue Flag beach of Doughmore.</li> <li>➤ The golf course is part of the Trump International Golf Links &amp; Hotel complex.</li> <li>➤ 16.6 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 499,216; N 668,008.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmlands – <b>High.</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Recreational Destination: Doonbeg Golf Course; Doughmore Beach - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The 'Baseline' shows an image of the Trump International Golf Links with bunkers and dunes which make up the undulations necessary for a golf course. Man-made features occupy the landscape, such as scattered housing developments, electricity poles, paved roadways and wind turbines. The terrain is flat yet gently undulating and allows for an expansive view of the surrounding area.</p> <p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is just visible across the horizon in the centre of the of the image, and a cluster of turbines from the existing Cahermurphy and Glenmore wind farms are visible above the horizon to the far right of the image.</p> <p>The 'Baseline' wireframe indicates that several other existing wind farm sites (Booltiagh; Letteragh) are theoretically visible from this recreational and tourist hotspot, however they are not discernible in this image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>8 No. of the proposed Slieveacurry turbines are visible in the photomontage, at this distance they are seen as a small, neat and coherent cluster of turbines upon the horizon. The towers of turbines T1, T2 and T5 are partially screened by the landform and their nacelles are seen to be slightly lower than the other turbines. There is minor blade overlap between turbines T5 and T7, and between turbines T6 and T8. The visible spatial extent of the Proposed Development is very small in this open and expansive landscape. Although the proposed met mast is theoretically visible, it is not discernible with the naked eye.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>This location shows unobstructed and open views towards a landscape (Slieve Callan Upland LCA) designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council, therefore many other wind energy developments are visible in conjunction with the Proposed Development. To the right of the image the existing Cahermurphy and Glenmore wind farms are visible along the distant skyline as will the additional turbine of the permitted Cahermurphy Optimisation when constructed.</p> <p>If permitted, the proposed Coor West (under Appeal ABP) will be viewed within the same viewshed as the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm. The proposed Slieveacurry development will be seen as a visual counterbalance to the Slievecallan and Coor West upon the opposing ridge.</p>		

Viewpoint 06 – Carrowmore	
	<p>If permitted, the proposed Cahermurphy Two Wind Farm will add an additional 10 turbines to the middleground of this view.</p> <p>From this viewpoint, the Proposed Development increases the extent of turbines in the landscape. Due to the separation distance from other developments and differences in scale, it is clearly defined as an independent wind energy development. Many wind farms are currently visible from this viewpoint, the addition of the Proposed Development will not significantly alter the character of views from the current baseline.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> Includes viewers who are at this viewpoint location in a recreational capacity, where the scenic amenity provided by the landscape is an important and desirable attribute of the location.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The coastal flavour of this landscape is the primary factor contributing to the existence of this location as a tourism and recreational hotspot. Valuable views are principally focussed in an offshore direction towards the beach and the ocean, not inland towards the Proposed Development. The proposed turbines will not materially impact any scenic amenities attributed to the coast.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located in a landscape area specifically designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council in the current Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ Visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance (&gt;16 km), the turbines are seen as small and minor features in the background of the landscape and the Proposed Development does not obstruct any landscape views.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed as a neat and organised cluster comprising a very small spatial extent of this expansive landscape view, therefore, it is effectively absorbed within the landscape.</li> <li>➤ Turbines of many other wind farms of similar scale and design are visible from this location, these are already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape view. Therefore, addition of the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the ‘Baseline’ view from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight Effects (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 07 - Quilty West			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N67 national road in the townland of Quilty West.</li> <li>➤ The view is located at the northern exit of Quilty village on County Clare Scenic Route 1, the Wild Atlantic Way and in close proximity to the Dismantled Railway Lahinch to Kilrush walking route.</li> <li>➤ 10.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 501,952 N 675,132</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic/Tourist/Recreational Routes – <b>High</b> Quilty Village - <b>Medium</b> Local Traffic – <b>Low</b> Residents – <b>Medium/Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The 'Baseline' image shows the N67 National road as it exits Quilty to the north. Two residential dwellings and low walls are seen in the right of the foreground, a berm of boulders that form the backshore of Quilty beach are seen to the left. Most of the image shows a flat agricultural landscape comprising fields bordered by low hedgerows and scrub. Several residential dwellings and farm steadings are scattered across low hills in the middle distance. Telecommunication poles and overhead wires are common features seen at different distances throughout the view. The topography of the Slieve Callan uplands comprise the background of this image.</p> <p>Many turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible as very small features in the background of this image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are seen in the background of the photomontage. At this distance they are seen as very small features, and they are viewed as a coherent cluster upon the elevated Slieveacurry Plateau in the background of the view. All turbines are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any landscape views. There is a small amount of visual stacking between turbines T2 and T3 and turbines T7 and T8, but visual effects arising from this is negligible. The proposed met mast is not discernible at this distance.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development will be seen in conjunction with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. The siting of the proposed Slieveacurry on elevated land adjacent to the Slievecallan Wind Farm enables it to be seen as a visual counterbalance within the landscape. The two developments frame the saddle of low ground located between them, causing visual separation between the two developments, mitigating any cumulative visual effects potentially arising from the minor differences in turbine height and specifications of turbine envelope. The proposed Coor West (under appeal ABP) development is not likely to be visible from this location or anywhere in the village of Quilty due to screening from topography and the surrounding streetscape.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> Includes viewers at this location in a recreational capacity, such as those on County Clare Scenic Route 1, the Wild Atlantic Way and the Lahinch-Kilrush way marked walking route. The viewpoint is located on the coast in County Clare Heritage landscape which is a landscape receptor of</p>		

Viewpoint 07 - Quilty West	
	high sensitivity. Sensitivity of local traffic and residents is deemed to be medium or low.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed as a small background feature in a location designated for wind energy development by the most recent Clare County Council Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ Due to screening from the streetscape of Quilty Village, actual visibility of the Proposed Development is very limited from within the village.</li> <li>➤ Valuable landscape views in this area are principally focussed in an offshore direction towards the coast and the Atlantic Ocean, not inland towards the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development does not obstruct or intrude upon any coastal views and therefore will not materially impact any scenic amenities attributed to the coast.</li> <li>➤ The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible from this perspective, this is already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape. Therefore, addition of the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the current baseline view from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 08 – Annagh			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N67 national road in the townland of Annagh.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located next to the Bealaclogga Bridge at the junction to Spanish Point. The view is located on the County Clare Scenic Route 1 and the Wild Atlantic Way.</li> <li>➤ 8 km west-south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 503,678 N 677,101</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 20: Malbay Coastal Farmland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic/Tourist Route – <b>High</b> Spanish Point Tourism & Recreational Amenities (nearby) - <b>High</b> Traffic – <b>Medium</b> Residents - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The image shows a relatively flat agricultural landscape with a clear view towards the high elevations of Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry which comprise the background. The foreground shows the N67 road which crosses the Glendine River to the left of the image just before the junction to Spanish Point. A caravan park is visible to the left in the middle distance, many residential dwellings are scattered throughout the landscape. Agricultural fields bordered by low hedgerows are the primary landcover. Many telecommunication poles and power lines are distinct man-made vertical features visible within the landscape.</p> <p>Approximately 14 turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are seen as small features on the higher ground in the background of the image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible as a neat and coherent cluster upon the high ridge of the Slieveacurry site. Most turbine components are visible above the horizon and there is adequate spacing amongst the turbines. The proposed turbines are appropriately scaled, at this distance the turbines are seen as small elements in the background of the landscape in comparison to the telecommunication poles which are seen as larger and more prominent vertical features of the landscape. The proposed met mast is just discernible as a short, thin, vertical line adjacent to turbine T8.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development increases the spatial extent of turbines within the landscape. Positioned on a ridge adjacent to the Slievecallan Wind Farm, the Proposed Development is visually separate and viewed as an independent development. However, strategic siting, design and proportionate scaling ensures that there is visual balance between the two renewable energy developments, as they frame the saddle of lower ground situated between them. Both developments are seen as a neat and organised array of turbines within this landscape designated for wind energy development.</p> <p>If permitted, some of the proposed The Coor West (under appeal) development will be visible to the right of the view although they are likely to be viewed as a part of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm and will not infer any significant cumulative visual effects from this location.</p>		

Viewpoint 08 – Annagh	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> Includes travellers on County Clare Scenic Route 1, and the Wild Atlantic Way. This location also represents open views from Spanish Point where most visitors to the area are likely to be there in a recreational capacity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located upon an exposed hill in an area designated for wind energy development by the current Clare County Council Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is seen as a small background element of the landscape and does not obstruct any views from this perspective.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not intrude upon or affect any scenic amenity provided by the coastal nature of Spanish Point and the surrounding area. Views of a coastal nature are directed north, south or west in an offshore direction and not inland towards the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ Many telecommunication uprights are prominent, vertical, man-made features visible within landscape views from this area. The introduction of wind turbines (also large, man-made, vertical features) does not introduce an entirely new visual element to the landscape.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the Proposed Development from the Spanish Point coastal amenities (e.g. Spanish Point Beach) is significantly mitigated by screening from localised topography such as inland dunes and also properties lining the road. There are occasional intermittent views of the Proposed Development site along the R482 by Spanish Point Beach and golf course (the viewpoint location used in this instance provides superior un-obstructed, and open views of the Proposed Development than these other locations) although views are not likely to be directed inland from these locations.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 09 – Leaguard North			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R474 regional road in the townland of Leaguard North.</li> <li>➤ Exit/Entrance to the settlement of Miltown Malbay.</li> <li>➤ Designated County Clare Scenic Route 15.</li> <li>➤ 5.5 km west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 505,935; N 678,905</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 20: Milltown Malbay Coastal Farmland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Designated Scenic Route 15 – <b>High</b> Residents – <b>High</b> Local Traffic – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>This view is directed to the north-east across the R474 regional road as it exits Miltown Malbay. The foreground comprises flat agricultural fields bordered by low hedgerows, several residential dwellings and agricultural buildings are scattered amongst middle distance views and along the road to the east (right of image). Many telecommunication poles and overhead cables are prominent vertical features visible throughout the foreground and middle ground of this view. The slightly elevated moorland of Slieveacurry is seen to the centre/right of the image, the hilltop of Slieve Callan is seen in the background to the right of the image, partially covered in coniferous forestry.</p> <p>21 no. turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible to the right of the image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All eight proposed turbines are visible from this location as a linear array across the Slieveacurry ridge. The towers and lower blade arcs of turbines T1 and T2 are partially screened from view. From this perspective, turbines T4 and T5 will have blade overlap and slight visual stacking, visual effects from stacking and blade overlap are softened by the slightly varying turbine heights and distance from the viewpoint. All turbine components are visible above the horizon. The turbines are of an appropriate scale when compared with other vertical features of this landscape view. The proposed met mast is discernible as a thin, vertical line to the right of turbine T7, although, it is very discrete in comparison to telecommunication poles seen in the foreground of the view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Viewed with the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, the addition of the proposed Slieveacurry turbines increases the spatial extent of wind turbines visible in the landscape. The difference in turbine scale clearly defines each as a separate renewable energy development, however, similarity in siting on adjacent ridges and similar spacing and layout enables both developments to be seen as a relatively contiguous array of across the landscape.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> Sensitive visual receptors include viewers travelling along Scenic Route 15 and residents of Miltown Malbay. The viewpoint is located in an LCA of high/moderate sensitivity; however, it is not located in the County Clare Heritage Landscape which is located nearer to the coast.</p>		

Viewpoint 09 – Leaguard North	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight</b> - 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This is an open view of a location designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are seen above the horizon and do not screen or obstruct views of the landscape, therefore mitigating visual effects as a result of any blade overlap or visual stacking.</li> <li>➤ From this location, the power and telecommunication poles seen in the foreground and middle ground are tall and prominent man-made vertical features of the landscape in comparison to the proposed turbines which are appropriately scaled and visible as background landscape elements.</li> <li>➤ The R474 is oriented in a direction perpendicular to the Proposed Development, road users are likely to be focussing their gaze on the landscape and road ahead, away from the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The horizontal spatial extent of proposed turbines visible in the landscape is smaller in comparison to those visible of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 10 – Tooreen.			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the Ballard Road in the townland of Tooreen.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of local residential receptors located in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ 1.4 km west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 510,083, N 680,359.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 17: Slieve Callan Uplands – <b>Medium to Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents in close proximity - <b>High</b> Motorised Traffic – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>In the ‘Baseline’ image there are open views of the proposed Slieveacurry site, which is located in very close proximity to this viewpoint. The foreground comprises small agricultural fields bordered by wire fences, low hedges and scrub. Small clusters of mature coniferous trees are interspersed across the landscape in front of the site, as well as a farm stead and other agricultural buildings. The land rises to an elevated plateau in the middle distance (The Slieveacurry Site), where the landcover is of moorland type and a treeline of a coniferous plantation extends across the brow of the hill to the right of the image. The peak of Slieve Callan can be seen in the background and centre of the image beyond the Slieveacurry site.</p> <p>Approximately 15 no. turbines of the existing Slievecallan site are visible across the background, to the centre and the right of the image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible from this viewpoint. At such close proximity the proposed turbines are seen as large and prominent features within the landscape, particularly turbines T3 and T7, with T3 only located 1.4 km from this location. There is no visual stacking from this perspective and the Proposed Development is viewed as an orderly array with adequate spacing between turbines. The proposed met mast is visible as a thin vertical structure to the right of turbine T7, the met mast is not visually prominent due to its low height and slender lattice composition. The open nature of the elevated moorland enables the Proposed Development to be sufficiently absorbed by the landscape.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Several turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm will be seen directly behind the Proposed Development, although they are partially screened by the intervening landform. When viewed together from this viewpoint, there is no visual stacking between the turbines of Slievecallan and the proposed Slieveacurry development. Due to scale and distance the Slievecallan turbines are seen as much smaller features than the turbines of the Proposed Development, clearly defining the two projects as separate developments. The Proposed Development increases the quantity of turbines visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Sensitivity is only deemed high for local residents living in this area. Other landscape and visual receptors within the immediate vicinity of this viewpoint are deemed to be of low sensitivity.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><b>Substantial:</b> Substantial change, where the proposals would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial</p>		

Viewpoint 10 – Tooreen.	
	obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline through 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development designated by Clare County Council in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ There is no visual stacking, very minimal blade overlap and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon; mitigating any visual confusion occurring at this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The large scale and open character of the landscape is one which can absorb the turbine layout, the proposed turbine blades and hubs do not obstruct views of any notable background landscape.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development appears in a landscape that is relatively simple in terms of land cover and composition which is complemented by the simple turbine layout.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 11 – Deerpark Middle			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N67 National Road in the townland of Deerpark Middle.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located opposite Fitzpatrick’s supermarket and car parking amenities in the Service Town of Ennistymon.</li> <li>➤ 8 km north of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,123; N 688,815.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 3: The Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Ennistymon – <b>Medium</b> ; N67 Traffic - <b>Medium</b> Doolin Cycle Hub Route - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>The ‘Baseline’ shows a semi-urban landscape view from an elevated position on the N67 as it enters Ennistymon from the north. A residential streetscape is seen to the right of the image and a grassy bank lines the road to the left of the image. Several trees and a telecommunication pole are vertical elements of the foreground, as well as Fitzpatrick’s SuperValu supermarket which is a dominant, central feature of the image. Middle distance views look across the roofs of residential houses in Ennistymon. A small portion of a grassy field and a coniferous treeline is visible in the background of the image above the townscape of Ennistymon.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible but are mostly screened by the intervening landform and treelines upon the horizon. Only the upper blade arc of T1 and T2 will be visible. There is visual stacking between turbines T2 &amp; T6, T8 &amp; T4 and T1 &amp; T7, although all turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop, mitigating the impact of any visual confusion that may arise. The horizontal extent of turbines seen in the image is small and they do not obstruct any views of the background landscape. At this distance, the turbines are seen as very small features in the background of the view. The proposed met mast will be screened from view by topography and distant vegetation.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Residents of Ennistymon, users of the supermarket and the N67 are receptors of Medium sensitivity. The viewpoint is located in an LCA of Very High sensitivity; however, this viewpoint is not representative of the landscape receptors of high value and high sensitivity which are located at a significant distance from this location. Therefore, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><b>Slight:</b> 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.</p>		
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		

Viewpoint 11 – Deerpark Middle	
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The built form of the Ennistymon townscape, vegetation and intervening landform significantly screens visibility of the proposed turbines in almost all other areas of the town.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are seen as small and suitably scaled elements in the background of the view and visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development comprises a small horizontal extent within the view and does not obstruct any landscape views from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

Viewpoint 12 - Ballyellery			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a junction in the townland of Ballyellery where the R478 regional road intersects with the Ballyellery Road.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located north of Lahinch Service Town overlooking the Blue Flag beach and both Lahinch golf courses.</li> <li>➤ The junction intersects many recreational routes and tourist routes: County Clare Scenic Route 1; The Wild Atlantic Way; The Burren Way; The Burren Cycling Route; The Doolin Cycling Hub Route.</li> <li>➤ 9.1 km to the north-north-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 509,023; N 689,424.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 3: The Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic/Recreational/Tourism Routes – <b>High</b> Lahinch Coastal Amenities and Golf Courses - <b>High</b> Lahinch – <b>Medium</b> R478 Traffic - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The view looks across the sandy tidal estuary of the Inagh River towards the Service town of Lahinch. In the foreground, the R478 regional road crosses the Inagh river via O'Briens bridge in the left of the image, cars are parked on the right for use of the beach amenity seen in the middle ground. A coastal dune system is visible at middle distance views as well as both Lahinch Golf Course (right) and the Castle Course (left). Many residential buildings comprising Lahinch Town are visible towards the background of the view as elevation rises across a green hill. The mountain moorland landscapes of both Slieveacurry and Slieve Callan can be seen at higher elevations in the background of the image.</p> <p>Approximately 9 turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible in the background of the view, they are seen as relatively small background elements from this location.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All of the proposed Slieveacurry turbines are seen in the photomontage image on the elevated ground above Lahinch Town. There is sufficient spacing between turbines so that no visual stacking or blade overlap occurs. The towers and lower blade arcs of turbines T2 and T5 will obstruct views of Slieve Callan, however, most other turbine components of the Proposed Development are viewed above the horizon and do not obstruct any landscape views. The proposed met mast will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p> <p>The Proposed Development comprises a small horizontal and vertical extent of this landscape view, therefore, the turbines are appropriately scaled within the landscape. They are seen as a neat and coherent cluster on the elevated ridge, acting as a visual counterbalance to the prominent residential clusters seen below and to the left around Lahinch Town.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are seen surrounding the high elevation of Slieve Callan behind and to the left of the Proposed Development. Strategic siting and scaling ensures minimal visual stacking occurs between the Slieveacurry and Slievecallan turbines, mitigating the potential for visual confusion.</p>		

Viewpoint 12 - Ballyellery	
	Appropriate scaling enables the Slieveacurry turbines to be identified as a separate independent development, as they are positioned upon a hilltop ridge in closer proximity to this viewpoint than the Slievecallan turbines. Similarity in siting, spacing and layout strategy provides visual balance, enabling both developments to be seen as a relatively contiguous array of turbines within the landscape. The Proposed Development does not significantly increase the horizontal extent of turbines seen within the landscape.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> The viewpoint represents many prominent visual receptors, such as: residents and tourists visiting Lahinch for use of the coastal amenities or golf courses, users of County Clare Scenic Route 1, the Wild Atlantic Way and other recreational routes. This viewpoint is located in County Clare Heritage Landscape.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located in a position designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council Wind Energy Strategy and they are seen as minor background elements of this view.</li> <li>➤ Intervening landscape significantly screens visibility of the Proposed Development from most locations around Lahinch, south of this viewpoint. It is likely that very minor visual effects will occur as a result of the Proposed Development at the southern end of Lahinch Beach, or within the town of Lahinch (see Plate 12-16 in Chapter 12).</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not obstruct or intrude upon views of the Atlantic Ocean or features such as the coastal dune complex.</li> <li>➤ The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible from this perspective, this is already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape. Therefore, addition of the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the current baseline view from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 13- Cloghaundine			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; View from the Clahane Viewing Area in the townland of Cloghaundine.</li> <li>&gt; The view is located at a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point.</li> <li>&gt; 10.2 km north-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>&gt; Grid Reference: E 504,448, N 687,826</li> <li>&gt; No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 3: The Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic View – <b>High</b> Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point – <b>High</b> Liscannor -Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk – <b>Medium</b> Village of Liscannor (nearby) – <b>Low/Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The 'Baseline' shows a coastal view across Liscannor Bay towards the peninsula of land stretching from Lahinch to Spanish Point. The immediate foreground includes a grassy bank, a rocky coastline and a traditional dry stone shed. Liscannor Bay (The Atlantic Ocean) is the standout feature of this view, it is a large body of water extending approximately 4 km to the land seen in the background of the image. An undulating hilly landscape is seen in the background of the view with landcover comprising agricultural fields, tracts of forestry and a scattering of settlements.</p> <p>In the distant centre of the image where the Proposed Development is located, the land rises to the Slieve Callan Uplands. Several turbine blade tips and 7 no. turbine hubs of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are just discernible above the horizon.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>There are open views of all proposed turbines from this location, the towers of all turbines are partially screened by the intervening landform. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and are seen as relatively small features at this distance. There is visual stacking between turbines T2 and T5, all other turbines have adequate spacing between them and the development as a whole is vertically aligned in the undulating landscape. The proposed met mast is not visible from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development is seen as a coherent cluster within a landscape designated for wind energy development, it comprises a small horizontal extent of this wide- ranging coastal view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>From this perspective, the Proposed Development is sited directly in front of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, therefore it does not increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the landscape. Due to differences in scale and location (Slieveacurry in closer proximity), the Proposed Development is seen as an independent unit from the Slievecallan Wind Farm. Strategic distribution of the turbines and topographical screening of Slievecallan turbines has reduced visual stacking and mitigated potential for visual confusion as a result of cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>The cumulative wireframe indicates that, if constructed, several turbine blades of the recently proposed Cahermurphy Two Wind Farm are likely to be visible above the horizon to the right of this view, however, they are only just discernible in the proposed cumulative photomontage, Most components of these turbines will be significantly screened by the</p>		

Viewpoint 13- Cloghaundine	
	intervening landform and will be built at such a distance that any cumulative visual effects will be minor and insignificant.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Very High:</b> Includes viewers who have come to this location in a recreational capacity where activities are centred around the scenic amenity provided by the coastal landscape and the view.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Very High X Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The spatial extent of proposed turbines seen within this wide-ranging view is very small, the Proposed Development does not obstruct or compromise the integrity of the scenic coastal view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location</li> <li>➤ Where the view is directed towards the turbines, it is focussed on a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development designated by Clare County Council in the current Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ The existing Slieveacurry Wind Farm is visible from this viewpoint in the ‘Baseline’, it is already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape forming part of this view. Therefore, addition of the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the current baseline view from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R478 Regional Road in the townland of Lislorkan North.</li> <li>➤ Located at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre at the UNESCO Cliffs of Moher Geopark.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is adjacent to a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point and is located on many Scenic, Recreational and Tourism Routes.</li> <li>➤ 13.6 km north-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 504,350,385, N 692,151</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<p>LCA 3: The Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch – <b>High</b></p> <p>Landscape Receptor of International Importance.</p>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<p>Tourist Destination – <b>Very High</b></p> <p>Scenic/ Recreation/Tourism Routes - <b>High</b></p> <p>Traffic - <b>High</b></p>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The view from is from elevated ground overlooking the pedestrian crossing on the R478 road as it passes the car park for the Cliffs of More Visitor Centre, a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point pole exists to the left of the image (visible in the foreground of the 'Key image'). From this location, a landscape of agricultural fields lined by dry stone walls gently slopes down to Liscannor Bay. There are wide-ranging, open views of the Clare coastline (to the right of the image) and the settled, agricultural landscape of the Cullenagh/Inagh Valley (left of image). The coastal town of Lahinch is visible, nestled inside Liscannor Bay in the centre-left of the view. The elevation of Slieve Callan is seen as a stand-alone hill in the background of an otherwise flat or gently undulating background landscape.</p> <p>Approximately 20 no. turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are visible above the horizon of the Slieve Callan Uplands, although visibility is significantly mitigated by distance.</p> <p>The existing Boolynagleragh, Cahermurphy, Glenmore and Kiltumper Wind Farms are theoretically visible from this viewpoint as indicated by the Baseline wireframe, however, visibility of these developments within the 'Baseline' image is significantly mitigated by distance (&gt;23 km).</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All 8 no. turbines of the proposed Slieveacurry development will be seen as a cluster upon the elevated ground above Liscannor Bay. From the elevated vantage point of this viewpoint the entirety of almost all proposed turbine components are visible (tower of T8 slightly screened from view). There is visual stacking between turbines T1, T4 and T6 and also between T3 and T8. At this distance, the horizontal and vertical extent of the Proposed Development is very small in this open panoramic view. Most of the turbines are viewed against the backdrop of Slieve Callan, slightly obstructing a minor part of the landscape view. Although there is visual stacking, the layout of the development is neat and orderly, and the development is effectively absorbed within the open and expansive landscape view. The proposed met mast is theoretically visible in this view, but unlikely to be discernible with the naked eye at this distance.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is seen directly behind the proposed Slieveacurry turbines in the 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development within the Slieve Callan Upland LCA. Therefore, the Proposed</p>		

Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North	
	<p>Development does not increase the horizontal extent of turbines seen within the landscape from this location but does increase the density of turbines seen within this narrow field of view. There is a very small amount of visual stacking between the developments considering they are located within the same focus of view. Due to differences in scale, the proposed turbines are seen as slightly larger elements than turbines of the Slievecallan Wind Farm, which distinguishes them as an independent cluster on the Slieveacurry site with subtle visual separation. Strategic siting, design specifications and proportionate scaling ensures that there is visual balance between the two wind farms, and they are seen as contiguous array of turbines within this landscape designated for wind energy development, significantly mitigating the impact of cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>Whilst a number of other wind farms are theoretically visible above the horizon (including the proposed Cahermurphy Two and Coor West Developments), at this distance a visual receptor would need to be actively searching the distant landscape to identify these turbines, therefore, cumulative visual effects are deemed to be minimal.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Very High:</b> The Cliffs of Moher is one of the most popular tourism destinations in Ireland, therefore, a huge volume of visual receptors are likely to pass this point on a regular basis, either by foot or vehicle most visual receptors are likely to be in this location in a recreational capacity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Very High X Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The spatial extent of proposed turbines seen within this wide-ranging view is very small, the Proposed Development is a background element and does not obstruct any scenic landscape view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ The open and expansive view of the Proposed Development is towards an area designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council in the current Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ The Very High sensitivity of this visual receptor is mainly attributed to its location at the Cliffs of Moher tourist destination. The valuable views and landscape receptors are located several hundred metres west of this viewpoint where views are directed in an offshore direction or upon the cliffs themselves, not towards the Proposed Development. No visibility of the Proposed Development is expected from viewing areas actually surrounding the cliffs.</li> <li>➤ Most visual receptors at this location will be pedestrians crossing the road, they are likely to be concentrating on crossing safely instead of enjoying the view.</li> <li>➤ The existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible from this viewpoint in the 'Baseline', it is already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape forming part of this view. Therefore, addition of</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 14 – Lislorkan North	
	the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the current baseline view from this location.
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 15 – Rathbaun			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Main Street in the townland of Rathbaun.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is from outside the Imperial Hotel and main carparking amenities in the town of Lisdoonvarna.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the Burren Cycling Route and the Doolin Cycling Hub Route.</li> <li>➤ 17.4 km north of the nearest turbine</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,477; N 698,258.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA1: The Burren Uplands – <b>High</b> Landscape Receptor of International Importance.	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Lisdoonvarna Tourist Destination – <b>High</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b> Traffic- <b>Medium/Low</b> Recreational Routes - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>This view is focussed down the R476 Regional road as it exits Lisdoonvarna to the south. The foreground of the image shows pedestrian walkways lining each side of the road. As the road slopes steeply away from the viewpoint residential houses, tall trees, streetlights and power/communication poles frame a view of a rural landscape seen in the background and middle distance. A hill of similar elevation is seen in the middle ground of the image where coniferous forestry and clusters of deciduous trees are the primary landcover.</p> <p>Several turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm are just discernible in the distance and background of the image, they are seen above a skyline of hilly landscape. Screening from built form and vegetation means that only a very small portion of the background landscape is visible from the town of Lisdoonvarna.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All 8 no. of the proposed Slieveacurry turbines are visible in the photomontage. From this location turbines T1, T7 and T3 are partially screened from view by coniferous forestry upon the intervening landform. Visual stacking occurs between turbines T2 and T6, and between turbines T4 and T8. The proposed met mast is not visible from this viewpoint.</p> <p>At this distance the turbines are seen as very small features in the background of the view, especially in comparison to other vertical man-made elements in the foreground such as streetlights and telecommunication/power poles. The spatial extent of the Proposed Development is balanced and in scale with its landscape context.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The Proposed Development is visible in conjunction with turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm, there is overlap between the two developments and a small amount of visual stacking may occur. The Proposed Development only minimally increases the horizontal extent of turbines seen from this viewpoint. The proposed turbines are closer to this viewpoint and are of a larger size than the Slievecallan turbines, this is appropriate for their location on sites of differing proximity.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> Includes visual receptors such as residents of Lisdoonvarna and visiting tourists. The high sensitivity rating takes account of this location in</p>		

Viewpoint 15 – Rathbaun	
	the Burren Uplands LCA, this viewpoint represents the open views of the Proposed Development from County Clare Heritage Landscape of The Burren (landscape receptor of international importance) which surrounds the town of Lisdoonvarna.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Slight:</b> 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located in a landscape area specifically designated for wind energy development by Clare County Council.</li> <li>➤ At this distance (&gt;17 km) the turbines are seen as small and minor features of the landscape, particularly in comparison to other man-made elements (streetlights, communication poles) seen within this view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is not visible in most areas of Lisdoonvarna, the proposed turbines will be screened from view by the townscape of Lisdoonvarna, mature vegetation and intervening landform.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed as a neat and organised cluster, almost all turbine components are viewed above the horizon, therefore the Proposed Development does not obstruct landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ Turbines of the existing Slievecallan Wind Farm is visible from this location, these are already a well-established and accepted element of the existing landscape view. Therefore, addition of the Slieveacurry turbines will not be initiating a dramatic or novel change to the ‘Baseline’ view from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight Effects (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 16 – Cloghaun Beg			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R460 Regional road in the townland of Cloghaun Beg.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of local residential amenity located in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ 1.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 511,088; N 677,973.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 6/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 17: Slieve Callan Upland - <b>Medium to Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Residents – <b>High</b> Motorised Traffic – <b>Medium to Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>The Baseline image shows an open view from the R460 across the undulating rural landscape of Cloghaun Beg towards the elevated rise of Cloghaun More which is seen across the horizon. Landcover in the foreground comprises fields of improved agricultural pasture bordered by hedgerows and small clusters of trees. A large tract of coniferous forestry is seen upon the high elevation in the background of the image. A steep valley separates Slieve Callan and Slieveacurry in the townland of Letterkelly, this valley is oriented south-west to north-east from this viewpoint location. The entrance to this valley is seen to the right of the image where the topographical profile steps down from the centre of the image to a plateau at the far right where a settlement and a cluster of trees are located.</p> <p>No other wind turbines are visible in the baseline image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>Only six of the eight proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage. Most of the turbines are significantly screened by the ridgeline at Cloghaun More, only turbines T7, T8 and T6 are fully discernible in the photomontage. Turbines T1 and T2 are entirely screened from view and only a half blade of turbines T3, T4 and T5 are visible above the horizon. The lower tower of Turbine T6 is also screened by the intervening topography. Turbine T7 is in closest proximity to this viewpoint (1.3km), consequently it is the largest and most visually prominent turbine in the photomontage. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and adequate spacing ensures there is no visual stacking from this perspective.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Although they are not visible in the 90° Baseline image, it is noted that two turbines of the existing Slievecallan development are located within 1.5 km from this viewpoint. In total eleven turbines of the Slievecallan development are visible in a field of view focussed to the east and south-east from this location. Six of the visible Slievecallan turbines are located at a distance greater than 2 km from this viewpoint where visual effects are mitigated by distance. Five visible Slievecallan turbines are located within 2 km of this location and are prominent landscape features from this viewpoint, whereas only three turbines of the Proposed Development are obviously visible from this location.</p> <p>Several existing Slievecallan turbines may be perceived in the periphery of views towards the Proposed Development from this viewpoint. There is visual separation between the two developments. As shown by the photomontage, no existing Slievecallan turbines are visible within the primary field of view (90° or 53.5°) towards the proposed turbines. The turbines of the Proposed Development comprise 24° (6.6%) of a 360° field of</p>		

Viewpoint 16 – Cloghaun Beg	
	view, and the Slievecallan turbines comprise 59° (16.4%) of a 360° field of view. When open views of both developments are available, turbines of Slievecallan and the Proposed Development will cumulatively comprise 23% of possible views from this viewpoint, although both developments are not visible within the same primary viewshed.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> Sensitivity is deemed high for local residents living in this area. Other landscape and visual receptors within the immediate vicinity of this viewpoint are deemed to be of low sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Substantial:</b> 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 through 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All of the visible proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development designated by Clare County Council in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ Topography significantly mitigates visual effects as only three turbines are obviously visible from this location and the surrounding area.</li> <li>➤ As the R460 tracks north-east (right of the photomontage) from this location it enters a valley where the steeper topography and dense roadside vegetation significantly screens the turbines from view, substantially mitigating visual effects.</li> <li>➤ No components of the Proposed Development obstruct any landscape views.</li> <li>➤ There is no visual stacking, no blade overlap and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon; mitigating any visual confusion occurring at this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development appears in a landscape that is relatively simple in terms of land cover and composition which is complemented by the simple turbine layout.</li> <li>➤ There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and the existing Slievecallan turbines. The Slievecallan turbines are not visible within the primary field of view towards the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 17 – Boolynamiscaun.			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R460 Regional Road in the townland of Boolynamiscaun.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of local residential amenity located in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ 1.3 km south-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 513,635, N 679,449.</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 8/8</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 17: Slieve Callan Uplands – <b>Medium to Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Residents – <b>High</b> Motorised Traffic – <b>Medium to Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>The Baseline image shows an open view towards the high elevation of Slieveacurry from the roadside near a residence on the R460 regional road. The viewpoint is roughly midway between Inagh and Milltown Malbay as indicated by the road sign in the centre of the image. A flat rural landscape is seen in the foreground of the view. Landcover comprises a field of agricultural pasture to the right of the image, scrub land in the centre and a dense coniferous forestry plantation to the left. Topography rises in the middle distance where four distinct tracts of coniferous forestry ascend from the flats to a moorland landscape at higher elevations. Several electricity uprights are vertical elements seen in the foreground.</p> <p>No other wind turbines are visible in the Baseline image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the photomontage in a linear array across the horizon. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and the neat orderly spacing ensures there is no visual stacking from this perspective. Turbines T1, T2 and T3 are substantially screened by the ridgeline, only a half blade of turbine T1 is likely to be visible above the horizon and the lower blade arcs of T2 and T3 will also be screened. The lower tower of Turbine T7 is screened from view by the forestry seen to the left of the photomontage. Turbine T6 is in closest proximity to this viewpoint (1.3km), consequently it is the largest and most visually prominent turbine in the photomontage.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Although they are not visible in the 90° Baseline image, it is noted that three turbines of the existing Slievecallan development are located within 1 km of this viewpoint. The Slievecallan development is visible in a field of view focussed to the south from this location, seven turbines are visible, however visual effects are significantly mitigated by screening from intervening topography and mature treelines. One Slievecallan turbine is relatively prominent (seen in Plate 12-24 in Chapter 12), whilst the proximate turbines directly south and south-east are substantially obscured from view by a ridgeline so that only blade tips and an upper blade arc are visible.</p> <p>The proposed Slieveacurry turbines are not visible in the same primary viewshed as the existing Slievecallan turbines from this viewpoint. The central heading of the Proposed Development is to the north-west, and the central heading of the existing Slievecallan Development is to the south. Therefore, they are viewed in opposite directions and it is unlikely a visual receptor will observe both developments at the same time.</p>		

Viewpoint 17 – Boodynamiscaun.	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> Sensitivity is only deemed high for local residents living in this area, it is a rural and relatively sparsely populated area. Other landscape and visual receptors within the immediate vicinity of this viewpoint are deemed to be of low sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<b>Substantial:</b> 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 through 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.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All of the visible proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development designated by Clare County Council in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed as a coherent and well-designed array. There is no visual stacking, no blade overlap and all turbine components are viewed above the horizon; mitigating any visual confusion occurring at this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ No components of the Proposed Development obstruct any landscape views.</li> <li>➤ Sensitivity and therefore visual effects are deemed to be highest for local residences in this area. As is evident from the photomontage, the landscape is sparsely settled in this area.</li> <li>➤ As the R460 tracks to the south-west (left of the photomontage) from this location it enters a valley where the steeper topography and dense roadside vegetation significantly screens the turbines from view, substantially mitigating visual effects.</li> <li>➤ There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and the existing Slievecallan turbines. The Slievecallan turbines are not visible within the primary field of view towards the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2017)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.