



APPENDIX 13-3

**ASSESSMENT OF
PHOTOMONTAGES**

Table 1-1: Viewpoints

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
VP1	View from the N51 in the townland of Chapelisland, approximately 4.8 km north-east of the nearest turbine.	E 669,219 N 762,576
VP2	View from the Hill of Tara, designated as County Meath Scenic View V43 and V44, in townland of Castleboy (E.D. Tara), approximately 22.6km east from the nearest turbine.	E 691,935 N 759,747
VP3	View from a local road in the townland of Coolronan, approximately 900 m south of the nearest turbine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Photomontage 3A shows a field of view directed in a westerly direction. ➤ Photomontage 3B shows a field of view directed in a northerly direction. 	E 664,841 N 757,587
VP4	View from The Green residential road off the L-4016 in the townland of Ballivor, on the outskirts of Ballivor Village, approximately 2.8 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 668,696 N 753,694
VP5	View from a local road west of the R159 in the townland of Rathcore, designated as County Meath Scenic View V57, approximately 12.2 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 676,046 N 744,706
VP6	View from the L-8030 local road in the townland of Blackshade, designated as County Meath Scenic View V83, approximately 5.1 km south-east of the nearest turbine.	E 667,801 N 746,874
VP7	View from the Royal Canal Greenway in the townland of Croboy, approximately 4.6 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 662,127 N 748,131
VP8	View from Frewin Hill off the L5803-35 overlooking Lough Owel in the townland of Wattstown, approximately 23.8km west from the nearest turbine. Designated as an Area of High Amenity (Co. Westmeath)	E 637,663 N 758,511
VP9	View from a local road just off the N52 national road in the townland of Balrath North, approximately 7.6 km west of the nearest turbine.	E 653,941 N 758,042
VP10	View from a local road south of the N52 in the townland of Bracklin, approximately 2.8 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 659,029 N 758,482
VP11	View from the Loughcrew Megalithic Tomb in the townland of Corstown, designated as County Meath Scenic View V6 (Slieve na Calliagh), approximately 18.8 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 658,552 N 777,566
VP12	View from the R154, designated as County Meath Scenic View V5, in the townland of Patrickstown, approximately 18.7 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 660,543 N 777,965
VP13	View from the L-1633 local road in the townland of Ardglissan, designated as County Meath Scenic View V11, approximately 14 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 663,809 N 773,771

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
VP14	View from the Commons of Lloyd, designated as County Meath Scenic View V13, in the townland of the Commons of Lloyd, approximately 17.9 km north-east of the nearest turbine.	E 672,214 N 776,482
VP15	View from the R156 in the townland of Robinstown, approximately 1.34 km north-east of the nearest turbine.	E 666,181 N 754,386
VP16	View from the R161 in the townland of Molerick, designated as County Meath Scenic View V54, approximately 4.2 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 665,397 N 747,501
VP17	View from R156 in the townland of Grange More, approximately 2.4 km west of the nearest turbine.	E 661,478 N 753,319
VP18	View from the N52 in the townland of Clonyn, approximately 5.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine.	E 659,731 N 762,458
VP19	View from Trim Castle, a tourist destination within Trim Town	E 680,187 N 756,721

1.1

Visual Effects: Mitigating Factors:

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA study area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the proposed development. The various locations where no visibility was observed are shown on Figure 13-11 and presented in Section 13.3.2.3 for information purposes. It is therefore considered important to describe the nature of the proposed site and surrounds in order to provide context for this and avoid repetition in the viewpoint assessment tables below.

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

1. ***The Flat Nature of the Site and its Surrounds***
The level terrain results in an even overall height of all the wind turbines, this means that visual confusion caused by turbines at various heights does not arise. For Ballivor, the visual receptors in the surrounding landscape are also at or slightly above the base level of the proposed turbines i.e. the turbines are not situated on elevated lands and so the potential for clear and open views of the project from receptors at lower elevations does not arise. This topographic feature of the Ballivor site and surrounds mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects provided sufficient setback from receptors is designed into the project. It also means that separation distances between receptors and turbines becomes important as the turbines appear smaller in scale when viewed in this planar view.
2. ***Presence of Mature Hedgerows and Mature Tree Lines***
The reduced potential for clear and open views and the associated potential domineering effects described in Point 1 above is subsequently compounded by the

presence of mature hedgerows and mature tree lines which are a feature of this site and surrounds. This screening, located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines has the effect of either removing views altogether, obscuring large numbers of turbines (including the permitted and proposed turbines) or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. This is evident in Photomontage View 6 where only the blade tips of 6 No turbines will be visible due to vegetation screening along the Royal Canal. The effect of this screening is amplified for turbines in flat landscapes in terms of impeding views of the turbines. The ZTV does not take into account this screening and hence ZTV mapping can only be considered accurate where no visibility is indicated. In areas where theoretical visibility is indicated this is very often not borne out by actual visibility on the ground, in particular for sites of flat topography such as Ballivor.

3. The Ballivor Site's Wide Expanse

The Ballivor lands are vast in scale. The traditional pattern of rural development comprising scattered one-off housing and ribbon development has not encroached onto the site. The turbines are appropriately arranged to allow for a 4 times tip height set back distance from residential receptors which is designed explicitly to mitigate for potential significant effects on residential visual amenity. Even at close distances, the turbines have been designed and spaced so as to minimise visual effects. For example, receptors to the northeast of the site boundary (see Photomontage View 1) will only ever perceive 12 No. turbines. The remaining turbines (including the permitted and proposed) will not form part of their perception of the wind farm as the turbines are at a similar ground level to the receptor and are screened by multiple layers of vegetation screening.

4. Separate but Coherent Turbine Clusters

The turbine layout has been designed to create two coherent clusters. Each cluster comprises turbines which are contiguous and connected to each other visually and with consistent spacing and both clusters are sufficiently separated so that they read in an understandable way in the landscape. The distance between the nearest turbines in the clusters is sufficient to ensure that the potential for cumulative visual effects for receptors located between the clusters is limited as outlined in Point 3. The photomontages demonstrate that there are limited locations where the turbine clusters will be viewed separately (2 different clusters). Where this does occur (i.e. from the east and west), sensitive visual receptors are located at sufficient distances from the turbines (see Photomontages 2, 5 and 8). Therefore, the scale of the turbines significantly reduces with distance. For viewpoints in close proximity to the proposed site (i.e. within 5km), or receptors between the bogs, the photomontages demonstrate that only turbines from one bog will be visible as vegetation screening significantly reduces visibility of turbines within the other bogs (see Photomontage Views 3, 15 and 17). This is further outlined in the Route Screening Assessment which demonstrates that visibility from the roads which transverse through the bogs are a mosaic of 'Little/No Screening' and 'Intermittent/Partial Screening'.

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

Viewpoint 1- Chapelisland			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the N51 in the townland of Chapelisland. > 4.8 km north-east of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference: E 669,219, N 762,576 > No. of turbines visible: 12/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 17 Southwest Kells Lowlands - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Road users – Medium Residents – Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This image was taken from the N51, a slightly elevated position relative to other areas located along this stretch of the road. The image shows a wide and expansive view over agricultural pasture lands descending southwards towards a line of mature treelines. There are one-off low-rise houses located adjacent to this photo location. The foreground of this view includes a mature hedgerow running parallel along the road from where this image was taken. Beyond this, a large agricultural grass field can be seen between gaps in the hedges. The grass field is outlined by mature vegetation on all sides, thereby enclosing skyline views.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Ballivor project introduces new turbines to the left of the permitted Bracklyn turbines. The turbines appear at a slightly higher scale and layout type to the permitted Bracklyn turbines. 12 No Ballivor turbines will be theoretically visible from this location, however, 6 of the turbines will only be visible from half-blade due to screening by hedgerows in the mid and background of the view.</p> <p>The ZTV suggests that there will be full visibility of all 26 No turbines from this location, however, mature vegetation found in the background of the view, significantly screens visibility of the southern-most turbines.</p> <p>While the turbines will be visible over a wider extent than in the 'Baseline' scenario, the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual receptor on flat terrain, meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. Furthermore, it is also a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as relatively low hedgerows and intermittent trees is illustrated. The proposed met masts are not visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines increases the number of turbines visible within the centre of the image i.e. increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines. The permitted Bracklyn turbines are slightly visible from this location above the treeline in the background view. Vegetation screening greatly mitigates the potential for cumulative visual effects. Therefore, there is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		

Viewpoint 1- Chapelisland	
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Screening of the turbines by vegetation and landform. ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type. ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. The nearest turbine is approximately 4.8 km from this location. ➤ Turbines located in the Ballivor bog will be screened from this location.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 2 - Castleboy (E.D. Tara)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Hill of Tara, in townland of Castleboy (E.D. Tara). ➤ Designated as County Meath Scenic View V43 and V44 ➤ Approximately 26.1km east from the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 691,935, N 759,747 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 12- Tara Skryne Hills (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View; V43 and V44 (MCDP)– High Visitors; Hill of Tara – High Motorised Traffic- Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was taken at the Hill of Tara and designated Scenic View V43 and V44 (MCDP). The 'Baseline Scenario' shows an open and expansive view from an elevated position over the flat landscape plain. The landscape of the lowlands comprises of large agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows and treelines. The view is occasionally populated by houses and farmsteads across the landscape. Mature trees and hedgerows in the midround view provide a visual barrier between the viewpoint location and the skyline. The Landscape Character Assessment for LCA12 states <i>'the Hill of Tara provides panoramic views over the landscape, where the wealth of heritage within this part of Meath can be clearly seen'</i>.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The elevated position of this viewpoint location allows for extensive views of the Ballivor turbines in the centre of the image in the lower valley. The spatial extent of the turbines within the view is increased with the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. Although the turbines appear as two separate clusters, the overall layout of both bogs is coherent and are of the same scale and topography.</p> <p>While the turbines will be visible over a wider extent than in the 'Baseline' scenario, the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. Although the turbines will be visible from half-tower upwards, the Ballivor turbines appear progressively more obscured with distance. Landscape elements consisting of agricultural fields outlined by hedgerows and treelines add to the aesthetic quality of this view, allowing the turbines to not be of central focus and can readily be absorbed into the view.</p> <p>The proposed Met Masts will be indiscernible from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn and Ballivor turbines appear as one coherent wind farm from this viewpoint location with very little different in scale and size.</p> <p>Cumulatively, the Ballivor and Bracklyn turbines will be perceived together and as can be seen in the photomontage the potential cumulative effects are limited by the distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development. While the number of turbines will increase in this view, spatial extent of turbines will increase, this is not considered significant, the scale of the development does not appear dominant or overbearing from this location. Other turbines within the study area, if visible, will be indiscernible with distance. Distance between the wind farm projects greatly</p>		

Viewpoint 2 - Castleboy (E.D. Tara)	
	mitigates the potential for cumulative visual effects. Therefore, there is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low .
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Very High: Included in this category are viewers that are primarily focused on views from this particular location, such as visitors to popular destinations identified for their outstanding views or residents in close proximity or medium proximity whose primary views will be in the direction of the development.
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	Very High x Negligible = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline “<i>more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions</i>” ➤ Separate but coherent turbine cluster ➤ As the intervening distance, 26.1km, from the nearest turbines, the proposed development is aligned with policies and objectives pertaining to visual amenity and designations in the MCDP which states “<i>any development proposed within the view should be designed and located so as not to obstruct the view or be unduly intrusive in the landscape as seen from these vantage points</i>” ➤ The proposed development is mitigated by distance over the flat landscape. ➤ Field patterns outlined by mature hedgerows and treelines are a common landscape element in this view and mitigate visual effects of the turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 3 - Coolronan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Coolronan. ➤ Approximately 975 m south of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 664,841, N 757,587 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 11/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands (Co. Meath) - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents - High Motorised Traffic – Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This image was taken from a local road adjacent to the proposed site boundary. This view is representative of open views towards the site in close proximity and residential receptors located along this local road. Photomontage A (directed west) shows a wooden gate and a roadside hedge approximately 1 meter in height in the foreground running parallel along the road from where this image was taken. Behind the gate, pavements, private parking and small gardens in front of the two-storey detached house can be seen. Mature trees and hedges are visible running parallel along the road from this viewpoint location. Denser tree coverage and mature shrubs can be seen in the background of the view.</p> <p>Photomontage B (directed north) shows a single residential dwelling bordered by a concrete wall and hedgerow in the foreground. A one-off house and farmsteads are slightly visible scattered within the background of the image. Several vertical elements including electrical powerlines are scattered throughout this view. No other wind farms in the study area can be seen from this viewpoint location. Views of the skyline are short and enclosed due to mature vegetation screening in the foreground and background of the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>2 No photomontages were used at this location to capture the extents of the project. On the left-hand side of the road (Photomontage A west) 2 No turbines will be fully visible. Two turbines will be partially visible, as screening by mature vegetation and the residential dwelling in the centre of the image limits visibility of several other turbines from view. From the second photomontage location (Photomontage B north), six of the proposed Ballivor turbines will be fully visible and are located in the Lisclogher bog are to the rear of the mature treeline in the background of the view. One turbine will be partially screened by the residential dwelling on the right side of the image. The vertical extent of the proposed Ballivor turbines is large given the proximity to the nearest turbine is c. 975m from this location. Turbines located in the Ballivor bog will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p> <p>The proposed met masts will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the permitted Bracklyn turbines are just visible above the treeline in the background of Photomontage A and appear as one coherent cluster to the rear of the proposed Ballivor turbines. No other wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint location, therefore there is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		

Viewpoint 3 - Coolronan	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.
Magnitude of Change	Substantial: Substantial change, where the proposals would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline though removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the proposed development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer. This change could be long term or of a long duration.
Significance of Effect	High x Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type. ➤ The turbines are appropriately arranged to allow for a 4x tip height set back distance from residential receptors which is designed explicitly to mitigate for potential significant effects on residential visual amenity ➤ Sparsely populated section of road hence very few receptors (there are 3 No residential dwellings within this cluster) ➤ The angle of view in which the proposed turbines are visible is less than 180 degrees (c.160 degrees), therefore limiting visual effects for which the turbines will be visible from nearby residents. While photomontage 3A shows turbines in the view, the spatial extent of those turbines is narrow, and the visual effect of each turbine decreases with distance. For photomontage 3B, the turbines are located to the northwest of the houses, when compared to the orientation of the houses, which means the potential for surrounding effects is mitigated sufficiently. ➤ Vegetation screening obscures views of the project and distance over the flat landscape and therefore reduces the perceived scale. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users. ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80 kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting ➤ Aligned with the policies and objectives pertaining to large-scale wind energy developments located in peatland bog sites as outlined in the WCDP (Policy CPO 10.146)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

Viewpoint 4 – Ballivor			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from The Green residential road off the L-4016 in the townland of Ballivor, on the outskirts of Ballivor Village. ➤ Approximately 2.8 km east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 668,696, N 753,694 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 6 Central Lowlands (Co Meath) - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>This view is taken from a residential development in the Village of Ballivor. The view looks onto a residential road in a housing estate with pavements, private parking and small gardens in front of the two storey semi-detached houses. The midground of this view comprises of a wooden fence approximately 2 metres in height which appears to the rear of the farthest houses. Behind the fence, the tops of mature trees and hedges can be seen. Electrical powerlines and street lighting is seen throughout much of this view. The character of this view is suburban and rural respectfully.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Ballivor turbines introduce new turbines to the centre of this view. From this location, the proposed Ballivor turbines will be positioned to the rear of the residential properties and the fence in the midground view. 7 No turbines will be visible from this location, however, the majority of the turbines will be screened by the mature vegetation in the background of the view.</p> <p>While the turbine density will increase slightly from this view, the overall spatial extent will not increase significantly, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual receptor on flat terrain, meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. It also shows that factors such as vegetation screening and screening by the built environment will limit visibility of the proposed turbines from view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn turbines will not be visible from this viewpoint location. The spatial extent of turbines will not be increased, but there will be the addition of more turbines into the landscape. No other wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint location, therefore there is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view</p>		

Viewpoint 4 – Ballivor	
	may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type ➤ The residential properties have sufficient separation distance from the proposed turbines to ensure residential visual amenity is not affected. In addition to this, the residences along this roadway are screened either to the front of rear of the dwellings by either mature tree lines, hedgerows or farm buildings, restricting potential views of the site. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the projects. ➤ The residential properties are positioned in a way that they are not facing the proposed turbines, therefore the turbines will not be in the direct line of sight for residential receptors
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 5- Rathcore			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road west of the R159 in the townland of Rathcore. ➤ Designated as County Meath Scenic View V57. ➤ 12.2 km south-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 676,046, N 744,706 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 6 Central Lowlands (Co Meath) - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V57) – High Residences - Medium Motorised Traffic – Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>The chosen viewpoint presents perhaps the most open view of the site from this general area and is also on a section of road designated as Scenic View V57. The Meath CDP designation (V57) at this location is ‘<i>views to west/north-west where there are gaps in the hedge. Expansive views available to very distant horizons across mixed farmland working landscape with relatively low levels of development.</i>’</p> <p>The road from where this image was taken, is outlined by mature vegetation in the form of trees and hedges. In the ‘Baseline’ scenario, the view overlooks a flat expansive landscape dominated by mature tree lines and hedgerows. There are a number of electricity poles and associated powerlines in the view. To the north of this location there is cluster of one-off low-rise houses along, which have the potential to perceive the proposed wind farm to the northwest. Views from these houses are, however, either screened by mature tree lines and / or farm buildings to the northwest. The character of this view is rural farmland and working landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Ballivor turbines introduce more turbines to the view Although the turbines appear as two separate clusters, the overall layout of both bogs is coherent and are of the same scale and topography. All turbines are partially visible, obscured to a varying degree by distance and intervening vegetation. This mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects. Given the intervening distance of c. 12.2km from this viewpoint location to the site, the scale and extent of the turbines is not incongruous and is readily absorbed into what is a relatively open expansive view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn turbines appear behind the Ballivor turbines but are of a similar scale and height, therefore the two projects read as one coherent cluster. No other wind farms are visible from this location, therefore there is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view</p>		

Viewpoint 5- Rathcore	
	may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	<p>High X Slight = Moderate/Minor= Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor which means the intervening distance (c 12.2 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ Separate but coherent turbine cluster ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and the field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the turbines. ➤ Difficult to determine the intended location for the scenic view (V57) as the majority of this road is outlined by mature vegetation screening ➤ Aligned with the policies and objectives pertaining to large-scale wind energy developments located in peatland bog sites as outlined in the WCDP (Policy CPO 10.146) ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users ➤ The proposed development does not appear to obstruct the scenic view or be unduly intrusive in the landscape from this viewpoint location and is aligned with the policies and objectives pertaining to visual amenity as outlined in the MCDP
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 6- Blackshade			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the L-8030 local road in the townland of Blackshade. > Designated as County Meath Scenic View V83. > 5.1 km south-east of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference: E 667,801, N 746,874 > No. of turbines visible: 6/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands (Co. Meath) - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V83) – High Recreational Route: Royal Canal - High Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This image was taken from the L-8030 over the Royal Canal at designated Scenic View V83. The Meath CDP designation (V83) at this location is views of <i>'Blackshade Bridge over the Royal Canal and with views along the canal in both directions.'</i></p> <p>The slightly elevated position of this view overlooks the Royal Canal in the centre of the image. A footpath joining the road from where this image was taken, and the Royal canal can be seen in the foreground of this view. The footpath is outlined by a row of densely mature vegetation to the north.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines from both projects should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at or lower to the elevation of the visual receptor which means that, at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. It is also a good example of how relatively low-level screening, in the form of hedgerows and trees has a significant influence on the perceptibility of the scale of the project. The views along this stretch of Royal Canal will be intermittent and will mainly be screening by the dense vegetation outlining the footpath to the north. The blade tips of 6 No turbines will be partially visible in the centre of this image behind the row of mature vegetation.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other turbines visible in this view. Therefore, no cumulative visual effects are foreseen from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		

Viewpoint 6- Blackshade	
Significance of Effect	High x Slight= Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character types ➤ The turbines are at a low elevation relative to the receptor ➤ Intervening distance (c 5.1 km) ➤ The proposed development is significantly screened by vegetation
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 7- Croboy			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Royal Canal Greenway in the townland of Croboy. ➤ 4.6 km south of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 662,127, N 748,131 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 16/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands (Co. Meath) - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Recreational Route: Royal Canal Greenway - High Residents - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was taken along the Royal Canal Greenway footpath looking north. The 'Baseline' image shows an open and expansive view over the Royal Canal and a large agricultural field in the background bordered by mature treelines. This view is rural in character, as large grass fields outlined by mature hedgerows and treelines is a common element. This open view is not representative of the common views along the Royal Canal, where densely mature treelines along the footpath are a common visual feature and will therefore restrict visibility of views to the north. The background and skyline view comprises of agricultural fields outlined by mature treelines and hedgerows.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>16 No turbines will be seen from approximately tip height only and the upper tower/hub of one turbine will be visible through the gap between the mature treeline in the background of the view. The mature treeline in the background of the view restricts visibility for the majority of the proposed turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The Bracklyn turbines will not be visible cumulatively with the proposed Ballivor turbines. No cumulative visual effects are foreseen from this viewpoint location as other wind farms within the study area will not be visible.</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. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this footpath and field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the projects. 		

Viewpoint 7- Crobroy	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coherent wind farm reading as one coherent project.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

Viewpoint 8 - Wattstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Frewin Hill off the L5803-35 overlooking Lough Owel in the townland of Wattstown. ➤ Designated as an Area of High Amenity (Co. Westmeath) ➤ Approximately 23.8km west from the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 637,663, N 758,511 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4 Central Hills and Lakes (Co. Westmeath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Landscape Designation: High Amenity Area (Lough Owel nearby) - High Visitors – Low Residents - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was chosen as a 'worst case' scenario as it is representative of the heightened elevated views over Lough Owel (HAA) but is not a popular tourist site and is considered private property. Areas of High Amenity are outlined in the WCDP as they are '<i>associated with the county's major lakes and the River Shannon and are designated due to their amenity value and recreational potential</i>'.</p> <p>This view was taken from a heightened elevated position at a met mast development adjacent to Lough Owel. Infrastructure from the met mast development and associated powerlines, are seen in the foreground, adding industrial elements to the view. From this elevated position, long-distance views over undulating agricultural fields boarded by mature treelines and hedgerows are seen. Lough Owel is viewed in the midground of the image and is therefore the visual centrepiece to the view. Residential dwellings and farmhouses are dotted throughout the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All 26 No. proposed Ballivor turbines will be slightly visible along the skyline and are at a similar scale and elevation to the permitted Bracklyn turbines. All 35 turbines from both projects appear as one coherent layout and are framed by the existing hill in the centre of the view. Although the proposed Ballivor turbines appear as two separate clusters, the overall layout of both bogs is coherent and are of the same scale and topography.</p> <p>The elevated position of this viewpoint overlooking Lough Owel and rolling agricultural fields provides an aesthetic quality to the midground of the view therefore acting as the concentrated focus of the view. The proposed Ballivor turbines are at a significant distance from this viewpoint location (c. 23.8km) and are therefore readily absorbed into the background view without distracting from the scenic views of Lough Owel.</p>		

Viewpoint 8 - Wattstown	
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the Ballivor and Bracklyn turbines will be perceived together and as can be seen in the photomontage the potential cumulative effects are limited by distance from this viewpoint location. While the spatial extent of turbines will increase, this is not considered significant, and the scale of all turbines will appear relatively modest in the context of the other vertical elements in the view. The scale of the development does not appear dominant or overbearing and the turbines appear to frame the existing hill visible in the centre of the view. Other turbines, if visible will be indiscernible with distance.</p> <p>There is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline <i>“more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions”</i> ➤ Separate but coherent turbine cluster ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered Medium at most given that is location is not a popular tourist designation ➤ Aligned with the policies and objectives pertaining to large-scale wind energy developments located in peatland bog sites as outlined in the WCDP (Policy CPO 10.146) ➤ The intervening distance c 23.8km mitigates the potential for domineering impacts and the turbines are readily absorbed into the skyline view
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>

Viewpoint 9 - Balrath North			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road just off the N52 national road in the townland of Balrath North. ➤ 7.6 km west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 653,941, N 758,042 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4 Central Hills and Lakes (Co. Westmeath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residences - Medium Road Users (close proximity to N52) - Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This image was taken from a local road just off the N52 to capture a 'worst-case' scenario as no visibility was found off the N52 west of the proposed site due to roadside vegetation screening.</p> <p>The 'Baseline' scenario comprises of a large arable grass field gently sloping upwards in the skyline to the east. The field is outlined by mature treelines and hedgerows to the east and south. A wire fence is seen running parallel along the road from where this image was taken. There are a number of electricity powerlines and associated infrastructure within the view. To the north and south of this location there are two residential low-rise houses, which have the potential to perceive the proposed wind farm to the east and to the west. Views from these houses are, however, either screened by mature tree lines and / or farm buildings to the east.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>From this location looking east, the proposed Ballivor turbines can be seen in the centre of this image. Ten of the Ballivor turbines are visible contiguous to the Bracklyn turbines on the left-hand side between a large stand of mature trees which separates the view of the projects. 5 No turbines are visible on the right-hand side between the gaps of the mature treelines, one of which are partially obscured by layers of intervening vegetation. Given the proximity of this viewpoint location to the site at c. 7.6km, the scale and extent of the turbines is not incongruous and is readily absorbed into what is a relatively open expansive view with various vertical elements present in the view. The proposed met masts will not be visible from this location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines increases the number of turbines visible on the right-hand side of the image while increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines. The Bracklyn turbines are visible from this location with the addition of partial views of c 11-12 Ballivor turbines. No other wind farms are visible from this location.</p> <p>There is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view</p>		

Viewpoint 9 - Balrath North	
	and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Medium X Slight = Minor= Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intervening distance (c 7.6 km) ➤ View chosen as a ‘worst case’ scenario as there will be limited to no visibility from the N52 due to vegetation screening ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and the field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the turbines. ➤ The residential properties have sufficient separation distance from the proposed turbines to ensure residential visual amenity is not affected. In addition to this, the residences along this roadway are screened either to the front of rear of the dwellings by either mature tree lines, hedgerows or farm buildings, restricting potential views of the site. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 10 - Bracklin			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from a local road south of the N52 in the townland of Bracklin. > 2.8 km north-west of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference: E 659,029, N 758,482 > No. of turbines visible: 4/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 3 River Deel and Lowlands (Co. Westmeath) - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Medium Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was taken in front of a row of residential dwellings facing east. The image shows a low hedgerow adjacent to the roadway in the foreground. Beyond this, a large agricultural field with groups of mature trees and hedgerows are seen in the middle and background. From the road where this image was taken, the landscape slopes upwards towards the background across an agricultural field. Electricity powerlines are seen running parallel along this road.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage indicates that the permitted Bracklyn turbines will be mainly visible from this location. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual receptor on flat terrain, meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. Furthermore, it is also a good example of the amplified screening effect of local changes in topography. The ridgeline shown in the midground view, will mitigate visibility of the proposed Ballivor turbines, as only the blades of the proposed Ballivor turbines will be visible. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent as there is significant local screening along the road. The spatial extent of the project is also not excessive given the wide expanse of the view.</p> <p>The scale and layout of both projects (the visible element of both) is similar in terms of perspective and separation distance and reads in a coherent way in the open landscape. In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with both projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no visual differences in layout, scale or design.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn turbines are the most visible from this viewpoint location and appear larger than the proposed Ballivor turbines. The intermittent nature of any views along here will mean that the projects do not read as incongruously different to each other. The Bracklyn turbines cause a large degree of change within the view and the proposed Ballivor turbines slightly add to the view.</p> <p>The layout of both the proposed Ballivor and permitted Bracklyn turbines reads as one project. No other permitted or proposed wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint location, therefore there is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local		

Viewpoint 10 - Bracklin	
	recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type ➤ Sparsely populated road hence very few residential receptors. ➤ Coherent wind farm layout, cumulatively reading as one coherent project ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and form field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the projects. ➤ The proposed Ballivor turbines appear less dominant than the proposed Bracklyn turbines. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel, hence the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 11 - Corstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Loughcrew Megalithic Tomb in the townland of Corstown. ➤ Designated as County Meath Scenic View V6 (Slieve na Calliagh). ➤ 18.8 km north-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 658,552, N 777,566 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 19 Loughcrew and slieve na calliagh hills (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V6) – High Tourist designation (Lough Crew) – High Motorised traffic - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was taken from the Loughcrew Megalithic Tomb from a heightened position overlooking the lower valley lands at Scenic View V6. The Meath CDP designation (V6) at this location is of <i>'panoramic views in all directions including intervisibility between the 3 peaks. Site of high cultural and scenic significance characterised by absent or very low levels of enclosure.'</i></p> <p>The view is vast and open, comprised of gently rolling hills of agricultural ribbon fields patterns outlined by hedgerows and treelines. A number of residential dwellings and farmhouses are scattered throughout much of this view. This view provides a panoramic long-distance view of the surrounding landscape as a result of its elevated location.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows open and clear views of the proposed development along with the permitted Bracklyn project. All 35 turbines (the 26 proposed Ballivor turbines along with 9 Bracklyn turbines) are visible and are visually indistinguishable as separate projects. The turbines read as one coherent cluster of similar turbine scales and minimal cluttering effects. The vast, open expanse of the view allows for the assimilation of the projects into the landscape without causing an overly domineering effect. There is visual stacking of 2 No turbines from this viewpoint location but visibility of this is indiscernible with distance.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively the projects read as one wind farm as both the permitted Bracklyn turbines are relatively contiguous to the Bord na Móna land bank and the proposed Ballivor turbines. The proposed Ballivor turbines infill between both projects and add a significant number of additional turbines to that view. The assessment therefore needs to address all 35 turbines, which is completed below. Several other wind farms in the study area will be indiscernible along the skyline from this location due to distance across the flat landscape.</p> <p>There is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Very High: Included in this category are viewers that are primarily focused on views from this particular location, such as visitors to popular destinations identified for their outstanding views or residents in close proximity or medium proximity whose primary views will be in the direction of the development.</p>		

Viewpoint 11 - Corstown	
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Very High X Slight = Moderate - Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline “<i>more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions</i>” ➤ Intervening distance (c 18.8 km) ➤ Designated scenic view description for V6 is of ‘<i>panoramic views in all directions</i>’ and is not directed primarily towards the proposed development ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows which form the rural landscape patterns are the intended focus of the view in the midground and background, therefore skyline views of the proposed development are restricted ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. Spatial extent of turbines in the view only slightly increased by proposed development ➤ The turbines are at a lower elevation relative to the receptor
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 12– Patrickstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R154, in the townland of Patrickstown. ➤ Designated as County Meath Scenic View V5. ➤ 18.7 km north of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 660,543, N 777,965 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 19 Loughcrew and slieve na calliagh hills (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V5) – High Motorised Traffic – High Residents - Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>The image shows the view from the R154 at designated Scenic View V5 looking south. The Meath CDP designation (V5) outlines this view of <i>‘extensive views south across extensive landscape with relatively low levels of enclosure and relatively low levels of visible development.’</i></p> <p>From this elevated position looking south, the view looks out across a vast and open landscape comprised of gently rolling hills of agricultural fields patterns outlined by hedgerows and treelines. A number of residential dwellings and farmhouses are scattered throughout much of this view. This view provides panoramic long-distance views of the surrounding landscape as a result of the elevated location.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows open and clear views of the proposed development along with the permitted Bracklyn project. From this viewpoint, all 35 No turbines from both projects will be visible and are visually indistinguishable as separate projects. There is visual stacking of 3 No turbines from this viewpoint location but the turbines read as one coherent cluster of similar turbine scales and minimal cluttering effects. The intervening distance of c 18.7 km from this location allows for the assimilation of the projects into the landscape without causing an overly domineering effect.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively the projects read as one wind farm as the permitted Bracklyn turbines are relatively contiguous to the proposed Ballivor turbines. The proposed Ballydermot turbines will appear indiscernible to the right of the proposed Ballivor turbines, distance of which is c. 21km from the nearest Ballivor turbine. The addition of the proposed Ballydermot turbines however, will not increase the spatial and vertical extent within the view. The proposed Ballivor turbines infill between both projects and add a significant number of additional turbines to that view. Other wind farms, if visible, will be indiscernible due to distance across the flat landscape.</p> <p>There is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view</p>		

Viewpoint 12– Patrickstown	
	may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High X Slight = Moderate/Minor – Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline <i>“more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions”</i> ➤ Intervening distance (c 18.7 km) ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and the field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 13– Ardglossan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the L-1633 local road in the townland of Ardglossan. > Designated as County Meath Scenic View V11. > 14 km north of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference: E 663,809, N 773,771 > No. of turbines visible: 25/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 17 Southwest Kells Lowlands (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V11) – High Motorised Traffic – High Residents - Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>This viewpoint is from a slightly elevated position from the L-1633 and at designated Scenic View V11. The Meath CDP designation (V11) at this location has two designated directions, south and west. Views south are outlined in the MCDP as <i>‘extensive views across tillage lowlands, where very low levels of development are visible, landscape comprises of mature trees and large fields.’</i></p> <p>From this viewpoint location, the road slopes downwards to the southwest offering open and expansive views south and west. In the foreground of the view, a large embankment comprising of an open field outlined by mature trees and hedgerows partially screens visibility towards the skyline. Beyond this, arable fields outlined by hedgerows and mature treelines are seen throughout much of the view. Several large single-strand trees are dotted throughout the right side of the image within the field boundaries. Electrical powerlines and associated infrastructure are seen running parallel along this road.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the introduction of turbines to the left of the permitted Bracklyn turbines in the centre of the image. Both projects read from a landscape perspective, as one coherent project, at a similar scale and size. The lower half of the turbines are partially screened by the mature vegetation which forms the background and skyline of this view. From this viewpoint location at designated Scenic View V11, the lowland agricultural landscape character will not be disrupted from the proposed development as the turbines are at a significant distance (c.14km) and are therefore readily absorbed into the skyline view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively the projects read as one wind farm as the permitted Bracklyn turbines are relatively contiguous to the proposed Ballivor turbines. The proposed Ballydermot turbines will appear indiscernible between the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn turbines. The addition of the proposed Ballydermot turbines, however, will not increase the spatial and vertical extent within the view. The proposed Ballivor turbines infill between both projects and add a significant number of additional turbines to that view. Other wind farms, if visible, will be indiscernible with distance.</p> <p>There is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes</p>		

