



APPENDIX 12-3

VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

Appendix 12-3 Viewpoint Assessment Tables

Umma More Renewable
Energy Development, Co.
Westmeath





DOCUMENT DETAILS

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1. VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

1.1 Viewpoint Selection

The locations chosen for photomontages follow a detailed and extensive process including review of baseline information, site visits and high-quality photo taking at multiple locations within the LVIA Study Area. Many locations, which based on a desktop review had the potential for views of the proposed turbines, 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.

The Wind Farm Site has been strategically sited within a sparsely populated, modified working landscape where there is limited visibility (or large setback distances) from large population centres and designated landscape and visual receptors of high sensitivity. Due to the limited visibility beyond 5km from Wind Farm Site, most of the photomontages included in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet and assessed in this document include viewpoints located in very close proximity to the Wind Farm Site where visual effects are likely to be greatest. For instance; 12 No. of the 16 no. Viewpoints are located < 5 km from the Wind Farm Site (9 No. of the 16 No. VPs are < 3.5km from the Wind Farm Site). In this regard, it is important to note (as detailed throughout Chapter 12) that the visual impact of the proposed turbines shown in the photomontages selected for the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet is not entirely representative of visual effects in the wider landscape of LVIA Study Area, where in reality very little visibility occurs.

Alternative Photomontage Viewpoints – Photowires (Early-Stage Photomontages)

Photomontage imagery was captured from many locations in the LVIA Study Area other than the 16 No. viewpoints that were selected for the final EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet. 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, 2019). Photowires were produced from 25 other alternative viewpoint locations. These photomontage viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet due to the limited visibility of the proposed turbines. These early-stage photomontages do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in this Appendix. The 25 No. Photowire visuals are presented in additional document - Appendix 12-5 and are considered in the discussion of Visual Effects in Section 12.7.3.2 of Chapter 12. The location of Photowire viewpoints discussed in text are marked as orange icons in Figure 12-24 and Figure 12-25 and labelled alphabetically as AltVP-A through to AltVP-Y.

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
VP01	View from the R390 regional road in the townland of Ballymore. The viewpoint is located approximately 2.4km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 620872 N 749309
VP02	View from outside the church and graveyard within the village of Ballymore . The viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 621,120 N 749,006
VP03	View from outside a residential dwelling on the R390 Regional Road, east of Ballymore in the townland Clonyveey . The viewpoint is located on the route described for County Westmeath Protected View 8 (WCDP, 2021-2027), approximately 4.1km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E 622931 N 749257
VP04	View from a crossroad in the townland of Ballinlig Lower . The viewpoint is located approximately 1.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E 622,483 N 745,569
VP05	View from L1240 Local Road (Boher Road) in the townland of Ballinkeeny . The viewpoint is located approximately 4.7km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E 625,518 N 746,610
VP06	View from Knockastia Hill in the townland of Coolatoor, located approximately 4.2km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). This viewpoint is located at Westmeath Protected View 9 (WCDP, 2021-2027).	E 624483 N 743404
VP07	View from a local road Raheen . This viewpoint is located approximately 983m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9)	E 621083 N 744312
VP08	View from a community hall in the townland of Moyvoughly . The viewpoint is located approximately 1.7km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E 619859 N 743563
VP09	View from a local road in the townland of Lissanode . The viewpoint is located approximately 1.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E 617434 N 745837
VP10	View from a local road between several residential dwellings in the townland of Baskin High . This viewpoint is located approximately 891m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2)	E 618118 N 747284
VP11	View from a Local Road outside Drumraney Mixed National School in the townland of Cartroncoragh . The viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E 616696 N 747424
VP12*	View from a local road in the townland of Ballynacorra . The viewpoint is located approximately 991m north of the nearest proposed turbine (T6).	E 620359 N 746880
VP13	View from the Hill of Laragh at County Westmeath Protected View 20 (WCDP, 2021-2027). Located on the borders of townlands Laragh, Ballintue and Rathmore, approximately 15.6km northeast of nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 631474 N 757315

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref.
VP14	View from L1437 Local Road, northwest of Mount Temple in the townland of Aghanashanamore. The viewpoint is located approximately 5.7km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E 614440 N 742360
VP15	View from atop Dunamona Motte , a National Monument in the townland of Dunamona. This viewpoint is located approximately 5.3km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1)	E 614363 N 749972
VP16*	Rendered Wireline of the landscape view atop the Hill of Uisneach , representative of Westmeath Protected View 36. The viewpoint is located approximately 8.8km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).	E 628998 N 748859

*Note on VP12 - Ballynacorra

The EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet shows the proposed turbines within two slightly differing fields of view from one viewpoint - Viewpoint 12, Ballynacorra. The imagery presented for viewpoint 12 was captured from the same location but show an 'A' view in one direction (to the west) and a 'B' view in another direction (to the south). Photomontages were presented like this in order to ensure most of the proposed turbines are visible within a 53.5° photomontage. The differing 90° and 53.5° view extents for view 12A and 12B are marked on the key image sheet to show the differing directional (A and B) views. The descriptions of the differing fields of view have been kept within the same table. Assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint accounts for the full horizontal extent of both photomontages in 12A and 12B.

*Note on VP16 – Rendered Wireline of the landscape view from atop the Hill of Uisneach

As detailed in Section 12.1.6 of Chapter 12, no access was permitted to the Hill of Uisneach for the capture and production of photomontages. In order to complete a robust Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment from this important receptor, MKO have produced a 'Rendered Wireline' - Viewpoint 16. The Rendered Wireline is a simplistic graphic of the landscape view from the Hill of Uisneach. It was compiled using a scaled wireline model generated from co-ordinates mapped at the peak of the hill. The discussions in the Visual Impact Assessment table for VP16 below were informed by viewing the Rendered Wireline in combination with online imagery in the public domain showing open landscape views towards the Wind Farm Site (E.g. See Google Street View Imagery in the image below and online - [Here](#)).

Web address for Google Street View on the Hill of Uisneach where the Rendered Wireline is located:
https://www.google.ie/maps/@53.4889486,-7.563041,2a,90y,253.7h,85.78t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sa-GWYEH_z34MSp_JXjOGXg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656



Figure 1-1 Google Street View Image showing a view towards the Wind Farm Site from the Hill of Uisneach @Copyright Google.

