APPENDIX 14-3

PHOTOMONTAGE VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

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1. VIEWPOINT (PHOTOMONTAGE) ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 Viewpoint Summary Table

The tables included in this appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 15 No. viewpoints presented in the *EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet* (hereafter, *Photomontage Booklet*). This appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the *Photomontage Booklet*. For terminology used in this appendix relating to the Proposed Development, see Section 14.1.3 of the main chapter.

The table below provides brief descriptions and location information about the 15 No. viewpoints assessed in this LVIA. In all tables of this Appendix, the following county developments plans are referenced:

- Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021–2027 (KKCDP),
- Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 (LSCDP).

Table 1-1 Viewpoint Location Descriptions

Viewpoint No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP01	**Ballyoskill**. View from the LS5839 Local Road in the townland of Ballyoskill, representing Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 19. Located approximately 5.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 646798 N 675814
VP02	**Finnan**. Open view from the south-east across the Nore Valley in the townland of Finnan, representing Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 12. Located approximately 4.5km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7).	E 646934 N 672479
VP03	**Ballyragget**. Open view from the south-east in the town of Ballyragget along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 3km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7).	E 644505 N 670892
VP04	**Ballyconra**. Open views from the townland of Ballyconra along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 1.3km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7).	E 643686 N 672648
VP05	**Ballynaslee**. Residential receptor in the townland of Ballynaslee along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 900m east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T3).	E 642802 N 674289
VP06	**Lisdowney**. View from the L1810 Local Road in the townland of Lisdowney. Located approximately 2km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8).	E 640930 N 671019
VP07	**Knockmannon Cross-Roads**. View from the Knockmannon cross-roads to the west of the townland of Lisdowney. Located approximately 3.6km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8).	E 639217 N 670424

VP08	**Ballykealy**. View from a local unnamed road in the townland of Ballykealy. Located approximately 4.4km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T6).	E 637479 N 672380
VP09	**Aharney**. View from the L5753 Local Road in the townland of Aharney, representing Co. Laois designated Scenic View and Prospect 4. Located approximately 2.1km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T4).	E 639406 N 673621
VP10	**Durrow Townparks**. View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Durrow Townparks. Located approximately 1.7km north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1).	E 641305 N 676771
VP11	**Heywood Gardens**. View from Heywood Gardens in the townland of Heywood Demesne, representing Co. Laois designated Scenic View and Prospect 23. Located approximately 8.5km north-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1).	E 647045 N 681726
VP12	**Course**. View from the N77 National Road outside of the town of Durrow in the townland of Course. Located approximately 3.1km north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1).	E 641152 N 678113
VP13	**Oldtown**. View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Oldtown. Located approximately 5.2km south of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8).	E 645047 N 668533
VP14	**Archerstown North-East**. View from an elevated vantage point along the L5753 Local Road in the townland of Archerstown. Located approximately 600m north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T2).	E 640636 N 674983
VP15	**Archerstown South-West**. View from an elevated vantage point along the L5752 Local Road in the townland of Archerstown. Located approximately 800m west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T2).	E 640475 N 674553

1.2 Viewpoint Selection

1.2.1 Photomontages: Volume 2 Booklet

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including a review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photographs taken at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Based on a desktop review, multiple viewpoints were identified as having potential views of the Proposed turbines; these viewpoints were either (i) subjected to complete intervening visual screening, or (ii) visually screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process, i.e. having little or no visibility of the Proposed turbines.

Please refer to the full methodology for selecting photomontage viewpoint locations in Section 1.6 'Photomontage Visualisations' of Appendix 14.1: LVIA Methodology.

1.2.2 Supplementary Photomontages: 'Photowires' Appendix 14-5

Photomontage imagery was captured from a total of 23 No. viewpoint locations—of these, the above 15 viewpoints (VP01-VP15) were selected for assessment in this Appendix and presentation in the *Photomontage Booklet*, and the remaining 8 No. viewpoints remain in early-stage form as 'Photowires', presented separately in Appendix 14-5: Photowire Visualisation Booklet, named PWVP-A through PWVP-H.

Photowires are early-stage photomontage visualisations comprising stitched photos with draft overlaid wirelines (classified as 'Type 3 Visualisations' in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 2019). As the 8 No. photowire viewpoints PWVP-A through PWVP-H were excluded from the *Photomontage Booklet*, they do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in this Appendix. However, they are considered in the discussion of visual effects in Sections 14.7.2.2 and 14.7.3.2 'Visual Effects (Construction) and Visual Effects (Operational)' of Chapter 14. The locations of all photowire viewpoints discussed in the text are marked as orange icons in Figure 14-16 'Photomontage (Photowire) Viewpoints' of Chapter 14.

1.3 Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

Visual impact assessments were conducted for individual viewpoints and are reported in the tables below following the methodology set out in Section 1.8: 'Assessing Visual Effects' of Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology. The cumulative visual effects of the Proposed turbines with other existing, permitted and/or proposed wind farms located in the LVIA Study Area are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 14.6: 'Cumulative Context' of Chapter 14, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted, and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their visual interactions with the Proposed Development. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this Appendix are based on the photomontages in the *Photomontage Booklet* and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. The potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the 'Magnitude of Change' row in each impact assessment table and is considered in the 'Residual Visual Effect' determination given for each viewpoint.

When determining how cumulative effects contribute to the magnitude of change, the focus is always on the extent to which the Proposed Development will contribute towards the cumulative effects on the particular receptors under assessment at each viewpoint. The assessment and discussion of cumulative effects also consider the probability of such cumulative effects arising in mind of the category of the other developments with which the Proposed Development interacts: 'Existing' – Certain; 'Permitted' – High Probability; or 'Proposed' – an Uncertain scenario.

1.4 Viewpoint Assessment Tables

1.4.1 VP01: Ballyoskill

Viewpoint 01: Ballyoskill (and Co. Kilkenny V19)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the LS5839 local road in the townland of Ballyoskill, representing Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 19. Located approximately 5.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 646798, N 675814 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-B Castlecomer Plateau: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	KK-SV-19: **High.** Residential receptors: **Medium.**
Description of 'Existing View'	The image shows an open long-range view across a valley, captured from a small bend in the road with the protected view which permits open views to the west towards the Proposed Development. A hedgerow can be seen in the foreground of the image. Beyond this, the topography slopes down towards the valley that is characterised by patchwork fields delineated by mature hedgerows with residential dwellings and farmsteads visible throughout. Trees can be seen scattered throughout the landscape. The topography slopes upwards to form a ridgeline in the background of the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	7 No. Proposed turbines are clearly visible, with 1 No. Proposed turbine (T5) being partially screened by vegetation. The Proposed turbines are staggered in two linear lines, side by side, along the sloping hill. From this location some of the Proposed turbines appear above the horizon and some are below, giving a relatively well-balanced appearance. The hubs and blades of all Proposed turbines, except T5, are visible above the vegetation in the foreground of the image. The Proposed turbines are relatively evenly spaced and have an ordered arrangement, causing them to read coherently in the landscape.		
Cumulative Context	One existing wind farm is visible in the Photomontage: › Lisdowney Wind Farm (4 turbines) The existing Lisdowney turbines are seen beyond T7 and T8 of the Proposed Development, they are of smaller scale than the Proposed turbines due to their positioning on the distant ridgeline. There is clear visual separation from the Proposed Development and cumulative effects are limited. Two other existing wind farms and one permitted wind farm are visible in the wider 90-degree image at the far-left (south) in the distance and contribute to cumulative visual effects. › Ballybay (6 turbines) › Foyle Wind Farm (4 turbines) › Permitted Foyle extension (3 turbines)		

Viewpoint 01: Ballyoskill (and Co. Kilkenny V19)	
	The proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm is located upon the elevated ridgeline directly behind this viewpoint (approx. 1km to the nearest turbine). Cumulative effects could potentially occur in a future receiving environment.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** On account of this viewpoint being located on Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 19. The viewpoint is also representative of residential receptors in the surrounding rural landscape. It is a sparsely settled area, and residential receptors are setback >5 km from the Proposed turbines. The view comprises a working landscape of woodland and fields. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be High. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed turbines are well set back and read coherently within the view. The Proposed turbines are moderately small features in the mid-distance landscape and are partially breaking the skyline. The Proposed turbines do not comprise a wide horizontal extent of the view but will be prominent from the KK-V19. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**High × Moderate = Moderate = 'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment".* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed turbines are visible at a distance > 5km, on the opposing side of the valley from this vantage point, they do not obstruct or intrude upon the long ranging views down the Nore valley to the south (left of the photomontage) or the expansive long ranging views of the open plains to the north-west (right of the photomontage). › The KKCDP describes the Slieve Bloom mountains as the object of Protected View 19. From this viewpoint, the Slieve Bloom Mountains are visible in the far distance across the flat plains to the north-west, to the far-right side of the 90-degree photomontage. The Proposed turbines do not significantly impact views of the Slieve Bloom Mountains from Protected View 19. › As per the description in the KKCDP, Protected View 19 comprises a series of local roads. This viewpoint represents the worst-case scenario of visibility from Protected View 19, as there will be very limited visibility of the Proposed turbines from most other points on any of the local roads comprising Protected View 19. Consequently, a visual receptor driving on this local road will only experience these visual effects momentarily. › On the local road generally oriented north-south along the Nore Valley, the field of view of both northbound and southbound receptors are primarily focussed to both the north-west and south-west respectively. The Proposed turbines are located directly to the west and are therefore in the periphery of the direction of travel for both northbound and southbound receptors.

Viewpoint 01: Ballyoskill (and Co. Kilkenny V19)	
	› Whilst V19 is a designated Protected View, it is a local road of low traffic density, it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or regional renown. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed Development and other existing or permitted wind energy developments will not significantly impact upon the key landscape or scenic sensitivities of the Protected View. › The Proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines are effectively accommodated within the open and expansive landscape views experienced from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	**'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'*

1.4.2 VP02: Finnan

Viewpoint 02: Finnan (and Co. Kilkenny V12)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Open view from the south-east across the Nore Valley in the townland of Finnan, representing Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 12. Located approximately 4.5km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 646934, N 672479 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips) 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-B Castlecomer Plateau: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Road Users: **Low.** KK-SV-12: **High.**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows an open medium-range view from an elevated vantage point looking across the Nore Valley. The type of land use, mostly agricultural, is clearly visible, due to the higher elevation of the viewpoint. The view comprises agricultural fields, with mature vegetation delineating the field boundaries. The landscape slopes downwards from the foreground across the flats and then rises to steeper slopes beyond the River Nore forming the sloping hill across the background of the view. Residential dwellings are sparsely located throughout the landscape.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible as two staggered linear arrays, with the turbine hubs above the horizon in the background of the view. At this distance, the Proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of this view. Due to the distance from this viewpoint, and positioning upon the sloping hill, the Proposed turbines are well set back from receptors represented by this viewpoint, which is on the far side of the valley from the Proposed Development. The Proposed turbines are relatively evenly spaced and have an ordered arrangement, causing them to read coherently in the landscape.		
Cumulative Context	One existing wind farm is visible in the Photomontage: › Lisdowney Wind Farm (4 turbines) The existing Lisdowney turbines are visible above the horizon to the left of the Proposed turbines in the distance, they are of smaller scale than the Proposed turbines due to their positioning on the distant ridgeline. There is clear visual separation from the Proposed Development and cumulative effects are limited. The Proposed turbines and contribute to cumulative visual effects. The proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm is located upon the elevated ridgeline directly behind this viewpoint (approx. 2km to the nearest turbine). Cumulative effects could potentially occur in a future receiving environment.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** On account of this viewpoint being located on Co. Kilkenny designated Protected View 12 with a description of this view within the KKCDP including views of Ballyragget (to the south-west) and Castlecomer (to the east) which are not directed towards the Proposed Development (to the north-west). Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		

Viewpoint 02: Finnan (and Co. Kilkenny V12)	
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Development is visible at a sufficient distance from this location with a moderate level of change in the view. The character of the landscape has been altered but will remain similar to the existing baseline conditions. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› The KKCDP defines Protected View 12 as overlooking Castlecomer and Ballyragget which is not directed towards the Proposed Development. › Whilst V12 is a designated Protected View, it is a Regional Road of low traffic density, it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or regional renown. › The Proposed turbines are visible at a distance > 4km, on the opposing side of the valley from this vantage point, they do not obstruct or intrude upon the long ranging views down the Nore valley (centre of the photomontage) › This viewpoint represents the worst-case scenario of visibility from Protected View 12, as there will be very limited visibility of the Proposed turbines from most other points on any of the local roads comprising Protected View 12. Consequently, a visual receptor driving on this local road will only experience these visual effects momentarily. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines are effectively accommodated within the open and expansive landscape views experienced from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.3 VP03: Ballyragget

Viewpoint 03: Ballyragget			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Open view from the south-east in the town of Ballyragget along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 3km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 644505, N 670892 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-H Nore Valley: **High.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Ballyragget: **Medium.** N77 National Road: **Low.**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a medium-range view from Ballyragget looking over a fenced bank of the River Nore onto sloping hills and agricultural fields in the background, with the Tirlan industrial buildings (white buildings) located at the foot of the hills. The image was captured between a gap in the foreground vegetation along the water of the River Nore and the more distant vegetation as seen in the middle-ground of the image. The N77 National Road is at the left of the image, showing a part of the road just before it changes direction and moves north towards the Proposed Development.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	8 No. Proposed turbines are visible from this viewpoint, comprising a relatively small horizontal extent of the view. The Proposed turbines are located on the sloping hill in the centre of the image. The Proposed turbines appear staggered, with T2 and T5 showing slight visual stacking. From this location, all of the Proposed turbines appear above the horizon. The lower portions of the T2 and T4 towers are visually screened by the ridgeline on the sloping hill.		
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisdowney turbines will be visible from this viewpoint to the far left of the photomontage, cumulative effects will occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** This viewpoint was captured in the Nore Valley LCA which is considered to be of high sensitivity. Receptors in the town of Ballyragget are considered medium sensitivity as it is the largest population hub in the LVIA Study Area. Whilst this viewpoint is adjacent to the River Nore, it ultimately represents receptors on a transport route and not visual receptors of high sensitivity. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed turbines comprise a small horizontal extent of the view, they do not alter and affect key scenic sensitivities. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.*		

Viewpoint 03: Ballyragget	
	Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› This is one of the only locations within Ballyragget where the Proposed Development will be clearly visible due to a gap in vegetation. Visibility will be greatly restricted from most other locations and receptors in the town owing to visual screening by the built environment and mature vegetation. › The Proposed turbines are mostly viewed above the skyline in the distant background of the view and do not obstruct or intrude upon any highly scenic landscape views from this location nor do they impact the sensitivities of the Nore River. › Siting of the Proposed turbines adheres to the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. ›
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.4 VP04: Ballyconra

Viewpoint 04: Ballyconra			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Open views from the townland of Ballyconra along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 1.3km south-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T7). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 643686, N 672648 › No. of turbines visible (Including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	N77 National Road: **Low** Cluster of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed turbines: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a short-range view towards agricultural fields and vegetation. The fields are delineated by mature boundary vegetation. The landform slopes slightly upwards from this viewpoint location towards the sloping hills comprising the middle area of the Proposed Development site. Dense vegetation can be seen across the road to the left in the foreground of the view. The elevated sloping hills prevent long-ranging views from this location.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible in this view. The blades and hubs of all turbines are visible above the landform and vegetation. The lower tower sections of most of the Proposed turbines are screened from view by the mature vegetation and intervening landform. Although turbine T7 is in closer proximity to this viewpoint than the other turbines, the mature vegetation screens the lower half of its tower. The towers of T2 and T4 are less visible, being visually screened due to increased setback from the viewpoint on the far side of the elevated hills. From this vantagepoint, the Proposed turbines are relatively evenly spaced and have an ordered arrangement, causing them to read coherently in the landscape.		
Cumulative Context	No other wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High.** Includes viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views in the direction of the Proposed turbines. Receptors along the N77 between Ballyragget and Durrow will have relatively open views of the Proposed turbines in close proximity in an LCA of low sensitivity. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed turbines are relatively large features altering the character and composition of the view. The Proposed turbines spatially comprise about one-third of the horizontal extent of the view which includes mature vegetation and buildings at both ends, and they are partially obscured by the intervening landform and vegetation. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		

Viewpoint 04: Ballyconra	
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'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › Due to the intervening landform and mature boundary vegetation in the landscape, the lower turbine components are partially obscured from view, reducing their visual prominence and making them appear appropriately set-back from this view. › From this location, all turbine components are visible above the horizon, minimising potential for visual confusion with other landscape elements. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines are seen in a working rural landscape, they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of county, regional or national renown. › There are no cumulative effects from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	**'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.5 VP05: Ballynaslee

Viewpoint 05: Ballynaslee			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› Residential receptor in the townland of Ballynaslee along the N77 National Road. Located approximately 900m east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T3). › Grid Reference (ITM) E 642802, N 674289 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	N77 National Road: **Low.** Cluster of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed turbines: **High.**
Description of 'Existing View'	Shows a short-range view from the N77 which is located in the foreground, looking up on the hillslope comprising agricultural fields with mature boundary vegetation. The landform slopes up from the back of a small cluster of local residences arranged linearly at the foot of the hill, visible in the middle ground. The sloping hill dominates the view from this perspective.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	The blades and hubs of 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible. The Proposed turbines comprise a very wide horizontal extent of the view. T2, T4, T6 and T8 will have its lower towers visually screened due to the undulating topography and vegetation on the sloping hill. T3 and T5 will appear large from this location as they are closest to the viewpoint location.		
Cumulative Context	The proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm is located upon the elevated ridgeline to the east of this viewpoint location (approx. 5km to the nearest turbine). Cumulative effects could potentially occur in a future receiving environment.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** On account of the cluster of approximately 17 No. residential receptors within 1km of the Site, all with similar views in the direction of the Proposed Development. The N77 also passes along the Proposed Development site within close proximity, in an LCA of low sensitivity. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed High. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**Substantial**: A large-scale change will occur as a direct result of the Proposed Development which will be prominent from this location along the N77. The Proposed turbines will be fully visible across a wide horizontal extent from this location. The Proposed onsite 38kV Substation will also be partially visible from this location and is accounted for in the magnitude of change. Visual effects arising from the proposed substation is discussed in Section 14.7.3.2.10 in Chapter 14 of this EIAR. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of the sensitive aspect of the environment.'.*		

Viewpoint 05: Ballynaslee	
	Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › Visual effects arising as shown in the photomontage will only occur for a small number of residential receptors. › The Proposed turbines are set back beyond the small hill visible in the foreground and views from the back windows of residents are located adjacent to this steeper landform. Consequently, greater visual screening of the Proposed turbines occurs for the residential receptors seen in the foreground of the view compared with the extent of turbines visible in the photomontage view due to the landform characteristics and nature of mature vegetation. › This is a short-range view of a working landscape comprising agricultural fields and mature boundary vegetation and does not include any distinctive or unique landscape features of county, regional or national renown. › The Proposed turbine components are primarily viewed above the horizon and do not obstruct any long-ranging views. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines
Residual Visual Effect	**Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment".* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.6 VP06: Lisdowney

Viewpoint 06: Lisdowney			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the L1810 Local Road in the townland of Lisdowney. Located approx. 2km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 640930, N 671019 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Local Road users **Low** Residential receptors: **Medium**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a medium-range view across agricultural land with mature boundary vegetation on the far side, looking towards the Proposed Development in the background of the image. The Lisdowney GAA field can be seen in the right middle-ground of the image. An abandoned farm building can be seen in the foreground of the image. The Castlecomer Plateau can be seen in the far distance at the right of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible in the background of the image. The blades of most Proposed turbines are visible above the treeline, while the lower towers of all turbines except T5 and T6 are visually screened by the treeline and farm building. The Proposed turbines appear as a cluster in the middle of the image and thus comprise only a small horizontal extent of the view, nor do they obstruct the open and long-ranging views; for example, that of the Castlecomer Plateau at the right. From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed above the horizon and are framed coherently in the background of the photomontage.		
Cumulative Context	One permitted wind farm and one proposed wind farm are visible in the photomontage: › Permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm (11 turbines) › Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) The permitted Pinewoods turbines are identified in the wireline view at great distance and are very small features on the horizon. As shown in the photomontage, these permitted turbines are almost entirely screened from view by mature vegetation and will have limited impact on receptors at this viewpoint. The existing Lisdowney windfarm will not be seen from this location as its 2.5km further west of this location and topographical features will visually screen views directed towards these turbines. Cumulative effects can occur with Lisdowney turbines in a journey scenario for receptors travelling on the L1810 road. The greatest potential for cumulative visual effects will arise due to the proposed Ballynalacken turbines in a potential future receiving environment. These are seen on the distant ridgeline to the right of the Proposed turbines.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** The viewpoint is representative of the local road and residential receptors in the surrounding rural landscape. It is a sparsely settled area, and residential receptors are setback >2 km from the Proposed turbines. The view comprises a working landscape of agricultural fields and mature boundary vegetation in an LCA of low sensitivity. Residential receptors from the village of Lisdowney will have no views of the Proposed Development. On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium		

Viewpoint 06: Lisdowney	
	Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Development is noticeably visible from this location at this distance. The proposed turbines introduced to the landscape and having partial visibility. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › Most residences in Lisdowney are located at lower elevation than this viewpoint and will have far less visibility of the Proposed turbines than is shown in the photomontage. › Due to the intervening landform and mature boundary vegetation in the landscape, the lower turbine components are partially obscured from view, reducing their visual prominence and making them appear appropriately set-back from this view. › The Proposed turbines are seen in a working rural landscape, they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of county, regional or national renown. › The Proposed turbines are viewed above the skyline in the distant background of the view and do not obstruct any landscape views from this location. › From this location, the Proposed turbines comprise only a relatively narrow horizontal spatial extent of the view. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.7 VP07: Knockmannon Cross-Roads

Viewpoint 07: Knockmannon Cross-Roads			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the Knockmannon cross-roads to the west of the townland of Lisdowney. Located approx. 3.6km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 639217, N 670424 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-A Slieveardagh Hills (North): **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Local Road users: **Low.** Residential receptors in the area with moderate proximity to the Proposed turbines: **Medium.**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a medium-long-range view from the Knockmannon cross-roads overlooking agricultural land and rolling hills sloping up towards Slieveardagh Hills in the background of the image. The agricultural fields throughout the view are delineated by mature boundary vegetation. The Slieveardagh Hills slope upwards in the background of the image, obstructing distant views beyond. One residential property can be seen in the centre middle-ground of the image behind vegetation.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	8 No. Proposed turbines are visible. The visible Proposed turbines form two staggard linear lines on the hill in the mid-ground of the image. The hill itself provides visual screening for T3 and T4 which only have blades showing above the ridgeline, while at the left of the image T6 has the greatest exposure, with almost all of its tower visible. From this location, the Proposed turbines at the left are viewed partially above the horizon and those at the right partially below, with all turbines framed in the background. The Proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the view.		
Cumulative Context	Two permitted wind farms and two proposed wind farms are visible in the 53.5-degree view, for consideration of cumulative effects: › Permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm (11 turbines) › Permitted Cullenagh Wind Farm (18 turbines) › Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) › Proposed Coolglass Wind Farm (13 turbines) › Existing Lisdowney Windfarm (4 turbines) The permitted Pinewoods turbines are identified in the wireline view at great distance and are very small features on the horizon. As shown in the photomontage, these permitted turbines have some visual screening from the view by mature vegetation and will have limited impact on receptors at this viewpoint. The permitted Cullenagh turbines are identified in the wireline view at great distance and are very small features on the horizon. As shown in the photomontage, these permitted turbines are almost entirely visually screened by mature vegetation and will have limited impact on receptors at this viewpoint. The proposed Coolglass turbines are identified in the wireline view at great distance and are very small features on the horizon. As shown in the		

Viewpoint 07: Knockmannon Cross-Roads	
	photomontage, these permitted turbines have some visual screening from the view by mature vegetation and topography and will have limited impact on receptors at this viewpoint. The greatest potential for cumulative visual effects will arise due to the proposed Ballynalacken turbines in a potential future receiving environment. These are seen on the distant ridgeline to the background of the Proposed turbines. The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm will be visible directly behind this viewpoint and although not seen in this view, if a 360-degree image was presented, all 4 turbines would be seen.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors in the surrounding rural landscape. It is a sparsely settled area, and residential receptors are setback >3.6 km from the Proposed turbines in an LCA of low sensitivity. The view comprises an open view of a well-known and trafficked crossroads within the local area. The landcover from this perspective comprises a working landscape of agricultural fields. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be Medium. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Development is visible from this location, though the Proposed turbines are relatively small features in the landscape. Considering the cumulative effects described above, the character of the view being somewhat altered due to the number of overall turbines introduced to the landscape. The Proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the view, they do not alter and affect key scenic sensitivities. On balance, the magnitude of change is deemed to be Moderate. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› This viewpoint is one of the only views from the west with nearly full visibility of all the Proposed turbines and all Proposed turbines will only be seen momentarily. › The sloping hill in the left mid-ground of the image provides an element of visual screening for multiple Proposed turbine towers. › This viewpoint is within a small valley and views beyond the points of higher elevated areas to the east and west are restricted. › The Proposed turbines are seen in a working rural landscape, they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of county, regional or national renown. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying

Viewpoint 07: Knockmannon Cross-Roads	
	field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines are effectively accommodated within the open and expansive landscape views experienced from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.8 VP08: Ballykealy

Viewpoint 08: Ballykealy			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from a local unnamed road in the townland of Ballykealy. Located approx. 4.4km south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T6). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 637479, N 672380 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Local Road: **Low** Residential Receptors: **Medium** Cullahill walking trails: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a long-range view from a local unnamed road in Ballykealy overlooking agricultural land in the foreground, rolling hills of agricultural fields and sparse residences in the mid-ground and the Slieveardagh Hills in the background. The agricultural fields throughout the view are delineated by mature boundary vegetation. The topography of rolling hills in the mid-ground transitions to upward-sloping hills in the background of the image, obstructing distant views beyond. Sparse residential properties can be seen in the centre middle-ground of the image in a valley between higher points of elevation.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible on the hill in the mid-ground of the image. The hill itself provides visual screening for turbines T3 and T7, which only show blades above the ridgeline, while at the left of the image T4 has the greatest exposure with all blades and its full tower almost entirely visible. The Proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of this view.		
Cumulative Context	Two permitted wind farm and two proposed wind farms are visible in the 53.5-degree view, for consideration of cumulative effects: › Permitted Pinewoods Wind Farm (11 turbines) › Permitted Cullenagh Wind Farm (18 turbines) › Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) › Proposed Coolglass Wind Farm (13 turbines) › Proposed White Hills Wind Farm (7 Turbuines) The greatest potential for cumulative effects is owing to the Ballynalacken turbines at less than 6km from the Site, with most of the turbines visible as full towers and blades along the horizon and ridgeline in the background of the image, though the turbines are of consistent size and appear evenly spaced. The permitted Pinewoods and proposed Coolglass windfarms are at greater distance and their turbines can be seen only as very small features or blade tips on the horizon and are primarily visually screened by intervening distant vegetation, thereby having negligible contribution to cumulative effects from this viewpoint. The permitted Cullenagh and proposed white hills turbines are identified in the wireline view at great distance and are very small features on the horizon in the left of the image. At this distance these turbines will have limited impact on receptors at this viewpoint.		

Viewpoint 08: Ballykealy	
	The Proposed turbines will contribute to cumulative visual effects.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** The viewpoint is representative of sparse residential receptors in the surrounding rural landscape, which are setback >4.4 km from the Proposed turbines. The view comprises a working landscape of agricultural fields. This viewpoint is located nearby the Cullahill walking trails—a series of trails on Cullahill in Co. Laois. The Proposed turbines will not actually be seen from the walking trail and therefore does not actually represent receptors using the trail. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be Medium. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed Development is visible from this location. The overall character of the view with cumulative context will be altered. The Proposed turbines comprise a medium horizontal extent of the view. On balance, the magnitude of change is deemed to be Moderate. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Whilst this view is nearby the Cullahill walking trails it does not represent receptors or walkers using the trail. The Proposed turbines will be screened from view from the trail by topography and dense mature vegetation. › There is no visibility of the Proposed Development from Cullahill Mountain itself with this viewpoint location being the closest location to Cullahill Mountain with views of all Proposed turbines. This location itself comprises no sensitivities as it's a local unnamed road surrounded by agricultural fields, it is a local road of low traffic density, it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or regional renown. › This is long-range view of a working landscape comprising agricultural fields and mature boundary vegetation and does not include distinctive or unique landscape features of regional or national renown. › From this location, the Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines are effectively accommodated within the open and expansive landscape views experienced from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 08: Ballykealy	
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.9 VP09: Aharney

Viewpoint 09: Aharney (and Laois SV 4)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the L5753 Local Road in the townland of Aharney, representing Co. Laois designated Scenic View and Prospect 4. Located approx. 2.1kms south-west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T4). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 639406, N 673621 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Cluster of residential receptors: **High/Medium** Nearby Co. Laois Scenic View and Prospect 4: **High** Local Road users: **Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a short-range view from the L5753 overlooking agricultural land at the right of image which slopes downward from a settlement cluster at the top of the slope. The settlement cluster at the top of the slope at the left of the image is primarily surrounded by mature vegetation, and this vegetation becomes thicker moving up the road, obscuring views from the road. The Castlecomer Plateau can be seen at the right in the distant background. One house is partially visible in the centre of the image behind the mature vegetation.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	3 No. of the Proposed turbines (T6, T7, T8) are partially visible beyond the mature boundary vegetation of the agricultural field in the foreground, with blades showing above the distant horizon and the towers ranging from nearly fully visible (T6) to mostly visually screened by topography and vegetation (T7, T8), from this position. The remaining turbines (T1-T5) are located to the left and are visually screened by dense vegetation and housing.		
Cumulative Context	Two proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage: › Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) › Proposed White Hill Wind Farm (7 turbines) The Ballynalacken turbines are located less than 6km from the Site, but they are relatively small features at this distance and are almost entirely screened by mature vegetation of the local hills in the foreground setting. The White Hill turbines at greater distance are not visible due to their being such small features on the horizon as well as owing to visual screening by vegetation in the foreground setting. The Proposed turbines will contribute to cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** This viewpoint was captured to represent nearby Co. Laois Scenic View and Prospect 4. As per maps in the LCDP, the actual location and origin of the protected view is located approximately 200m west of the viewpoint on the same local road. Site visits determined no visibility will actually occur from the protected view; however, this viewpoint was selected to represent a cluster residential receptor with open views across the landscape towards the Proposed turbines from an elevated vantage point. It is a sparsely settled area, and residential receptors are setback >2.1 km from the Proposed turbines. The view comprises a working landscape of agricultural fields in an LCA of Medium sensitivity. On balance sensitivity is Medium.		

