APPENDIX 13-3

VIEWPOINT (PHOTOMONTAGE) ASSESSMENT TABLES

Appendix 13-3: Photomontage Visual Impact Assessment Tables

Lackareagh Wind Farm, Co. Clare

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1. PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 Viewpoint Summary Table

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the photomontage visualisations of the 15 no. viewpoints (named VP01–VP15) presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet*. This appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the *Photomontage Booklet*. The table below provides a brief description and location information for each of the 15 no. viewpoints assessed.

Viewpoint No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP01	**Tountinna Mt, Lough Derg:** View from the top of Tountinna Mt looking west over Lough Derg, overlaps with Lough Derg Way. Located approximately 10.4km east of the nearest turbine (T3).	E: 573,532 N: 677,431
VP02	**Killaloe - Riverside:** View from the park at Killaloe Bridge on the eastern bank of the River Shannon in Killaloe. Located approximately 6.3km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 570,397 N: 673,231
VP03	**The Gap Road at Ballygarreen:** View from The Gap Road/East Clare Way at Ballygarreen, approaching the site from the eastern slope of Glenagalliagh Mt in River Ardcloony valley, immediately to the east and outside of Glenomra Valley. Located approximately 2.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 566,591 N: 672,045
VP04	**R466/Scenic Route 26, Cloonyconry More:** View from the R466 Regional Road/SR-26 in the townland of Cloonyconry More. Located approximately 2.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 560,951 N: 671,919
VP05	**Broadford:** View from Broadford residences above Broadford GAA pitch/Hurdlestown Meadows near intersection of the R465 Regional Road and L3080 Local Road. Located approximately 5.4km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 556,989 N: 672,623
VP06	**R465 near Formoyle More:** View from the R465 Regional Road at Formoyle More in Glenomra Valley. Located approximately 4.5km south-west the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 558,950 N: 670,888
VP07	**R466/Scenic Route 26, Ballyquin Beg:** View from the R466 Regional Road/SR-26 in the townland of Ballyquin Beg. Located approximately 1.9km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 562,186 N: 670,404

Viewpoint No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP08	**Bridgetown:** View from the R466 Regional Road as it enters Bridgetown from the south, adjacent to the local school. Located approximately 4.1km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 564,545 N: 667,908
VP09	**O'Briensbridge Cross:** View from the canal north of the village of O'Briensbridge, overlaps with Lough Derg Way. Located approximately 5.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 565,823 N: 666,960
VP10	**R463 East of O'Briensbridge:** View from the R463 Regional Road east of O'Briensbridge, looking north to Slieve Bernagh range between roadside screenings. Located approximately 5.5km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 566,660 N: 667,512
VP11	**Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway:** View from the Scenic Route V59/R504 Regional Road overpass on M7 Motorway at Cooleen, between Annaholty Bog and Ballinahinch. Located approximately 9.2km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 570,695 N: 666,098
VP12	**Limerick City, Thomond Bridge:** View from Limerick City at Thomond Bridge next to King John's Castle, looking north-east over River Shannon. Located approximately 15.3km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 557,519 N: 657,843
VP13	**Killeagy/East Clare Way:** Four views A/B/C/D: from Killeagy/The Gap Road/East Clare Way, centre of the site, between the turbines. Located 360m north-west of proposed turbine T6. View 13A looking north-west: T1, T2. View 13B looking east: T3, T4, T5. View 13C looking south-east: T6, T7. View 13D looking south-west: into Glenomra Valley.	E: 563,171 N: 672,615
VP14	**Kilbane:** Two views A/B: from the L3022-8 local road immediately south of Kilbane village. Located approximately 1.1km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2). View 14A looking north: T1, T2. View 14B looking east: T3, T4, T5, T6, T7.	E: 562,098 N: 672,502
VP15	**Aillemore - Lower:** View from residences on the lower portion of Aillemore road, on the eastern slope of Glenagalliagh Mt in River Ardcloony valley, immediately to the east and outside of Glenomra Valley. Located approximately 1.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 565,373 N: 673,236

1.2 Viewpoint Selection: Photomontages and Supplementary Photowire Imagery

Main Photomontages used for Assessment.

The 15 no. photomontage viewpoints listed above were selected for comprehensive assessment in this Appendix following 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. These photomontages are classified as 'Type 4 Visualisations' of Development Proposals according to the LI TGN 06/19 (2019) for the assessment of visual effects in accordance with LVIA guidance and are comprehensively assessed in the tables of this Appendix. As explained in the previous section, the photomontages are presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet*.

Supplementary Photowire Imagery

In addition to the above 15 no. viewpoints, photomontage imagery was captured from 18 no. additional locations in the LVIA Study Area and progressed to 'draft-stage' photowires, that is, early-stage photomontage visualisations comprising stitched photos with draft overlaid wirelines. These photowires are classified as 'Type 3 Visualisations' according to the LI TGN 06/19 (2019) and are not considered in the comprehensive assessment presented in this Appendix; these images are used only to supplement discussions of visual effects in the main Chapter. The photowires are presented in a separate appendix of Chapter 13, *Appendix 13-5: Photowire Visualisation Booklet*.

The 15 no. viewpoint locations and 18 no. photowire locations are mapped in Figure 13-15 of the main Chapter in Section 13.5.4: Photomontage and Photowire Viewpoints and all discussions including that of the comprehensive assessment presented in this Appendix as well as visual effects based on the photowires are presented in the main Chapter in Section 13.7: Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Effects. Please refer to the full methodology for selecting photomontage and photowire viewpoint locations in Section 1.5: Photomontage Visualisations of *Appendix 13.1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.3 Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessments were conducted for individual viewpoints and are reported in the tables below following the methodology set out in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology* (Section 1.5.2: Assessing Visual Effects). The cumulative visual effects of the Proposed Project with other existing, permitted and/or proposed wind farms located in the LVIA Study Area are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Chapter 13, Section 13.6: Cumulative Context, the assessment and discussion of cumulative visual effects considers the probability of cumulative effects arising with all other wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area in the following categories, and their potential visual interaction(s) with the Proposed Project:

- **'Existing'** developments: Certainty of cumulative effects occurring;
- **'Permitted'** developments: High probability of cumulative effects occurring in a future receiving environment; or
- **'Proposed'** developments: Uncertain scenario in which cumulative effects may or may not occur depending on a number of factors.

The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this Appendix are based on the photomontages in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view.

In each impact assessment table below, the potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the 'Magnitude of Change' row and is also considered in the 'Residual Visual Effect' determination given for each viewpoint at the end of each table.

When determining how cumulative effects contribute to the magnitude of change, the primary focus is on considering the extent to which the Proposed Project will contribute toward cumulative effects on the particular receptors at each viewpoint under assessment.

1.4 Photomontage Viewpoint Assessment Tables

1.4.1 VP01: Tountinna Mt, Lough Derg

Viewpoint 01: Tountinna Mt, Lough Derg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the top of Tountinna Mt looking west over Lough Derg, overlaps with Lough Derg Way. › Located approximately 10.4km east of the nearest turbine (T3). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 573,532; N 677,431. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	T-LCA-13 Arra Mountains – Lower Lough Derg: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	OSi Viewing Area #59: **Very High** Lough Derg Way: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a long-range and expansive panoramic view of Lough Derg and adjacent mountains and valleys (including Slieve Bernagh mountain range) from an easily accessible viewpoint near the top of Tountinna Mt, located in the Arra Mountains above the east bank of Lough Derg. The view shows a dramatic, sweeping vista looking over the southern tip of Lough Derg, with Lower Lough Derg visible at the left of the image, with distant mountains behind, including Slieve Bernagh mountains. The eastern slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt are visible at the image centre, forming the centre ridgeline on the horizon. The key landscape features are the water bodies and mountain ranges, and the centre ridgeline comprising Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt. The key landscape characteristics are the water features themselves, and the mixture of forested land and agricultural landscapes which can be seen along both banks of Lough Derg and surrounding the mountain slopes. 1 no. existing single wind turbine is existent in the view at the left of the image: Parteen to the right of Lower Lough Derg; however, the distance is great the turbine is not identifiable in this view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	3 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen extending above and from behind the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt, described as follows: In the centre of the image, most of the T3 tower is visible, along with all its blades–this is the most prominently visible of all turbines in the view. To the left, one blade of T4 is visible, followed by the partial T5 tower with two blades partially visible. Turbines of three proposed wind farms (Ballycar, Knockshanvo and Oatfield) and two permitted wind farms (Fahy Beg and Carrownagowan) are also visible in this view, described in the next box.		
Cumulative Context	A total of 6 no. existing, proposed or permitted wind farms are visible to varying degrees as follows (from L to R in the image): › Existing Parteen single turbine: No visibility owing to great distance. › Permitted Carrownagowan turbines are visible to the right of the photomontage as full towers/blades in the front and partial towers or blade tips only in the back.		