It is highly likely that the constituent elements and composition of the landscape view visible from the Hill of Uisneach will be of a very similar nature to the open views over rolling vegetated farmland as presented in VP13, therefore descriptions of the baseline landscape were also influenced by the photographic imagery of the 'Existing View' presented for this viewpoint. In the context of the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet (views presented at 90° and 53.5°), the Rendered Wireline enables a visual impact assessment to be conducted that addresses the scale, form and arrangement of the proposed turbines within views from the hill. The scaling and modelling of turbines in the Rendered Wireline is consistent with all other photomontages, ultimately enabling a robust visual impact assessment.

Imagery was captured from elevated lands to the north of the hill (See AltVP-D in Appendix 12-5). However, photowire visuals determined limited visibility of the proposed turbines from this viewpoint as they are partially screened from this location, and therefore this viewpoint is considered to be unrepresentative of visibility from the peak elevations of the Hill of Uisneach. Therefore, the Rendered Wireline was deemed to be the most appropriate tool for the assessment of visual effects from the Hill of Uisneach.

1.2 Met Mast

The Proposed Met Mast is a 30-metre-tall structure. This is modelled in all of the wireline visuals and photomontages if it is likely to be visible. Due to its thin lattice structure and relatively low height in this landscape type it is not likely to be visible from distant locations (e.g., >2km). Although modelled and labelled in the wireline visuals (where theoretically visible), the met mast is not visible in any of the photomontages located in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site (e.g. < 2km) as visibility is inhibited by screening elements in the landscape and the lower base elevation of the met mast. As shown in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet, the met mast is not visible from any of the photomontage viewpoints. Therefore, the proposed met mast is not discussed further in this document.

1.3 Visual Effects: Mitigating Factors

Several other key reasons enabling the proposed turbines to be effectively absorbed by the landscape of the site and surrounding area are outlined below and are evident in the photomontages:

- **Limited Visual Exposure of turbines within the wider landscape:** Due to the topographical characteristics of the site and wider landscape, the proposed turbines are only likely to be visible from locations in very close proximity to the site, excepting isolated elevated vantage points. Hence the reason that 9 of the 16 No.

viewpoints are located within 3.5km of the Wind Farm Site. As shown in Appendix 12-5, most of the 25 No. Viewpoints (photowires) captured for production of photomontages showed no visibility or very limited visibility of the proposed turbines. Factors limiting the visibility of the proposed turbines elsewhere in the LVIA Study Area include:

- As shown in all of the photomontages, the landscape is heavily vegetated with an abundance of mature woodland along field boundaries and hedgerows along the local road networks; these greatly restrict long-ranging views from receptors (See Route Screening Analysis Section 12.3.4 of Chapter 12).
 - The undulating landform of the lowland landscape surrounding the site visually contains the Wind Farm Site and the screening this provides is accentuated in the generally flat lowland landscape of the wider LVIA Study Area.
- **Siting at lower base elevation than surrounding receptors:** The Wind Farm Site is located within the flat plain of a small river valley and the turbines are most often sited at a lower base elevation than the landform of the surrounding landscape and visual receptors. As demonstrated by most of the photomontages, this results in the following factors:
- The turbines do not appear overbearing or dominant.
 - Lower tower sections of the proposed turbines are mostly screened from view, reducing the prominence of the turbines in views and making them appear appropriately scaled within the landscape
 - A ‘disproportionate screening effect’ occurs (See Figure 12-3 in Section 12.3.3.1 within Chapter 12) where the screening effect of treelines and localised topography is accentuated in the heavily vegetated and gently undulating landscape.
- **Siting, Layout and Spacing of turbines:** in line with the guidance for design and siting of wind farms within Hilly and Flat Farmland Landscape Types in The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (hereafter referred to as the Guidelines) for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2006), & the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
- With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
 - The ‘L-shaped’ layout is sympathetic to the shape and characteristics of the landform, a layout specifically designed to create a coherent arrangement of turbines when viewed within the landscape. The turbines are both visually connected and have consistent spacing, forming one contiguous development.

Viewpoint 01– Carricknagower			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from the R390 regional road in the townland of Ballymore. > The viewpoint is located approximately 2.4km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) > Grid Reference: E 620,872 N 749,309 > No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>A view from the R390 Regional Road where it enters the town of Ballymore from the west. The foreground comprises a hedgerow lining the Regional Road and a grassy field delineated by a line of trees is seen to the centre and left. More open views are available to the right and centre, these views are characterised by an undulating agricultural landscape of small fields enclosed by hedgerows and treelines. The Dungolman river is located to the right of the view where the landform dips beyond the fields in the foreground. The slight rise in landform seen throughout the background of the image form the sides of the small river valley enclosing the Wind Farm Site. A dense treeline can be seen behind the hedge to the left in the background of the image.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. The vegetation in the foreground and middle distance partially obscures turbines T6, T7, T8 and T9 from view. Only one blade of T7 is visible, and turbines T6 and T8 are only just identifiable through the screening. Turbines T1, T2, T3 and T4 are visible within the open landscape views to the right of the photomontage, although the lower tower sections of these turbines will be screened from view by the rolling topography and mature treelines in the intervening landscape. The turbines comprise a moderate horizontal extent in the view and are set back from the road and nearby properties. From this perspective, there is some slight visual separation between the turbines located to the north (right of image - oriented north-south in the ‘L-shape’ layout) and the turbines to the south (left of image - oriented east-west in the ‘L-shape’ layout) of the L-shaped turbine Layout.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted Wind Farms.</p> <p>The proposed Lemanaghan turbines are potentially theoretically visible in the background of the wireline behind T5 of the Proposed Umma More Development. They are not visible within the photomontage due to the screening from vegetation and would not be visible from within this landscape view. Therefore, no cumulative visual effects are likely to occur.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Medium: <i>“Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.”</i></p>		

Viewpoint 01– Carricknagower	
	This viewpoint has been given medium sensitivity rating on account of its location in proximity to residential receptors along the Regional Road which is a relatively well trafficked route in the context of this rural landscape.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	Slight: “The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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 road runs east to west, tracking along the landscape to the north of the Wind Farm Site. Views towards the proposed turbines (south) as presented in the photomontage are perpendicular to the direction of travel and therefore views of the turbines from this location are consequently limited by the direction of travel. ➤ Some effort was taken to find a suitable viewpoint where there are open views towards the proposed turbines (as open as possible) above the vegetated verge that lines the R390 to the west of Ballymore.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 02– Ballymore			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from outside the church and graveyard in the village of Ballymore. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1). ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 621,120 N 749,006 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	A short distance view captured outside the Church in the village of Ballymore. The church graveyard comprises the centre and focus of the view, it is located beyond a grassy amenity area where this viewpoint is located - adjacent to parking off the village street (R380 regional Road) in Ballymore. A staggered line of mature trees can be seen in the background of the image, beyond the graveyard. The church can be seen to the left of the image and several residential dwellings are visible to the right where the R380 exits Ballymore to the west.		