Viewpoint 09: Aharney (and Laois SV 4)	
	Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed turbines are visible from this location and are perceived as relatively large features in the landscape. A small number of residences (3 No.) behind the vegetation in the foreground will have a greater view of the Proposed Development as indicated by the wireline, amounting to Moderate magnitude of change. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines are located at much lower elevation relative to the residential receptors represented by this viewpoint, consequently they are overlooking the landscape, and the visual prominence and impact of the turbines is reduced. › Only a very small number of residential receptors will experience these visual effects. › The description of Scenic View 4 in the LCDP refers to a 'view towards Knockmannon Hill' which is to the south-west from this viewpoint, whereas the Proposed Development is located to the east, in the opposite direction. › As per the description and mapping in the LCDP, Scenic View 4 comprises a series of local roads, these are located at lower elevation to the west of this viewpoint. Due to the dip in elevation and mature boundary vegetation along local roads representing Scenic View 4, all views in the direction of the Proposed turbines are visually screened by dense roadside vegetation and local landform. › This viewpoint represents the worst-case scenario of visibility from the L5753 Local Road, there will be very limited visibility of the Proposed turbines from all other points on any of the local roads comprising Scenic View 4. › A visual receptor driving on this local road will only experience these visual effects momentarily. › This viewpoint was captured on a local road of low traffic density; it is not a well-trafficked tourism route and is unlikely to be considered a destination drive or view of national or regional renown.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.10 VP10: Durrow Townparks

Viewpoint 10: Durrow Townparks			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Durrow Townparks. Located approx. 1.7km north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 641305, N 676771 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 4 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-2 Lowland Agricultural Areas: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Durrow: **Medium.** N77 National Road: **Low.** Residential Receptors: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	The image shows a short-range view looking across the N77 towards an elevated area of woodland. Dense mature roadside vegetation in multiple levels (hedges, trees) can be seen in the right foreground, running along the road to the mid-ground of the image. Dense mature roadside vegetation dominates the left side of the image. The elevated landform topography and dense vegetation limit long-ranging views from this location. The dense treeline covering the hill, which can be seen across the background, along with the mature vegetation in the mid-ground, comprise the main focus of the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Two blades and the very top of the tower of Proposed turbine T1 are visible above the dense treeline at the left-centre of the image. Two full blades of T2 are visible above the treeline at the right-centre, but with the turbine towered fully screened behind the hill. Very small blade tips of T5 and T4 are visible in between the two. All other Proposed turbines are visually screened by the hill and trees. The increase in topography obscures most of the Proposed Development from Durrow facing southerly.		
Cumulative Context	No other wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** Receptors in the village of Durrow are deemed to be of medium sensitivity. The National Road is a transport route representing receptors of Low Sensitivity. A small number of residential receptors are located directly behind this viewpoint. The view does not comprise any unique or distinctive landscape features and is located in an LCA of Low Sensitivity. On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**'Slight'** The Proposed Development is visible from this location and two of the Proposed turbines will be visible above the woodland in the background of the image. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Slight = Minor = 'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.*		

Viewpoint 10: Durrow Townparks	
	Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › 4 No. of the eight Proposed turbines are entirely screened from view by the topography, and 2 more turbines have only very small blades tips showing. › All Proposed turbine towers except for the very top of T1 are visually screened with only the blades being visible above the woodland. › From this location, the Proposed turbines comprise only a narrow horizontal spatial extent of the view. › This is short-range view comprising mature vegetation and does not include distinctive or unique landscape features of national or regional renown, the Proposed turbines do not significantly alter and impact any key scenic sensitivities from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	**'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in *Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.*

1.4.11 VP11: Heywood Gardens

Viewpoint 11: Heywood Gardens (and Co. Laois SV 23)			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from Heywood Gardens in the townland of Heywood Demesne representing Co. Laois designated Scenic View and Prospect 23. Located approx. 8.5km north-east of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 647045, N 681726 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 6 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Users of Heywood Gardens: **High.** L-SV-23: **High**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a long-range view taken from the southernmost edge of the Heywood Gardens landscape, overlooking agricultural land at the left with a walled garden in the right foreground that is the outer wall of Heywood Gardens. Mature boundary vegetation aligns the agricultural fields beyond the wall at the right, while mostly open views extend over the fields with sparse fencing at the left. The open views extend to Ballynalacken Hill in the left mid-ground of the image, and range to distant ridgelines beyond 20km, in the far background.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 No. Proposed turbines can be seen in the background of the image with some blades and partial towers above the horizon comprising a sloping ridgeline, between mature tree stands in the centre of the image. All of the visible Proposed turbines appear as barely perceptible, very small features in the landscape; five of the turbines (T8, T6, T5, T3, T4) are visible as full towers and blades, while one (T1) is screened by the mid-ground vegetation such that only two blades are showing, and the tower is fully screened. T7 and T2 are fully screened by vegetation at either end of the development. The Proposed turbines comprise a very small horizontal extent of this view.		
Cumulative Context	Multiple other existing and permitted wind energy development have the potential to be seen from this viewpoint, including: › Existing Lisdowney WindFarm (4 turbines) – in the distance behind the Proposed turbines › Existing Ballybay Wind Farm (6 turbines) – in the distance behind the Proposed turbines › Existing Lisheen 3 Wind Farm (8 turbines) – Not visible screened by woodland › Existing Foyle Wind farm (4 turbines) and Permitted Foyle Ext. (3 turbines) – visible on the distant horizon (30km from VP11) to the left of the Proposed turbines › In a future receiving environment, there is potential to see the Proposed Briskalagh Wind Farm (7 turbines) on the distant horizon (27.5km from VP11) to the left of the Proposed turbines › In a future receiving environment, there is potential to see the Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) in combination with the Proposed turbines, they are located on a hill to the left of the photomontage. There is some potential for in-combination successional cumulative effects with the Proposed turbines where a receptor will need to move their head to experience turbines in another direction. Lisdowney, Ballybay, Lisheen 3 or Foyle the Proposed turbines will contribute to cumulative visual effects but will be barely distinguishable at this distance.		