Viewpoint 01: Tountinna Mt, Lough Derg	
	› Permitted Fahy Beg turbines are visible to the left of the photomontage as mostly full towers/blades, directly in front of the proposed Ballycar Wind Farm. › Proposed Ballycar turbines are visible as partial/full towers and full blades, located directly behind permitted Fahy Beg. › Proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield turbines are mostly visible as blade tips or some full blades, directly behind the proposed turbines.
Cumulative Effects	The Proposed Wind Farm contributes to the cumulative visual effect of multiple wind energy developments visible amongst the upland peaks in the background of the view, where the proposed turbines are visible in combination with a number of other permitted and proposed wind farms. Visual effects from all visible turbines are substantially reduced by the factor of distance. The single turbine (Parteen) cannot be distinguished in the landscape, while the rest of the visible turbines occur as very small features on the distant horizon or just in front of distant ridgelines. In addition, cumulative 'stacking' occurs for groups of wind farms: proposed Ballycar and permitted Fahy Beg appear directly in front/behind each other, thereby limiting the horizontal extent of turbines. The same phenomenon occurs for the proposed turbines, which are visually stacked with the blade tips of proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield. Finally, as a whole, the cumulative developments appear evenly spaced out across the entire vista, thereby avoiding turbine clustering in any one area.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Very High.** Rationale: The viewpoint is easily accessible by car and foot and is a high-trafficked viewpoint and marked on OSi maps as a scenic viewpoint. Visual receptors come to this viewpoint specifically to enjoy the scenic amenity provided by the landscape. In addition, Lough Derg is protected landscape of high value and heritage, well-known at the regional and national levels as a tourist destination. It is noted that the viewpoint is located in a low-sensitivity landscape owing to its key characteristics which are not altered by the proposed turbines (see explanation in *Appendix 13-2: LCA Assessment Tables*). On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Very High'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: Considering the impact of the proposed turbines plus cumulative wind farms, the amount of change is considered low-level owing to the great distance of turbines from the viewer and the positioning of turbines along distant ridges. As a result of these factors, the degree of contrast and the view remains similar to the baseline 'existing view'. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**Very High × Slight = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'.*

Viewpoint 01: Tountinna Mt, Lough Derg	
	Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Only one turbine of the Proposed Project (proposed turbine T3) is prominently visible, and at great distance; most of the proposed turbines are visually screened from view by the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley within the peaks of Slieve Bernagh range; › The proposed turbines and turbines of all other permitted and proposed developments are viewed within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › The large-scale landscape and long-ranging, expansive panoramic view effectively absorbs the proposed turbines, as well as the other cumulative developments; › The proposed turbines are visible beyond the distant ridgeline and do not obstruct or significantly intrude upon the key scenic sensitivities of the view which primarily includes the views of Lough Derg and its surrounds; › All visual effects of the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are substantially reduced by distance, for example, the single existing Parteen turbine is not discernible in the landscape and the remaining turbines are positioned along or immediately in front of distant ridgelines; › The cumulative views mostly comprise only blades or blade tips of turbines, thus relatively few full turbines can be seen; › The impact of cumulative views is lessened by the multiple developments being evenly spaced across the whole view—this avoids clustering of turbines in any one area and therefore does not detract from the wide-open, expansive views.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.2 VP02: Killaloe - Riverside

Viewpoint 02: Killaloe - Riverside			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the park at Killaloe Bridge on the eastern bank of the River Shannon in Killaloe. › Located approximately 6.3km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 570,397; N 673,231. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 3 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	T-LCA-13 Arra Mountains – Lower Lough Derg: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Killaloe (Town): **Medium**

Viewpoint 02: Killaloe - Riverside			
			Users of park and riverside: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a multi-range view from a recreational city park along the River Shannon with high aesthetic value (short-range view), including scenic residential and agricultural landscapes of the city on the far bank (mid-range), and a small portion of Slieve Bernagh range in the distant (long-range). The key landscape feature is the River Shannon passing directly through the park and comprising the focus of views. The key landscape characteristics are the manicured park grounds including carpark, mature trees, docks and small boat parking, and the far riverbank comprising mature vegetation, well-maintained agricultural fields and attractive residential buildings in the townscape along the water. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	3 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen extending above and from behind the moderately distant ridgeline: To the left-centre of the image, the T5 tower is partially visible, with two blades partially visible—this is the most prominently visible turbine. To the right, one partial blade of T4 and one small blade-tip of T3 are visible. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view owing to visual screening by vegetation and buildings, see explanation below.		
Cumulative Context	Permitted Fahy Beg: In the wireline image (showing topography only), 6 out of 8 no. permitted Fahy Beg turbines are visible with partial towers/blades and blade-tips, situated to the left of the proposed turbines; however, these are fully visually screened by vegetation and buildings.		
Cumulative Effects	Although all other turbines visible from this viewpoint are fully visually screened; it is anticipated that there may be cumulative views of the proposed turbines with permitted Fahy Beg turbines from other vantage points along the Shannon River corridor within Killaloe, nearby to the location of this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: Considering the high aesthetic value of the river setting and in mind of the location being a destination for local and regional recreational amenity, the sensitivity is rated as 'High'. The view is not a designated protected view and the change to views is localised to the distant ridgelines of Slieve Bernagh range in the background, which are long-range views comprising only a small percentage of the view. The primary focus of the view is localised to the park itself, the River Shannon, and the far bank of the river, comprising only short- and mid-range views; therefore, the proposed turbines are not affecting key sensitivities. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*		
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Negligible.**		

Viewpoint 02: Killaloe - Riverside	
	Rationale: The greatest degree of change is limited to a single proposed turbine (T5) which is only partially visible, and which is not within the main focus of short- and mid-range views of the park, river, farmlands and townscape. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**High × Negligible = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are not within the primary focus of views, which comprise short- and mid-range views of the park, River Shannon, farmlands and Killaloe residential townscape along the vegetated river banks; › The greatest magnitude of change is limited to one proposed turbine (T5) which is only partially visible at great distance; › Cumulative effects are eliminated owing to natural screening by buildings and mature vegetation; › Views of the proposed turbines are not affecting the key sensitivities of the high aesthetic value of the river setting.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.3 VP03: The Gap Road at Ballygarreen

Viewpoint 03: The Gap Road at Ballygarreen			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from The Gap Road/East Clare Way at Ballygarreen, approaching the site from the eastern slope of Glenagalliagh Mt in River Ardcloony valley, immediately to the east and outside of Glenomra Valley. › Located approximately 2.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 566,591; N 672,045. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 3 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Residences along local roads: **High/Medium** East Clare Way walking route: **High** Local roads: **Low**

Viewpoint 03: The Gap Road at Ballygarreen	
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a mid-range view of the sparsely populated eastern slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt, leading up to the saddle between the two mountain peaks and over into Glenomra Valley. The key landscape features are the two mountain peaks covered by coniferous forestry, Lackareagh Mt at the left and Glenagalliagh Mt at the right, comprising an undulating ridgeline in the distance, with sparse residential properties on the slopes in between. The foreground of the view comprises a residential property and access road which are representative of receptors in the River Ardclooney valley in close proximity to the proposed turbines, on the eastern slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt immediately outside Glenomra Valley. The key landscape characteristics are the two mountain peaks with coniferous forestry landcover and low-intensity agricultural land in the lower lying areas. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	3 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen: To the left-centre of the image, most of the T5 tower and full blades are visible extending above and from behind the ridgeline of Lackareagh Mt. To the centre and right-centre of the image, the full T4 and T3 towers with full blades are visible, both anchored near the top and in front of the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh Mt, with T3 situated further up the mountainside, nearer to the peak. 6 no. turbines of the permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be visible off the left edge of the image 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative at 90°'.
Cumulative Context	Permitted Fahy Beg: 6 no. permitted Fahy Beg turbines situated at the south end of Glenomra Valley will be visible from this location off the far-left edge of the view on the southern slopes of Lackareagh Mt, with partial tower and full blades visible, creating the possibility of successional views of the multiple developments from certain vantage points. Lackareagh Mt peak will separate the proposed turbines from the visible permitted Fahy Beg turbines, allowing for a degree of visual balance.
Cumulative Effects	Cumulative effects arise as three proposed turbines are visible in combination with the permitted Fahy Beg Turbines. There is a degree of visual balance as the two developments (proposed Lackareagh and permitted Fahy Beg) are clustered on slightly lower lands to either side of the central peak of Lackareagh Mt.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: VP03 represents views from a sparsely settled area and residential receptors located >2.5km from the proposed turbines. It is a relatively remote and low trafficked local road which also forms part of the East Clare Way national waymarked walking route. The portion of East Clare Way leading up the slopes to the Proposed Wind Farm site is very small (2.3km) compared to the total length of the trail (180km); moreover, the location is relatively remote and less well-travelled than other parts of the trail. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*

Viewpoint 03: The Gap Road at Ballygarreen	
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Moderate.** Rationale: Whilst the visible turbines will be fully in view (towers and blades), the number of turbines is small. Further, their layout is staggered both in front of and behind the ridgelines and the turbines sit coherently within the landscape in terms of balancing with topographic undulations. All turbines are located in landcover of coniferous forestry which is already heavily modified. The in-combination views with permitted Fahy Beg turbines are balanced around the mountain peaks comprising the main focus of this view and are accounted for in the magnitude of change and residual impact. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The number of visible proposed turbines is few and they are balanced within the landscape both in front of and behind the undulating ridgeline which is the focus of views from this viewpoint; › The number of residential receptors is small due to the sparsely populated landscape; › The portion of East Clare Way trail which passes up the slopes is only a very small portion (2.3km) of the total length of the trail (180km) and it is a remote location where the trail is less well-known and is not easily accessible; › The cumulative views with permitted Fahy Beg turbines are well-spaced within the landscape, with mountain peaks between all turbines; › The proposed turbines are sited within heavily modified coniferous forestry landcover, an area of the landscape considered to be of low sensitivity; › Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019); › There are open and long-ranging views to the south-east down the River Ardclooney valley towards the River Shannon from this viewpoint and receptors in this area. The longer-range and more expansive views in this direction are a greater focal point in the area compared with the shorter-range views towards the proposed turbines in the opposite direction to the north-west; › All three visible turbines are generally viewed above the horizon and there is adequate visual separation between them, minimising visual confusion such as blade-sets crossing as skylines or varied landcover according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited and seen within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP

Viewpoint 03: The Gap Road at Ballygarreen	
	and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.4 VP04: R466/Scenic Route 26, Cloonyconry More

Viewpoint 04: R466/SR-26, Cloonyconry More			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R466 Regional Road/SR-26 in the townland of Cloonyconry More. › Located approximately 2.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 560,951; N 671,919. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 7 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	SR-26 (CCDP): **High** R466 Regional Road: **Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a medium-range view looking up at Slieve Bernagh range from within Glenomra Valley. The key landscape features are the undulating mountain peaks: Cragnamurragh at the left of the image, Glenagalliagh Mt in the centre and Lackareagh Mt at the right. The key landscape characteristics include the varied landcover types of low-intensity agricultural farmland in the valley foreground and across the slopes, and coniferous forestry plots along the ridgelines and in the undulations between peaks. Sparse settlements can be seen in the mid-ground amongst mature boundary vegetation in the low-lying lands. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines will be visible from this vantage point, as well as the Meteorological (Met) Mast: To the left of the image, turbine T2 is visible with full towers and blades, in front of Cragnamurragh, with T1 immediately off the left edge of the image. To the right of T2, the Met Mast can be seen as a relatively smaller (shorter) thin, vertical tower, sited within low-intensity agricultural lands amongst mature vegetation. In the image centre, partial towers and full blades of T3 and T4 are visible from behind the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh Mt. At the left of the image, full towers and blades of T5 (in back) and T6 (in front) can be seen on the ridgeline of Lackareagh Mt, with T7 (full tower/blades) being visible immediately off the right edge of the image. Overall, the Proposed Project is sympathetic to the surrounding landform with the northern and southern turbines being positioned on either side of the prominent elevated peak (Glenagalliagh Mt).		

Viewpoint 04: R466/SR-26, Cloonyconry More	
	Substation: The proposed substation is partially visible in the saddle of the ridgeline between Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt peaks, specifically located between T4 and T5/T6, at the point where The Gap Road/L7080 passes over the top of the ridge. While this is not shown in the *Photomontage Booklet*, a visualisation of the substation and discussion of proposed mitigation for visual screening surrounding the structure are provided in Chapter 13; see Plates 13.23 and 13.24 of Section 13.7.3.2.3: SR-26 View of Proposed Substation from within Glenomra Valley.
Cumulative Context	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in this photomontage; however, multiple turbines of the permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm are likely to be visible to the south-east from this viewpoint, at the south end of Glenomra Valley. In addition, the proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield wind farms are located in close proximity to the west of this viewpoint; however, on-site visibility appraisals and graphic modelling indicate that turbines of these developments will not be seen from this viewpoint due to topographical screening.
Cumulative Effects	There is potential for cumulative visual effects between the proposed turbines and permitted turbines of Fahy Beg Wind Farm. The permitted Fahy Beg turbines will be clustered around the southern aspect of Lackareagh Mt, visually separate from the proposed Lackareagh turbines. There will be a degree of in-combination visual effects where both developments are seen from the same location, particularly for southbound receptors on this part of the regional road.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: The viewpoint occurs from SR-26, designated as a Scenic Route in the CCDP. Further, the viewpoint is representative of sparse residential receptors within Glenomra Valley who may have open views directed toward the proposed turbines. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Substantial.** Rationale: Considering the potential for cumulative effects with permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm turbines at the south end of Glenomra Valley, the view is deemed to have a 'Substantial' magnitude of change in terms of successional views in a journey scenario. The proposed turbines are located in the upland background of the view and the number of turbines is small; however, they are readily noticeable and are expected to alter the sensitive aspect of SR-26, which is focussed on views of Slieve Bernagh range. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment'.*

Viewpoint 04: R466/SR-26, Cloonyconry More	
	Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are sited in sparsely settled upland landscape with adequate set-back distance from the high-sensitivity Scenic Route SR-26; › This photomontage does not represent all views from SR-26, the proposed turbines will primarily be intermittently visible between areas of mature vegetation along the route; › Whilst SR-26 is a designated scenic route in the CCDP and considered high-sensitivity, it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination of national renown drawing high numbers of travellers; › Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance set out in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019); › The proposed turbines exhibit irregular spacing along a ridgeline in a clustered layout within different landscape types which is appropriate for undulating terrain of this landscape type ('Transitional Marginal Landscape' type) according to the siting and design recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › Adequate visual separation between the northern and southern proposed turbines minimises visual confusion such as blade-sets crossing as skylines or varied landcover according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within relatively open and extensive upper ground on the upper slopes of Glenomra Valley, thereby appearing appropriately scaled and achieving visual balance with the surrounding landform according to the siting and design recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The relatively small number of proposed turbines ensures that 'visual complexity' is avoided, and that the scale of the landscape and human activities 'responds sensitively' to the 'intimate' spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.5 VP05: Broadford

Viewpoint 05: Broadford			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from Broadford residences above Broadford GAA pitch/Hurdlestown Meadows near intersection of the R465 Regional Road and L3080 Local Road. › Located approximately 5.4km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 556,989; N 672,623. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 7 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Broadford (Small Village): **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a multi-range view of Slieve Bernagh range in the distance (long-range) from an elevated residential area in Broadford adjacent to well-manicured greenspace and mature vegetation (short-range). The key landscape feature is the distant view of Slieve Bernagh range, in which Glenagalliagh Mt can be seen at the left and Lackareagh Mt at the right, with a clear topographical saddle in between the peaks. The key landscape characteristics are the undulating foreground topography and mature vegetation, which provide localised visual screening to residences, and the contrast in landcover on the distant mountains showing a mosaic of coniferous forestry and low-intensity agricultural land. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible in the view, staggered in front and back of the distant ridgeline amongst multiple landcover types and exhibiting clear visual separation between the northern (T1, T2) and southern (T3–T7) turbines. The northern turbines are visible with partial towers and full blades at the left, positioned behind undulating, vegetated topography in the mid-range of the view. Southern turbines T3, T4 and T5 are visible as partial towers and full blades at greater distance, positioned behind the ridgeline and within the saddle between the mountain peaks. Southern turbines T6 and T7 are visible as full towers and full blades, directly in front of Lackareagh Mt peak at lower elevation along its slope. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view owing to visual screening by vegetation and buildings, see explanation below.		
Cumulative Context	Permitted Fahy Beg: In the wireline image (showing topography only), 2 out of 8 no. Fahy Beg turbines are visible with only blade-tips, situated to the right of the proposed turbines; however, these are fully visually screened by vegetation. The proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield wind farms are located within an upland landscape to the south of Broadford in a different direction to the view shown in the photomontage. They are not likely to be visible from this viewpoint; however, they are likely to be visible from roads taking a northern approach into Broadford.		
Cumulative Effects	No cumulative visual effects are anticipated between the proposed turbines and permitted turbines of permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm, proposed Oatfield turbines or proposed Knockshanvo turbines from this viewpoint. Although no in-combination views occur (where a viewer sees multiple developments from		

Viewpoint 05: Broadford	
	the same location), there is potential for a degree of sequential/cumulative effects in and around the settlement of Broadford where turbines of different developments may be seen from different vantage points in a journey scenario.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: This viewpoint represents a small number of residential receptors in Broadford with open and/or partial views toward the proposed turbines from this elevated vantage point. Most areas in Broadford feature a moderate amount of buildings in the village and mature vegetation throughout the low-lands which prevent visibility of the proposed turbines from this distance (approximately 5km). On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: While all proposed turbines are visible from this viewpoint, their layout is well-spaced within the landscape and evenly balanced between different landcover types and different positioning on slopes and over the ridgeline. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The number of visible proposed turbines is few and they are balanced within the landscape both in front of and behind the undulating distant ridgeline; › This viewpoint is located at an elevated vantage point in Broadford where open longer-ranging views of the proposed turbines were found. On-site visibility appraisals determined that the proposed turbines will not be visible from most areas and receptors in the settlement of Broadford (refer to discussion of Broadford in Section 13.7.3.2.2 'Visual Effects: Receptors' in the main Chapter); › The number of residential receptors experiencing visual effects as shown in the photomontage is few; › The residential properties on this street are oriented with the gable end of buildings directed towards the proposed turbines, therefore the proposed turbines are not seen within the primary residential visual amenity of these houses (i.e. in views from front and back gardens and windows). › Cumulative effects from this viewpoint and most areas in Broadford are eliminated owing to natural screening by buildings and mature vegetation within the settlement;

Viewpoint 05: Broadford	
	› The proposed turbines exhibit irregular spacing along a ridgeline in a clustered layout within different landscape types which is appropriate for undulating terrain of this landscape type ('Transitional Marginal Landscape' type) according to the siting and design recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › Adequate visual separation between the northern and southern proposed turbines minimises visual confusion such as blade-sets crossing as skylines or varied landcover according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within relatively open and extensive upper ground on the upper slopes of Glenomra Valley, thereby being appropriately scaled in terms of achieving visual balance according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The small number of proposed turbines ensures that 'visual complexity' is avoided, and that the scale of the landscape and human activities is 'responds sensitively' to the 'intimate' spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.6 VP06: R465 near Formoyle More

Viewpoint 06: R465 near Formoyle More			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R465 Regional Road at Formoyle More in Glenomra Valley. › Located approximately 4.5km south-west the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 558,950; N 670,888. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	R465 Regional Road: **Low** Residences along local roads: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a multi-range view of low-intensity agricultural land at mid-elevation within Glenomra Valley (mid-range view) and Slieve Bernagh range in the distance (long-range view) with the peak of Cragnamurragh as the highest point of focus. In the foreground of the image, a short-range view of R465 Regional		

Viewpoint 06: R465 near Formoyle More	
	Road in proximity to a local residence with mature boundary vegetation can be seen curving around the hilltop and is representative of open views on the elevated parts of the road. The key landscape feature is the visual interplay of farmlands and distant peaks of the mountain range. The key landscape characteristics include the contrast in landcover types between rural residential, low-intensity agricultural lands, and rugged mountain peaks. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	4 out of 7 no. proposed turbines are visible, with the northern turbines T1 and T2 visible at the base of the Cragnamurragh slope, and T3 is visible above the horizon line in the image centre. Only one blade-tip of T4 is visible to the right of T3. Both T1 and T2 are relatively prominent with partial towers and full blades, and the height is such that the blades do not extend above the horizon (i.e. Cragnamurragh ridgeline) in the distance. The T1 and T2 towers are situated behind the undulating farmlands forming the mid-range view of the image and are staggered in height since they are themselves sited at different elevations on the slope. T3 is visible with a partial tower and full blades, also situated behind the undulating farmland in the mid-range view. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage; however, the blade-tips of 2 no. permitted Carrownagowan turbines will be visible to the left (north) of the field of view presented in the photomontage.
Cumulative Context	Permitted Carrownagowan: In the wireline image (showing topography only), 2 out of 19 no. permitted Carrownagowan turbines (blade-tips only) will be visible to the far-left edge of the image at the top of the ridgeline, in successional view. Permitted Fahy Beg: The permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be located at the south end of Glenomra Valley on the lower slopes of Lackareagh Mt and will not be visible from this viewpoint. Proposed Knockshanvo: The proposed Knockshanvo turbines are located to the west of this viewpoint and approximately 3 turbines will potentially be visible from receptors in this location in a future receiving environment.
Cumulative Effects	Due to the cumulative view of turbines being composed of only blade-tips of two turbines, the cumulative effects are deemed to be negligible with permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm. There is potential for cumulative visual effects between the proposed turbines and proposed Knockshanvo turbines where the two developments are potentially visible in opposing directions. In this scenario (an uncertain scenario), there is potential for sequential in combination visual effects to occur (where an observer must turn their head).
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: This viewpoint represents users of the R465 Regional Road and local and residents in the west of Glenomra Valley at elevated vantage points in relatively close proximity to the proposed turbines (within 5km). This rural area is sparsely populated and the road is relatively low-trafficked. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'.

Viewpoint 06: R465 near Formoyle More	
	For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The number of visible proposed turbines is few and all visible turbines are well-spaced throughout the landscape, situated behind undulating topography that helps to visually screen the towers. The blades of the two most prominently visible proposed turbines (T1 and T2) do not extend above the scenic ridgeline. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The number of visible proposed turbines is few and they are balanced within the landscape, both below the horizon and above the ridgeline which is a focus of views from this viewpoint; › The number of residential receptors represented by this viewpoint is small due to the sparsely populated landscape; › This photomontage does not represent all views from R456 Regional Road, the proposed turbines will primarily be visually screened behind areas of mature vegetation along the route; › Whilst cumulative effects are anticipated with permitted Carrownagowan and proposed Knockshanvo wind farm turbines, all developments including the Proposed Project are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is designated as having the capacity to absorb multiple wind energy developments (CWES); › The proposed turbines exhibit irregular spacing along a ridgeline in a clustered layout within different landscape types which is appropriate for undulating terrain of this landscape type according to the recommendations in the WEDGs (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019); › Adequate visual separation between the northern and southern proposed turbines minimises visual confusion such as blade-sets crossing as skylines or varied landcover according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The small number of proposed turbines ensures that 'visual complexity' is avoided, and that the scale of the landscape and human activities is 'responds sensitively' to the 'intimate' spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is

Viewpoint 06: R465 near Formoyle More	
	classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.7 VP07: R466/Scenic Route 26, Ballyquin Beg

Viewpoint 07: R466/SR-26, Ballyquin Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R466 Regional Road/SR-26 in the townland of Ballyquin Beg. › Located approximately 1.9km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 562,186; N 670,404. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 7 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	R466/SR-26: **High** L3022-8: **Low** Residences near Ballyquin Beg: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is an open view of Slieve Bernagh range looking up from the low-lands of Glenomra Valley amongst flat, low-intensity agricultural lands surrounded by mature boundary vegetation. The key landscape features are the distant mountain peaks comprising, from left to right, Cragnamurragh, Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt (the last located just behind the foreground vegetation), producing an undulating ridgeline in the distance which is the focus of views. The key landscape characteristics are the distant mountain peaks featuring multiple landcover types of coniferous forestry and low-intensity agriculture. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines and the Met Mast can be seen: To the left-centre of the image, the northern turbines (T1 and T2) can be seen at a relatively small scale, with full towers and blades visible in front of Cragnamurragh, but without extending above the distant ridgeline. Immediately below T2, the Met Mast can be seen as a relatively smaller (shorter) thin, vertical tower. To the right-centre of the image, the southern turbines can be seen, with partial towers of T6 and T7 anchored amongst undulating hills at the foothills of Lackareagh Mt (off the right edge of the image) and full blades visible, and partial towers of T3, T4 and T5 extending above and from behind the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh Mt directly behind, with full blades of all three visible. From this perspective, there is a degree of visual separation between the northern and southern turbines.		

Viewpoint 07: R466/SR-26, Ballyquin Beg	
	The blades of 1 no. permitted Carrownagowan turbine are visible to the left of the image 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative at 90°' in the saddle of lower ground.
Cumulative Context	Carrownagowan: In the wireline image (showing topography only), 1 out of 19 no. permitted Carrownagowan turbines (blade-tips only) is visible, at the far-left edge of the image at the top of the ridgeline in combination with the proposed turbines. Fahy Beg: Permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be located at the south end of Glenomra Valley on the lower slopes of Lackareagh Mt. On-site analysis determined that there will be no visibility of the permitted Fahy Beg turbines from this viewpoint due to screening from mature woodland to the east and south – the right side of the photomontage. Due to screening from landforms at the west of Glenomra Valley, the proposed Knockshanvo and Oatfield developments will not be visible from this location.
Cumulative Effects	The cumulative effects of permitted Carronagowan turbines are limited only blade-tips of one turbine. However, it is anticipated that permitted Fahy Beg turbines, located at the south end of Glenomra Valley off the right edge of the image, are likely to be visible sequentially with the proposed turbines in a journey scenario along SR-26.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: This viewpoint represents users of this portion of the SR-26. As such, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Moderate.** Rationale: All proposed turbines are prominently visible with mostly full towers and blades, though the number of turbines is few and their height is such that they sit appropriately to scale within the landscape. The distinct visual separation between the northern and southern proposed turbines is clear from this viewpoint and presents a small degree of visual disconnection, causing the development as a whole to be perceived as slightly unbalanced from this vantage point. In addition, the Proposed Grid Connection Route will follow L3022-8; however, the long-term effects are negligible due to the cabling being installed underground. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'.*

Viewpoint 07: R466/SR-26, Ballyquin Beg	
	Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are sited in sparsely settled upland landscape with adequate set-back distance from the high-sensitivity Scenic Route SR-26; › The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › The number of residential receptors is small due to the sparsely populated landscape; › The cumulative views with permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm comprise only blade tips of one turbine, thus cumulative effects with Carrownagowan are negligible; › The turbine hubs occur at a similar vertical profile to that of the most elevated landform, thereby providing some visual balance within the landscape; › This photomontage does not represent all views from SR-26, the proposed turbines will primarily be intermittently visible between areas of mature vegetation along the route; › Whilst SR-26 is a designated scenic route in the CCDP, it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or regional renown; › The proposed turbines are only impacting a small portion of the scenic route. This viewpoint is the first location on SR-26 where the proposed turbines are clearly visible by northbound travellers on the R466. Visibility of the proposed turbines is likely to be very limited along the stretch of road south of this viewpoint to Bridgetown due to dense hedgerows and trees lining the roadside; › Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.8 VP08: Bridgetown

Viewpoint 08: Bridgetown	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R466 Regional Road as it enters Bridgetown from the south, adjacent to the local school. › Located approximately 4.1km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).

Viewpoint 08: Bridgetown			
	▸ Grid Reference (ITM): E 564,545; N 667,908. ▸ No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-9 River Shannon Farmland: **Medium**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Bridgetown (Village): **Medium** R466 Regional Road: **Low** SR-26: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a short-range view of settlement infrastructure from within Bridgetown along the R466/Scenic Route SR-26, featuring a church property and its associated yard adjacent to a school and local residences amongst mature vegetation, with a very small portion of Lackareagh Mountain peak visible in the distance beyond the buildings. The key landscape feature is the flat region of the village which is well-developed with infrastructure and mature vegetation. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	4 out of 7 no. proposed turbines are visible, to a very small degree: In the centre of the image, only one very small blade tip of T6 is theoretically visible; in reality, it is screened by trees and built infrastructure. To the right-centre, the blade-tips of T4 and T3 are visible, and two nearly full blades of T5 are visible extending above and from behind the highest point of Lackareagh Mt. The permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be prominently visible in this view, as it is situated closer to the viewpoint, directly between the proposed turbines and the viewpoint, behind the settlement infrastructure.		
Cumulative Context	Fahy Beg: Immediately in front of the proposed turbines, all 8 no. Permitted Fahy Beg turbines can be seen, with 6 no. showing full towers/blades and 2 no. showing partial towers and full blades. The Fahy Beg turbines are prominently visible, in simultaneous view with the proposed turbines.** ***Important Note: This LVIA is **not** an impact assessment of the permitted Fahy Beg turbines; however, it considers the contribution of the proposed turbines to potential cumulative visual impact effects in combination with any permitted/proposed wind farm developments in the view, which includes the permitted Fahy Beg turbines. Please refer to the accompanying wireline image to see a baseline view of visible permitted Fahy Beg turbines (shown in red) from this viewpoint.*		
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines do not substantially contribute to the cumulative effects, as only blades and blade-tips will be visible directly behind the Fahy Beg turbines. The greatest magnitude of change is attributed to the permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm turbines, all of which have partial visibility of towers and primarily full blades in close proximity to the settlement infrastructure.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: This viewpoint represents receptors in the small settlement of Bridgetown; however, the proposed turbines are separated topographically, meaning they are sited on the other side of Lackareagh Mt from the settlement. The focus of views from this vantage point remains localised within the village infrastructure and amongst mature vegetation which visually screen distant views outside the settlement, thus all visible proposed turbines are sited outside the area of primary localised views. Whilst this viewpoint is located on SR-26, it		

Viewpoint 08: Bridgetown	
	is not considered to be a location of high sensitivity with regards to the quality of scenic landscape views. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Negligible.** Rationale: Whilst the cumulative effects are unavoidable due to the prominence of permitted Fahy Beg turbines, the proposed turbines are visible only in the form of partial blades of 2-3 no. and have a small contribution to visual effects from this viewpoint. The proposed turbines result in a very low-level of change to the baseline situation both before and after the permitted Fahy Beg turbines are built. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = 'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are topographically separated from the visual receptors by Lackareagh Mt; only blades are visible beyond the distant ridgeline; › The overall number of visible turbines (proposed turbines + cumulative) is few and all are partially visually screened by topography, infrastructure and mature vegetation, thus the internal focus of localised views is minimally impacted; › The proposed turbines are visible only to the degree of blades and blade-tips directly behind permitted Fahy Beg turbines, with some of the visible blades visually screened by vegetation, thereby resulting in simultaneous in combination cumulative effects. The proposed turbines have a very small contribution to the overall cumulative visual effect; › The proposed turbines are not sited within the primary views of the settlement, which are limited to localised internal views bounded by infrastructure and mature vegetation.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.9 VP09: O'Briensbridge Cross

Viewpoint 09: O'Briensbridge Cross			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the canal north of the village of O'Briensbridge, overlaps with Lough Derg Way. › Located approximately 5.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 565,823; N 666,960. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 5 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-9 River Shannon Farmland: **Medium**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	O'Briensbridge (Village): **Medium** Lough Derg Way walking route: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a medium-range view looking toward the southern slope of Lackareagh Mt north of the settlement of O'Briensbridge, situated south of the Headrace Canal and R463 Regional Road. To the right of Lackareagh Mt, the peak of Ballykildea Mt is visible in front of the more distant peak of Moylussa (both peaks of Slieve Bernagh range). In the immediate foreground of the image, the R466 bridge crosses the canal and overlaps with a portion of the Lough Derg Way national waymarked walking route. The key landscape feature is the prominent slopes of Lackareagh Mt forming a wide-arching mountain slope in the mid-range of the view. The key landscape characteristics are the contrasting landcover types across the slopes of Lackareagh including coniferous forestry and low-intensity agricultural land, which are visually dynamic to the mature vegetation of the settlement and manicured fields along the waterway and road system. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	5 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen extending above and from behind the distant ridgeline: Just to the right-centre of the image, the upper-most parts of the T5 and T3 towers are visible, each with two blades, and one partial blade of T4 is visible directly behind. To the left-centre of the image, only partial blades of T7 and one small blade-tip of T6 are visible. The permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be prominently visible in this view, as it is situated closer to the viewpoint, directly between the proposed turbines and the viewpoint, spread across the lower slope of Lackareagh Mt.		
Cumulative Context	Fahy Beg: Immediately in front and to the left of the proposed turbines, all 8 no. Permitted Fahy Beg turbines can be seen, with 6 no. showing full towers/blades and 2 no. showing partial towers and full blades. The Fahy Beg turbines are prominently visible, in simultaneous view with the blades and blade-tips of the proposed turbines.** ***Important Note: This LVIA is **not** an impact assessment of the permitted Fahy Beg turbines; however, it considers the contribution of the proposed turbines to potential cumulative visual impact effects in combination with any permitted/proposed wind farm developments in the view, which includes the permitted Fahy Beg turbines. Please refer to the accompanying wireline image to see a baseline view of visible permitted Fahy Beg turbines (shown in red) from this viewpoint.*		

Viewpoint 09: O'Briensbridge Cross	
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines do not substantially contribute to the cumulative effects, as the proposed turbines are situated on the far side of Lackareagh mountain peak inside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley and only blades and blade-tips will be visible directly behind the Fahy Beg turbines. The greatest magnitude of change is attributed to the permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm turbines, all of which have primarily full visibility of towers and full blades extending above the horizon/ridgeline.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: The scenic spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley is not visible from this vantage point; further, the Slieve Bernagh range is greater than 5km away and is situated topographically behind the slopes of Lackareagh Mt. Thus, although this viewpoint is located directly on Lough Derg Way walking trail, the primary views from the trail at this location are focussed away from the proposed turbines, looking to the south towards the River Shannon and Shannon Estuary. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: Whilst the cumulative effects are unavoidable due to the prominence of permitted Fahy Beg turbines across the lower slope of Lackareagh Mt, the proposed turbines are visible only in the form of partial blades of 2-3 no. beyond the distant ridgeline and contribute 'Slight' change to the cumulative visual effects. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines will have limited impact on the amenity afforded to the Lough Derg Way walking route by the Headrace Canal and Lough Derg; › The proposed turbines are viewed within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › The Lough Derg Way is 64km long and these visual effects will only impact a small portion of the route; › The proposed turbines are only partially visible beyond the distant ridgeline and have a very small contribution to the overall cumulative visual effect;

Viewpoint 09: O'Briensbridge Cross	
	› Visibility appraisals determined that visibility of the proposed turbines will be very limited from within the settlement of Obriensbridge.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.10 VP10: R463 East of O'Briensbridge

Viewpoint 10: R463 East of O'Briensbridge			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the R463 Regional Road east of O'Briensbridge, looking north to Slieve Bernagh range between roadside screenings. › Located approximately 5.5km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 566,660; N 667,512. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 5 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-9 River Shannon Farmland: **Medium**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	R463/SR-27: **High** Residences to the east of O'Briensbridge: **High/Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is primarily a mid-range view of agricultural farmland and mature vegetation borders outside the settlement of O'Briensbridge along the R463 Regional Road which contains a designated Scenic Route SR-27, with a distant view of Lackareagh Mt comprising a very small portion of the view on the horizon. The key landscape feature is the undulating flatlands of agricultural fields comprising the typical lowlands outside Glenomra Valley, below River Ardcloony valley east of the site. The key landscape characteristics are farmland fields and mature boundary vegetation, accentuated by occasional distant views of Slieve Bernagh range between thick pockets of mature vegetation. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	5 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen on the distant portion of Lackareagh Mt, extending above and from behind the ridgeline: To the right-centre of the image, the upper-most portion of the T5 and T3 towers can be seen, with two to three blades visible, and one blade-tip of T4 is visible. To the left-centre of the image, only two small blade tips of T6 and T7 are theoretically visible; in reality, these are visually screened by trees. No permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view owing to visual screening by vegetation, see explanation below.		

Viewpoint 10: R463 East of O'Briensbridge	
Cumulative Context	Permitted Fahy Beg: As shown by the wireline view, all 8 no. permitted Fahy Beg turbines are situated immediately in front (and left) of the proposed turbines, with six showing full towers/blades and two showing partial towers and full blades; however, all except the blades of one turbine are fully visually screened by mature boundary vegetation around farmlands. Proposed Knockshanvo and Proposed Oatfield Wind Farms: In the wireline image (showing topography only), a total of 5 no. proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield turbines are visible with partial towers/blades and blade-tips; however, these are fully visually screened by vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines do not substantially contribute to the cumulative effects, as the proposed turbines are situated on the far side of Lackareagh Mt peak inside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley and only blades and blade-tips will be visible directly behind the permitted Fahy Beg turbines. Further, the cumulative effects are minimalised at this viewpoint due to visual screening by mature boundary vegetation around the agricultural farmland fields. However, it is anticipated that sequential cumulative effects may arise in a journey scenario along the R463/SR-27 owing to multiple cumulative developments outside of Glenomra Valley.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: Residences at this location have moderately scenic medium-range views looking in the direction of the proposed turbines, towards the Slieve Bernagh range; however, these views are intermittent and primarily visually screened by roadside vegetation and mid-range mature boundary vegetation throughout the agricultural fields. Whilst this viewpoint is located on scenic route SR-27, this was the only location found where there is an open view towards Lackareagh Mt and the Proposed Wind Farm. On-site appraisal indicated that the scenic value of this route is on account of views over the River Shannon and Lower Lough Derg, which is in the opposite direction of the proposed turbines. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium' as this view does not represent the scenic sensitivities of the scenic route. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The proposed turbines will be partially visible at a sufficient distance to be perceptible, but without substantially altering the baseline view due to their being sited inside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley. The degree of contrast is low as the blades and blade tips do not greatly extend above the ridgeline/horizon. The greatest magnitude of change will be attributed to cumulative effects occurring due to permitted and proposed wind farms built outside Glenomra Valley. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*

Viewpoint 10: R463 East of O'Briensbridge	
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The proposed turbines are not within the primary focus of views from the Scenic Route SR-27, which comprise views in the opposite direction of the turbines, towards River Shannon and Lower Lough Derg; › The proposed turbines are visible only by blades and blade-tips due to their being sited inside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley; › The impact of cumulative views is lessened by the extensive visual screening by mature boundary vegetation in the short- and mid-range landscape of agricultural farmlands; › This photomontage does not represent most views from the Scenic Route SR-27, the proposed turbines will primarily be fully visually screened by areas of mature vegetation along the route; › The proposed turbines are viewed within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.11 **VP11: Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway**

Viewpoint 11: Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the Scenic Route V59/R504 Regional Road overpass on M7 Motorway at Cooleen, between Annaholty Bog and Ballinahinch. › Located approximately 9.2km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T5). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 570,695; N 666,098. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 5 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	T-LCA-12 River Shannon – Newport: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	M7 Motorway: **Low** Scenic View V59 (TCDP): **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a long-range view of the distant Slieve Bernagh range which forms the horizon/ridgeline as a background along the M7 national motorway, from an		

Viewpoint 11: Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway	
	elevated vantage point at the Cooleen crossing of the M7. This portion of the M7 overlaps with Co. Tipperary designated Scenic View V59 (TCDP), comprising views towards the south looking over the River Shannon. The foreground of the image comprises mature vegetation and sparse residential buildings typical of the low-land landscape outside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley to the south-east. The key landscape feature is the flat lowlands with occasional distant views of Slieve Bernagh range including Lackareagh Mt. The key landscape characteristics are mature vegetation and undulating topography which provide intermittent visual screening of distant views of Slieve Bernagh range. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	5 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen along the distant ridgeline of Lackareagh Mt with only three turbines being clearly visible: To the right-centre of the image, T3 is fully visible with tower and all full blades. T4 and T5 are visible with partial towers and full blades. T6 and T7 only have blade-tips visible. Primarily, most of the proposed turbines are concealed within the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley located on the far side of Lackareagh Mt peak. 1 no. permitted wind farm (Fahy Beg) and 2 no. proposed wind farms (Knockshanvo, Oatfield) are also visible in the view, see descriptions below.
Cumulative Context	Permitted Fahy Beg: Immediately to the left of the proposed turbines, all 8 no. turbines of permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm are visible with mostly full towers and full blades. All turbines of this permitted development clearly seen the ridgeline in the centre left of the photomontage. Proposed Knockshanvo and Oatfield: In the wireline image (showing topography only), all 9 no. proposed Knockshanvo and all 11 no. proposed Oatfield turbines are visible at the left of the image, with partial to full towers and full blades in successional view. However, these are partially visually screened by vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines contribute to cumulative views to a small degree, as 3 no. of the proposed turbines are clearly visible; however, the cumulative effects are lessened by substantial distance. In addition, all cumulative turbines are evenly spaced across the width of the view, in staggered layout both in front of and behind different ridgelines, thereby creating a relatively balanced layout that is appropriate in scale when all are viewed in combination. Finally, the cumulative effects are lessened by visual screening owing to mature boundary vegetation and undulating topography along the M7 route.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = Medium.** Rationale: Whilst this portion of the M7 motorway coincides with the designated Scenic View V59, the designated views of the route comprise the general surrounding landscape and include but are not focussed specifically in the direction of the proposed turbines. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'Medium'.

Viewpoint 11: Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway	
	For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The magnitude of change is primarily limited owing to the distance to the site from the vantage point. Further, the proposed turbines do not substantially contribute to cumulative views since they are sited inside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley, and the overall M7 motorway and coinciding scenic route are heavily visually screened by roadside vegetation and undulating low-land topography. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Mitigation Factors	› All visual effects of the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are substantially reduced by distance as well as heavy visual screening by roadside vegetation and undulations in lowland topography; › The proposed turbines are viewed within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › All visual effects of the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are well accommodated within the upland landscape as the turbines are evenly spaced across the width of the view, in staggered layout both in front of and behind different ridgelines, thereby creating a relatively balanced layout that is appropriate in scale; › The cumulative effects are lessened by visual screening owing to mature boundary vegetation and undulating topography along the M7 motorway route; › The number of visible proposed turbines is few and most turbines are concealed within the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley on the far side of Lackareagh Mt peak; › This photomontage does not represent all views from Scenic View V59, views in the direction of the proposed turbines from much of the route is visually screened by dense vegetation; › The designated views of V59 comprise the general surrounding landscape and include but are not focussed specifically in the direction of the proposed turbines.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.*

Viewpoint 11: Scenic Route V59/M7 Motorway	
	Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.12 VP12: Limerick City, Thomond Bridge

Viewpoint 12: Limerick City, Thomond Bridge			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from Limerick City at Thomond Bridge next to King John's Castle, looking north-east over River Shannon. › Located approximately 15.3km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 557,519; N 657,843. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 7 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-City (composed of Urban Character Areas): **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	King John's Castle: **High** Businesses, Pedestrians and Residences in Limerick City: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a multi-range view from within Limerick City overlooking the River Shannon and developed riverbanks in the foreground (mid-range) with Slieve Bernagh range comprising a very small proportion of views at great distance on the horizon (long-range). Whilst the vantage point allows for full visibility looking into the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley from the south, the substantial distance ensures that the valley comprises only a very small proportion of the view, thus the distant mountains are not a key focus of the view. The key landscape feature is the River Shannon passing through the city. The key landscape characteristics are the attractive developed riverbanks including vegetation, castle grounds and local businesses. 1 no. existing wind farm (single turbine) is visible in the view: Parteen, with its full blades extending above the city infrastructure in the mid-range views as well as above the distant horizon behind it. Most of its tower is visually screened by vegetation and city infrastructure.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 7 no. proposed turbines are visible in the centre-right of the image at a distance such that towers and blades are lower than the horizon/ridgeline comprising Slieve Bernagh range. Only one proposed turbine, T3, shows full blades extending above the horizon. Primarily, the proposed turbines are difficult to see owing to the substantial distance to the site. 2 no. proposed wind farms (Knockshanvo, Oatfield) and 2 no. permitted wind farms (Carrownagowan, Fahy Beg) are theoretically visible in succession across the distant landscape. In addition, proposed Ballycar Wind Farm will also be visible to the left of the view, in succession with all other cumulative wind farms, at a similar substantial distance.		

Viewpoint 12: Limerick City, Thomond Bridge	
Cumulative Context	Primarily, the cumulative turbines are visible only as partial towers, blades, and blade-tips at great distance from the viewpoint, staggered across the landscape both in front of and behind distant ridgelines. In some cases, the turbine towers and blades do not extend above the horizon, while in other cases full towers/blades can be seen above the horizon line with a low degree of contrast to the sky owing to the substantial distance. The most prominent of cumulative turbines belong to permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm, situated at the right-centre, directly in front of proposed turbines T4 and T5 and thereby drawing focus. The permitted Fahy Beg turbines are primarily showing full towers and blades. In addition, 2 no. turbines of proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm are prominent at the left-centre, as they show mostly full towers and blades above the horizon line at relatively closer proximity than the other cumulative turbines. Most of the proposed Ballycar Wind Farm turbines are theoretically visually prominent and relatively closer proximity than the other cumulative turbines and although not seen in this view, they will be clearly seen from the other end of the bridge (eastern side).
Cumulative Effects	Primarily, all cumulative visual effects are lessened by substantial distance and by localised visual screening from mature vegetation and city infrastructure. The cumulative developments are well accommodated in the large-scale upland landscape of the Slieve Bernagh Uplands. The staggered layout of turbines both in front of and behind distant ridges creates an overall balanced effect at appropriate scale for the distant landscape.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: A low-level change in views occurs; however, views from this point looking towards the proposed turbines are at a great distance and are not of particular focus owing to the flat, lowland landscape. The vantage point is located on a well-trafficked bridge adjacent to a popular tourist destination castle and associated local businesses such as restaurants. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High' on account of the sensitive cultural heritage and popular tourist destination of King John's Castle, which is located behind this viewpoint. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Slight.** Rationale: The proposed turbines are partially seen at great distance and result in a low level of change in the view when considered in combination with cumulative existing, proposed and permitted turbines. The character of the view will remain similar to the baseline situation, and the main focus of views is localised to the River Shannon corridor and developed riverbanks. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Minor/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)**

Viewpoint 12: Limerick City, Thomond Bridge	
	'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'. Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› All visual effects of the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are substantially reduced by distance; › The proposed turbines are viewed within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › All visual effects of the proposed turbines and cumulative wind farms are lessened by the turbines being evenly spaced across the width of the view, in staggered layout both in front of and behind different ridgelines, thereby creating a relatively balanced layout that is appropriate in scale; › The cumulative effects are lessened by localised visual screening owing to mature vegetation and infrastructure along the riverscape of Limerick City; › The proposed turbines are not within the primary focus of views, which comprise short-range views of River Shannon and developed riverbanks; › This is one of the few open views towards the Proposed Wind Farm available in Limerick City (as also demonstrated by photowires PW-Q and PW-R included in *Appendix 14-5: Photowire Visualisation Booklet*), with the proposed turbines generally visually screened from view by built environment from the majority of the city and residential surrounds.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.13 VP13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Four views A/B/C/D: from Killeagy/The Gap Road/East Clare Way, centre of the site, between the turbines. › Located 360m north-west of proposed turbine T6. › Grid Reference (ITM): E 563,171; N 672,615. › **View 13A north-west: T1, T2**. No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 2 (out of 7). › **View 13B east: T3, T4, T5**. No. of turbines visible: 3 (out of 7). › **View 13C south-east: T6, T7**. No. of turbines visible: 2 (out of 7). › **View 13D south-west: into Glenomra Valley**. No. of turbines visible: 0.

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)			
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	The Gap Road/L7080 Local Road: **Low** Killeagy residences: **High** East Clare Way: **High**
Description of 'Existing Views' (Four Views)	**View 13A:** Situated directly on East Clare Way, this is a multi-range view of moderately steep slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt with low-intensity agricultural land and mature vegetation (short-range) set against a distant view of Slieve Bernagh range (long-range) forming the north-side enclosure of Glenomra Valley at the left of the image. The key landscape feature is the mountainous ridgeline in the distance with undulating peaks sloping down into the Glenomra Valley spatial enclosure. The key landscape characteristics are the dynamic landcover types evident on both the Glenagalliagh slopes in the foreground and Glenomra Valley slopes in the distance, comprising low-intensity agriculture and coniferous forestry. Sparse settlements can be seen in Glenomra Valley in the distance at the left edge of the image. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. **View 13B:** Situated directly on East Clare Way, this is a short-range view of the upper slope of Glenagalliagh Mt, just below its peak (off the left edge of the image). The key landscape feature is the wide, sweeping slope that fills nearly the entire view. The peak of Lackareagh Mt is also visible at the far-right edge of the image. The key landscape characteristics are the low-intensity agricultural land with occasional patches of low and mature boundary vegetation in dynamic contrast with coniferous forestry landcover on the higher slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. **View 13C:** Situated directly on East Clare Way, this is a multi-range view of the peak and lower slopes of Lackareagh Mt (mid-range) comprising most of the image, with distant views looking south through Glenomra Valley toward the River Shannon lowlands (long-range) at the right of the image. The key landscape feature is the wide, sweeping slopes of Lackareagh Mt which extend from the peak all the way down to the valley floor, comprising the east-side boundary of the Glenomra Valley spatial enclosure. The key landscape characteristics are the contrasting landcover types of coniferous forestry at the peak of Lackareagh Mt transitioning to low-intensity agricultural land on the lower slopes. No existing wind farms are visible in the view. **View 13D:** Situated directly on East Clare Way, this is a long-range view overlooking Glenomra Valley to its western side, featuring views of lowlands on the valley floor topped by undulating mountain ridgelines (Formoyle More, Ballyquin Beg, Cloonyconry More, etc.) with Broadford Gap marking the north-west end of Glenomra Valley opening up to drumlin landscapes beyond and the slopes of Slieve Bernagh range at the right of the image. Directly behind the undulating mountain ridgelines, the higher peaks of Knockshanvo and Knockanuarha can be seen in the distance. The key landscape features include the Broadford Gap and distant landscapes beyond, as well as the valley floor of Glenomra Valley itself, sweeping up to undulating mountain ridgelines behind on the valley's west side. The key landscape characteristics include the lowland agricultural fields within Broadford Gap transitioning to drumlin landscapes outside/beyond Glenomra Valley, as well as the dynamic landcover types of low-intensity agriculture transitioning to coniferous forestry in the uplands, with patches of open land near the highest peaks. Sparse settlements can be seen		

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)	
	along the valley floor amongst mature vegetation. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Descriptions (Four Views) + Cumulative Context	**View 13A:** The northern turbines T1 and T2 are visible, as well as the Met Mast. T1 and T2 are situated in close proximity to each other with partial towers and full blades visible above the short-range horizon of the Glenagalliagh Mt slope. T1 and T2 are situated at mid-range distance in the image, partially screened by the mountain slope with mature vegetation. To the left and down-slope from T2, the Met Mast is visible as a relatively smaller (shorter) thin, vertical tower which is not prominently noticeable in the landscape owing to its size and position in relation to the proposed turbines. **Cumulative**: No existing or proposed wind farms are visible; however, two full blades of 1 no. turbine of permitted Carrownagowan Wind Farm can be seen extending above the distant horizon at the left-centre of the image, viewed in combination (simultaneous) with the proposed turbines. **View 13B:** At the left of the image, one blade-tip of proposed turbine T3 is visible just above the ridgeline. In the image centre, the full blades of T4 are prominently visible above the ridgeline, with most of the tower visually screened by coniferous forestry. At the right of the image, T5 is prominently visible with its partial tower and full blades above the lower part of the slope. **Cumulative**: No existing, proposed, or permitted wind farms are visible in this view. **View 13C:** In the centre of the view, proposed turbines T6 and T7 are prominently visible in very close proximity, with nearly full towers and full blades extending well above the horizon line of Lackareagh Mt slope. The turbines are clearly anchored within low-intensity agriculture landcover and the blades extend well into the skyline with high contrast. **Cumulative**: No existing or proposed wind farms are visible; however, 2 no. turbines of permitted Fahy Beg Wind Farm are clearly visible with full towers/blades at the bottom of the lower slope of Lackareagh Mt in succession with the proposed turbines; in addition, blade-tips of other permitted Fahy Beg turbines can be seen extending above the horizon at the centre of the image, in simultaneous view directly behind the proposed turbines. **View 13D:** The proposed turbines are not visible in this view; however, all proposed turbines (except T3) will be visible in succession from this point if the viewer turns in a circle—as described above in Views 13A, 13B and 13C. **Cumulative**: No existing or permitted wind farms are visible; however, nearly all turbines of proposed Ballycar, proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield wind farms are visible in succession along the distant ridgelines beyond the west edge of Glenomra Valley. These are described as follows: Proposed Ballycar Wind Farm can be seen at the left of the image at the greatest distance, with its turbines staggered in front of and behind distant ridgelines showing some full towers and full blades above the horizon. At the image centre, proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield wind farms can be seen simultaneously, appearing as a single combined development with turbines at varying distances staggered in front of and behind ridgelines. A small number of their turbines can be seen with full towers and blades extending above the horizon, with the majority of their turbines showing only blades extending above the horizon.

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)	
Cumulative Effects	It is anticipated that cumulative views will occur in succession with the proposed turbines in 360-degrees from this vantage point; in some cases, only blade tips will be seen from behind mid-range or distant peaks, and in other cases, full turbine towers and blades will be seen along distant peaks. Of the proposed turbines, only T6 and T7 will be seen in very close proximity to the viewer with nearly full towers and full blades prominently in the view. Proposed turbine T3 is not visible from this specific point owing to visual screening by mature vegetation; however, T3 will be partially visible from other nearby locations along the same road, at a similar size and scale to turbines T4 and T5. As demonstrated by the multiple fields of view, cumulative visual effects have the potential to occur across the upland landscape of LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands, a landscape area where wind energy is envisioned in local planning policy (CWES). Notably, all developments shown in View 13D are other 'proposed' developments and the likelihood of these cumulative effects occurring in combination with the Proposed Project is uncertain, as they are reliant on an outcome of the consenting system, amongst other factors.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: The primary key receptor** at this viewpoint is the East Clare Way walking route which passes directly between the turbines. The portion of East Clare Way within the Proposed Wind Farm is only a very small proportion (2.3km) of the larger trail (180km) and is not well-trafficked or easily accessible at this location. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'. ***Other receptors include approximately 3 no. residences in the townland of Killeagy located off this road between this viewpoint and the crossroads in Kilbane, this viewpoint is not necessarily representative of views from those receptors due to the level of screening present and the location of the viewpoint in closer proximity to the proposed turbines than these receptors which are set back approximately 750m west of this viewpoint. Effects on these receptors are comprehensively discussed in Section 13.7.3.2.3 'Residential Visual Amenity' of Chapter 13.* For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Substantial.** Rationale: Taking into account the cumulative effects of permitted and proposed wind farms in combination with the proposed turbines, it is found that turbines are to be seen both in close proximity as well as in the distance from almost all directions/vantage points of the viewpoint. The proposed turbines are unavoidably in close proximity, with some full towers and full blades prominently positioned above ridgelines in mid-range view. In the immediate vicinity of the viewer, the number of proposed turbines is few, and the visible cumulative turbines of proposed wind farms on the far side of Glenomra Valley are limited to relatively small size owing to the great distance. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)	
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› The portion of East Clare Way national walking trail which passes through the Proposed Wind Farm is only a very small portion (2.3km) of the total length of the trail (180km) and it is a remote location where the trail is not easily accessible; › The proposed turbines are located at high elevation and are seen on the upper slopes of Glenomra Valley. Consequently, the integrity of more scenic views through the valley itself are retained as the long-ranging views toward the River Shannon in the south and through Broadford Gap to the west are unobstructed by the proposed turbines. › All turbines of other proposed wind farms on the far side of Glenomra Valley are sited in upland ridges and landscapes and therefore do not detract from attractive views of Glenomra Valley lowlands; › The proposed turbines exhibit irregular spacing along a ridgeline in a semi-clustered layout within different landscape types which is appropriate for undulating terrain of this landscape type according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines and all other visible developments are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › The number of proposed turbines in very close proximity exhibiting prominent change is few, and no proposed turbines are obstructing the open, long-range views of Broadford Gap and drumlin landscapes beyond which are the primary focus of views from this vantage point; › It is proposed to add an informational viewpoint on East Clare Way near VP13 to provide signage on wind energy as well as a specific vantage point from which to view Glenomra Valley and its primary focus of views such as Broadford Gap and drumlin landscapes beyond; › As part of road upgrades to facilitate construction of the Proposed Project, it is proposed to widen the local road in the vicinity of VP13, thereby widening East Clare Way and improving safety for walking route users during the operational phase (post construction); › All visual effects of cumulative wind farms are substantially reduced by distance; › The impact of cumulative views is lessened by the multiple developments being evenly spaced across the whole view—this avoids clustering of turbines in any one area and therefore does not detract from the wide, open views of Glenomra Valley, Broadford Gap and drumlin landscapes beyond which are the focus of views from this vantage point; › Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019).

Viewpoint 13: Killeagy/East Clare Way (Views 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D)	
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

1.4.14 VP14: Kilbane (Views 14A, 14B)

Viewpoint 14: Kilbane (Views 14A, 14B)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Two views A/B: from the L3022-8 local road immediately south of Kilbane village. › Located approximately 1.1km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 562,098; N 672,502. › **View 14A looking north: T1, T2**. No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 2 (out of 7). › **View 14B looking east: T3, T4, T5, T6, T7**. No. of turbines visible: 5 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Kilbane (Small Village): **High** Regional/Local Roads: **Medium** East Clare Way: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing Views' (Two Views)	**View 14A:** This is a mid-range view from Kilbane village of rural agricultural farmlands topped by undulating ridges of Slieve Bernagh range comprising Cragnamurragh in the centre and Glenagalliagh Mt peak at the right of the image. Sparse settlements can be seen amongst mature vegetation in the foreground. The key landscape feature is the mountainous ridgeline forming the northern boundary of the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley. The key landscape characteristics are the low-intensity agricultural land with boundary vegetation transitioning to rugged upland landscapes. Thick non-harvested coniferous forestry landcover can be seen covering Glennagalliagh Mt peak. **View 14B:** This is a mid-range view from Kilbane village of rural low-intensity agricultural lands across the lower slopes of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt, looking up through the topographical saddle between the two peaks. The key landscape features are Glennagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt peaks comprising an undulating ridgeline with the saddle, forming the eastern boundary of the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley. The key landscape characteristics are the landcover comprising low-intensity agriculture with mature boundary vegetation and large patches of upland mountain vegetation. Tracts of harvested and non-harvested coniferous forestry can be discerned along the uppermost slopes of Glennagalliah Mt and Lackareagh Mt peaks. Cumulative: No existing wind farms are visible in either View 14A or 14B.		

Viewpoint 14: Kilbane (Views 14A, 14B)	
Proposed Photomontage Descriptions (Two Views) + Cumulative Context	**View 14A:** In the centre of the image, the northern turbines T1 and T2, as well as the Met Mast, are visible. T1 and T2 show full towers and blades, in front of Cragnamurragh, with Slieve Bernagh range in the background at the left and Glenagalliagh Mt in the background at the right. T1 and T2 are visible at such a height that the towers and hubs extend just above the horizon, and two out of three full blades are entirely above the horizon most of the time. To the right and downslope of T2, the Met Mast can be seen as a relatively smaller (shorter) thin, vertical tower. **Cumulative:** No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the view. **View 14B:** All 5 no. southern turbines T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7 are visible. In the left-centre of the image, partial towers with nearly full blades of T3, T4 and T5 can be seen extending above and from behind the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh Mt. Of these, T5 is most prominently visible as it is positioned within the saddle between Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt peaks with full tower and blades extending above the ridgeline. To the right-centre of the image, the full towers and blades of T6 and T7 are visible in front of Lackareagh Mt. T6 and T7 are visible at such a height that the towers and hubs extend just above the horizon, and two out of three full blades are entirely above the horizon most of the time. **Cumulative:** 3 out of 8 no. permitted Fahy Beg turbines are visible successionally at the far-left edge of the image from behind the ridgeline of Lackareagh Mt. One turbine shows only a blade-tip, and two turbines show a partial tower with two full blades.
Cumulative Effects	Permitted Fahy Beg: Due to the cumulative view of turbines being composed of one blade-tip and two partial turbines mostly concealed behind Lackareagh Mt peak at the south end of Glenomra Valley, the cumulative effects with permitted Fahy Beg turbines are deemed to be negligible. Ballycar: There may also be a small degree of visibility of proposed Ballycar turbines located to the south-west, outside the spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley. Finally, it is noted that graphical modelling as part of the photomontage visual analysis determined that the proposed Knockshanvo and proposed Oatfield developments will not be visible due to topographical visual screening by the prominent ridgeline which forms the western side of Glenomra Valley.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: The receptors include residences of Kilbane village which are located within the EIAR Site Boundary, as well as users of local and regional roads and users of East Clare Way that passes through Kilbane and back up into Slieve Bernagh Uplands. The primary views of residences are focussed in multiple directions, including both looking away from and looking toward the proposed turbines. The population is sparse with residences situated along local road networks, some amongst mature vegetation. Local and regional roads are not well-trafficked and the portion of East Clare Way passing through the Proposed Wind Farm comprises a very small portion (2.3km) of the total length of trail (180km). The portion of trail passing through Kilbane lacks the wide-open views of the upper part of the trail as it is a transit pass between mountainous areas. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'.

Viewpoint 14: Kilbane (Views 14A, 14B)	
	For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology.*
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Substantial.** Rationale: Taking into account the cumulative effects of permitted and proposed wind farms in combination with the proposed turbines, it is found that turbines are to be seen both in mid-range proximity as well as in the distance from two directions of the viewpoint: proposed turbines to the east; cumulative turbines to the south-west. The proposed turbines are prominent at mid-range proximity with partial towers and some full blades prominently positioned above ridgelines. The number of proposed turbines is few and their spacing is staggered across the ridgeline both in front of and behind the ridgeline and between peaks at varying elevations in varying landcover types. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment'.* Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019); › The number of visible proposed turbines is few and they are balanced within the landscape both in front of and behind the undulating ridgeline which is the focus of views from this viewpoint; › The small number of proposed turbines ensures that 'visual complexity' is avoided, and that the scale of the landscape and human activities is 'responds sensitively' to the 'intimate' spatial enclosure of Glenomra Valley according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within relatively open and extensive upper ground on the upper slopes of Glenomra Valley, thereby being appropriately scaled and set-back and achieving visual balance according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines exhibit irregular spacing along a ridgeline in a clustered layout within different landscape types which is appropriate for undulating terrain of this landscape type according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › Adequate visual separation between the northern and southern proposed turbines minimises visual confusion such as blade-sets crossing as skylines or varied landcover according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs for 'Transitional Marginal Landscape' character type;

Viewpoint 14: Kilbane (Views 14A, 14B)	
	› The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES); › The portion of East Clare Way national walking trail which passes through Kilbane is only a very small portion (2.3km) of the total length of the national trail (180km) and comprises a transit section between mountainous areas.
Residual Visual Effect: VP14	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Turbine Envelope Range: View 14B	
View 14B: Assessment of Turbine Envelope Range	**View 14B** was utilised to assess the potential visual impacts of the full range of proposed turbine scenarios: Maximum Scenario 1, Minimum Scenario 2 (refer to Section 13.1.3.2 'Range of Turbine Dimensions Assessed in this Chapter' of the main Chapter). The visuals in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* show that there is barely a discernible difference between the different turbine ranges. In View 14B, the difference is only just evident with the aid of a comparative wireline, particularly when looking at the horizontally orientated blades of T3 and T4 at the left of the imagery and T7 at the right of the imagery, and the two horizontal blades of T6 in the image centre. Irrespective of which range is used, the determination of residual visual effects in this table will not be altered.

1.4.15 VP15: Aillemore - Lower

Viewpoint 15: Aillemore - Lower			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from residences on the lower portion of Aillemore road, on the eastern slope of Glenagalliagh Mt, outside Glenomra Valley in River Arcloony valley. › Located approximately 1.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 565,373; N 673,236. › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 7).		
LCA and Sensitivity	C-LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands: **Low**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Residences along local roads: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This is a mid-range view from River Ardcloony valley, immediately east and outside of Glenomra Valley, looking up at the eastern slope of Glenagalliagh Mt and the topographical saddle between it and Lackareagh Mt peak positioned at the left of the image. Low-intensity agricultural lands with mature		

Viewpoint 15: Aillemore - Lower	
	boundary vegetation comprise the lower slopes which transition to coniferous forestry landcover at the top of the peaks. The key landscape features are the two peaks of Glenagalliagh Mt and Lackareagh Mt with the topographical saddle in between, forming an undulating ridgeline that leads up and over the top of the ridge into Glenomra Valley. The key landscape characteristic is the tracts of harvested and non-harvested coniferous forestry comprising the majority of landcover across the top of both peaks as well as in the saddle between. No existing wind farms are visible in the view.
Proposed Photomontage Description	4 out of 7 no. proposed turbines can be seen: To the left of the topographical saddle on Lackareagh Mt slope, the full tower and blades of turbine T5 are exposed above the horizon. To the right of the saddle on Glenagalliagh Mt slope, T4 is visible with full tower and blades exposed above the horizon. Closer to the peak of Glenagalliagh Mt, T3 is visible with full tower and blades exposed above the horizon. T3, T4 and T5 are all anchored within commercial forestry landcover that will not be substantially visually altered. At the left-centre of the image, in the saddle between T5 and T4, one partial blade of T6 is visible from behind the ridgeline.
Cumulative Context	No existing or proposed wind farms are visible from this viewpoint. Graphical modelling as part of the photomontage visual analysis determined that the permitted Fahy Beg turbines will not be visible due to topographical visual screening by Lackareagh Mt peak.
Cumulative Effects	No cumulative wind farms are visible from this viewpoint, thus no cumulative effects will occur.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Sensitivity = High.** Rationale: The residences along this and adjacent local roads have primary views focussed towards the proposed turbines on the ridgeline of Glenagalliagh and Lackareagh Mt and the topographical saddle in between them. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be 'High'. For the definition of this sensitivity rating, refer to Section 1.7.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Magnitude of Change	**Magnitude = Moderate.** Rationale: While some of the proposed turbines are prominently visible with mostly full towers and full blades above the horizon, the number of visible proposed turbines is few and they are staggered across the view of the ridgeline in similar scale with each other, creating a sense of balance. From this vantage point, the River Ardcloony valley can be considered a small-sized or 'intimate' spatial enclosure, similar to the adjacent Glenomra Valley. For the definition of this magnitude rating, refer to Section 1.7.2: Magnitude of Visual Change in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022)**

Viewpoint 15: Aillemore - Lower	
	'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment'. Refer to Section 1.7.3: Visual Effects Assessment Matrix in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the proposed turbines adheres to the >500m set-back distance from residential receptors recommended in the WEDGS (DoEHLG, 2006) and the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance in the Draft Revised WEDGs (DoPHLG, 2019); › While the focussed views of residences are unavoidably altered by the proposed turbines, the number of affected residences is few; › The number of proposed turbines is few and they are staggered across the view of the ridgeline in similar scale with each other, creating a sense of balance; › The small number of proposed turbines ensures that 'visual complexity' is avoided, and that the scale of the landscape and human activities is 'responds sensitively' to the 'intimate' spatial enclosure setting of River Ardcloony valley, according to the recommendations in the WEDGs and Draft Revised WEDGs; › The proposed turbines are sited within LCA-8 Slieve Bernagh Uplands which is afforded the lowest sensitivity classification in the CCDP and is classified as having good capacity to absorb wind energy developments (CWES).
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors **'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8: Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects in *Appendix 13-1: LVIA Methodology*.

Turbine Envelope Range: VP15	
VP15: Assessment of Turbine Envelope Range	**Viewpoint VP15** was utilised to assess the potential visual impacts of the full range of proposed turbine scenarios: Maximum Scenario 1, Minimum Scenario 2 (refer to Section 13.1.3.2 'Range of Turbine Dimensions Assessed in this Chapter' of the main Chapter). The visuals in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* show that there is barely a discernible difference between the different turbine ranges. In VP15, the difference is only just evident with the aid of a comparative wireline, particularly when looking at the horizontally orientated blades of T3 and T4 in the imagery. Irrespective of which range is used, the determination of residual visual effects in this table will not be altered.

APPENDIX 13-3

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