



## **APPENDIX 13-3**

### ***Photomontage Assessment Tables***

1.

# PHOTOMONTAGE VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the photomontage visualisations of the 11 No. Viewpoints presented in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the photomontage booklet. The Table below provides location information about the 11 No. Viewpoints assessed.

Table 1-1: Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
1	View from the R314 regional road in the townland of Glenulra, approximately 5.9 km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located along a Co. Mayo Scenic Route with Designated Views.	E 506,808 N 839,995
2	View from the L1202 in the townland of Aghoos, approximately 17.8 km west of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located along a Co. Mayo Scenic Route.	E 484,379 N 836,017
3	View from Downpatrick Head in the townland of Knockaun, approximately 11km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located near an OSi viewpoint. This viewpoint is also located near a Co. Mayo Scenic Route.	E 512,466 N 842,917
4	View from a local road in the townland of Ballyglass, west of Ballycastle, approximately 4.5 km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 508,757 N 837,488
5	View from a local road in the townland of Carnclogh, approximately 7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 509,395 N 826,826
6	View from the N59 in the townland of Coolturk, approximately 14.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 506,228 N 817,047
7	View from a local road near Killala in the townland of Kilroe, approximately 15.7 km east of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 521,534 N 829,215
8	View from the R312, which is also located along the Western Way, in the townland of Derry Lower, approximately 14.8 km south of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 498,976 N 818,122
9	View from the R315 regional road in the townland of Annagh More, approximately 4.1km east of the nearest proposed turbine. This viewpoint is located along a Co. Mayo Scenic Route with Designated Views.	E 510,572 N 833,061
10	View from a local road in the townland of Cluddaun approximately 2.3 km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 502,451 N 830,198

VP No	Description	Grid Ref.
11	View from a local road, which is also located along the Western Way, in the townland of Carrowmore, approximately 8.7 km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.	E 514,306 N 837,588

## 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 Development Site, had complete intervening screening or were screened to such an extent that the development of photomontages was not considered useful in terms of the assessment process i.e. little or no visibility towards the Proposed Development. It is therefore considered important to describe the nature of the proposed site and surrounding landscape characteristics that limit views towards the Proposed Development as well as other factors which mitigate visual effects, in order to provide context for this and avoid repetition in the viewpoint assessment tables below.

## 1.2 Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the ‘Assessing Visual Effects’ methodology set out in Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1 – *LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the proposed Glenora Wind Farm are included in the Residual Effect determination given for each Viewpoint.

### Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13, cumulative visual effects considers all ‘likely future receiving environments’ and the descriptions reported within the tables below include existing views, views in a Do-Nothing Scenario (where permitted/consented turbines to be seen) and proposed views (All other proposed turbines as well as the Proposed Development). Due to a build-up of wind energy developments within the flat peatland plain to the south of the Proposed Development, several viewpoints were specifically selected to capture potential cumulative visual effects of the Proposed Development with other wind energy developments (e.g. VP7; VP5; VP6; VP8).

## 1.3 Visual Effects Mitigating Factors

In general, mountain moorland wind farm sites tend to be capable of accommodating suitably designed wind farm projects of scale. The highly vegetated farmland landscape and abundance of coniferous forestry that surround the Proposed Development Site provide lots of screening and has the capacity to substantially reduce the magnitude of likely visual effects in close proximity to the site. Other key reasons relevant to the assessment of visual effects and factors enabling the Proposed Development to be effectively absorbed by the landscape of the site and surrounding area are outlined below and are evident in the photomontages:

- **Strategic Siting of the Proposed Development in a saddle between peaks.**  
The Proposed Development is sited on the lower regions of the overall elevated landscape within which it is located, adjacent to the high elevation point of the Maumakeogh peak and associated ridgeline, which provides substantial screening of the Proposed Development from most areas within the LVIA study area to the north, north-east, and north-west, reducing visibility and mitigating visual effects in an extensive area. With the siting of the proposed turbines in locations at a lower

elevation than adjacent ridgelines to the north, east and west, as well as Slieve Fyagh to the south-west, the Proposed Development is partially contained or ‘framed’ by the surrounding landform. The siting of the Proposed Development within this elevated landscape where it is contained by the surrounding ridgelines increases the remoteness of the turbines, separating them from other complex landscape features in the surrounding area such as farmland and settlements. This mitigates the potential for overbearing or domineering effects whilst providing adequate setback from visual receptors. The large-scale and simple landform of the elevated moorland landscape enables the Proposed Development to be absorbed by the surrounding landscape.

➤ **Strategic Siting – of the proposed turbines in locations at a lower elevation (below 230m AOD) than adjacent ridgelines**

To the west, as well as other topographical elements to the north-east, the Proposed Development is partially contained or ‘framed’ by the surrounding landform. The large-scale and simple landform of the elevated moorland landscape enables the Proposed Development to be effectively absorbed by the surrounding landscape.

➤ **The Proposed Development does not obstruct landscape views of the North Mayo coastline and does not materially impact scenic amenity attributed to the coast.**

Many valuable scenic views and scenic routes located in the LVIA Study Area are predominantly attributed to the coastal sector of the region, providing significant amenity for recreation and tourism. The proposed turbines will not substantially impact most sensitive scenic amenities attributed to the coast.

➤ **The Proposed Development is located in an isolated area with a limited number of residential dwelling and settlements located throughout the landscape area surrounding the site.**

The sensitivity of the residential visual amenity in the area surrounding the Proposed Development is reduced by the lack of settlements and limited numbers of residential dwellings in close proximity to the Proposed Development Site, and within the wider landscape area. This is particularly true of areas where there is likely to be most visibility of the Proposed Development, such as to the south and south-east, where the screening effect of the topography surrounding the site is reduced. It is evident from the photomontages produced that these areas, and those in the general landscape area surrounding the site, are sparsely populated. This mitigates the potential for the proposed turbines to have a domineering effect on residential receptors, as well as mitigating the impact of the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity.

Viewpoint 1 - Glenulra			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R314 in the townland of Glenulra.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on a Co. Mayo scenic route with designated views in the MCDP (2022-2028).</li> <li>➤ Approximately 5.9 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 506,808, N 839,995</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 6/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU D North Coast Plateaux - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Co. Mayo Designated Scenic Route – <b>High</b> ; Residents – <b>Medium/High</b> ; Tourists (Wild Atlantic Way) – <b>High</b> ;
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>A relatively open view of a small upland valley comprising the course of the Glenulra River. The view is framed by the elevated ridgeline that forms the skyline in the background of this view. The foreground is made up of a view of the R314 regional road which is bordered by low grasses, shrubs and stock fencing. In the right midground a steep slope can be seen, creating a small valley down to the Glenulra River, the landcover on these slopes is made up of shrubs, gorse and other scrub vegetation. Beyond this small valley, in the right midground, a number of residential dwelling and agricultural fields bordered by low hedgerows can be seen interspersed throughout the landscape. In the centre midground of the image the road continues to slope gently downwards and crosses a bridge over the river, which can be seen behind a semi-improved grassland field that borders the R314. The left midground consists of a grass field bordered by a mature coniferous treeline and mature hedgerow that screens the majority of the view of the residential dwelling located behind it. In the background of the view the topography slopes upwards forming a smooth sloping ridgeline, limiting longer-distance views and creating a sense of visual containment within the viewshed. The ground cover in the centre-left background is a section of coniferous plantation forestry at varying stages of growth. Elsewhere in the background the groundcover is predominantly peatland, with a large tract of coniferous plantation forestry visible on the upper slopes of the hill in the right background.</p> <p>No other existing wind farms are visible in this view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>Most of the Proposed Development is obscured from view by the intervening landform. Turbine T11 is the most visible proposed turbine, its hub and two blades are visible above the horizon where the ridgeline drops between two crests. One full blade of proposed turbine T15 is visible, and blade tips of four other proposed turbines are also visible. At this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled in the background of the view.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in this view.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>High:</b> This view is located on a Co. Mayo Scenic Route with Designated Views as well as the Wild Atlantic Way tourist drive. This viewpoint is the closest location on the R314 to the Ceide fields where there is visibility of		

Viewpoint 1 - Glenulra	
	the proposed turbines (approx. 1.8km east of the Ceide Fields). On balance this viewpoint is deemed to be High.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<b>Negligible:</b> “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.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Although not visible in the image, the view in the opposite direction from this viewpoint looks out on the sea and rugged coastline of north Mayo. The main focus of the valuable and sensitive scenic views from this location is in the opposite direction to the proposed turbines, towards the sea and along the coastal corridor.</li> <li>➤ This location is the closest location along the R314 to the Céide fields where there is likely to be visibility of the proposed turbines. Multiple photomontage images demonstrated that there is no visibility of the Proposed Development from the Céide Fields and that this is the closest point to the Céide Fields where visibility of the Proposed Development is likely to occur.</li> <li>➤ Through an iterative design process, the proposed turbines are strategically sited at lower elevations relative to the ridgelines enclosing them to the north and west. This strategic siting is highly evident in this photomontage where visibility of most of the Proposed Development is eliminated from receptors in this area due to screening from the intervening landform.</li> <li>➤ A very small number proposed turbines are partially seen. They are all viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any sensitive landscape views.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 2 - Aghoos			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L1202 in the townland of Aghoos.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 17.8 km west of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located along a Co. Mayo Scenic Route.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 484,379, N 836,017</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 7/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU B – North West Coastal Moorland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Road users - <b>High</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b>

Viewpoint 2 - Aghoos	
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The image shows an open and expansive view of Sruwaddacon Bay and the undulating landform and mountainous ridgelines of north Mayo. The local road is visible in the foreground lined by scrub, gorse and low shrubs. A residential building and adjacent garden overlooking the bay can be seen in the right foreground. The landscape beyond the tidal inlet of Sruwaddacon Bay comprises a mixture of structured field pattern and bogland that borders the opposite side of the bay. Some residential dwellings can also be seen adjoining these fields in the distance. Large swathes of coniferous plantation forestry can be seen beyond the fields and boglands that border the bay. The left and centre background of the view consist of dramatic rises and falls in topography, creating a scenic ridgeline comprising of various elevated peaks across north Mayo, including Glinsk, Tawnaghmore and Maumakeogh.</p> <p>No other existing wind farm developments are visible in this view.</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>There is 1 turbine nacelle and 6 turbine blades visible above the distant ridgeline. At this distance (17.8 km) the proposed turbines comprise a very small horizontal extent and appear as very small elements in the view. The majority of the proposed turbines are screened by the intervening topography and there is no full view of any single turbine from this location. At this distance the turbines are seen as very small features in the background of the view.</p> <p>In a 'Do-Nothing Scenario' two turbines of the permitted ABO Sheskin wind farm will be partially visible above the distant ridgeline from receptors in this area (see wireline view), although not visible in this photomontage due to screening from a residential dwelling.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulatively, the addition of the proposed turbines increases the number of turbines visible within the view from a Do-Nothing Scenario. The Proposed Development and the consented ABO Sheskin development are visually separated in the view, appearing as separate developments. Both the proposed turbines and the consented ABO Sheskin turbines appear as very small elements in the background of the view.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> This image was captured from the L1202 which is a designated scenic route in the MCDP and this is a scenic landscape view of high value, therefore sensitivity is deemed to be High.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change (Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</b>	<p><b>Negligible:</b> <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></p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High x Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<p>➤ Visibility of the turbines is substantially mitigated by distance, they are seen as very small background elements in the landscape from this location.</p>

Viewpoint 2 - Aghoos	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is very small and a visual receptor would need to be actively searching the horizon to identify the turbines in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ Siting and design were developed in accordance with the guidelines for mountain moorland landscape character type, and there is substantial screening by landform as a result of the siting of the turbines at a lower elevation than the surrounding topography.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

Viewpoint 3 – Downpatrick Head			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Downpatrick Head in the townland of Knockaun.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located at the most northern headline of Downpatrick Head adjacent to the Dún Briste Sea Stack (which is located immediately west of the viewpoint).</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 11.5 km northeast from the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located near a Wild Atlantic Way Signature Discovery Point, an OSi viewpoint and adjacent to a Co. Mayo Scenic Route.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 512,466, N 842,917</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 15/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU D North Coast Plateaux - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Downpatrick Head Visitors & Tourists – <b>Very High</b> OSi Viewpoint – <b>Very High</b> Wild Atlantic Way Signature Discovery Point – <b>Very High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The image shows a long ranging and expansive view of the north Mayo coastline. A key feature of the seascape view are the dramatic Downpatrick Head sea cliffs seen in the foreground, as well as the Dún Briste Sea Stack which is visible beyond the right-hand side of the 90° field of view. Coastal reefs and flat low lying farmland are visible in the midground beyond the sea cliffs of Downpatrick head, linking the coastline to Bunatrahir Bay. Beyond this bay the landform rises steeply to form the larger ridgeline that can be seen spanning much of the background of the image. The topography is undulating, with landcover comprising a mix of agricultural fields, hedgerow and treelines, and coniferous plantation forestry, which is generally located in the upland areas. Residential dwellings, farm buildings, agricultural fields and smaller pockets of forestry are interspersed throughout the lower regions of the distant hills, with large swathes of coniferous plantation forestry occupying much of the upper slopes.</p> <p>No other existing wind farms are visible in this view.</p>		



Viewpoint 3 – Downpatrick Head	
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>15 No. proposed turbines are partially visible beyond the distant ridgeline in the background of the view. 10 No. turbines are clearly visible with their nacelles seen above the horizon, their lower tower sections are screened from view by the intervening landform reducing their perceived prominence in the landscape. Only blades are visible of the other 5 No. turbines visible. The introduction of turbines into the background of this view is novel and slightly alters the character of the background landscape. However, at this distance, and within the scale of the view and landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small features in the very background of the view. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop and the development is framed by the horizon where the ridgeline drops slightly between two hill crests, providing some visual balance.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible, there are no cumulative visual effects.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Very High:</b> This Viewpoint is deemed to be ‘Very High’ sensitivity on account of the visitors and tourists coming to this location in a recreational capacity to appreciate the landscape of Downpatrick Head.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> “ <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> ”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Very High x Slight = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon the key scenic sensitivities of this landscape such as the sea cliffs, sea stacks and immediate seascape setting of Downpatrick Head itself.</li> <li>➤ The field of view comprising the Proposed Development includes approximately 19° (5.2%) of the expansive panoramic vistas (360°) available from this location and elsewhere on Downpatrick Head.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are partially visible beyond a distant ridgeline approximately 11.48km from this viewpoint and are consequently seen as very small features in the background of the landscape view.</li> <li>➤ Whilst this location is protected as a valuable tourism asset in the MCDP, Downpatrick Head is not a designated scenic view or part of a designated scenic route in local planning policy (MCDP).</li> <li>➤ Whilst the proposed turbines are visible in the background of this view, it is considered that by virtue of the setback distance (&lt;11km) and their positioning in the landscape, the proposed turbines are unlikely to fundamentally detract value from visitor and tourism experiences of Downpatrick Head.</li> <li>➤ The most iconic and sensitive scenic views from most locations at Downpatrick Head include views of the Dún Briste Sea Stack, as well as the rugged dramatic coastline to the west (as is indicated by Osi</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 3 – Downpatrick Head	
	<p>Viewing Area icons on Osi maps). These key sensitive views are mostly oriented directly west and north from most locations at Downpatrick Head, not in the direction of the Proposed Development which is located to the southwest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Considering the scale of the proposed turbines due to the set-back distance (11.48km); the very small horizontal extent of turbines visible (5% of 360° panoramic view), and positioning beyond the distant ridgeline, the Proposed Development does not significantly impact the character of views of the wider seascape setting of this coastline.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are strategically sited at lower elevations relative to the ridgelines enclosing them to the north and west. The strategic siting of turbines at lower contours beyond the distant ridgeline reduces their visual prominence in the landscape, mitigating visual effects.</li> <li>➤ Chapter 6 of the WEDGs (DoEHLG, 2006) reports ‘Aesthetic Considerations in Siting and Design’ for Wind Energy Developments and includes the following text: <i>‘It is preferable to avoid locating turbines where they can be seen one behind another, when viewed from highly sensitive key view points (for example, viewing points along walking or scenic routes, or from designated views or prospects), as this results in visual stacking and, thus, confusion.’</i> Through an iterative design process (including production of early stage photomontage visuals and turbine micro-siting), the proposed turbine layout results in a lack of visual stacking from this high sensitivity viewpoint, mitigating the potential for visual confusion created by the Proposed Development, therefore aligning with the siting and design guidance in the WEDGs.</li> <li>➤ The visual balance afforded by the framing of the Proposed Development between two crests on the ridgeline serves to effectively accommodate and absorb the proposed turbines in this large scale landscape view.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>

Viewpoint 4 - Ballyglass (Western Way – West of Ballycastle)			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Ballyglass, west of Ballycastle;</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on the ‘Western Way’ way marked walking trail.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 4.5 km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 508,757, N 837,488</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU E – North Mayo Mountain Moorland - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Walking Route – <b>High</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b> Motorists - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>This view looks onto the large swathes of coniferous plantation forestry located on the northern slopes of the Maumakeogh ridge. The midground view mainly consists of the bogland fields at the base of the slopes, however much of the views of these field are obscured by the hedgerows and deciduous trees that border the local roads. The right background contains</p>		

Viewpoint 4 - Ballyglass (Western Way – West of Ballycastle)	
	<p>a view of Ballyknock, where the ground cover consists of bogland, with areas coniferous plantation forestry interspersed on the slopes of the hill. Long-distance views of the ridgeline are available throughout the background. The ridgeline in the background of the view is undulating, with the skyline in the centre background broken up by the coniferous forestry located higher up the slopes.</p> <p>No other existing wind energy developments are visible in this view</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>9 No. proposed turbines are partially visible spaced out across the distant ridgeline. Nacelles and blades of 4 proposed turbines are visible and only turbine blades of the 5 other turbines are visible from this location. The topography and coniferous plantation forestry screen the majority of the turbines from view from this location, limiting the extent of the Proposed Development visible from this viewpoint. All visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop, slightly increasing the vertical extent of the skyline but mitigating the impact of any visual confusion that may arise.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other wind farms are visible from this viewpoint, no cumulative visual effects occur.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Receptors on walking routes are generally deemed to be of relatively high sensitivity due to their experience of the landscape and scenic amenity in a recreational capacity. The Western Way is a very long route and the portion of the Western Way in the LVIA Study Area comprises 76km. The portion of the route represented by this viewpoint comprises a landscape of commercial conifer plantations and is not deemed to be particularly sensitive in terms of valuable scenic views and landscape experience. This is a sparsely settled landscape and a local road of low traffic density. On balance, sensitivity of this viewpoint is deemed to be Medium.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> “<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 development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.</i>”</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium X Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<p>➤ The proposed turbines are strategically sited at lower elevations relative to the ridgelines enclosing them to the north and west. The strategic siting of turbines at lower contours beyond the distant ridgeline in this view reduces their visual prominence in the landscape as well as obscuring most of the Proposed Development from view, mitigating visual impacts.</p>

Viewpoint 4 - Ballyglass (Western Way – West of Ballycastle)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mature tree lines and dense hedgerows lining the local road between this viewpoint and the village of Ballycastle generally limit all views towards the Proposed Development limiting visual effects on other visual receptors in this area.</li> <li>➤ The undulating topography and dense vegetation screening from the commercial forestry will limit visibility of the proposed turbines from much of the Western Way trail in this area.</li> <li>➤ The baseline view consists of large swathes of coniferous plantation forestry that already alter the skyline and introduce man-made elements into the view of the slopes of the Maumakeogh ridgeline, this modification reduces landscape value and somewhat detracts quality from scenic amenity in this area and this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ Neat and ordered spacing of the proposed turbines across the ridgeline ensures that the Proposed Development is viewed as a coherent linear array, effectively absorbed in this landscape view.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.</p>

Viewpoint 5 – Carnclagh			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Carnclagh.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located in proximity to the rural settlement of Moygownagh, as well as Blanemore Forest Walk and the Moygownagh Loop Walk.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 7 km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 509,395, N 826,826</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 6/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Motorists – <b>Low</b> ; Local Walking Route – <b>Medium</b> ; Moygownagh Residents – <b>Medium</b> ;
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>The left of the view comprises an open view across a flat plain of open peatland in the direction of several other existing wind energy developments which can be seen across the horizon. The right of the view is characterised by a short plain of agricultural land and peatland around the Dunowen River (not seen in this view) which transitions to an elevated upland landscape type in the middle distance as elevation rises to the northwest. The main landform feature is a hill in the centre right of the view densely covered by a commercial forestry plantation.</p> <p>Turbines of the existing Oweninny 1 and Oweninny 2 wind farms are visible in the left background of the view.</p>		

Viewpoint 5 – Carnclough	
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The turbines of the Proposed Development are seen to the right side of the elevated landform in the centre of the view. 5 No. proposed turbines are clearly visible and blades are seen of three others. Most of the Proposed Development is screened from view by the intervening ridgeline and commercial forestry. The visible turbines are vertically aligned with each other as well as the peak of the ridgeline which forms the main feature of this landscape view.</p> <p>Six other permitted and proposed wind farms will be visible in the flat bogland plain to the southwest of this viewpoint (left of the photomontage).</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The other existing, permitted and proposed wind farms are seen to the left of the view. Due to the siting of many developments in this flat bogland plain, there is a relatively high density of turbines visible in this field of view to the southwest from this viewpoint. The Proposed Development is visually separated from this dense cluster of wind energy development due to both the separation distance, difference in geographical positioning in the landscape and the large landform which exists between them. The Proposed Development adds to the cumulative build-up of wind energy visible in this landscape view.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint is located in a sparsely settled remote working landscape with a separation distance of 7km between the proposed turbines and local residences in this area. This viewpoint is located in proximity to the rural settlement of Moygownagh and some walking routes of local importance (not county or regionally popular walking trails). On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight</b> “<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> <p>Magnitude of change considers potential for cumulative visual effects.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p>An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most of the Proposed Development is obscured from view.</li> <li>➤ The spatial extent of the proposed turbines within this wide-ranging view is very small. The visible turbines are effectively absorbed in this landscape due to the simple landcover and large scale of the landscape type.</li> <li>➤ It is unlikely that the Proposed Development will be visible from the rural settlement of Moygownagh and residential receptors in that area.</li> <li>➤ Very limited visibility of the Proposed Development is anticipated from the Blanemore Forest Walk and the Moygownagh Loop Walk.</li> <li>➤ The visible turbines are vertically aligned with the peak of the ridgeline providing visual balance with the landform characteristics.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on a sparsely populated, low trafficked local road. In reality, there are very few locally sensitivity visual receptors</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 5 – Carnclagh	
	<p>with open views in the direction of the proposed turbines and limited visual effects on residential visual amenity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development has limited visual impacts on any landscape and scenic amenity provided by the Dunowen River.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences</p>

Viewpoint 6 - Coolturk			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the N59 in the townland of Coolturk,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 14.4 km south of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 506,228, N 817,047</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 22/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	National Road Motorists – <b>Medium</b> Residents - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>This image was taken from the N59 national road. The foreground shows the road itself and associated infrastructure, which is bordered by a grassy verge and fencing. Views to the north beyond the road comprise rolling agricultural fields, commercial forestry plantations and areas of open moorland. Grid and communication infrastructure are visible throughout the view including overhead lines and vertical uprights. An elevated ridgeline is visible in the distant background of the view.</p> <p>Turbines of the existing Oweninny 1 Wind Farm are theoretically visible to the left of the view but are screened by the forestry.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The Proposed Development is viewed as a linear array of turbines with slightly irregular spacing in the background of the view. Most turbines are clearly visible although they are partially screened by intervening topography and forestry. There is some visual stacking or visual overlap between turbine components in this view. The varying heights of turbines causes some slight incongruity with the landscape. At this distance (&gt;14km) the turbines are seen to be of small scale in the landscape view.</p> <p>Turbines of the proposed Oweninny 3 Wind Farm (currently at pre-planning) are likely to be visible above the treeline to the left of the photomontage. The wireline view indicates many other permitted and proposed wind farms may be potentially positioned to the west of the viewpoint, however, the existing forestry and localised topography will restrict visibility of these developments from this location, as demonstrated by the photomontage.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>From this viewpoint the Proposed Development will be potentially visible in combination with the proposed Oweninny 3 Wind Farm. The Proposed Development will increase the spatial extent of turbine visible from this</p>		

Viewpoint 6 - Coolturk	
	<p>location, although the turbines are located at a greater distance than many of the other developments noted here, and so will appear smaller and less intrusive in the view. The difference in scale of the proposed turbines visually separates them as separate developments from the Oweninny 3 turbines (proposed).</p> <p>The proposed Kilsallagh Wind Farm will potentially be visible (in a potential future receiving environment) to the southwest from this viewpoint on the other side of the road and a different field of view than the view presented in the photomontage. This development will add to the potential cumulative visual effects from this location.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint has been given a medium sensitivity on account of the National Road as a well trafficked route through a relatively scenic area of North Mayo. This road is not a designated Scenic Route. Residents in proximity to this viewpoint are located substantial distance from the Proposed Development. On Balance, the sensitivity is deemed to be ‘Medium’.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight</b> “ <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> <p>Magnitude of change considers potential for cumulative visual effects.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This represents one of the most open views of the Proposed Development from this National Road. Although there are other locations where the proposed turbines are visible (e.g. elevated vantage points), there are many locations to the east and west where there will be no visibility due to screening from localised topography and roadside vegetation (e.g. commercial forestry).</li> <li>➤ This road is oriented east-west and the proposed turbines are located to the north, a direction perpendicular to the routes of travel. Therefore, the Proposed Development is not within the focus of view for most visual receptors travelling this route.</li> <li>➤ Lower tower sections of most turbines are obscured from view by screening elements, reducing their prominence in the landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 7 - Kilroe			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Kilroe, on the Western Way Walking Trail.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 15.7 km east of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 521,534, N 829,215</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 20/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU D North Coast Plateaux - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Western Way Walking Trail – <b>High</b> ; Residents – <b>Medium</b> Motorists on Local Road - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>The view looks across a gently undulating, settled, rural landscape comprising small hills, tracts of commercial forestry, farmland and mature woodland. The foreground comprises a local road lined on both sides by a low stone wall, Agricultural fields of improved grassland are located on either side of the road in the foreground and throughout the midground. A number of residential dwellings are visible throughout the view. A smooth, rolling and elevated ridgeline is visible in the distant background of the view. Some man-made vertical elements in the form of electricity poles and associated infrastructure are seen in the midground of this view.</p> <p>6 no. turbines of the existing Killala Wind Farm are visible to the left of the baseline view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>The Proposed Development is visible clustered upon the distant ridgeline in the background of the view. Although there is some partial screening, most of the proposed turbines are clearly visible. At this distance (c 15.7 km) the proposed turbines are small in scale. There is some visual stacking or visual overlap between turbine components in this view and there is some slight dis-order in their arrangement from this perspective.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The existing Killala turbines are visible in relatively close proximity to this viewpoint and are consequently relatively prominent features of the landscape and appear of a different scale than the Proposed Development. The proposed turbines increase the horizontal extent of turbines visible within this view, although they appear as much smaller vertical elements within the landscape. The proposed turbines are visually separated from the existing Killala turbines.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> Whilst this viewpoint is located in proximity (approx. 600m) to a Co. Mayo designated Scenic Route, no visibility of the Proposed Development was established from this high sensitivity receptor. This viewpoint was selected due to its proximity to the settlement of Killala, proximity to the existing Killala wind farm (cumulative effects) and its location on the Western Way walking trail. This view does not represent a particularly scenic part of the Western Way or LCU D. On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Medium.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change (Definition from</b>	<p><b>Slight:</b> <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 7 - Kilroe	
Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)	<p>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.”</p> <p>Magnitude of change considers potential for cumulative visual effects.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p><b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>            An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>
Mitigation Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visual effects are mitigated by distance, the proposed turbines are seen as relatively small elements in the distant landscape from this location;</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is only likely to be visible from occasional elevated vantage points in this landscape area.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is not visible within the settlement of Killala and its surrounds. Nor will it be visible from the sensitive, low-lying coastal areas around Killala Bay to the north of this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is unlikely to be visible from the designated scenic route in proximity (approx. 600m west) to this viewpoint;</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>            An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities</p>

Viewpoint 8 - Rathcore			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R312 Regional Road, and the Western Way, in the townland of Derry Lower.</li> <li>➤ This location is on the Western Way Walking Trail</li> <li>➤ Approximately 14.8 km south of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 498,976, N 818,122</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 21/22</li> </ul>		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents – <b>Medium</b> Motorists - <b>Low</b>
Description of 'Baseline'	<p>An open and long ranging view across a flat, remote landscape comprising peatlands and conifer plantations. A slightly undulating ridgeline is visible as an elevated feature across the entirety of the background in this view.</p> <p>The existing Oweninny and Bellacorick Wind Farms are visible in the middle distance. Turbines of the existing Oweninny 1 and 2 wind farms are clearly visible above the horizon. The existing Bellacorrick turbines are mainly screened by localised topography and considering their smaller scale (much smaller than Oweninny 1 turbines – As shown on the Baseline wireline view) they are difficult to identify in the Baseline landscape view.</p>		

Viewpoint 8 - Rathcore	
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage. The Proposed Development (identified in green on the Proposed Wireline View) is visible in the background of the view, scattered across the elevated landform. At this distance (14.8km) the turbines are of a small scale. The proposed turbines are seen within the same horizontal and vertical extent of the existing Oweninny 1 development. There is some visual stacking between proposed turbines and a degree of visual complexity arising due to the cumulative interactions with other wind energy developments (See description in row below).</p> <p>The proposed Oweninny 3 turbines (identified in Orange on the Proposed Wireline View) will potentially be visible in the foreground of this landscape view. These turbines are in close proximity to this viewpoint and are consequently seen as prominent features in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Several other existing, permitted and proposed wind farm developments are located to the northwest and west from this view (to the left-hand side and beyond of the photomontage). These developments include: the existing Oweninny 2 Wind Farm; the permitted ABO Sheskin Wind Farm; The proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm; and the proposed Kilsallagh Wind Farm.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is visible in combination with a large accumulation of wind energy development in this view (and this area in general). Whilst the Proposed Development is only seen as a distant background feature with the proposed turbines being seen as very small features, it does contribute to the visual clutter and overall cumulative visual effects from this location.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Low:</b> There are limited residential receptors in proximity to this viewpoint and local traffic on this regional road are deemed to be receptors of Low sensitivity. This is not a designated scenic route. This viewpoint was chosen in order to assess potential cumulative visual effects from the regional road.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> <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> <p>The Magnitude of Change determination accounts for cumulative visual effects.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Low X Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p>An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View of proposed turbines is perpendicular to the direction of travel. Hence, the turbines will not be in the direct line of vision of road users.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is absorbed within the existing extent of wind energy development and does not increase the horizontal extent to which turbines are visible in this view, and it does not introduce novel visual elements into the view.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 8 - Rathcore	
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.

Viewpoint 9 – Annagh More			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R315 in the townland of Annagh More,</li> <li>➤ Approximately 4.1 km east of the nearest proposed turbine.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located within the EIAR Site Boundary as it is located on the proposed Grid Connection Route on this Regional Road.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 510,572, N 833,061</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 9/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU G North Mayo Drumlins - <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Motorised Traffic – <b>Medium</b> Residents – <b>High/Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	<p>A medium ranging view of an undulating rural landscape around the Glenedagh river valley. The foreground is characterised by small agricultural field cells delineated by hedgerows and clusters of deciduous trees as well as occasional residential houses and farms which are scattered across the landscape. Elevation rises to an upland landscape in the background of the view characterised by a prominent hill to the right of the view (northwest) and flatter open moorland to the left (southwest) where tracts of commercial forestry are also evident along the horizon. There are also a number of vertical human elements within the view, primarily, the electricity and telephone poles and associated infrastructure that can be seen in the foreground and midground.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in this view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>9 of the 22 proposed turbines are visible in the background of the photomontage. Most of the proposed turbines are screened from view by the intervening landform. Seven of the proposed turbines are clearly visible, they are viewed as an ordered linear array across the background of the view. The positioning of these turbines are sympathetic to the contours of the prominent and well defined shape of the horizon as it rises to the right of the view (to the north). The visible turbines are slightly set back beyond the distant ridgeline, consequently their lower tower sections are obscured from view, reducing their prominence within the landscape. There is some visual confusion created as a result of the overhead lines and communication/power poles that intervene in the view of the proposed turbines. At this distance, the proposed met mast is unlikely to be discernible in the landscape.</p> <p>No other permitted or propose wind farms are visible from this viewpoint</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind farms are visible from this viewpoint, there are no cumulative visual effects.		

Viewpoint 9 – Annagh More	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint represents traffic on the regional road as well as residential receptors spread across the Glenedagh River Valley. These residential receptors are set back approximately 4km east of the Proposed Development. On balance, the sensitivity of this viewpoint is deemed to be Medium.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> “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.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development reads coherently in the landscape, the visible turbines are arranged neatly in a linear array, sympathetic to the contours of the landform in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ The visible proposed turbines are sited beyond the horizon and the distant ridgeline partially screens of the lower tower sections from view, reducing their prominence in the landscape and reducing visual effects on receptors in this area.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development comprises a relatively small horizontal extent of views from this easterly perspective and at this distance (&lt;4km) the turbines are viewed as appropriately scaled features in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ Road users will be travelling this route in a north-south direction, the Proposed Development is located directly to the west, a direction perpendicular to the orientation of the road and line of sight of road users.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 10 - Cluddaun			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Cluddaun</li> <li>➤ approximately 2.3 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 502,451, N 830,198</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 14/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU F - North Mayo Inland Bog Basin - <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Motorised Traffic – <b>Low</b> Residents – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	The image shows a medium ranging view along a remote local road. The undulating landscape surrounding the Proposed Development Site,		

Viewpoint 10 - Cluddaun	
	<p>including the Maumakeogh and other ridgelines, are visible in the background of the view. The landcover immediately surrounding this viewpoint comprises scrub and semi-improved grassland in the foreground on either side of the road, which is bordered by a wooden stake and wire fence. The midground on all sides consists of large tracts of conifer plantation forestry at various stages of growth. The left and centre background consists of views of the Maumakeogh and Benmore ridgelines and peaks, with some additional conifer plantation forestry visible on the slopes of these elevated areas, in particular in the left background. The rise in topography in the right background screens any long-distance views in this direction (to the north). There are no residential or other buildings in this view and there are extremely limited numbers of residents in the area surrounding this viewpoint.</p> <p>No existing wind farms are visible in this view.</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>14 No. proposed turbines are partially visible from this location, their towers and lower blade arcs are obscured from view by the intervening landform and forestry. Only seven of the proposed turbines are clearly visible, and only blades of the other seven are visible. There is visual stacking between some turbines, although all visible turbines will be seen above the horizon with no landscape as a backdrop, mitigating the impact of any visual confusion that may arise. The horizontal extent of the turbines is limited to the centre and right background of the view, and as a result they do not obstruct any long-distance views of the landscape in the background. The proposed met mast is visible above the treeline to the right of T13.</p> <p>No permitted or other proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Other wind energy developments are visible in the flat bogland plain to the south of this viewpoint. These turbines are visible in the opposite direction of the Proposed Development, therefore, some in-combination successional visibility will occur from this location. Turbines of the Oweninny 1 wind farm are located in closest proximity to this viewpoint (approx. 4.3 km south) and will be most visible in the direction of the Nephin Beg range to the southeast. There is substantial visual separation (approx. &gt;6 km) between the Proposed Development and the other wind energy developments to the south. Minor cumulative effects will occur.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint is located on a remote local road in an LCA of Low sensitivity. It is representative of residential receptors in medium proximity to the Proposed Development. On balance sensitivity is deemed to be Medium.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> <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 development is partially visible over a moderate or medium extent, and which are not in close proximity to the development. Change may be readily noticeable but not substantially different in scale and character from the surroundings and wider setting.”</i></p>

Viewpoint 10 - Cluddaun	
	The magnitude of change accounts for cumulative visual effects, as other wind energy developments are visible to the south in the opposing field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium x Moderate = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Screening from the intervening landform and a tract of dense forestry obscures visibility of most of the Proposed Development and partially screens those turbines which are visible, reducing the perceived scale of the turbines.</li> <li>➤ This is a remote, sparsely populated and low trafficked section of road and there are limited numbers of sensitive visual receptors.</li> <li>➤ The few residential receptors represented by this viewpoint are located further south along this road (at a greater distance from the Proposed Development than the VP – approx. additional 700 metres) where the intervening topography and commercial forestry seen in the image will have a greater screening effect.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not obstruct any long-distance views towards the ridgelines seen in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ There is substantial visual separation between the Proposed Development and the accumulation of other wind energy developments to the south.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowmore			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a local road in the townland of Carrowmore.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on the ‘Western Way’ way marked walking route;</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located approximately 8.7 km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine;</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E 514,306, N 837,588;</li> <li>➤ No. of proposed turbines visible: 21/22</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU D North Coast Plateaux - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents – <b>Medium</b> Walking Route - <b>High</b> Motorists - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	An open long ranging view of a remote upland landscape comprising peatland and forestry with occasional agricultural fields seen on lower lying lands. The small settlement of Ballycastle is visible within a low lying valley in the right midground. The elevated landform seen in the background of the view is the most prominent feature of the landscape in this field of view. A gentle rolling ridgeline forms between two peaks of higher elevation seen		

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowmore	
	<p>to the right and left background of the view. Although not visible in this field of view, long ranging open views of the Atlantic Ocean and the north mayo coastline are available to the northwest from this viewpoint.</p> <p>No other existing wind energy developments are visible in this view.</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>Most turbines of the Proposed Development are visible, they are arranged above the ridgeline in the background of the view, framed by a slight saddle of lower ground between the two most elevated peaks. Most turbines are partially screened from view by the intervening topography. The nacelles of 12 No. proposed turbines nacelles are visible and the other 9 No. visible proposed turbines only comprise turbine blade. At this distance (c 8.7 km) the turbines are of a relatively small scale in this large scale landscape view. There is some visual stacking or visual overlap between turbine components in this view creating some minor visual confusion.</p> <p>No other existing or proposed wind energy developments are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The proposed Oweninny 3 Wind Farm, is not visible in the photomontage and this field of view, however, turbines from that proposed project are likely to be visible in the flat bogland plain to the southwest from this viewpoint. In this scenario, there will be substantial visual separation between the Proposed Development, and the proposed Oweninny 3 wind farm and cumulative visual effects will be minor.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint is deemed to be of High sensitivity due to the scenic value of landscape and seascape views from this elevated vantage point on the Western Way walking trail which passes this point.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition from Section 1.4.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight:</b> <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>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High x Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends</p>
<b>Mitigation Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visual effects are mitigated by a setback distance of 8.7km.</li> <li>➤ Within this open and expansive view, and within the scale of the landscape type, the turbines appear appropriately scaled, and are seen as small elements in the background of the view, with a relatively small horizontal extent in the context of the wider views available from this location.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are strategically sited at lower elevations relative to the ridgelines enclosing them to the north and west. The strategic siting of turbines at lower contours beyond the distant ridgeline in this view reduces their visual prominence in the landscape as well as obscuring most of the Proposed Development from view, mitigating visual impacts.</li> <li>➤ The visual balance afforded by the framing of the Proposed Development between two crests on the ridgeline serves to effectively</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 11 – Carrowmore	
	accommodate and absorb the proposed turbines in this large scale landscape view.
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.