Viewpoint 11: Heywood Gardens (and Co. Laois SV 23)	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** On account of this viewpoint being located at Co. Laois designated Scenic View 23, with views directed towards the Proposed Development. The view comprises a small part of the unique Heywoods Garden property and a small portion of the distinctive landscape feature of Ballynalacken Hill, where receptors will be visiting in a recreational capacity. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Magnitude of Change	**'Slight'** The change in the view is not prominent, as the Proposed turbines appear as very small features in the background comprising a very small horizontal extent of the view. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends".* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› No visibility of the Proposed turbines will actually occur within the walled gardens. This viewpoint was captured on the walkway into the gardens and is the only location within lands of Heywood Gardens where an angle was found with clear unobstructed views of the Proposed Development. › Scenic View 23 protects 'Views over farmland' with mapping in the LCDP showing the view directed directly south towards Ballynalacken. The Proposed turbines are visible to the south-west in a slightly different field of view. › The Proposed turbines are well set back, seen on distant farmland comprising only a narrow horizontal spatial extent in the background of the view. › The Proposed turbines are viewed as being spaced appropriately in two staggered linear arrays in response to the underlying field pattern, such that they read coherently within the landscape and the layout and arrangement of turbines is in alignment with the recommended siting and design guidance for turbines in Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in the DoEHLG 2006 and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines do not significantly impact upon the key scenic sensitivities of this area and the designated scenic view. › The Proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines are effectively accommodated within the open and expansive landscape views experienced from this viewpoint.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.12 VP12: Course

Viewpoint 12: Course			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the N77 National Road outside of the town of Durrow in the townland of Course. Located approx. 3.1km north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T1). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 641152, N 678113 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-2 Lowland Agricultural Areas: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Durrow: **Medium;** N77 National Road: **Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a medium-range view from the N77 towards a forested hill in the background of the image. Mature roadside vegetation (trees) aligns the N77 at the far left and right of the image with a mature hedge of moderate height running the entire length of the road. Mature boundary vegetation amongst scattered residential properties can be seen on the far side of hedge towards the forested hill, located in the mid-ground of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees as relatively small features in the background of the image, behind the mixed residences & mature boundary vegetation, with some towers and blades visible above the ridgeline of the sloping, forested hill. The Proposed turbines comprise a narrow spatial extent of the view. T6, T7 and T8 are entirely visually screened by with forested hill except for only blades being visible, while T1, T3 and T5 are seen to be visually stacked, with all blades and most of their towers visible. T4 and T2 have full blades visible above the horizon line, and most of their towers visible. The forested hill in the mid-ground acts as a visual screening element to differing degrees for all turbines.		
Cumulative Context	No other wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint. While the existing Lisdowney Wind Farm (4 turbines) is indicated on the wireline views, its turbines are not actually visible in the image due to the intervening topography and upland vegetation. No cumulative effects occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Medium:** Receptors in the village of Durrow and residents located adjacent to the N77 are deemed to be of medium sensitivity. The transport route of the N77 is considered Low sensitivity and this viewpoint is located in an LCA of Low sensitivity. On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**Moderate:** The Proposed turbines are seen above and beyond an elevated ridgeline and woodland in the background of the image. Whilst they do not comprise a large horizontal extent of the view and are only partially visible there is visual stacking warranting a moderate degree of change. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Significance of Effect	**Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = 'Moderate' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.*		

Viewpoint 12: Course	
	Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed turbines will not be visible within the town of Durrow itself. › This elevated vantage point on the N77 is one of the only locations with views of the Proposed turbines on the outskirts of Durrow. A decline in elevation occurs both immediately north and south of this viewpoint on the N77, in these areas, the Proposed turbines will not be visible › Visual effects will be momentary as road users pass this slightly elevated point before entering the town of Durrow. › The Proposed turbines are well set back beyond the distant ridgeline and all components are viewed above the horizon. › This is medium-range view and does not include distinctive or unique landscape features of county, regional or national renown. › From this location, the Proposed turbines comprise only a narrow horizontal spatial extent of the view.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Slight' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities'.* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.13 VP13: Oldtown

Viewpoint 13: Oldtown			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from the N77 National Road in the townland of Oldtown. Located approx. 5.2km south of the nearest Proposed turbine (T8). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 645047, N 668533 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	KK-LCA-F1 Kilkenny Northern Basin: **Low.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	N77 National Road: **Low**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image depicts a medium-range view from the N77, looking across a flat landscape of agricultural fields lined with mature boundary vegetation and residences scattered sparsely at the centre mid-ground of the image. Beyond the residences and boundary vegetation, a sloping hill is partially visible in the background. The N77 is lined with mature roadside vegetation at the right of the image, while agricultural fields and light fencing can be seen in the left of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines can be seen in the background of the image above the distant hill. Due to the distance from this viewpoint, the Proposed turbines appear as small features in the landscape and comprise a very narrow spatial extent. The Proposed turbines are seen in a linear staggard line with some minor visual stacking between T5 and T7. All Proposed turbines blades are almost entirely visible above the horizon.		
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisdowney Wind Farm (4 turbines) is located at the far-left of the 90-degree view. These existing turbines are also seen on a distant elevated landform and have clear visual separation with the Proposed turbines. No other wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**Low:** Receptors travelling the N77 are deemed to be of Low sensitivity. The viewpoint is located in a sparsely populated rural landscape in an LCA of Low sensitivity. On balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be Low. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Magnitude of Change	**Slight:** The Proposed Development is visible from this location although the turbines are small features in the distance only partially visible above the horizon. The Proposed turbines do not comprise a wide horizontal extent. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		
Significance of Effect	**Low × Slight = Minor = 'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		

Viewpoint 13: Oldtown	
Mitigation Factors	› The Proposed turbines are seen at distance in a working rural landscape, they are not significantly impacting a scenic view of county, regional or national renown. › The Proposed turbines comprise only a narrow horizontal spatial extent of the view.
Residual Visual Effect	After considering all Mitigation Factors = **'Not Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences".* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.14 VP14: Archerstown North-East

Viewpoint 14: Archerstown North-East			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from an elevated vantage point along the L5753 Local Road in the townland of Archerstown. Located approx. 600m north of the nearest Proposed turbine (T2). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 640636, N 674983 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 8 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Cluster of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed turbines: **High.**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows an expansive, wide and long-range view from an elevated vantage point overlooking the Nore Valley. The landscape gently slopes downward from the foreground across the valley to the east, before rising to steeper slopes beyond the River Nore, leading to the Castlecomer Plateau, which forms the sloping topography in the background. Residential dwellings are scattered sparsely throughout the rural landscape comprising a patchwork of field cells delineated by boundary vegetation.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 8 No. Proposed turbines are visible as two staggered linear arrays with most of the blades above the horizon. In such close proximity, the Proposed turbines comprise a large horizontal extent of the view and are relatively evenly spaced, with slight visual stacking of T4 and T5. All turbines are sited at lower elevation relative to this vantage point, however, the hubs of all turbines are visible above the landform and vegetation. It is acknowledged that surface level infrastructure including the turbine hardstands and proposed new roads within the Site servicing T1-T5 will be seen from this viewpoint. There may also be a view of the proposed borrow pit directly behind T3. The visual impact of these elements within the Site are accounted for in the impact assessment of this viewpoint and are discussed further in Section 14.7.3 of Chapter 14.		
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisdowney turbines are located to the south from this viewpoint in an alternative direction to the Proposed turbines, they are not visible from this vantage point due to the characteristics of the curving road, landform and roadside screening. The Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) and Proposed White Hill Wind Farm (7 turbines) will potentially be visible in a future receiving environment, as shown by the photomontage. The proposed Ballynalacken turbines are seen on the distant ridgeline on the opposite side of the valley to the left of the Proposed turbines. The proposed White Hill turbines appear as very small features on the distant horizon clustered in the centre background of the view.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High:** Includes residences in close proximity to the viewpoint location who have primary views in the direction of the Proposed turbines. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		

Viewpoint 14: Archerstown North-East	
Magnitude of Change	**Substantial** – A large-scale change will occur as a direct result of the Proposed Development which will be prominent from this location and will become the most noticeable aspect of the view. The Proposed turbines will be fully visible across a wide horizontal extent. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of the sensitive aspect of the environment.'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › This is a sparsely settled area and this viewpoint only represents a very small number of residential receptors. › Whilst this is a view of high scenic quality, the Proposed turbines are seen in a working rural landscape, and they are not significantly impacting a protected scenic view of regional or national renown. › The Proposed turbines are spaced in individual field cells and are following the natural contours of the landscape which is in line with this landscape type as set out in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines are spaced appropriately in two staggered lines in response to the underlying field pattern, appropriate for Hilly and Flat Farmland landscape types adhering to the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and Draft 2019 Guidelines.
Residual Visual Effect	**Significant (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment".* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

1.4.15 VP15: Archerstown South-West

Viewpoint 15: Archerstown South-West			
Viewpoint Description and Details	› View from an elevated vantage point along the L5752 Local Road in the townland of Archerstown. Located approx. 800m west of the nearest Proposed turbine (T2). › Grid Reference (ITM): E 640475, N 674553 › No. of turbines visible (including blades/tips): 6 (out of 8).		
LCA and Sensitivity	L-LCA-1 Mountains, Hills, Upland Areas: **Medium.**	**Visual Receptors and Sensitivity**	Cluster of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed turbines: **High.**
Description of 'Existing View'	This image shows a long-ranging view from an elevated vantage point looking across the Nore Valley and beyond towards the Castlecomer Plateau. The landscape comprises a patchwork fields and mature vegetation. The landscape gently slopes downward from the foreground towards the east and south. Residential dwellings are scattered sparsely throughout the landscape. One residential dwelling is partially visible amongst mature vegetation in the right foreground of the image as the elevation declines.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 No. Proposed turbines (T3-T8) are visible as two staggered linear arrays above the horizon in the mid-ground of the view. T1 and T2 are partially obscured by vegetation in the foreground of the photomontage. At this distance, the Proposed turbines comprise a wide spatial extent of the view. The lower tower sections of T7 and T8 are screened from view by mature vegetation and the intervening landform. T4 is the most prominent feature, with is full tower and all blades visible. Surface level infrastructure of the Site (hardstands and roads) servicing T4 will be seen from this viewpoint. The visual impact of these elements within the Site are accounted for in the impact assessment of this viewpoint and are discussed further in Section 14.7.3 of Chapter 14.		
Cumulative Context	The existing Lisdowney turbines are located to the south from this viewpoint in an alternative direction to the Proposed turbines, they are not visible from this vantage point due visual screening by roadside vegetation. The Proposed Ballynalacken Wind Farm (12 turbines) and Proposed White Hill Wind Farm (7 turbines) will potentially be visible in a future receiving environment, as shown by the photomontage. The proposed Ballynalacken turbines are seen on the distant ridgeline on the opposite side of the valley to the centre and left of the Proposed turbines. The proposed White Hill turbines appear as very small features on the distant horizon clustered in the centre background of the view beyond T5.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	**High.** Includes residences in close proximity to the viewpoint location with primary views in the direction of the Proposed turbines. Refer to Section 1.8.2 'Visual Receptor Sensitivity' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.		

Viewpoint 15: Archerstown South-West	
Magnitude of Change	**Substantial** – A large-scale change will occur as a direct result of the Proposed Development which will be prominent from this location and will become the most noticeable aspect of the view. The Proposed turbines will be fully visible across a wide horizontal extent. For the definition of this rating, please refer to Section 1.8.3 'Magnitude of Visual Change' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Significance of Effect	**High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = 'Very Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *'An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of the sensitive aspect of the environment.'.* Refer to Section 1.8.4 'Visual Effects Assessment Matrix' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.
Mitigation Factors	› Siting of the Proposed turbines exceeds the recommended 500m set-back distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4-times-tip-height set-back distance (in this case, 700m) prescribed for residential visual amenity by the Draft 2019 Guidelines. › This is a sparsely settled area, and this viewpoint only represents a very small number of residential receptors. › Only three properties are located near this viewpoint, (one is a participating landowner in the project) and will have open clear views as are seen in the photomontage. › With the exception of this viewpoint, the roadside vegetation along the L5752 is dense and tall (as shown in the route screening analysis), and the topography drops steeply south of this viewpoint location, thereby effectively visually screening the Proposed turbines for most residential properties further south of this viewpoint. › Whilst this is a view of high scenic quality, the Proposed turbines are seen in a working rural landscape, and they are not significantly impacting a protected scenic view of regional or national renown. › The Proposed turbines are spaced in individual field cells and are following the natural contours of the landscape which is in line with this landscape type as set out in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and Draft 2019 Guidelines. › The Proposed turbines are spaced appropriately in two staggered lines in response to the underlying field pattern, appropriate for Hilly and Flat Farmland landscape types adhering to the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and Draft 2019 Guidelines.
Residual Visual Effect	**'Significant' (EPA, 2022)** *"An effect which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment".* Refer to Section 1.9 'Determining Residual Landscape and Visual Effects' in Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology.

APPENDIX 14-3

END OF PHOTOMONTAGE VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES