



APPENDIX 14-3

PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT

Appendix 14-3 Photomontage Assessment Tables

Proposed Clonberne
Windfarm, Co. Galway





DOCUMENT DETAILS

Client: **Client Name**

Project Title: **Proposed Clonberne Windfarm, Co. Galway**

Project Number: **180740**

Document Title: **Appendix 14-3 Photomontage Assessment Tables**

Document File Name: **Appendix 14-3 Photomontage Assessment - F - 2024.04.05 - 180740**

Prepared By: **MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
Ireland
H91 VW84**



Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Draft	08/02/2024	JS	OC
02	Final	05/04/2024	JS	OC

1.

PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
1	View from the Glenamaddy Turlough Picnic Area in the townland of Mountkelly. This viewpoint is the location of a designated protected view in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is located approximately 9.2km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 563,869 N: 761,496
2	View from the R360 regional road leaving the village of Dunmore in the townland of Carrownaseer South, located approximately 7.2km north of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 551,414 N: 763,846
3	View from the R332 regional road on the outskirts of Tuam in the townland of Carrownagarraun, located approximately 10.3km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 545,142 N: 750,923
4	Views from the R332 regional road in the townland of Pollacarrogune, located approximately 13km west of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 540,552 N: 755,885
5	View from a junction on the R328 regional road in the townland of Timadooan, located approximately 1km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 556,316 N: 758,106
6	View from the R328 regional road outside Clonberne National School in the townland of Kippaunagh, located approximately 1.3km east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 557,015 N: 757,198
7	View from the N83 national road in the townland of Rahogarty North, located approximately 6.4km west of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 547,453 N: 757,451
8	View from a local road outside of Barnaderg in the townland of Knock, located approximately 8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 552,360 N: 748,018
9	View from a local road in the townland of Kilmurry, approximately 1.2km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 553,949 N: 758,199
10	View from a local road in the townland of Mahanagh, located approximately 1.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 555,276 N: 754,400
11	View from a crossroad of two local roads in the townland of Knockroe, located approximately 2.2km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 552,444 N: 758,467

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
12	View from the R328 regional road in the townland of Gorteen, located approximately 3.3km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 552,891 N: 760,255
13	Views from the R362 regional road in the townland of Cashel, located approximately 7.6km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 558,973 N: 764,006
14	Views from the R339 regional road opposite the Menlough GAA pitch in the townland of Cloonmweelaun, located approximately 14.7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E: 560,863 N: 741,733
15	View from a local road in the townland of Killavoher, located approximately 769m northwest of the nearest proposed turbine. The view is captured from a small local road leading to the Wind Farm Site.	E: 555,624 N: 758,087
16	View from a local road in the townland of Cloonagawnagh, located 940m east of the nearest proposed turbine, and 1.1km from the proposed onsite substation.	E: 555,756 N: 755,310
17	View from a local road in the townland of Cloonagawnagh, located 837m southeast the nearest proposed turbines, and 868m from the proposed onsite substation.	E: 555,507 N: 755,184
18	View from a local road in the townland of Ballyedmond, located 2.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine and approximately 185m from the nearest part of the Proposed Grid Connection Towers.	E: 557,105 N: 754,690

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. In certain instances, viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet as a nearby viewpoint more appropriate in relation to the nearby receptors was produced instead. The Photomontages presented in the Volume 2 Booklet and assessed in the tables below therefore show some of the most open views of the Proposed Project from sensitive visual receptors.

1.2

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the ‘Assessing Visual Effects’ methodology set out in Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 14-1 – LVIA Methodology. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Project are included in the impact assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted, and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their interactions with the Proposed Project. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document use the photomontages in the Volume 2 Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. Potential for cumulative visual effects are accounted for in the ‘Magnitude of change’ row in each impact assessment table and are considered in the ‘Residual Visual Effect’ determination given for each Viewpoint.

Note on VPs 16, 17 and 18

These viewpoints are included in order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of all elements of the Proposed Project, including the Proposed Grid Connection, with the proposed onsite substation shown in VP16 and VP17, and the proposed LCIMs shown in VP18.

1.3

Viewpoint Assessment

Viewpoint 1 – Mountkelly			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Glenamaddy Turlough Picnic Area in the townland of Mountkelly. This viewpoint is the location of a designated protected view in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is located approximately 9.2km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 563,869, N 761,496 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 9/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5c – Springfield Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium Designated Protected View - High
Description of ‘Existing View’	The Glenamaddy Turlough picnic area is visible to the right hand-side of the image, partially enclosed by deciduous vegetation. The majority of the view is comprised of the Glenamaddy Turlough, a relatively large body of water allowing for open, wide-ranging views from this location. The landscape on the far side of the shore is comprised of agricultural fields and tracts of deciduous woodland.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are partially visible above the woodland seen on the far side of the shore, close to the right-hand extent of the view of the Turlough. There is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from this location with only one turbine hub visible. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the proposed turbines appear well absorbed within the landscape and appropriately scaled, seen as small, insubstantial elements in the background of the view.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo Wind Farm is theoretically visible from this location. However, no actual visibility of the turbines occurs as a result of screening existent within the landscape.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.		

Viewpoint 1 – Mountkelly	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High – This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the designated viewpoint in the GCDP 2022-2028 at this location.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Negligible – The proposed turbines are seen in such a small horizontal extent and are screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = 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 turbines are substantially screened and obscured from view by the existing vegetation and only one turbine hub and the blades of proposed turbines are visible from within this location. ➤ As described in the GCDP <i>“The focus of this view is Glenamaddy Turlough. The wooded shores that form the background are an important feature of the view.</i> The proposed turbines are seen above and behind the wooded shores of the Turlough and do not obstruct views of the Turlough itself or the wooded shores. ➤ While the proposed turbines are seen within the extent of the designated protected view, they are seen to the right-hand extent of a wide-ranging views of the Glenamaddy Turlough, which extends beyond the left-hand side of the photomontage. ➤ The turbine components that are visible are seen as very small background features within the view.
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 2 – Carrownaseer South			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R360 regional road leaving the village of Dunmore in the townland of Carrownaseer South, located approximately 7.2km from the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 551,414 N 763,846 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 6/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5d – Slieve Dart Unit - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium Dunmore – Medium

Viewpoint 2 – Carrownaseer South	
Description of 'Existing View'	The existing view is comprised of gently undulating agricultural grassland fields with low hedgerows and ditches forming the boundary of the fields. Several residential and farm buildings are also seen interspersed throughout the view. There are several mature deciduous and coniferous treelines visible through out the background of the view, with a large tract of forestry seen in the left background and centre background, and a deciduous treelines seen to the right background. The topography is gently undulating, generally rising in the background of the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Six of the proposed turbines are partially visible in the background of the view. Only a single blade of turbine T2 is visible above the forestry, whilst the other proposed turbines are partially between the house and coniferous forestry in the centre background.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo wind turbines are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, however, in reality they are screened by the intervening block of forestry.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the village of Dunmore.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Negligible - the proposed turbines are seen in such a small horizontal extent and are screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = 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 turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. ➤ The majority of the proposed turbines are entirely screened from view whilst the proposed turbines that are visible, are difficult to distinguish from this viewpoint without the aid of the wireline image.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i>

Viewpoint 3 – Carrownagarraun			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R332 regional road on the outskirts of Tuam in the townland of Carrownagarraun, located approximately 10.3km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 545,142, N 750,923 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium Settlement (Tuam) – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This view looks out over the regional road which is bordered by a low stone wall. The landscape in views is a gently undulating rural agricultural landscape comprised of various agricultural fields, delineated by low hedgerows. A number of mature treelines are seen throughout the background of the view providing screening of the landscape beyond. A number of electricity lines can be seen throughout the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All proposed turbines are visible in a linear array in the background of the view, behind and above a dense linear arrangement of deciduous trees. The proposed turbines are partially screened by the intervening vegetation. The proposed turbines appear as small background elements within the view at this distance.</p> <p>Four turbine from the proposed Cooloo wind farm are visible at the right-hand side of the view, and will be viewed beyond the right-hand extent of the image. The proposed Cooloo turbines will appear as similarly sized features in the view from this location, compared to the turbines of the Proposed Project.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There will be combined (in succession, where an observer has to turn their head to see different developments) views of the proposed turbines from this location, along with views of the proposed Cooloo turbines. While this could result in additional cumulative visual effects, the views of the proposed Cooloo turbines are well screened, and with the turbines of the Proposed Project also well screened and seen as small background features in another direction. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the receptors nearby from Tuam town.</p>		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>Slight - The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small horizontal extent and result in a low level of change within the view.</p>		

Viewpoint 3 – Carrownagarraun	
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 turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. ➤ The proposed turbines are seen as small features in the background of the view as a coherent cluster. ➤ The proposed turbines are substantially screened by intervening vegetation in the landscape. ➤ The Proposed Project does not interfere with or obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features within this view.
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 4 – Pollacoragune			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Views from the R332 regional road in the townland of Pollacarrogune, located approximately 13km west of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 540,552, N 755,885 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Low National Road – Medium Settlement (Tuam) - Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	View looks from the regional road, which is seen in the left midground bordered by a row of residential dwellings, over a gently undulating rural agricultural landscape comprised of various agricultural fields, delineated by low hedgerows with clusters of deciduous woodland scattered throughout. The topography rises in the background forming a low ridgeline preventing further views in this direction. A number of electricity lines can be seen throughout the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are slightly visible in the far background of this view behind a treeline present on the ridgeline. Due to the distance, intervening vegetation and topography, there is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo Wind Farm is theoretically visible from this location as indicated by the wireline. As a result of screening from vegetation in the view, only the blades of two of these proposed Cooloo turbines are actually visible from this location.</p>		

Viewpoint 4 – Pollacoragune	
Cumulative Effects	There are combined views of the turbines of the Proposed Project as well as proposed Cooloo turbines from this location, although only the blades of two of the proposed Cooloo turbines are actually visible. Both the Proposed Project and the proposed Cooloo turbines are viewed as small background elements where views do occur. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the nearby receptors from Tuam town.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Negligible - the proposed turbines are seen in such a small horizontal extent and are screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = 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 turbines are viewed as very small features in the background of the view, substantially screened from view, and are difficult to distinguish from the baseline view without the aid of the wireline image.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i>

Viewpoint 5 – Timadooan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a junction on the R328 regional road in the townland of Timadooan, located approximately 1km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 556,316, N 758,106 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium Residents – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view is overlooking agricultural grassland fields with undulating topography on the far side of the road. The road is bordered with a low hedgerow. Commercial forestry is visible to the left background of the		

Viewpoint 5 – Timadooan	
	<p>image, with deciduous treelines also visible in front of the forestry in this part of the view. To the right-hand side of the image, a localised undulation rises, screening further views in this direction. An overhead line is seen running parallel to the road throughout the view.</p> <p>The existing Cloonlusk turbines are theoretically visible from this location although actual visibility does not occur given the vegetation present throughout the background of the view that will provide additional screening of these small background features in the view.</p>
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Project are nearly visible in the background of the view. Proposed turbines T9 and T3 are least visible due to screening from vegetation. The closest turbine T2 appears as a large vertical object within the view with other proposed turbines appearing moderately scaled.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo wind turbines are theoretically visible from this location although actual visibility does not occur given the vegetation present throughout the background of the view that will provide additional screening of these small background features.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity on account of the regional road and the existing residential receptors located along the road in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate - The proposed turbines are seen over a moderate vertical extent, and are seen within a relatively wide horizontal extent of the view, resulting in a change to the character of the baseline 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 turbines occupy a moderate horizontal spatial extent within this view, with only one turbine appearing as a large nearby vertical feature. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG’s (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG’s (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and are not visible against the backdrop of any valuable or unique landscape features.

Viewpoint 5 – Timadooan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. ➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline.
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 6 – Kippaunagh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R328 regional road outside Clonberne National School in the townland of Kippaunagh, located approximately 1.3km east of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 557,015, N 757,198 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium School - Medium Residential Receptors - High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This view looks across the regional road towards and open agricultural field bordered at the far side by a deciduous treeline which extends across the view. A large mature tree is seen in the left foreground, as well as several mature trees in the right midground, which obstruct views in this direction. Several residential and farm buildings are seen throughout the view. The topography is generally flat, although there are some views of a low rise in elevation seen in the right and centre background. The character of the landscape in view is rural and agricultural.</p> <p>The existing Clonlusk Wind Farm is theoretically visible from this location. However, no actual visibility of the turbines occurs as a result of screening existent within the landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed as tall vertical features within the view, above and behind the deciduous woodland seen across the background. The proposed turbines are seen within the flat plain located between the viewpoint and the low rise in elevation seen in the right background. There is minor screening of the majority of proposed turbines provided by the intervening trees, with tower sections of certain proposed turbines screened from view. Proposed turbines T3, T2 and T1 are almost entirely or substantially screened due to the presence of a several mature trees to the right-hand side of the image. This effect will differ depending on exact</p>		

Viewpoint 6 – Kippaunagh	
	<p>viewing location. The proposed turbines appear generally evenly spaced in a grid layout.</p> <p>The permitted Cloonascragh Wind Turbine and the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm are theoretically visible from this location. However, no actual visibility of the turbines occurs as a result of screening existent within the landscape.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors located in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate – The proposed turbines are seen over a moderate vertical extent, and are seen within a moderate horizontal extent of the view, resulting in a change to the character of the baseline 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 closest proposed turbine to the viewpoint is substantially screened by vegetation, and several other proposed turbines are substantially screened. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG’s (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG’s (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines appear in a coherent layout, evenly spaced, with all turbines seen in the background of the view. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any views of sensitive landscape features from this location.
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 7 – Rahogarty North			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the N83 national road in the townland of Rahogarty North, located approximately 6.4km west of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 547,453 N 757,451 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 9/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	National Road – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view is comprised of undulating grassland fields interspersed with deciduous trees. There is a cluster of residential houses seen to the right of the image with a deciduous treeline as a backdrop. The topography and hedgerows comprised of mature deciduous trees and vegetation prevents longer range views in this direction, aside from a view of small section of a further low ridgeline in the centre background.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Nine of the proposed turbines are visible as small background elements above the undulating field. There is substantial screening to the majority of the proposed turbines due to the undulating topography and presence of vegetation in the landscape. 7 turbine hubs are visible and no turbine is visible to its full extent. The proposed turbines are viewed in a linear array across the skyline.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo turbines are partially visible at the right-hand side of the view, above the ridgeline seen in the right background.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There will be combined (in succession, where an observer has to turn their head to see different developments) views of the proposed turbines from this location, along with views of the proposed Cooloo turbines. While this could result in additional cumulative visual effects, the views of the proposed Cooloo turbines are well screened by topography, with only the blades of the proposed turbines actually visible in the view; and with the turbines of the Proposed Project seen as small background features in another direction. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the national road.		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight – The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small horizontal extent and result in a low level of change within the view.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)		

Viewpoint 7 – Rahogarty North	
	<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"> ➤ There is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from the intervening vegetation and topography. ➤ The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the national road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. Considering the high speeds that receptors will be travelling at this location, views are likely to be momentary. ➤ The Proposed Project is partially seen above the horizon in the background of the view; however, it does not obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features.
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 8 – Knock			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road outside of Barnaderg in the townland of Knock, located approximately 8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 552,360, N: 748,018 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road– Low Residents – Low National Road - Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	This is an open view of a local road bordered by fencing and overlooking open agricultural fields. The landscape is predominantly flat, with multiple treelines, shrubs and electricity poles within the fields. Commercial forestry is visible in the far background of the image, with farm buildings present in the right background. The character of the view is rural and agricultural.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All proposed turbines are visible in a linear array in the middle background of the image. Visual stacking occurs between three proposed turbines (T6, T3, and T9). There is partial screening of the proposed turbines due to the presence of commercial forestry adjacent to the Proposed Project. The proposed turbines appear as small background elements within the view at this distance.</p> <p>One turbine from the proposed Cooloo wind farm is visible at the right-hand side of the view, and will be viewed beyond the right-hand extent of the image. The proposed Cooloo turbines will appear as larger features in the view from this location, than the turbines of the Proposed Project.</p>		

Viewpoint 8 – Knock	
Cumulative Effects	There will be combined (in succession, where an observer has to turn their head to see different developments) views of the proposed turbines from this location, along with views of the proposed Cooloo turbines. While this could result in additional cumulative visual effects, the views of the proposed Cooloo turbines are well screened, and with the turbines of the Proposed Project seen as small background features in another direction. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a medium sensitivity viewpoint on account transport receptors travelling along the nearby N63 national road, which this viewpoint represents.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight – The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small horizontal extent and result in a low level of change within the view. The proposed turbines do increase the level of proposed turbines seen from this location.
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 turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. ➤ The proposed turbines are seen as small features in the background of the view as a coherent cluster. ➤ The Proposed Project does not interfere with or obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features within this view.
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 9 – Kilmurry	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Kilmurry, approximately 1.2km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 553,949 N 758,199 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11

Viewpoint 9 – Kilmurry			
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view looks from an inlet on a small local road where an old water pump is located, seen in the foreground. The road is bordered by hedgerows delineating the borders of agricultural fields, which are seen throughout the midground on either side of the road. The landscape in view is flat, with the background consisting of views of hedgerows, mature deciduous trees, and electricity poles. A residential building can be seen in the left background, along an adjoining road. The character of the view is rural and agricultural.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>6 proposed turbines are fully visible, with 5 further proposed turbines partially visible with screening provided by the trees in the centre of the view. The proposed turbines appear as large vertical elements within the background of the view. From this perspective, there is partial screening of the proposed turbines in the centre midground due to the presence of the mature deciduous trees adjacent to the proposed turbines and only the blades of turbine T9 is visible.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo wind turbines are also theoretically visible from this location as shown by the wireframe. However, as a result of screening from vegetation in the centre midground only two of these turbines are actually visible through a gap in the trees. The proposed Cooloo turbine appear as smaller vertical features than the other proposed turbines visible.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines are viewed in combination with the proposed Cooloo turbines which are seen in a similar direction. The proposed Cooloo turbines are small features in the background of the view and are substantially screened from view by the intervening vegetation. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of several residential receptors located adjacent to this viewpoint, who are located in close proximity to the Proposed Project.		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Substantial - The proposed turbines are seen as prominent features and are visible over a wide horizontal extent, with several proposed turbines seen almost in their full extent.		
Significance of Effect	High x Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”		

Viewpoint 9 – Kilmurry	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Several proposed turbines are substantially screened. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG's (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG's (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines appear in a coherent layout, evenly spaced, with all proposed turbines seen in the background of the view. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any sensitive or highly scenic views from within this location.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Significant (2022, EPA) <i>"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."</i></p>

Viewpoint 10 – Mahanagh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Mahanagh, located approximately 1.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 555276, N: 754400 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residential Receptors – High
Description of 'Existing View'	The view overlooks open views of agricultural fields on the far side of a local road seen in the left foreground. The view is predominantly of a flat rural, agricultural landscape with shrubs and mature trees scattered across the landscape. Along the roadside in the left background a residential dwelling can be seen. There are large tracts of commercial forestry as well as cutover peatland visible in the centre background.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All proposed turbines are visible from within this location as vertical features within the predominantly flat landscape. Turbine T10 is viewed as the largest turbine whilst the remaining proposed turbines are seen to occupy a medium vertical extent within the view. Visual stacking occurs between proposed turbines T3, T10, and T11, and proposed turbines T5 and T2, although this effect will differ depending on the exact viewing location owing to the grid layout of the proposed turbines.		

Viewpoint 10 – Mahanagh	
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors located in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate – The proposed turbines are seen over a moderate vertical extent, and are seen within a relatively wide horizontal extent of the view, resulting in a change to the character of the baseline 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"> ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG’s (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG’s (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The field structure, commercial forestry, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any views of sensitive landscape features from this location.
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 11 – Knockroe	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a crossroad of two local roads in the townland of Knockroe, located approximately 2.2km northwest from the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 552,444, N 758,467 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 9/11

Viewpoint 11 – Knockroe			
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residential Receptors – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view is comprised of a mature deciduous treeline seen parallel to the right-hand side of the road in the left-hand side of the view. The viewpoint looks over open undulating agricultural fields enclosed by low stone walls, as well as some deciduous trees interspersed along them. A large tract of mature commercial forestry is seen in the right background of the view, where the topography dips allowing longer-range view of the landscape in this direction. A residential house is seen in the left midground, enclosed by surrounding vegetation. The character of the view is rural and agricultural.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed as moderately scaled vertical elements in the background of the view, above and behind the undulating topography of the closer fields. The proposed turbines are viewed in a linear array with slight overlapping between the blades of turbines. Turbines T1 and T2 are substantially or completely screened by the mature treeline bordering the local road in the left-hand side of the view.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo turbines are seen behind and through the treeline seen in the right-hand side of the view. These turbines are seen as smaller background elements than the turbines of the Proposed Project, and are viewed in the background, with 5 of the 9 proposed Cooloo turbines either completely or substantially screened from view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are combined views of the turbines of the Proposed Project as well as proposed Cooloo turbines from this location, although the proposed Cooloo turbines are substantially screened. The proposed Cooloo turbines are viewed as small background elements where views do occur. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors nearby located in medium proximity to the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate - The proposed turbines are seen over a moderate vertical extent and are seen within a relatively wide horizontal extent of the view, resulting in a change to the character of the baseline view.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) “An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”		

Viewpoint 11 – Knockroe	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The field structure, commercial forestry, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines, including the largest and closest turbine within view (T7), are sited within a landscape designated as ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ The residential receptors located adjacent to the viewpoint will have their views of the proposed turbines more substantially screened than the views available from this viewpoint, as a result of the surrounding vegetation. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any views of sensitive landscape features from this location.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 12 – Gorteen			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R328 regional road in the townland of Gorteen, located approximately 3.3km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 552,891, N 760,255 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 8/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5c – Springfield Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view looks over a crossroads along the R328, seen throughout the foreground and midground. A residential dwelling bordered by a mature treeline is seen to the left-hand side of the road. The landscape to the right-hand side of the regional road is a steeply undulating agricultural field, with the topography preventing longer-range views in this direction.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Eight of the turbines of the Proposed Project are visible in the background above the topography. Proposed turbines T1, T2, T4, and T5 are substantially screened due to the topography and vegetation. From this orientation, the grid layout of the proposed turbines creates visual stacking, although this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo wind turbines are theoretically visible from this viewpoint, although smaller undulations in the topography, as well as screening from vegetation, prevents actual visibility.</p>		

Viewpoint 12 – Gorteen	
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium – This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the regional road which serves the village of Dunmore.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight - The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small horizontal extent. The character of the view is largely unaltered.
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"> ➤ There is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from the intervening vegetation and topography. ➤ Considering the high speeds that receptors will be travelling at this location, views are likely to be momentary. ➤ The Proposed Project is partially seen above the horizon in the background of the view; however, it does not obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features.
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 13 – Cashel			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Views from the R362 regional road in the townland of Cashel, located approximately 7.6km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 558,973, N 764,006 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5c – Springfield Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	A gently undulating agricultural field is seen throughout the view, with localised undulations providing screening of longer-range views. The fields are bordered by low stone walls. Mature deciduous trees are present to the left of the image adjacent to a private building enclosed by a stone wall. Overhead lines are seen across the fields.		

Viewpoint 13 – Cashel	
	The existing Clonlusk Wind Farm is theoretically visible from this location, as indicated by the wireline, although there is no actual visibility as a result of the intervening topography.
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are visible in the background of the image behind the localised undulation in the field. The proposed turbines are visible primarily from the mid tower up due to the screening from topography. Some visual stacking occurs, however, this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location.</p> <p>The permitted Cloonascragh Wind Turbine and the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm are theoretically visible from this location. However, no actual visibility of the proposed turbines occurs as a result of screening existent within the landscape.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium - This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the transport receptors on the regional road.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Slight - The proposed turbines are partially visible over a small horizontal extent and result in a low level of change within 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 partially seen above the horizon in the background of the view; however, it does not obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features. ➤ The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road.
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 14 – Cloonmweelaun			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Views from the R339 regional road opposite the Menlough GAA pitch in the townland of Cloonmweelaun, located approximately 14.7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 560,863, N 741,733 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	G LCU 5b – Castlegar Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Regional Road – Low GAA Pitch - Low
Description of ‘Existing View’	This view looks out over the regional road towards an agricultural field bordered by a low ditch and scrub vegetation. A cemetery is seen in the left midground, with various residential dwellings and electricity poles seen in the left and centre background. A line of coniferous trees is seen in the right background. The landscape in view is flat, with substantial screening provided by the features visible within the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The blades of the proposed turbines are visible in the far background of this view behind the hedgerows and trees seen in the centre background, along with the hubs of 4 of the proposed turbines. Due to the distance and intervening vegetation, there is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The proposed Cooloo Wind Farm is visible to the left-hand side of the turbines of the Proposed Project, with the majority entirely screened by a residential dwelling and adjacent treeline. The proposed Cooloo turbines, located closer to this viewpoint, appear as larger features within the view than those of the Proposed Project.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are combined views of the turbines of the Proposed Project as well as proposed Cooloo turbines from this location, although both wind farms are substantially screened from view. Both the Proposed Project and the proposed Cooloo turbines are viewed as small background elements where views do occur, while the proposed Cooloo turbines appear as larger features within the view. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the turbines of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Low - This viewpoint has been classified as a Low sensitivity viewpoint on account of the transport receptors and viewers engaged in sport represented by this viewpoint.		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Negligible - The proposed turbines are seen in such a small horizontal extent and are screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.		
Significance of Effect	Low x Negligible = Negligible = Imperceptible (EPA, 2022)		

Viewpoint 14 – Cloonmweelaun	
	<i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are viewed as very small features in the background of the view, substantially screened from view.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Imperceptible (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 15 – Killavoher			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Killavoher, located approximately 769m northwest of the nearest proposed turbine. The view is captured from a small local road leading to the Wind Farm Site. ➤ Grid Reference: E 555,624 N 758,087 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/11 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This view looks down a small local road bordered by low grasses to the left, and a tall hedgerow to the right. The left-hand side of the view looks over an agricultural field in the midground and a flat rural landscape in the background. The entrance to a residential property is seen to the right-hand side of the view, above which a further area of flat rural landscape can be seen. Mature commercial forestry is seen throughout background of the image.</p> <p>The existing Cloonlusk turbines are theoretically visible from this location although actual visibility does not occur given the vegetation present throughout the background of the view that will provide additional screening of these small background features in the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are almost visible to their full extent as large vertical features due to the flat landscape and lack of vegetation in the left- and right-hand sides of the image. The road in the centre midground visibly splits the two clusters of the windfarm to either side of the road. Proposed turbines T4 and T11 are almost fully screened by the tall hedgerow adjacent to the road. This screening effect will differ depending on exact viewing location, although it is notable that it will provide partial screening of several proposed turbines from the residential property located to the right-hand side of the viewpoint (including the closest turbine T2).</p> <p>The permitted Cloonascragh turbine is visible as a small feature in the right background of the view from this location. To the right of Cloonascragh the proposed Laurclavagh Wind Farm is also visible, again with turbines appearing as very small background features at this distance. To the left-</p>		

Viewpoint 15 – Killavoher	
	hand side of the view, the proposed Cooloo turbines are visible, behind the turbines of the Proposed Project. These turbines appear slightly larger than the proposed Laurclavagh turbines, but are also seen in the background of the view.
Cumulative Effects	The turbines of the Proposed Project are seen in combination with a number of permitted and proposed turbines, as these will be viewed in a similar direction. There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and these other existing developments. The expansive, flat nature of the view seen here creates a sense of large area of space in which the addition of the Proposed Project does not result in substantial levels of turbines seen across the entirety of the view. There is capacity within the landscape in view to effectively absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Project. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as High sensitivity on account of the single residential receptor represented by the viewpoint. However, it is noted that this is the only residential receptor represented by this viewpoint with no other local residents experiencing such a view.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Substantial - The proposed turbines are seen as prominent features and are visible over a wide horizontal extent in combination with some distant cumulative turbines, with several turbines seen almost in their full extent.
Significance of Effect	High x 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 closest turbine to the residential receptor represented by this viewpoint (turbine T2, located 769m away) will be partially screened by the tall hedgerow seen to the right-hand side of the view. ➤ The next closest turbine T1 (located 827m away), and in fact all the proposed turbines in view, will be viewed from the gable end of the property, with the main views from the building not directed towards the Proposed Project. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG’s (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG’s (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. This effect can be observed in PWD15, with these closest turbine sited multiple fields away from the nearest receptor, as discussed in full in Section XXX of the EIAR.

Viewpoint 15 – Killavoher	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines appear in a coherent layout, relatively evenly spaced, with all turbines seen in the background of the view. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity, which is the landscape in view from this viewpoint.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>

Note on VPs 16, 17 and 18

These viewpoints are included in order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of all elements of the Proposed Project, including the Proposed Grid Connection, with the proposed onsite substation shown in VP16 and VP17, and the proposed LCIMs shown in VP18.

Viewpoint 16 – Cloonagawnagh (East)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Cloonagawnagh, located 940m east of the nearest proposed turbine, and 1.1km from the proposed onsite substation. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 555,756 N: 755,310 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	This view looks over an agricultural field bordering an area of cutover bog that have been subject to peat extraction. The topography rises slightly throughout the midground preventing longer range views to the left- and right-hand sides of the view. In the left background a large tract of commercial forestry can be seen. The character of the view is rural and agricultural.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed onsite substation is visible above the commercial forestry in the left background of the view, along with the proposed telecoms tower, raising the skyline of this part of the view. The substation and tower are viewed as small background features within the view at this distance. The substation is partially screened by the forestry.</p> <p>The proposed turbines are seen to the right of the proposed substation, with the closest turbine, T10, appearing as a large vertical feature within the view. The proposed turbines are seen evenly spaced across this part of the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.		

Viewpoint 16 – Cloonagawnagh (East)	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of several residential receptors located adjacent to this viewpoint, who are located in close proximity to the Proposed Project.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Substantial – Although the proposed substation is seen as a small feature within the background, the proposed turbines are seen as prominent features and are visible over a wide horizontal extent.
Significance of Effect	High x 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 onsite substation is partially screened from view by the commercial forestry. ➤ The nearest proposed turbine to this viewpoint is T10, which is located 940m from the viewpoint. The next closest turbines, T9 and T11, are located between 1.3 – 1.5km from the viewpoint, with these turbines, and those located further again, appearing as smaller elements within the view than T10. ➤ The residential receptors located to the south of this viewpoint are bordered and surrounded by tall treelines which screen views substantially in the direction of the Proposed Project. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG’s (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG’s (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines appear in a coherent layout, evenly spaced, with all proposed turbines seen in the background of the view. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape ‘Acceptable in Principle’ or ‘Open to Consideration’ for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any sensitive or highly scenic views from within this location.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (2022, EPA) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

Viewpoint 17 – Cloonagawnagh (West)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Cloonagawnagh, located 837m southeast the nearest proposed turbines, and 868m from the proposed onsite substation. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 555,507 N: 755,184 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This view looks down a small cul de sac local road leading to a single property. The road is bordered on either side by a hedgerow. The residential property can be seen above this hedgerow, with a large coniferous treelines seen to border the property. A tract of commercial forestry can be seen beyond the end of the road in the background of the view. In the right midground the topography can be seen to rise steeply, preventing further views in this direction.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed onsite substation and telecoms tower are visible in the centre background at the end of the road, above the commercial forestry and raising the skyline of this part of the view. The substation is viewed as a small background feature within the view at this distance. The substation is partially screened by the forestry.</p> <p>The proposed turbines are substantially screened from view by the intervening vegetation and topography from this location with the closest turbine, T10, appearing as a large vertical feature within right hand side of the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>High - This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of several residential receptors located adjacent to this viewpoint, who are located in close proximity to the Proposed Project.</p>		
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p>Moderate – The proposed substation is seen as a small feature within the background, and the proposed turbines, while positioned close to this viewpoint are substantially screened by intervening vegetation.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>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></p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is substantial screening of the proposed turbines from this location. ➤ The nearest proposed turbine to this viewpoint is T10, which is located 837m from the viewpoint. The next closest turbines, T9 and T11, are located between 1.3 – 1.4km from the viewpoint, with these turbines, 		

Viewpoint 17 – Cloonagawnagh (West)	
	<p>and those located further again, appearing as much smaller elements within the view than T10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDG's (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDG's (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The vegetation surrounding the nearby residential receptor will provide screening of the Proposed Project from this location. ➤ The field structure, commercial forestry, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited within a landscape 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' for wind energy development. ➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are large features in the view, the Proposed Project is located within a landscape character area of Low sensitivity and the proposed turbines do not obstruct any views of sensitive landscape features from this location.
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."</i></p>

Viewpoint 18 – Ballyedmond			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Ballyedmond, located 2.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine and approximately 185m from the nearest part of the Proposed Grid Connection Towers. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 557,105 N: 754,690 		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	LCU 5e – North River Clare Basin Unit – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residents – Medium
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This view looks over an agricultural field bordered on the far side by a hedgerow. The topography can be seen to rise gently to the right-hand side of the view. A tract of commercial forestry is seen throughout the background of the view.</p> <p>A 38kV overhead line and pole is seen running through the field in view. In addition, the line of a 220kV overhead line is seen running above a further field above the treelines in the background.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed LCIM towers are seen in the next field, in the background of the view. The 220kV overhead line is now seen to join the rightmost proposed tower, and then proceed into the interface towers. There are four additional tall structures now seen within the view. The proposed turbines</p>		

Viewpoint 18 – Ballyedmond	
	are also seen within the background of the view, above the commercial forestry.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint, and therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise for this viewpoint.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Medium – This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors located in medium proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change (See definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Moderate – The proposed towers are almost fully visible at a medium distance to the viewpoint, and are seen to increase the density of electricity infrastructure visible from this location. The proposed turbines are seen as relatively small background features at this distance.
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 Grid Connection infrastructure seen within the view, while increasing the density of infrastructure visible, are located along an existing 220kV overhead line with similar towers already visible along the line. ➤ The field structure, commercial forestry, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. ➤ The residential receptors located adjacent to the viewpoint will have their views of the proposed turbines more substantially screened than the views available from this viewpoint, as a result of the surrounding vegetation.
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>