



## APPENDIX 12-3

### 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 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.

### Alternative Photomontage Viewpoints – Early Stage Overlaid Wireframes

Photomontage imagery was captured from many locations in the LVIA Study Area other than the 18 No. photomontage viewpoints that were selected for the final Volume 2 photomontage booklet. Early stage photomontages (stitched photos with draft overlaid wireframes) were produced from many of these other locations. These photomontage viewpoints were not selected for inclusion in the final Volume 2 photomontage booklet due to limited visibility of the proposed turbines or absence of prominent visual receptors. These early-stage photomontages do not form part of the assessment of visual effects included in this Appendix. However, several of these early-stage photomontages are presented and discussed in text Section 12.7.3.2.4 of the Chapter 12. The location of early-stage photomontage viewpoints discussed in text are marked as orange icons in Figure 12-16 and labelled as AltVP - A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K & L.

Table 1 describes the 18 No. photomontage viewpoints included in the photomontage and comprehensively assessed in this Appendix. The location of these viewpoints can be seen in Figure 12-16 as well as the A0 Map – *Appendix 12-4*.

Table 1 Photomontage Viewpoints

VP No	Description	Grid Ref. ITM
01	View from R363 Regional Road in the townland of <b>Brideswell</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 2.5 km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).	E 593,826 N 744,704
02	View from the Village of <b>Curraghboy</b> in the townland of Carrick. The viewpoint is located on the R362 Regional Road, approximately 4.1 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).	E 592,691 N 748,194
03	View from <b>Four Roads</b> in the townland of Correal. The viewpoint is located on the R357 Regional Road, approximately 3 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 586,616 N 751,362
04	View from the village of <b>Dysart</b> in the townland of Carrownadurley. The viewpoint is located at the intersection between the R363 and R357 Regional Roads, approximately 1.6 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Photomontage 4A shows a field of view directed in a westerly direction.</li> <li>➤ Photomontage 4B shows a field of view directed in a north-easterly direction.</li> </ul>	E 585,596 N 746,053

VP No	Description	Grid Ref. ITM
05	View from the GAA club in <b>Taughmaconnell</b> in the townland of Onagh. The viewpoint is located on the L2024 Local Road, approximately 3.2 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E 590,023 N 739,825
06	View from <b>Bellanamullia</b> in the townland of Cloonakilla. The viewpoint is located outside of Cloonakilla National School on the R362 Regional Road, approximately 7.4 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).	E 598,523 N 741,854
07	View from the L2017 Local Road in the townland of <b>Lisfelim</b> . The viewpoint is located on County Roscommon Scenic Route No. 8, approximately 7.6 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).	E 595,072 N 750,935
08	View from <b>Lough Funshinagh</b> and in the townland of <b>Lisfelim</b> . The viewpoint is located in close proximity to County Roscommon Scenic View No. 22, approximately 6.4 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).	E 594,443 N 749,939
09	View from the Racecourse on the N60 national Road in <b>Roscommon Town</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 17.9 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).	E 585,462 N 766,249
10	View from <b>Ballyforan Marina</b> on the bank of the River Suck in the townland of Ballyforan. The viewpoint is located approximately 4.4 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E 581,643 N 746,355
11	View from the R357 Regional Road in the townland of <b>Mullagherdagh</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 1 km north-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E 584,946 N 748,514
12	View from the R357 Regional Road in the townland of <b>Lugboy</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 1.1 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E 587,724 N 741,441
13	View from <b>Clonmacnoise</b> monastic site and Shannon Callows in County Offaly. The viewpoint is located in proximity to Clonmacnoise Castle and Heritage Centre on the southern banks of the Shannon River. The viewpoint is located approximately 17.3 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).	E 600,831 N 730,577
14	View from a Viewing Area in <b>Ballykeeran</b> , County Westmeath. The viewpoint is located at a viewpoint and picnic area off the N56 National road in the townland of Ballaghkeeran Big. The viewpoint is located approximately 16.5 km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).	E 607,924 N 744,975
15	View from a Viewing Area in the townland of <b>Loughfarm</b> , County Longford. The viewpoint is located on Longford Scenic Route 20, approximately 18.8 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).	E 601,991 N 759,884

VP No	Description	Grid Ref. ITM
16	View from R363 Regional Road in the townland of <b>Commeen</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 1.8 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T14).	E 588,061 N 745,808
17	View from a Local Road in the townland of <b>Castlegar East</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 7.6 km west-south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).	E 580,987 N 739,111
18	View from a Local Road in the townland of <b>Skyvalley</b> . The viewpoint is located approximately 850 metres south of the nearest proposed turbine (T17). The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Development.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Photomontage 18A shows a field of view directed in a westerly direction.</li> <li>➤ Photomontage 18B shows a field of view directed in a north-easterly direction.</li> </ul>	E 590,301 N 743,384

### Field of View in Two Directions

The Volume 2 photomontage booklet shows the Proposed Development within two fields of view from 2 No. viewpoints - Viewpoint 04 (Dysart) and Viewpoint 18 (Skyvalley). The imagery presented for viewpoints 04 and 18 were captured from the same location but show an 'A' view in one direction and a 'B' view in another direction. Photomontages were presented like this in order to ensure most of the proposed turbines are visible within a 53.5° photomontage. To provide context, the key image in the 'Overview Sheet' for these two photomontage viewpoints show a 180° field of view (instead of a 120°) with the differing 90° and 53.5° view extents marked for both the differing directional (A and B) views.

The descriptions of the differing fields of view have been kept within the same table under differing rows for each viewpoint location (4A & 4B; 18A & 18B). Assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint accounts for the views in both directions.

Viewpoint 01 – Brideswell			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from R363 Regional Road in the townland of Brideswell.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 2.5 km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 593,826: N 744,704</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 10.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 35: Brideswell Esker Belt – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Brideswell – <b>High</b> Traffic on the R363 Regional Road – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	A short distance view up a slight rise along the R363 Regional Road where it exits the village of Brideswell to the north-west. The viewpoint is located adjacent to a junction to Taughmaconnell (L20024). The foreground comprises the road which is lined by a grassy verge to the right and a dry-stone wall to the left. A grass field is seen on the far side of the road to the left of the image. Beyond the field, a large residential property, a farm shed,		

Viewpoint 01 – Brideswell	
	and several clusters of mature trees are seen across the horizon. Road signs and utility poles are man-made vertical elements existent within the landscape view.
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	Ten turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the photomontage. The Northern Cluster is mostly obscured from view by intervening topography and vegetation, although blades of turbines of T3, T4 and T6 are just discernible in the background right of the photomontage. Seven turbines of the Southern Cluster are partially visible through a gap in the woodland seen to the left of the photomontage. Lower components of the turbines are screened by intervening landscape elements. Turbine T20 is located in closest proximity to this viewpoint and is seen as the most prominent turbines. Only one blade of turbines T10, T11 are visible and components of T16 are only just discernible through the deciduous trees and shrubs. The proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal and vertical extent of this view. The proposed met mast is not visible in the photomontage.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. Proposed turbines of the Northern Cluster are barely discernible. No significant cumulative visual effects are likely to occur.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”  This is not a long ranging landscape view of a unique aesthetic quality. The viewpoint is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon. Visual receptors are predominantly local traffic, as well as residents who live in proximity to this viewpoint.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in a landscape ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development and within an LCA (LCA 34) of the lowest value rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The Northern Cluster is barely visible from this location.</li> <li>➤ Intervening landform and treelines reduce the visual prominence of the turbines within the landscape.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the Proposed Development will be limited from receptors on the R363 south-east of this viewpoint.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 01 – Brideswell	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</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 02 – Curraghboy			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from outside the Post Office in the Village of Curraghboy, in the townland of Carrick.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the R362 Regional Road.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 4.1 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 592,691: N 748,194</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Curraghboy – <b>High</b> Local Shop (Post Office) - <b>Low</b> Traffic on the R362 Regional Road – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	A medium distance view across a field of improved grassland bounded by a stone wall in the foreground and a young treeline in the middle distance. Several mature broadleaf trees are visible to the right of the view as well as a dense cluster of shorter deciduous trees. Long ranging views are not available beyond the slight elevation and distant treelines that comprise the background of the view. Two double polesets of an overhead line are visible in the centre left and centre right of the view.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible within the photomontage. The Southern Cluster is visible to the left and the Northern Cluster to the right (see separate 53.5° photomontages for each cluster) with a substantial visual separation between clusters. The lower towers of all turbines are screened from view by the intervening landform and distant treelines reducing their prominence within the landscape. Only one blade of T1 and T7 are visible. The turbines are arranged in a linear array across the horizon. From this perspective, visual stacking only occurs between two turbines T12 and T16, it is a visually coherent layout with minimal overlap of turbine components. The proposed met mast is discernible as a slender structure between T2 and T5.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The two proposed turbine clusters are viewed in combination although they are visually separated within the landscape. No significant cumulative visual effects occur.		

Viewpoint 02 – Curraghboy	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”</p> <p>This is not a long ranging landscape view of a unique aesthetic quality. The viewpoint is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon. Visual receptors are predominantly local traffic, customers of the Post Office and residents of Curraghboy.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><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.”</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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in a landscape ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development and within an LCA (LCA 34) of the lowest value rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ There is a substantial visual separation between the clusters both in terms of distance but also in terms of topography, trees and hedgerows.</li> <li>➤ This is the most open view towards the Proposed Development from Curraghboy, turbines are likely to be obscured from view in other areas of Curraghboy by vegetation and built form existent in the landscape.</li> <li>➤ The location of this viewpoint was carefully selected to ensure both turbine clusters are visible amongst the mature treelines in the view. Both turbine clusters are unlikely to be viewed together from most other locations in this area.</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 03 – Four Roads	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R357 Regional Road in the townland of Correal.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is 1.4 km east of the village of Four Roads.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 3 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 586,616: N 751,362</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 19</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 03 – Four Roads			
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Traffic on the R357 Regional Road – <b>Low</b> Residents of Four Roads (1.4km west)– <b>Medium/Low</b> Residential Receptors - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	From this elevated perspective there is long-ranging view of a gently undulating agricultural landscape comprising grassland fields delineated by dry stone walls, short trees and scrub. The Regional Road is seen to the right of the image bordered by a steep and densely vegetated verge. Utility poles and an overhead line track along the road as well as across a field in the centre of the image. A residential dwelling is visible in the foreground to the left of the Baseline image.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	19 No. turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in this view. The turbines are prominent features comprising a large horizontal extent of this view. Turbine T1 of the Northern Cluster is screened from view behind a small tree located in the foreground. Turbines of the Northern Cluster are seen to the right and centre of the photomontage, they are located in closer proximity to this viewpoint than the turbines of the Southern Cluster which are seen across the horizon to the centre and left of the photomontage. Consequently, turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible as larger and more prominent elements of the landscape than the turbines of the Southern Cluster, which are visible as smaller features. The Proposed Development adds uncharacteristic elements to the landscape, consequently altering the character of the view. The proposed met mast is screened from view.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind turbines are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative effects with other wind farms.  Some minor cumulative visual effects arise as the northern and Southern Cluster are viewed within the same field of view with no visual separation. The two turbine clusters are perceived to be of differing scale due to the differing set-back distances from this viewpoint. Turbines of the Northern Cluster are perceived as larger turbines, slightly incongruent with the perceived smaller turbines of the Southern Cluster viewed beyond.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”</p> <p>The long ranging, rural landscape view from this location is not unique but does have some aesthetic quality. Although there is a residence at this viewpoint, it is not a densely populated location and residences are set back 3km from the Proposed Development. Traffic density on this road is not high. In consideration of all factors, sensitivity is deemed to be medium.</p>		