Viewpoint 02– Ballymore	
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 No. of the 9 No. turbines of the Wind Farm Site are partially visible in the background of the photomontage. Turbines T1, T3 and T4 are entirely screened from view by the intervening treeline, and only a blade tip of turbine T2 is visible. The lower tower section of all visible turbines are obscured from view leaving only nacelles and blades visible above the horizon, behind the existing vegetation enclosing the graveyard to the south and west. The visible turbines do not increase the vertical extent of the skyline, appearing lower than other features in the view. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small elements in the background of the view.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Medium: “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.” Sensitivity is deemed to be ‘Medium’ in consideration residents in the village of Ballymore and of the local amenities in proximity to this viewpoint.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Slight: “The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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"> ➤ There is limited visibility of the proposed turbines from elsewhere in the village of Ballymore due to screening from the streetscape of the village itself and treelines to the south of the village. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited at a lower base elevation relative to this viewpoint and elsewhere in Ballymore, accentuating the effect of screening (townscape and treelines), causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces perceived scale and visual prominence of the proposed turbines in the landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 03– Clonyveey			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from R390 Regional Road, East of Ballymore in the townland Clonyveey. ➤ This viewpoint is located on the route described for Westmeath Designated Protected View 8 (WCDP, 2021-27), which is a scenic view of ‘local significance’. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 4.1km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference: E: 622,931 N: 749,257 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 5 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 8 - South Central Hills – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Designated Westmeath Protected View 8 (View of Local significance) - High Motor Traffic – Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>A field of undulating hillocks and a cluster of woodland form the foreground of the view to the south of the R390 Regional Road as it approaches Ballymore from the east. The roadway is lined on both sides by a steep verge and a mature hedgerow. A relatively longer ranging landscape view is seen above the saddle of lower ground to the left of the image, framed between two hummocks in the centre and left mid ground. From this elevated vantage point, there are open views overlooking the town of Ballymore to the right of the image (westerly direction) along the route of the Regional Road, although visibility of the settlement itself is partially screened by the abundance of trees within and surrounding the village.</p> <p>Westmeath Designated Protected View 8 (WCDP, 2021-27) is designated as a view of ‘local’ importance. The Scenic Views designated from along this road are directed to the north and west from this viewpoint (away from the proposed turbines).</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>5 No. turbines of the Wind Farm Site are visible in the photomontage, 4 No. turbines are completely obscured by the localised hummock of land in the centre of the view. There is some visual separation, as four of the turbines are visible to the left of the small hill and only one is seen to the right, to the south of Ballymore. All turbines are vertically aligned with the elevated landforms seen in the foreground to the centre and left. Visual stacking occurs between turbine T7 and T9. The turbines are viewed as background features of the view, and they are predominantly viewed above the horizon</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted Wind Farms.</p> <p>The proposed Lemaghan turbines are potentially theoretically visible in the background of the wireline to the left of the Proposed Development turbines. They are not visible within the photomontage due to the screening from the topography and vegetation, and no cumulative visual effects will occur.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of</i>	<p>High: <i>“Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be</i></p>		

Viewpoint 03– Clonyveey	
Methodology <i>Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><i>of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint is given a High sensitivity on account of Co. Westmeath Protected View No. 8, which is a view of ‘local significance’ in the WCDP. Appendix 5 of the WCDP describes the view; “<i>This is a panoramic view of the landscape around Ballymore to the West and North and captures small glimpses of Lough Sewdy. From the local road L-5342. This view should be considered to begin from the point where the road begins to descend (622956,749272), ending when it enters Ballymore</i>”. Map 67 of the WCDP shows the location of the view and the mapping symbology indicated views directed to the north-east, away from the Wind Farm Site.</p> <p>This viewpoint is located approximately 30 metres from the co-ordinate given above and its location is certainly on the described route. However, it must be noted that the primary focus of the protected views as indicated by the map is to the north-east and in the description above to the north and west. The views presented in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet are centred on the proposed turbines which is located to the south-west, not in the direction of the designated scenic amenity.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Slight: “<i>The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</i>”</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High x 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</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The view towards the turbines is not in the direction of the designated scenic amenity as indicated by both the description in Appendix 5 of the WCDP and the directional indications on Map 67 in the WCDP. ➤ Where the proposed turbines are visible within the long-ranging views it does not obstruct any landscape features of unique aesthetic quality or features such as Lough Sewdy referenced in the designated scenic view. ➤ A receptor travelling in this direction on the Regional Road will only have this view momentarily as they pass the brow of the hill. Some effort was taken to identify this viewpoint where the field of view permits open views in this direction and enables visibility of the proposed turbines. ➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines elsewhere on this section of the regional road is likely to be far less than is presented in the photomontage due to the weaving, winding nature of the road, the steep verge and mature roadside hedgerows. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited at a lower elevation and are framed by the existent landform in the view, making the proposed turbines appear visually balanced and appropriately scaled within the landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 04 – Ballinlig Lower			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a Local Road in the townland of Ballinlig Lower. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). ➤ Grid Reference: E 622,483 N 745,569 ➤ No. turbines visible: 4 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>This image shows a short-range view from the junction of the Ballymore Local Road and un-named Local Road. There is a steep grassy field in the immediate foreground sloping up away from two residential dwellings located at this crossroad. The local roads and junction are visible in the foreground, it is bordered by a wooden field boundary fence in the centre of the view as well as mature hedgerows along the roadway to the left and right. Utility poles and overhead lines are man-made vertical elements lining the roadside. A line of mature deciduous trees frames the background of the view, the treeline disappears in the centre of the view as they are obscured from view by the small grassy hillock in the foreground.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Most of the proposed turbines are obscured from view by both the localised hillock in the foreground, the line of mature trees and also a rise in landform between the proposed turbines and the viewpoint that is not visible in this view. The nacelle and blades of turbine T7 is visible above the crest of the hill in the background of the view. The turbine blades other proposed turbines are also visible; their towers and hubs are screened from view. The visible turbine components do not vertically extend above landscape elements existent in this view, they are framed and vertically aligned with the treelines seen to the left and right.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted Wind Farms.</p> <p>The proposed Derryadd turbines are potentially theoretically visible in the background of the wireline to the right of the Proposed Development turbines. They are not visible within the photomontage and there is no potential for cumulative visual effects to occur.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Medium: <i>“Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a medium sensitivity rating on account of residential receptors at this viewpoint which are located in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site but do not have views in its direction which are of a particularly scenic nature.</p>		
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from</i>	<p>Slight: <i>“The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view</i></p>		

