



APPENDIX 13-3

PHOTOMONTAGE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TABLES



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Photo9montage Visual Impact Assessment Tables

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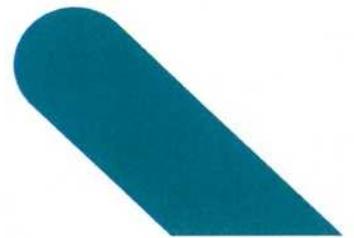
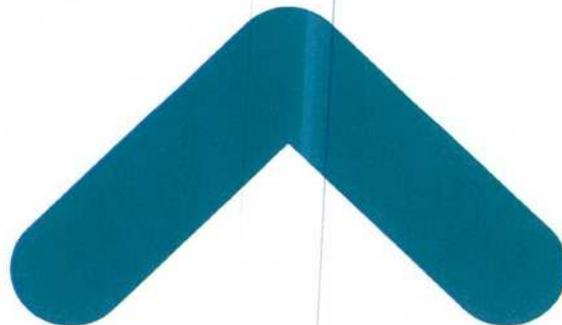
Curraglass Wind Farm, Co. Cork

Appendix 13-3

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PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

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

Table 1 - Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
1	View from the N71 National Road / C-SR-110 designated scenic route / Wild Atlantic Way, within the townland of Abbey. Located approximately 17.4km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 498, 217 N: 548, 234
2	View from the Wild Atlantic Osi viewing point / Vaughans Pass, along the L-4713 Local Road within the townland of Dromleigh South. Located approximately 17.4km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 500, 099 N: 546, 958
3	View from the C-SR-30 designated scenic route / L-4712 Local Road, within the townland of Ardnageehy Beg. Located approximately 15.1km south from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 501, 870 N: 548, 635
4	View from the C-SR-29 designated scenic route / R-585 Regional Road, within the townland of Kealkill. Located approximately 6.7km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 505,314 N:556, 312
5	View from the C-SR-29 designated scenic route / R585 Regional Road, within the townland of Maughanaclea. Located approximately 5.6km south from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 510,484 N: 556,656
6	View from a L-8781 Local Road within the townland of Derryfadda. Located approximately 2.8km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 507, 085 N:559, 928
7	View from the Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route / L-8776 Local Road , within the townland of Gortloughra. Located approximately 3.3km south-east from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 511,160 N: 559,534
8	View from the C-SR-28 designated scenic route / R-584 Regional Road within the townland of Curraglass. Located approximately 1.5km southeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 510, 117 N:560, 929
9	View from the C-SR-34 designated scenic route / R-584 Regional Road / Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route, within the townland of Inchi More. Located approximately 3.3km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 511, 413 N: 565, 582
10	View from the C-SR-28 designated scenic route / R548 Regional Road, within the townland of Garrynapeaka. Located approximately 3km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 510,357 N: 565,994

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
11	View from the C-SR-27 designated scenic route / Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí Waymarked Walking Trail / L-7406 Local Road, within the townland of Rossalougha. Located approximately 4.9km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 510,122 N: 566,972
12	View from the C-SR-26 designated scenic route / L-3402 Local Road, within the townland of Augeris. Located approximately 9.6km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E: 515, 493 N:570, 387
13	View from the Kealkill Stone Circle, within the townland of Kealkill. Located approximately 7.3km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 505,353 N: 555,649
14	View from the L-87812 Local Road / Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí walking trail, within the townland on Coomacroobeg. Located approximately 1.9km west from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 507,308 N: 561,272
15	View from the L-8707 Local Road / Sheeps Head Looped cycle trail, within the townland on Curraghavaddra. Located approximately 21km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 495, 043 N:545, 372
16	View from the L-4703 Local Road / Wild Atlantic Way / C-SR-103 designated scenic view, within the townland of Rooska East. Located approximately 21.6km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 494, 190 N:546, 126

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1.1

Viewpoint Selection

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

1.2

Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the 'Assessing Visual Effects' methodology set out in Section 1.8 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the proposed turbines are included in the assessment tables below.

Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

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

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1.2.2 Viewpoint Assessments

1.2.2.1 Viewpoint 1 – Abbey

Viewpoint 1 – Abbey			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View overlooking Bantry Bay from the N71 National Road in the townland of Abbey. ➤ Located approximately 17.4km south from the nearest proposed turbine T3 ➤ Located on a designated scenic route C-SR-110 and the Wild Atlantic Way. ➤ Grid Reference: E 498,217, N 548,234 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Wild Atlantic Way – High Bantry – Moderate Recreational Route - High
Description of 'Existing View'	This image was taken just off N71 National Road, in front of the cemetery of Bantry, overlooking Bantry Bay. Across Bantry Harbour and Bay, the Knockboy Mountain range and other topographical landforms form the backdrop of this view. The western parts of Bantry Town can be seen in the right of this view in the centre midground.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	At the distance of 17.4km, all three of the proposed turbines are visible from approximately mid-tower upwards, arranged in a linear array. The proposed turbines are situated within a saddle of lower ground, enclosed by elevated ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines, occupying a limited horizontal extent. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T2 as a slender vertical feature.		
Cumulative Effects	The permitted Gortyrähilly Wind Farm is located beyond the Curraglass ridgeline where the proposed turbines are located, with only blade tips theoretically visible in the wireline view. In reality, the permitted Gortyrähilly Wind Farm turbines will be barely discernible at this distance. Cumulative visual effects are not likely to occur.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position on a designated scenic route, the Wild Atlantic Way and recreational routes that overlook Bantry Bay.		
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines would be viewed as small elements over a very small horizontal extent in the distant background of the view. They do not substantially alter the baseline view.		
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) "An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At a setback distance of >17km, the proposed turbines are visible as very small features in the distant background, located within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated peaks, achieving visual balance within the landscape. 		

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Viewpoint 1 – Abbey	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The stated focus of this County Cork scenic route is “views of Dunmanus Bay and Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough and Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bere Island, and the Beara Peninsula”. As such only a very small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines, which are located at a large set-back distance, occupying a limited horizontal extent. ➤ The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

1.2.2.2

Viewpoint 2 – Dromleigh South

Viewpoint 2 – Dromleigh South			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Wild Atlantic OSi viewing point / Vaughans Pass, along the L-4713 Local Road within the townland of Dromleigh South. ➤ Located approximately 17.4km south from the nearest proposed turbine T3; ➤ Located along the Sheep’s Head Way recreational route; ➤ Grid Reference: E 500,099, N 546,958; ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Viewing Point – Very High Recreational Route – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This view from an elevated vantage point overlooks Bantry Bay, the rugged coastline and distant mountainous landforms, which form the backdrop of this view. The midground is occupied by undulating lowlands characterised by a patchwork of agricultural fields and residential dwellings. Telecom masts are seen to the right of the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The 3 no. proposed turbines are seen in distant background, nestled within a depression of lower ground enclosed by elevated landforms either side of the proposed turbines. Turbine T3 appears marginally visually separated from T1 and T2. The proposed turbines occupy a relatively short horizontal extent within an expansive undulating landform, away from the key focus of the view (see mitigating factors below). The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T2 as a slender vertical feature.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines are seen in combination with the permitted Gortyrhilly turbines which are visible as small features in the distant landscape, increasing the overall extent of wind energy developments seen within the saddle of lower elevation. Blade tips of the permitted Knocknamork turbines are just about discernible behind the proposed turbines. The blade tips of the existing Grousemount and Derragh turbines are theoretically visible beyond the distant ridgelines in the wireline view, however, due to distance, are barely discernible to</p>		

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Viewpoint 2 – Dromleigh South	
	<p>the naked eye. Overall, the Knocknamork, Grousemount and Derragh would have no bearing on the overall cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>The proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm (Pre-App) is visible in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although there is a large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines from this viewpoint.</p> <p>While the proposed turbines do add to the extent of turbines visible from this viewpoint, they assimilate into the view, with the topographical features emphasising the separation between the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and permitted wind energy developments. Overall, the proposed three turbines represent a relatively minor addition to the overall cumulative context from this viewpoint, within a landscape capable of effectively absorbing a wind energy development of this scale. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Very High: This viewpoint has been classified as a very high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position at a designated Osi Viewing Point, and recreational route that overlooks Bantry Bay and adjoining High Value Landscape.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Slight: The proposed turbines are seen as small vertical features over a limited horizontal extent, 17.5km away. The addition of the proposed turbines slightly alters the baseline by introducing new turbine elements into the landscape. However, given their limited scale and extent in the distant background, the overall composition of the view from this viewpoint remains largely unaltered by the addition of the proposed turbines.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Very High x Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From this viewpoint, the highest quality views are focussed on the dramatic landscape of the mountains and coastline of the Co. Cork High Value Landscape the north and north-west (as per the sign in the foreground – refer to Section 13.7.3.5 of Chapter 13). The proposed turbines are located to the north-east and are not located within this highly scenic portion of the view which is to the left of the photomontage. The proposed turbines are in the far periphery of the most scenic part of the view. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, further mitigating visual impacts. It is considered that the proposed turbines are not excessively dominant features or visually obtrusive. ➤ The proposed turbines are visible as very small features in the distant background, located within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated peaks, achieving visual balance within the expansive landscape. ➤ The proposed turbines are seen set back in an upland area comprising commercial forestry, this is a working landscape where wind energy has previously been established and accepted.

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Viewpoint 2 – Dromleigh South	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines of this scale as well as other wind energy developments.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.2.2.3

Viewpoint 3 – Ardnageehy Beg

Viewpoint 3 – Ardnageehy Beg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View L-4712 Local Road, within the townland of Ardnageehy Beg. ➤ Located approximately 15.1km south from the nearest proposed turbine T3. ➤ Located on a designated scenic route C-SR-30. ➤ Grid Reference: E 501,870, N 548,635 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Bantry & Bantry Bay – Medium Motorised Traffic - Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view of a long-ranging overlooking a gently undulating, low-lying valley with views of distant topographical landforms in the distant background. Numerous residential properties and agricultural fields enclosed by hedgerows and treelines define the low-lying landscape in the centre midground of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	At the distance of 15.1km, the proposed turbines are seen as miniature elements in the distant background of the view within a bowl of lower elevation straddled by elevated ridges either side of the turbines. The proposed turbines are seen to be situated within a tract of commercial forestry and occupy a relatively short horizontal extent. Turbine T3 appears marginally visually separated from turbines T1 and T2. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T2 as a slender vertical feature.		
Cumulative Effects	The blade tips of two of the permitted Gortyrähilly turbines are just about discernible in the distant background behind the proposed turbines. Given the limited extent and scale of the Gortyrähilly turbines, they will have no bearing on the overall cumulative visual effects.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Medium: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its proximity to the populated settlement of Bantry with views available in the direction of the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines would be viewed as small elements over a very small horizontal extent in the distant background of the view.		

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Viewpoint 3 – Ardnageehy Beg	
<i>LVA Methodology Appendix 13.1)</i>	
Significance of Effect	Medium x Negligible = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are seen as very small features in the distant background, occupying a very limited horizontal extent, within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated ridges, achieving overall visual balance within the landscape. ➤ The expansive landscape has the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments within this landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”

1.2.2.4 Viewpoint 4 – Kealkill

Viewpoint 4 – Kealkill			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R-585 Regional Road, within the townland of Kealkill. ➤ Located approximately 6.7km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3. ➤ Located on a designated scenic route SR-29, just east of the settlement of Kealkill. ➤ Grid Reference: E 505,314, N 556,312 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Kealkill – Medium Scenic Route – High Recreational Route – High
Description of ‘Existing View’	This image of a medium-range view overlooking a rolling agricultural pastureland field enclosed by hedgerows and treelines. Douce Mountain can be seen in the right background of this view and Conigar and Foilastookeen ridgelines can be seen to the left. The overall character of the landscape is of a highly modified working landscape. The existing Shehy More Wind Farm is visible in the distant right-hand background of the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	The blade tips of the proposed turbines are partially discernible beyond the Curraglass ridgeline in the background of the view. The proposed turbines occupy a very limited horizontal extent within the view.		
Cumulative Effects	The proposed turbines will be seen in succession with the existing Shehy More Wind Farm, where 4 blade tips are just about discernible in the distant right-hand side of the view, outside the 53.5 Field of View (evident on the 90-degree image).		

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Viewpoint 4 – Kealkill	
	<p>The proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm (Pre-App) is visible in the same general direction as the existing Shehy More turbines, though there is a large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>While there will be in succession views of the proposed turbines from this direction (where an observer has to turn their head to see different developments), any cumulative visual effects arising from the proposed turbines will be limited. At this distance, the proposed turbines are seen as barely discernible distant background features with only blade tips visible. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the designated scenic route along the R585 Regional Road, and its proximity to the settlement of Kealkill.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines are seen in such a small horizontal extent and are topographically screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.
Significance of Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are substantially screened by landform. ➤ The proposed turbines have been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impact. ➤ The proposed turbines are not in the direction of travel, therefore, are not in the direct line of vision of motorists along the road. Furthermore, due to vehicles travelling 60km/hr on this regional road, any views towards the turbines will be intermittent and momentary.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.2.2.5 Viewpoint 5 – Maughanaclea

Viewpoint 5 - Maughanaclea	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R585 Regional Road in the townland of Maughanaclea. ➤ Located approximately 5.6km south from the nearest proposed turbine T3 ➤ Located on a designated scenic route C-SR-29. ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,484, N 556,656

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Viewpoint 5 - Maughanaclea	
Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are visible in an upland area of the landscape comprising commercial forestry. This is a modified working landscape at the Site where turbines operated previously, a location where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously. ➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a coherent linear array, occupying a generally short horizontal extent on a lower side of a ridge, viewed against a mountainous backdrop, aligned with the siting and design principles for Transitional Marginal Landscapes as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), minimising visual intrusion and ensuring the turbines achieve a balance with their surrounds. ➤ The large scale of the undulating landscape have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines of this scale as well as other wind energy developments. ➤ The intervening topography and ridgelines increase the perceived distance of the proposed turbines. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.2.2.6 **Viewpoint 6 - Derryfadda**

Viewpoint 6 - Derryfadda			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-8781 Local Road within the townland of Derryfadda. ➤ Located approximately 2.8km from the nearest proposed turbine T3. ➤ Grid Reference: E 507,085, N 559,928 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents in Medium Proximity - Medium Motorised Traffic – Low
Description of 'Existing View'	The left side of this view includes open views across the Owenbeg River Valley, characterised by agriculture pastureland fields and mature hedgerows. The valley then rises in elevation in the midground towards Foilastookeen to the right and the Curraglass ridge in the centre midground. The right side of this view mainly comprises of mature vegetation, which runs parallel along the road towards the proposed turbines. One off residential dwellings can be seen in the distant landscape.		

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Viewpoint 6 - Derryfadda	
	Telegraph poles can be seen in this view running parallel along the road and dotted around the valley.
Proposed Photomontage Description	All 3 no. proposed turbines are visible on the lower elevations of the Curraglass ridgeline, within commercial forestry tracts. The proposed turbines appear as moderately scaled vertical elements, irregularly spaced, following the variations of the undulating terrain. Turbine T3 appears slightly visually separated from the other two turbines. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T2 as a slender vertical feature.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Medium: This viewpoint has been classified as medium sensitivity on account of residential properties in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The 3 no. proposed turbines are seen over moderate horizontal extent, visually set-back from the viewpoint location, and resulting in low levels of change to the view.
Significance of Effect	Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are seen in an upland area of the landscape comprising commercial forestry. This is a modified working landscape at the Site where turbines operated previously, a location where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously. ➤ Given the high levels of human activities such as agricultural activities, commercial forestry activities within the wider landscape and previous wind farm operations within the Site itself, the condition of the landscape is degraded in several areas. Thus, the Site (and the immediate wider landscape) is characterised as a heavily modified human landscape. Therefore, the Site is deemed capable of effectively absorbing the proposed turbines. ➤ The proposed turbines follow an irregular spacing pattern, ensuring that the turbines blend in naturally with the natural contours and variations of the undulating terrain, aligning with the siting and design principles for Transitional Marginal Landscapes as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), minimising visual intrusion. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The proposed turbines are visible in an upland plateau, relatively contained by distinctive landform features. ➤ When visible, the proposed turbines are not viewed within an area of the landscape comprising any unique landscape qualities.

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Viewpoint 6 - Derryfadda	
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) "An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."

1.2.2.7 **Viewpoint 7 - Gortloughra**

Viewpoint 7 - Gortloughra			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-8776 Local Road in the townland of Gortloughra. ➤ Located approximately 3.3km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3 ➤ Located along Beara Gougane Barra Cycling Route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 511,160, N 559,534 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Recreational Route - Medium Residences - Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>The view is from elevated ground overlooking a valley characterised by one-off residential dwellings and agricultural fields delineated by hedgerows and mature vegetation. Beyond the valley, the land rises towards the peat-covered Curraglass ridge in the centre middle-ground. The moorland covered Conigar and Foilastookeen ridges can be seen in the distant background, while Doughill Mountain can be seen to the right in this view.</p> <p>Some of the existing Grousemount turbines are visible in the distant background along a ridge.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The 3 no. proposed turbines are visible behind the Curraglass ridgeline from approximately mid-tower upwards, against a topographical backdrop. The proposed turbines are regularly spaced in a linear array over a relatively small horizontal extent.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines will be seen in combinations with the existing Grousemount Wind Farm, which is seen in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although there is a degree of distance and visual separation from these and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>The existing Shehy More turbines are visible in the opposite direction, beyond the field of view of the proposed turbines. As such, some combined (in succession) views will occur with these and the proposed turbines. Similarly, the proposed Gortloughra and Maughanaclea (Pre-App) turbines are located in the same general direction as the existing Shehy More turbines.</p> <p>Overall, the topographical features within this expansive undulating landscape emphasise the separation between the proposed and other cumulative turbines. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and permitted wind energy developments. As such, Significant cumulative visual effects will not occur. The</p>		

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Viewpoint 7 - Gortloughra	
	cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Medium: This viewpoint has been classified as a medium sensitivity viewpoint on account of the recreational 'Beara Gougane Barra Cycle' route located along this route.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbines are partially visible over a short horizontal extent and result in a low level of change within the view.
Significance of Effect	Medium × Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>"An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends."</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a coherent linear array, occupying a generally short horizontal extent on a lower side of a ridge, viewed against a mountainous backdrop, aligned with the siting and design principles for Transitional Marginal Landscapes as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), minimising visual intrusion and ensuring the turbines achieve a balance with their surrounds. ➤ The large scale of the undulating landscape have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines of this scale as well as other wind energy developments. ➤ The proposed turbines are located within an upland area of the landscape comprising commercial forestry. This is a modified working landscape at the Site where turbines operated previously, a location where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."</i>

1.2.2.8 Viewpoint 8 - Curraglass

Viewpoint 8 - Curraglass	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R-584 Regional Road within the townland of Curraglass. ➤ Located approximately 1.5km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3 ➤ Located along C-SR-28 designated scenic route. ➤ Grid Reference: E 510,118, N 560,929 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3

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Viewpoint 8 - Curraglass			
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Residents - High Motorised Traffic - Medium
Description of 'Existing View'	The image is of a short-range view from a regional road overlooking an agricultural field sloping upwards, bounded by hedgerows and treelines. Farm buildings and a residential dwelling can be seen in the centre middle-ground of the view. Mountain moorland covered upland terrain with patches of commercial forestry forms the background of the image. The overall character of the landscape is of a highly modified working landscape.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Turbine T1 is visible from hub height upwards, while only the blade tips of turbine T2 are visible above the ridgeline in the background of the view. T3 blades may be discernible beyond the intervening vegetation, more open views may occur in the winter months when the trees lose their foliage. The proposed turbines appear to be evenly spaced, occupying a relatively moderate horizontal extent within the view.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are visible within this view. Though, the proposed Maughanaclea (Pre-App) and proposed Gortloughra turbines may be visible in the opposite direction, beyond the field of view of the proposed turbines. As such, some combined (in succession) views may occur at this viewpoint. However, given the dense topographical screening of the proposed turbines, any in succession cumulative visual effects that may occur from the proposed turbines will be limited. No Significant visual effects will arise at this viewpoint. Any cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position on a designated scenic route, and medium proximity of residential receptors to the proposed turbines.		
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbines are largely screened by topography, resulting in a low level of change due to their limited vertical and horizontal extent within the view.		
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."		
Mitigation Factors	<p>➤ This viewpoint is representative of one the most open views (worst-case scenario) towards the proposed turbines from the designated scenic route C-SR-28. As discussed in Section 13.7.3.5 of Chapter 13, the majority of the route is screened by a combination of landform and roadside vegetation, as illustrated by the ZTV and Route Screening Assessment. As such, the proposed turbines will not be visible along most of C-SR-28 scenic route. However, even at this location, visibility is limited to a brief glimpse through a short break in otherwise dense roadside vegetation, where turbine blades are only intermittently visible behind the intervening hill.</p>		

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Viewpoint 8 - Curraglass	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The stated focus of County Cork scenic route SR-28 is of <i>“the surrounding remote rural landscape and rugged mountains”</i>. The proposed turbines are situated in the opposite direction of the key long-range scenic views of the remote rural landscape and rugged mountains, which are primarily experienced along the southern extent of the route when traveling in a north-south direction (See Section 13.7.3.5 for further discussion). ➤ The proposed turbines are not viewed against any areas of the landscape comprising any unique landscape qualities. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The majority of the proposed turbines are screened by landform.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

1.2.2.9 **Viewpoint 9 – Inchi More**

Viewpoint 9 – Inchi More			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R-584 Regional Road within the townland of Inchi Mor. ➤ Located approximately 3.3km north from the nearest proposed turbine T1. ➤ Located on C-SR-34 designated scenic route, and ‘Beara Gougane Barra Cycle’ recreational route. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 511,413, N: 565,582 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 1/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route - High Residents – Medium Recreational Route - Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	The view is along the R584 Regional Road with a single residential property seen to the right-hand side of the image. The middle-ground of the image is comprised of dense, mature scrub and tree vegetation. Beyond this, the Foilastookeen mountain to the right and the Doughill Mountain to the left form the backdrop of the view. No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Turbines T3 and T2 are fully screened by intervening topography, with only the blade tip of proposed turbine T1 partially visible above the ridge.		
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position on a designated scenic route, designated recreational routes and medium proximity of residents to the proposed turbines		

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Viewpoint 9 – Inchi More	
<i>L VIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in L VIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines are topographically screened to a degree that the change is barely distinguishable from the do-nothing scenario, with the character of the view substantially unaltered.
Significance of Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The proposed turbines are not in the direction of travel, therefore, are not in the direct line of vision of motorists along the road. Furthermore, due to vehicles travelling 80km/hr on this regional road, any views towards the turbines will be intermittent and momentary. ➤ This viewpoint is representative of one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines, Other sections of the route are screened by intervening topography (see ZTV outputs in Section 13.3.2) and vegetation (see Route Screening Analysis in Section 13.3.2.4 of Chapter 13).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Imperceptible (EPA, 2022) “An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”

1.2.2.10 **Viewpoint 10 – Garrynapeake**

Viewpoint 10 – Garrynapeake			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the R548 Regional Road in the townland of Garrynapeake. ➤ Located approximately 3km north from the nearest proposed turbine T1. ➤ Located on C-SR-28 designated scenic route. ➤ Grid Reference: E: 510,357 N: 565,994 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 2/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 16a - Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley: High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Residents – Medium Recreational Route - High
Description of 'Existing View'	This image is of a short-range view with dense shrub and tree vegetation in the centre foreground. A residential dwelling is seen in the right-hand side of the image. A gently undulating ridge forms the backdrop of the view, limiting any long-range views into the distant background.		

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Viewpoint 10 – Garrynapeake	
Proposed Photomontage Description	Proposed turbine T1 is visible from approximately mid tower upwards, with the blade tips of proposed turbine T2 visible just above the ridgeline behind the bare tree cover. The blade tip of proposed turbine T3 is just about discernible in the wireline, however, is screened from view by intervening vegetation.
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position on a designated scenic route, designated recreational route, and proximity to the Gougane Barra.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbine that are visible are seen within a limited vertical and horizontal extent within the view and their addition results in a low level of change.
Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While the proposed turbines are partially visible from this location, they do not impact the key sensitivities from this location, such as the Gougane Barra, which is located in the opposite direction of the proposed turbines. ➤ As discussed in Section 13.7.3.5 of Chapter 13, the majority of this scenic route is screened by a combination of landform and roadside vegetation, as illustrated by the ZTV and Route Screening Assessment. As such, the proposed turbines will not be visible along most of the route. However, even at this location, visibility is limited to a brief glimpse through a short break in vegetation, where turbine blades are only intermittently visible behind the intervening hill. ➤ The image was captured during in winter when trees had no vegetative cover; at other times of the year, when foliage is present, visibility of the proposed turbines will be further reduced due to increased vegetative screening. ➤ The proposed turbines has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts.
Residual Effect <i>(incl. mitigating factors)</i>	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

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1.2.2.11 Viewpoint 11 – Rossalougha

Viewpoint 11 - Rossalougha			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from L-7406 Local Road, in the townland of Rossalougha. ➤ Located approximately 4.9km north from the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Located on a C-SR-27 designated scenic route, and on the Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí Waymarked Walking Trail ➤ Grid Reference: E: 510,122 N: 566,972 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible : 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 16a - Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gougane Barra): High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Recreational Route – High
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>The view is of a rugged mountainous landscape, with undulating topographical landforms in the background, predominantly covered in bog. The Foilastookeen/Conigar Ridgeline acts as a backdrop within this view. The foreground is dominated by rough grassland and scrub vegetation. A patchwork of fields, hedgerows and forestry tracts can be seen in parts of the valley to the left of the image. One individual residential dwelling can be seen within the middle-ground of the image.</p> <p>The Gougane Barra National Park is not visible within this view, as the near ridgeline to the right screens the view into the valley.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	Proposed turbine T1 is visible from approximately mid-tower upwards, while the blade tips of turbines T2 and T3 are visible beyond the distant ridgeline. The proposed turbines occupy a relatively short horizontal extent.		
Cumulative Effects	<p>Some in succession views may occur with the proposed turbines and the proposed Gortloughra turbines, which are partially visible in the distant left-hand side of the view, outside the 53.5 Field of View (evident on the 90-degree image).</p> <p>The proposed Maughanaclea (Pre-App) turbines are partially visible in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although, there is a large set-back distance between these and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>As such, the proposed turbines may extend the horizontal spread of cumulative wind energy developments within this view. However, given the scale of the proposed turbines and degree of topographical screening, the proposed three turbines are considered a relatively minor addition to the overall cumulative context from this viewpoint. The receiving landscape is considered capable of effectively absorbing a wind energy development of this scale, without giving rise to Significant visual effects. Furthermore, the Gortloughra and Pre-App Maughanaclea Wind Farms are at an application and pre-application stage, and as such, the likelihood of their contribution to future cumulative effects remains uncertain.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the C-SR-27 designated scenic route, recreational route and close proximity to the Gougane Barra National Park*.</p>		

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Viewpoint 11 - Rossalougha	
	<i>*Although, it should be noted again that the National Park, the key sensitivity of the Gougane Barra cannot be seen within the view, nor has any visibility as outlined in Chapter 13 of this EIAR.</i>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbine that are visible are seen within a limited vertical and horizontal extent within the view and their addition results in a low level of change .
Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are visible in an upland area of the landscape where the previously operational turbines were located. Therefore, the proposed turbines do not introduce completely novel elements within the view, and will be located within an area where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously by the local planning policy. ➤ The large and expansive scale of the landscape and its elements within the view provides the capacity for the receiving landscape to absorb the proposed turbines of this scale, as well as other wind energy developments. ➤ The reduced scale and height of the proposed turbines (in comparison to the previous 7-turbine application) results in the proposed turbines appearing as small-scale elements, not being out of proportion within this view, particularly as they are surpassed in height by adjacent dramatic landforms. ➤ This viewpoint is representative of the highest point along this scenic route, further along the route, down towards the Gougane Barra, the key sensitivity along this scenic route (and within this HVL) has no visibility of the proposed turbines. ➤ As noted in the CCDP, the focus of the general view being protected on this scenic route is <i>“Local Road between Guagán Barra and the Mouth of the Glen Views of Coomatag- gart Mountain, hills, valleys & Guagán Barra”</i>. As such only a small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines forming a backdrop to the actual focus of the view.
Residual Effect <i>(incl. mitigating factors)</i>	Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.2.2.12 **Viewpoint 12 – Augeris**

Viewpoint 12 – Augeris	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from L-3402 Local Road, in the townland of Augeris. ➤ Located approximately 4.9km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Located on the C-SR-27 designated scenic route, and on the Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí Waymarked Walking Trail ➤ Grid Reference: E: 515,493 N: 570,387 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3

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Viewpoint 12 – Augeris			
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Motorised Traffic - Low
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>The image is a long-ranging view overlooking a gently undulating patchwork of tree and hedgerow lined agricultural fields interspersed with coniferous plantations and occasional residential dwellings. The undulating mountainous terrain forms the background to this view. Dense forestry is visible in the right-hand side of the view.</p> <p>Turbines of the existing Grousemount Wind Farm are just about discernible in the distant background.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The 3 no. proposed turbines are seen from approximately mid-tower upwards in the distant background, nestled within a depression of lower ground enclosed by elevated landforms either side of the proposed turbines. The proposed turbines occupy a generally limited horizontal extent. Turbine T3 is marginally visually separated from turbines T1 and T2. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the right of turbine T2.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>In succession views will occur with the proposed turbines and the existing Grousemount turbines, which are partially visible in the distant right-hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree image.</p> <p>The existing Derragh, Cleanrath, and permitted Gortrahilly Wind Farms are located in the opposite direction to this viewpoint to the north and east of the proposed turbines. As such, some combined (in succession) views will occur with these and the proposed turbines.</p> <p>The blade tips of the proposed Maughanaclea (Pre-App) and proposed Gortloughra turbines are theoretically visible beyond the distant ridgelines in the wireline view, however, due to distance, and vegetative screening, will not be discernible to the naked eye, and as such, will have no bearing on the overall cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>Some combined (in succession) views will occur with the proposed and other cumulative turbines. However, given the scale and limited horizontal extent of the proposed turbines, combined with the vast, expansive, undulating landscape with an established capacity of accommodating wind energy development, the proposed three turbines are considered a relatively minor addition to the overall cumulative context from this viewpoint. The receiving landscape is considered capable of effectively absorbing a wind energy development of this scale, without giving rise to significant cumulative visual effects. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the C-SR-27 designated scenic and recreational route.</p>		

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Viewpoint 12 – Augeris	
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines are as small elements over a small horizontal extent in the distant background of the view, visually enclosed by elevated topographical landforms either side of the proposed turbines.
Significance of Effect	High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are seen as very small features in the distant background, occupying a very limited horizontal extent in an upland plateau, relatively contained by distinctive landform features. ➤ The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments. ➤ The proposed turbines are viewed over a small horizontal extent in the distant background of the view. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.2.2.13 Viewpoint 13 – Kealkill Stone Circle

Viewpoint 13 – Kealkill Stone Circle			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the Kealkill Stone Circle, within the townland of Kealkill. ➤ Located approximately 7.3km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3. ➤ Grid Reference: E 505,353, N 555,649. ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Cultural Heritage – High Recreational Destination – Medium
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>The Kealkill Stone Circle is visible in the centre foreground of the view, within a grassland field enclosed by mature hedgerows and treelines. Agricultural and mountain moorland undulating terrain is visible in the background of the view. Douce Mountain to the right and Conigar and Foilastookeen ridgeline to the left form the backdrop of this view.</p> <p>The existing Shehy More turbines are just about discernible in the distant background of the view.</p>		

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Viewpoint 13 – Kealkill Stone Circle	
Proposed Photomontage Description	The proposed turbines are seen as small vertical elements, that sit at a slightly lower elevation than the Conigar and Foilastookeen ridgeline. Although turbine T3 appears partially visually separated from the remaining two turbines, the turbines appear as a coherent linear array, occupying a relatively short horizontal extent.
Cumulative Effects	<p>In succession views will occur with the proposed turbines and the existing Shehy More turbines, which are partially visible in the distant right-hand side of the view, as seen in the 90-degree image.</p> <p>The proposed Gortloughra turbines are located immediately to the right of the proposed Shehy More turbines, and as such, may be seen in succession with the proposed turbines. Additionally, in succession views may occur with the proposed Maughanaclea (Pre-App) turbines, which would be visible in the opposite field of view to the proposed turbines, immediately east of Kealkill Stone Circle.</p> <p>As such, some combined (in succession) views will occur with the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines. However, given the scale, limited horizontal extent and set-back distance of the proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines within this undulating landscape, the proposed turbines will not give rise to Significant cumulative visual effects. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its location at a cultural heritage monument with panoramic scenic views across the landscape available within. It is also in proximity to a designated recreational route.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Slight: The proposed turbines are seen as relatively small scaled vertical features over a small horizontal extent, set-back from the viewpoint location. The addition of the proposed turbines slightly alters the baseline by introducing new turbine elements into the landscape. However, given the set-back distance and limited horizontal extent within the distant background, the overall composition of the view from this viewpoint remains largely unaltered by the addition of the proposed turbines.
Significance of Effect	High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are visible in an upland area of the landscape comprising commercial forestry. This is a modified working landscape at the Site where turbines operated previously, a location where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously. ➤ From this viewpoint, the highest quality views are focused on the dramatic landscape of the mountains and coastline of the Co. Cork High Value Landscape to the left of this view. While the proposed turbines are visible, they do not interfere the scenic quality of views in the left of the view. ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts.

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Viewpoint 13 – Kealkill Stone Circle	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The proposed turbines are sited within a saddle of lower elevation between two elevated ridgelines, achieving visual balance with the surrounding landform. > The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments. > Visitors to this area are primarily focused on the Kealkill Stone Circle itself, with attention directed toward its immediate setting and cultural significance. The surrounding landscape already accommodates views of existing wind energy developments; as such, the proposed turbines do not introduce any novel wind energy elements within the landscape. > Visitors to the Kealkill Stone Circle are primarily focused on the monument itself, its immediate setting, and its cultural significance. The turbines appear as distant elements in the wider landscape and are not perceived as part of the immediate visual context of the Standing Stones. As such, the proposed turbines do not result in Significant visual effects on receptors experiencing the Kealkill Standing Stones. An impact assessment on the Cultural Heritage and setting of Kealkill Standing Stones is included in Chapter 14.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

1.2.2.14 **Viewpoint 14 - Coomacroobeg**

Viewpoint 14 - Coomacroobeg			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the L-87812 Local Road in the townland of Coomacroobeg > Located approximately 1.9m km west from the nearest proposed turbine T3. > Located on the designated Sli Gaeltacht Mhuscraí walking trail. > This viewpoint is representative of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines. > Grid Reference: E: 507,308 N: 561,272 > Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 15a - Ridged and Peaked Upland (Mullaghanish to Millstreet): Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Residents – High Recreational Route - Medium
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This image captures a short-range view overlooking a gradually rising terrain dominated by dense commercial forestry and shrub vegetation in the foreground. The landscape rises gradually in the midground toward the Curraglass ridgeline, which is further dominated by extensive tracts of commercial forestry. Electricity poles are present throughout the scene, contributing to a landscape character that is characterised by high levels of human modification and alteration.</p>		

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Viewpoint 14 - Coomacroobeg	
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The proposed turbines are seen as moderately scaled vertical features located on the lower slopes of the Curraglass ridge set among the coniferous tree plantations. The proposed turbines occupy a relatively moderate horizontal extent within the view, and are situated at a slightly lower elevation than the adjacent Foilastookeen Mountain, resulting in the turbines not raising the skyline. Turbine T3 appears slightly visually separated from the other two turbines, however the turbines still appear to follow a general linear array, with irregular spacing that reflects the natural undulations within the landscape. The proposed met mast is visible to the left-hand side of turbine T2 as a slender vertical feature.</p> <p>No other permitted or existing wind turbines can be seen from this viewpoint.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of the local residents in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Moderate: The proposed turbines are visible over a moderate horizontal extent in close proximity to the viewpoint.
Significance of Effect	High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The proposed turbines follow an irregular spacing pattern, ensuring that the turbines blend in naturally with the natural contours and variations of the undulating terrain, aligning with the siting and design principles for Transitional Marginal Landscapes as set out in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019), minimising visual intrusion. ➤ The proposed turbines are visible in an upland area of the landscape comprising commercial forestry. This is a modified working landscape at the Site where turbines operated previously, a location where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously. ➤ Given the high levels of human activities such, commercial forestry activities within the wider landscape and previous wind farm operations within the Site itself, the condition of the landscape is degraded in several areas. ➤ When visible, the proposed turbines are not viewed within an area of the landscape comprising any unique landscape qualities
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

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1.2.2.15 Viewpoint 15 - Curraghavaddra

Viewpoint 15 - Curraghavaddra			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the L-8707 Local Road, within the townland on Curraghavaddra. > Located approximately 21km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3. > Located along the Sheeps Head Looped cycle trail and the Rooska Loop Recreational Routes, and a non-designated scenic view. > Grid Reference: E: 495,043, N: 545,372 > Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Recreational Route - High Scenic View – High
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This view looks from an elevated vantage point overlooking Bantry Bay to the left of the view and the inland areas to the east of the bay. The midground is primarily characterised by undulating lowlands comprised of a patchwork of fields and some tracts of forestry. Distant mountain ranges form the background to this expansive view.</p> <p>The existing Shehy More Wind Farm is just about discernible in the distant background.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>The 3 no. proposed turbines are seen as miniature elements in the distant background, as a coherent cluster occupying a very limited horizontal extent in the distant background. The proposed turbines are situated within a saddle of lower ground, enclosed by elevated ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the left of turbine T2 as a small slender vertical feature in the distant background.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The proposed turbines will be seen in combination with the blade tips of the permitted Gortyahilly turbines in the distant background. The Gortyahilly turbines are located at a significantly greater setback distance and appear as small-scale elements, with only blade tips visible, with no visual overlap or stacking with the proposed turbines. As such, the Gortyahilly turbines will not give rise to any Significant cumulative visual effects.</p> <p>Some of the existing Shehymore turbines are just about discernible in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although there is a degree of visual separation between the two windfarms. Similarly, the proposed Gortloughra and Maughanaclea (Pre-App) turbines are located in the same general direction as the existing Shehy More turbines.</p> <p>Some cumulative visual effects will occur; however, the permitted and existing turbines are just about discernible at this distance, with no visual overlap or stacking, and as such, any cumulative visual effects arising from them and the proposed turbines are considered negligible. Given the vast, expansive, and undulating nature of the receiving landscape, which has the capability to accommodate wind energy development of the proposed turbines and others, the receiving landscape is considered capable of effectively absorbing a wind energy development of this scale, without giving rise to Significant cumulative visual effects. Any cumulative visual effects that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.</p>		

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Viewpoint 15 - Curraghavaddra	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position at a scenic viewing point*, and recreational route that overlooks Bantry Bay and adjoining landscape, which has been designated as a high value landscape in the CCDP. <i>*Although, it is emphasised that this location is not identified as a designated OSI viewing point or a designated scenic view in local planning policy.</i>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	Negligible: The proposed turbines would be viewed as small elements over a very small horizontal extent in the distant background of the view. They do not substantially alter the baseline view.
Significance of Effect	High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The three proposed turbines are sited neatly within a depression of lower ground between two elevated ridgelines, achieving visual balance with the surrounding landform. ➤ The proposed turbines will be located within an area where the principle of wind energy development has been accepted and established previously by the local planning policy (previously existing Kealkill Wind Farm). ➤ The Proposed Development has been re-designed from the previous application to reduce landscape and visual impacts. This includes a reduction in number of turbines, from seven to three, and a reduction in turbine scale, therefore mitigating visual impacts. ➤ The proposed turbines do not significantly impact the key sensitivities of views from this location. ➤ The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>

1.2.2.16 Viewpoint 16 - Rooska East

Viewpoint 16 - Rooska East	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from the L-4703 Local Road in the townland of Rookska East. ➤ Located approximately 21.6km southwest from the nearest proposed turbine T3 ➤ Located on C-SR-110 designated scenic route and the Wild Atlantic Way ➤ Grid Reference: E 494,190, N 546,126 ➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 3/3

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Viewpoint 16 - Rooska East			
LCA and Sensitivity	LCT 4 – Rugged Ridge Peninsula: Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Scenic Route – High Scenic View – High Recreational Route - High
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This image is of a long-range view over Bantry Bay to the northeast, Whiddy Island can be seen in the left midground of the view, and mountainous topographical landforms in the distant background. The Connigar ridgeline form the backdrop in the centre of the view.</p> <p>The existing Shehy More turbines are just about discernible in the distant background of the view (only evidenced by the wireline image).</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>At the distance of 21.6km, all three of the proposed turbines will be just about discernible in the distant background of the view. The proposed turbines are spaced out in a linear array within a saddle of lower ground, enclosed by elevated ridgelines either side of the proposed turbines, occupying a limited horizontal extent.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>The existing Shehy More turbines are just about discernible in the distant background, in the same general direction as the proposed turbines. However, there is a degree of visual separation between the two wind farms due to intervening topographical features. Similarly, the proposed Gortloughra and Maughanaclea (Pre-App) turbines are located in the same direction as the existing Shehy More turbines.</p> <p>While some cumulative visual effects occur, the receiving landscape is a vast, expansive landscape, which has the capacity to accommodate wind energy development of this scale. Accordingly, the proposed turbines can be effectively absorbed into the landscape without giving rise to Significant cumulative visual effects. Any cumulative visual effects, as they relate to the Proposed 3 Turbine development, that do arise have been accounted for in the determination of the magnitude of change presented below.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>High: This viewpoint has been classified as a high sensitivity viewpoint on account of its position on a designated scenic route, the Wild Atlantic Way and recreational routes that overlook Bantry Bay.</p>		
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p>Negligible: While the turbines would introduce novel elements into a view, they are seen as very small elements over a very small horizontal extent in the background of the view. They do not substantially alter the baseline view.</p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022) <i>"An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities."</i></p>		
Mitigation Factors	<p>➤ The large scale of the landscape and expansive panoramic views have the capacity to effectively accommodate the proposed turbines as well as other wind energy developments.</p>		

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Viewpoint 16 - Rooska East	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > At a setback distance of >21km, the proposed turbines are visible as very small features in the distant background, located within a saddle of lower ground between two elevated peaks, achieving visual balance within the landscape. > The stated focus of this County Cork scenic route is “<i>views of Dunmanus Bay and Bantry Bay, Whiddy Island, Caher, Seefin, Gouladane, Knockboolteenagh, Adrigole, Glenlough and Sugarloaf Mountains, Hungry Hill, Bere Island, and the Beara Peninsula</i>”. As such only a very small part of these views will be affected by the proposed turbines, which are located at a large set-back distance, occupying a limited horizontal extent. > As discussed in Section 13.7.3.5 of Chapter 13, given the overall scale of the Wild Atlantic Way (approximately 2,600km in length), and the limited extent within the LVIA Study Area that exhibits potential visibility (approximately <11km), the proposed turbines are not considered to have a significant impact on the route as a whole. Instances where visibility does occur, is limited to a very small section of the overall route, where the turbines appear as miniature elements in the distant background of the view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Not Significant (EPA, 2022) <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

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