<b>Viewpoint 03 – Four Roads</b>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> “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 through removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the Proposed Development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Medium X Substantial = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in a landscape ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are mostly viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The turbines are not visible against a backdrop of any valuable or unique landscape features.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is one of the most elevated locations in close proximity to the Proposed Development, therefore, it represents one of the most open views of all proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines actually within the village of Four Roads will be very unlikely.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 04 – Dysart			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the village of Dysart in the townland of Carrownadurley.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located at the intersection between the R363 and R357 Regional Roads.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 1.6 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T7).</li> <li>➤ Two No. photomontages are shown (4A and 4B) to represent the two Fields of View where turbines are visible. Both photomontages are captured from the same viewpoint location.</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 585,596: N 746,053</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 11.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Dysart – <b>Medium</b> Local Traffic – <b>Low</b> Local Shop/ recreational area / religious statue - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline' 4A</b>	The foreground of the baseline image shows a low stone wall and pedestrian walkway on the far side of a Regional Road. A small stone building and a cluster of dense woodland form the left of the view, a farmstead is visible to the right beyond two mature broadleaf trees. A rural landscape of agricultural grassland extends up a small hill seen in the distance. The landscape beyond the wall appears to be sparsely settled, as no residential properties are visible.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description 4A</b>	Four turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible upon the crest of the hill in the background of the view. Turbine T3 is partially visible through a tree in the intervening landscape. Turbine T1 is screened from view by the dense woodland seen to the left of the photomontage. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon from this perspective.		
<b>Description of 'Baseline' 4B</b>	The foreground right of the view shows a religious statue in the centre of Dysart village, a regional road extends away from the viewpoint to the left of the image. The view looks across a flat, semi-rural landscape. A field of grazing pasture for sheep is visible in the foreground pasture, several residential dwellings are visible in the middle distance as well as a mature treeline to the centre right of the image. A landform of slightly higher elevation is seen in the distant background of this view. Utility infrastructure, streetlights and lighting for the GAA pitch are prominent man-made vertical features of the landscape.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description 4B</b>	Four turbines of the Southern Cluster are clearly visible in the background of the view, one turbine (T10) is partially screened by a mature tree in the middleground. 8 No. turbines are obscured from view behind the treelines to the left and right of the photomontage. The turbines are evenly spaced across the landscape and all components are viewed above the horizon. The turbines are much smaller than the turbines visible in photomontage 4A. Lighting and utility infrastructure in the foreground of this view protrude above the skyline to a greater extent than the proposed turbines.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. There is combined successional cumulative visibility of the Northern Cluster to the north-east and then the Southern Cluster to the south-east. Cumulative visual effects are mitigated by visual separation, screening in the landscape and distance		

Viewpoint 04 – Dysart	
	(approx. 3.5 km) to the Southern Cluster. No significant cumulative visual effects are likely to occur.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality”
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> “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.”
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are evenly spaced and read coherently within the landscape.</li> <li>➤ There is a substantial visual separation between the clusters both in terms of distance but also in terms of topography, trees and hedgerows which means that cumulatively the impact is lessened.</li> <li>➤ Four of the Northern Cluster are clearly visible but their prominence is mitigated by the distance from the receptor and the other vertical elements in the foreground, in particular the mature treelines.</li> <li>➤ The majority of the Southern Cluster is obscured from view.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 05 – Taughmaconnell			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the GAA club in Taughmaconnell in the townland of Onagh.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on the L2024 Local Road.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 3.2 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 590,023: N 739,825</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 10</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Taughmaconnell <b>Medium</b> Local Traffic – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	Medium to short distance views of a rolling agricultural landscape, grassy fields of grazing land bordered by dry stone walls and interspersed with cluster of bushes and short trees. A local road is visible in the foreground, the verge of the road is intermittently lined with hedges and bushes.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	8 turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible in this view, all turbines are partially screened from view by topography and vegetation in the intervening landscape. The nacelles are only visible of proposed turbines T8, T9, T13, T14, T16 and T20. A blade tip of two turbines of the Northern Cluster are just visible above the skyline in the centre of the image, no other turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. There are no cumulative visual effects arising from the northern and Southern Clusters.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>Low:</b> “Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.”</p> <p>Visual receptors are predominantly local traffic which is of low density on this local road. Residents of Taughmaconnell are located greater than 3km from the Proposed Development and there are no open and long-ranging landscape views towards the Proposed Development with any unique aesthetic quality. The viewpoint is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon. On balance, sensitivity is deemed to be Low.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”		
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low X Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.		
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.		

Viewpoint 05 – Taughmaconnell	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are largely obscured by rises in topography and intervening vegetation.</li> <li>➤ The landscape here is relatively flat, the viewpoint and surrounding receptors tend to be at a similar base elevation to the base of the turbines. In this area, screening such as mature vegetation has a disproportionate effect with distance (See Section 12.3.3 of Chapter 12 for a comprehensive description of ‘disproportionate screening effects’).</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</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 06 – Bellanamullia			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Bellanamullia in the townland of Cloonakilla. The viewpoint is located outside of Cloonakilla National School on the R362 Regional Road.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 7.4 km south-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 598,523; N 741,854</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 15</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 35: Brideswell Esker Belt- <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residents of Bellanamullia/Monksland <b>Medium</b> Representative of Athlone (approx. 3km east) – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	The view looks along the R362 Regional Road across a semi-rural landscape from the western fringe of Bellanamullia. To the left of the foreground, a pedestrian walkway is seen alongside Cloonakilla National School. A farmyard is visible across the road to the right of the view. Agricultural fields and mature deciduous treelines are visible throughout the middle distance and background of the view. Streetlights and utility infrastructure are seen above the horizon.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	Fifteen proposed turbines are partially visible in the background of the photomontage, although they are substantially screened by intervening topography and vegetation. The eye is drawn down the R362 Regional		

Viewpoint 06 – Bellanamullia	
	Road in the centre of the view towards a cluster of turbines (T15, T17, T18, T19, T20) which are viewed above the horizon, beyond a small undulation likely to be an esker. Other turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible to the left background of the photomontage. Turbine T9 is mostly visible, whilst only upper components (blades and nacelles) of other proposed turbines are visible above the intervening landscape. Although they are barely discernible in the photomontage, blade tips of three turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible in the background right of the photomontage and the proposed met mast is not visible. Due to the set-back distance and screening, the turbines comprise a small spatial extent within the landscape and they are minor novel addition to the background of the view.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view, therefore there are no cumulative effects.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The Northern Cluster will not be perceptible.</li> <li>➤ A small number from the Southern Cluster will be partially visible however the intervening distances mitigates the potential for any significant effects.</li> <li>➤ Man-made vertical elements of the foreground such as utility infrastructure and street lighting, are larger and more prominent features of the photomontage in comparison to the proposed turbines which are small features in the background of the view.</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 07 – Lisfelim			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L2017 Local Road in the townland of Lisfelim.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on County Roscommon Scenic Route No. 8.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately 7.6 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 595,072; N 750,935</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	County Roscommon Scenic Route 8 - <b>High</b> Residential Receptors – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>A long-ranging view across the flat rural landscape from the elevated position of this viewpoint. A local road is visible in the centre foreground of the image extending downhill away from this viewpoint. Driveways to residential properties are located on both sides of the road as well as dense bushes and short trees. It is a heavily vegetated landscape; mature trees are seen beyond the foreground to the furthest extent of the view. Although this is a relatively expansive and long ranging landscape view, there are no features of unique aesthetic quality (e.g. landform or water bodies).</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the background of this landscape view. At this distance they are relatively small features of the landscape. There is a relatively substantial separation distance between the two turbine clusters, the Southern Cluster is seen to the right (north-west) and the Northern Cluster is seen to the left (south-west). Turbines of the Southern Cluster (left of the photomontage) are partially screened from view by vegetation in the foreground of the photomontage. Both turbine clusters are viewed as a linear array across the background of the photomontage, they read coherently within the landscape. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon. The turbines do not comprise a large spatial extent of this view. The proposed met mast is screened from view by a post in the foreground of the photomontage; if it was not screened, it is unlikely that it would be distinguishable at this distance.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other wind turbines are visible in this view. The two proposed turbine clusters are viewed in combination although they are visually separated and viewed coherently within the relatively expansive landscape view. No significant cumulative visual effects occur.</p>		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> “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 development 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 is given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location on a designated scenic route. However, it is to be noted that the primary focus of views from this scenic route is not to the west (towards the Proposed Development) but in fact towards features to the east and south-east as was noted in the previous Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020 (no description stated in the current RCDP, although field of view within mapping is indicative of following text) “<i>Elevated, panoramic scenic route</i></p>		



Viewpoint 07 – Lisfelim	
	<i>overlooking Lough Ree and stonewalled field patterns. Athlone and Rindoon archaeological site in the distance</i> ”. It is also noted that this is a local road of low traffic density.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> “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.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The view towards the Proposed Development does not comprise any landscape features of unique aesthetic value, such as the specific views mentioned in the designation of this scenic route (e.g. Lough Ree), where protected views are focussed to the east in the opposite direction.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located at the westerly extent of Roscommon designated scenic route 8. Due to the abundance of roadside screening, and nature of the local topography, there is likely to be very limited visibility of the proposed turbines along the central and eastern extent of this route.</li> <li>➤ Several photomontages were captured on this scenic route in order to find a location where the Proposed Development is actually likely to be visible. Visibility of the Proposed Development is localised to areas around this photomontage viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines read coherently within the landscape, and they are of acceptable scale within the relatively expansive landscape view.</li> <li>➤ Siting of the turbines on slightly elevated lands ensures that all components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any valuable landscape views.</li> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect</b> <b>(incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.



Viewpoint 08 – Lough Funshinagh			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Lough Funshinagh in the townland of Lisfelim.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located in close proximity to County Roscommon Scenic View No. 22</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is approximately, approximately 6.4 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T19).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 594,443; N 749,939</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 7</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	In proximity to County Roscommon Scenic View 22 - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	A medium distance view across the waterbody of Lough Funshinagh. The bank of the lough is heavily vegetated as evidenced by the mature broadleaf trees visible throughout the view. The landscape beyond the lough comprises undulating grassy fields and clusters of trees. A local road is seen to the left of the image on a south-westerly heading away from this viewpoint. The slight topography and treelines beyond the lough restrict long-ranging views of the landscape beyond.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	No turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible in the photomontage. The upper blade arcs of the 7 no. Northern Cluster turbines are visible above a distant treeline on the far side of the lough. The nacelles of three turbines are visible and only blades of the other four turbines are visible above the screening. The proposed turbines comprise a very small spatial extent of this view and as all turbine components are viewed above the horizon, they do not obstruct views of Lough Funshinagh. The Proposed met mast is screened from view.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The Southern Cluster of the Proposed Development is not visible in the view. Therefore, there are no cumulative effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> “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 development 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 is given a high sensitivity rating on account of its location in proximity to Roscommon designated scenic view 22. It is also noted that no viewing areas, parking areas or obvious walking paths were located in proximity to this viewpoint where the turbines would likely be visible. Also, this viewpoint is located on a third class local road of low traffic density.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”		

Viewpoint 08 – Lough Funshinagh	
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<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.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct views of Lough Funshinagh and have very little intrusion upon the scenic amenity.</li> <li>➤ As indicated by the ‘Roscommon Scenic Routes and Views Map No. 11 in - Figure 21 in Appendix 1 of the LCACR, the directional focus of this designated view is to the north-west. The visible turbines are directly west-south-west of this viewpoint, therefore, they are likely to be in the periphery of the intended designated view. Irrespective of this, the turbines do not impact significantly on the view.</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 09 – Roscommon Town			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the Racecourse on the N60 National Road in Roscommon Town.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 17.9 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T1).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 585,462; N 766,249</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 18</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 32: Roscommon Town and Hinterland – <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Recreational and Tourist Amenities in Roscommon Town - <b>High/Medium</b> Traffic N60 National Road - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>An open and long-ranging landscape view to the south from a high elevation on the approach road to Roscommon Town from the north-west. The horse racing track at Roscommon Town racecourse is visible in the foreground. A flat vegetated landscape is seen in the middle distance, comprising mature woodland and a scattering of settlements. The slightly elevated landform of the Skrine Hill (uplands) forms the skyline and background of this view.</p> <p>Two existing turbines of the Skrine Wind Farm are fully visible as small features in the background of this view.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	18 No. turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the photomontage although they are substantially screened from view by the ridgeline in the background of the view. The background topography is highest to the left of the photomontage, consequently only blade tips and		

Viewpoint 09 – Roscommon Town	
	single blades of turbines T13, T14, T15, T16, T17 and T18 are visible above the landform. The turbines of the Northern Cluster T1-T7 are most visible due to their positioning to the right of the photomontage. At this distance the turbines are very small features in the background of this view and they comprise a very small spatial extent within the landscape. The turbines of both clusters are viewed as a continuous array across the horizon and there is little visual separation between the two turbine clusters excepting subtle differences in scale (Northern Cluster is closer to this viewpoint). The proposed met mast is not visible at this distance.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The two existing Skrine turbines and singular proposed Kilcash turbine are visible above the horizon to the left of the photomontage.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”  Visual receptors at Roscommon racecourse will be in this location in a recreational capacity, however, their focus is not upon the scenic amenity provided by the landscape. Although this viewpoint represents the amenities of Roscommon Town, there is likely to be very limited visibility of the Proposed Development from lower elevations within the streetscape of Roscommon Town.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ At this distance a visual receptor would need to be actively searching the horizon in order to identify the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon views towards unique landscape features of value.</li> <li>➤ Due to the lower elevation and built form in Roscommon Town, as well as screening in the heavily vegetated landscape to the south of this viewpoint (visible in the middle distance of the photomontage), there are few areas in the landscape surrounding this viewpoint where visibility of the turbines will occur.</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 10 – Ballyforan Marina			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Ballyforan Marina on the bank of the River Suck in the townland of Ballyforan.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 4.4 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 581,643; N 746,355</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 7</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 12: Athleague and Lower Suck Valley– <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Ballyforan Residents - <b>Medium</b> Recreational Picnic Area - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	The River Suck is the stand-out feature of this medium distance view. The banks of the river are lined by riparian vegetation and then dense mature woodland to the right (west) of the view, as well as in the background right. The left bank (east) of the river comprises flat grasslands divided by wooden fences and populated by shorter deciduous trees and scrub.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	Blades of five turbines (T10, T11, T13, T14 and T16) are visible beyond the treeline in the centre background of the photomontage, the turbines are substantially screened by the intervening landscape. The hubs of three turbines (T8, T9 and T12) are visible above the screening to the right of the photomontage. No turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible in this photomontage. The proposed met mast is not visible.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The Northern Cluster of the Proposed Development is not visible in the view. Therefore, there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> “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 development 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 is located at a recreational picnic area on the River Suck. Although it is not a designated view and it is only a location of local importance, receptors at this location are likely to be here in a recreational capacity, therefore it has been given a high sensitivity rating.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”		
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<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.		
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> </ul>		

<b>Viewpoint 10 – Ballyforan Marina</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines appear above the treeline and do not obstruct or this landscape view.</li> <li>➤ There is very little visibility of the proposed turbines in the Village of Ballyforan and on approach roads to the west.</li> <li>➤ Several photomontages were captured within the Village of Ballyforan and around the River Suck in order to find a location where the Proposed Development is actually likely to be visible. Visibility of the proposed turbines is localised to areas around this photomontage viewpoint. There is not likely to be any visibility from the picnic benches, several metres to the east of this viewpoint.</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 11 – Mullaghardagh			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R357 Regional Road in the townland of Mullaghardagh.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1 km north-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T5)</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 584,946: N 748,514</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 7.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Local Traffic – <b>Low</b> Scenic Panoramic View from the south-west clockwise to the north - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	View to the south-east across the R357 Regional Road at a crossroad junction with two local roads. A low stone wall and large road sign are visible in the foreground of the view. The left and centre of the image comprises short-distance views across fields of agricultural grassland and drystone walls. Mature broadleaf trees and shorter bushy trees are visible upon the higher elevation in the background image. Longer-distance views are available to the right of the image where the landform slopes down to the south. In the middle distance, a farm shed and farm stead is visible to the centre right of the image.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	Seven turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible above the treelines existent in the background of the image, the lower towers and lower blade arcs are screened from view. No turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible in the photomontage. Turbine T5 is only 1 km from this viewpoint and is consequently seen as a relatively large and prominent feature from this location. Visual effects are softened by the screening from the intervening landform and treelines. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon and they do not obstruct any landscape views. The proposed turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal spatial extent of the view. The proposed meteoric mast is visible as a tall slender lattice structure adjacent to turbine T5.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The Southern Cluster of the Proposed Development is barely visible in the photomontage. Therefore, there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>Medium:</b> “Includes viewers who may have some susceptibility to a change in view, such as those from views which are not designated but may have local recreational uses or those travelling along routes or at views which are considered moderately scenic. Viewers such as residents in medium proximity but who do not have views focused in the direction of the proposed development or whose views are not of a particularly scenic quality.”</p> <p>There are no designated scenic views from this location. A medium sensitivity is given to this location on account of the panoramic scenic views to the west and north, as well as local residents in the wider area. The undesignated scenic amenity is only deemed to be of local importance.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> “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.		

Viewpoint 11 – Mullagherdagh	
<i>Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	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.”
<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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ From this location, the long-ranging panoramic landscape views are directed to the south, west and north; in the opposite direction of the Proposed Development. The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any panoramic landscape views of aesthetic value.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.

Viewpoint 12 – Lugboy			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R357 Regional Road in the townland of Lugboy.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.1 km south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 587,724; N 741,441</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 18</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 12: Athleague and Lower Suck Valley– <b>Medium</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors – <b>High</b> Traffic on the R357 - <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	Medium distance views across undulating fields of grassland pasture delineated by dry stone walls and small clusters of Hazel and Hawthorn. The background of the view comprises an elevated ridgeline covered by dense vegetation and scrub upon calcareous limestone grasslands. No residential dwellings are visible in the landscape. The Lugboy water reservoir is just discernible on the horizon to the centre-right of the image.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	12 No. turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible upon or just behind the elevated ridgeline in the background of this landscape view. Several blade tips of the turbines of the Northern Cluster are just discernible in the photomontage. Turbine T9 is in close proximity to this viewpoint and will		



Viewpoint 12 – Lugboy	
	be a prominent feature of the landscape. The lower blade arc and lower towers of turbines (T13, T14, T15, T16, T17, T18, T19 and T20) seen to the centre and right of the photomontage are screened from view by the intervening ridgeline. All turbine components are viewed above the horizon. There is some visual stacking between turbines T11 and T12, aside from this, the turbines are evenly spaced in a coherent array above the elevated ground. The proposed met mast is not visible in the photomontage.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The Northern Cluster of the Proposed Development is not visible in the view. Therefore, there are no cumulative visual effects.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> “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 development 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.”  This viewpoint is given a high sensitivity rating on account of the residential receptors located immediately behind this viewpoint location.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> “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.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> <li>➤ Regular spacing and ordered siting of the turbines ensures that they read coherently within the landscape, with minimal visual stacking or occurring from this perspective.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.



Viewpoint 13 – Clonmacnoise			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Clonmacnoise monastic site and Shannon Callows in County Offaly.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located in proximity to Clonmacnoise Castle and Heritage Centre on the southern banks of the Shannon River.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located in proximity to several County Offaly designated Scenic Views - O-V3 and O-V4.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located, approximately 17.3 km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T9).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 600,831; N 730,577</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	County Offaly High Amenity Areas, Clonmacnoise Heritage Zone and the Shannon - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Clonmacnoise Heritage Centre - <b>High</b> Representative of County Offaly Designated Scenic Amenity - <b>High</b>
<b>Description of 'Baseline'</b>	Long ranging views across the River Shannon from an elevated bank immediately west of the Clonmacnoise Heritage site. The foreground comprises a gently sloping grassy field upon the southern banks of the Shannon, as well as a small marina. Although it is not seen in the baseline image, remains of the Clonmacnoise castle are seen upon an elevated mound to the right foreground of the Key image at 120°. A flat landscape of dense mature woodland is visible beyond the far bank of the Shannon.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	All turbines of the Proposed Development are just visible above the treelines in the background of the photomontage. The towers and lower blade arcs of the turbines are substantially screened from view by the intervening landform and vegetation. At this distance, the turbines are seen as very small background elements and comprise a very small spatial extent of this view. The proposed met mast is not visible in the photomontage.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind Farms are visible in this view. At this distance and from this perspective, the Proposed Development appears as one contiguous turbine cluster, therefore there are no cumulative visual effects.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> “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 development 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>Clonmacnoise is a well-known and popular heritage and tourist destination and there are County Offaly designated Scenic Views across the Shannon Callows in proximity to this viewpoint. In consideration of these receptors, this viewpoint is given a ‘High’ sensitivity. This destination is sensitive on account of the heritage value of Clonmacnoise and less so on unique and outstanding landscape views that would warrant designation of this viewpoint as a receptor of ‘Very High’ sensitivity.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from</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		

Viewpoint 13 – Clonmacnoise	
Section 1.5.3 of 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.”
Significance of Effect	<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
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development does not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is a regular and ordered array of turbines in the background of this view, they read coherently within the landscape.</li> <li>➤ At this distance, a visual receptor will have to be scanning the horizon in order to identify the proposed turbines. The Proposed Development comprises a small spatial extent of the view and will have minimal intrusion upon the cultural setting of Clonmacnoise (See assessments in Chapter 13 – <i>Cultural Heritage</i>).</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.

Viewpoint 14 – Ballykeeran			
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from an OSi Viewing Area in Ballykeeran, County Westmeath.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located at a viewpoint and picnic area off the N56 National Road in the townland of Ballaghkeeran Big.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located in proximity to several County Westmeath designated Scenic View W-V3 and representative of W-V1.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 16.5 km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T20).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 607,924; N 744,975</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20</li> </ul>		
LCA and Sensitivity	LCA 6: Lough Ree / Shannon Corridor – <b>Very High</b> County Westmeath Area of High Amenity - <b>Very High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	OSi Viewing Area – <b>Very High</b> County Westmeath Designated Scenic View W -V3 – <b>High</b> Representative of County Westmeath Designated Scenic View W -V1 – <b>High</b> Traffic on the N56 National Road - <b>Low</b>
Description of ‘Baseline’	Expansive long-ranging views across the flat wetlands to the north of Athlone from an elevated viewpoint. Water bodies of Ballaghkeeran Bay, Killinure Lough and Coosan Lough are visible in the middle distance. Lough Ree is just visible to the right of the view. The loughs and bays are surrounded by marshy wetlands and mixed deciduous woodland.		

Viewpoint 14 – Ballykeeran	
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the very background of this expansive landscape view. At this distance, the turbines are seen as very small background elements and comprise a very small spatial extent of this view. There is visual separation between the northern and Southern Cluster. There is some visual stacking between turbines from this perspective. The proposed met mast is not discernible at this distance.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The two turbines of the existing Skrine Wind Farm and proposed Kilcash turbine are theoretically visible in from views in the locality of this viewpoint, as indicated by the 90° wireframe image. They are not visible in the photomontage as they are screened from view by the hedge visible in the foreground. These turbines are located at a substantial distance from this viewpoint location and are not visible in the same direct field of view as the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The two proposed turbine clusters are viewed in combination although they are visually separated within the landscape. No significant cumulative visual effects occur.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>Very High:</b> “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 development.”</p> <p>On balance the sensitivity of this viewpoint is Very High due to the designated scenic views and the expansive views of the High value landscape to the west and north-west. This location is a popular spot where receptors come to in order to admire the views.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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>Very High X Negligible = 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>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed above the skyline and does not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ Visual effects are mitigated by distance.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is effectively absorbed within this wide and expansive landscape view.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is a regular and ordered array of turbines in the background of this view, they read coherently within the landscape.</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 15 – Loughfarm			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a Viewing Area in the townland of <b>Loughfarm</b>, County Longford.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located on Longford Designated Scenic Route 20.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 18.8 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine (T4).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 601,991; N 759,884</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCU 3 - Shannon Basin/Lough Ree - <b>High</b> ; County Longford Broad Zone - <b>High</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	OSi Viewing Area – <b>Very High</b> County Longford Scenic Route 20 – <b>High</b> Representative of County Longford Designated Scenic Routes L-SR-I14, L-SR-F20 & L-SR-F19 – <b>High</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	Expansive long-ranging landscape view across Lough Ree. A grassy field, short bushes and several mature trees are seen in the foreground of the image. The waterbody of Lough Ree is the stand-out landscape feature and comprises a large spatial extent of the view. Vegetated islands are visible to the left of the view. The landform of County Roscommon is visible as undulating hills on the distant banks of Lough Ree.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	All turbines of the Proposed Development are visible in the very background of this expansive landscape view although the lower components of all turbines are substantially obscured from view by the intervening landform. At this distance, the turbines are seen as very small background elements and comprise a very small spatial extent of this view. There is some visual separation between the two turbine clusters. The proposed met mast is not visible.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view. The two proposed turbine clusters are viewed in combination although they are visually separated within the landscape. No significant cumulative visual effects occur.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> “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 development 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>The sensitivity of this viewpoint is High due to the designated scenic views at this location and in the wider area. It is noted that this is not a tourist hotspot or an area of high traffic density, it is a relatively isolated area.</p>		
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</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.”		

Viewpoint 15 – Loughfarm	
<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>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is predominantly sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ Most of the Proposed Development is obscured from view by intervening topography.</li> <li>➤ The Proposed Development is viewed above the skyline and does not obstruct any valuable landscape views from this location.</li> <li>➤ At this distance, a visual receptor will have to be scanning the horizon in order to identify the Proposed Development.</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 16 – Commeen			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from R363 Regional Road in the townland of Commeen.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 1.8 km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T14).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 588,061: N 745,808</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 11.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors – <b>High</b> Traffic on the R363 – <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	A medium distance view across a gently undulating agricultural landscape comprising improved grasslands bordered by dry stone walls and low bushes. The R363 Regional Road is visible to the left foreground. A cluster of mixed mature woodland is seen both to the left and right of the image in the middle distance. The landform rises to an elevated ridgeline which forms the background of this view. Landcover upon the ridgeline comprises dense vegetation upon calcareous grasslands. Several residential settlements are visible within the landscape, as well as the ruins of an old church and an accompanying graveyard.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	Eleven turbines of the Southern Cluster are visible as a linear array across the ridgeline in the background of the image. The proposed turbines are in close proximity to this view, consequently they are seen as prominent features in this landscape view. Due to the siting of turbines on slightly elevated lands, the proposed turbines are viewed above the horizon. Turbines to the left of the photomontage are partially screened by the cluster of woodland in the middle distance.		

Viewpoint 16 – Commeen	
	This viewpoint is located between the two turbine clusters. The Northern Cluster is located directly behind this viewpoint in the opposite field of view. No turbines of the Northern Cluster are visible from this location due to the localised topography directly behind this viewpoint.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind turbines are visible in this view. Due to Local topography screening directly behind this viewpoint, the turbines of the Northern Cluster are not likely to be visible in the opposite direction to the north from this location. Therefore, there are no cumulative visual effects from this viewpoint.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> “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 development 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.”  This viewpoint location is given a High sensitivity rating on account of the residential properties in this area which are located in close proximity to the Proposed Development. It is noted that this is a medium distance landscape view and does not comprise any features of unique aesthetic quality.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> “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 Development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed Development and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> <li>➤ Regular spacing and ordered siting of the turbines ensures that they read coherently within the landscape, with minimal visual stacking occurring from this perspective.</li> <li>➤ From this viewpoint there are long ranging views across the Suck River Valley to the west. The Proposed Development does not obscure or intrude upon any of these landscape views.</li> <li>➤ There is no visibility of the Northern Cluster from this viewpoint location.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 16 – Commeen	
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.

Viewpoint 17 – Castlegar East			
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a Local Road in the townland of Castlegar East.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 7.6 km west-south-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T8).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 580,987: N 739,111</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 20.</li> </ul>		
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	Galway LCA 1 - North East Galway (Balinasloe to Ballymoe)– <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Traffic on the L4713 – <b>Low</b> Representative of views in County Galway, south-west of the Proposed Development, proximate to the Hymany Way - Way Marked walking Trail - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’</b>	<p>An expansive, long-ranging view across the flat boglands located along the Suck River from an elevated perspective. The foreground comprises an agricultural field bordered by mature treelines. The landscape in the middle distance is heavily vegetated with cluster of mature woodland as well as several expanses of cutover bog. The landscape transitions to an agricultural landscape where the landform rises slightly in the background of the view. From this perspective it is a sparsely settled landscape, as very little built form is visible.</p> <p>The existing Skrine Wind turbines are not visible in the photomontage due to screening from mature trees in the foreground of the image.</p>		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description</b>	<p>All turbines of the Proposed Development are fully visible in the photomontage upon the slightly elevated landform in the background of the view. There is visual separation between the two turbine clusters. At this distance (7.6km), the proposed turbines are relatively small features in the photomontage although they comprise a medium horizontal extent of the view across the horizon. The linear configuration of the Southern Cluster is viewed from the side from this perspective, therefore, visual stacking occurs amongst most of the turbines in the Southern Cluster. There is no visual stacking amongst the turbines of the Northern Cluster. At this distance the proposed met mast is unlikely to be discernible within the landscape.</p>		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The proposed Kilcash turbine and two turbines of the permitted Derrane wind farm are visible in the photomontage. These turbines are located at a significant distance from this viewpoint, consequently, they are very small and barely discernible in the landscape. There is substantial visual separation between these wind farms and the Proposed Development and any potential cumulative effects are significantly mitigated by distance.</p>		



Viewpoint 17 – Castlegar East	
	The two proposed turbine clusters are viewed in combination although they are visually separated within the landscape. No significant cumulative visual effects occur.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Low:</b> “Includes viewers engaged in activities where the focus is not on the landscape or view. These including those travelling along a busy route, viewers at work or engaged in sport not related to views or experience of the landscape.”  Although the long ranging landscape view has some aesthetic qualities, there are no highly sensitive visual receptors in close proximity to this viewpoint. Receptors in proximity such as The Hymany Way are at a greater distance from this viewpoint and are likely to have more limited visibility of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is deemed to be Low.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 12-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> “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.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low X Moderate = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located within an area of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Galway.</li> <li>➤ The intervening distance mitigates the potential for significant effects.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are viewed above the horizon, consequently they do not obstruct any long ranging landscape views.</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 18 – Skyvalley	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from a Local Road in the townland of Skyvalley.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors in close proximity to the Proposed Development.</li> <li>➤ The viewpoint is located approximately 850 metres south of the nearest proposed turbine (T17).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E 590,301: N 743,384</li> <li>➤ No. of turbines visible: 18.</li> </ul>



Viewpoint 18 – Skyvalley			
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	LCA 34: Lough Funshinagh, Stone Wall Grasslands and Esker Ridges – <b>Low</b>	<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	Residential Receptors – <b>High</b> Traffic on the Local Road- <b>Low</b>
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’ – 18A</b>	A short-distance view up a very gentle rise, across a field of improved agricultural grassland. The field is bounded by dry stone walls and a residential property is seen in the foreground to the left of the image. Beyond a field of grazing sheep, a line of short trees is visible across the horizon in the background of the image.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description - 18A</b>	Five turbines (T11, T10, T13, T14 & T15) of the Southern Cluster are clearly visible above the skyline across in this photomontage, their lower towers and lower blade arcs are screened from view by the localised topography. One blade of turbine T9 is visible beyond the house to the left of the photomontage, T12 and T8 are obscured from view behind the buildings in the foreground. The nacelles of T10 and T11 are screened from view by walls and bushes in the intervening landscape. Turbine T16 is a prominent feature above the skyline, and there is some component overlap with T15. Blade tips of the seven turbines of the Northern Cluster are just visible above the horizon beyond turbines T15 and T16. The proposed met mast is not visible.		
<b>Description of ‘Baseline’ – 18B</b>	To the right of the image there are medium distance views across a small valley of agricultural fields delineated by dry stone walls and short treelines. A cluster of mature broadleaf trees are visible in the middle distance to the centre of the image, a residential property is visible adjacent to the trees. The landform rises to a gentle incline to the right of the image. The view to the left is limited to a short distance view by localised topography.		
<b>Proposed Photomontage Description – 18B</b>	Four turbines of the Proposed Development are visible across the skyline. Turbine T17 is in closest proximity to this viewpoint and is consequently seen as a large and prominent feature of the landscape. Turbine T16 is partially screened from view behind the cluster of trees visible in the middle ground. The proposed met mast is not visible.		
<b>Discussion of both photomontage 18A and 18 B.</b>	Viewing both photomontages together (18A and 18B) shows that the turbines are a linear array of turbines across the horizon comprising a large spatial extent of views from this location.		
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other wind farms are visible in this view and only blade tips of the Northern Cluster will be visible. No significant cumulative visual effects will occur.		
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> “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 development 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.”  This viewpoint is afforded a high sensitivity rating in mind of the residential receptors located in close proximity to the Proposed Development. It is		

Viewpoint 18 – Skyvalley	
	noted that the short distance views towards the Proposed Development from this location are of no outstanding aesthetic quality.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(Definition – from Section 1.5.3 of Appendix 13-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> “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 through removal of key elements or addition of uncharacteristic elements which may or may not be visually discordant. This includes viewpoints where the Proposed Development is fully or almost fully visible over a wide extent, at close proximity to the viewer.”
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High X Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The majority of the Proposed Development is sited in an area ‘Most Favoured’ for wind energy development in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and this viewpoint are located within an LCA of the lowest landscape sensitivity rating in Co. Roscommon.</li> <li>➤ With regards to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Development adheres to the minimum 500 metre set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006, DoEHLG) and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance explicitly set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019, DoHPLG).</li> <li>➤ Regular spacing and ordered siting of the turbines ensures that they read coherently within the landscape, with minimal visual stacking occurring from this perspective.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.