Viewpoint 04 – Ballinlig Lower	
Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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"> ➤ Landscape elements such as the localised topography and mature treelines accentuate the effect of screening, causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces visibility of the proposed turbines in the landscape. ➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines is limited from the local road network in the vicinity of the viewpoint due to screening from roadside vegetation as well as the weaving nature of the road network within the undulating landscape.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 05– Tinavera			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from L1240 Local Road in Tinavera in the townland of Ballinkeeny. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 4.8km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T7). ➤ Grid Reference: E 625,518 N 746,610 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 8 - South Central Hills – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low
Description of ‘Baseline’	A view of a rural landscape comprising undulating fields of grassland delineated by hedgerows and mature treelines from a slightly elevated vantage point. Several residential properties are visible in the middle distance, a slightly elevated ridgeline is just discernible in the distant background of the view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	All turbines of the Wind Farm Site are visible, and they are viewed as a linear array across the background of the photomontage. All turbines are viewed above the horizon and the turbine towers are partially screened from view by the intervening landform and mature treelines. The tower of Turbine T1 is entirely screened from view.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition from	Low “Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route,		

Viewpoint 05– Tinavera	
<i>Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<i>viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.”</i>
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Slight: “ <i>The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.</i> ”
Significance of Effect	Low x Slight = 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 viewed above the horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon any landscape views or features of unique aesthetic value. ➤ From this perspective, the turbine nacelles are vertically aligned with the rise in rolling landform seen to the right of the view (screening Turbine T1) causing them to appear appropriately scaled within the landscape view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 06– Knockastia Hill			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Knockastia Hill in the townland of Coolatoor. ➤ This viewpoint is located at Westmeath protected view 9, a designated scenic view of 'local significance' (WCDP, 2021-2027) ➤ Located approximately 4.3km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T9). ➤ Grid Reference: E 624,483 N 743,404 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 8 - South Central Hills – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Westmeath protected view 9 - High
Description of 'Baseline'	From this elevated perspective there is a long-ranging view of a gently undulating agricultural landscape comprising grassland fields delineated by trees and shrub. A sparse scattering of residential dwellings and farms are visible amongst the abundance of mature woodland existent throughout the landscape. Although slightly undulating, the landscape is, in general, seen to be quite flat. Due to the peaked nature of Knockastia Hill in this relatively flat landscape, long-ranging panoramic views are available from this viewpoint.		

Viewpoint 06– Knockastia Hill	
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All 9 No. turbines of the Wind Farm Site are clearly visible in the long-ranging expansive landscape view. The turbines are sited at a lower elevation within the undulating landscape, beyond a slight rise in elevation in the middle distance. The turbines do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this panoramic view.</p> <p>The proposed Derryadd turbines are likely to be just discernible in the background right of the photomontage.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted wind farms.</p> <p>The proposed Derryadd turbines are likely to be located at a significant distance (25.2km) from this viewpoint, consequently, they are likely to be very small and in reality, they are unlikely to be discernible in the background of this landscape. The proposed Kepak turbine is likely to be located 14.3km southeast of this viewpoint and the proposed Lemanaghan Wind Farm is likely to be located 16.1 km south-west. These proposed developments may be visible within a differing field of view than presented by the photomontage. Considering the panoramic nature of views from this viewpoint, ‘combined in succession’ visibility is likely to occur where receptors will see the various developments in differing fields of view from the same viewpoint.</p> <p>There is likely to be substantial visual separation between these proposed wind farms and the Proposed Development turbines, and any potential for cumulative visual effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>High: <i>“Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location as a Westmeath protected view. Whilst Knockastia is deemed to be a view of ‘local significance’ (WCDP), there is no clear right of way to access the summit of the hill. In order to appreciate these views, receptors will need to traverse fields containing livestock.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Moderate: <i>“The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i></p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</p> <p>An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</p>

Viewpoint 06– Knockastia Hill	
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The proposed turbines are effectively absorbed in the expansive landscape view. ➤ The proposed turbines are appropriately scaled in the landscape, and they comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the panoramic views available from this location. ➤ There is no easily accessible right of way to this viewpoint, and it is only designated as a locally valuable view. The walk to the top of the hill is not a well-trafficked trail and the viewpoint is not a recreational or tourism hotspot. ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct any landscape features of unique aesthetic quality within the long-ranging view.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 07– Raheen			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Raheen. ➤ Several residential receptors are located to the east of this viewpoint ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 975m south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 621,083 N 744,312 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 – Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	A short-range view with a small steep rise in the immediate foreground. Most of the view shows a grassy meadow comprising the small hill that is the focus of the view. Mixed treelines break the skyline of the view at the top of the hill, particularly to the right background of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	6 no. of the 9 no. proposed turbines are visible within this view. The majority of the turbine towers on each visible turbine are screened by the small hill in the foreground. Only the blades and nacelle of 4 turbines are clearly visible, with the tips of blades of other two turbines visible above the trees and the ridgeline. Turbine T9 appears the largest and most prominent within the photomontage, although it is set back-behind the ridgeline, and it is partially screened from view. The other turbines appearing as moderately scaled elements in the view.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of	High: “Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known		

Viewpoint 07– Raheen	
<i>Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><i>heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location in proximity to the Wind Farm Site and surrounding residents, although, it is not a densely populated location. The short-range landscape view in the direction of the Wind Farm Site is not of any unique scenic quality.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	<p>Moderate: <i>“The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i></p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most of the proposed turbines are obscured from view by the intervening landform. ➤ The proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the landscape view. ➤ Visibility from residential properties at the crossroad east of this viewpoint will have limited visibility of the proposed turbines (as shown in the early-stage photomontage visual AltVP-G presented in Appendix 12-5). The proposed turbines are sited at a lower base elevation than this viewpoint and elsewhere in this local area. Landscape elements such as local topography and mature vegetation accentuate the effect of screening, causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces visibility of the proposed turbines in the landscape. ➤ All the turbine components are viewed above the horizon, and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views from this location. ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019).
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 08– Moyvoughly			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a community hall in the townland of Moyvoughly, adjacent to several residential receptors. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.7km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T9). ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 619,859 N 743,563 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 7 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Moyvoughly - Medium Residents - Medium/High
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>The foreground of the view comprises a grassy area at the rear of the community hall in the small settlement of Moyvoughly. Mature trees are visible to the right foreground of the view. A field of grazing pasture is visible upon a small rise in the middle distance beyond the stone wall visible in the foreground. The vegetated field boundary limits distant landscape views in the centre and right of the image. Longer ranging landscape views are seen to the background left of the image, across the undulating and sparsely settled agricultural landscape to the other side of the Dungolman River valley.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>7 No. of the 9 No. proposed turbines can be seen in a relatively ordered, linear array across the background of the photomontage. The lower tower sections of all turbines are screened from view by intervening landform and treelines. Turbines T1, T2, T3 and T4 are viewed at a greater distance and are seen as slightly smaller features in the background of the view. T5, T8 and T9 have a greater visual separation between them and are seen as slightly larger vertical elements given their proximity to the viewpoint. The treeline to the right of the image fully screens two of the proposed turbines (T6 & T7) and partly screens two turbines, where only blades and nacelles are visible (T8 & T9).</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted Wind Farms.</p> <p>The proposed Derryadd turbines are potentially theoretically visible in the background of the wireline to the left of the Proposed Development turbines. They are not visible within the photomontage due to the screening from vegetation and no cumulative visual effects will potentially occur.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Medium: <i>“Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.”</i></p> <p>Due to the medium proximity, orientation of residences, topographical characteristics and vegetation screening in this area, most residents in the settlement of Moyvoughly will not have open views in the direction of the Wind Farm Site. On balance, this viewpoint has been given a medium sensitivity.</p>		

Viewpoint 08– Moyvoughly	
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	Slight: “The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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 turbines are sited at a lower base elevation than this viewpoint. Landscape elements such as the localised topography and mature treelines accentuate the effect of screening, causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces visibility of the proposed turbines in the landscape. ➤ The proposed turbines appear coherent in the landscape, viewed as a linear arrangement, appropriately scaled and separated in accordance with the surroundings. ➤ Open views towards the Wind Farm Site are largely restricted by topography and dense roadside hedgerows elsewhere in Moyvoughly. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited in a relatively sparsely populated modified working landscape within County Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands. As reported in Section 12.4.1.1.3 of Chapter 12, LCA 7 was formerly the only LCA in Co. Westmeath designated as having any capacity for wind energy development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 09– Lissanode			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road in the townland of Lissanode. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T4). ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 617,434 N: 745,837 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	From this elevated vantage point, the image shows long ranging views across a rolling rural landscape comprising agricultural fields and clusters of mature woodland. The lands of lower ground visible in the foreground and middle distance are sparsely settled. The peaked form of Knockastia Hill is identifiable to the background right of the image. Landform rises slightly in the background of the view (to the east where the landscape becomes LCA 8 - South Central Hills), the Hill of Uisneach is visible in the distant centre background of the view but it is not easily identifiable or distinguishable		

Viewpoint 09– Lissanode	
	amongst the other rolling hills (label identifier for the Hill of Uisneach and Knockastia Hill is included in the wireline view).
Proposed Photomontage Description	All turbines of the Wind Farm Site are visible. The turbines are sited at lower elevation than this viewpoint, in a linear arrangement, responding well to the shape of the valley seen in the photomontage. Whilst the towers of the proposed turbines do interfere with longer ranging views of hills to the east, most blades and nacelles are visible above the horizon, reducing the potential for visual confusion. Turbine T4 is in closest proximity to the viewpoint and is therefore the most prominent feature of the Wind Farm Site from this viewpoint. The proposed turbines are well spaced and visually balanced across the landscape from the focal point of T4.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	High: <i>“Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</i> This viewpoint has been given a high sensitivity rating on account of the open views from residential receptors in the direction of the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Moderate: <i>“The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ From this perspective, the relatively even spacing and ordered arrangement of turbines within the small river valley causes the wind farm to read coherently in the landscape. ➤ The turbines are sited at a lower base elevation relative to the viewpoint and the residential receptors represented by this viewpoint. The turbines are appropriately scaled and set-back in relation to the viewpoint, reducing visual prominence and they do not appear over-bearing. ➤ The field structure, topographical undulations, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines.

Viewpoint 09– Lissanode	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While the turbines do occupy a moderate horizontal extent within the view, the view is generally open and expansive and the turbines do not crowd the view and are well absorbed given the expansive nature of the view available. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited in a relatively sparsely populated modified working landscape within County Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands. As reported in Section 12.4.1.1.3 of Chapter 12, LCA 7 was formerly the only LCA in Co. Westmeath designated as having any capacity for wind energy development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 10– Baskin High			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a local road between several residential dwellings in the townland of Baskin High. ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 891m west of the nearest proposed turbine (T2) ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 618,118 N 747,284 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 8 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents – Medium/High
Description of 'Baseline'	This image shows a short-range view across a field gently sloping down towards the bordering mature treeline. A residential property is seen in the right corner of the image surrounded by mature broadleaf trees. Dense mixed leaf hedgerows can be seen delineating the field to the left of the image.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	8 No. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. The turbines are sited in a small depression of land within the undulating landscape, beyond a slight rise in elevation in the middle distance. The lower tower sections of all turbines are partially screened from view by the intervening landform. Turbines T2 and T3 are in closest proximity to this viewpoint and are the most prominent, visible above the treeline. The turbines to the right are viewed in a neat cluster, and they do not comprise a large horizontal extent of this view. T1 & T4 are completely screened from view by the localised dense vegetation screening.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of	High: “Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”		

Viewpoint 10– Baskin High	
<i>Methodology</i> <i>Appendix 12-1)</i>	This viewpoint has been given a High sensitivity rating on account of residential receptors located in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Moderate: <i>“The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the proposed turbines are is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i>
Significance of Effect	High x Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The residence visible in the view is oriented so that its primary scenic amenity is directed away from the Wind Farm Site. ➤ The undulating topography surrounding the site provides topographical separation and reduces visual prominence, the turbines appear setback and do not appear dominant or over-bearing. ➤ Siting of the proposed turbines at lower base elevation relative to the viewpoint causes landscape elements such as vegetation to accentuate the effect of screening, causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces visibility of the proposed turbines in the landscape. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited in a relatively sparsely populated modified working landscape within County Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands. As reported in Section 12.4.1.1.3 of Chapter 12, LCA 7 was formerly the only LCA in Co. Westmeath designated as having any capacity for wind energy development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends

Viewpoint 11– Cartroncoragh	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from a Local Road outside Drumraney Mixed National School in the townland of Cartroncoragh. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 2.3km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3). ➤ Grid Reference: E 616,696 N 747,424 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 8

Viewpoint 11– Cartruncoragh			
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents - Medium
Description of 'Baseline'	A medium distance view across a field of grassy meadow of grazing pasture bounded by a wire fence in the foreground and a young treeline in the middle distance. The view shows undulating farmland with cattle grazing in the midground of the image. A cluster of several mature broadleaf trees are visible to the right of the view. No residential dwellings are visible in the rural landscape view.		
Proposed Photomontage Description	8 No. turbines of the Wind Farm Site are partially visible in the background of this view. Although their tower sections are partially screened from view by the intervening landform, turbines T1 and T2 are the most prominent, visible in the background in the view above the distant treeline. The other turbines are mostly screened by the cluster of broadleaf trees delineating the field to the right of the image.		
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Medium: <i>“Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a medium sensitivity rating on account of its location outside of the national school.</p>		
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Moderate: <i>“The change in the view may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Likely to occur at locations where the proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the Wind Farm Site. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i></p>		
Significance of Effect	<p>Medium x 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</p>		
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The turbines are appropriately scaled in this view within the undulating landscape, beyond a slight rise in elevation in the middle distance. ➤ Siting of the turbines at a slightly lower base elevation than this viewpoint causes landscape elements such as vegetation to accentuate the effect of screening, causing a disproportionate screening effect which reduces visibility of the proposed turbines in the landscape. 		
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Slight (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>		

Viewpoint 12A & 12B – Ballynacorra			
*2No. fields of View presented in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet – See Note on Page 3 of this Appendix			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > View from a local road in the townland of Ballynacorra. > The viewpoint is located approximately 991m north of the nearest proposed turbine (T6). > Grid Reference (ITM): E 620,359 N 746,880 > No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists – Low Residents – High
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>30A: From this slightly elevated vantage point, there is a medium range view across an undulating agricultural landscape comprising fields of grassland and arable crops delineated by mixed leaf treelines and shrubs. Long range views are limited by the boundary vegetation and localised hillocks present throughout the view, screening views of the landscape beyond aside from a long-range view in the right background, which again shows undulating agricultural land.</p> <p>30B: A short range view of a local road leading to residential properties, bordered on both sides by fields. Two residential properties can be seen in the midground of the image, partially screened by vegetation. The elevated landform to the centre and right of the image limit the extent of views in this direction whilst there are longer-ranging views of the open valley to the left.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>30A: 5 No. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. T7 is partially screened by vegetation in the left foreground of the photomontage. The other turbines are visible as large vertical elements, set back beyond the nearest field (in the case of T6) and beyond several field boundaries in the case of the other turbines).</p> <p>30B: 4 No. of the proposed turbines are visible in the background of the view, they are evenly spaced and vertically aligned across the skyline. The turbines are sited at a lower elevation beyond the brow of the hill comprising this view, consequently the lower sections of the turbine towers are screened by the intervening landform. Turbine T4 is partially screened by localised vegetation in the foreground.</p> <p>From this perspective, the proposed turbines are visible within a relatively wide horizontal extent of the landscape view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No cumulative visual effects occur with any other existing or permitted Wind Farms.</p> <p>The proposed Lemanaghan turbines are potentially theoretically visible in the background of the wireline behind T8 of the Proposed Umma More Development. They are not visible within the photomontage due to the screening from vegetation and there is no potential for cumulative visual effects to occur.</p>		

Viewpoint 12A & 12B – Ballynacorra	
* 2No. fields of View presented in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet – See Note on Page 3 of this Appendix	
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	<p>High: “Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location in proximity to the proposed turbines and surrounding residents. It is not a densely populated location, with only four residential dwellings represented by this viewpoint. The view is typical of many rural agricultural landscapes and is not especially scenic nor are there any unique landscape features in view.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	<p>Substantial: “Substantial change, where the proposals would result in large-scale, prominent or very prominent change, leading to substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of the baseline though removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the proposed turbines are fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer. This change could be long term or of a long duration.”</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>High x Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019). ➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or interfere with any landscape view of unique aesthetic quality. ➤ The turbines are sited at a relatively lower base elevation than the viewpoint and the residential receptors represented by this viewpoint. This provides a sense that the turbines are appropriately scaled and set-back in relation to the viewpoint, reducing visual prominence. The turbines appear setback and do not appear over-bearing. ➤ The field structure, topographical undulations and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond multiple fields or behind a small ridgeline. ➤ The turbines appear in a coherent layout, evenly spaced, with all but one turbine (T6 which is seen in the midground) seen in the background of the view. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited in a relatively sparsely populated modified working landscape within County Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands. As reported in Section 12.4.1.1.3 of Chapter 12, LCA 7 was formerly the only LCA in Co. Westmeath designated as having any capacity for wind energy development.

Viewpoint 12A & 12B – Ballynacorra	
* 2No. fields of View presented in the EIAR Volume 2: Photomontage Booklet – See Note on Page 3 of this Appendix	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On balance this is not deemed to be a significant visual impact, see section 1.4.4 in the Methodology Appendix - Appendix 12-1. Overall, taking into account all factors relevant in this circumstance, the visual effect at this viewpoint is not considered to be significant given the site-specific mitigating factors detailed above. The turbines appear appropriately scaled in relation to the view and while they appear as large vertical elements, substantially changing the view itself, the visual effect is not deemed to be significant.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p>Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 13– Hill of Laragh			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from Hill of Laragh at the viewpoint of County Westmeath Protected View 20, a designated scenic view of 'local significance' (WCDP, 2021-2027). ➤ Located on the borders of townlands Laragh, Ballintue and Rathmore, approximately 15.6km northeast of nearest proposed turbine (T1). ➤ Grid Reference: E 631,474 N 757,315 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 8 - South Central Hills – Medium	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Westmeath Protected View 20 - High
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>This image was captured from the elevated vantage point of Hill of Laragh where there are expansive panoramic views across the flat midland landscape which are of a scenic quality. The perspective presented in the 'Baseline View' shows a long-ranging view of a gently undulating agricultural landscape comprising grassland fields delineated by dry stone walls, trees and scrub. Landform rises to the left of the view where the rolling hills of the Western Uplands LCA are visible, as well as the Hill of Uisneach which is seen as a very slightly elevated ridgeline in the distance to the left of the view (as labelled in the wireline - 90° field of view).</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All of the 9 No. turbines of the Wind Farm Site are visible from this view; their lower towers are partially screened from view by the undulating landform surrounding the site. The turbines appear in a coherent layout as a linear feature in the distant background of the view. All visible turbine components are viewed to be above the horizon, and they do not obstruct any landscape views. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small elements in the background of the view.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)	<p>High: "Includes viewers at designated views or landscapes. Viewers such as residents in close proximity to the viewpoint who have primary views that</p>		

Viewpoint 13– Hill of Laragh	
(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	<p><i>will be in the direction of the proposed turbines that may not necessarily be of a particularly scenic quality; viewers at well-known heritage or popular tourist or recreational areas, viewers along scenic or tourist routes.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location at Westmeath Protected View 20 on the Hill of Laragh. Whilst there are panoramic views of high scenic quality, the viewpoint is not a tourism or recreational hotspot and is only deemed to be a view of ‘local’ importance in the WCDP.</p>
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	Negligible: <i>“Any change would only be barely distinguishable from the status quo “do-nothing scenario” in the surroundings. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.”</i>
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"> ➤ Visual effects are mitigated by distance and screening elements existent within the landscape. ➤ The proposed turbines are appropriately scaled in the landscape and the turbines comprise a very small spatial extent within this expansive panoramic view. ➤ The proposed turbines are viewed above the horizon and does not obstruct any unique landscape features within the long-ranging view. ➤ Whilst it is a designated scenic view, in reality, this location does not generate high visitor numbers and the local road is not of high traffic density. ➤ The turbines are arranged and viewed in a neat coherent layout vertically aligned in the 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.

Viewpoint 14– Mount Temple			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from L1437 Local Road, northwest of Mount Temple in the townland of Aghanashanamore. ➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 5.6km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T4). ➤ Grid Reference: E 614,440 N 742,360 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 4 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Motorists on the L1437 Local Road – Low Residential Receptors - Medium
Description of ‘Baseline’	This image shows a view from an elevated vantage point on the local road as it approaches Mount Temple from the north-west. It shows a view across		

Viewpoint 14– Mount Temple	
	the road towards the Mount Temple golf course and Loch Lutha housing estate which is visible in the middle distance enclosed by a small ridgeline and cluster of woodland.
Proposed Photomontage Description	There are 4 turbines visible, evenly spaced in the background of the view. 5 of the proposed turbines are obscured from view by intervening screening in the foreground. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as relatively small elements in the background of the view.
Cumulative Effects	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects with other wind farms.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Medium: “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused on the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic”. This viewpoint has been given a Medium sensitivity rating on account of its proximity to residential receptors in the area.
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	Slight: “The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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"> ➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines is limited elsewhere in Mount Temple, as well as along other stretches of this local road to both the east and west. ➤ Over half of the proposed turbines are obscured from view. ➤ The four visible turbines are arranged as an organised linear array evenly spaced, appropriately scaled and read coherently within the landscape. ➤ The houses within the estate visible in the photomontage will have very limited visibility of the proposed turbines, they are located within a small valley enclosed by a prominent ridgeline and cluster of woodland.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Not Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 15– Dunamona Motte			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ View from atop Dunamona Motte, a National Monument in the townland of Dunamona; ➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 5.3km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T1) ➤ Grid Reference: E 614,363 N 749,972 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 6 		
LCA and Sensitivity	Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands – Low	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	National Monument heritage feature - High
Description of ‘Baseline’	<p>This image shows a view from Dunamona Motte which is a mound approximately 9 metres above surrounding features such as the local road. The motte provides an elevated vantage point for views across the landscape. The Baseline image shows a relatively short range view across undulating farmland with a number of residential dwellings dispersed throughout the landscape. Trees and hedgerows delineate the fields seen within the image. Long-ranging views are restricted by a ridgeline of rolling hills visible in the background of the view.</p>		
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>Most of the proposed turbines are obscured from view by the landform in the background of the photomontage. The nacelle of turbine T1 and blade tips of five others are visible above the crest of the hill in the background of the view. The lower tower sections of all turbines are screened from view by intervening landform and treelines. The hill and woodland completely screen 3 of the 9 turbines from view in this photomontage.</p>		
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this photomontage, therefore there are no cumulative effects with other wind farms.</p>		
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Medium: <i>“Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed turbines or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality; those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at view which are considered moderately scenic.”</i></p> <p>Whilst the national monument is a high sensitivity cultural heritage receptor, Chapter 12 (and this Appendix) assesses effects from the perspective of visitor amenity and this site and viewpoint location is not representative of sensitive visual receptors (effects on the archaeological or cultural heritage resource are dealt with in the Cultural Heritage Chapter). Therefore, on balance, this viewpoint is deemed to be of Medium sensitivity. An assessment of the effects on the setting of this monument is included Chapter 13 – <i>Cultural Heritage</i>.</p>		
Magnitude of Change <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Slight: <i>“The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”</i></p>		

Viewpoint 15– Dunamona Motte	
Significance of Effect	Medium x Slight = 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"> ➤ Most of the proposed turbines are obscured from view by the intervening landform. ➤ The field structure, topographical undulations, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines. ➤ All the turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any scenic or valuable landscape views from this location. ➤ Visual effects are mitigated by distance and screening elements existent within the 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.

Viewpoint 16– Hill of Uisneach			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rendered Wireline from atop the Hill of Uisneach <i>*See note on Page 2 of this Appendix detailing the necessity for a 'Rendered Wireline' and details on the production of this Baseline Image and Photomontage</i> ➤ View from County Westmeath Protected View 26 (WCDP, 2021-2027). ➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 628,998 N: 748,859 ➤ No. of turbines visible: 9 		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 9 – Hill of Uisneach – Very High	Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	Westmeath Protected View 36 – Very High Cultural Heritage Sensitivity – Very High
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>From this elevated vantage point there are panoramic views of the Irish midlands surrounding the Hill of Uisneach. The baseline view is very similar to that shown in VP06, which show expansive, long-ranging views of undulating agricultural farmland comprising patchwork of fields delineated by hedgerows and clusters of mature woodland. As illustrated by the baseline image and baseline wireframe, the peaked form of Knockastia Hill is a noticeable topographical feature visible in the background left of the view, it is also labelled in the wireline view. Online imagery (e.g., Google Street View Link), and aerial photography presenting views of the immediate landscape of the Hill of Uisneach and surrounding views show the foreground of this view will comprise undulating fields of agricultural grassland as well as mature treelines and shrubs.</p>		

Viewpoint 16– Hill of Uisneach	
Proposed Photomontage Description	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development appear as a neat linear array across the background of this view. At this distance the proposed turbines are seen as small background features and comprise a small horizontal extent in the panoramic landscape view. As shown by both the ‘Rendered Wireline’ photomontage and the corresponding wireline visual, the turbines are sited in lower lands beyond slight undulations in the landform as the Western Uplands descend to the west. It is highly likely that these topographical characteristics and the highly vegetated nature of the intervening landscape will screen lower elements of the turbines making them appear less prominent within the landscape view. There is no visual stacking when viewed from this highly sensitive visual receptor and the turbines hubs are vertically aligned in the landscape giving the turbines of the Proposed Development an organised and coherent form, appropriately scaled within the landscape view.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>No existing or permitted turbines are visible in the view presented in the Rendered Wireline.</p> <p>The proposed Lemanaghan turbines are rendered in the cumulative Rendered Wireline, seen in the 90° wireline to the left of Knockastia. These turbines are located at a significant distance (> 20km) from this viewpoint, consequently, they are very small features in the background of the landscape view. In reality, these proposed turbines are unlikely to be discernible from atop the Hill of Uisneach due to screening from physical features of the landscape view. There is likely to be substantial visual separation between the proposed Lemanaghan wind farm and the Proposed Development turbines and any potential cumulative effects are likely to be significantly mitigated by distance.</p> <p>The proposed Kepak turbine is likely to be located 16.7km south of this viewpoint, within a differing field of view than presented by the photomontage. ‘Combined in succession’ visibility of this turbine from receptors on the Hill of Uisneach is likely to be reduced due to the setback distance and screening from vegetation. The proposed Derryadd Wind Farm is likely to be located 24.6 km north-west of this viewpoint, within a differing field of view than presented by the photomontage, visibility is likely to be very limited due to the substantial set back distance. Occasionally, very minor visual effects with the Proposed Development turbines may arise on a very clear day where the successional in combination effects could potentially occur. No significant cumulative visual effects are likely to occur.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p>Very High: <i>“Included in this category are viewers that are primarily focused on views from this particular location, such as visitors to popular destinations identified for their outstanding views. Residents in close proximity who have primary views of a scenic quality in the direction of the proposed turbines.”</i></p> <p>This viewpoint has been given a Very High sensitivity rating on account of its location on the Hill of Uisneach, which is a protected monument of National importance, an LCA of Very High sensitivity and a location where there are designated scenic views of National Value in all directions.</p>

Viewpoint 16– Hill of Uisneach	
	It is to be noted that the Hill of Uisneach is privately owned land and there is no public access to the hill or its monuments, only paid access at the behest of the landowner. As detailed in Section 12.1.6 of Chapter 12, no access was permitted to the Hill of Uisneach for the capture and production of photomontages, or use of any imagery captured from the hill.
Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.5.3 of Methodology Appendix 12-1)	Slight: <i>“The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in a low level of change in the view and its composition and a low degree of contrast. The character of the view may be altered but will remain similar to the baseline existing situation. This change could be short term or of a short duration.”</i>
Significance of Effect	Very High x Slight = Major/Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022) An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The substantial set back distance in combination with intervening features of the landscape such as the rolling landform, varied field patterns and the abundance of mature vegetation provide a physical landscape buffer between the Wind Farm Site and the Hill of Uisneach landscape and the setting of the important cultural heritage monuments at this location. ➤ The Proposed Development turbines are viewed as a neat, compact and coherent development comprising a relatively small spatial extent within in an otherwise expansive panoramic landscape view. ➤ There is no visual connectivity between the Hill of Uisneach and any other sites of cultural heritage importance in the direction of the Wind Farm Site, the proposed turbines do not intrude upon or obstruct intervisibility between any heritage sites. ➤ As demonstrated by ZTV mapping, indicative online imagery (Google Street View Link) and investigation of aerial satellite imagery, the Proposed Development turbines are only likely to be visible from elevated areas and the western extent of the Hill of Uisneach site. ➤ There are large areas within the Hill of Uisneach site, including areas where culturally significant monuments are located where there are no potential for views of the proposed turbines. ➤ The proposed turbines are sited in a relatively sparsely populated modified working landscape within County Westmeath LCA 7 - Western Lowlands, which as noted in Section 12.4.1.1.3 of Chapter 12 was historically the only LCA with any capacity for Wind Energy Development.
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	Moderate (EPA, 2022) An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends