



APPENDIX 12-3

VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

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

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
1	View from the N71 national road in the townland of Abbey, approximately 17.1 km south-west of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S110 and on the Wild Atlantic Way.	E 498,229 N 548,213
2	View the 'Wild Atlantic View' viewing point on the L-4713 local road in the townland of Dromleigh South, approximately 17.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 500,104 N 546,962
3	View from the L-4712 local road in the townland of Ardnageehy Beg, approximately 14.7 km south-west of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S30.	E 501,883 N 548,640
4	View from the R585 regional road in the townland of Kealkil, approximately 6.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine. Designated as a scenic route S29.	E 505,344 N 556,305
5	View from the R585 regional road in the townland of Maughanaclea, approximately 5.2 km south of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S29.	E 510,482 N 556,673
6	View from the L-8781 local road in the townland of Derryfadada, approximately 2.5 km south-west of the nearest turbine.	E 507,093 N 559,941
7	View from in the L-8776 local road and Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route in the townland of Gortloughra, approximately 3 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 511,163 N 559,531
8	View from the R584 regional road north from the townland of Curraglass, approximately 1.2 km south-east of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S28.	E 510,119 N 560,929
9	View from the R584 regional road and Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route in the townland of Inchi More, approximately 2.8 km north-east of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S34.	E 511,413 N 565,583
10	View from R548 regional road and Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route in the townland of Garrynapeaka, approximately 2.5 km north of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route S28.	E 510,362 N 565,989
11	View from the No. L-7406 local road and Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route in the townland of Rossalougha, approximately 3.4 km north of the nearest turbine. It is also approximately 1.3km north-east of the Chapel at Gougane Barra Designated Historical and Cultural Structure (within a High Value Landscape area). Designated Co Cork scenic route S27.	E 510,091 N 566,967
12	View from the L-3401 local road in the townland of Augeris, approximately 9.1 km north-east of the nearest turbine. Designated Co Cork scenic route 26.	E 515,482 N 570,399

Viewpoint 1 N71 (Abbey)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N71 national road in the townland of Abbey. ➤ Approximately 17.1 km south-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated Co. Cork scenic route S110 and the Wild Atlantic Way. ➤ Grid Reference: E 498,229, N 548,213 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	4 Rugged Ridge Peninsula: High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View: High Road Users - Medium
Description of 'Do Nothing' Scenario	<p>This image was taken just off N71 national road in front of Cemetery of Bantry and in proximity of Bantry House. Across Bantry Harbour and Bay various headlands and the western parts of Bantry Town can be seen in the right of this view in the midground. More distant shorelines can be seen to the left of the view rising at first gently then steeply to Knockboy Mountain and adjacent upland. The Conigar ridgeline form the backdrop in the centre of the view.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>At the distance of 17km, all seven of the proposed turbines will be just about discernible from approximately mid-tower upwards in the distance. The met mast though theoretically visible will not be discernible with the naked eye. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is very minor.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 17 km) ➤ The stated focus of this County Cork scenic route is ‘views of Dunmanus Bay and Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough and Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bere Island, and the Beara Peninsula’. As such only a small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines forming a backdrop to the actual focus of the view. ➤ Part of the proposed development is screened by landform. ➤ High elevation ridgelines to left are the dominant feature in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. 		

Viewpoint 1 N71 (Abbey)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No nearby residential visual receptors. The 'High' receptor sensitivity relates to the scenic route designation. ➤ Road users may be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 100 kmph, hence any views are likely to be temporary and imperceptible. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 2 Wild Atlantic View (Dromleigh South)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the ‘Wild Atlantic View’ viewing point on the L-4713 local road in the townland of Dromleigh South ➤ Approximately 17.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference: E 500,104, N 546,962 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	4 Rugged Ridge Peninsula: High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Visitors to Viewing Point - High Road Users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>This view looks from an elevated vantage point towards Bantry Bay to the left of the view and the inland areas to the east of the bay. The midground is occupied by an undulating lowland characterised by a patchwork of fields bordered by hedgerows and tree lines. Distant mountain ranges form the background to this expansive view. There are numerous dominant telecoms masts to the right of the view.</p> <p>Numerous existing and permitted turbines are theoretically visible but are not discernible with the naked eye.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	All of the proposed Curraglass turbines will be in view in a coherent cluster in the distance. The met mast though theoretically visible will not be discernible with the naked eye. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is very minor.		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 17 km) ➤ The turbines appear as insignificant landscape features compared with the adjacent telecoms masts. ➤ High elevation ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines and Bantry Bay are the dominant feature in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ No nearby residential visual receptors. The ‘High’ receptor sensitivity relates to the viewing point. ➤ Only very minor local traffic other than those visiting the viewing point, ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the ‘transitional marginal’ landscape character type. 		

Viewpoint 2 Wild Atlantic View (Dromleigh South)	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 3 Ardnageehy Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-4712 local road in the townland of Ardnageehy Beg. ➤ Approximately 14.7 km south-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S30. ➤ Grid Reference: E 501,883, N 548,640 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	4 Rugged Ridge Peninsula: High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View: High Residences -High Road Users - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing' Scenario	<p>Adjacent to some roadside shrubs the view looks across into a gently undulating, low-lying valley above which there are long distance views of the Curraglass ridge. To the right of the view a mountainous ridgeline which includes Knockboy and Conigar are part can be seen on the horizon. The view is vast and expansive. Numerous residential properties can be seen in the valley below alongside agricultural field patters defined by hedgerows.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>All the proposed turbines are visible from this location, most from mid-tower upwards, but one will be screened below hub height by landform. The met mast though theoretically visible will not be discernible with the naked eye. The spatial extent in the view is very minor in this view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This viewpoint was primarily chosen to assess the visual effects on County Cork scenic route S30, however, as the ZTV indicates there will only be visibility of the proposed turbines from this western tip of this scenic route. ➤ The stated focus of this view is ‘views of hills, mountains the Rivers Clodagh, Ilen and Owennashingaun, Lough Bofinna and the surrounding rugged remote rural landscape’. As such only a small part of these views will be affected and only on this short section of the scenic route. ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines form a background to the proposed turbines in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. 		

Viewpoint 3 Ardnageehy Beg	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is very minor. ➤ Intervening distance (c 15 km) ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 4 – R585 (Kealkil)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R585 regional road in the townland of Kealkil. ➤ Approximately 6.3 km south-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S29 ➤ Grid Reference: E 505,344, N 556,305 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 5/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	4 Rugged Ridge Peninsula: High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Moderate Scenic View – High Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>This image was taken along the designated scenic route (S29) and Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route on the eastern outskirts of Kealkil Village. Gently rolling agriculture land bordered by tree lines can be seen over a hedgerow that runs parallel along the road from where this image was taken. A ridgeline of elevated ground covered in peatland and forestry can be seen beyond. Douce Mountain can be seen in the background to the right of this view and Conigar and Foilastookeen ridgeline to the left. There are also distant views to Shehy Beg to the right. A number of residential properties are dotted around the landscape.</p> <p>The blades of four of the permitted Shehy More turbines can be seen to the right of the view.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	The blades of three turbines will be in view above the near ridgeline and two further turbines are discernible from hub height behind intervening vegetation. The met mast will not be visible from this location. The spatial extent within this view is minor.		
Cumulative Effects	Four of the permitted Shehy More turbines will be visible in the distance from approximately hub height upwards to the right of the view. As the two wind farms distinctly read as two separate developments there is clear visual separation.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 6.3 km) ➤ The proposed development is substantially screened by landform. ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. 		

Viewpoint 4 – R585 (Kealkil)	
	> Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 5 – Maughanaclea			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R585 regional road in the townland of Maughanaclea. ➤ Approximately 5.2 km south of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S29 ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,482, N 556,673 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	15a Ridged Peaked and Forested Upland: Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Low Scenic View: High Motorised Traffic - Medium
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>This view was taken from the R585 regional road on slightly elevated ground overlooking farmland, categorised by pastureland and bordered by hedgerows and mature tree lines, finishing in a low moorland -covered ridgeline in the midground. Beyond this, the Curraglass ridgeline can be seen covered in a mixture of peatland and forestry. The ridgelines of Foil and Conigar seen on the horizon form the backdrop. To the left of this view, part of the roadside shrubs can be seen. This view is open and expansive.</p> <p>Four of the recently constructed Grousemount turbines are just discernible in the far distance.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>All bar one of the proposed Curraglass turbines will be in view from approximately mid-tower upwards in the distance with one turbine only visible from half blade upwards. There is visual stacking of two turbines in this view, but this is considered not significant in the context of the scale of this project i.e. it does not comprise multiple layers of turbine array. The met mast may be barely visible from this location. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is considered minor to moderate in the context of its surroundings.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The four Grousemount turbines appear in the distance to the right of the proposed turbines. As the two wind farms distinctly read as two separate developments there is clear visual separation and imperceptible cumulative effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Part of the proposed development screened by intervening landform ➤ Spatial extent of the wind farm within the open and expansive view is minor to moderate 		

Viewpoint 5 – Maughanaclea	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines to the right and behind the proposed turbines in the view mitigate any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ Intervening distance (c 5 km) ➤ The turbines are set against the Foil and Conigar ridgelines, making them less obtrusive and reducing domineering effects. ➤ Sparsely populated road, hence very few residential visual receptors. The ‘High’ receptor sensitivity relates to the scenic route designation. ➤ The previous turbines, decommissioned in 2018, were visible from this location, hence seeing wind turbines from this location is not unprecedented. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the ‘transitional marginal’ landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences</p>

Viewpoint 6- Derryfadda			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-8781 local road in the townland of Derryfadda ➤ Approximately 2.5 km south-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 507,093, N 559,941 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	15a Ridged Peaked and Forested Upland: Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing' Scenario	<p>The left side of this view includes open views across the Owenbeg River Valley, characterised by agriculture pastureland and mature hedgerows. The valley then rises in elevation in the midground towards Foilastookeen to the right and the Curraglass ridge. The right side of this view mainly comprises of mature vegetation, which runs parallel along the road towards the proposed site. Telegraph poles can be seen in this view running parallel along the road and dotted around the valley.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>All of the proposed Curraglass turbines will be in view from this viewpoint. Four turbines will be almost fully visible, the lower tower of one turbine is screened by landform and two turbines will be predominately screened by vegetation. There is visual stacking of two turbines in this view. The met mast will be visible as a dark vertical line in amongst the turbines. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is moderate.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Moderate: The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening vegetation substantially screens two proposed turbines. ➤ A higher elevation ridgeline to the right of the proposed turbines in the view mitigates any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ Sparsely populated surrounding area and this viewpoint is not near any residential visual receptors 		

Viewpoint 6- Derryfadda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The previous turbines, decommissioned in 2018, were visible from this location, hence seeing wind turbines from this location is not unprecedented. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 7 – Gortloughra			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from in the L-8776 local road in the townland of Gortloughra. ➤ Approximately 3 km south-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 511,163, N 559,531 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	15a Ridged Peaked and Forested Upland: Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Cycle Route - Medium Local Traffic-Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>The view is from elevated ground which slopes downwards into a valley characterised by one-off residential properties and agricultural fields outlined by hedgerows. Beyond this the land rises towards the peat-covered Curraglass ridge in the middle ground. The moorland covered ridges Conigar and Foilastookeen can be seen in the background of the Doughill Mountain can be seen to the right in this view.</p> <p>Five of the recently constructed Grousemount Wind Farm are just discernible in the far distance.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>All of the proposed Curraglass turbines will be in view from approximately mid-tower upwards in the distance apart from one turbine which will only have half blades appearing above the ridgeline. There is minor visual stacking of two turbines in this view. The met mast will be visible as a dark vertical line alongside the turbines. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is moderate.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Five Grousemount turbines appear in the distance to the right of the view. As the two wind farms distinctly read as two separate developments there is clear visual separation.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low: Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Moderate: The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Viewpoint is located on a minor local road with very infrequent traffic and no nearby residential visual receptors ➤ Spatial extent of the wind farm within this open and expansive view is moderate. 		

Viewpoint 7 – Gortloughra	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines form a background to the proposed turbines in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ The previous turbines, decommissioned in 2018, were visible from this location, hence seeing wind turbines from this location is not unprecedented. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 8 – Cappaboy Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R584 regional road north-east from the townland of Cappaboy Beg ➤ Approximately 1.2 km south-east of the nearest turbine ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S28 ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,119, N 560,929 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 4/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	15a Ridged Peaked and Forested Upland: Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View – High Residents - Medium Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>The left and centre of the view is dominated by a grassed field sloping upwards. It is bounded by hedgerows on all sides and framed by trees either side. Farm buildings adjacent to mature trees can be seen beyond the field. On the horizon is mountain moorland-covered upland. The R584 lined by hedgerows and utility poles can be seen in the centre of the view. To the right of the view the moorland-covered western slope of Doughill Mountain can be seen.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>Four turbines will be visible from approximately hub height upwards. In addition to screening by landform the upper parts of two turbines are additionally screened by trees. One turbine is entirely screened by landform. The proposed turbines appear evenly spaced from this viewpoint. From this location the met mast will be screened by landform and vegetation. The spatial extent within the view is horizontally substantial, but vertically limited.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate: The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements.		
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The majority of the proposed development is screened by landform. ➤ This viewpoint was primarily chosen to assess the visual effects on County Cork scenic route S28. S28 is screened by landform and vegetation in most other sections of this scenic route, as shown clearly by the ZTV and Route Screening Assessment. Therefore, the turbines will not be visible on the majority of scenic route S28. This location represents the worst case scenario. However, this location only represents a brief glimpse of 		

Viewpoint 8 – Cappaboy Beg	
	<p>the turbines through a short gap in the otherwise mainly dense roadside vegetation as illustrated by the Route Screening Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The stated focus of County Cork scenic route S28 is of ‘the surrounding remote rural landscape and rugged mountains, as this view does not fit this description it can be assumed that the protected view is in another direction. ➤ Although there are nearby residences, they will have limited visibility of the development due to topographical screening. The ‘High’ receptor sensitivity relates to the scenic route designation. ➤ Road users may be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this relatively straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be temporary and imperceptible ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the ‘transitional marginal’ landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 9 - R584 (Inchi More)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R584 regional road in the townland of Inchi More. ➤ Approximately 2.8 km north-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S34. ➤ Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 511,413 N 565,583 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 3/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	16a Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Residents – Medium Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	The view is along the R584 with a single residential property to the left of the road. The far side of the road is lined by scrub-filled field. Beyond this there are medium to distant views to Foilastookeen to the right of the view and Doughill Mountain to the left. No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Two of the proposed turbines will be fully visible from approximately hub height upwards and another turbine will appear behind trees from mid tower upwards. The remaining four turbines are screened entirely by landform and will not be visible regardless of vegetation cover. The met mast will not be visible from this viewpoint. The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within the view is not significant.		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.		
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Majority of the proposed development screened by intervening landform and vegetation. ➤ Spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is not significant. ➤ The stated focus of this County Cork scenic route is ‘views of Lough Allua, Lee River Valley, Shehy Mountains, hills and surrounding rugged landscape’. As such only a small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines forming a backdrop to the actual focus of the view. ➤ Primary views of nearby residential visual receptors are not directed towards the proposed turbines. The ‘High’ receptor sensitivity relates to the scenic route designation. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the ‘transitional marginal’ landscape character type. 		

Viewpoint 9 - R584 (Inchi More)	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences

Viewpoint 10 - R548 (Garrynapeaka)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from R548 regional road in the townland of Garrynapeaka, on the north-eastern boundary of the Gougane Barra National Forest Park. ➤ Approximately 2.5 km north of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S28 ➤ Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,362, N 565,989 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 5/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	16a Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View-High Residents – Medium Recreational road users - High
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>This view was taken adjacent to a two-storey dwelling to the north of the Proposed Development along the R548. A telegraph pole can be seen in the foreground of this view. In the foreground treetops can be seen alongside the ornamental boundary hedge of the adjacent property. Beyond this the blanket bog-covered ridgelines of Doughill Mountain can be seen to the left and Foilastookeen and its eastern outcrops to the right and centre of the view.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>Five of the proposed turbines will be potentially visible. One turbine is fully visible. Parts of the lower tower of two turbines are screened and the blades of a further two appear above the ridgeline, albeit barely discernible behind vegetation. The met mast will be visible as a dark vertical line alongside the turbines. The spatial extent within the view is slight.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.		
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening topography and vegetation screens significant proportion of proposed development. ➤ The stated focus of County Cork scenic route S28 is of ‘the surrounding remote rural landscape and rugged mountains, as this view does not fit this description it can be assumed that the protected view is only partially in this direction. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ The image was taken when trees were not in leaf, at other times of the year the visual effects will be reduced. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 11 - Rossalougha			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the No. L-7406 local road and in the townland of Rossalougha ➤ Approximately 3.4 km north-east of the nearest turbine ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S27 ➤ Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,091, N 566,967 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development	16a Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Local Traffic – Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>The foreground is dominated by rough grassland with occasional scrub. A patchwork of fields, hedgerows and trees can be seen in parts of the valley below, while the various ridgelines in the distance are predominantly covered in blanket bog. The roof of one dwelling can be seen within the midground, otherwise there are no other man-made structures in the view. The Gougane Barra National Park cannot be seen from this view, as the near ridgeline to the right blocks the view into the valley.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>Two of the proposed turbines will be visible from approximately mid tower upwards, two from approx. hub height and the blade tips of two turbines will be visible above the ridgeline. One turbine is entirely screened by landform. The met mast will be visible as a dark vertical line alongside the turbines. The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within the view is slight.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative visual effects do not arise in this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposal 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.		
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open and expansive view, which mitigates the spatial extent and the potential for overbearing or domineering effects ➤ The proposed development is predominantly screened by landform. ➤ Higher elevation ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines in the view mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. 		

Viewpoint 11 - Rossalougha	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sparsely populated road, hence very few residential visual receptors. The High receptor sensitivity relates to the scenic route designation. ➤ The stated focus of this County Cork scenic route is ‘views of Coomataggart Mountain, hills, valleys and Gougane Barra’. As such only a small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines forming a backdrop to the actual focus of the view. ➤ The Route Screening Assessment shows that in most locations along this scenic route there will be no or intermittent views towards the turbines. Hence, this viewpoint is most likely the location with the greatest visibility of the proposed turbines along this scenic route. ➤ A small number of the previous turbines, decommissioned in 2018, were visible from this location, hence seeing wind turbines from this location is not unprecedented. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the ‘transitional marginal’ landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences</p>

Viewpoint 12 –Augris			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-3401 local road in the townland of Augeris. ➤ Approximately 9.1 km north-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ On designated County Cork scenic route S26. ➤ Grid Reference: E 515,482, N 570,399 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/7 		
LCT and Sensitivity	15a Ridged Peaked and Forested Upland: Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	<p>This view shows the character of the mountainous area around the proposed development site. The foreground of the view is of a gently undulating patchwork of tree and hedgerow lined fields interspersed with coniferous plantations and occasional buildings. The moorland and forestry covered mountains form the background to this view.</p> <p>One of the recently constructed Grousemount turbines can be seen on the ridgeline to the right of the view and two others are just discernible. Although theoretically visible, the Shehy More turbines, which are under construction, will be screened by vegetation in this view. The Derreenacrinning West turbines although theoretically visible will not be seen as they are screened by landform and vegetation.</p>		
Visual Effects Description	<p>All bar one of the proposed turbines will be in view from approximately mid-tower upwards in the distance, one turbine will only have half blades appearing above the ridgeline. There is visual stacking of two turbines in this view. The met mast though theoretically visible will not be discernible with the naked eye. The spatial extent of the wind farm within the view is slight.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Three Grousemount turbines appear in the distance to the right of the view. As the two wind farms distinctly read as two separate developments there is clear visual separation.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>		
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 9 km) ➤ Sparsely populated area, hence very few residential visual receptors. ➤ Screening obscures lower parts of turbines. 		

Viewpoint 12 –Augris	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spatial extent of the wind farm within this open and expansive view is slight. ➤ Turbines are framed by adjacent higher upland areas, mitigating any potential for overbearing or domineering visual effects. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for the 'transitional marginal' landscape character type.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>



