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Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development EIAR

Appendix 13-3

Photomontage Assessment Tables



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PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 16 No. Viewpoints aided by the photomontage visualisations presented in ELAR Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the photomontage booklet. The Table below provides location information about the 16 no. Viewpoints assessed.

Table 1 - Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP1	View from a local road in the townland of Tullaroan, located approximately 2.8km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 637,813 N: 656,911
VP2	View from a local road in the townland of Banse Glebe, located approximately 820m southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 638,320 N: 653,274
VP3	View from a local road in the townland of Ballybeagh, located approximately 6.1km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 634,414 N: 658,178
VP4	View from a local road in the townland of Oldtownhill, located approximately 800 metres north of the nearest proposed turbine (T2).	E: 639,907 N: 655,790
VP5	View from a local road in the townland of Aharney, County Laois, located approximately 18.5km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). This viewpoint is located at a designated protected view in the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (hereafter referred to as LCDP).	E: 639,415 N: 673,622
VP6	View from a local road in the townland of Oldtown, located approximately 870m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 638,658 N: 654,649
VP7	View from a local road in the townland of Finnan, located approximately 18.7km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). This viewpoint is located at a designated protected view in the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-2027 (Hereafter referred to as KCDP).	E: 647,333 N: 672,398
VP8	View from a local road in the townland of Corstown, located approximately 1.9km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E: 642,269 N: 655,367
VP9	View from a local road in the townland of Knockeenglass, located approximately 1.4km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). This viewpoint is located at a designated protected view in the KCDP.	E: 640,494 N: 652,837
VP10	View from the N10 national road in the townland of Outrath (close to Kilkenny city), located approximately 10.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E: 651,014 N: 651,859
VP11	View from the R695 regional road on the outskirts of Kilmanagh, in the townland of Knockeenbaun, located approximately 1.6km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 639,340 N: 652,015

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP12	View from outside St. Aidan's National School on the R695 regional road in the townland of Kilmanagh, located approximately 1.4m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 639,151 N: 652,269
VP13	View from local road in the townland of Kilmanagh, located approximately 1.3km metres from nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 639,050 N: 652,333
VP14	View from Kells Priory in the townland of Glebe, located approximately 14.9km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 649,714 N: 643,108
VP15	View from the N76 national road in the townland of Riversfield, located approximately 11.2km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E: 640,190 N: 642,433
VP16	View from the N76 national road in the townland of Killamery, located approximately 18.3km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). This viewpoint is located at a designated protected view in the KCDP.	E: 636,875 N: 635,417

Viewpoint Selection

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a highly detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Many locations, which based on desktop review had the potential for views of the Site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the Proposed Wind Farm. In certain instances, viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet as a nearby viewpoint more appropriate in relation to the nearby receptors was produced instead. The Photomontages presented in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet are assessed in the tables below therefore show some of the most open views of the Proposed Wind Farm from sensitive visual receptors.

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the ‘Assessing Visual Effects’ methodology set out in Section 1.6.2 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Wind Farm are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their interactions with the Proposed Wind Farm. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document use the photomontages in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. Potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the ‘Magnitude of change’ row in each impact assessment table and are considered in the ‘Residual Visual Effect’ determination given for each Viewpoint.

Blue Sky Background

At a pre-planning consultation meeting that took place on 29th February 2024, a representative from Kilkenny County Council requested that photomontages be shown on a blue-sky background. The photomontages shown in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet are shown with the unedited sky in accordance with best practice guidance. However, in order to fulfil the specific request of KCC, a dedicated blue-sky photomontage booklet (Volume 3 of this EIAR) has been included with this application, with each of the 90° Photomontages reproduced with a simulated blue-sky background.

Viewpoint Assessments

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Viewpoint 1 - Tullaroan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Tullaroan. Located approximately 2.8km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). Grid Reference: E: 637,813 N: 656,911 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Tullaroan – Medium Receptors travelling along the local road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This view looks over a flat agricultural field bordered by a low stone wall and lines of deciduous treelines and hedgerows. The local road, as well as a narrow footpath is visible across the foreground of the image. A gap in the treelines at the end of the field also permits longer-ranging views of an undulating agricultural landscape in the background. Several residential and farm buildings seen to the left of the view contribute to the agricultural landscape</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All 7 no. of the proposed turbines are visible in the centre background of this view. Five of the proposed turbines are visible almost to their full extent, with the blades of two of the other proposed turbines visible above the trees. From this orientation, the clustered layout of the proposed turbines appears as separate clusters within the view, separated by the treelines. No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>Medium: This viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity on account of Tullaroan village.</p>		
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>Slight: The proposed turbines in view are seen as relatively small scaled vertical features over a small horizontal extent, set-back from the viewpoint location and Tullaroan.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. 		

Viewpoint 1 - Tullaroan	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

Viewpoint 2 – Banse Glebe			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Banse Glebe. Located approximately 820m southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 638,320 Y: 653,274 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Road – Low Residential Receptors – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This image shows a medium ranging view of the landscape from a local road overlooking agricultural fields within a depression. The fields are primarily bordered by dense vegetation and treelines. The topography begins to slope downwards away from this viewpoint and gently rises again in the background of the image, creating a gently undulating landscape in the background. An agricultural building can be seen to the left of the image whilst dense vegetation is visible to the right of the image.</p> <p>No existing wind farm developments are visible in this view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven proposed turbines are visible within a depression in the topography, with the proposed turbines occupying a limited horizontal extent within the view. Some visual stacking occurs between turbines T4, T5 and T7 although this effect will differ depending on the exact viewing location. The hubs and blades of the proposed turbines extend above the skyline. The proposed met mast is visible to the right of turbine T07 as a slender vertical feature.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind farm developments visible from this viewpoint. No cumulative effects will occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Moderate: The proposed turbines are seen to introduce novel elements into the view and are visible in close proximity to the viewpoint but are seen over a limited horizontal extent.		

Viewpoint 2 – Banse Glebe	
Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. This location provides one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines from along this local road, with buildings and high levels of vegetation providing substantial screening in the direction of the proposed turbines from other locations. Siting of the proposed turbines in a sparsely settled landscape with a relatively lower elevation than the surrounding area reduces the visual prominence and the perceived height of the proposed turbines. The baseline view is generally unremarkable and is typical of many other views of agricultural fields within the surrounding area.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>

Viewpoint 3 - Ballybeagh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Ballybeagh. Located approximately 6.1km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). Grid Reference: E: 634,415 N: 658,178 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South)– Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Receptors travelling along the local road – Low
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This long ranging view looks from an elevated section of a local road and shows a long-ranging view over a rolling agricultural landscape with fields bordered by dense hedgerows and treelines. The higher elevated sections of the Slieveardagh hills are seen to the right-hand side of the view, featuring large tracts of commercial forestry. A tract of commercial forestry is also visible in the centre midground. The Blackstairs mountains and associated ridgelines are seen in the distant background to the left-hand side of the view.</p> <p>The existing Foyle turbines are visible in the right background of the view. The existing Ballybay turbines are also visible from this viewpoint although they are located beyond the right-hand extent of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All 7 No. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view, primarily seen within a valley created by the surrounding topography in the centre background, with the landform gently rising on either side of the proposed turbines. There is visual overlap between the turbine components of proposed turbines T1 and T2, although this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location. The proposed</p>		

Viewpoint 3 - Ballybeagh	
	<p>turbines are seen as small features in the background of the view and comprise a limited horizontal extent of this view. The proposed met mast is visible as a slender vertical feature to the left of turbine T03 within the agricultural fields, though it is barely discernible at this distance.</p> <p>The permitted Foyle and Kyleballyoughter turbines are visible in the right background of the view. The Proposed Freneystown Wind Farm (Pre-App SID) is located in the far left of the image, partially screened by vegetation in the foreground of the image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed in combination with the existing Foyle turbines, these will be viewed in in a similar direction. The existing Foyle, permitted Foyle and Kyleballyoughter wind turbines are visible in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although there is a large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines from this viewpoint. The Proposed Freneystown Wind Farm (Pre-App SID) is situated to the far left of the proposed turbines in the distant background of the wireline view, though vegetation largely screens the proposed Freneystown turbines from view.</p> <p>The proposed turbines add to the extent of turbines visible from this viewpoint, however at this distance they assimilate into the view, with the topographical features emphasising the separation between the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines. The expansive, rolling nature of the view seen here creates a sense of large area of space in which the addition of the Proposed Wind Farm does not result in substantial levels of turbines seen across the entirety of the view. There is capacity within the landscape in this view to effectively absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Low: This viewpoint was given a Low sensitivity on account of the receptors travelling along the local road.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbines are seen as small vertical features over a limited horizontal extent. The addition of the proposed turbines slightly alters the baseline existing view, where existing turbines are built and visible in the background, and the Proposed Wind Farm does not introduce novel elements. The composition and character of the view is substantially unaltered by the addition of the proposed turbines.
Significance of Effect	<p>Low × Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The addition of the proposed turbines, while increasing the extent of turbines seen from this viewpoint, does not introduce novel elements into the view in question. The proposed turbines are sited within an area of low elevation within the landscape and hence are well accommodated by the existing landscape.

Viewpoint 3 - Ballybeagh	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the separation distances, the proposed turbines are seen as less prominent features than the existing Foyle turbines and the permitted Foyle and Kyleballyoughter turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 4 - Oldtownhill			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Oldtownhill. Located approximately 800 metres north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). Grid Reference: E: 639,908 N: 655,790 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 6/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential receptors – High Receptors travelling along local road – Low
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>A short ranging view overlooking an agricultural field and a horizontal line of deciduous trees in the midground. The landscape in view is rural in character. The fields seen are bordered primarily by dense hedgerows which are interspersed throughout the view. The topography slopes upwards in the background forming a large ridgeline in the background of the view.</p> <p>The existing Foyle wind farm is seen from this viewpoint, beyond the right-hand extent of the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>There are two turbines with partial towers and hubs visible, with blades of four further turbines only partially discernible, above the raised ridgeline formed in the background of the view. There is substantial screening provided by topography and only one turbine (T1) appears as a slightly prominent feature within the view above this ridgeline. There is additional screening of proposed turbines provided by hedgerows and treelines seen throughout the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The existing Foyle turbines are seen beyond the right-hand extent of the view, and so there will be combined (sequential) views of the proposed turbines along with these cumulative turbines. The existing Foyle turbines are viewed in the background of the view, approximately 3.5 – 4.5km away. Given the separation distances, and that they are viewed in a different direction to the proposed turbines; there are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>		

Viewpoint 4 - Oldtownhill	
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Moderate: The proposed turbines are partially visible as large vertical features and substantially screened by the topography.
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.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. Three of the proposed turbines (T5, T6, T7) are almost fully or entirely screened by the landform and vegetation, whilst four of the proposed turbines (T2, T4, T1, T3) are partially screened The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road. The longest ranging part of the view available from this viewpoint is directed away from the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate “An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”

Viewpoint 5 - Aharney			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Aharney, County Laois. Located approximately 18.5km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). Grid Reference: E: 639,416 N: 673,623 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 6/7 This viewpoint is located at a designated protected view in the LCDP. 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Laois LCA 1 – Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Protected View – High Receptors travelling along the local road – Low
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This long ranging view looks from an elevated section of a local road and shows a long-ranging view over a rolling agricultural landscape with fields which are delineated by hedgerows and treelines. The topography of the landscape is gently undulating with a rise in the landform seen in the right background of the image, screening further views in this direction.</p> <p>The existing Lisdowney turbines are visible in the right of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Six of the seven proposed turbines are visible within this view, although they are substantially screened from view, and barely discernible at this distance. The hubs of three of the proposed turbines (T1, T2, T4) are visible above the landform and		

Viewpoint 5 - Aharney	
	<p>vegetation, whilst only the blades of three of the proposed turbines are visible (T3, T5, T6). The proposed turbines are sited beyond the intervening landform within this undulating landscape. The proposed turbines are seen as very small features within the view and occupy a very limited horizontal extent. The proposed turbine components visible are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>There is a substantial distance and visual separation between the existing Lisdowney turbines and the proposed turbines from this viewpoint. The proposed turbines as seen as much smaller features than the existing Lisdowney turbines and they do not add any novel feature to the baseline view. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the protected view in the LCDP.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Negligible: The proposed turbines are substantially screened from view and at this distance their introduction to the view gives rise to little change, the composition and character of the view will be substantially unaltered.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the viewpoint and are substantially screened by topography. • The view in question is already subject to other wind energy development. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements within the view. • The view is typical of other agricultural fields within the same landscape. • The proposed turbines are not seen in the longest ranging parts of the view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 6 – Oldtown	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View from a local road in the townland of Oldtown, located approximately 870m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). • Grid Reference: E: 638,658 N: 654,649

Viewpoint 6 – Oldtown			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential Receptors – High Receptors travelling along the local road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This image shows a medium range view across an agricultural landscape with a gently undulating topography. The topography is flat in close proximity to the viewpoint and rises in the right background of the image. A small number of scattered residential and agricultural buildings are visible throughout this small hill in the background. Views over the flat area closer to the viewpoint are restricted due to the presence of hedgerows and treelines that border the fields.</p> <p>No existing windfarms are visible in this image. While not visible within the extent of the view shown here. The existing Foyle Wind Farm is visible from this location in the opposite direction, approximately 2.2km away at its closest point.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven proposed turbines are visible from this viewpoint, across a relatively wide horizontal extent, within the lower elevated parts of the view. The closest proposed turbines appear as larger vertical features within the view (T3, T6, and T7), with the other proposed turbines appearing as moderately scaled vertical features, further setback from the viewpoint. There is some overlap between the turbine components of proposed turbines T2 and T3. There is partial screening of the lower tower sections of all proposed turbines by the vegetation. The tip of the proposed met mast is discernible as a slender vertical structure to the left of turbine above the dense vegetation cover.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The existing Foyle turbines are seen behind the view shown here, and so there will be combined (sequential) views of the proposed turbines along with these cumulative turbines. The existing Foyle turbines are viewed in the background of the view, approximately 2.2 – 2.6km away. Given the separation distances, and that they are viewed in a different direction to the proposed turbines; there are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>		
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>Substantial: The proposed turbines will result in large-scale change in the view, as they are visible over a wide horizontal extent at close proximity to the viewpoint.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>		

Viewpoint 6 – Oldtown	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The field structure, and vegetation, seen in the foreground act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. The proposed turbines do not obstruct any sensitive or scenic views from this location. This location provides one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines from along this local road, with buildings and high levels of vegetation providing substantial screening in the direction of the proposed turbines from other locations, including nearby residential receptors, where views are substantially more screened than the view shown here. In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. Siting of the proposed turbines within the area of lower elevation seen in this view, with a ridgeline visible in the background, provides a sense scale to the landscape in view and contributes to the landscape's capacity to absorb a renewable energy development of this scale.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."</i></p>

Viewpoint 7 - Finnan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Finnan. Located approximately 18.7km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). Grid Reference: E: 647,333 N: 672,398 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA B1 – Castlecomer Plateaux - Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<p>Receptors travelling along the local road – Low</p> <p>Kilkenny Protected View 12 - High</p>
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This long ranging view looks from an elevated section of a local road and shows a view over a rural landscape. A residential building is visible to the left of the image and hedgerows dominate the middle ground of the image. The topography of the landscape is gradually sloping downwards towards a large flat area comprising the Kilkenny basin, characterised by agricultural fields and residential buildings. The Slieveardagh Hills can be seen to rise beyond this landscape, forming an undulating ridgeline in the background of the view.</p> <p>The existing Foyle, An Cnoc and Ballybay turbines as well as the Gurteen Lower turbine are visible in the right background of the image.</p>		

Viewpoint 7 - Finnan	
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven of the proposed turbines are visible in the centre background of this image, although they are substantially screened and barely discernible at this distance. They are visible beyond a ridgeline along the horizon and above the skyline. The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at this distance, and occupy a limited horizontal extent within the view. The lower section of all proposed turbines are not visible due to the screening from the intervening ridgeline. The turbine components visible are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views.</p> <p>The permitted Kyleballyoughter, Farranrory windfarms, the Proposed Littleton Wind Farm (Pre-App SID), as well as the permitted Foyle turbine and permitted Ballybay turbine are visible in the background of this image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed in combination with a number of existing, permitted and other proposed wind farms located along the ridgelines of the Slieveardagh Hills. Given the large scale of the hills, the small scale of all cumulative turbines in view, and the distances involved, there are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint was given a high sensitivity on account of protected view in the KCDP.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Negligible: The proposed turbines are substantially screened from view and at this distance their introduction to the view gives rise to little change, the composition and character of the view will be substantially unaltered.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The view in question is already subject to other wind energy development. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements within the view. • The proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the viewpoint, and are substantially screened by topography. • This viewpoint is one of the only open views towards the proposed turbines along this stretch of the road, the dense hedgerows bordering the road screen any views of the proposed turbines along the majority of the road.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 8 - Corstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Corstown. Located approximately 1.8km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4). Grid Reference: E: 642,270 N: 655,367 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential receptors – High Receptors travelling along the local road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This short ranging view looks from an elevated section of a local road and shows a long-ranging view over agricultural fields. The landscape is gently undulating with a gentle rise in topography visible in the centre background. Fields are bordered by dense hedgerows and treelines. Vegetation is also visible in the foreground of this image along the roadside. A small tract of commercial forestry is visible in the left mid fore-ground of the image.</p> <p>The existing Foyle, An Cnoc, Ballybay and Ballinacurry 1 and Ballinacurry 2 turbines are visible in an organised and linear pattern in the background of the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven no. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. The blades and hubs of all proposed turbines are visible above the landform and vegetation. Proposed turbines T1, T2 and T4 are the closest in proximity and are fully visible. The other proposed turbines (proposed turbines T3, T5, T6 and T7) are sited in a small depression of land within the undulating landscape, beyond a slight rise in elevation in the middle distance, meaning they appear substantially set-back from the view. There is some overlap between the turbine components of proposed turbines T5 and T7. The proposed turbines do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this view. The proposed met mast is visible as a slender vertical structure to the left of turbine T4 within a distant agricultural field.</p> <p>The permitted Farranrory, Kyleballyoughter wind farms, as well as the permitted Foyle and Ballybay turbines are visible in this image. The permitted Knockroe turbines are theoretically visible, but in reality, are screened by intervening vegetation.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed in combination with the existing Foyle, Ballinacurry 1, Ballinacurry 2, An Cnoc and Ballybay windfarms, as well as the permitted Farranrory, Kyleballyoughter, Foyle and Ballybay turbines, which will be viewed in in a similar direction. The proposed turbines add to the density of the turbines visible within this part of the view, however they are visually separated, viewed within a lower elevated part of the landscape, with the scale of the landscape having the capacity to effectively absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in	High: This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the residents located in close proximity to the proposed turbines.		

Viewpoint 8 - Corstown	
<i>LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Moderate: The largest proposed turbines in view are seen as moderately scaled vertical features over a small horizontal extent, within the context of views of other wind energy developments. The addition of the proposed turbines alters the view from the baseline existing view or the do-nothing scenario, where the proposed turbines add to the density of turbines in this view.
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.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. • Siting of proposed turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. • The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. • As a result of the iterative design process, the proposed turbines are viewed as a coherent cluster with only a small horizontal extent within the view, even from this location in shorter range from the Proposed Wind Farm. • The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road, and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate “An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”

Viewpoint 9 - Knockeenglass			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View from a local road in the townland of Knockeenglass. • Located approximately 1.6km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). • Grid Reference: E: 640,495 N: 652,837 • Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 5/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential receptors – High Co. Kilkenny Protected View 16 – High (view directed away from proposed turbines)

Viewpoint 9 - Knockeenglass			
			Receptors travelling along local road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>A long ranging view overlooking an agricultural field system with rolling farmland enclosed by hedgerows and deciduous trees. The landscape in view is primarily rural and agricultural. The fields are bordered primarily by dense hedgerows with some mature trees and treelines interspersed throughout the view. A small area of commercial forestry is seen in the left mid ground of the image. Sparse and scattered residential and agricultural buildings are visible throughout the landscape.</p> <p>The existing Foyle and Ballybay wind farms are visible in the left background of this view, and the Lisdowney wind farm is theoretically visible in the right background of the view, however it is screened from view by intervening vegetation.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Five of the seven proposed turbines are visible from this view. The proposed turbines are sited in a small depression of land within the surrounding undulating landscape. This makes the proposed turbines appear well accommodated into this landscape. Dense hedgerow in the right foreground of this image completely screens proposed turbines T2 and T4. This vegetation also partially obscures the view of proposed turbines T1 and T5, which are concealed from the turbine base to the hub. Proposed turbines T6 and T7 are the closest to this viewpoint and are fully visible in the centre and to the left-hand side of this image.</p> <p>The permitted Ballybay and Kyleballyoughter turbines are visible to the left background of this image.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed in combination with the existing Foyle and Ballybay windfarms. The proposed Kyleballyoughter and Ballybay turbines add to the density of the turbines visible within this part of the view, although they are viewed within a different part of the landscape. There will be a degree of visual overlap between components of the proposed turbines and the cumulative turbines in the background of this view. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a High sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living along the local road in close proximity to the proposed turbines. This viewpoint is located at a section of road designated as a protected view in the KCDP, with the view described as follows; <i>"View East towards Kilkenny City on the Kilkenny/Kilmanagh Road No. LP 1011 between the junction with road nos. LT10111-4 and LT10112-10."</i> This description indicates that the focus of the protected view is not in the direction of the proposed turbines.</p>		
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Moderate: The proposed turbines in view are seen as moderately scaled vertical features over a relatively small horizontal extent. The addition of the proposed turbines alters the view from the baseline existing view or the do-nothing scenario, where the existing turbines Foyle, An Cnoc and Ballybay are built and visible in the background. The proposed turbines add to the density of turbines within this view.</p>		

Viewpoint 9 - Knockeenglass	
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The view in question is already subject to wind energy development. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements within the view. • In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. • Siting of proposed turbines in a sparsely settled lowland landscape with an adequate set back from residential receptors, large population centres and other high sensitivity visual receptors. • The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a treeline. • The alignment of the hub and tip heights are relatively even and align with the skyline of the view. • Due to the rolling hills in the background of the image the proposed turbines only slightly extend the vertical extent of this view, with the blades and some hubs just visible above the horizon. The turbines are significantly set-back from the road, which helps them to read coherently in this landscape. • As part of the iterative design process and acknowledging feedback provided during the scoping and community consultation processes, the Proposed Wind Farm turbine layout was optimised in respect of balancing residential visual amenity and renewable energy generating potential (Refer to Section 3.2.3.2.2 of Chapter 3 (Reasonable Alternatives) for further information).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 10 - Outrath			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View from the N10 National Road outside Kilkenny City in the townland of Outrath. • Located approximately 10.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4) • Grid Reference: E: 651,014 N: 651,859 • Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA F2 – Kilkenny Western Basin - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<p>Kilkenny City – Medium</p> <p>Receptors along the N10 national road - Medium</p>

Viewpoint 10 - Ourath	
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This long ranging view looks from a national road on the outskirts of Kilkenny City. The view overlooks low-lying agricultural fields delineated by low-lying hedgerows. The topography of the landscape is gently undulating, becoming increasingly hilly in the background with some ridgelines visible. Deciduous treelines and residential buildings are scattered throughout this landscape.</p> <p>The existing Foyle, An Cnoc, Ballinacurry 1 and Ballinacurry 2 and Ballybay turbines are visible in the centre and left of the image.</p>
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are visible in the background of this view, although there is substantial screening of two of the proposed turbines. The proposed turbines are visible beyond a ridgeline along the horizon and above the skyline. The hub and blades of six of the proposed turbines (T1, T2, T3, T4, T5) are visible above the ridgeline. There is partial visibility of the blades of the other two proposed turbines (T6 and T7). At this distance, the proposed turbines are seen as small features, comprising a small horizontal extent.</p> <p>The permitted Foyle, Kyleballyoughter, Farranrory and Ballybay turbines are visible in this image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines add to the density of the turbines visible within this part of the view, however, the proposed turbines are primarily limited to the same horizontal extent as the existing turbines in the view from this location. All turbines within this view are seen as small features in the background of the image.</p> <p>The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm is partially visible outside of the viewing angle of this image, to the right of the image from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The rolling topography, with multiple ridgelines, creates a sense of large area of space within the landscape which has the capacity to effectively absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Medium: This viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity on account of its proximity to Kilkenny City.
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Negligible: The proposed turbines are visible but are located a substantial distance away from the viewpoint and consequently result in a low level of change within the view, given their vertical and horizontal extent within the view.
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From this location the proposed turbines take up a limited horizontal spatial extent of the view.

Viewpoint 10 - Ourath	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intervening topography in the landscape, which provides partial screening of the proposed turbines, they appear well set-back from this view point. The proposed turbines are not in the direction of travel, therefore, are not in the direct line of vision of motorists using the road.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences."</i>

Viewpoint 11 - Knockeenbaun			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from a local road in the townland of Knockeenbaun, on the outskirts of Kilmanagh. Located approximately 1.6km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 639,340 N: 652,015 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 6/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South)– Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential receptors in Kilmanagh – High Receptors travelling along the regional road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a medium ranging view from the R695 regional road near Kilmanagh, which can be seen in the left of the image, beyond a gentle slope. A number of agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows and trees, and the Graigue Ballycallan GAA pitch are visible in the foreground of the view. To the right-hand side of the road, the topography can be seen to incline, preventing further views in this direction. No existing turbines are visible in this image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Six of the seven proposed turbines are visible in the background of this view, with varying levels of screening provided by the intervening vegetation. Proposed turbine T7 is the closest in proximity and is visible from mid-tower upwards, and Turbine T1 is mostly visible, appearing smaller in the view due to its greater setback from this viewpoint. The remainder of the turbines are screened to varying degrees by trees and other vegetation. No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.		
Cumulative Effects	As there are no existing, permitted or other proposed wind turbines visible from this location, no cumulative effects will occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	High: This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of its proximity to Kilmanagh.		

Viewpoint 11 - Knockeenbaun	
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Moderate: The scale of the proposed turbines will cause a change in the character of the baseline landscape. However, the proposed turbines are partially screened from view, and as a result are viewed over a medium horizontal extent within the view.
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.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This location provides a more open view towards the proposed turbines than those available within Kilmanagh, with buildings and other infrastructure, as well as high levels of vegetation, providing substantial screening in the direction of the proposed turbines from other locations. In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. As part of the iterative design process and acknowledging feedback provided during the scoping and community consultation processes, the Proposed Wind Farm turbine layout was optimised in respect of balancing residential visual amenity and renewable energy generating potential (Refer to Section 3.2.3.2.2 of Chapter 3 (Reasonable Alternatives) for further information).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) “An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”

Viewpoint 12 – Kilmanagh (St. Aidan’s National School)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from outside St. Aidan’s National School on the R695 regional road in the townland of Kilmanagh, located approximately 1.3km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 639,152 N: 652,269 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 5/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential Receptors – High Kilmanagh - High Receptors travelling along the regional road – Low St. Aidan’s National School – Medium GAA Pitch - Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	This short-range view looks from the R695 regional road adjacent to St. Aidan’s National School in Kilmanagh. The regional road is visible to the left of the image and a car park can be seen to the right of the image. A line of residential buildings		

Viewpoint 12 – Kilmanagh (St. Aidan's National School)	
	<p>can be seen in the midground, which cover a large part of the horizontal extent of the view. Deciduous trees are interspersed among the residential buildings which run in a linear pattern and horizontally across the image.</p> <p>No existing wind farm developments are visible in this image.</p>
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Five of the seven proposed turbines are visible in the background of the view, with varying levels of screening provided by the intervening vegetation and residential buildings. The five proposed turbines (T1, T3, T4, T5, T7) visible in this view are partially visible, behind the residential buildings. These proposed turbines are almost completely screened by the residential buildings and vegetation - only the blade tips are visible.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	As there are no existing, permitted or other proposed wind turbines visible from this location, no cumulative effects will occur.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the residential receptors living in Kilmanagh.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: There will be a Negligible magnitude of change on streetscape of Kilmanagh. However, there will likely be greater visibility of the proposed turbines and a Slight magnitude of change from other receptors in the Kilmanagh settlement, for example, from upper storey windows of the residential buildings lining the northern extent of Kilmanagh, and potentially the national school and GAA pitch.
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. Five of the proposed turbines (T1, T3, T4, T5, T7) are almost fully screened by residential buildings and vegetation whilst two proposed turbines are fully screened (T2 and T6). As part of the iterative design process and acknowledging feedback provided during the scoping and community consultation processes, the Proposed Wind Farm turbine layout was optimised in respect of balancing residential visual amenity and renewable energy generating potential (Refer to Section 3.2.3.2.2 of Chapter 3 (Reasonable Alternatives) for further information).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 13 – Kilmanagh (Kilmanagh Post Office)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from local road in the townland of Kilmanagh, located approximately 1.2km from nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 639,050 N: 652,333 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 3/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA A1 - Slieveardagh Hills (South) – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residential Receptors – High Kilmanagh - High Receptors travelling along the L1009 local road – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This view looks from the L1009 local road in Kilmanagh over a gap between buildings located adjacent to the road. An agricultural field can be seen through this gap. The topography declines from left to right, rising to form a ridge in the background to the left of the image. Some deciduous trees delineating the field boundaries are visible in the agricultural field in the background of the image.</p> <p>No existing wind farm developments are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Three of the seven proposed turbines are visible in this view, with varying levels of screening provided by the intervening vegetation. Proposed turbine T7 is the closest in proximity to this location, it is partially screened by the intervening landform and vegetation and is seen as a moderately scaled vertical feature in the view. Proposed turbine T6 is almost equally scaled with T7, with T3 appearing as a slightly smaller in scale due to its increased setback from the viewpoint, T3 and T6 are partially screened by the intervening vegetation. Proposed turbines T2, T4, and T5 are fully screened by a building and dense vegetation in the foreground of the image.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in this range.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	As there are no existing, permitted or other proposed wind turbines visible from this location, no cumulative effects will occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the existing residential receptors living in Kilmanagh.		
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Slight: The proposed turbines occupy a limited horizontal extent within the view. The three turbines that are visible are partially screened by the intervening landform, buildings and vegetation and the remaining four proposed turbines are fully screened from view.		
Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."</i>		

Viewpoint 13 – Kilmanagh (Kilmanagh Post Office)	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to nearby residential receptors, siting of proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set back distance in the Guidelines and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines. This location provides one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines from within Kilmanagh, with buildings and other infrastructure, as well as high levels of vegetation, providing substantial screening in the direction of the proposed turbines from other locations. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and are not visible against the backdrop of any valuable or unique landscape features. As part of the iterative design process and acknowledging feedback provided during the scoping and community consultation processes, the Proposed Wind Farm turbine layout was optimised in respect of balancing residential visual amenity and renewable energy generating potential (Refer to Section 3.2.3.2.2 of Chapter 3 (Reasonable Alternatives) for further information).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022)</p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 14 – Kells Priory			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from Kells Priory in the townland of Glebe Located approximately 14.5km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 649,714 N: 643,108 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA F2 – Kilkenny Western Basin - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Visitors to Kells Priory – High Protected View - High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This long ranging view looks from the grounds of Kells Priory. The priory is visible to the centre and right of the image whilst some residential dwellings are visible to the left of the image at a slightly lower elevation than the viewpoint. The topography slopes downwards permitting medium range views over the surrounding agricultural landscape, where a large number of deciduous treelines can be seen interspersed throughout the view.</p> <p>The existing An Cnoc, Foyle, Ballybay and Ballinacurry 1 and Ballinacurry 2 turbines are visible in the background of the image. While the existing Lisdowney turbines have theoretical visibility within this field of view, they are effectively screened by dense vegetation within the landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are substantially screened and partially visible in the background of the view. They are visible beyond a ridgeline along the horizon and above the skyline. The hub and blades of three of the proposed turbines (T1, T2, T4) are visible above the skyline in this image. Only the blade tips of the other four proposed turbines (T3, T5, T6, T7) are visible from this view. The lower section of all turbines are not visible due to the screening from the intervening ridgeline. At this</p>		

Viewpoint 14 – Kells Priory	
	<p>distance the proposed turbines are seen as small features that are well accommodated by the landscape as they are primarily set back beyond a prominent ridgeline.</p> <p>The permitted Farranrory, Kyleballyoughter, Foyle, and Ballybay turbines are visible in the background of this image.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are several other wind farms visible from this viewpoint which will be seen in combination with the turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm. There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and these other developments. Given the level of screening of the proposed turbines, there are limited cumulative visual effects that arise. Due to the distance, all turbines visible in this image are seen as small features in the background of the image. The landscape in view has the capacity to absorb the visible turbines without Significant visual effects. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint was given a high sensitivity on account of visitors to the Kells Priory acting in a recreational capacity, as well as the nearby protected view in the KCDP.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Negligible: The proposed turbines are substantially screened from view and at this distance their introduction to the view gives rise to little change, the composition and character of the view will be substantially unaltered. In addition, there are already existing turbines in this view and the proposed turbines do not add any novel features to this view.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When visitors descend the hill towards the Priory, views of the proposed turbines will be entirely screened by the vegetation and topography seen in the intervening space. • The view in question is already subject to other wind energy development. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements within the view. • The proposed turbines are located at a substantial distance from the viewpoint, appearing as very small features in the background of the image and are substantially screened by topography and vegetation in the intervening landscape • Due to distance, the proposed turbines will have no impact on the setting of this cultural heritage site.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 15 – Riversfield			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the N76 national road in the townland of Riversfield, in close proximity to Callan. Located approximately 11.2km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 640,190 N: 642,433 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA F2 – Kilkenny Western Basin - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Callan Town - Medium Receptors travelling along the N76 - Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This long ranging view looks from the N76 national road. A gate and wire fence are visible in the foreground, beyond which the view looks across an agricultural landscape with a flat topography. Electricity poles and wires are visible in the foreground of the image. The landform in the background of the image is hilly and the topography undulates gently. Residential buildings and farm holdings are visible scattered throughout the landscape.</p> <p>The existing An Cnoc, Foyle and Ballybay turbines are visible in the centre background of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven of the proposed turbines are partially visible in the background of this view. Four are located beyond a prominent ridgeline along the horizon, rising above the skyline, while the remaining three turbines are positioned in front of the ridgeline. There is partially screening of lower parts of the proposed turbines by this landform. The proposed turbines appear at equal or lower heights than other features in the view, in particular a rise in topography seen to the left of the proposed turbines. There is some overlap between the turbine components of T1 and T5 as well as T3 and T6 although this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location.</p> <p>The permitted Farranrory, Kyleballyoughter, Foyle and Ballybay turbines are visible in this image. The Proposed Freneystown Wind Farm (Pre-App SID) is located to the right of the image, beyond the field of view of this image, however, the turbines screened from view due to the intervening vegetation.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are several other wind farms visible from this viewpoint which will be seen in combination with the turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm. There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and these other developments. The proposed turbines are sited at lower elevations than these cumulative turbines, and the topographical features provide a sense of separation between the proposed turbines and the cumulative turbines. As a result, the landscape in view has the capacity to absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm without Significant visual effects. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	<p>Medium: This viewpoint was given a Medium sensitivity on account of its proximity to Callan.</p>		

Viewpoint 15 – Riversfield	
Magnitude of Change (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)	Negligible: The proposed turbines are visible but are located a substantial distance away from the viewpoint and consequently result in a low level of change within the view, given their limited vertical and horizontal extent within the view.
Significance of Effect	Medium × Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The view in question is already subject to other wind energy developments at a similar distance and scale. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements within the view. The relative height of the proposed turbines in relation to the terrain in the background means that they do not rise above the highest point in the skyline.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”

Viewpoint 16 – Killamery			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View from the N76 national road in the townland of Killamery Located approximately 18.3km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). Grid Reference: E: 636,875 N: 635,417 Number of Proposed Turbines Visible: 7/7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Kilkenny LCA C – South Western Hills - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	KCDP Protected View 15 - High Receptors travelling along the N76 - Low
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This long ranging view looks from the N76 national road. The national road is visible in the foreground of the image along with a low hedgerow. This view looks across an expansive and relatively flat agricultural landscape with fields bordered by treelines and hedgerows. An undulating ridgeline is visible throughout the background of the view, on the far side of the flat agricultural plain. Residential buildings and farm holdings are visible scattered throughout the landscape.</p> <p>The existing Gurteen Lower, An Cnoc, Foyle and Ballybay turbines are visible in background of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All seven of the proposed turbines are visible in the background of this view this view. The proposed turbines are viewed above the horizon, and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views. The proposed turbines appear as a linear array across the background of this view. The proposed turbines appear as small features within the background of the view. There is some overlap between the turbine components of T3 and T6, as well as turbines T1 and T5, although this effect will differ depending on exact viewing location.</p>		

Viewpoint 16 – Killamery	
	The permitted Farranrory, Kyleballyoughter, Foyle and Ballybay turbines are visible in this image.
Cumulative Effects	There are several other wind farms visible from this viewpoint which will be seen in combination with the turbines of the Proposed Wind Farm. There is visual separation between the proposed turbines and these other developments. The rolling topography, with multiple ridgelines, creates a sense of large area of space in which the addition of the Proposed Wind Farm does not result in substantial levels of turbines seen across the entirety of the view. There is capacity within the landscape in view to effectively absorb a wind energy development of the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the KCDP Protected View no. 15.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines are visible but are located a substantial distance away from the viewpoint and consequently result in a low level of change within the view, given their vertical and horizontal extent within the view.
Significance of Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The view is already subject to other wind energy development. The addition of the proposed turbines into the view does not add novel elements to the landscape. The undulating topography seen throughout the view, means that the height of the proposed turbines appears proportionate to the peaks in elevation in view. From this distance (18.3km) the proposed turbines appear as small features in the background of the view and do not obstruct views of a high scenic quality.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

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