



APPENDIX 12-3

VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENTS

Table 1-1 Photomontage Viewpoints

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
01	View from the R395 Regional Road in the village of Coole. This viewpoint is located at County Westmeath protected view no. 49 and is located approximately 2.1 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 241070 N 272405
02	View from the R396 Regional Road in the townland of Coole, approximately 1.2 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 240398 N 273456
03	View from the R395 Regional Road at in the townland of Athenboy, approximately 4.45 km south-east of the nearest turbine. The viewpoint is located within the residential cluster of Lismacaffrey in close proximity to Lismacaffrey National School.	E 235625 N 273874
04	View from the Regional Road R396 in the townland of Cloonaghmore. The viewpoint is in close proximity to the small village of Abbeylara and is approximately 4.6 km northwest of the nearest turbine.	E 236642 N 279402
05	View form the Regional Road R194 in the townland of Ballywillin, approximately 5.6 km northwest of the nearest turbine.	E 238055 N 282208
06	View from the R394 Regional Road in the townland of Finnea, approximately 3.8 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 240842 N 281128
07	View from the R394 Regional Road in the townland of Carlanstown approximately 1.2 km northeast of the nearest turbine.	E 242372 N 278137
08	View from the local road in the townland of Littlewood, north of protected view 51, approximately 4.1 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 246436 N 277686
09	View from the local road in the townland of Ramonan, approximately 16.5 km north of the nearest turbine.	E 251631 N 290279
10	View from the R195 Regional Road in the townland of Lakill, looking towards Lough Glore, approximately 8.1 km southeast of the nearest turbine.	E 249639 N 271186
11	View from Sliabh na Calliagh (Lough Crew) a National Monument, in the townland of Corstown, approximately 15.9 km east of the nearest turbine.	E 258614 N 277576
12	View form the local road and protected view north of Colinstown, approximately 12.9 km southeast of the nearest turbine.	E 253110 N 267688
13	View from the local road in the townland of Abbeyland, approximately 10.1 km south of the nearest turbine location.	E 239941 N 264446
14	View from the top of Frewin Hill, a National Monument and close to a protected view, in the townland of Wattstown, approximately 16.3 km south of the nearest turbine.	E 237734 N 258518
15	View from the outskirts of Castlepollard, in the townland of Townparks, approximately 6.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine.	E 246098 N 270155

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
16	View from the R395 Regional Road at Fearmore, Coole village, approximately 2.4 km southeast of the nearest turbine.	E 242026 N 272261
17	View from the R395 Regional Road at Coole Village, in the townland of Coole, approximately 2.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine.	E 241556 N 272257
18	View from Granard Motte in the townland of Moatfield, approximately 8.6 km from the nearest turbine.	E 232979 N 280749
19	View from the R396 Regional Road in the townland of Camagh, Co. Longford, approximately 0.9 km from the nearest turbine.	E 239148 N 275622
20	View from the R395 Regional Road in the townland of Mayne, approximately 2.5 km from the nearest turbine	E 239242 N 272484
21	View from the cairn at Mullaghmeen, approximately 5.3 km from the nearest turbine	E 246779 N 279354
22	View from Fore Abbey in the townland of Fore, approximately 9.6 km from the nearest turbine.	E 251090 N 270744

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Visual Effects: Mitigating Factors:

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA study area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the proposed development. It is therefore considered important to describe the nature of the proposed site and surrounds in order to provide context for this and avoid repetition in the viewpoint assessment tables below.

In general, flat midland wind farm sites and their surrounds tend to be capable of absorbing suitably designed wind farm projects of scale, due to some key reasons which are outlined below and will be evident in the photomontages:

Flat Topography of the Site

The low-lying elevation and relatively flat topography of the Coole site and surrounding landscape, contributes to the landscape's capacity to accommodate a wind farm. This is shown in the photomontages created from Viewpoints 21 and 18, where views taken at a higher elevation show the relatively flat plateau the site and immediate study area occupies. The level terrain in which the proposed development is sited results in an even overall height of all the wind turbines, this means that visual confusion caused by turbines at various heights does not arise. For Coole, most visual receptors to the north, west and south-west are also of similar elevation to the base level of the proposed turbines i.e. the turbines are not situated on elevated lands and so the potential for clear and open views of the project from receptors at lower elevations does not arise. This topographic feature of the Coole site and surrounds mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects provided sufficient setback from receptors is designed into the project. It also means that

separation distances between receptors and turbines becomes important as the turbines appear smaller in scale quickly when viewed in this planar view.

Highly Vegetated Nature of the Landscape

The landscape surrounding this site is often seen as a patchwork of agricultural fields bordered by lines of trees, hedgerows and pockets of woodland shrub. In close proximity to the site, mature hedgerows and mature treelines reduce the potential for clear and open views and any associated potential domineering effects. As demonstrated by the route screening analysis, these vegetation types are highly evident alongside most of the roads surrounding the proposed development. Located between visual receptors and the proposed turbines, these vegetational elements of the landscape provide screening, obscuring large numbers of turbines or making those views of the turbines intermittent in nature. The ZTV does not take into account this screening and hence ZTV mapping can only be considered accurate where no visibility is indicated. In areas where theoretical visibility is indicated, actual visibility on the ground is diminished by screening factors, as was evident in the results of the route screening analysis.

The Coole Wind Farm Site's Wide Expanse

The Coole Wind Farm lands are large in scale. The traditional pattern of rural development comprising scattered one-off housing and ribbon development has not encroached onto the site. The majority of the turbines are therefore at a significant distance from visual or residential receptors. For example, the ZTV mapping indicated that receptors to the North West of the Wind Farm Site will have full theoretical visibility of the 15 turbine Wind-Farm, however, as shown in Viewpoint 4 the receptor will perceive 5 to 7 No. turbines due to the level of screening present in the intervening landscape. The remaining turbines will not form part of their perception of the wind farm as these turbines are at the same ground level as the Receptor and are screened by multiple layers of vegetative screening. It should be noted that Viewpoint 4 is located quite close to the nearest turbine, less than 5km in distance, showing the extent of vegetative within the immediate receiving landscape, screening views across this plateau.

Viewpoint 01 – Coole Village			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R395 Regional Road in the village of Coole. ➤ This viewpoint is located at protected view no. 49 in the Westmeath County Development Plan. ➤ 2.1 km south of the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 241070; N 272405 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 0/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Protected View – High Coole Town – High/Medium R349 – Low/Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>The Baseline shows roadside buildings, an elevated green space comprising manicured grass, bushes and several small trees. Along the R395 to the left of the image, there is a long-distance view of the flat landscape to the west. This viewpoint is from the western extent of Coole village, at the location of County Westmeath protected view 49. The intended direction of protected view 49 is clearly overlooking the peatlands to the south and west, the view north towards the proposed development (as shown in this image) does not contribute to the valuable scenic amenity attributed to this location. No other wind farms are visible within the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>No Turbines of the proposed development are visible in the photomontage. Although six of the proposed Coole turbines are theoretically visible, as blade tips are visible in the wireframe, they are screened from view by vegetation and built form. The remaining turbines are hidden behind the intervening topography.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: The visual receptor sensitivity is considered High as it is at the location of the protected view, albeit in the opposite direction.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>No Change: There is no visibility of any turbines.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>No Effect</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<p>The designated protected view is not impacted by the proposed development.</p>		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>No Effect</p>		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	<p>The wireframe shows that there is the potential for the blades of Turbine 14 to be visible however it is similarly screened by topography and vegetation as shown in the photomontage.</p>		

Viewpoint 02 – Coole			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the R396 Regional Road in the townland of Coole. > 1.2 km south of the nearest turbine > Grid Reference (IG): E 240398; N 273456 > No. of turbines visible: 7/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Residents - High Coole Village – Medium Local Traffic R396 – Low
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The foreground of shows a view along the R396 which is bordered by low hedgerows. Two residential dwellings are evident on either side of the road in the left of the image, and both are surrounded by mature vegetation. The centre of the image comprises an open field bordered by mature trees and hedges. To the right, distant fields and tree clusters are visible upon a slight rise. Due to the relatively flat nature of the landscape and screening from mature vegetation long ranging views are very limited.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible within the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows that seven of the proposed 15 No. Coole turbines would be visible or partly visible to the left of the image. The hub and blades of T10, T12 and T14 are fully visible whilst only blade tips are visible of the other four turbines (T9, T11, T13 & T15). The intervening mature treelines between the dwellings seen in the foreground and the proposed turbines mitigates any potentially domineering or incongruous effects on these two properties' residential visual amenity.</p> <p>While the turbines are at relatively close proximity (1.2km) they do not appear dominant due to the reduced number of turbines visible and the effects of screening by vegetation.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Includes visual receptors such as residents living within 2 km from the proposed turbines, residents of Coole village and local traffic travelling north along the R369.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.		
Significance of Effect	Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.		
Mitigation Factors	The flat nature of the landscape and the abundance of mature vegetation surrounding the local residences causes a disproportionate screening effect, significantly reducing visibility of the proposed turbines from local visual receptors, mitigating visual effects.		

Viewpoint 02 – Coole	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 14 is relatively close to this location and it is similarly screened by vegetation as are the permitted turbines. Overall, it reads coherently with the permitted turbines in terms of its elevation and spacing. Turbine 15 has the potential to increase the spatial extent of the turbines however it is located at significant distance from this location and is also screened by mature tree lines.

Viewpoint 03 - Lismacaffrey			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R395 Regional Road at in the townland of Athenboy ➤ The viewpoint is located within the residential cluster of Lismacaffrey in close proximity to Lismacaffrey National School. ➤ 4.45 km west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 235625; N 273874 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Residents – Medium National School - Medium Local Traffic R396 – Low
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The image shows a view from the western outskirts of Lismacaffrey. The view shows an agricultural field adjacent to the road, with a backdrop of mature trees along the field boundaries. The higher elevations of the Hill of Mael and Mullaghmeen are visible in the distant background of the view. Several buildings of Lismacaffrey National School are visible to the right of the image. Streetlights, and telegraph poles are relatively prominent vertical, man-made features seen within the foreground and middle-ground of this landscape view.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible within the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All proposed turbines will be visible from this viewpoint, although turbines T3, T4, T6 and T12 are partially screened from view from hub down by a mature treeline seen in the middle distance. The proposed development does comprise a large horizontal extent within the view, however the turbines are not seen as dominating the landscape, but they are a clearly visible element within the view.</p> <p>This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned at the elevation of the visual Receptor on flat terrain, meaning that at relatively close distances, the turbines do not dominate. Furthermore, this photomontage is a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as the mature treelines seen along the field boundary as illustrated. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent as there is significant local screening along the road. The spatial extent of the project is also not excessive given the wide expanse of the view.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in this view due to screening.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Sensitivity is considered medium for local residents as there is ample distance between residents and the proposed development (>4 km). The National School is a receptor of medium to high sensitivity and there are some views to the hills which could be considered moderately scenic.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate: The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the development is partially visible over a		

Viewpoint 03 - Lismacaffrey	
	moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed development is partially visible and reads as a coherent cluster within the landscape. ➤ The disproportionate screening effect of vegetation in this flat landscape will significantly mitigate visual effects from residential amenity in the vicinity of this viewpoint and also Lismacaffrey National School. ➤ Mature tree lines and hedgerows along this roadway and form field boundaries between the viewer and the turbines restrict views of the projects. ➤ The large, vertical, man-made uprights visible within the foreground of the photomontage (telecommunication poles, street lights) are relatively large and prominent features of the image. The introduction of wind turbines into the background of the view (also large, man-made, vertical features) is not introducing an entirely new visual element to the landscape view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 sits among the permitted turbines but is less prominent as it is at a further distance from the viewpoint. Turbine 14 increases the spatial extent as seen in the wireframe however it is not visible due to mature tree line screening.

Viewpoint 04 – Cloonaghmore			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Regional Road R396 in the townland of Cloonaghmore. ➤ The viewpoint is in close proximity to the small village of Abbeylara. ➤ 4.6 km north-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 236642; N 279402 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 11/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Longford LCU 2: Northern Upland - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Abbeylara – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The centre of this view comprises the R396 Regional road as it exits Abbeylara to the south-east, the left-hand side of the road is bordered by a walkway and a low stone wall, to the right a thick hedgerow and a mature tree. The foreground to the left of the image comprises a grassy field and several residential dwellings, three other houses line the road to the right of the image. Clusters of tall mature trees are seen in the middle distance, beyond the residences visible in the foreground. Most long-distance views are screened by the built form of houses and intervening vegetation, however, there are intermittent glimpses of elevated landform seen to the left of the image.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned on flat terrain or lower to the elevation of the visual Receptor means that, at relatively close distances, the turbines do not dominate. It is also a good example of how relatively low-level screening, in the form of hedgerows seen in the foreground and mature tree line has a significant influence on the perceptibility of the scale of the project. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent with the turbines located on lower elevations within a wide and expansive landscape.</p> <p>7 turbines are visible, while four are partially screened from view. The tower and lower blade arcs of most visible turbines in the centre of the image are screened from view. The turbines are viewed as relatively small background elements in comparison with the various mature tree lines and telecommunication poles seen in the middle ground and foreground of the image.</p> <p>The turbines are set back behind the vegetation and are visible but not appearing dominant as most of the turbines are partially screened.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: Sensitivity is considered medium for local residents as there is ample distance between residents and the proposed development (>4 km).		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view		

Viewpoint 04 – Cloonaghmore	
	and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.
Significance of Effect	Medium X Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Widespread screening in the general area of this viewpoint from trees, hedges and the built form significantly mitigates views of the proposed turbines in this area, reducing visual effects arising from the proposed development. ➤ The flat topography ensures that the proposed development does not obstruct or intrude upon views of other landscape elements.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines and are less prominent as they are at further distance from this location.

Viewpoint 05 – Ballywillin			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View form the Regional Road R194 in the townland of Ballywillin. ➤ This viewpoint is located close to Scenic Route FS15 ➤ 5.6 km north-west of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference(IG): E 238055 N282208 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Longford LCU 2: Northern Upland - Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Scenic Route – High ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The centre of this view comprises the R194 Regional road road with agricultural field beyond, bounded by hedges with some larger trees. Beyond the field a lake- Lough Kinale – is seen in the middleground – with some high ground, that of the Hill of Mael, Rock of Curry and Mullaghmeen, visible behind the lake in the distance. The lake and higher ground behind it are the key elements in the view. A power line is seen in the middleground of the image.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines are visible in the distance, across Lough Kinale, to the centre and right of the image, and all are visible, however three are partly screened by vegetation. There are no other turbines visible. The turbines do not appear in the line of sight to the hills, seen to the left of the image. The hills remain important elements of the view.</p> <p>The proposed development introduce turbines to the view although in a coherent and readable manner, as the spatial extent of the project is a not excessive given the wide expanse of the view. The turbines are of similar scale and are evenly distributed within the project extents.</p> <p>Given the close proximity of this viewpoint location to the site, the scale and extent of the turbines is not incongruous and is readily absorbed into what is a relatively open expansive view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: This view is located close to a scenic route and has scenic qualities, which the view of the lake and higher ground contribute to the scenic quality of the view.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate: The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.		

Viewpoint 05 – Ballywillin	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Widespread screening in the general area of this viewpoint from trees, hedges and the built form significantly mitigates views of the proposed turbines in this area, reducing visual effects arising from the proposed development. ➤ The flat topography ensures that the proposed development does not obstruct or intrude upon views of other landscape elements. ➤ The view from this location is open and expansive and the landscape has the capacity to absorb the proposed development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines and are less prominent as they are at further distance from this location.

Viewpoint 06 – Finnea			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View form the R394 Regional Road in the townland of Finnea, ➤ This viewpoint is located close to an Area of High Amenity ➤ 3.8 km north of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 240842; N 281128 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Area of High Amenity– High ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The centre of this view comprises the R394 Regional road shows a Church and a number of other buildings at the side of a junction, while to the other side is an open field with some scattered vegetation.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>There are no open views of the site or a large portion of the turbines from this location. 4 No turbines will be seen from upper tower/hub height upwards and only the blade tips of a further 6 No turbines may be visible from this location. These will appear lower than the telephone pole sets, seen to the left of the image within the view.</p> <p>That variation in the foreground combined with the hedgerows and tree lines obscures the turbines from any clear view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium. Although the viewpoint is in on the edge of an Area of High Amenity, around Lough Sheelin, the view is not scenic in any direction at this location. The location is at a junction which in itself is not regarded as high sensitivity; however, the Church may be a location where groups gather outside.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight. The turbines are seen over a limited extent, and only two of these are considered fully visible, the remaining turbines partly hidden by the vegetation.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) – An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Widespread screening in the general area of this viewpoint from trees, hedges and the landform significantly mitigates views of the proposed turbines in this area, reducing visual effects arising from the proposed development. ➤ Sparsely populated section of road ➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit on this straight section of road, hence any views are likely to be experienced in transit. 		

Viewpoint 06 – Finnea	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 14 sits among the permitted turbines but is less prominent as it is at further distance. Turbine 15 increases the spatial extent as seen in the wireframe however it is not visible due to mature treeline screening.

Viewpoint 07 – Carlanstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View form the Regional Road R394 in the townland of Carlanstown ➤ This viewpoint is located close to Scenic Route FS15 ➤ 1.2 km north-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference(IG): E 242372; N 278137 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Scenic Route – High ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view of cutover flat peatland in the foreground and middle-ground, while in the background some agricultural fields and tree lines are visible. The peatland itself however is the main feature in the view.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines appearing in the centre of the image, in close proximity to each other. The spatial extent is relatively limited and can be described as of medium extent. The turbines are clearly visible as is expected at close proximity. Such clear views of the turbines from this area are not the norm as intermittent screening with hedgerows and tree lines is not evident in the photomontage but is present locally. Turbine No 15 is slightly separated from the main cluster from this viewpoint direction but due to distance will be seen as a smaller element in the landscape.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Low - Medium: The view is from the Regional Road R394, and is not designated view. It is not considered of high scenic quality, and the peatland has been completely altered due to the drainage and extraction operations.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Moderate – High: The turbines are all fully visible but over a medium extent, at close proximity.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Moderate/High = Moderate = Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development. ➤ This photomontage is not a perfect representation of views in the vicinity of this viewpoint; such clear open views are not the norm and open views of the proposed development are partially and intermittent in this area due to screening by a multitude of vegetation types, single dwellings and the undulating local topography. ➤ Turbine 15 will be perceived as slightly separated from the main cluster from this location however this is not considered material to the overall assessment outcome. T15 is situated within the same landscape type, at 		

Viewpoint 07 – Carlanstown	
	a similar elevation and is at a slightly greater distance from the receptors here and so will have a reduced visual effect.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 will be perceived as slightly separated from the main cluster from this location however this is not considered material to the overall assessment outcome as described above. The turbine is not particularly prominent compared to the permitted turbines. T15 is situated within the same landscape type, at a similar elevation and is at a slightly greater distance from the receptors here and so will have a reduced visual effect. Turbine 14 is situated among the permitted turbines and does not materially change the visual effect.

Viewpoint 08 – Littlewood			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View form a local road in the townland of Littlewood ➤ This viewpoint is located close to Protected View 51 ➤ 4.1 km east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 246436 N 277686 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 2/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4: Central Hills and Lakes - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Scenic Route – High ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows the view from along the local road close to the protected view 51. This view shows sloping agricultural fields on the left of the image and a small tree covered hill.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows two of the 15 proposed Coole turbines are partly visible behind the vegetation, while two others may be potentially visible at certain times behind the vegetation. These are seen in the centre of the view. Three other turbine tips are screened by vegetation, and the remaining turbines are screened by the topography.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: The visual receptor sensitivity is considered as High, as this stretch of road is described as having sporadic scenic views which are designated.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Negligible: Up to 4 turbines are potentially partially visible due to screening, and the spatial extent is limited. The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are not generally visible at this location due to topography and vegetative screening. ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.</p>		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	<p>Turbines 14 and 15 are not visible from this location.</p>		

Viewpoint 09 – Ramonan			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Ramonan ➤ 16.5 km east of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 251631; N 290279 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a partly enclosed landscape, looking from a roadside, across a field of wet grassland with clumps of trees and shrubs in the foreground and middle ground. In the distance, a ridge of higher ground is visible, to the left of the image. Although the permitted Ballyjamesduff turbine is visible in the foreground on the wireframe, roadside screening prevents views.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines, all of which are visible in this view, as a cluster of limited extent and at a lower elevation to the Receptor. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The turbines, while visible, are not dominant, and occupy a small proportion of the view at some distance from the viewer.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: Although this is along a local road not within a designated area there are some views to higher ground which give a scenic quality to the view</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: The turbines are all visible however at some distance and appear small-scale and seen in a coherent cluster of a limited spatial extent. The proposals would be visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		

Viewpoint 09 – Ramonan	
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 increases the spatial extent of the array compared to the permitted development however this is not considered material given the coherent layout overall and the mitigating factors.

Viewpoint 10 – Lakill			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View form a Regional road R195 in the townland of Lakill ➤ 8.1 km south-east of the nearest turbine. ➤ This viewpoint is located along Protected View 47 looking towards Lough Glore. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 249639; N 271186 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4: NorthernHills and Lakes - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Protected View– High .
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view over Lough Glore, and the higher ground of Mullaghmeen and the Hill of Mael/ Rock of Curry to the left. In the foreground there are some fields of rough grassland and scrub leading to the lake, with a considerable amount of deciduous vegetation seen in the foreground. The lake and hills are considered the key elements in this view.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines appear to the left of the higher ground, against the skyline. While all 15 turbines are potentially visible, eleven are visible and four are described as only partly visible due to screening and topography, with only blades visible. The turbines are seen at some distance.</p> <p>While they are visible, the turbines do not detract from the key elements in the view which remain the lake and backdrop of hills. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: This is a protected view, and the view is also of scenic quality.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate: Eleven of the turbines are clearly visible though these are at some distance, while four are partly visible, and the turbines occupy a limited proportion of the view.		
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development. 		

Viewpoint 10 – Lakill	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines or are screened.

Viewpoint 11 – Corstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Sliabh na Cailliagh (Lough Crew) a National Monument, in the townland of Corstown. ➤ 15.9 km east of the nearest turbine. ➤ This viewpoint is located along Protected View 6. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 258614; N 277576. ➤ No. of turbines visible: 12/15. 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 18 - Lough Sheelin Uplands - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; National Monument – High .
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a long-distance view from the top of Sliabh na Cailliagh, to the west of the monument, to the surrounding landscape. In the foreground, the hill of Carnbane (which is part of the National Monument) is visible, while to the right of the image, long distance views are available to the surrounding flatter landscape of farmland, scattered buildings, lakes and tracts of woodland.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in the baseline landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines, which are visible in the distance, close to the centre of the view, behind the hill in the foreground. Twelve turbines are visible while there may be in certain circumstances, visibility of some of the three blade tips. The turbines are seen at a distance and therefore are an element in the view but not a dominant element, and the foreground hills and surrounding panorama of the landscape remain the focus of the view.</p> <p>While the proposed Coole turbines add a new element to this view, the distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The panoramic view towards the lowlands will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: This is a protected view, located at a National Monument and the view is also of scenic quality.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The turbines are seen at a great distance, and occupy a small area of the view with a limited spatial extent.		
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any 		

Viewpoint 11 – Corstown	
	occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 14 increases slightly the spatial extent of the array but is at a similar elevation to the permitted turbines and has a relatively even spacing when compared to the other turbines. Turbine 15 is not discernible.

Viewpoint 12 – Collinstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Collinstown. ➤ This viewpoint is located along Protected View 43. ➤ 12.9 km southeast of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 253110; N 267688 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4: Northern Hills and Lakes - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; Protected View – High .
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a long-distance view over Lough Lene, with higher ground to the right of the lake, and a backdrop of wooded ground to the far side of the lake. In the foreground a field bounded by mature trees is visible.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in the baseline landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines are seen at a distance, and nine blade tips are potentially visible, against the sky on the far side of the lake, the other four turbines screened by vegetation and topography.</p> <p>The panoramic view over Lough Lene will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view. The distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: This is a protected view and the view is also of scenic quality.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: There are partial views of nine blade tips with six blade tips clearly visible. These are visible as blade tips over the trees and at a considerable distance from the viewer.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The topography obscures any clear views of the turbines from this area (as can be seen in the wire frame) ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any potential for visual effects. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Turbine 14 sits among the permitted turbines and is partially screened. Turbine 15 is not visible.		

Viewpoint 13 – Abbeyland			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Abbeyland, ➤ 10.1 km south of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference(IG): E 239941; N 264446 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 14/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4 – Central Hills and Lakes - Medium	LCA and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view of open fields, with mature hedgerows. To the extreme left, a building is visible. The vegetation prevents long distance views.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in this direction.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines should be visible, this is not the case in reality. 8 of the 15 proposed turbines are potentially visible, and the remaining turbines are partly screened by the vegetation. The turbines have a limited spatial extent but are predominantly screened by the vegetation.</p> <p>This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned along the same flat terrain as the visual receptor, meaning that at relatively close distances, the nearest turbines do not dominate, and the further turbines quickly reduce in perceptibility with distance.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is also a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as relatively low hedgerows and intermittent trees is illustrated. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent as there is significant local screening along the road. The spatial extent of the project is also not excessive given the wide expanse of the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Low: The view is from a local road outside the village of Multyfarnham which is not considered to have particular scenic qualities.		
Magnitude of Change	Negligible: The turbines are partly screened by the vegetation and occupy a small area of the overall image and are seen at some distance.		
Significance of Effect	Low x Negligible = Negligible = Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The intervening tree lines and commercial forestry obscures any clear view of the turbines. ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.		

Viewpoint 13 – Abbeyland	
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 has the potential to increase the spatial extent of the array however it is not visible in reality due to screening and distance.

Viewpoint 14 – Wattstown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Frewin Hill, a National Monument in the townland of Wattstown. ➤ 16.3 km south of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 237734 N 258518 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4 – Central Hills and Lakes - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; National Monument- High
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows the view from the hilltop at Frewin Hill, which has panoramic views in all directions. The view shows the view to the north, which includes the northern end of Lough Owel, as well as extensive views of the landscape which includes open fields, pockets of woodland and other small lakes. Some higher ground is seen to the right of the image. The lake is a key element of the view. A protected view is located on the local road to the west but this view from Frewin Hill is not a protected view, however it affords panoramic views of the countryside.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines, which are visible in the distance, close to the centre of the view. All 15 of the proposed turbines are visible, but these occupy a small proportion of this view. The turbines are seen at a distance and therefore are an element in the view but not a dominant element, and the foreground field patterns and surrounding panorama of the landscape remain the focus of the view.</p> <p>While the proposed Coole turbines add a new element to this view, the distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The panoramic view towards the lowlands will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: This view is within a High Amenity Area, and has scenic qualities, and also in close proximity to protected view 27, however which was not apparent from the local road.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: The turbines are clearly visible, however have they a very limited spatial extent, in a small cluster, and are seen at a distance.		
Significance of Effect	High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. ➤ The view is a wide and expansive panorama which is not significantly affected by the proposed turbines. ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development. 		

Viewpoint 14 – Wattstown	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 has the potential to increase the spatial extent of the array however it is not particularly visible in reality due to distance.

Viewpoint 15 – Castlepollard			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outskirts of Castlepollard, in the townland of Townparks. ➤ 6.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 246098; N 270155. ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>The view is close to the Westmeath Way walking route (as marked on OSI Mapping) and shows the R395 and low-rise, one-off housing along the roadway to the left of the image. The foreground comprises a flat agricultural pasture field with low rise housing in the middle ground. There are mature trees in the backdrop to the housing as well as vegetative screening in the immediate vicinity of the houses.</p> <p>Vertical elements such as electricity poles and street lighting poles are scattered across the view. No other turbines are visible in the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines are largely screened by the mature trees. Seven of the 15 turbines are visible as blade tips behind the trees. The turbine towers and the remaining eight turbines are hidden by the trees. The turbines may be more visible when the leaves are not on the trees.</p> <p>This photomontage is a good example of the amplified screening effect of intervening vegetation such as the mature tree line, which makes up many of the field boundaries, as illustrated. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent as there is significant local screening along the road, which is evident in this view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: it is on the outskirts of the village and a pavement runs along the road which may be used by walkers.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: Some of the turbines only are visible as blade tips over the trees, however no turbines are completely visible. The spatial extent of the turbines is limited.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The screening effect of vegetation in this flat landscape will significantly mitigate visual effects from residential amenity in the vicinity of this viewpoint. ➤ The large, vertical, man-made uprights visible within the foreground of the photomontage (telecommunication poles, street lights) are relatively large and prominent features of the image. The introduction of wind turbines into the background of the view (also large, man-made, vertical features) is not introducing an entirely new visual element to the landscape view. The vertical components of the foreground are seen as 		

Viewpoint 15 – Castlepollard	
	the largest vertical components of the photomontage, mitigating the impact of the proposed turbines.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines and are screened.

Viewpoint 16 – Coole Village			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R396 Regional Road at Fearnmore, Coole village. ➤ 2.4 km southeast of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 242026; N 272261. ➤ No. of turbines visible: 10/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view from just beside the grotto in Coole village. To the left of the image, the grotto is visible, while the main road runs through the centre of the view. To the right of the road, a stone wall is visible, with a number of entrances off this, and some dwellings to the right of the road. Mature deciduous trees are seen in the middle ground and background of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows that nine of the proposed Coole turbines are partly visible in the centre of the image, on either side of the dwelling. Two blade tips are seen through the trees to the left of the dwelling, while four turbines are partially visible to the right of the dwelling, seen behind the trees. Further to the right, mature trees partially screen three turbines, with six turbines not visible due to screening by topography or by buildings.</p> <p>The intervening mature treelines between the dwelling seen in the foreground and the proposed turbines mitigates any potentially domineering or incongruous effects on the property’s residential visual amenity. The spatial extent of the turbines is relatively limited.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: it is on the outskirts of the village and a pavement runs along the road which may be used by walkers.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Slight: Some of the turbines only are visible as blade tips over the trees, however no turbines are completely visible. The spatial extent of the turbines is limited.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the landscape and the abundance of mature vegetation surrounding the local residences causes a disproportionate screening effect, significantly reducing visibility of the proposed turbines from local visual receptors, mitigating visual effects. ➤ The proposed development is partially visible and reads as a coherent cluster within the landscape. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>		

Viewpoint 16 – Coole Village	
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbine 15 has the potential to increase the spatial extent of the array however it is not particularly visible in reality due to screening and distance.

Viewpoint 17 – Coole Village			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ R396 Regional Road at Fearmore, Coole village ➤ 2.3 km southeast of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 241556 N 272257 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 2/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view taken from outside Coole Hall, along the main road through Coole village. The view shows buildings to the right and left of the image, as well as open space enclosed by a hedge and wall along the main street. Several trees are visible in the foreground and background.</p> <p>No wind other turbines are visible in the baseline landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All of the turbines are located to the rear of a ridgeline with significantly obstructs even the potential for visibility. The photomontage shows that one blade tip is visible to the left of the image, to the left of the agricultural shed, and it is likely that another blade tip may be visible further to the right of the image. The remaining turbines, which are theoretically visible either above the nacelle or as blade tips, are hidden by either the buildings or the vegetation.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: this view is in a settlement and where people are likely to be walking.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Negligible: Only one blade tip is clearly visible with a second tip potentially visible. Screening of the remaining turbine blades is provided by the vegetation and built form of the village.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Negligible = Negligible = Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mature tree lines, hedgerows and buildings along this roadway form boundaries between the viewer and the turbines, restricting views of the project. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Imperceptible (EPA, 2017) - An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences</p>		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	<p>Turbine 15 has the potential to increase the spatial extent of the array however it is not visible in reality due to screening. Turbine 14 is the closest turbine to this location but it is also screened due to topography, vegetation and buildings.</p>		

Viewpoint 18 – Granard Motte			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Granard Motte in the townland of Moatfield ➤ 8.6 km northwest of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 232979; N 280749 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Landscape Character Unit 5 - Inny Basin - Low	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ; National Monument- High
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This shows a view taken from Granard Motte, a National Monument. It is a panoramic view over generally flat or gently undulating land in the foreground, composed of fields, hedgerows and stands of mature trees. Houses and farms are visible among the fields with sheds and industrial units clearly visible in the foreground. In the middle ground to the left, Lough Sheelin is visible. In the distance, higher ground is seen including Mullaghmeen, the Hill of Mael and the Rock of Curry.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows the proposed Coole turbines, which are visible in the distance, close to the centre of the view, to the right of the Hill of Mael and Rock of Curry. All turbines are visible however, the turbines are seen at a distance and therefore are an element in the view but not a dominant element, and the foreground hills and surrounding panorama of the landscape remain the focus of the view.</p> <p>While the proposed Coole turbines add a new element to this view, the distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The panoramic view towards the lowlands will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium/High: There is no formal public access to the site, however viewers who visit the site are likely to be focussed on the landscape and their surroundings.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: While all turbines are visible in this view, they occupy a limited extent of the panorama and do not obstruct the view. The turbines are not in close proximity to the viewer.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The significant distance between this viewpoint location and the proposed development greatly mitigates any visual effects. ➤ Strategic siting and scaling of the proposed turbines provides a linear and spatially coherent view of the development, mitigating any occurrence of visual confusion that may be derived from the proposed development. 		

Viewpoint 18 – Granard Motte	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines.

Viewpoint 19 – Camagh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Regional Road R396 in the townland of Camagh, Co. Longford. > 0.9 km of the nearest turbine. > Grid Reference (IG): E 239148; N 275622 > No. of turbines visible: 4/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view taken from the western side of the Camagh Bridge, over the River Inny in Co. Longford. The river and bridge are seen in the foreground, while mature trees are seen in the background, which restrict views. Coniferous forestry is evident to the right of the image. The photomontage shows that while there are a number of wind farms theoretically visible, they are screened by the intervening mature vegetation.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed photomontage shows that of the turbines, one turbine to the left of the image is almost fully visible, with part of the tower screened, while the blades of two others are visible. A fourth turbine blade is considered potentially visible when the trees are not in leaf.</p> <p>While the wireframe indicates that the majority of turbines should be visible, this is not the case in reality. This photomontage provides a good example of the mitigating factors related to the turbines being positioned on flat terrain means that, at relatively close distances, the turbines do not dominate.</p> <p>It is also a good example of how relatively high-level screening, in the form of treelines seen in the middle ground and mature tree line has a significant influence on the perceptibility of the scale of the project. The views along this stretch of roadway will be intermittent with the turbines located on lower elevations within a wide and expansive landscape.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	Medium: This view is along a Regional Road and viewers are likely to be motorists and pedestrians. The river, bridge and trees create some scenic qualities at this location.		
Magnitude of Change	Slight: While the wireframe shows theoretical visibility of all 15 turbines, the photomontage shows that four turbines are partly visible and over a very limited extent. While the turbines are visible in close proximity, the vegetation screens the majority of the turbines.		
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities		

Viewpoint 19 – Camagh	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the landscape and the abundance of mature vegetation causes a disproportionate screening effect, significantly reducing visibility of the proposed turbines from local visual receptors, mitigating visual effects.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. Both Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 sit among the permitted turbines and are less prominent as they are located at further distance from this location.

Viewpoint 20 – Mayne			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regional Road R395 in the townland of Mayne. ➤ 2.5 kilometres from the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 239242 N 272484 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 2/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows a view taken from Float Bridge on the Inny River. The view shows the road with considerable screening, and a bridge in the foreground, with the Inny River itself one of the main landscape elements in the view. Coniferous forestry lies to the left of the image and in the background.</p> <p>No other wind turbines are visible in the baseline landscape.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows that of the 15 turbines, only two blades of turbine of T14 are visible above the treeline to the centre right of the photomontage. Also, a blade tip of turbine T13 is discernible above the treeline to the left of the river. The remaining turbines are hidden behind the coniferous forestry plantation. An additional turbine blade may be visible when the deciduous trees in the foreground are without leaves.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>Medium: While the view is located along a busy regional road, with very narrow margins, the bridge and river have some scenic qualities.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Negligible: Only three blade tips are visible as a result of screening by the forestry.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The flat nature of the landscape and the abundance of mature vegetation causes a disproportionate screening effect, significantly reducing visibility of the proposed turbines from local visual receptors, mitigating visual effects. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	<p>Turbine 14 is in relatively close proximity to this location however only blade tips are potentially visible due to the screening that is present. Turbine 15 is not visible from this location.</p>		

Viewpoint 21 – Mullaghmeen Forest			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the cairn at Mullaghmeen forest. ➤ 5.3 kilometres northeast from the nearest turbine ➤ Grid Reference (IG): E 246779 N 279354 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 15/15 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 4: Northern Hills and Lakes - Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This shows a view taken from the summit cairn at Mullaghmeen forest, looking west. The view is therefore an elevated, long distance view of the surrounding countryside, seen through a clearing in the trees. The landscape is flat or gently undulating, apart from several hills. It is composed of fields with hedgerows and tree clumps evident, interspersed with areas of bogland. To the right of the image Lough Kinale is just visible. In the foreground some vegetation is visible.</p> <p>No other turbines are visible in this view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The photomontage shows that all of the 15 turbines are visible in this view. The turbines occupy a moderate extent of the view and while they are clearly visible, they are at some distance, they do not obstruct the view to the landscape beyond.</p> <p>While the proposed Coole turbines add a new element to this view, the distance of this location to the site means that the turbines will not be incongruous or domineering from this location. The panoramic view towards the lowlands will not be obstructed or obscured by the proposed turbines and do not materially impact on the view. Furthermore, this view is to the west, and the view to the north, to Lough Sheelin, is not in any way affected.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	High: This is a well-used amenity area where viewers will be involved in recreation and focussed on their surroundings. The view from the summit has some scenic qualities.		
Magnitude of Change	Moderate: The turbines are all visible but occupy a limited extent of the view and result in a moderate change in the view. They do not obstruct the panoramic view. Views to the north to Lough Sheelin are not affected.		
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are at a low elevation compared to this area and so the distance mitigates any potential visual effects. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2017) - An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.		

Viewpoint 21 – Mullaghmeen Forest	
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	Turbines 14 and 15 increase the spatial extent of the array but are at a similar elevation to the permitted turbines. The turbines are all visible but occupy a limited extent of the view and result in a moderate change in the view. They do not obstruct the panoramic view but form a new element within it.

Viewpoint 22 – Fore Abbey			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Fore Abbey in the townland of Fore ➤ 9.6km of the nearest turbine. ➤ Grid Reference: E 251090 N 270744 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 0/15 ➤ Detailed assessment of this photomontage is included in Chapter 13 - <i>Cultural Heritage</i> as it forms part of the archaeological assessment. 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 2: Inny River Lowlands – Medium	Visual receptor (s) and Sensitivity	Local Traffic – Low ; Residents – Medium ;
Description of Baseline Landscape	<p>This view shows the view from the protected structure of Fort Abbey. This view shows sloping agricultural fields on the left of the image and a small sparsely tree covered hill.</p> <p>No other wind farms are visible in this image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The upper blade arcs of turbines T2 and T4 and a blade tip of T1 are just discernible above the treeline in the centre of the photomontage. The remaining turbines are screened by the topography and vegetation. All visible turbine components are very small features in the photomontage.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>There are no other wind turbines visible in this image and no cumulative visual effects.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: The visual receptor sensitivity is considered as High, as this stretch of road is described as having sporadic scenic views which are designated.</p>		
Magnitude of Change	<p>Negligible: Theoretical visibility of up to 5 turbines are potentially partially visible from this location, however due to screening the turbines cannot be seen.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2017) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Almost all of the turbines are obscured from view at this location due to topography and vegetative screening. ➤ Visual effects are substantially mitigated by distance. ➤ Sparsely populated local road, hence very few residential visual receptors 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2017) - An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.</p>		
Comparison with Permitted 13 turbine layout	<p>There is no discernible difference between the permitted and proposed development. A blade tip of Turbine 15 is in theory visible however this is not the case in reality due to screening. Turbine 14 is not visible.</p>		