



## **APPENDIX 14-3**

### **PHOTOMONTAGE VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES**



1.

## PHOTOMONTAGE VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the photomontage visualisation of the 16 No. viewpoints presented in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet (hereafter, Photomontage Booklet). This appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the photomontage booklet. The table below provides location information about the 16 No. viewpoints assessed.

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
1	View from St. Peter's Church in the village of <b>Broadford</b> , within the towland of O'Shea's Acres. This viewpoint is located approximately 3.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 557,298 N: 673,084
2*	View from R471 regional road in the townland of <b>Derryvinnaan</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 556,289 N: 666,813
3	View from the townland of <b>Clogga</b> on County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-22 (CCDP 2023–2029). This viewpoint is located approximately 4.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 551,434 N: 665,426
4	View from the townland of <b>Moanogeenagh</b> along County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-25 (CCDP 2023–2029). This viewpoint is located approximately 5.6km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 555,927 N: 675,571
5	View from the R445 regional road in the townland of <b>Mountshannon</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 12.8km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E: 565,159 N: 658,448
6	View from Thomond Bridge in <b>Limerick City</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 11.2km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 557,598 N: 657,853
7	View from a local road in the townland of <b>Cloontra</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 975m southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E: 555,678 N: 668,627
8	View from the settlement of Sixmilebridge in the townland of <b>Sixmilebridge</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 6.8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 547,318 N: 666,197
9	View from R471 regional road in the townland of <b>Clonmoney</b> North. This viewpoint is located approximately 11.3km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 543,915 N: 663,219

10	View from local road in the townland of <b>Snaty</b> (Cooper). This viewpoint is located approximately 1.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 553,646 N: 671,189
11	View from a local road in the townland of Baurroe near to the village of <b>Feakle</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 16km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 555,986 N: 686,167
12*	View from the summit of the <b>12 O’Clock Hills</b> walking route in the townland of Snaty (Wilson). This viewpoint is located within the western cluster of turbines, approximately 224m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 553,501 N: 669,867
13	View from L3042 local road in the townland of <b>Drumsillagh or Sallybank</b> (Parker). This viewpoint is located approximately 800m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T6).	E: 557,666 N: 669,383
14	View from the townland of <b>Ballyblood</b> on County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-24 (CCDP 2023–2029). This viewpoint is located approximately 7.4km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 548,897 N: 676,025
15	View along the R471 regional road within the townland of <b>Tooreen</b> . This viewpoint is approximately 4.4km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E: 560,823 N: 665,593
16	View from a local road in the townland of <b>Belvoir</b> . This viewpoint is located approximately 2.2km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 551,290 N: 670,817

**\*Note on VP2 (Derryvinnaan) and VP12 (12 O’Clock Hills Summit)**

The Photomontage Booklet shows the proposed turbines within differing fields of view from two viewpoints - Viewpoint 2 – Derryvinnaan, and Viewpoint 12 – 12 O’Clock Hills.

- The imagery presented for viewpoint 2 was captured from the same location but shows an ‘A’ view to the north-west and a ‘B’ view in another direction to the north-north-east.
- The imagery presented for viewpoint 12 was captured from the same location but shows an ‘A’ view to the east, a ‘B’ view to the south-west, and a ‘C’ view to the north-north-west.

Photomontages were presented like this in order to ensure most of the proposed turbines are visible within a 53.5° photomontage and that all potential for cumulative effects can be fully accounted for from these viewpoints. The differing 90° and 53.5° view extents for view A, B and C views are marked on maps within the ‘key image’ sheets to show the differing directional (A, B, C) views. The descriptions of the differing fields of view have been kept within the same impact assessment table. Assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint accounts for the full horizontal extent of photomontages across the differing fields of view.

## 1.2

## Viewpoint Selection

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including a review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photographs taken at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Based on a desktop review, multiple viewpoints were identified as having potential views of the proposed turbines. In reality, site visits determined that many of these locations had views that were visually screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process, i.e. the viewpoints had little or no visibility towards the proposed turbines.

### Alternative Photomontage Viewpoints – Photowires (Early-Stage Photomontages)

Imagery was captured from 28 No. alternative viewpoint locations in the LVIA Study Area other than the 16 No. viewpoints that were selected for the final Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet, and photowires were produced accordingly. Photowires are early-stage photomontage visualisations comprising stitched photos with draft overlaid wirelines (classified as Type 3 Visualisations in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note, 2019). Photowires are useful tool for selecting which viewpoints to include in the Photomontage Booklet and also to demonstrate where very limited visibility occurs during discussion in Chapter 14.

These draft visualisations (photowires) do not include other existing, permitted and proposed developments and therefore ultimately, the 28 No. alternative photomontage viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final booklet; therefore, these early-stage photomontages do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in this appendix which includes assessment of cumulative effects. The photowires are presented in an additional document (Appendix 14-5) and they are considered in the discussion of Visual Effects in Section 14.7.3.3.3 of Chapter 14. The locations of all photowire viewpoints discussed in text are marked as orange icons in Figure 14-23.

## 1.3

## Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessments were conducted for individual viewpoints and are reported in the tables below following the ‘Assessing Visual Effects’ methodology set out in Section 1.6.2 of Appendix 14-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other existing, permitted and /or proposed wind farms located in the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Development are included in the 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 Development. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document are based on the photomontages in the Volume 2 Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. The potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the ‘Magnitude of Change’ row in each impact assessment table and is considered in the ‘Residual Visual Effect’ determination given for each viewpoint.

Assessment of cumulative visual effects need to be proportional. When determining how cumulative effects contribute to the magnitude of change, the focus is always on the extent to which the Proposed Knockshanvo Development will contribute towards the cumulative effects on the particular receptors under assessment at each viewpoint. The discussion of cumulative effects within the assessment tables also consider the probability of such cumulative effects arising in mind of the category of the other developments with which the Proposed Knockshanvo Development interacts: ‘Existing’ – Certain; ‘Permitted’ – High Probability; or ‘Proposed’ – an uncertain scenario.

## Viewpoint Assessment Tables

Viewpoint 1 – Broadford			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; View from St Peter’s Church in Broadford, in the townland of O’Shea’s Acres.</li> <li>&gt; Located approximately 3.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine, T5.</li> <li>&gt; Grid Reference: E: 557,298, N: 673,084</li> <li>&gt; No. of proposed turbines visible: 5/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 – Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Settlement (Broadford): <b>Medium</b>  Regional Road: <b>Medium/Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view is from St Peter’s Church which is an elevated vantage point overlooking Broadford and the undulating rural landscape beyond. The village and R465 regional road are situated to the left-hand side of the view. A densely vegetated, rural landscape is seen to the right of the view (south and west of the village). The landscape beyond the village is characterised by densely vegetated and rolling hills comprising a patchwork of woodland and agricultural fields. Tract of commercial forestry are seen atop the hill seen in the centre background.</p> <p>No other existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Knockshanvo Photomontage Description</b>	<p>5 No. proposed turbines are visible above the skyline in the background of the view. Three turbines of the central cluster (T4, T5, T6) are visible in the centre of the view; the lower components of these turbines are obscured from view by the intervening landform and commercial forestry, and only the turbine blades and one turbine nacelle are seen. Two turbines of the eastern cluster (T8 and T9) are clearly visible in the left background of the view, they are distinct cluster, visually separated from the central turbine cluster. The western turbine cluster is not visible as result of topographical screening.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – Proposed View with Cumulative</b>	<p>In a potential future receiving environment, the four most northerly turbines of the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm are visible upon the elevated ridgeline beyond Broadford (Blue turbines in cumulative wireline). The cumulative photomontage shows the proposed Oatfield turbines are likely to be seen in front of the three turbines of the Central Knockshanvo cluster. No other existing, permitted or proposed Wind Farms are likely to be visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative visual effects occur, although the contribution of the proposed turbines to cumulative effects on receptors in Broadford and at this viewpoint is minor as they are predominantly screened from view.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See definition in LVIA</b>	<p><b>Medium</b> – This viewpoint represents users of the regional road and settlement of Broadford which is one of the closest settlements to the</p>		

Methodology (Appendix 14-1)	proposed turbines. Considering these factors this viewpoint has been assigned a Medium sensitivity.
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The proposed turbines are partially seen and result in a low level of change in the view. The character of the view is altered but remains similar to the baseline existing situation.
Significance of Effect	<b>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines seen in this view are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The majority of the turbines are either fully or partially screened from view by the ridgeline and forestry.</li> <li>➤ This view was primarily chosen for its elevated location which permits open and relatively long-ranging views in the direction of the proposed turbines. Visibility of the proposed turbines is substantially more restricted from other locations within the village of Broadford due to their lower elevation in the valley and substantial screening from the built environment of the town, as well as other features of the landscape, including mature vegetation seen throughout the view.</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”

Viewpoint 2 - Derryvinnaan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from R471 regional road in the townland of Derryvinnaan.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 556,289 N: 666,813</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</li> </ul>		
LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Regional Road – <b>Medium</b> Residential Receptors – <b>Medium</b>
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p><b>12A:</b> This view looks over the R471 regional road seen in the left foreground, to the right of which a low ditch can be seen. Beyond this, the topography slopes downwards over a number of agricultural fields. Beyond these the landcover changes to tracts of commercial forestry, interspersed with more agricultural fields. The topography rises in the background to form the 12 O’Clock Hills (Knockanuarha and Knockshanvo).</p> <p><b>12B:</b> This view looks over the same small valley created by the sloping topography, towards a nearby tract of commercial forestry and several</p>		

	<p>fields bordered by low shrubs and treelines. The topography in this view is undulating and the landscape has a marginal upland character.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p><b>12A:</b> The western cluster of the proposed turbines (T1-T3) are seen in the centre background, clustered around the Knockanuarha hilltop. Turbine T2 is partially screened by the topography and its relative siting on the opposite side of the hill. One turbine (T4) from the central cluster is also visible in the right background, to the right of the Knockshanvo hilltop. The proposed met mast is also seen here, as a tall, slender lattice structure.</p> <p><b>12B:</b> The proposed turbines of the central cluster (T4-T7) are seen to the right of Knockshanvo, with some overlap between this image and the Proposed Photomontage for 43A. 3 turbines hubs from this cluster are seen, with the hub of T5 screened from view by the intervening forestry. The two proposed turbines (T8 and T9) form the eastern cluster are also visible in the right background, above and behind the agricultural field seen in this direction.</p>
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p><b>12A:</b> Five proposed Oatfield turbines are visible in combination with the western cluster, they are visible above the ridgeline and assimilate well with the proposed Knockshanvo turbines.</p> <p><b>12B:</b> Blades of two proposed Oatfield turbines are visible above the forestry adjacent to Turbine T04 for the Central Knockshanvo cluster. Three of the proposed Lackereagh turbines are partially seen in the right distant background from this location. The permitted Fahy Beg wind farm is also theoretically visible from this location, but in reality, is screened from view by the intervening topography and vegetation existent within the landscape.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Greatest cumulative effects will potentially occur where the western cluster turbines are viewed in combination with the the proposed Oatfield turbines. As seen in view 12A (Cumulative View), the proposed Oatfield turbines are in closer proximity to this viewpoint and the receptors in this area south of the ridgeline. The proposed turbines themselves will have a lesser effect on the residents in this area.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>Medium</b> – This viewpoint has been assigned a Medium sensitivity on account of the regional road which is one of the main transport routes close to the Wind Farm Site. The viewpoint also represents residential receptors in medium proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>Moderate</b> – The turbines are seen in medium proximity to the viewpoint, across a wide horizontal extent of the view. Potential for cumulative effects with the proposed Oatfield turbines are accounted for in this determination, although it is noted that this scenario is uncertain and reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends"</i></p>



<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines (excepting T02) are sited in a 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors).</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>

<b>Viewpoint 3 – Clogga</b>			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the townland of Clogga along County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-22 (CCDP 2023–2029).</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 4.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 551,434, N: 665,426</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 3/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route: <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This view looks over a field adjacent to the local road where the viewpoint is located, with a hedgerow, and shrub vegetation seen in the left-hand side of the view. A tract of commercial forestry can be seen to the right-hand side of the road. Beyond the field to the left the topography can be seen to slope downwards, permitting long ranging views toward the ridgeline formed by the Twelve O'Clock Hills (Knockanuarha).</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>3 No. turbines are visible from this location, turbines of the western cluster - T1, T2 and T3, to the left-hand side of the road. These turbines are partially screened by the intervening vegetation bordering the field in the foreground, and also partial screening by the topography of the ridgeline in the background. Proposed turbines from the central and eastern cluster are not visible from this location.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p>In a potential future receiving environment, six turbines of the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm are visible in conjunction with the proposed turbine of the western cluster in the background of the view (Blue turbines in cumulative wireline). The turbines are seen to be of similar scale, viewed collectively upon the same elevated landform in the background of the</p>		

	<p>view. The proposed turbines are visible beyond the Oatfield turbines which are located in closer proximity to this viewpoint.</p> <p>No other existing, permitted or proposed Wind Farms are likely to be visible from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The three proposed turbines are visible beyond the proposed Oatfield turbines and do add to the density of turbines visible from this viewpoint. Although some minor cumulative visual effects could potentially arise, the turbines as a collective (Knockshanvo and Oatfield) will have limited effect on the key scenic sensitivities of the designated scenic route.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>High</b> – This viewpoint is located along a designated scenic route in the CCDP, with long intermittent long-range views towards the Wind Farm Site available from along the scenic route. Considering these factors this viewpoint has been assigned a High sensitivity.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>Negligible</b> – The proposed turbines are seen as small elements in the background of the view, within a very limited horizontal extent. The composition and character of the view will remain broadly similar as a result of the addition of the proposed turbines.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is substantial screening of the proposed turbines within this view, with screening provided by vegetation along the roadside and in the adjoining fields, as well as from the topography of the ridgeline.</li> <li>➤ Only one cluster (western) of the proposed turbines are visible with the others screened entirely from view.</li> <li>➤ This is the closest location along the scenic route where views towards the proposed turbines are available. From large parts of the other sections of the route to the west, there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines due to roadside screening.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development has a very limited effect on the key scenic sensitivities of the designated scenic route – the open and long ranging panoramic landscape views to the west and northwest.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 4 – Moanogeenagh			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the townland of Moanogeenagh along County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-25 (CCDP 2023–2029).</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 5.6km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 555,927 N: 675,571</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 11 East Clare Loughlands – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route: <b>High</b> Regional Road: <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view from the regional road looks over a farmyard located adjacent to the roadway, with a number of agricultural buildings visible in the foreground. The landscape in view is generally flat or gently undulating, characterised by agricultural fields that are bordered by deciduous treelines and woodlands, as well as hedgerows, which comprise the majority of the landcover seen in the view. Doon Lough is also visible through the trees in the centre midground.</p> <p>The topography begins to undulate more dramatically in the background, with the hill of Knockshanvo seen in the centre background as the highest point in the skyline. The landcover on the associated ridgeline is primarily tracts of forestry and peatland, with agricultural fields seen on the lower reaches of the hills.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All 9 No. turbines can be seen from this location, in distinct clusters. However, turbines T8 and T9, theoretically visible in the left background are substantially screened by an intervening tract of woodland located on a small rise in topography.</p> <p>Turbines from the central cluster are visible in the centre background with partial screening provided by the topography and vegetation seen along the skyline.</p> <p>Turbines from the western cluster are seen grouped around the hilltop of Knockanuarha in the right background, there is partial screening of these turbines by the intervening ridgeline.</p> <p>There is some separation between the clusters of turbines visible from this location, with relatively large topographical features seen in the space between the central cluster and the western cluster. All turbines are primarily viewed above or behind the existing skyline of the view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>Some minor visibility of the most westerly permitted Carrownagown turbines maybe be visible from this viewpoint. Most turbines of the permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm will be visible from other areas of this scenic route to the north of the viewpoint. The permitted Carrownagowan turbines are located between 3.5-8 km from this viewpoint, in the opposite direction (East) to the view shown in the photomontage, and there will be some combined in succession (where an observer has to turn their head to see another development) views of these</p>		

	<p>turbines along with those of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development from areas on the scenic route to the north of this viewpoint.</p> <p>In a potential future receiving environment, four turbines of the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm are visible in conjunction with the proposed turbines of the Central Cluster in the centre of the photomontage. To the right (west) of the view, another four proposed Oatfield turbines are viewed in conjunction with the Western Cluster (Oatfield - Blue turbines in cumulative wireline). The turbines are seen to be of similar scale, viewed collectively upon the same elevated landform in the background of the view. In both instances, the proposed Oatfield are grouped with the turbine clusters of the proposed Knockshanvo turbines.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The permitted Carrownagowan turbines will be seen at a closer proximity to the viewpoint than the turbines of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development. The proposed turbines are seen in a different direction and at a further distance than the permitted Carrownagowan turbines. There will be turbines visible in two directions from receptors represented by this viewpoint and there will be some additional cumulative visual effects arising as a result. However, there will be a large horizontal extent of the view available from this location (comprising approx. 220 degrees) where there will be no turbines visible. Considering this factor, and the large separation distance between the permitted Carrownagowan turbines and the proposed turbines that are visible (approx. 8km), the combined views do not give rise to substantial or significant cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>The proposed Oatfield turbines are well absorbed amongst the turbines of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development, creating two slightly denser turbine clusters on the elevated ridgelines in the background of the view – causing some minor but acceptable cumulative effects should this scenario is to arise in a future receiving environment.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>High</b> – This viewpoint is located along a designated scenic route in the CCDP, with long intermittent long range views towards the Wind Farm Site available from along the scenic route. Considering these factors this viewpoint has been assigned a High sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The Proposed Development is partially visible at a distance sufficient to be perceptible and results in a low level of change in the view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Hight × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022).</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location. This siting is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> </ul>

	<p>➤ The three proposed turbines that are fully visible are small background features of this view and do not obstruct any long ranging landscape views.</p>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivity”.</i></p>

<b>Viewpoint 5 – Mountshannon</b>			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<p>➤ View from the R445 regional road in the townland of Mountshannon.</p> <p>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 12.8km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).</p> <p>➤ Grid Reference: E: 565,159, N: 658,448</p> <p>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</p>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Limerick LCA 6 Shannon Coastal Zone – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Regional Road: <b>Low</b> M7 Motorway: <b>Medium</b> Limerick City: <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The view looks over a roadside hedgerow seen throughout the foreground, on the other side of which a series of agricultural fields can be seen, with mature deciduous trees also interspersed in the flat landscape seen throughout the midground. In the background a rise in topography can be seen, forming a series of ridgelines that together form the skyline of the view. These are comprised of the eastern extent of Woodcock Hill (leftmost extent of the ridgeline seen), and Knockshanvo and Knockanuarha, seen in the centre and right background. A number of overhead lines can also be seen running throughout the midground.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The proposed turbines are seen as small background features in the view, seen in two distinct clusters, with the eastern cluster of turbines (T8 and T9) screened from view by a mature deciduous tree. It is noted that this screening effect will differ depending on exact viewing location. The turbines of the central cluster, seen atop Knockshanvo are visible almost to their full extent, while turbine T1 from the western cluster is partially screened by the intervening topography of Knockanuarha.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>The proposed Ballycar turbines are seen on the eastern slope of Woodcock Hill in the left background, seen as larger turbines given their relatively closer proximity (10.3km) to the viewpoint than the proposed turbines.</p> <p>The permitted Carrownagowan, permitted Fahy Beg and proposed Lackareagh wind farms are theoretically visible from this location to the east of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development, as indicated by the wireline view. However, these turbines are screened from view by the intervening vegetation in this photomontage, and in general, visibility appraisals determined that there will be very limited visibility of these wind farm developments from receptors in this area.</p>		

	<p>The Existing Parteen turbine is also theoretically visible from this location, although in reality it is screened from view by intervening vegetation.</p> <p>The Proposed Oatfield turbines are all visible in combination with the proposed Knockshanvo turbines.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There will be some combined views of the proposed Ballycar turbines along with the proposed turbines from this viewpoint, with some additional cumulative visual effects arising as a result of the addition of more turbines seen along the ridgeline in the background of the view. The proposed turbines are seen as relatively smaller and less prominent features along the ridgeline than the proposed Ballycar turbines and considering the distance between the viewpoint and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>At this distance and from this perspective the Proposed Knockshanvo Development and Proposed Oatfield Wind Farm appear as one wind farm development, particularly the most westerly Oatfield turbines which join the knockshanvo western cluster as a linear array of turbines spaced out across the elevated ridgeline. Some minor visual stacking and overlap occurs in combination with the Central Knockshanvo cluster.</p> <p>Cumulative effects will potentially arise in a future 'Proposed' scenario with a potential build up of wind energy seen upon the distant elevated uplands. The large scale upland landscape (designated for wind energy) can effectively absorb these developments in this view. It is worth noting that there is a degree of uncertainty to this scenario arising (e.g. Oatfield and Ballycar reliant on an outcome of the consenting process).</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Medium</b> – This view is located along a busy transport route, with receptors not necessarily focused on the view in question, however, considering the large number of visual receptors represented by this viewpoint, including receptors located within Limerick City, this viewpoint has been assigned a Medium sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – the proposed turbines are seen as small features in the background of the view and give rise to a low degree of contrast in the view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ At this distance, the tall hedgerows and mature treelines provide visual screening of the proposed turbines (see also Section 14.3.3 of Chapter 14).</li> <li>➤ Receptors in this location will be travelling at high speeds along busy roadways, with views towards the proposed turbines perpendicular to the road, and so not in the focus of views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The high level of vegetative screening along the roadside at this location will mean that such a view is only experienced intermittently as road users travel along the road.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around hilltops within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of</li> </ul>

	<p>wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</p> <p>➤ The proposed turbines (excepting T02) seen in this view are sited in a 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</p>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."</i></p>

Viewpoint 6 – Limerick City (Thomond Bridge)			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<p>➤ View from Thomond Bridge in Limerick City.</p> <p>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 11.2km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</p> <p>➤ Grid Reference: E: 557,598 N: 657,853</p> <p>➤ No. of turbines visible 5/9</p>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Limerick City – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Limerick City: <b>Medium</b> King John's Castle: <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This is an open view from Thomond Bridge over the River Shannon, with Brown's Quay seen to the left of the river, and King's Island seen to the right. The view over the open water permits long range views towards Woodcock Hill, seen as the highest point in the skyline in the left and centre background, with the ridgeline of this hill seen to extend right, across the skyline visible in the background.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The proposed turbines, located behind the ridgeline seen in the left and centre background, are substantially screened from view in this location. Turbines from the eastern cluster (T8 and T9) are visible as small features in the right background, where the Woodcock Hill ridgeline falls away, permitting longer range views in this direction. The turbines of the western cluster (T1-T3) are completely screened from view, and just one turbine hub from the central cluster (T4) is visible, with the blades of the other turbines in this cluster (T5-T7) just visible above the ridgeline.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p>The permitted Carrowmagowan turbines are visible in the distant background, as very small features within the view.</p> <p>The proposed Ballycar Wind Farm is visible on the eastern extent of Woodcock Hill, in the centre background. Turbines from the permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm and proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm are also theoretically visible from this location (wireline view), although in reality these turbines are screened from view by the built infrastructure of Limerick City.</p>		



<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	There are some cumulative visual effects that arise as a result of the combined views of the proposed Ballycar Wind Farm, and the proposed turbines in this view. The proposed Ballycar turbines are seen as more prominent, larger turbines from this viewpoint than the proposed turbines, as a result of their partial siting on the south side of the Woodcock Hill ridgeline. These proposed Ballycar turbines are located 5.8km closer to the viewpoint than the turbines of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development. Given that there is limited visibility of the proposed turbines due to screening by the intervening ridgeline, there are limited cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>High</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the sensitive cultural heritage and popular tourist destination of King John’s Castle, which is located behind this viewpoint.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – the turbines are partially visible at a distance to be perceptible but the addition of the proposed turbines gives rise to a low degree of change in the view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines in view are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are substantially screened from this viewpoint with only two turbines visible in almost their full extent.</li> <li>➤ The visible proposed turbines are seen as small features in the background above a distant ridgeline.</li> <li>➤ This is one of the most open views towards the Wind Farm Site available in Limerick City (as also demonstrated by the photowires included in Appendix 14-5), with the proposed turbines entirely screened from view by built infrastructure from the majority of the City.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”</i>



Viewpoint 7 - Cloontra			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Cloontra. This viewpoint is located approximately 975m southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).</li> <li>➤ <i>*This viewpoint is directed east, towards the central cluster of turbines and away from the western cluster of turbines. While this viewpoint is actually located in between the central and western clusters of turbines, the western cluster (turbines T1, T2, and T3) is not actually visible from this location as a result of screening provided by the topography and vegetation.</i></li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 555,678, N: 668,627</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 6/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors: <b>High</b> Local Road: <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This view looks out towards a residential dwelling and its curtilage. Behind the residential dwelling a large tract of commercial forestry is seen, which continues through the background of the view, notably demarking where the most elevated parts of this marginal upland landscape. Towards the centre and right background of the view, the topography slopes downwards permitting longer range views of Moylussa. There are various screening elements existent within the landscape primarily in the form of vegetation (shrubs and trees)</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The proposed turbines T4, T5, T6 and T7 are seen as large vertical features in the background of the view, within the forestry. They are relatively evenly spaced and occupy a moderate horizontal extent within this view. Turbines from the eastern cluster (T8 and T9) are also seen, although with a greater setback distance (approx. 3km) than the proposed turbines of the eastern cluster. The proposed met mast is also seen in the centre as a slender lattice structure.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p>One of the permitted Carrownagowan turbines is theoretically visible from this location, although in reality it is screened from view by the intervening vegetation, forestry and localised topography.</p> <p>The proposed Lackareagh turbines and the permitted Fahy Beg turbines are visible within the cumulative photomontage, seen in the background, with some screening provided by the vegetation existent within the landscape. A single blade of a proposed Oatfield turbine is visible beyond T04.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There are potentially some cumulative visual effects that arise as a result of the combined views of the proposed Knockshanvo turbines and the proposed Lackareagh turbines and the permitted Fahy Beg turbines. While there are combined views of these turbines, the cumulative turbines are seen as much smaller background features across the valley, and there will be a large horizontal extent of the view available from this location (comprising approx. 310 degrees) where there will be no turbines visible.</p>		

	While some additional cumulative visual effects do arise, these are limited and have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change and residual visual effect below.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>High</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the Proposed Development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Substantial</b> – The proposed turbines are fully or almost fully visible over a moderate horizontal extent, at close proximity to the viewer.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment”</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines in view are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDGs (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDGs (DoHPLG, 2019).</li> <li>➤ As a result of the iterative design process, the turbines are viewed as a coherent cluster with only a limited horizontal extent within the view, even from this location in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ 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 turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are seen evenly spaced across the part of the view where they are visible.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”</i>

Viewpoint 8 – Sixmilebridge			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; View from the settlement of Sixmilebridge in the townland of Sixmilebridge.</li> <li>&gt; This viewpoint is located approximately 6.8km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>&gt; Grid Reference: E: 547,318, N: 666,197</li> <li>&gt; No. of turbines visible 3/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	Clare LCA 10 Sixmilebridge farmland – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Sixmilebridge: <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This view looks over a field adjacent to the roadside, which is border by a hedgerow on all sides. An overhead line is seen running through the field. A number of buildings can be seen through the hedgerow on the far side of the field that make up the Sixmilebridge GAA Club, with floodlights seen to border the grounds. In the background the topography can be seen to rise and form the western extent of the 12 O'Clock Hills. The landcover here is comprised of large tract of commercial forestry and some agricultural fields.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>3 no. of 9 no. turbines will be visible from this viewpoint. The hub of turbine T1 is visible above the highest point of the hill seen in the centre background, with the blades of T3 also visible in this direction. The blades of T4 are also visible above the forestry seen on the ridgeline. The remainder of the turbines are entirely screened from view by the intervening topography or vegetation in the landscape.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p>The permitted Carrowmagallowish turbines are theoretically visible from this location, although in reality the turbines are completely screened from view by vegetation.</p> <p>Seven proposed Oatfield turbines are seen across the ridgeline in the centre of the photomontage above the Proposed Knockshanvo Development turbines. The Oatfield turbines are seen to be higher upon the ridgeline and are more prominent than the proposed turbines from receptors in this area.</p> <p>The proposed Ballycar turbines are also visible in the right background, partially seen above the ridgeline in this direction.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative visual effects can potentially occur in combination with the proposed Oatfield turbines. The proposed turbines of the western cluster are effectively absorbed amongst the proposed Oatfield turbines, appearing as one collective turbine cluster. The contribution of the proposed Knockshanvo wind farm to these cumulative effects is very minor.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in	<p><b>Medium</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity as it represents receptors located within Sixmilebridge, which is one of the largest settlements within 10km of the proposed turbines.</p>		

LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Negligible</b> – There is very limited visibility of the proposed turbines from this location, with the composition and character of the view substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are substantially screened from view by the intervening topography, with only one turbine hub visible above the skyline.</li> <li>➤ The contribution of the proposed Knockshanvo wind farm to cumulative effects is very minor. Any cumulative effects are only likely to arise in an uncertain future receiving environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”.

Viewpoint 9 – Clonmoney North			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from R471 regional road in the townland of Clonmoney North. This viewpoint is located approximately 11.3km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 543,915, N: 663,219</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	Clare LCA 10 Sixmilebridge farmland – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Regional Road: <b>Low</b> National Road: <b>Low</b> Shannon: <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view looks onto a low roadside hedgerow which borders a large agricultural field. On the opposite side of the field a mature treeline can be seen with a gap in the centre midground seen, where a residential dwelling can be partially seen. This gap allows for longer range views towards the 12 O’Clock Hills which can be seen to rise up in the background. Large tracts of commercial forestry can be seen to comprise the landcover here. Woodcock Hill can also be seen above the treeline in the right background.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All proposed turbines are visible along the ridgeline in the centre background from this viewpoint. The western cluster of turbines (T1, T2, and T3) are seen visually separated from the other proposed turbines, clustered around the hilltop seen as the highest point along the ridgeline. The turbines from the central cluster (T4, T5, T6, and T7) are seen partially screened by the topography and forestry atop the ridgeline, while turbines from the eastern cluster (T8 and T9) are seen almost in their full</p>		

	extent. All proposed turbines are seen as small background features above the skyline of the view.
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>Four of the permitted Carrownagowan turbines are partially seen on the left-hand side of the ridgeline in the centre background, although only the blades of the turbines are visible above the skyline.</p> <p>The proposed Oatfield turbines are seen upon the distant ridgeline in combination with the Proposed Knockshanvo Development. From this perspective the Oatfield turbines fill out the space between the separate knockshanvo turbine clusters.</p> <p>The proposed Lackareagh turbines are also visible in the same direction as the central and eastern clusters of turbines of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development.</p> <p>The permitted Fahy Beg turbines are theoretically visible from this location, however, in reality these turbines are entirely screened from view by vegetation atop the ridgelines seen in the background.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>There are limited views of the permitted Carrownagowan turbines from this viewpoint and so limited cumulative visual effects arise in relation to these.</p> <p>Both the Proposed Knockshanvo Development and proposed Oatfield development are viewed as one collective wind farm across the upland area, increasing the density of turbines visible upon the ridgeline. Whilst some cumulative effects will potentially arise with Oatfield, the array of turbines read coherently in the landscape in an area designated as strategic for wind energy development. Four proposed Lackareagh turbines are just discernible in the distance within the same horizontal extent as the central cluster of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development turbines, and, while increasing the density of turbines visible in this part of the view, the two developments in combination with the proposed Oatfield turbines are viewed a single coherent development. Cumulative effects with proposed Oatfield and Lackareagh developments will only potentially arise in an uncertain future receiving environment.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Medium</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity as it represents receptors located within the town of Shannon, which is one of the largest settlements within the LVIA Study Area.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The proposed turbines are seen as small features in the background of the view and give rise to a low degree of contrast in the view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<p>➤ The high level of vegetative screening along the roadside at this location will mean that such a view is only experienced intermittently as road users travel along the road.</p>

	<p>➤ The proposed turbines (excepting T02) are sited in a 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</p>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities".</i></p>

Viewpoint 10 – Snaty (Cooper)			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<p>➤ View from local road in the townland of Snaty (Cooper).          ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 1.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).          ➤ Grid Reference: E: 553,646, N: 671,189          ➤ No. of Turbines visible 3/9</p>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors: <b>High</b> Local Road: <b>Low</b> Mid Clare Way Walking Trail - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This view looks up towards the 12 O'Clock Hills from a local road seen in the right midground. This road is bordered in either side by hedgerows, which provide some screening of the view in this direction. The topography slopes steeply upwards away from the viewpoint/ A large tract of commercial forestry can be seen in the right background, obstructing views of the ridgeline, which can be seen in the left background, where the landcover is comprised of agricultural fields and peat. An overhead electricity line can be seen running throughout the view.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>3 no. proposed turbines from the western cluster will be visible from this location, turbines T1, T2, and T3. These proposed turbines are seen on the highest hilltop in the right background. The turbines are seen as large vertical features behind the tract of forestry visible in this direction. There is screening of the closest turbine, T2, by a large tree adjacent to the viewpoint, however this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location. There is partial screening of T1 and T3 by the intervening topography and forestry.</p> <p>The other 6 no. turbines of the Proposed Development are completely screened by the intervening topography.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	Two proposed Oatfield turbines are partially visible in the wireline view but are not visible from this viewpoint due to screening from vegetation and a bank of forestry.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The permitted Carrowmagowan turbines are located between 7-12 km from this viewpoint, in the opposite direction (NE) to the view shown here, and there will be some combined in succession (where an observer has to turn		

	<p>their head to see another development) views of these turbines along with those of the Proposed Knockshanvo Development. However, these cumulative turbines will likely be substantially screened by the intervening landform and there will be a large horizontal extent of the view available from this location (comprising approx. 220 degrees) where there will be no turbines visible. Considering this factor, and the large separation distance between the permitted Carrownagowan turbines and the proposed turbines that are visible (approx. 8km), the combined views do not give rise to substantial cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>4 No. proposed Oatfield turbines are located approximately 2.4km east of this viewpoint location (to the left beyond the 90 degree field of view presented) they will not be visible due to screening from the intervening hillside.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>High</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the Proposed Development.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Moderate</b> – The proposed turbines are seen as large-scale, prominent vertical features within the view. The proposed turbines are visible in relatively close proximity to the viewer; however, they are visible over a limited horizontal extent.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the proposed turbines are entirely screened from view by the intervening topography.</li> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDGs (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDGs (DoHPLG, 2019).</li> <li>➤ As a result of the iterative design process, the turbines are viewed as a coherent cluster with only a limited horizontal extent within the view, even from this location in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The three proposed turbines are background features of this view and do not obstruct any long ranging landscape views.</li> <li>➤ The view in the opposite direction to that shown here is an expansive, long-range view of the landscape to the north, with views from this location focused in this direction.</li> </ul>



<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</i>
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Viewpoint 11 – Feakle			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road near the village of Feakle in the townland of Baurroe.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 16km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 555,986, N: 686,167</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	Clare LCA 5 Slieve Aughty Uplands – <b>High</b> Representative of views from Co. Clare Heritage Landscape (1km north) - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Road: <b>Low</b> Regional Road: <b>Low</b> East Clare Way: <b>High/Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view is from the road outside Feakle village with a low stone wall seen on the far side of the road. The topography slopes downwards away from the viewpoint permitted long range expansive views over a flat agricultural plain and towards a series of ridgelines formed by Moylussa (left background) and the 12 O’Clock Hills in the right background.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The proposed turbines can be seen in three distinct cluster across the ridgeline in the background of the view, there are varying levels of screening of the lower turbine towers by the topography, however, all turbine hubs are visible. At this distance, and within the scale of the landscape in the view the proposed turbines appear as very small background elements within the view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>The permitted Carrownagowan turbines are seen in their full extent in the left background, on the slopes of Moylussa.</p> <p>Four proposed Oatfield turbines are visible in combination with the Central Knockshanvo turbine cluster. The westerly proposed Oatfield turbines are visible across the ridgeline to the right of the photomontage, either side of, and beyond the western Knockshanvo turbine cluster. One of the proposed Ballycar turbines are visible from this viewpoint, adjacent to the central cluster of the proposed turbines.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm is in the left backgrounds of the view and have a wide horizontal extent from this viewpoint. The proposed Outfield turbines will increase the density of turbines across the distant ridgeline where the Proposed Knockshanvo Development is sited.</p> <p>The Proposed Knockshanvo Development will be viewed in combination with the permitted Carrownagowan wind farm and Proposed Oatfield</p>		



	wind farm and will increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible across the skyline. The proposed Knockshanvo turbines are seen less prominently than the permitted Carrownagowan turbines due to the differing set back distance. The cumulative visual effects that arise here are incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change outlined below.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>  (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Medium</b> –Visual receptors include the local road, nearby regional road and residents of the village of Feakle. This viewpoint is located on the East Clare Way and is a representative viewpoint of open views from Co. Clare Heritage Landscape to the north. On balance this viewpoint has been assigned a Medium sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>  (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The proposed turbines are visible but are located at a substantial distance from the viewpoint and are viewed as small background features giving rise to a low degree of contrast in the view. There are some additional cumulative effects arising as a result of the combined visibility of the proposed turbines and the permitted Carrownagowan turbines (and proposed Oatfield turbines).
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities”.</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The scale of the landscape in view is capable of effectively absorbing the proposed turbines, considering their size and scale within the view.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines(excepting T02) are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is setback a substantial distance (&gt;16km) from receptors in this area.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors).</b>	<b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”.</i>

Viewpoint 12A, 12B, and 12C – 12 O’Clock Hills	
<i>*3 no. fields of view are presented in the ELAR Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet as a result of the positioning of this viewpoint within the western cluster of turbines.</i>	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the summit of the 12 O’Clock Hills walking route in the townland of Snaty (Wilson).</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located within the Wind Farm Site and is a location of local interest. It was selected as photomontage viewpoint as a result of local community feedback and a request from Clare County Council.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located within the western cluster of turbines, approximately 224m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).</li> <li>➤ Given the close proximity of the turbines of the western cluster to this viewpoint, within the Photomontage Booklet the 53.5-degree view has</li> </ul>

	<p>been focused on the turbine hub in order to demonstrate the scale of the turbine from this viewpoint. This has required the focus of the view to be shifted vertically in order to bring the turbine hub into the view.</p> <p>&gt; Grid Reference: E: 553,501, N: 669,867</p> <p>&gt; No. of proposed turbines visible: 7/9</p>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<p>Walking Route Viewing Area: <b>High</b></p> <p>Recreational Walking Route: <b>High</b></p>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p><b>12A:</b> This view looks east, across the Wind Farm Site. The landscape consists of rolling hilltops with bog and tracts of commercial forestry seen to make up the landcover. The background view includes a number of undulating ridgelines, as well as the flat agricultural plain seen to the right-hand side of the view.</p> <p><b>12B:</b> This view faces southwest over a ridgeline where the landcover consists of tracts of commercial forestry. A number of mature trees can be seen in the foreground, providing some screening of the landscape beyond. The topography slopes downward and away from the viewer, providing long range views of Woodcock Hill and the commercial forestry present along its associated ridgeline. There are also further long-ranging views in the centre right of the image, with a section of the River Shannon visible in this direction.</p> <p><b>12C:</b> This view faces north, with the northern slopes of the 12 O'Clock Hills seen to slope downwards steeply from this location, permitting expansive, long range views over the settled and working agricultural landscape seen throughout the background, with a number of lakes and tracts of woodland and forestry also seen in this landscape area.</p>		
<b>Proposed Knockshanvo Photomontage Description</b>	<p><b>12A:</b> Turbine T3 is seen as a large vertical feature 311m away in the centre of the view with turbines T1 and T2 to the right and left, respectively, out of view behind the viewing location. Turbines T4, T6, and T7 from the central cluster are visible in the background of the view, on and behind the hilltop seen in the midground.</p> <p><b>12B:</b> Turbine T1 is seen as a large vertical feature 487m away in the centre of the view with turbines T2 and T3 to the right and left, respectively, out of view behind the viewing location.</p> <p>The proposed Ballycar wind turbines are seen in the left background of this view between a gap in the nearby conifer trees. These turbines are seen as small vertical features within the view.</p> <p><b>12C:</b> Turbine T2 is seen as a large vertical feature 224m away in the centre of the view with turbines T3 and T1 to the right and left, respectively, out of view behind the viewing location.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p><b>12A:</b> 12 No. permitted Carrownagowan turbines are visible in the left background, on the far side of the ridgeline of Cragnamurragh. Four proposed Oatfield turbines are visible to the left of turbine T3, they are of similar scale to the proposed turbines of the central knockshanvo cluster</p>		

	<p>and are similarly partially screened by the intervening topography. The permitted Fahy Beg turbines and proposed Lackareagh turbines are visible on the distant ridgelines seen in the background of the view, with the Fahy Beg turbines predominantly screened by a large conifer in the foreground, however, from other locations around the viewpoint these turbines will be visible.</p> <p><b>12B:</b> Five proposed Oatfield turbines are visible either side of T01, they are set back slightly further from the viewpoint than T01. Two other proposed Oatfield turbines are likely to be visible to the south, to the left of the 90 degree field of view presented in 2B. A cluster of the proposed Ballycar turbines are visible upon the distant ridgeline of Woodcock Hill to the left of the photomontage (south).</p> <p><b>12C:</b> No other existing permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this field of view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Some minor cumulative effects are likely to occur with the permitted Carrownagowan turbines which will be visible to the north-east from this viewpoint as shown in view 12A. The permitted Fahy Beg turbines are actually screened from view from this exact viewpoint (vegetation screening) but will contribute to minor cumulative effects as they are likely to be visible from other vantage points in the area.</p> <p>Cumulative effects are likely to arise in a future receiving environment where the proposed Oatfield, Lackareagh, Ballycar wind farms are consented and then constructed (an uncertain scenario). In this scenario there is a substantial build up of turbines visible in multiple directions in combination with the Proposed Knockshanvo Development.</p> <p>Whilst the cumulative changes to the landscape and visual amenity from this viewpoint is substantial, this is something that is to be anticipated and in line with local planning policy considering the zoning of lands at the Proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm Site as 'Strategic' for wind energy development and the Slieve Bearnagh Uplands as an LCA being the most suitable landscapes capable of absorbing wind energy development in East Clare (as indicated in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy).</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>High</b> – This viewpoint is deemed to be of high sensitivity due to its use as the summit and viewing area for the 12 O’Clock Hills walking route, with users of the walking route generally stopping at this location to rest or enjoy the view. This viewpoint is not located at a designated scenic viewpoint. Considering these factors this viewpoint has been assigned a High sensitivity.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>Substantial</b> – The proposed turbines are seen as large vertical elements within the view located at close proximity to the viewer. The character of the view is altered substantially, given the location of the viewpoint within the cluster of turbines. Although the long ranging views of the surrounding landscape are still available. Potential for cumulative effects are accounted for in this determination.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>

<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Turbines T2 and T1 are sited in a 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). Turbine T3 is located approx. 35m from the border of the 'Strategic Area', within an area designated as 'Acceptable in Principle'. The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ While the proposed turbines are seen within parts of the panoramic view, including long-range views to the north over the flat agricultural plain, the proposed turbines do not obstruct these views. Given that the three closest of the proposed turbines are seen in different directions from this viewpoint, with a large degree of visual separation in views, the expansive long-range views are still available from this location.</li> <li>➤ As reported on Page 14-119 of Chapter 14 and illustrated in Figure 14-25, the Proposed Development includes for upgrades to the amenities of another viewpoint and creation of a new viewing deck to offset effects on this viewpoint - <i>'upgrades will be made to the existing viewing area at the Lower Summit of Knockanuarha – west of Photomontage Viewpoint 12. A new viewing area is also proposed on the new walking trail to the north of Turbine T2, providing unobstructed landscape views to the north. A viewing deck, Seating, signage and binoculars are proposed for these two viewing areas, where there will be long-ranging views, unobstructed by turbines'</i></li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment."</i></p>

Viewpoint 13 - Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Parker)			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from L3042 local road in the townland of Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Parker).</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 800m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T6).</li> <li>➤ <i>*This viewpoint is directed west, towards the central cluster of turbines and away from the eastern cluster of turbines. While this viewpoint is actually located in between the central and eastern clusters of turbines, the eastern cluster (turbines T8 and T9) is not actually visible from this location despite the proximity of these turbines to the viewpoint, as a result of screening provided by the topography and vegetation.</i></li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 557,666, N: 669,383</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 6/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors: <b>High</b> Local Road: <b>Low</b>

<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This view looks across a valley towards the hill of Knockshanvo, where large tract of commercial forestry can be spread across the hilltop. In the right background an undulating area of peat can also be seen.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>
<b>'Proposed Knockshanvo' Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The proposed turbines T4, T5, T6 and T7 are seen as large vertical features in the background of the view, within the forestry. They are relatively evenly spaced and occupy a moderate horizontal extent within this view. Turbines from the western cluster (T1 and T3) are also partially seen, with the blades of these turbines visible above the treeline.</p> <p>The proposed met mast is also seen in the left centre as a slender lattice structure.</p>
<b>Cumulative Context – 'Proposed View with Cumulative'</b>	<p>Two proposed Oatfield turbines are visible to the right (north) of T05 although one is obscured from view by a bush in the foreground. Two other proposed Oatfield turbines are located further right (north) but they will be partially screened from view by mature vegetation from this viewpoint. Several proposed Oatfield turbines are partially visible in the background of the view between turbines T07, they are noticeably beyond the western Knockshanvo cluster at a smaller scale.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative effects with the proposed Oatfield turbines will occur on receptors in this area due to a greater density of turbines visible within the landscape. The proposed Oatfield turbines are of a similar scale and are visually connected with the Proposed Knockshanvo Development, appearing as one collective development.</p>
<b>Turbine Range Assessment</b>  (See Section 14.7.4 of the EIAR)	<p>It is noted that additional photomontages were produced showing differing turbine configurations, the 'Minimum Tip Height, Minimum Hub Height, Intermediate Rotor Diameter', and 'Maximum Tip Height, Intermediate Hub Height, Maximum Rotor Diameter'. The difference between these configurations and the 'Maximum Tip Height' is noticeable with the aid of the comparative wireline image, but is negligible in terms of visual effects, demonstrating that differences between differing turbine configuration within the range stated is negligible from a landscape and visual perspective.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>High</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<p><b>Substantial</b> – The proposed turbines are fully or almost fully visible over a moderate horizontal extent, at close proximity to the viewer. Cumulative effects are accounted for in this determination, although it is noted that potential cumulative effects with the proposed Oatfield turbines are an uncertain scenario reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>"An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment"</i></p>

<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The proposed turbines in view are sited in a 'Strategic Area' for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>&gt; With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current WEDGs (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft WEDGs (DoHPLG, 2019).</li> <li>&gt; As a result of the iterative design process, the turbines are viewed as a coherent cluster with only a limited horizontal extent within the view, even from this location in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site.</li> <li>&gt; The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>&gt; The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>&gt; The majority of the proposed turbines are actually not visible from this location, with views primarily consisting of views of the central cluster of turbines.</li> <li>&gt; The valley seen to slope downwards away from the viewpoint provides a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields and treelines.</li> <li>&gt; The turbines are seen evenly spaced across the part of the view where they are visible.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors).</b>	<p><b>Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>

<b>Viewpoint 14 – Ballyblood</b>			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; View from the townland of Ballyblood along County Clare designated Scenic Route SR-24 (CCDP 2023–2029).</li> <li>&gt; This viewpoint is located approximately 7.4km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).</li> <li>&gt; Grid Reference: E: 548,897, N: 676,025</li> <li>&gt; No. of Turbines Visible 5/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 11 East Clare Loughlands – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Scenic Route: <b>High</b> Regional Road: <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	This is a long-range view to the south along the R462 regional road, which can be seen in the right-hand side of the view. The road is bordered by a		



	<p>number of agricultural fields. The view of this agricultural landscape extends into the centre background, with a number of deciduous trees and small hedgerows seen to partially screen views of more distance fields. The view in the left -hand side of the image is entirely screened by a hedgerow and treelines bordering the nearest field.</p> <p>The topography is generally flat, with a ridgeline seen in the centre background. The hills seen are primarily covered by tracts of commercial forestry and peat, as well as agricultural fields on the lower reaches of the hill.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>3 no. proposed turbines from the western cluster will be visible from this location, turbines T1, T2, and T3. These proposed turbines are seen on the highest hilltop in the centre background. The turbines are seen clustered around the hilltop of Knockanuarha. The blades from turbines T4 and T5 are also visible above the skyline in the background, although these turbines are almost entirely screened from view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>Seven proposed Oatfield turbines are seen across the ridgeline in the centre of the photomontage either side of the proposed turbines of the western cluster, three of proposed Oatfield turbines are partially screened from view. The northern cluster of proposed Oatfield turbines are theoretically visible upon the ridgeline to the east (right of the view), but from this viewpoint they would be screened from view by mature vegetation.</p> <p>The permitted Carrownagowan turbines, permitted Fahy Beg turbines and the proposed Lackareagh turbines are all theoretically visible from this location. However, in reality these are screened from view by intervening vegetation in the landscape. The proposed Ballycar turbines are also visible in the right background, partially seen above the ridgeline in this direction.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative visual effects can potentially occur in combination with the proposed Oatfield turbines. Cumulative effects with the other developments to the west are likely to occur from other locations on this designated scenic route. The proposed Oatfield turbines slightly extend the horizontal extent of turbines visible. The proposed turbines of the western cluster are effectively absorbed amongst the proposed Oatfield turbines, appearing as a coherent array of turbines across the upland area from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Turbine Range Assessment</b>  (See Section 14.7.4 of the EIAR)	<p>It is noted that additional photomontages were produced showing differing turbine configurations, the ‘Minimum Tip Height, Minimum Hub Height, Intermediate Rotor Diameter’, and ‘Maximum Tip Height, Intermediate Hub Height, Maximum Rotor Diameter’. The difference between these configurations and the ‘Maximum Tip Height’ is difficult to discern even with the aid of the comparative wireline image, and is negligible in terms of visual effects, demonstrating that differences between differing turbine configuration within the range stated is negligible from a landscape and visual perspective.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See</b>	<p><b>High</b> – This viewpoint is located along a designated scenic route in the CCDP, with long intermittent long range views towards the Wind Farm</p>

definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	Site available from along the scenic route. Considering these factors this viewpoint has been assigned a High sensitivity.		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The Proposed Development is partially visible at a distance sufficient to be perceptible and results in a low level of change in the view. The visible proposed turbines are seen within a limited horizontal extent within the view. Cumulative effects are accounted for in this determination, although it is noted that potential cumulative effects with the proposed Oatfield turbines are an uncertain scenario reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.		
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Hight × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022).</b> “An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”		
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the proposed turbines are not visible in this view.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location. This siting is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The three proposed turbines that are fully visible are small background features of this view and do not obstruct any long ranging landscape views.</li> </ul>		
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting it sensitivity”.		

Viewpoint 15 – Tooreen			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View along the R471 regional road within the townland of Tooreen. This viewpoint is approximately 4.4km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 560,823, N: 665,593</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 9/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Regional Road: <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	This is an open view to the northwest across an undulating agricultural landscape towards the proposed turbines. The foreground view is of a large field bordered by treelines and hedgerows, with this field pattern also visible throughout the landscape beyond. In the background, the topography slopes upward toward Knockshanvo. The landcover on the		



	associated ridgeline is primarily tracts of forestry and peatland, with agricultural fields seen on the lower reaches of the hills.
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	All proposed turbines are visible from this viewpoint, separated into three distinct clusters. Turbines T8 and T9, in the right background, are partially screened by the roadside hedgerow, although this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location and it is considered that they are fully visible. The distinct turbine clusters are seen around the hilltops that from the ridgeline throughout the background.
<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>Turbines from the permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm are theoretically visible in the right background (90 degree field of view), although in this view they are screened by the hedgerow adjoining the local road.</p> <p>All proposed Oatfield turbines are visible upon the elevated ridgeline in combination with the Proposed Knockshanvo Development. two proposed Oatfield turbines are visible to the right (east) of the central turbine cluster, adjacent to T05 and T06. Two other proposed Oatfield turbines are partially visible beyond the ridgeline between the central and eastern cluster. Five proposed Oatfield turbines are visible to the west of the western turbine cluster and two are sited in front of proposed turbines T01, T02 and T03 where some visual stacking occurs.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Cumulative effects have the potential to arise with the proposed Oatfield turbines as a greater density of turbines and wider extent of turbines are visible across the upland area. The proposed Lackareagh wind farm and permitted Fahy Beg wind farm are located to the north-east of this viewpoint in a differing field of view. The Fahy Beg Wind Farm and most of the proposed Lackareagh turbines will be obscured from view by the intervening landform and mature vegetation. However, the most elevated proposed Lackareagh turbines are likely to be seen in this direction upon the most elevated landforms comprising the Glenomra valley. Some minor combined in succession (where an observer has to turn their head to see another development) cumulative effects will occur.
<b>Turbine Range Assessment</b>  (See Section 14.7.4 of the EIAR)	It is noted that additional photomontages were produced showing differing turbine configurations, the ‘Minimum Tip Height, Minimum Hub Height, Intermediate Rotor Diameter’, and ‘Maximum Tip Height, Intermediate Hub Height, Maximum Rotor Diameter’. The difference between these configurations and the ‘Maximum Tip Height’ is difficult to discern without the aid of the comparative wireline image, and is negligible in terms of visual effects, demonstrating that differences between differing turbine configuration within the range stated is negligible from a landscape and visual perspective.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Low</b> – This viewpoint represents users of the R471 regional road who are not acting a recreational capacity. Therefore, this viewpoint has been classified as Low sensitivity.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Slight</b> – The Proposed Development is partially visible at a distance sufficient to be perceptible and results in a relatively low level of change in the view. The proposed turbines are seen as relatively small background elements in the view. Potential for cumulative effects are accounted for in this determination, although it is noted that potential cumulative effects

	with the proposed Oatfield and Lackareagh turbines are an uncertain scenario reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low × Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”.</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Within the scale of the view and landscape type, the proposed turbines appear appropriately scaled within the marginal upland landscape visible throughout the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ Given the high level of screening elements in the form of hedgerows and treelines in the surrounding landscape, there will be large sections of the nearby road network where there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines. Where views do occur, they will be intermittent.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines (excepting T02) are sited in a ‘Strategic Area’ for wind energy development in the Co. Clare Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 6 of the CCDP 2023–2029). The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (Incl. mitigating factors).</b>	<b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences”.</i>

Viewpoint 16 – Belvoir			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Belvoir.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 2.2km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 551,290, N: 670,817</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible 3/9</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity to Wind Farm Developments</b>	Clare LCA 11 East Clare Loughlands – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors: <b>Medium</b>  Local Road: <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This is an open view across a roadside agricultural field which is bordered on the far side by a dense deciduous treeline. The Twelve O’Clock Hills are seen in the background with the landcover comprised primarily of tracts of commercial forestry. The undulating topography of the hills continues to the left-hand side of the view.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in the view.</p>		
<b>‘Proposed Knockshanvo’ Photomontage Description</b>	<p>3 no. proposed turbines from the western cluster will be visible from this location, turbines T1, T2, and T3. These proposed turbines are seen on the highest hilltop in the centre background. The turbines are seen clustered around the hilltop of Knockanuarha. There is partial screening of T1 and T3 by the intervening topography and forestry.</p>		

<b>Cumulative Context – ‘Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	Three turbines of the proposed Oatfield turbines are visible to the right (west) of turbine T01. They are of similar scale and assimilate well with the three turbines of the western cluster which are visible from this viewpoint.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Cumulative effects will potentially arise with the proposed Oatfield turbines in a future recievign environment. The visible turbines of Oatfield and the Proposed Knockshanvo Development read coherently in the landscape as one cluster from this viewpoint.
<b>Turbine Range Assessment</b>  (See Section 14.7.4 of the ELAR)	It is noted that additional photomontages were produced showing differing turbine configurations, the ‘Minimum Tip Height, Minimum Hub Height, Intermediate Rotor Diameter’, and ‘Maximum Tip Height, Intermediate Hub Height, Maximum Rotor Diameter’. The difference between these configurations and the ‘Maximum Tip Height’ is noticeable with the aid of the comparative wireline image, but is negligible in terms of visual effects, demonstrating that differences between differing turbine configuration within the range stated is negligible from a landscape and visual perspective.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Medium</b> – This viewpoint has been classified as a Medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors located along this road who are located in medium proximity to the Wind Farm Site.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b>  (See definition in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Moderate</b> – The proposed turbines introduce novel elements into the view, and the proposed turbines are seen as tall vertical features over a limited horizontal extent, in medium proximity to the viewpoint. Potential for cumulative effects are accounted for in this determination, although it is noted that potential cumulative effects with the proposed Oatfield and Lackareagh turbines are an uncertain scenario reliant on an outcome of the consenting system.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”.</i>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen clustered around a hilltop within the view from this location, this is aligned with the guidance on siting of wind energy developments in the WEDGs (see page 37 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbine seen in this view is appropriate relative to the scale of the hill they are seen, and in this regard the proposed turbines are also aligned with the guidance on spatial extent and scale in the WEDGs (see page 40 and 41 of the WEDGs).</li> <li>➤ The three proposed turbines are background features of this view and do not obstruct any long ranging landscape views.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> (Incl. mitigating factors).	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting it sensitivity”.</i>