

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development, Co. Galway

Appendix 14-3 - Photomontage Assessment Tables





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1.

PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 15 No. Viewpoints presented in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the photomontage booklet. The Table below provides location information about the 15 No. Viewpoints assessed.

Table 1-1 Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
01	View from a local road in the Townland of Culleen. This viewpoint is located approximately 1.6km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E: 538,391 N: 745,459
02	View from the L2123 Local Road in the Townland of Carrowreagh. This viewpoint is located approximately 2.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E: 540,826 N: 743,560
03	View from the N83 National Road in the Townland of Cahervoley. This viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E: 540,061 N: 742,288
04	View from a local road in the Townland of Bunnahevelly Beg. This viewpoint is located approximately 818m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 534,910 N: 742,345
05	View from the L-2122 Local Road in the Townland of Cahermorris. This viewpoint is located approximately 1.2km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 533,554 N: 743,400
06	View from a local road in the townland of Biggera More. This viewpoint is located approximately 850m north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2)	E: 535,353 N: 744,628
07	View from a local walking trail on Knockma Hill. This viewpoint is located approximately 4.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T4)	E: 535,726 N: 748,457
08	View from the N83 National Road in the Townland of Glennafosha. This viewpoint is located approximately 3.7km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E: 539,633 N: 747,315
09	View from the N17 National Road in the Townland of Lambhill, north of Tuam Town. This viewpoint is located approximately 12km north of the nearest proposed turbine	E: 543,954 N: 754,466
10	View from the L3108 Local Road in the Townland of Glennaveel. This viewpoint is located approximately 12.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T8)	E: 550,024 N: 740,656

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
11	View from the L7101 Local Road in the Townland of Polkeen, on the outskirts of Galway City. This viewpoint is located approximately 14km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E: 533,911 N: 729,082
12	View along the N84 National Road on the Curramore Bridge over the River Clare in the Townland of Sylau. This viewpoint is located approximately 10.6km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 532,124 N: 732856
13	View from the N59 National Road at Glenlo Abbey in the Townland of Kentfield on the outskirts of Galway City. This viewpoint is located approximately 17.1km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 526,956 N: 727,994
14	View from Co. Galway Designated Protected View 31 at Kilbeg Pier on Lough Corrib in the Townland of Kilbeg. This viewpoint is located approximately 10.9km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 523,770 N: 742345
15	View from the R334 Regional Road in the Townland of Cordarragh, northwest of Headford. This viewpoint is located approximately 9.8km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 526,181 N: 747,906

1.1

Viewpoint Selection

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 Project. The Photomontages presented in the Volume 2 Booklet for the selected viewpoint locations (assessed in the tables below) therefore show some of the most open views of the Proposed Project.

Viewpoint 01 – Culleen			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from a local road in the Townland of Culleen > This Viewpoint is located approximately 1.6 km from the nearest proposed turbine (T8) > Grid Reference (ITM): E: 538,391, N: 745,459 > No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	This image shows a short-range view towards agricultural fields. The fields are delineated by low stone walls. The landform slopes slightly upwards		

Viewpoint 01 – Culleen	
	from the viewpoint location to the back of the field. This slightly elevated landform limits long ranging views from this location. A dense treeline can be seen to the left in the background of the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines are visible in this view. The blades and hubs of all turbines are visible above the landform and vegetation. The lower tower sections of the majority of the proposed turbines are screened from view by the intervening landform. As T4 and T8 are located in closer proximity to this viewpoint more of the turbines are visible from lower tower up. The proposed turbines are relatively even spaced and ordered in arrangement causing them to read coherently in the landscape.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No cumulative effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This viewpoint was given a ‘medium’ sensitivity on account of the residents in the area with views towards the Proposed Wind Farm site. They are located greater than 1.5km from the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Moderate’ as the proposed turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view and are visible over a medium extent.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation and localised topography in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i>

Viewpoint 02 – Carrowreagh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the L2123 Local Road in the townland of Carrowreagh > Viewpoint is approximately 2.6km east from nearest proposed turbine. (T8) > Grid Reference (ITM): E 540,821 N743,564 > No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit – Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Receptors travelling along the L213 – Low Receptors from Residents in close proximity of the viewpoint – Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	The view shows a medium ranging view over the flat agricultural landscape. The L2123 Local Road is visible in the foreground to the left of the image bordered by trees and low stone walls. Vegetation can be seen in the background of the view delineating the fields. Several residential dwellings are located to the left of the view along the road behind the dense shrubs to the left of the image. Knockma hill can be seen as an elevated landform feature in the right background of the viewpoint.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines are visible in the middle background of this predominately flat landscape. They are visible in this image behind the treeline in the centre of the image. The hubs and blades of all proposed turbines are visible above the treeline, the lower section of all turbines are not visible due to the screening from the treeline. The towers of T1 and T2 are fully screened by the intervening vegetation in the landscape. The tops of the towers of T3, T5, T6 and T7 are just visible above the treelines and the majority of T4 and T8 are visible. The turbines appear as cluster in the middle of the image and do not take up a large horizontal extent of the view.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed turbines are visible from this location. No cumulative effects will arise.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This view has been given a 'Medium' sensitivity on account of the residents in this area and proximity to Corrofin. This viewpoint is located more than 2.5km from the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be 'Moderate' as the proposed turbines are visible over a medium extent and partially obstruct the existing view.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022): <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.'</i>		

Viewpoint 02 – Carrowreagh	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view. ➤ From this location the proposed turbines take up a narrow horizontal spatial extent of the view
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 03 – N83 at Cahervoley			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from N83 in the townland of Cahervoley ➤ Viewpoint is approximately 2.3km south-east from nearest proposed turbine (T8) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E540,061, N742,288 ➤ No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 		
LCU and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Receptors travelling along the N83 – Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a medium range view over relatively flat grass fields bordered by low stone walls. The edge of the road can be seen in the foreground of the image. The topography slopes slightly upwards to the background of the image from the road. Vegetation can be seen sparsely scattered throughout the image. Several residential dwellings can be seen to the left of the image. Electricity poles can be seen within the fields and wires running through the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	The blades and hubs of all 8 of the proposed turbines will be visible in the background of the view. They are visible in this image above the stone walls and vegetation. The majority of the turbine towers are screened by the slightly elevated landform in the landscape. The turbines appear at a similar height to the electricity wires as small background elements within the view at this distance and do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this view.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed turbines are visible from this location. No cumulative effects will arise.		

Viewpoint 03 – N83 at Cahervoley	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This viewpoint has been given a ‘Medium’ sensitivity on account of its location on a well trafficked road. It is representative of the N83 and also the local residents in close proximity of this viewpoint.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Moderate’ as the proposed turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view and are visible over a medium extent.
Significance of Effect	Medium X Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening topography in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>

Viewpoint 04 – Bunnahevna Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the Townland of Bunnahevna Beg ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 818m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 534,910 N: 742,345 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCA 6A - Black River Basin - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	This viewpoint shows a short-range view across a local road to agricultural fields delimited by low stone walls. The field gently slopes up to the background of the image. These small local undulations in the landscape		

Viewpoint 04 – Bunnahevna Beg	
	limit longer-ranging views. Several residential properties can be seen to the right of the image along the road.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. The turbines are sited in a small depression of land within the undulating landscape, beyond a slight rise in elevation in the middle distance. The lower tower sections of all turbines are partially screened from view by the intervening landform. Proposed turbine (T1) is located in closest proximity and is most visible to the left-hand side of the image. Proposed turbines T7 and T8 are located furthest from this viewpoint and the majority of the turbine towers are screened from view.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Shanloon and Cooloo and existing Cloonlusk turbines are visible in the wireline of this viewpoint. However, due to the intervening vegetation there will be no visibility of these developments due to screening. No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments are visible from this viewpoint. No cumulative impacts will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High: This viewpoint has been given a ‘High’ sensitivity rating on account of residential receptors located in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Substantial: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Substantial’ as the proposed turbines will result in large-scale change in the view, as they are visible over a large horizontal extent at close proximity to the viewpoint.
Significance of Effect	High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are located within a low sensitive area. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ This location along this local road is one of the most open views of the proposed turbines in this area. Other residential receptors along this road will have more limited views towards the proposed turbines as there is roadside screening and residential dwellings have views in the opposite direction away from the proposed turbines. ➤ From this distance the magnitude of change is inevitably substantial where there are open views. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ The proposed turbines are spaced appropriately responding to the underlying pattern field pattern, adhering to the WEDG’s.

Viewpoint 04 – Bunnahevna Beg	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The local undulations in the topography enhance the screening of the proposed turbines, so they appear further set back from these residential receptors.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 05 – Cahermorris			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the local road in the townland Cahermorris. ➤ The viewpoint is located 1.2km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 533,554 N: 743,400 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCA 6A - Black River Basin - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>This image shows a short-range view across a local road to agricultural fields. The field in the foreground of the view is very flat with stone walls and vegetation delineating the field. Beyond this field several other fields can be seen in the background of the view with stone walls and vegetations bordering each field. The topography begins to slope upwards in the background of the image which, along with the vegetation within the view, limit the long-range view. Several residential properties can be seen to the left and right of the image along the road.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All 8 No. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. The lower tower sections of all turbines are screened from view by the vegetation and localised topography. Proposed turbine (T1) is located in closest proximity to the left-hand side of the image however the majority of the turbine tower is screened due to vegetation. The proposed turbines do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this view. From this location, the turbines appear at a similar height to the surrounding infrastructure and do not extend the vertical extent of the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments are visible from this viewpoint. No cumulative impacts will arise.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>High: This viewpoint was given a high sensitivity on account of the residents located in close proximity to the proposed turbines with views towards the Proposed Wind Farm site.</p>		
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from	<p>Moderate: The magnitude of change was deemed to be ‘Moderate’ as the proposed</p>		

Viewpoint 05 – Cahermorris	
Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view, where the turbines are visible but do not cover a wide horizontal extent of the view
Significance of Effect	High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ This location along this local road is one of the most open views of the proposed turbines in this area. Other residential receptors along this road will have more limited views towards the proposed turbines as there is roadside screening and residential dwellings have views in the opposite direction away from the proposed turbines. ➤ From this distance the magnitude of change is inevitably substantial where there are open views ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation and localised topography in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view. ➤ From this view, the proposed turbines appear as a neat cluster in the centre of the image and do not take up a large horizontal extent of the view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

Viewpoint 06 – Biggera More			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Biggera More ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 850 metres from the nearest proposed turbine (T2) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E535353, N744628 ➤ No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 ➤ This view is split into two separate viewing angles presented as 06A and 06B. 		
LCU and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential Receptors - High
Description of ‘Baseline’	View 06A: This image shows a short-range view of a relatively flat agricultural field. A stone wall bordering the field can be seen in the		

Viewpoint 06 – Biggera More	
	<p>foreground of the image, with a treeline delineating the field in the background of the image. Cattle can be seen grazing within the field, with farm buildings to the left of the image.</p> <p>View 06B: This image shows a short-range view of an agricultural field. The field slopes gently down to the right of the image. Vegetation and stone walls border the field. Long range views are restricted in this view due to the vegetation to the back right of the image and mound of mud and rubble in the centre of the image. Electricity poles and vegetation can be seen in the foreground.</p>
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>View 06A: 5 of the 8 turbines are visible in the background of this view. The tower and blades of the proposed turbines are fully visible in the view, with 3 turbines fully visible to the right of the image and 2 turbines partially screened to the left. The blades and hub of one proposed turbine (T8) are visible to the left of the image in the background behind the farm shed. The bottom of each tower of the visible turbines is screen from view by the vegetation, stone walls and farm sheds.</p> <p>View 06B: 2 of the proposed turbines (T2 and T3) are fully visible to the left of the image. 1 proposed turbine (T1) is screened from view by a hedgerow to the right hand of the image, one of the turbine blades is slightly visible through the vegetation.</p> <p>The visible turbines appear as a large background element within the image and comprises a large horizontal extent of this view.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No cumulative effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High: This viewpoint has been given a ‘High’ sensitivity on account of its location along a local road with several residential dwellings in close proximity of the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Substantial: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Substantial’ as the proposed turbines will result in large-scale change in the view, as they are visible over a large horizontal extent at close proximity to the viewpoint.
Significance of Effect	High × 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"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines.

Viewpoint 06 – Biggera More	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This location along this local road is one of the most open views of the proposed turbines in this area. Other residential receptors along this road will have more limited views towards the proposed turbines as there is roadside screening and some residential dwellings have views in the opposite direction away from the proposed turbines. ➤ From this distance the magnitude of change is inevitably substantial where there are open views ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 07 – Knockma Wood Walking Trail			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local walking trail on Knockma Hill. ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 4.1km from the nearest proposed turbine (T4) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM) E: 535,726 N: 748,457 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCA 6A - Black River Basin - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Recreational walking trail – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a long ranging view over the flat agricultural landscape from an elevated perspective on a local walking trail on Knockma Hill. The agricultural fields are bordered by low stone walls and a mix of shrubs and treelines. Residential dwellings can be seen scattered throughout the landscape. Lough Corrib can be seen to the right of the image in the background.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. of the proposed turbines are visible in a linear array within this image. 7 of the 8 proposed turbines are fully within this view, however, the tower of one proposed turbine (T1) is completely screened from view by the existing vegetation on Knockma Hill. Only the turbine blades and hub are visible above the vegetation. Due to the rolling hills in the background of the image the proposed turbines only slightly extend the vertical extent of this view, with the blades and some hubs jut visible above the horizon. The proposed turbines do not obstruct views of Lough Corrib to the right of the image.		
Cumulative Effects	No other wind farm developments are visible within the image. The two existing Cloonlusk turbines are located to the east of this viewpoint, out of sight from this image. The proposed turbines and existing Cloonlusk turbines will not be visible in the same view extent. However, there may be		

Viewpoint 07 – Knockma Wood Walking Trail	
	times where if a viewer is looking south towards the proposed turbines and then turns their head to the east, they will then have visibility of the two existing Cloonlusk turbines. From this view the Galway Wind Park and surrounding turbines will be visible in the background across Lough Corrib as the view turns their head to the southwest. The Galway Wind Park and surrounding turbines will be barely visible in the background of the view. No significant cumulative effects will arise as a result of the proposed turbines.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High: Although this is a popular walking trail, it is not designated in the GCDP 2022-28. On account of its local importance, it has been given ‘High’ sensitivity.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Moderate’ as the proposed turbines are visible over a medium extent and obstruct part of the existing view panoramic view.
Significance of Effect	High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ This viewpoint is not located on a designated scenic route or protected view within the GCDP (2022-28) ➤ As can be seen on the ZTV for Knockma Hill (Figure 14-22 in Chapter 14) there are large sections of the walks where there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines. There are also sections of the walk to the north where views will be partially screened due to vegetation as seen in AltVP25. ➤ Where the walk opens out on the northern section, there are currently very wide-open panoramic views looking across the flat landscape and towards Lough Corrib. The proposed turbines will be visible within this expansive view but will be restricted in its spatial extent in the context of this wider view. ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct views of a scenic quality in the direction of Lough Corrib.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

Viewpoint 08 – N83 - Glennafosha	
Viewpoint Description and Details	➤ View from along the N83 National Road in the townland of Glennafosha.

Viewpoint 08 – N83 - Glennafosha			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 3.7km northeast from the nearest Proposed Turbines. (T8) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E539,633 N747,315 ➤ No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 		
LCU and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Receptors travelling along the N83 road – Medium Residents: Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	This image shows a medium ranging view over flat agricultural fields. The N83 National Road can be seen in the foreground of the image. The topography slightly slopes down towards the left and background of the image. Vegetation can be seen throughout the landscape. The agricultural fields are bordered by low stone walls and a mix of shrubs and treelines. Residential dwellings can be seen scattered throughout the landscape.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines will be visible in a linear array in the middle background of this predominantly flat landscape. The turbines appear as medium sized background elements within the view at a distance and do not restrict any views of a scenic quality. The lower tower of all turbines is screened from view by the intervening vegetation in the landscape.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No cumulative effects will arise.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: The viewpoint has been given a 'Medium' sensitivity on account of its location on a well trafficked road. It is representative of the N83 and also the local residents in close proximity of this viewpoint.		
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be 'Moderate' as the proposed turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view that results in a change in character and composition of the baseline of the existing view.		
Significance of Effect	Medium X Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'</i>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as 'Low' sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. 		

Viewpoint 08 – N83 - Glennafosha	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to distance and the intervening vegetation in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view.
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 09 – N17 - Lambhill			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N17 National Road in the Townland of Lambhill, north of Tuam Town ➤ This Viewpoint is located approximately 12 km from the nearest proposed turbine (T8) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 543,954, N: 754,466 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	<p>GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit – Low</p> <p>Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 – Low</p>	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<p>Residents– Low</p> <p>Receptors travelling along the N17 National Road – Medium</p> <p>Tuam Town – Medium</p>
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>View from a slightly elevated location along the N17 National Road north of Tuam town. The image shows a long ranging view south looking down the N17 towards Tuam. Agricultural fields can be seen to the right of the image bordered by low stone walls and vegetation. Parts of the townscape of Tuam can be seen in the middle of the image behind the sparse vegetation bordering the roadside. The landscape slopes gently down to the left of the image along the road before sloping upwards in the background. Knockma Hill can be seen in the background of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>7 No. proposed turbines are visible in the background of the image. All the turbine components visible are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views. The proposed turbines appear as a neat linear array across the background of this view. At this distance the proposed turbines are seen as small background features and comprise a small horizontal extent in the landscape view. The visible turbines do not increase the vertical extent of the skyline, appearing lower than other features in the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No cumulative effects will arise.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>Medium: This viewpoint has been given a 'Medium' sensitivity on account of its location along the N17 National Road and its proximity to Tuam Town.</p>		

Viewpoint 09 – N17 - Lambhill	
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Moderate’ as the proposed turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view that results in a change in character and composition of the baseline of the existing view.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.’</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening topography and vegetation in the landscape, the turbines appear set-back from this view. ➤ Within Tuam town itself there will be limited visibility of the turbines due to screening from infrastructure and vegetation, and lower elevation. ➤ This is one of the only locations along the N17 where there will be visibility of the proposed turbines. The views from the majority of the N17 are well screened due to roadside screening and local undulations in the landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities’.</i>

Viewpoint 10 – Glennaveel			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L3108 Local Road in the Townland of Glennaveel ➤ Viewpoint is located approximately 12.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine. (T8) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 550,024, N 740,656 ➤ No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 		
LCU and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6B – Southern River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Receptors travelling along the L3108 Local Road – Low
	Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low		Visitors to St. Bernard’s Holy Well. - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a long ranging view over the flat agricultural landscape, from an elevated perspective along the L3108 Local Road. Vegetation can be seen throughout the landscape. The agricultural fields are bordered by low stone walls and a mix of shrubs and treelines. Residential dwellings can be seen scattered throughout the landscape. Knockma Hill can be seen as		

Viewpoint 10 – Glennaveel	
	an elevated landform feature to the right of the image. The large hills of Connemara can be seen in the background of the image.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines will be fully visible in a linear array in the middle background of this predominantly flat landscape. They are visible in this image in front of the Connemara hills. The turbines appear as small background elements within the view at this distance and do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this panoramic view.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Shancloon turbines can be seen to the right-hand side of the proposed turbines. They are visible as small features in the background of the view. Due to the separation distance and the distance from this viewpoint no significant cumulative effects are deemed to arise between these two developments. No other existing, permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this view. The two Cloonlusk turbines are visible to the north of this viewpoint. From this viewpoint, the proposed turbines are visible to the west, but when the observer turns towards the north the existing Cloonlusk turbines are visible in the landscape. Due to the separation distance between the two-wind farm developments it is impossible that these two developments will be seen in the same view together. No Significant cumulative effects are deemed to arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Low: This viewpoint has been given a ‘Low’ sensitivity on account of its location on a low trafficked road. It is representative of views from St Bernard’s Holy Well however, the well is located on private land with restricted access. The well is not a national monument and there are limited visitors.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the turbines are visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.
Significance of Effect	Low X Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ From this long-range view (12.1km) the proposed turbines appear as a linear feature in the background of the view and do not obstruct views of a high scenic quality
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.’</i>

Viewpoint 11 – Pollkeen			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L7101 Local Road in the Townland of Polkeen on the outskirts of Galway City ➤ This viewpoint is approximately 14km south from nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E533,911, N729,082 ➤ No. of Proposed Turbines visible: 8 		
LCU and Sensitivity	LCU – GCDP Galway City - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential - Low Receptors travelling along the local road – Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a long ranging view of a generally flat agricultural landscape from a slightly elevated perspective along the L7101. The road slopes down from the viewpoint location towards to the N83 National Road. These roads are bordered by vegetation and stone walls. Vegetation can be seen scattered throughout the landscape, with several residential dwellings in the midground of the image. An industrial building can be seen in the left. Knockma Hill can be seen as an elevated landform feature in the middle background. To the right of the image several electricity poles and wires can be seen running through the fields surrounded by vegetation.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines will be fully visible in a linear array in the middle background of this predominately flat landscape. They are visible in this image in front of Knockma Hill. The turbines appear as small background elements within the view at the distance and do not compromise a large horizontal extent of this panoramic view.		
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Shancloon turbines will be visible as small features in the back left of the view. The topography within the landscape screens the majority of the proposed turbine towers from view. From this distance the cumulative effects between these two developments is deemed to be ‘Imperceptible’. The proposed Clonberne turbines will be theoretically visible in the background to the right of the image. They appear as a small background feature and are barely noticeable in the background of the view. No Significant cumulative effects will arise between the proposed turbines and the proposed Clonberne turbines. The proposed Cooloo and existing Cloonlusk turbines are visible in the wireline of this viewpoint. However, due to the intervening vegetation there will be no visibility of these developments due to screening.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This viewpoint has been given a ‘Medium’ sensitivity on account of its location on a moderately trafficked road on the outskirts of Galway City.		
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the		

Viewpoint 11 – Pollkeen	
Methodology (Appendix 14-1)	turbines are visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.
Significance of Effect	Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities’.</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ The proposed turbines appear as a neat linear feature within the landscape and do not interfere with any views of a scenic quality. ➤ This is one of the only locations within this area and in Galway City where there will be views of the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022): <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities’.</i>

Viewpoint 12 – N84 - Curraghline			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View along the N84 National Road on the Curramore Bridge over the River Clare in the Townland of Sylauin ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 10.6km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 532,124, N: 732856 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP-LCU 6b – Southern River Clare Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists along the N84 - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a long-range view across a flat wetland landscape. The River Clare can be seen in the foreground of the image to the right. The N84 running north can be seen to the left of the image, with the bridge in the foreground. In the midground of the image the N83 is delineated by mixed vegetation. A large tract of forestry can be seen in the background of the view behind the smaller shrubs scattered throughout the landscape. Knockma Hill is visible as an elevated feature in the background of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines are visible as a linear feature in the background of the view. The lower section of the turbine towers are screened from view by the intervening vegetation in the landscape. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled.		

Viewpoint 12 – N84 - Curraghline	
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Shancloon, Clonberne and Cooloo turbines and existing Cloonlusk turbines are theoretically visible, as illustrated in the wireline of this viewpoint however, due to the significant distance and screening from the vegetation in the background of the view, there will be no Significant cumulative effects between these wind farms from this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This view was given a ‘Medium’ sensitivity on account of its location along a well trafficked road on a popular route out of Galway City.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the turbines are visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.
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 Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct views of a high scenic quality. ➤ There are limited sections along the N84 where there will be views of the proposed turbines due to roadside screening. This view shows one of the only locations along the road where there will be open views towards the Proposed Wind Farm site. ➤ As the proposed turbines are at a similar base elevation, they are viewed across the flat landscape, and the intervening distance mitigates the visual effect
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 – Glenlo Abbey	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N59 National Road at Glenlo Abbey in the Townland of Kentfield on the outskirts of Galway City. ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 17.1km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 523,770, N: 742345 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8

Viewpoint 13 – Glenlo Abbey			
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP – LCU 4b Lower Corrib Environs Unit - High Landscape Sensitivity – Class 3 – Special - High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – Medium Motorists travelling along the N59 National Road - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a long-range view over Glenlo Abbey Golf Course and Lough Corrib. This image was captured from the elevated vantage point along the N59 where there are expansive panoramic views across the landscape which is of a scenic quality. The golf course can be seen in the foreground of the image with Lough Corrib behind. Knockma Hill is visible as an elevated landform feature in the background of the image. Large trees and shrubs can be seen throughout the landscape.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 of the proposed turbines are visible in a linear array in the background of the view. All visible turbine components are viewed to be above the horizon, and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The turbines appear vertically aligned across the skyline and do not vertically extend above landscape elements existent in this view.		
Cumulative Effects	The proposed Shanclon turbines will be visible as very small features in the back left of the view. Due to the distance between this viewpoint and the proposed Shanclon turbines they appear barely discriminable in the expansive landscape. The proposed Clonberne and Cooloo turbines and existing Cloonlusk turbines are visible in the wireline of this viewpoint however, due to the screening from the vegetation to the right of the view. There will be no Significant cumulative effects between these wind farms from this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This viewpoint was given a ‘Medium’ sensitivity on account of its location along the N59 National Road with residents with views of a high scenic quality towards the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the turbines are visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.		
Significance of Effect	Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>‘An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities’.</i>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ The proposed turbines are appropriately scaled in the landscape, and they comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the panoramic views available from this location. 		

Viewpoint 13 – Glenlo Abbey	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines is limited from other sections of this road due to roadside screening. ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct any landscape features of unique aesthetic quality within the long-ranging view.
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 – Kilbeg Pier			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Co. Galway Designated Protected View 31 (GCDP 2022-28) at Kilbeg Pier on Lough Corrib in the Townland of Kilbeg ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 10.9km west of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 523,770, N: 742345 ➤ No. Of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Co. Galway Protected View 31 – High Residents - Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a medium range view looking south across Lough Corrib. The lake comprises the majority of the view. The landscape on the banks of the lake is highly vegetated limiting long-range views of the surrounding landscape.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	8 of the proposed turbines are visible in the background of the image. They appear in a staggered layout. There is some visual stacking between the proposed turbines due to the layout creating a small cluster from this vantage point. The turbines are heavily screened with only the hubs and blades being visible. Turbine T4 in the far left of the image is almost completely screened, with only the tip of the blades potentially visible.		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The Galway Wind Park and surrounding turbines are visible approximately 12km to the southwest of this viewpoint, outside of the LVIA Study Area. They will not be seen in the same field of view as the proposed turbines but if a viewer at this location turns their head, they will be able to see the existing Galway Wind Park and surrounding turbines to the southwest. Considering the setback distance is 12km in each direction from this location, no significant cumulative effects will arise between the existing Galway Wind Park and surrounding turbines and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No significant cumulative effects will arise.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from	High: The view has been given a ‘High’ sensitivity on account of its designation as Co. Galway Designated Protected View 31 in the GCDP 2022-2028.		

Viewpoint 14 – Kilbeg Pier	
Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the turbines are partially visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.
Significance of Effect	High X Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ The direction of this protected view is not towards the proposed turbines and the proposed turbines do not detract from the scenic quality of the protected view. ➤ Due to the heavily vegetated banks of the lake, views of the proposed turbines will be very limited from other locations on the lake. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation in the landscape, the turbines appear further set-back from this location and do not dominate in the view. ➤ The proposed turbines do not take up a large horizontal extent of the view. They appear similar in height to the existing vegetation and do not increase the vertical extent of the view. ➤ Due to the intervening distance and vegetation from this viewpoint location, the slight stacking of the turbines will reduce the effect of visual confusion.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

Viewpoint 15 – R334 - Headford			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R334 Regional Road in the Townland of Cordarragh, approximately 250m northwest of Headford ➤ The Viewpoint is located approximately 9.8 km from the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 526,181, N: 747,906 ➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	GCDP LCU 6A- Black River Basin Unit - Low Landscape Sensitivity: Class 1 - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Headford – Medium Receptors travelling along the R334 – Low Residents - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a medium range view from a slightly elevated vantage point on the R334 as it approaches Headford from the north-west. It shows a		

Viewpoint 15 – R334 - Headford	
	view across the road towards several agricultural fields with Ashthorn Avenue Housing Estate visible in the middle background of the view enclosed by vegetation from behind. The R334 runs to the right of the image towards Headford with two residential dwellings visible along the road. The topography is gently undulating with the agricultural fields sloping down towards the centre of the image before sloping up again towards the housing estate. Vegetation is visible throughout the landscape as the fields are bordered by intermittent trees and shrub.
Proposed Photomontage Description	Most of the proposed turbine components are obscured from view by the vegetation in the background of the photomontage. The hubs and blades of 4 of the proposed turbines (T1, T2, T4, T5) are visible over the treeline in the background. Only the blades are visible from the remaining turbines with only the blade tips of T6 and T7 visible.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farm developments will be visible from this viewpoint location. No cumulative effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium: This view was given a ‘Medium’ sensitivity on account of its location in close proximity to Headford.
Magnitude of Change (Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight: The magnitude of change is deemed to be ‘Slight’ at this viewpoint as the turbines are partially visible at a sufficient distance and result in a low level of change in the view.
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 Proposed Project is located within an area designated as ‘Low’ sensitivity within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. ➤ Siting of turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. ➤ Due to the intervening vegetation in the landscape, the majority of the proposed turbines are screened from view. ➤ Within Headford itself there will be limited to no visibility of the turbines due to screening from infrastructure and vegetation
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.”