



## **APPENDIX 13-3**

### **VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENTS**

1.

# PHOTMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

Table 1-1: Viewpoints

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
1	View from the R314 Regional Road in the townland of Muingerroon South, approximately 10.4 km west of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located on a designated scenic route.	E 483,869 N 831,616
2	View from a local road, on the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route, in the townland of Tullaghanduff. The viewpoints is located approximately 17.9km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine on a Co. Mayo designated scenic route.	E 475,893 N 816,577
3	View from a local road at Carrowmore Lough in the townland of Rathmorgan, approximately 10 km west of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located at a Co. Mayo designated scenic route with designated views.	E 483,019 N 828,340
4	View from Nephin Drive local road in the townland of Fiddaunnageeroge, approximately 15.5 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located on a Co. Mayo designated scenic route.	E 500,700 N 810,363
5	View from a local road, just off the N59 National Road, Wild Atlantic Way tourist route and a Co. Mayo designated scenic route, in the townland of Srahgraddy, approximately 6.2 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 486,277 N 822,638
6	View from the R313 Regional Road within Belmullet village in the townland of Belmullet. The viewpoint is located approximately 22.7 km west of the nearest proposed turbine, on a Co. Mayo designated scenic route with designated views.	E 470,777 N 832,168
7	View from the R314 Regional Road in the townland of Gortleatilla, approximately 7.6 km north of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 495,185 N 835,978
8	View from the R314 Regional Road, which is also located on the Wild Atlantic Way, in the townland of Belderg More, approximately 12 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 499,241 N 839,608
9	View from the R312 Regional Road, in the townland of Moneynierin. The Viewpoint is located on the ‘Western Way’ way marked walking trail. It is located approximately 6 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 497,660 N 819,485
10	View from the R312 Regional Road and the Western Way way-marked walking route, in the townland of Derry Lower, approximately 8 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 498,953 N 818,131
11	View from the N59 National Road and the Western Way way-marked walking trail, in the townland of Tawnaghmore, approximately 2.4 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 493,827 N 821,583

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
12	View from a local road in the townland of Cluddaun approximately 7.9 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 502,381 N 830,337
13	View from the N59 National Road in the townland of Briska, approximately 3 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 490,023 N 821,955

Note: The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm are included in the Residual Effect determination given for each Viewpoint. These wind farms are categorised according to three scenarios (Existing, Do-Nothing Scenario, and Proposed) that are more fully outlined in Section 13.6 of the EIAR. However, it is noted that all cumulative visual effects are incorporated in the residual effect determined for each Viewpoint assessed below.

## 1.1

### Visual Effects: Mitigating Factors:

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the Proposed Development. It is therefore considered important to describe the nature of the proposed site and surrounding landscape characteristics that limit views towards the Proposed Development as well as other factors which mitigate visual effects, 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. 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:

- **The Proposed Development is located in an isolated area with limited number of residential dwelling and settlements located throughout the landscape area surrounding the site.**

The sensitivity of the residential visual amenity in the area surrounding the Proposed Development is reduced by the lack of settlements and limited numbers of residential dwellings in close proximity to the site, and within the wider landscape area. This is particularly true of areas where there is likely to be most visibility of the Proposed Development, such as to the south and south-east, where the screening effect of the topography surrounding the site is reduced.

- **Strategic Siting – of the Proposed Development on the eastern slopes of Slieve Fyagh**  
 The proposed Sheskin South development is sited on the lower regions of Slieve Fyagh, the crest of which is west of the proposed turbines. This provides substantial screening of the Proposed Development from areas within the LVIA Study Area to the west, south-west, and north-west, reducing visibility and mitigating visual effects in an extensive area.
- **Strategic Siting – of the proposed turbines in locations at a lower elevation (below 240m AOD) than adjacent ridgelines**  
 To the west, as well as other topographical elements to the north-east, the Proposed Development is partially contained or ‘framed’ by the surrounding landform. The large-scale and simple landform of the elevated moorland landscape enables the Proposed Development to be effectively absorbed by the surrounding landscape.
- **The Proposed Development does not obstruct landscape views of the North Mayo coastline and does not fundamentally impact scenic amenity attributed to the coast.**  
 Many valuable scenic views and scenic routes located in the LVIA Study Area are predominantly attributed to the coastal sector of the region, providing significant amenity for recreation and tourism. The proposed Sheskin South turbines will not substantially impact any sensitive scenic amenities attributed to the coast.

Viewpoint 1 – Muingerroon South			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R314 in the townland of Muingerroon South.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 10.4 km west of nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located along a designated scenic route.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 483,869, N 831,616</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 9/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU C – North-West Coastal Bog - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Motorists – <b>Medium</b> Scenic Route - <b>High</b> Residents - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The image shows an open and expansive view to the east towards Slieve Fyagh. The R314 Regional Road can be seen in the centre foreground with an electricity line seen running parallel to the road. The land cover is primarily bogland, and the topography can be seen to slope gently downwards away from the viewpoint. The right foreground consists of similar land cover, the sloping topography results in almost complete screening of views in this direction.</p> <p>In the centre background, a mixture of agricultural fields, coniferous plantation forestry, and residential buildings can be seen interspersed in the area below Slieve Fyagh, which is the most prominent feature in this view and can be seen in the centre background. There are some large tracts of coniferous plantation forestry visible on the slopes of this hill.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	The under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm is partially visible in the distance to the right of Slieve Fyagh in this view.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with</b>	9 of the proposed turbines are visible from this location, with the nacelles and turbine towers of 6 turbines visible where the slopes of Slieve Fyagh fall away (to the right-hand side of the hill). The blades or blade tips of 3		

Viewpoint 1 – Muingerroon South	
<b>Cumulative Description</b>	<p>turbines are visible above the crest of the hill. The topography substantially screens the majority of the proposed turbines from view from this location, resulting in a reduced horizontal extent of the visible turbines than would otherwise be the case. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear well absorbed within the landscape and appropriately scaled and are seen as small elements in the background of the view. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T5.</p> <p>The proposed Glenora turbines are visible above the ridgeline in the left background (90 degree photomontage).</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm will be seen through and behind the Proposed Development. These turbines are located at a lower elevation than the proposed Sheskin South turbines and so only the blades and some turbine nacelles will be visible. The proposed Sheskin South turbines are seen over a wider horizontal extent than the Oweninny 2 turbines.</p> <p>The proposed Glenora turbines are visible above the ridgeline in the left background but are located a substantial distance from the Proposed Development, and will appear smaller in scale than the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint represents road users located on a designated scenic route in the Mayo County Development Plan, with expansive views over moorland landscape of north Mayo.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><i>“Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i></p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the proposed turbines are screened from view by intervening landform.</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is small.</li> <li>➤ The landscape in view is remote with the turbines effectively absorbed within the view as a result.</li> <li>➤ The baseline view contains the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, meaning that the Proposed Development will not add novel elements into the view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as appropriately scaled elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ This one of the most open views available of the Proposed Development from this scenic route.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 1 – Muingerroon South	
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 2 - Tullaghanduff			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road on the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route, in the townland of Tullaghanduff.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 17.9km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on a Co. Mayo designated scenic route</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 475,893, N 816,577</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU B North West Coastal Moorland – <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route – <b>High</b> Road Users – <b>Low</b> Residents – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The image shows an open and expansive view to the north-east over Tullaghan Bay. The foreground is comprised of a view of the local road, which is a Co. Mayo designated scenic route. The road is bordered by low grasses and a wire fence. The centre midground view looks onto several agricultural pastureland fields. A number of low shrubs and trees can be seen along the border of the fields. Behind these fields in the midground the intertidal sands of Tullaghan Bay can be seen. On the other side of these sands, in the centre and left background a number of agricultural fields and residential dwellings located in Carrigeenmore can be seen. The landcover in the left and centre background is comprised of a mix of bogland and agricultural land, with tracts of coniferous plantation forestry interspersed throughout the landscape. There are also a number of residential and farm buildings dotted throughout this area. The landcover is similar throughout the centre and right backgrounds of the view.</p> <p>A number of small settlements and one-off dwellings can be seen throughout the view, including Bangor Erris in the centre background, with the results of quarrying activities visible upon the hillside just above the town as a distinctive white mark on the landscape.</p> <p>The skyline in the background is undulating, with dramatic rises and falls in topography primarily in the centre and right backgrounds, with some smaller undulations in the left background.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ the blade tips of the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be visible in the centre background of the view, although they are likely to be barely discernible from this viewpoint, as is shown in the photomontage.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with</b>	The Proposed Development is visible beyond the horizon, the proposed turbines are framed within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated ridgelines to either side. 15 of the 21 proposed turbines will be visible from		

Viewpoint 2 - Tullaghanduff	
<b>Cumulative Description</b>	this location, with the majority of the turbines partially screened by the intervening landform. Only 3 of the turbines will be fully visible. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon. 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 small features in the background of the view. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T9.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The existing Bunnahowen turbines are visible from this viewpoint, however, it is noted that this wind farm is not within the horizontal extent of the views shown here. The Bunnahowen turbines are located in the opposite direction to the proposed Sheskin South turbines, creating a combined – in succession (where an observer has to turn their head to see the various developments) view of turbines from this location. The Bunnahowen are located a substantial distance from the Proposed Development, although they will appear at a similar scale in terms of size as the proposed turbines.</p> <p>The consented ABO Sheskin turbines will be visible behind the Proposed Development, although only the blade tips of several turbines will be visible. In addition, one of the blade tips of the proposed Glenora turbines is seen through the Sheskin South turbines. The elements of these other developments will be insignificant compared to the views of the turbines from the Proposed Development. All wind farm components (turbines and met masts) from the ABO, Glenora and Sheskin South development will appear as a single coherent development.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint is located along a designated scenic route and there are impressive expansive views of a high scenic quality in the direction of the Proposed Development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</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 congruent with the scale and characteristics of the landscape type (Mountain Moorland) and the topography, with turbines appearing evenly spaced and appropriately scaled, assimilating well with the surrounding ridgelines.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is sited in a bowl of elevation, creating visual congruency when tracking across the ridgeline.</li> <li>➤ The view from this location is expansive and the Proposed Development occupies a small horizontal extent of this view.</li> <li>➤ The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development reduces the scale of the turbines, which appear as background elements.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 2 - Tullaghanduff	
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 3 – Carrowmore Lough			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road at Carrowmore Lough in the townland of Rathmorgan.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 10 km west from the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located at a Co. Mayo designated scenic route with designated views.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 483,019, N 828,340</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 17/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU C – North-West Coastal Bog - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route – <b>High</b> Residents - <b>Medium</b> Road Users - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image was taken from the edge of Carrowmore Lough and shows an open and expansive view of the Lough and beyond. The Lough itself can be seen throughout the foreground and midground. In the left background, large swathes of coniferous plantation forestry can be seen at the waters edge, and this forestry continues along the gently undulating ridgeline in the left background (Slieve Fyagh). Behind this forestry, long-distance views of a series of hills are available. Where the forestry is not present, the groundcover is mainly bog habitat. Further to the right, a row of residential dwellings can be seen close to the shores of the Lough. In the right background the elevation level rises higher forming a hill, at the base of which a small settlement can be seen. The land cover here is improved grassland, noticeably greener than the surrounding bog habitat. A series of ridgelines can be seen behind this small settlement.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	<p>The turbines of the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm can be seen in the centre background where the ridgeline dips to a lower elevation.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>17 of 21 turbines of the Proposed Development will be visible from this location, they are seen above the ridgeline in the centre background. The proposed turbines are framed within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated ridgelines to either side. Different extents of the turbines are visible depending on their position within the site. There are 14 turbine nacelles and the blades of an additional 3 turbines also visible. A number of turbines are either completely or substantially screened by the intervening topography. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T21.</p> <p>Within the overall landscape viewed from this location, the proposed turbines take up a limited horizontal extent, given the distance from the viewpoint (10 km), and screening provided by the surrounding topography.</p>		



Viewpoint 3 – Carrowmore Lough	
	The turbines appear effectively absorbed and congruent with the undulating ridgeline, with the tips of the turbines following the curve of the topography.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm will be seen through the Proposed Development. These turbines are located at a lower elevation than the proposed Sheskin South turbines and so only the blades and some turbine nacelles will be visible. However, they are very small background elements and will be difficult to discern. The proposed Sheskin South turbines are seen over a wider horizontal extent than the Oweninny 2 turbines.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint represents a designated scenic route with designated views. The view is an open and expansive view of the ridgelines of north Mayo and Carrowmore Lough and is highly scenic.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</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>➤ Visibility of the turbines is mitigated by distance, they are seen as relatively small elements.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is effectively absorbed within this expansive and simplistic landscape type.</li> <li>➤ There is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography. A large proportion of the Proposed Development is obscured from view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is partially seen above the horizon and does not obstruct views of the ridgelines in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ The turbines appear well-absorbed and congruent with the undulating ridgeline, with the turbines following the curve of the topography.</li> <li>➤ The baseline view contains the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, therefore, the Proposed Development will not add novel elements into the view.</li> <li>➤ There are other notable landscape features in scenic views to the south and north from this viewpoint, not in the direction of the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 4 – Fiddaunnageeroge			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Nephin Drive local road in the townland of Fiddaunnageeroge,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 15.5 km south-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located at a Co. Mayo designated scenic route.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 500,700, N 810,363</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents – <b>Medium</b> Road Users – <b>Low</b> Scenic Route - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image shows an open and expansive view of the surrounding remote landscape comprised of blanket bog, coniferous forestry, with a small number of isolated residential and farm buildings present in this area as well.</p> <p>This flat plain continues until reaching a ridgeline that rises in the background and begins to undulate more dramatically further to the left-hand side of the view. In the left background the slopes are steeper and the rises in elevation more dramatic, with impressive views of Slieve Carr available in this direction.</p> <p>The existing Bellacorrick and Oweninny 1 Wind Farms can be seen in the centre and right background.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	<p>In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be visible to the centre background of the view, to the right of the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>All 21 turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the centre background from this viewpoint. They are seen on the slopes of the ridgeline with the blades of 18 of the proposed turbines seen above the skyline. The proposed turbines are viewed behind the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, increasing the density of turbines in this part of the view. The addition of the Proposed Development to the view increases the horizontal extent of turbines within the view. However, given the given the distance from the viewpoint (15.5 km), the proposed turbines take up a limited horizontal extent within the overall landscape viewed from this location. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T4.</p> <p>At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear well absorbed within the landscape and appropriately scaled and are seen as very small elements in the background of the view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There are a number of other existing, consented, and proposed wind farms in this view. These include the existing Oweninny 1, Oweninny 2, and Bellacorrick developments, the Consented ABO Sheskin development, and the proposed Oweninny 3 and proposed Glenora developments. All these developments are viewed in the centre background and appear as one contiguous development from this perspective. The proposed Sheskin South turbines will be seen primarily behind the Oweninny 2 turbines, and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible, although in relation to the overall size of the view of wind farms in this view, this will be by a relatively</p>		

Viewpoint 4 – Fiddaunnageeroge	
	small extension. It is notable that some the turbines of the Proposed Development are located at a higher elevation than the other existing, permitted, and proposed turbines located within the flat bogland plain, with the blades of several turbines seen at a higher level, following the rise in topography.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint represents road users located on a designated scenic route, with impressive panoramic views over the flat bogland plain south-east of the Proposed Development, as well as the arcing series of ridgelines running throughout north Mayo.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</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 landscape area seen from this viewpoint is remote, with low numbers of residential dwellings seen throughout.</li> <li>➤ This is a remote, low-trafficked scenic route.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are viewed as part of an overall area of wind energy development, which is absorbed within the scale of the landscape in view.</li> <li>➤ The added horizontal spatial extent where turbines are visible through the addition of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is relatively small, with the majority of the turbines seen behind another wind energy development.</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>➤ Views of the turbines do not detract from views of Slieve Carr, which is the most prominent feature in the ridgeline that makes up the skyline.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 5 – Srahgraddy			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road, just off the N59, Wild Atlantic Way tourist route and a Co. Mayo designated scenic route, in the townland of Srahgraddy.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 6.2 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 486,277, N 822638</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 5/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU E – North Mayo Mountain Moorland – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents – <b>Medium</b> Road users – <b>Medium</b> Recreational Visitors – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image was taken in Bangor Erris, from a local road adjacent to Kiltane GAA club. This local road can be seen in the left and centre foreground, bordered by a wire fence that marks the edge of the grass pitch. On the right-hand side of the road the ground cover is a mixture of unmanaged grasses, bogland, and other shrubs. In the right midground the ground cover is similar and extends over a flat area before reaching the base of a hill located in the right background. The elevation rises from beside the local road in the centre midground where a residential dwelling can be seen. From here the elevation rises steeply to the right forming a ridgeline that prevents longer-distance views in this direction.</p> <p>The centre midground view comprises the grounds of the GAA club, including the grass pitch and stands, with vertical elements in the form of lampposts, goalposts, and electricity lines. The left background view is dominated by the hill located behind the town from this direction. This rise in elevation screens longer range views in this direction. The results of quarrying activity can be seen on the side of the hill, with a large area of exposed rock visible, adding an industrial character to the view. Further right, in the centre background, longer range views are available as the ridgeline descends.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ there are no other wind farms visible in the view.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>5 of the proposed turbines are visible above the ridgeline in the centre background, with the lower components of these turbines partially screened from view. The topography substantially screens the majority of the turbines from view from this location, resulting in a reduced horizontal extent of the visible turbines than would otherwise be the case.</p> <p>All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop. There is some visual confusion created as a result of the row of lampposts, which the Proposed Development will be seen through. Given that there are already numerous existing vertical elements breaking the skyline, and that there is already an industrial character to the view as a result of the quarrying activity, the addition of the proposed turbines will not add substantially incongruent elements to the view. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small elements in the background of the view.</p>		

Viewpoint 5 – Srahgraddy	
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents receptors in Bangor-Erris, including residents, and recreational users of the sports facility in view. Residents are located in medium proximity to the Proposed Development. Views along the valley are considered to be moderately scenic, although noticeably less so due to the quarry. This viewpoint is located close to a designated scenic route, however, as explained in the main chapter, this scenic route is screened out from assessment as there is very limited theoretical visibility along it. In addition, the focus of the high-quality views from this scenic route is to the south and west, away from the Proposed Development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</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>➤ Topography limits views of the Proposed Development due to the intervening ridgeline.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is mitigated by distance, they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 6 – Belmullet			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R313 within Belmullet in the townland of Belmullet.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is also located along a Co. Mayo designated scenic route with designated scenic views.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 22.7 km west from the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 470,777, N 832,168</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 3/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU B North West Coastal Moorland – <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route – <b>High</b> Road Users – <b>Medium</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	This is a view from the R313 Regional Road in the town of Belmullet. It shows an open and expansive view with scenic qualities of the bay and ridgelines of north Co. Mayo. The centre foreground comprises a view of a long grassy bank sloping down towards the bay with deciduous and		

Viewpoint 6 – Belmullet	
	<p>coniferous trees seen at the bank’s edge. The right foreground view is of the R313 Regional Road, bordered on the near side by a mature hedgerow, and on the far side by a low stone wall. In the right midground a number of residential dwellings can be seen. The residential dwellings and mature treeline seen at the end of the row of houses prevent any longer-distance views in this direction.</p> <p>In the left midground the intertidal area of the bay can be seen. The skyline of the centre background is made up of an undulating ridgeline. A number of one-off residential dwellings and agricultural fields can be seen at the base of the hills that make up this ridgeline.</p> <p>3 turbines from the existing Bunnahowen Wind Energy Development are visible on the ridgeline in the right background.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ there are no additional wind farms visible in the view.
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>There are 3 turbines partially visible in this view. Two blades and the nacelle of T8 are visible above the horizon in the centre of the view. As indicated by the wireframe a single blade of T11 and T13 are theoretically visible, however, as demonstrated by the photomontage they are unlikely to be discernible in the landscape at this distance. The proposed turbines are significantly screened by the topography of the ridgeline in the centre background, with the majority of turbines completely screened from view.</p> <p>Within the overall landscape viewed from this location, and as only one turbine is discernible, the proposed turbines comprise a limited spatial extent, given the distance from the viewpoint (22 km), and the screening provided by the topography. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the visible turbine appears appropriately scaled, and is seen as very small element in the background of the view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	3 turbines from the existing Bunnahowen Wind Energy Development are visible on the ridgeline in the right background. In addition, a single turbine from the proposed Glenora wind farm is seen to the left of the Proposed Development. All turbines appear as very small background elements within the view.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This view represents a scenic route, road users, residents and other visual receptors visiting the town of Belmullet. The view over the bay is highly scenic considering the expansiveness of the view and the sensitive landscape features in view (the water, dramatic ridgelines etc).
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 6 – Belmullet	
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance; they are seen as very small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is reduced by the siting of the turbines within an area surrounded by higher areas of elevation, the Proposed Development is partially seen above the horizon and does not obstruct views of the ridgelines in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for Mountain Moorland landscape character type, and there is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography.</li> <li>➤ Residential dwellings adjacent to this location are oriented so that the focus of views from these buildings is to the north, not in the direction of the Proposed Development.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 7 - Gortleatilla			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R314 in the townland of Gortleatilla,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 7.6 km north of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 495,185, N 835,978</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 16/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU C – North-West Coastal Bog - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road Users – <b>Medium</b> Residents - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The image shows an open and expansive view to the south toward Slieve Fyagh. The R314 regional road is seen in the right foreground, bordered by low grasses and a ditch on either side. The road is bordered by a bog field that slopes gently upwards, forming a ridgeline that screens longer-distance views, although the crests of some hills are seen rising above this bog field in the left background. This ridgeline continues in the centre background, with long distance views of the peak of Slieve Carr available, before the elevation level rises slightly, culminating in the peak of Slieve Fyagh. At the base of this hill a number of residential and farm buildings can be seen. Large tracts of coniferous plantation forestry are also visible on the slopes seen in the centre background.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	<p>In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario several blade tips of the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be discernible to the left of the view, substantially screened by the intervening ridgeline.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>There will be 9 turbines nacelles visible above the ridgeline in the centre background of the image, in addition to visibility of 7 turbine blades from other proposed turbines. The majority of the turbines are screened by the intervening landform. Only 2 of the turbines will be fully visible, with</p>		

Viewpoint 7 - Gortleatilla	
	<p>varying sections of the turbine towers screened again by the intervening landform. The proposed turbines interfere with views of the upper regions of Slieve Carr, the longest-distance views from this location. The proposed turbines are generally viewed as appropriately scaled in relation to the scale of the landscape in view.</p> <p>At this distance (c. 7.6 km), and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear well absorbed within the landscape and are seen as small elements in the background of the view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The blades of two turbines from the consented ABO Sheskin project are visible above the ridgeline in the centre background. There is very limited visibility of this development from this location, but the turbines do appear visually separated from the proposed Sheskin South turbines.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents road users of the R312 regional road and nearby residents who are located a large distance from the Proposed Development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i><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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</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>➤ There is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography.</li> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is obscured from view.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is on a sparsely populated section of road and there are limited numbers of nearby residential properties and sensitive visual receptors in this remote landscape.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as appropriately scaled elements in the landscape from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities



Viewpoint 8 – Belderg More			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R314, which is also located along the Wild Atlantic Way, in the townland of Belderg More,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 12 km north-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located close to (3 km further east along the same road) a designated scenic route and represents views from this route for the purposes of the assessment of visual effects undertaken.</li> <li>➤ This image was taken from the R314 regional road along the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 499,241, N 839,608</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 11/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU C – North-West Coastal Bog - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Wild Atlantic Way – <b>Medium</b> Road Users – <b>Medium</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b> Scenic Route – <b>High</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The regional road is seen in the centre foreground, bordered by a low stone wall that forms the boundary of a residential property, seen in the left foreground. A number of farm buildings can be seen in the right foreground. The landcover in the centre and right midground primarily consists of fields of bog habitat, with some semi-improved grassland. The topography in the centre midground gently rises to form a low hill which interrupts views of the ridgeline in the background.</p> <p>In the left background a steep rise in elevation can be seen, the Maumakeogh Mountain. This rise in elevation slopes downwards towards the centre background, where the low hill in the centre midground prevents any longer-distance views. Further right, there are long-distance views of a ridgeline available above the road, which are then blocked again by another rise in topography.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ no other wind farms are visible.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	5 nacelles of the proposed turbines are visible from this location, with the blades of 6 other proposed turbines also visible. The topography substantially screens the majority of the turbines from view from this location, resulting in a reduced vertical and horizontal extent of the visible turbines than would otherwise be the case. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop. At this distance (c. 12 km), and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear well absorbed within the landscape and appropriately scaled and are seen as small elements in the background of the view.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint represents road users located on a designated scenic route in the Mayo County Development Plan, with views over moorland landscape of north Mayo, in addition to tourists travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route.		

Viewpoint 8 – Belderg More	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</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 spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is small, the Proposed Development is seen above the horizon and does not obstruct long distance views of the ridgelines in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is obscured from view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is significantly mitigated by distance, they are seen as appropriately scaled elements in the landscape from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 9 - Moneynierin			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R312 Regional Road, in the townland of Moneynierin.</li> <li>➤ The Viewpoint is located on the ‘Western Way’ way marked walking trail, approximately 6 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 497,660, N 819,485</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road Users - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The intersection between the R312 and the N59, and the associated road signs can be seen in the centre and right foreground. In the centre midground the road can be seen to be bordered with a low steel barrier, beyond which the entrance to a construction site can be seen lined with traffic cones. The right midground view looks down the N59. An overhead powerline can be seen running from left to right in the view. On the right-hand side of this section of road, a relatively flat area of bogland can be seen. In the centre and right background view, a large tract of coniferous plantation forestry can be seen. This tract of forestry screens the majority of the longer-distance views of the hills behind it, although the taller peaks can be seen above it in some cases. The view in the left background is unobstructed.</p>		

Viewpoint 9 - Moneynierin	
	Turbines from the existing Oweninny 1 and Bellacorick wind farms can be seen throughout the image, above the coniferous plantation forestry.
<b>Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'</b>	In a 'Do-Nothing Scenario' the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be visible in the centre background of the view, behind and to the right of the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm.
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	The majority of the proposed turbines will be visible from this location, with the nacelles of all proposed turbines visible. The proposed turbines are seen behind the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm. There is overlap of turbine components occurring for the proposed turbines, particularly in conjunction with turbines from the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm. There is a high density of turbines and visual stacking of turbine components occurs causing some visual confusion. Given the distance of the Proposed Development from this location (c. 6 km) the turbines appear as relatively small background elements. As there are already existing turbines within the view, the addition of the proposed turbine do not add novel or incongruent elements, and they do not increase the horizontal extent of visible turbines within the view. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T3.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The greatest cumulative effects occur as a result of the interactions between the Proposed Development and Oweninny 2. However, the proposed turbines are scaled appropriately to assimilate with the Oweninny 2 and ABO Sheskin wind farms, so that they read as one contiguous wind farm development in this view.</p> <p>There are a number of other wind farms, existing, consented, and proposed, in this view. The existing Oweninny 1 Wind Farm and the Bellacorick Wind Farm are located in the right background of the image. The proposed Glenora, and proposed Oweninny 3 developments are also visible in this location, although visually separated from Oweninny 2, ABO Sheskin and the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Given the number of developments in this view, turbines are visible over a wide horizontal extent. Although the proposed Sheskin South development will not increase the horizontal or vertical extent of turbines visible within this view, they do increase the density of turbines visible within the landscape and this has been accounted for in the magnitude of change determination of effects below.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents road users located on a National Road, the main transport route through the landscape in close proximity to the Proposed Development. Views in the direction of the Proposed Development are not highly scenic at present given the existing level of wind energy development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i><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. This change could be short term or of a short duration."</i> (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)

Viewpoint 9 - Moneynerin	
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</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>➤ There are longer range views of more dramatically undulating topography visible away from the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not introduce novel or incongruous elements into the view, given the presence of existing wind turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines will be seen through another wind energy development, and so will not increase the vertical or horizontal extent of visible turbines.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 10 - Rathcore			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R312, which is also located along the Western Way, in the townland of Derry Lower,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 8 km south-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 498,953, N 818,131</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road Users – <b>Medium</b> Western Way – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>The view is an open and expansive view over a flat bogland area of north County Mayo. The view is comprised of a flat bogland plain. There is a lack of screening elements in close proximity to the viewpoint, allowing for long range views in all directions. A number of tracts of coniferous plantation forestry can be seen interspersed throughout the landscape. There are no residential buildings seen in the immediate vicinity of the viewpoint, with some small groupings of houses visible on the hills in the centre background. The ridgeline that forms the skyline of the view is gently undulating. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T3.</p> <p>The existing Oweninny 1 and Bellacorick wind farms can be seen in the right background of the view.</p>		
<b>Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'</b>	<p>In a 'Do-Nothing Scenario' the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be visible in the centre background of the view, to the right of the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, extending and visually connected with Oweninny 2.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with</b>	<p>The majority of the proposed turbines are visible from this location and are situated on the ridgeline that forms the skyline of the view. The Proposed</p>		

Viewpoint 10 - Rathcore	
<b>Cumulative Description</b>	<p>Development appears as a coherent layout, appropriate for the landscape type within which it is situated. Given the intervening distance of c. 8.4 km from this viewpoint location to the site, the scale and extent of the turbines is readily absorbed into what is an open and expansive view.</p> <p>The proposed turbines are seen behind the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, which is visually separated from the existing Oweninny 1 and Bellacorick Wind Farms, although these are seen in a similar viewshed. There is overlap of turbine components occurring for the proposed turbines, particularly in conjunction with turbines from the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm. A high density of turbines and visual stacking of turbine components occurs causing some visual confusion. The proposed turbines do not introduce incongruent or novel visual elements into the view. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines are effectively absorbed within the landscape and appropriately scaled and are seen as small elements in the background of the view. The proposed Oweninny 3 and Glenora wind farms are seen to the right-hand side of the view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There are a number of other existing, consented, and proposed wind farms in this view. These include the existing Oweninny 1, under construction Oweninny 2, and existing Bellacorick developments, the Consented ABO development, and the proposed Oweninny 3 and proposed Glenora developments. These developments are separated into two clusters of turbines from this location, with the consented ABO Sheskin and Oweninny 2 developments, and the proposed Sheskin South turbines, seen in the centre background, and the remaining developments seen in the right background.</p> <p>The proposed Sheskin South turbines will be seen primarily through the Oweninny 2 turbines and will slightly increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible, although in relation to the overall size of the view of wind farms in this view, this will be by a relatively small extension. The proposed Sheskin South turbines will not extend the vertical extent of turbines within this view, as the blade tips of several turbines from Oweninny 2 will be seen above the proposed Sheskin South blade tips. The proposed turbines are scaled appropriately to assimilate with the Oweninny 2 and ABO Sheskin wind farms, so that they read as one contiguous wind farm development in this view.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents road users located on a regional road, and receptors travelling the Western Way, with expansive views over the flat bogland plain south-east of the Proposed Development, as well as the arcing series of ridgelines running throughout north Mayo.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><i>“Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i></p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences</p>

Viewpoint 10 - Rathcore	
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The landscape area seen from this viewpoint is remote, with low numbers of residential dwellings seen throughout.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are viewed as part of an overall area of wind energy development, all of which are effectively absorbed within the scale of the landscape in view.</li> <li>➤ The added horizontal spatial extent where turbines are visible through the addition of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is relatively small, with the majority of the turbines seen through and behind another wind energy development.</li> <li>➤ the baseline view contains a number of existing wind farms, meaning that the Proposed Development will not add novel elements into the view.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is somewhat mitigated by distance; they are seen as relatively small elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ Views of the turbines do not detract from views of Slive Carr, which is the most prominent feature in the ridgeline that makes up the skyline (although it is beyond the left-hand extent of the image).</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

Viewpoint 11 - Tawnaghmore			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N59, which is also located along the Western Way, in the townland of Tawnaghmore,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 2.4 km south-east of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 493,827, N 821,583</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road Users – <b>Medium</b> Western Way – <b>Medium</b> Residential Receptors - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This is a view from the intersection of the N59 national road and the L52926 local road, which can be seen in the right foreground, marked by the road signs. A number of individual trees, both coniferous and deciduous, are scattered throughout the right foreground alongside the road. The right background view is partially obscured by these trees, but where views are not screened an undulating area of bog habitat can be seen, which forms a ridgeline, preventing longer-distance views in this direction.</p> <p>The centre midground view is of the bogland field, behind which the ground slopes upwards to form a ridgeline seen in the centre background. The land cover on these slopes is mix of agricultural fields, and residential dwellings and farm buildings on the lower sections of the hills. On the higher sections, the land cover is mainly coniferous plantation forestry.</p>		

Viewpoint 11 - Tawnaghmore	
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In the right background, turbines from the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm are visible above this ridgeline, with some partial screening provided by the vegetation and road infrastructure.
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	In total, 20 of 21 turbines from the Proposed Development will be visible from this location, with substantial screening of many of these provided by the topography and treeline. There are 13 turbine nacelles visible, with the blades of 7 other proposed turbines also visible. Land cover in the form of coniferous plantation forestry and residential buildings partially screens views of some of the turbines, restricting views of turbine towers to 5 of the proposed turbines. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop. The turbines increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the view from the left-hand extent of Oweninny 2 and are of similar proportion to the Oweninny 2 turbines. However, the intervening topography provides better screening of the Proposed Development than Oweninny 2. Overall, the turbines and are seen as moderately scaled features at this distance.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	There are a large number of other existing or consented turbines located within this view (although these are not all shown in this photomontage as they are outside of the right-hand extent of the image), including the Oweninny 1, 2, and 3 wind farms, which take up the largest horizontal extent. The overall appearance of all wind turbines (existing, proposed, consented) can be viewed as a whole wind farm over a large area, with different projects appearing as parts of a single wind farm, and do not appear visually separated. The proposed Sheskin South turbines will appear similar in terms of scale to the Oweninny 2 turbines, which are the closest turbines to the Proposed Development, and these two developments, appear at a similar distance from the viewpoint.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents receptors travelling the Western Way, with expansive views over the flat bogland plain south-east of the Proposed Development, as well as the arcing series of ridgelines running throughout north Mayo, although these views are to the south and are directed away from the Proposed Development. In addition, this viewpoint represents a number of residential receptors in medium proximity to the Proposed Development, most of which are seen within the image shown. The topography of the hill upon which these residential receptors are located, as well as the intervening treelines, will provide substantial screening of the Proposed Development from these dwellings.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 11 - Tawnaghmore	
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The topography of the hill upon which the residential receptors are located, as well as the intervening treelines, will provide substantial screening of the Proposed Development from these dwellings, as well as acting as a physical and visual buffer.</li> <li>➤ In most instances primary residential visual amenity is directed in the opposite direction to the view shown here, away from the Proposed Development towards Slieve Carr and the flat bogland plain.</li> <li>➤ There is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography, with most turbines from the Proposed Development substantially obscured from view.</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view (directed away from the Proposed Development) is reduced by the siting of the turbines within an area surrounded by higher areas of elevation, the Proposed Development is partially seen above the horizon and does not obstruct views of the ridgelines in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ The Do Nothing Scenario view contains a number of man-made elements, including the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm, meaning that the Proposed Development will not add incongruent elements into the view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development will be viewed in combination with the Oweninny 2 Wind Farm and neither project will be discernible from the other and they will most likely be read as a single project in the landscape, increasing the congruency of the Proposed Development with the existing view.</li> <li>➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 12 – Cluddaun			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Cluddaun</li> <li>➤ Approximately 7.9 km north-east of the nearest turbine</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 502,381, N 830,337</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 21/21</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Motorised Traffic – <b>Low</b> Residents – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	The image shows an open and expansive view across a flat, open moorland landscape surrounding the Proposed Development Site to the north-east. Large tracts of coniferous plantation forestry can be seen in the left and right midground at various stages of growth. A number of semi-improved		



Viewpoint 12 – Cluddaun	
	<p>grassland fields can be seen in the centre midground, with a small number of deciduous trees dotted throughout the fields. In the background of the image an undulating ridgeline can be seen, including a view of Slieve Carr and Nephin Beg in the left background. This forms the skyline of the view. The landcover of these hills and the lands preceding them is primarily bogland, with some areas of coniferous plantation forestry interspersed throughout this area as well. There is only one residential dwelling visible in the view, which is located in the centre midground, with a number of farm buildings adjoining the house. Apart from this, there are no other residential buildings or settlements present in the view.</p> <p>Turbines of the existing Oweninny 1 Wind Farm can be seen in the left background.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm would be visible to the right of the view, visually separated from the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm.
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>All 21 of the proposed turbines are visible from this location, with the majority of the turbines visible in their entirety. Some overlap of turbine components occurs from this perspective. Most (18/21) turbine hubs are seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop with the turbines seen as a relatively linear array extending across the landscape. The proposed turbines will increase the horizontal extent of turbines in the view. The met mast is seen as a tall slender feature adjacent to turbine T9.</p> <p>At this distance (c. 8 km), within this open and expansive view, and within the scale of the landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small elements in the background of the view. The proposed turbines are not a novel addition to this wind farm landscape.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>A number of other wind farms are visible from this location. The existing Oweninny 1 and Oweninny 2, as well as the existing Bellacorrick wind farms are visible in the left and centre background. The under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm is located closest to the proposed Sheskin South development. In addition to these the consented ABO Sheskin development is visible from this viewpoint. The ABO Sheskin Wind Farm is located within the same viewshed as the proposed Sheskin South turbines.</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be viewed in combination with the under construction Oweninny 2 Wind Farm and the Consented ABO Sheskin Wind Farm and will in fact visually connect these wind farms from this perspective, with these wind farms visually separated prior to the addition of the proposed Sheskin South turbines. The scale of the existing and permitted and the proposed projects are comparable, appearing similar in height and blade length from this distance. Neither project will be discernible from the other and they will most likely be read as a single project in the landscape. The Proposed Development will be partially seen through the consented ABO Sheskin development.</p> <p>In addition, the proposed Glenora Development is visible from this viewpoint, however, it is noted that this proposed wind farm is not within the horizontal extent of the views shown here. The proposed Glenora turbines are located in the opposite direction to the proposed Sheskin South</p>

Viewpoint 12 – Cluddaun	
	turbines, creating a combined – in succession (where an observer has to turn their head to see the various developments) view of turbines from this location.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Low:</b> This viewpoint is located in an LCA of Low sensitivity, there are sensitive receptors located within this LCA such as residents and a scenic route on the R312. However, this viewpoint is not representative of these higher sensitivity receptors which are located at a significant distance from this location. This viewpoint represents a gravel local road leading to a commercial forestry site. Therefore, sensitivity is deemed to be Low.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<i>“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.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low x Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</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>➤ Sparsely populated section of road and there are very limited number of nearby residential properties. The landscape in view is large scale, open, and remote, capable of visually absorbing multiple wind farm developments.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is effectively absorbed within the expansive scale of the landscape type (Mountain Moorland).</li> <li>➤ The distance of the viewpoint from the Proposed Development reduces the scale of the turbines, which appear as background elements.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are appropriately scaled in relation to the turbines from other developments visible nearby. The proposed Sheskin South turbines extend the array of turbines visible, but the hubs are generally aligned with the other turbines visible (Oweninny 2) and rise slightly to the right-hand extent of the view, visually balanced with the rise in topography in that direction.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not introduce novel or incongruous elements into the view, given the presence of existing wind turbines.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 13 - Briska	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N59 in the townland of Briska, approximately 3 km south-west of the nearest turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 490,023, N 821,955</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 13 - Briska			
	<p>➤ No. of turbines visible: 4/21</p>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU E – North Mayo Mountain Moorland - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road users - <b>Medium</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This is a medium-distance view along the N59 as it tracks along an enclosed valley adjacent to the Owenmore River. The N59 and associated infrastructure can be seen in the centre foreground and midground. A steep slope can be seen in the left midground. A mix of ferns and other vegetation can be seen on the other side of the stone wall, leading down to the Owenmore River, which is not visible from this location, but the banks of which can be seen as a steep slope in the right midground. The topography in the left and right midground rises steeply, preventing long-distance views in these directions. The centre background consists of a similar view of elevated topography. There are no residential or other dwellings within the view.</p>		
<b>Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’</b>	<p>In a ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ there are no other wind farms visible in the view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative Description</b>	<p>There are 2 turbines visible above the ridgeline, their lower towers are partially screened from view. The blades of three other turbines are also visible above the ridgeline in the centre background. The majority of the turbines are completely screened from view by the intervening topography, with no turbine fully visible and only the half-towers of two visible. The turbines are located approximately 3 km from this viewpoint and appear as background elements as a result. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents views from the N59 national road as well as residential receptors located along this stretch of the Owenmore River, who are located in medium proximity to the Proposed Development. Views along the valley are considered to be moderately scenic.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>	<p><i><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. This change could be short term or of a short duration.” (LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i></p>		
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<p>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this view is small, the Proposed Development is partially seen above the skyline. ➤ Strategic siting ensures that there is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography on the other side of the ridgeline.</p>		

Viewpoint 13 - Briska	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visibility of the turbines is mitigated by distance, they are seen as moderately scaled elements in the landscape from this location.</li> <li>➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>            An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