Viewpoint 13– Ardglossan	
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High x Slight= Moderate/ Minor= Moderate EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline <i>“more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions”</i> ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. Other wind farms will be indiscernible due to distance. ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor, which means the intervening distance (c 14 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway restrict views of the projects. Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ Although for traffic travelling south-eastwards the turbines will be in direct line of vision, road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 14 - Commons of Lloyd			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Commons of Lloyd, in the townland of the Commons of Lloyd. ➤ Designated as County Meath Scenic View V13. ➤ 17.9 km north-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 672,214, N 776,482 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 20 Blackwater Valley (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V13) – High Visitors (Commons of Lloyd) – High Residents – Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view is representative of the long-distance views over the lower valley to the south from the Commons of Lloyd and designated Scenic View V13. The Meath CDP designation (V13) at this location has '<i>360-degree panoramic views to surrounding landscape. Significant visual relationships including Loughcrew to the west and toward Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Mountains to the north-east. Views also including extensive areas of development including infrastructure and urbanisation. Site is also of cultural heritage significance.</i>'</p> <p>From this slightly elevated position, long-distance views over undulating agricultural fields outlined by mature treelines and hedgerows are offered. Residential dwellings and farmhouses are scattered throughout the view. The character of the view is rural given the agricultural ribbon development patterns across the landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>3 No. of the proposed Ballivor turbines are visible in the view at a similar scale to the permitted Bracklyn turbines. The mature treeline in the skyline of the view will significantly screen visibility of the majority of the Ballivor turbines. The blade-tips of the remaining 23 Ballivor turbines may be slightly visible through and/or over the existing treeline or other intervening screening, however, views of these will be partial and intermittent. Even on a clear day, visibility of the turbines will appear indiscernible due to distance across the flat landscape and screening by mature hedgerows across this landscape setting.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>From this location the permitted Bracklyn turbines will appear more visible than the Ballivor turbines. Cumulatively, the Ballivor and Bracklyn turbines will be perceived together and as can be seen in the photomontage the potential cumulative effects are limited by the small number of the Ballivor turbines actually visible from this location. While the spatial extent of turbines will increase, this is not considered significant, and the scale of all turbines will appear relatively modest in the context of the other vertical elements in the view. The scale of the development does not appear dominant or overbearing from this location. No other permitted or proposed turbines will be visible from this viewpoint location.</p> <p>There is a Low visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		

Viewpoint 14 - Commons of Lloyd	
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, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline “<i>more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions</i>” ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered High at most and could be considered Medium given the existing mature vegetation screening in the view. ➤ The proposed development is substantially screened by vegetation. ➤ Intervening distance c 17.9km
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 15 - Robinstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R156 in the townland of Robinstown. ➤ Approximately 1.34 km north-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 666,181, N 754,386 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 12/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands (Co. Meath) - Moderate	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorised Traffic – Medium Residents - Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view was taken from the R156 regional road. Mature hedgerows and trees lines are seen running parallel on either side of the road from where this image was taken. The view is directed south and shows a large agricultural grass field between gaps in the hedge in the foreground image. The background image shows the agricultural field ending in a row of denser vegetation. This view is rural in character as no other man-made features are visible within this view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed Ballivor development will introduce new turbines to the view. The scale and layout of the proposed Ballivor turbines are seen primarily large in this view due to the intervening distance of c. 1.34km from this viewpoint location. 12 No of the turbines located in the Ballivor bog are clearly visible in the photomontage. The proposed turbines located in the Lislogher bog will be entirely screened by roadside vegetation found on the right side of the image. The view within which the turbines are visible is not considered to have unique or sensitive aesthetic qualities due to the human intervention evident in the view. The proposed met masts will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, no other permitted or proposed wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint location. Therefore, no cumulative visual effects are foreseen from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Substantial: Substantial change, where the proposals would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline though removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the proposed development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer. This change could be long term or of a long duration.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type. ➤ Partial screening of the turbines by vegetation 		

Viewpoint 15 - Robinstown	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ The proposed turbines within the Lislogher bog will be entirely screened by the mature vegetation in the view. ➤ 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
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>

Viewpoint 16 – Molerick			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the R161 in the townland of Molerick. > Designated as County Meath Scenic View V54 (Hill of Dawn). > 4.2 km south of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference: E 665,397, N 747,501 > No. of turbines visible: 22/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 15 Southwest Lowlands (Co. Meath) - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic View (V54)– High Recreational Route: Royal Canal - High Motorised Traffic (R161 & train) – Medium Residents - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>The chosen viewpoint presents perhaps the most open view of the site from this general area and is also on a section of road designated as Scenic View V54 (Co. Mayo). The Meath CDP designation (V54) at this location is of ‘<i>views along Royal Canal to the east and west at intersection with R161</i>’.</p> <p>The image shows a wide and expansive view over agricultural pasture lands descending northwards towards a line of low-rise houses seen through trees located on the R161 roadway. There are one-off low-rise houses located adjacent to this photo location. Electricity powerlines are seen throughout much of the view.</p> <p>This view portrays the visual scenic qualities of the landscape in the study area, where long distance views of agricultural fields outlined by mature treelines and hedgerows are common features.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The Ballivor project introduces new turbines in the background of this view to the right of the permitted Bracklyn turbines. In general, the photomontage shows that the turbines associated with both projects read, from a landscape perspective, as one coherent layout of turbines (cluster) with no visual differences in layout, scale or design. While the turbine density will increase between the two proposed turbine clusters, the overall spatial extent will not increase significantly, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The mature treeline in the skyline of this view mitigates partial visibility of the turbines. There is visual stacking of 3 No turbines from this viewpoint location. The proposed met masts are not visible from this location.</p> <p>The view towards the farmland will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and the proposed turbines do not materially impact on the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn turbines act as infill between the proposed Ballivor turbines. The spatial extent of turbines will not be increased, but there will be the addition of more turbines into the landscape. The layout of the entire 35 No. turbines reads as one project. Other permitted wind farm developments will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p>		

Viewpoint 16 – Molerick	
	There is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low-Medium .
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.
Magnitude of Change	Slight The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor ➤ Intervening distance (c 4.2 km) ➤ The scenic view, as outlined in the MCDP, is directed east and west and not in the direction of the proposed development (north). ➤ The proposed turbines do not impede on the scenic views of the Royal Canal.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences

Viewpoint 17 - Grange More			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from R156 in the townland of Grange More on the outskirts of Raharney. ➤ 2.4 km west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 661,478, N 753,319 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 12/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 3 River Deel and Lowlands (Co. Westmeath) - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Medium Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view is located just east of the rural centre of Raharney along the R156. The left side of the road from where this image was taken is outlined by mature trees and hedges. The foreground comprises a flat agricultural field with a low-rise residential house and farm buildings in the middle ground. There are mature trees in the backdrop to the housing as well as vegetative screening in the immediate vicinity of the houses. Electricity powerlines are seen throughout much of the background of this view. Mature treelines and hedgerows are a common element in the background of this view, mitigating any skyline views beyond.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage suggests that the proposed Ballivor turbines will only be visible from half-hub upwards due to the prominence of vegetation screening in the background view. The Ballivor turbines located on the Lislogher bog and the permitted Bracklyn turbines will be entirely screened by the mature treeline on the left side of this image.</p> <p>While 12 of the 26 No turbines will be visible, the overall spatial extent will only marginally increase, and the open expansive view can accommodate the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. There is visual stacking of 2 No turbines from this viewpoint location.</p> <p>The proposed Met Masts will not be visible from this viewpoint location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The permitted Bracklyn turbines will not be visible from this location due to screening by the mature vegetation on the left side of this image. No other permitted or proposed turbines will be visible from this viewpoint location, therefore, cumulative visual effects are not foreseen.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>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</p>		

Viewpoint 17 - Grange More	
	development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.
Significance of Effect	Medium X Moderate = /Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type. ➤ The turbine bases are at a similar level to the receptor which means the intervening distance (c 2.8 km) mitigates the potential for domineering impacts. ➤ The turbines located to the north are completely screened by mature vegetation ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel, hence the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80kmph on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be fleeting
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 18 - Clonyn			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N52 in the townland of Clonyn. ➤ 5.4 km north-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 659,731, N 762,458 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 14/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 3 River Deel and Lowlands (Co. Westmeath) - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Medium Road users - Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This view is close to the rural centre of Delvin and is therefore representative of residential visual receptors adjacent to this viewpoint location and those travelling along the N62. From this viewpoint location, the landscape slightly slopes down into a large arable grass field outlined by hedgerows and mature vegetation, with sparsely populated single-strand trees dotted throughout. Low-rise shrub planting is seen running parallel along the road from this location. A residential housing unit is located just north of where this viewpoint was taken. This open expansive view is a good representation of the predominant views created by the flatness of the wider landscape within the majority of the study area.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines from both bogs should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual receptor on flat terrain, meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance. Furthermore, it is also a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as relatively low hedgerows and intermittent trees is illustrated. Although the spatial extent of the turbines is extended from this location, the proposed turbines do not appear dominant or incongruent as they are readily absorbed into what is an already flat landscape with mature vegetation screening.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines increases the number of turbines visible within the centre of the image i.e. increasing the spatial extent of the wind turbines. However, the permitted Bracklyn turbines appear in front and larger than the proposed Ballivor turbines from this location. Both the permitted Bracklyn and Ballivor turbines cumulatively read as one project from this viewpoint location. No other permitted or proposed wind farms will be visible from this viewpoint location.</p> <p>There is a Medium visual separation between permitted and proposed turbines and the difference in scale is Low.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view</p>		

Viewpoint 18 - Clonyn	
	may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The mature vegetation that exists within this view mitigates visibility of the turbines. ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines. ➤ Coherent wind farm layout for both the proposed Ballivor and Bracklyn projects, cumulatively reading as one coherent project. The scale and size of the turbines, given the close proximity to the site (c. 5.4 km) do not appear large and are readily absorbed into the landscape. ➤ View of turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 19 – Trim Castle			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Views west from the townland of Trim at Trim Castle ➤ 14.5km east of the nearest turbine (T20) ➤ Grid Reference: E 680,187, N 756,721 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 26/26 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 5, High Sensitivity Area and protected view V50 (Co. Meath) - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Tourists– High
Description of 'Baseline'	The foreground of the image is a view of the urban town of Trim from a viewpoint located from the top of Trim Castle with some modern buildings situated behind the urban settlement. Residential housing units are present to the left side of the image alongside some shrubs and coniferous vegetation. From this viewpoint location, the landscape slightly slopes down into large arable grassland fields outlined by hedgerows and mature vegetation with a linear pattern of trees running across the field. High elevated land is present in the far background behind the dense vegetation, raising the skyline slightly.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	The Ballivor project introduces new turbines in the background of the view behind the dense vegetation. As indicated by the proposed wireframe, all turbines are visible from this elevated viewpoint location. As the turbines are positioned on flat terrain, at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, whilst the further turbines reduce in size with distance. The two clusters of the proposed turbines are situated to the sides of the panoramic views of the hills in the background, leading to no obstruction of the views and unnecessary visual clutter. The addition of the proposed turbines adds new elements to the rural-urban characterisation of the existing view.		

Viewpoint 19 – Trim Castle	
Cumulative Effects	Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed Ballivor turbines increases the number of turbines visible in the centre of the image. However, the proposed Milltown Pass turbines to the west, appear further away and smaller than the proposed Ballivor Wind farm turbines, whilst the Bracklyn Wind farm appears to be the same size and location as the Ballivor Wind farm to the east. As such, no one wind farm seems to be overly dominant than the other and does not create any unnecessary clutter.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for flat peatland landscape character type and cumulative effects which outline <i>“more than one wind energy development might be acceptable in the distant background provided it is only faintly visible under normal atmospheric conditions”</i> ➤ Separate but coherent turbine clusters are a feature of the design ➤ As the intervening distance <14km from the nearest turbines, the proposed development is aligned with policies and objectives pertaining to visual amenity and designations in the MCDP which states <i>“any development proposed within the view should be designed and located so as not to obstruct the view or be unduly intrusive in the landscape as seen from these vantage points”</i> ➤ The proposed development is mitigated by distance over the flat landscape. ➤ Field patterns outlined by mature hedgerows and treelines are a common landscape element in this view and mitigate visual effects of the turbines. ➤ The field patterns and mature vegetation that exists within this view mitigates visibility of the turbines. ➤ Open and expansive view in a location designated for wind turbines. ➤ The two clusters of the proposed turbines are situated to the sides of the panoramic views of the mountains in the background, leading to no obstruction of the views and unnecessary visual clutter. ➤ The photomontage is taken from the highest viewing point on the battlements of Trim Castle and represent the only location where turbines are likely to be visible. The fieldwork carried out around the castle grounds and town of Trim confirm that there is no visibility of the turbines from these areas.

Viewpoint 19 – Trim Castle	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities