



APPENDIX 13-4

VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

Viewpoint Assessment Tables

Proposed Cahermurphy
Two Wind Farm



Viewpoint 1 – Doonsallagh West	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R474 road, designated Scenic Route No. 15, in the townland of Doonsallagh West, north of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E101102 N176430 ➤ 6.63 km from the nearest turbine (T10) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 17 – Slieve Callan Uplands – Medium to Low (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ would see the existing three and permitted one turbine in the Cahermurphy wind farm being the only turbines obvious in the view shown. The local landscape is moderately undulating and relatively small in scale but extends to much longer distance views to the southwest (right) of the image. In very clear weather conditions, the Tullabrack and Moanmore wind farms might come into view.
Description of Visual Effects	There is visibility of all ten proposed turbines from this location. The turbines appear to sit on the horizon to the left and centre of the photo view, given the confined range of view in the direction of the proposed development. All turbines are visible to below the turbine hub height, with different extents of the turbine towers being visible depending on their position on the site. Landcover in the form of hedgerows, trees, agricultural and residential building partially restrict the views of the turbines, but the majority of each turbine is still visible.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed development will be viewed in combination with the existing/permitted Cahermurphy four turbines. The scale of the existing/permitted and the proposed projects are comparable, albeit the proposed do appear slightly larger in scale. Neither project will be discernible from the other and they will most likely be read as a single project in the landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	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, 2017) 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 proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), and the LCA in which the photo was taken is classified as having a “Medium to Low” sensitivity to wind

	<p>farm developments where “large” wind farms are considered the most appropriate size of project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The alignment and orientation of the R474 which is a scenic route is such that it does not allow direct views in the direction of the proposed development site. > Intervening distance (c6.63 km)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 2 – Boolyneaska	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from R484, southeast of Creegh village, southwest of proposed site in the townland of Ballynagun East. > Grid Reference: E118406 N171093 > 9.53 km from the nearest turbine (T6) > No. of turbines visible: 5/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 17 – Slieve Callan Uplands – Medium to Low (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Residences - Low > Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows a view looking across Lough Naminna in the townlands of Boolyneaska. The view has many existing wind turbines located in close proximity to the photo location, primarily from the Booltiagh wind farm. Other wind farms that are operational close to the photo location are actually obscured from view by some local forestry. In the do-nothing scenario, wind energy development will already be a significant component of the view from this general vicinity.
Description of Visual Effects	The proposed development will be partially visible in the far background of the photo montage, through a visual field of existing wind turbines. The proposed development, along with the adjacent existing/permitted four Cahermurphy turbines will be minor additional features in the landscape from this locality, given the distance, the intervening terrain and the other existing wind farms that the proposed development will be seen through. Seven of the ten proposed turbines’ hubs would be visible in the theoretical wireframe view, but further screening in the intervening landscape will further diminish their visibility. The ridge of elevated land to the east of the site of the proposed development serves to screen a large portion of the proposed turbines from view.
Cumulative Effects	The addition of the proposed ten turbines to a landscape already containing a large number of turbines, will not significantly alter the existing landscape. In the vicinity of the photo location, the closer operational wind farms will be more dominant and prominent in the view. As one moves from east to west towards the site of the proposed development, the existing Booltiagh and Glenmore will move into a side view and eventually the background, before

Viewpoint 2 – Boolyneaska	
	the existing/permitted Cahermurphy project and the proposed development then come into view as a stand-alone cluster.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Low - Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	Low x Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), and the LCA in which the photo was taken is classified as having a “Medium to Low” sensitivity to wind farm developments where “large” wind farms are considered the most appropriate size of project. ➤ Intervening distance (c9.53 km) ➤ The proposed development is largely screened by the intervening topography and landcover.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 3 - Ballybuneen	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N68 National Secondary Route, in the townland of Ballybuneen, southeast of site and 6km southwest of Lissycasey. ➤ 8.72 km from the nearest turbine (T10) ➤ Grid Reference: E116247 N163439 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 19 Kilmihil Farmland – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Medium ➤ Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows medium to long distance views to the northwest of the N68. The immediate foreground of the photo shows pastoral farmland with hedgerows and occasional treelines making up the field boundaries. More distant views are visible from higher positions such as the photo location to the north and northwest over a more local ridgeline in the

Viewpoint 3 - Ballybuneen	
	midground of the image. In lower hollows the landscape would appear more confined and enclosed. The existing three turbines of the operational Cahermurphy wind farm are visible, as will be the fourth and larger permitted Cahermurphy turbine and the Kiltumper turbines. Other existing turbines are visible to the right of the image that are part of the Glenmore wind farm.
Description of Visual Effects	All ten proposed wind turbines can be seen to the left of the image sitting on an elevated ridgeline. At a distance of over 8km, the turbines are relatively small in scale although they appear visible over a ridgeline in the midground of the photo. The scale and extent of the proposed development is acceptable given the scale of the landscape and extent of the medium to long range views visible from this locality.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed development appears to extend the existing cluster of existing and permitted Cahermurphy and Kiltumper turbines, further to the left (west). The scale of the proposed turbines appear to be in keeping with those other turbines already constructed or permitted in the same cluster. The majority of other wind farms visible in wider-angle wireframes will actually be screened from view by the landcover visible in the photomontage, with the exception of turbines from the Glenmore wind farm, although wind turbines are now a common component of the landscape from this locality.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	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, 2017) 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 proposed turbines are located in a 'Strategic Area' (9/10) or areas that are 'Acceptable in Principal' (1/10). ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor views are not directed towards the proposed turbines. ➤ The N68 is a busy but relatively narrow road, which keeps road users' attention focussed on the road rather than surrounding views. ➤ Intervening distance (c 8.72 km).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 4 - Kilmihil	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from local road, just north of Kilmihil village, south-south-east of proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E110788 N164802 ➤ 4.13 km from the nearest turbine (T9) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 19 Kilmihil Farmland – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Low ➤ Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ will result in the existing three turbines of the operational Cahermurphy wind farm being visible, as will be the fourth and larger permitted Cahermurphy turbine. From the photo location looking north towards the site, the other wind farms in the wider vicinity will not be visible in this particular view, with the exception of the Kiltumper project to the right of the image. Other electricity infrastructure is also visible in the form of the 400kV overhead powerline and associated steel pylons, that transmit electricity cross-country. Forestry is prominent landscape feature in the view also and will become more dominant in future as the visible plantations mature.
Description of Visual Effects	There will be clear visibility of the proposed turbines from this location as evident by the proposed photomontage. The turbines sit on the horizon to the centre of this image. All the turbines bar one can be seen from the hub to the rotor with little to no screening. The relatively small portion of the landscape unit visible in the photomontage and in which the turbines appear is limited by the ridgeline to the north of the site on which turbines are located. The same landscape unit is significantly larger in the opposite direction from the view in the photo, which will diminish the visual effect of the turbines in the landscape.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed development appears in-combination with the proposed/permitted Cahermurphy project and physically separate from other wind farms in the locality the closest of which is the Kiltumper project. The layout of the proposed turbines appears tighter and more densely clustered than the other Cahermurphy turbines given the fact that those proposed are spread across a larger site and appear stacked.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate - The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.

Viewpoint 4 - Kilmihil	
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a 'Strategic Area' (9/10) or areas that are 'Acceptable in Principal' (1/10). ➤ Houses along the local road are generally orientated east/west, and the wind farm is located to the north in a different direction. ➤ As a representative view from Kilmihil village, the majority of properties in Kilmihil will have no direct view from the village towards the proposed development due to screening by other properties. ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor's views are not directed towards the proposed turbines
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 5 – Cloonwhite North	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Clooneenagh Cross at junction of two local roads, southwest of proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E107266 N167304 ➤ 1.30 km from the nearest turbine (T9) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 19 Kilmihil Farmland – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Medium ➤ Road users - Low
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	Very little change will occur in the view presented in the 'Do-Nothing Scenario'. No other wind farms will become visible, as the single remaining turbines to be built at part of the permitted Cahermurphy development will be screen from view by the roadside hedgerows, although it is visible in the wireframe view. Forestry is prominent on the part of the ridgeline that is visible in the mid-ground of the photo forming the skyline.
Description of Visual Effects	Given the close proximity of the photo location to the site (1.3 km), the proposed turbines that will be visible in the view appear large on the skyline. However, given the proximity of the photo location, more local features such as the roadside hedgerows screen more of the turbines from view than might be expected and as is often the case where small features close to a proposed wind farm have a disproportionate screening effect.
Cumulative Effects	The cumulative effect from the photo location presented is minimal as the view is within close proximity to the site and only the proposed turbines are

Viewpoint 5 – Cloonwhite North	
	visible. Other wind farms, such as the proposed/permitted Cahermurphy turbines will come into view from other positions in the immediate locality of the photo locations, and other projects will be visible in opposite directions to the one presented in the image.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	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	Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a “medium” landscape sensitivity. ➤ A “Significant” effect of significance would be defined as “an effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment”, whereas given the policy context outlined above, the visual environment is not considered to be sensitive to wind energy developments. ➤ The surrounding roads are local roads, carrying only local traffic, resulting a very low level of sensitivity for road users. ➤ There is a very low density of residential receptors in the locality. ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor’s views are not directed towards the proposed turbines. ➤ The photo location is on one of the perimeter roads immediately encircling the site, and is as close as a member of the public can get to the site on the public road network from the direction shown.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 6 – Ballynagun East	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from R484, southeast of Creegh village, southwest of proposed site in the townland of Ballynagun East. ➤ Grid Reference: E104,324 N166,042 ➤ 4.37 km from the nearest turbine (T9)

Viewpoint 6 – Ballynagun East	
	> No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 19 Kilmihil Farmland – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	> Residences - Medium > Road users - Medium
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows an image of agricultural fields in the foreground that are gently rolling and that rise to higher elevations in the background of the image. The gently rolling terrain allows for relatively open and unobstructed views of the surrounding landscape and towards the development site. Wind energy developments already form part of the landscape, from the Slievecallan project to the left of the image to Glenmore, Booylnagleragh and Kiltumper cluster to the right of the image. The existing three turbines of the operational Cahermurphy wind farm are visible, as will be the fourth and larger permitted Cahermurphy turbine.
Description of Visual Effects	The is clear visibility of the all ten proposed turbines from this location. Most of the turbines appear to sit on the ridgeline of the hill which acts as the horizon from this location, with only partial screening of turbines provided by the landcover or small rises in elevation visible to the rear of turbines 1, 9 and 10. The proposed turbines, although over 4km from the photo location, would be the closest of any of the other existing or permitted wind farm developments and so for that reason they appear more prominent than others that are also visible.
Cumulative Effects	The cumulative effect of adding the proposed turbines to the view is that it appear are an enlargement of the existing/permitted Cahermurphy wind farm, and is framed by the more distant Slievecallan wind farm to the left and the Glenmore, Booylnagleragh and Kiltumper project cluster visible to the right of the view. Although appearing larger in scale that the Slievecallan turbines that are located further away in the distance, the scale of the proposed turbines is in keeping with the existing/permitted Cahermurphy turbines albeit those that are located closer to the photo location naturally appear larger.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate - The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate= Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 6 – Ballynagun East	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10). ➤ Wind turbines already a common feature in the landscape. ➤ The view is from the Kilmihil Farmland LCA but is looking towards the Slieve Callan Uplands LCA, an area with even higher capacity to accommodate wind energy developments. ➤ Intervening distance (c 4.37 km)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 7 - Moyasta	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N67 in the village of Moyasta, southwest of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E96020 N158433 ➤ 15.47 km from the nearest turbine (T9) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 0/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 21 Loop Head Peninsula – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Medium ➤ Road users - Medium
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ will give rise to no change in the landscape from the chosen photo location or general vicinity. The local topography is relatively flat, which results in local features such as building and treelines impeding views off into the far distance. The existing Tullabrack wind farm located closest to the photo location is partially visible.
Description of Visual Effects	There is limited visibility of the proposed development from this location through gap in the intervening screening. The proposed turbines appear small in comparison to the closer Tullabrack turbines. The intervening screening on the horizon is lacking in the direct view towards the proposed development, making it visible from this particular viewpoint. The development would likely be screened from view if the viewpoint was moved by just a few metres to the left or right in the image.
Cumulative Effects	The cumulative effect of the proposed development will see more turbines being intermittently visible from this locality. The closer Tullabrack wind farm will still be more dominant given its proximity, whereas the proposed development will be much further (15+km) in the distance, and less obvious.
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 7 - Moyasta	
	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, 2017) 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 proposed turbines are located in a 'Strategic Area' (9/10) or areas that are 'Acceptable in Principal' (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a "medium" landscape sensitivity. ➤ Intervening distance (c15.47 km) ➤ Flat intervening topography causing local screening to limit visibility of the proposed development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 8 - Coorbally	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road, just north of the N67 in the townland of Coorbally, north of Kilkee and west-southwest of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E89777 N162318 ➤ 18.81 km from the nearest turbine (T1) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 21 Loop Head Peninsula – Medium (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Medium ➤ Road users - Medium
Description of 'Do Nothing Scenario'	The 'Do-Nothing Scenario' will give rise to no change in the landscape from the chosen photo location or general vicinity. On a clear day and when visible, wind energy developments will form part of the long range views over a large part of West Clare, as intended by the Clare Wind Energy Strategy. The existing and permitted wind farms that are or will be visible in the Do-Nothing Scenario are distant, and appear far-removed from the vicinity of the photo location.
Description of Visual Effects	There is theoretical visibility of the ten proposed turbines all illustrated on the wireframe images, but the significant intervening distance (18+km) will make the turbines difficult in see on all but very clear weather conditions. The

	turbines appear small, distance and very far removed from the locality of the photo location.
Cumulative Effects	The additional cumulative effect of the proposed development over and above the Do-Nothing Scenario is not significant given the number of turbines already forming part of the wider and distant landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	Negligible - Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a “medium” landscape sensitivity. ➤ Intervening distance (c18.81 km)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not significant (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 9 – Carrowmore			
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a private road off the entrance road to the Doonbeg Golf Resort, in the townland of Carrowmore, west of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E99244 N167966 ➤ 7.68 km from the nearest turbine (T1) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10 		
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 20 Malbay Coastal Farmland - High (CWES 2017-2023)		
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Recreational users (golfers) - Medium </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Recreational users (golfers) - Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Recreational users (golfers) - Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium 		
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario shows an image from the Doonbeg golf course with numerous wind farm sites sitting along the distant horizon to the west. The coastal dunes on which the golf course was built give way to a flat coastal plane that offers open expansive views westward towards the site of the proposed development. The four existing/permitted Cahermurphy turbines		

Viewpoint 9 – Carrowmore	
	are the closest west Clare turbines to the Clare coast and the photo location in the do nothing scenario.
Description of Visual Effects	There is visibility of all the proposed turbines from this location, with them appearing slightly larger than the existing/permitted Cahermurphy wind farm due to their more westerly location closer to the photo location. The proposed turbines appear on a ridgeline that is slightly elevated relative to the lower coastal plane seen to the left (north) and right (south) of the proposed development in the photo montage.
Cumulative Effects	The additional cumulative effect of the proposed development over and above the Do-Nothing Scenario is not significant given the number of turbines already forming part of the wider and distant landscape. The addition of the proposed turbines do bring turbines slightly closer to the photo location in comparison with those already visible, and due to their closer proximity the proposed turbines appear larger than other wind turbines already visible in the landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High - Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity to the viewpoint; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.
Magnitude of Change	Slight - The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a “High” landscape sensitivity. ➤ The sensitivity of the LCA in which the photo is taken from is largely derived from its coastal location, where the significant landscape feature is the coast and ocean, rather than the views inland towards the site of the proposed development. ➤ Intervening distance (c7.68 km)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 10 – Mullagh	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from local road east of Mullagh village, northwest of proposed site. ➤ 3.66 km from the nearest turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference: E104,860 N172,961 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 20 Malbay Coastal Farmland – High (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences - Medium ➤ Road users - Low
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows medium to long distance views of a more limited local landscape and longer distance views in the background. Local pastoral farmland gives way to longer distance views of elevated forestry and moorland. The existing three turbines of the operational Cahermurphy wind farm are visible, as will be the fourth and larger permitted Cahermurphy turbine. Other existing wind farms visible to the left of the image located further to the east appear are practically entirely screened from view.
Description of Visual Effects	All ten proposed wind turbines would be theoretically visible from this location, but in reality and due primarily to landcover such as treelines and hedgerows on the horizon, only nine of the proposed turbines would be partially visible. The visible turbines appear elevated relative to the photo location, visible on the ridgeline and appearing over the skyline. The same ridgeline that they are viewed behind serves to screen large sections of the turbine towers from view, thereby reducing their overall visibility and apparent scale.
Cumulative Effects	The existing and permitted Cahermurphy turbines appear further to the left of the image and are more visible due to the lack of landform and landcover screening. The proposed turbines appear in the cumulative view as an extension of the existing/permitted Cahermurphy development, although they are more screened from view and therefore are not as visible or prominent in the landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate - The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 10 – Mullagh	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10). ➤ Views over the intervening topography are only available from higher elevated positions, such as photo location. ➤ The view is from the Malbay Coastal Farmland LCA but is looking towards the Slieve Callan Uplands LCA.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>

Viewpoint 11 – Poulawillin	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from R474 to the east of Milton Malbay, on designated Scenic Route No. 15, north-north-west of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E106456 N178577 ➤ 8.95 km from the nearest turbine (T19) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 20 Malbay Coastal Farmland - High (CWES 2017-2023)
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Road users – Medium
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	In the ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ the existing and permitted Cahermurphy wind farm is the only wind farm visible in the visual unit looking in the direction shown in the image, with all other wind farms screened by a ridgeline that forms the horizon. The view looks south across agricultural pastures, broken by hedgerows with occasional houses visible randomly located in the countryside.
Description of Visual Effects	There is clear visibility of the ten proposed turbines in the view presented. At over 8 kilometres in the distance, while visible and obvious in the landscape, they are distant and not dominant when viewed from this locality. The proposed turbines sit on the ridgeline that forms the boundary of this landscape’s southern visual unit. The photo location on the R474 is also slightly more elevated than the intervening land, giving a clear view of the turbines over the intervening landscape.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed 10 turbines would be viewed in combination with the three existing and one further permitted Cahermurphy turbines. All other wind farms located in the viewshed are further to the south and hidden from view by an intervening ridgeline, behind which those other turbines are located. The proposed turbines will appear slightly larger than the three existing Cahermurphy turbines, but will be read in the landscape as a single larger project.

Viewpoint 11 – Poulawillin	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.
Magnitude of Change	Moderate - The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a “High” landscape sensitivity. ➤ The alignment and orientation of the R474 which is a scenic route is such that it does not allow direct views in the direction of the proposed development site. ➤ Intervening distance (c8.95 km)
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 12 - Cloghaundine			
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Clahane viewpoint, on a local road in the townland of Cloghaundine, west of Liscannor looking southeast towards the proposed site across Liscannor Bay and Lahinch. ➤ Grid Reference: E104364 N187769 ➤ 7.68 km from the nearest turbine (T1) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6/10 (partially) 		
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 3 Cliffs of Moher and Lahinch - High (CWES 2017-2023)		
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Scenic View – High </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Scenic View – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residences – Medium ➤ Scenic View – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Road users – Medium 		
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows an image looking south over Liscannor Bay towards the proposed development site. Although some existing wind farms are just barely and partially visible over the ridgeline that forms the southern horizon over the land, Liscannor Bay is the dominant focal point of interest		

Viewpoint 12 - Cloghaundine	
	from this viewpoint location. The distance to the existing and permitted wind farms makes them insignificant in the landscape relative to the movement and fluidity of the Atlantic Ocean.
Description of Visual Effects	The proposed turbines are only partially visible over an intervening ridgeline between the photo location and the site of the proposed development. Only one turbine is visible above turbine hub height, with only partial blade segments of a further eight turbines visible in the wireframe view, and even less in the photo montage view.
Cumulative Effects	Any cumulative effect is barely noticeable given the distance any existing, permitted or the proposed project. The partial visibility of the proposed development is insignificant in the context of the landscape in view.
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 - A change affecting smaller areas of landscape character including the loss of some landscape elements or the addition of features or elements which are either of low value or hardly noticeable. The effects could be short term and/or reversible.
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located in a 'Strategic Area' (9/10) or areas that are 'Acceptable in Principal' (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a "High" landscape sensitivity. ➤ The scale and vibrancy of the landscape in the foreground and midground of the photo relative to the far background. ➤ Intervening distance (c18.32 km). ➤ The very limited visibility of the proposed development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 13 – Carrownagry North	
Viewpoint Description & Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a road in the townland of Carrownagry North, due north of the proposed site. ➤ Grid Reference: E108393 N171890 ➤ 2.10 km from the nearest turbine (T3) ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/10

Viewpoint 13 – Carrownagry North			
LCA & LCA Sensitivity	LCA 20 – Malbay Coastal Farmland - High (CWES 2017-2023)		
Visual Receptor(s) & Sensitivity	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>➤ Residences – Medium</td> <td>➤ Road users – Medium</td> </tr> </table>	➤ Residences – Medium	➤ Road users – Medium
➤ Residences – Medium	➤ Road users – Medium		
Description of ‘Do Nothing Scenario’	The ‘Do-Nothing Scenario’ shows an image of primarily agricultural fields, outlined by low-level hedgerows. Much of the ridgeline forming the horizon to the middle and right of the view is framed by coniferous forestry. The view is of limited visual scale due to the ridgeline that forms the horizon preventing any further view beyond it. The three existing and one larger proposed Cahermurphy turbines will be the only other turbines visible in this view in the do-nothing scenario.		
Description of Visual Effects	All ten proposed turbines will be visible below turbine hub-height level from this locality. With some of the proposed turbines being located south of the ridgeline that forms the horizon in the view, less of those particular turbines’ towers will be visible. The closest 4-5 turbines will appear larger given their proximity (2.1km) and their higher ground elevation relative to the photo location. The turbines are prominent features in the landscape from this close proximity and appear large in scale partly due to the lack of any higher ground of higher elevation behind the proposed turbines.		
Cumulative Effects	In the limited view presented, the proposed development will be viewed in combination with the existing/permitted Cahermurphy four turbines. The scale of the existing/permitted and the proposed projects are comparable, albeit the proposed do appear larger in scale. Neither project will be discernible from the other and they will most likely be read as a single project in the landscape.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium - Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	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	Medium x Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2017) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.		
Mitigation Factors	➤ The proposed turbines are located in a ‘Strategic Area’ (9/10) or areas that are ‘Acceptable in Principal’ (1/10), albeit from this photo location are viewed from an LCA with a “High” landscape sensitivity.		

Viewpoint 13 – Carrownagry North	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The photo location is very close to the Slieve Callan Uplands LCA, considered to have a Medium to Low sensitivity to wind farm developments. ➤ A “Significant” effect of significance would be defined as “an effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment”, whereas given the policy context outlined above, the visual environment is not considered to be sensitive to wind energy developments. ➤ The surrounding roads are local roads, carrying only local traffic, resulting a very low level of sensitivity for road users. ➤ There is a very low density of residential receptors in the locality. ➤ Majority of the residential visual receptor’s views are not directed towards the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2017) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>