



## APPENDIX 14-3

### VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENTS

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1.

# PHOTOMONTAGE ASSESSMENT TABLES

The tables included in this Appendix detail a visual impact assessment of the 19 No. Viewpoints presented in EIAR Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with viewing the Photomontage Booklet. The table below provides location information about the 19 no. Viewpoints assessed.

Table 1 - Viewpoint Location Descriptions

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP01	View from the R436 Regional Road in the townland of Ballydaly, located approximately 1.1km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T03)	E: 614,388 N: 725,409
VP02	View from the L7013 Local Road in the townland of Clonascra, located approximately 9.8km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T01). This viewpoint is also located at designated Scenic View 3 in the Offaly County Development Plan (OCDP) and on the 'Pilgrim's Road to Clonmacnoise' walking trail.	E: 605,163 N: 731,244
VP03	View from the L7020 Local Road in the townland of Pollagh, located approximately 3.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T14). This viewpoint is located on the Grand Canal Way.	E: 619,166 N: 725,211
VP04	View from the Clara Bog Nature Reserve in the townland of Erry, located approximately 7.2km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).	E: 624,757 N: 730,420
VP05	View from the N62 National Road in the townland of Lackagh More, located approximately 4.3km from the nearest proposed turbine (T10). This viewpoint is located on the Pilgrims Road to Clonmacnoise, a designated walking trail in the OCDP.	E: 611,828 N: 731,385
VP06	View from the R420 Regional Road in the townland of Ballyduff, located approximately 14.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T14).	E: 632,065 N: 727,119
VP07	View from St Manchan's Cemetery, in the townland of Parkaree or Boherfadda, located approximately 1.6km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).	E: 618,236 N: 730,504
VP08	View from Cloghan Lake, located approximately 8.2km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 610,476 N: 719,537
VP09	View from the L30047 Local Road in the townland of Ballylin, located approximately 1.6km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 613,178 N: 726,027
VP10	View from the R440 Regional Road in the townland of Glenregan within the Slieve Bloom Mountains, located approximately 24.7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).	E: 625,970 N: 704,393
VP11	View from the R436 Regional Road in the townland of Lemanaghan, located approximately 998 metres southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 616,388 N: 726,670

VP No.	Description	Grid Ref. (ITM)
VP12	View from the L7020 Local Road (St. Manchan's Estate) in the townland of Lemanaghan, located approximately 1.3km from the nearest proposed turbine (T05). Located along the Offaly Way walking route.	E: 617,079 N: 726,914
VP13	View from the Lemanaghan Monastic Site, located approximately 1.2km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).	E: 617,094 N: 726,964
VP14	View from the Lemanaghan Hermitage Site in the townland of Lemanaghan, located approximately 1.28km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T14). This viewpoint location was requested by the National Monuments Service (NMS).	E: 617,527 N: 726,917
VP15	View from the L2016 Local Road in the townland of Kilpatrick, located approximately 4.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).	E: 622,365 N: 729,091
VP16	View from the L70026 in the townland of Straduff, located approximately 1.6km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).	E: 613,501 N: 728,891
VP17	View from the L7002 local road in the townland of Tumbeagh, located approximately 690m north from the nearest proposed turbine T10.	E: 615,527 N: 730,064
VP18	View from the L7001 Local Road in the townland of Cooldorragh, located approximately 2.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T10). Located along the 'Pilgrim's Road to Clonmacnoise' walking trail.	E: 614,876 N: 731,380
VP19	View from Knockastia Hill in the townland of Coolatoor, located approximately 16km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T15). This viewpoint is located at Protected View 9 in the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.	E: 624,483 N: 743,404
VP20	Rendered wireline of the landscape view atop the Hill of Uisneach, representative of Westmeath Protected View 36. The viewpoint is located approximately 23.5km north-east from the nearest proposed turbine T11.	E: 629,030 N: 749,000

1.1

## Viewpoint Selection

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

### \*Note on Photomontage Viewpoints 11, 12 and 13

The Photomontage Booklet shows the proposed turbines within two slightly differing fields of view from photomontage viewpoints 11, 12, and 13. The imagery presented for these viewpoints were captured from the same location but show an 'A' view in one direction and a 'B' view in the other direction. Photomontages were presented as such in order to ensure most of the proposed turbines are visible within a 53.5° photomontage. The differing 90° and 53.5° view extents for views A and B are marked on the key image sheet to show the differing directional (A and B) views. The descriptions of the differing fields of view have been kept within the same table. Assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint accounts for the full horizontal extent of both photomontages in corresponding A and B views.

1.2

## Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

The Visual Impact Assessments reported in the tables below follow the 'Assessing Visual Effects' methodology set out in Section 1.8 of *Appendix 14-1: LVIA Methodology*. The cumulative visual effects associated with other wind farms located within the LVIA Study Area and the Proposed Wind Farm are included in the assessment tables below.

### Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

As reported in Section 14.6 of Chapter 14, the assessment of cumulative visual effects considers all other existing, permitted and proposed wind energy developments in the LVIA Study Area and their interactions with the Proposed Wind Farm. The descriptions of cumulative visual effects reported in this document use the photomontages in the Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet and are guided by the identification labels on the wireline views accompanying each photomontage view. Potential for cumulative visual effects is accounted for in the 'Magnitude of Change' row in each impact assessment table and are considered in the 'Residual Visual Effect' determination given for each Viewpoint.

1.3

## Viewpoint Assessments

1.3.1

### VP 01: Ballydaly

Viewpoint 01 – Ballydaly	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R436 Regional Road in the townland of Ballydaly</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.1km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T03).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 614,388 N: 725,409</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential receptors in close proximity – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Receptors travelling along the R436 Regional Road – <b>Low</b></li> <li>➤ Ferbane – <b>High/Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This image is of a medium-range view overlooking a flat field of pasture, enclosed by hedgerows and deciduous trees. A tract of commercial forestry is just visible forming the horizon in the centre background of the image. The R436 is visible in the foreground, lined by relatively dense roadside vegetation. The overall character of this landscape is rural and agricultural.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.</p>
<b>Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'</b>	<p>10 no. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view. Five turbines (T04, T06, T09, T11, and T13) are fully screened from view due to intervening vegetation. The closest turbines, T01, T02, and T03, appear as tall vertical features within the landscape, while the remaining turbines are perceived as moderately scaled elements in the background, partially screened by intervening vegetation. Some visual stacking occurs between turbines T5 and T12 and T8 and T10.</p> <p>The proposed met mast is seen as a tall vertical feature to the left of turbine T01 in the 90° field of view.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The turbine blades of the proposed Umma More Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the distant background as seen in the wireline view. In reality, however, visibility does not occur due to the substantial distance and intervening vegetation in such a flat landscape. As such, the proposed Umma More Wind Farm has no potential cumulative visual effect with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view.</p>

Viewpoint 01 – Ballydaly	
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government [DoEHLG], 2006), hereafter the ‘DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines’, and also the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government [DoHPLG] 2019), hereafter the ‘Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines’.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any sensitive or scenic views from this location; they are only seen above the horizon in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ This is a short-range view of a rural working landscape, typical of the Irish midlands, it is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ This location (and VP11) provides one of the more open views towards the proposed turbines from along this regional road, with buildings and high levels of vegetation providing varying levels of screening in the direction of the proposed turbines from along this route.</li> <li>➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines within the settlement of Ferbane (along the regional road to the west of this Viewpoint) will be far less than shown in the photomontage due to the visual screening occurring from the built environment within the settlement itself.</li> <li>➤ Five of the proposed turbines (T4, T6, T9 and T13) are fully screened from view by dense vegetation. The photomontage illustrates how visibility of the proposed turbines diminishes with distance in this very flat landscape and the disproportionate screening effect (See Figure 14-3 in Chapter 14) caused by above ground features of the landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.2

## VP 02: Clonascra

Viewpoint 02 - Clonascra	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L7013 Local Road, in the townland of Clonascra.</li> <li>➤ Located along the ‘Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise’ walking trail.</li> <li>➤ Located along the Designated Scenic View 3 in the OCDP.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 9.8km north-west of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 605,163 N: 731,244</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 02 - Clonascra	
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Area of High Amenity (Other Eskers) – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scenic View 3 (OCDP) – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Pilgrims Road to Clonmacnoise Recreational Trail – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ L7013 Local Road - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	<p>This image is of a relatively long-range view from an elevated vantage point overlooking a gently undulating working landscape. Agricultural fields are visible in the left foreground, while a peatland is situated to the right, eskers are seen as small, ridged landforms throughout the otherwise flat landscape. Further agricultural fields can be seen in the distant background. Mature woodland is visible throughout the landscape. A scatter of residential buildings is also visible in the distance. The overall character of the landscape is that of a working, rural, and agricultural area.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.</p>
<b>Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'</b>	<p>All of the proposed turbines are seen as small vertical features in the distant background, beyond multiple agricultural fields, arranged in a staggered linear array and occupying a relatively short horizontal extent. Some visual overlap occurs between the turbine blades of turbines T11 and T10, T13 and T09, as well as T12 and T08. The proposed met mast is just about discernible as a slender structure in the distant background to the right of turbine T02.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the designated Scenic View 3 in the OCDP.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As discussed in Section 14.7.3.2.3 of Chapter 13, the key focus of the protected scenic view is towards Clonmacnoise, the River Shannon, Mongan Bog and Fin Lough, which are directed to the west, in the opposite direction of the proposed turbines and the view shown in the photomontage. Therefore, the proposed turbines do not impact the scenic sensitivities relating to this designated protected view.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 02 - Clonasra	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are seen as small features above the horizon in the distant background of the view.</li> <li>➤ The lower towers of most proposed turbines are partially screened from view by features such as eskers and mature vegetation in the intervening landscape, reducing their visual prominence in this view.</li> <li>➤ From this vantage point, the proposed turbines are not obstructing or intruding upon any scenic views of county, regional or national renown.</li> <li>➤ The field structure and hedgerows seen throughout the view are a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the turbines, with turbines viewed as sited beyond a distant treeline.</li> <li>➤ Mature vegetation is well-established in this area of the landscape and in other areas along the walking trail near this viewpoint, causing high levels of visual screening towards the proposed turbines from other locations along the road, particularly from lower-lying lands of the walking trail.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the viewpoint and occupy a narrow horizontal extent within this view.</li> <li>➤ The grid-like layout of the proposed turbines, spacing and even height profile are in line with the best practice siting and design guidance for peatland landscape types in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and ensures that the proposed turbines read as a coherent arrangement of turbines within the landscape from this vantage point.</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

1.3.3

## VP 03: Pollagh Bridge

Viewpoint 03 – Pollagh Brudge	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Pollagh Bridge on the L7020 Local Road in the village of Pollagh.</li> <li>➤ Located adjacent to the Grand Canal along the Grand Canal Way.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 3.4km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T14).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 619,166 N: 725,211</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 11/15</li> </ul>
LCA and Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 6 – Grand Canal Corridor – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Area of High Amenity (Grand Canal) – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<p>Residential receptors in medium proximity – <b>Medium</b></p> <p>Pollagh Village – <b>Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Walkers or cyclists on the Grand Canal Way – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This image shows a slightly long-ranging view from the elevated vantage point of Pollagh Bridge above the Grand Canal Way, overlooking St. Mary’s Church and a local school. Agricultural fields are visible in the distant background, beyond the church. The wider landscape features dense shrubbery and some large tracts of commercial forestry. Bellair hill is visible as a distinctive landform in the distant right-hand side of the image. The character of the view is that of an agricultural, rural landscape.</p>

Viewpoint 03 – Pollagh Brudge	
	There are no existing wind farms visible within this image.
Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'	<p>11 no. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view, arranged in a staggered linear array, occupying a relatively wide horizontal extent across the background of the view. 4 no. turbines (T5, T6, T8, and T11) are fully screened from view due to intervening vegetation and built form.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
Cumulative Effects	No other wind energy developments are visible in this photomontage. However, turbines of the existing Derrinlough and Cloghan Wind Farms are visible above the distant landscape to the south-west from this viewpoint (approximately 12.4km from this viewpoint) in an alternative field of view than presented in the photomontage; therefore, in combination successional cumulative visual effects will arise where turbines of the Proposed Project, and turbines of the existing Derrinlough and Cloghan Wind Farms are seen in a different fields of view from the this same vantage point.
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint has been assigned a High sensitivity on account of the Grand Canal, which is an Area of High Amenity, and also represents walkers on the-Grand Canal Way who are here in a recreational capacity.
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines Are seen of a moderate scale, comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view.
Significance of Effect	<p><b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This view was captured from an elevated vantage point on Pollagh Bridge and is not representative of the typical views from ground level along the Grand Canal Way. As discussed in Section 14.7.3.2.2 of Chapter 13, the canal follows the low-lying contours of the landscape, with dense vegetation along its banks, providing substantial visual enclosure within the canal corridor and visual screening in the direction of the proposed turbines along most of the route.</li> <li>➤ Typically, views from bridges over the canal are directed along the corridor of the canal itself (east-to-west from this Viewpoint), which are in a direction perpendicular to the proposed turbines (north). The proposed turbines do not impact the visual integrity of linear views along the canal and with a setback of 3.4km from the proposed turbines, do not significantly impact the setting of the canal.</li> <li>➤ Views within the low-lying settlement of Pollagh itself will be significantly more limited due to the screening provided by the built environment and vegetation within the settlement itself.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity form this viewpoint.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 03 – Pollagh Brudge	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The field structure, vegetation, and other landscape elements seen throughout the view act as a physical landscape buffer and provide a sense of scale in relation to the setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited in the distant background of the view beyond agricultural fields and forestry.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.4

## VP 04: Clara Bog Nature Reserve

Viewpoint 04 – Clara Bog Nature Reserve	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the boardwalk in the Clara Bog Nature Reserve in the townland of Erry.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 7.2km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 624,757 N: 730,420</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Area of High Amenity (Clara Bog) - <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visitors to the Clara Bog Nature Reserve - <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view is captured from a boardwalk within Clara Bog Nature Reserve, overlooking a flat, raised bog landscape. The boardwalk is visible in the centre of the image. Stretches of dense shrubbery and forestry are visible in the distant background of the image, enclosing the bog and limiting visibility beyond.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within this image.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>All 15 no. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view, from approximately mid-tower upwards, over a relatively short horizontal extent in the distant background. Only the blade tip of turbine T03 is visible from this view. Some visual stacking occurs with turbines T07 and T01, T06 and T12, as well as T08 and T15. There is some slight visual separation between turbines T11 and T10 and the other proposed turbines.</p> <p>The proposed met mast is theoretically visible in the distant background, to the right of turbine T05, as seen in the wireline view. However, in reality, the mast is screened by intervening vegetation.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>

Viewpoint 04 – Clara Bog Nature Reserve	
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint is assigned a High sensitivity on account of visitors to the Clara Bog Nature Reserve, a designated High Amenity Area in the OCDP.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are partially visible, set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale. The turbines occupy a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × 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 large, expansive, flat nature of the landscape seen in this view (and extending beyond the portion shown in the photomontage) creates an open and expansive view, where the proposed turbines form a very small portion of the view and are effectively absorbed within it.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located within a designated Area of High Amenity (AHA) in the OCDP. However, the proposed turbines are seen in the distant background, beyond distant treelines, that do not form part of the landscape of this AHA.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.</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.”

### 1.3.5 VP 05: Doon Crossroads

Viewpoint 05 – Doon Crossroads	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	View from the N62 National Road, at Doon Crossroads in the townland of Lackagh More. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This view is located along the Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise walking trail.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 4.3km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 611,828 N: 731,385</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Settlement of Doon and Residential receptors in medium proximity - <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Receptors travelling along the N62 – <b>Low</b></li> <li>➤ Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise Walking Trail – <b>Medium/High</b></li> </ul>

Viewpoint 05 – Doon Crossroads	
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This image is of a medium-range view from Doon Crossroads, featuring a pub, a residential dwelling, street signs, and streetlights. An agricultural field can be seen in the middle-ground beyond the crossroad, with mature boundary vegetation and a small hill limiting long-range landscape views.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.</p>
Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'	<p>10 no. of the proposed turbines are partially visible from approximately mid-tower upwards, in the distant background in a staggered linear array, occupying a relatively small horizontal extent of the overall view. Turbines T07, T04, T03, T02 and T01 and the met mast are fully screened from view due to intervening vegetation and built form, while only the blade tips of turbines T06 and T05 are visible.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Medium:</b> This viewpoint has been assigned a Medium sensitivity on account of local residents of Doon and walkers of the way marked trail which passes this point. It is not a High sensitivity viewpoint on the walking trail.</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are partially visible, set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale. The turbines occupy a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p><b>Medium × Slight = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Where visible, the turbines are seen above the horizon in the distant background of the view, beyond distant treelines in this otherwise very flat landscape</li> <li>➤ From this viewpoint location, the proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the N62 road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is representative of one of the few open views towards the proposed turbines along this route. As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 14, the majority of this national road (within 5 km) is primarily characterised by dense roadside vegetation, limiting visibility towards the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any sensitive or scenic views from this location, and do not cause Significant impacts on the Pilgrim’s Way Recreational Route.</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p>

Viewpoint 05 – Doon Crossroads	
	“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”

1.3.6

## VP 06: Tullamore

Viewpoint 06 - Tullamore	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	View from the R420 Regional Road in the townland of Ballyduff on the north-western outskirts of Tullamore. > Located approximately 14.4km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T14). > Grid Reference: E: 632,065 N: 727,119 > Number of proposed turbines visible: 8/15
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	> Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	> Receptors travelling along the R420 Regional Road – <b>Low</b> > Nearby Tullamore - <b>Medium</b>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	This image is of a short-range view from the R420 Regional Road, overlooking a garden enclosed by dense shrub vegetation that limits long-range views in the flat landscape. A tract of commercial forestry is visible to the left-hand side of the image.  There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	Blades of 8 of the proposed turbines are just about discernible in the distant background above and beyond the horizon.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Low:</b> This viewpoint has been assigned a low sensitivity on account of receptors using the regional road located >14km away from the proposed turbines.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Negligible:</b> The blade tips of the proposed turbines are just about discernible at great distance from the viewpoint and are partially visible, comprising a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>Low × Negligible = Negligible = Imperceptible (EPA, 2022)</b>  “An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	> The proposed turbines are located a substantial distance from the viewpoint and are substantially screened by intervening vegetation.

Viewpoint 06 - Tullamore	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are not located in the direction of travel of the road and will therefore not be in the direct line of vision for visual receptors using the road.</li> <li>➤ Due to vehicles travelling 60km/hr on this regional road, any views towards the turbines will be intermittent and momentary.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are <b>not</b> visible in Tullamore.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Imperceptible (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

1.3.7

## VP 07: St Manchan’s Cemetery

Viewpoint 07 – St. Manchan’s Cemetery	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from St Manchan’s Cemetery within the townland of Parkaree or Boherfadda in Boher.</li> <li>➤ Located just off the ‘Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise’ along the L7001 Local Road.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.6km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 618,236 N: 730,504</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 8/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise walking trail – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Cemetery and nearby residential receptors in Boher – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This view is from St. Manchan’s Cemetery. Dense tree vegetation enclosing the cemetery in the centre middle-ground limits visibility to the south-west, towards the Proposed Wind Farm. Long-range views are seen to the far left-hand side of the image, towards the Slieve Bloom Mountains, which form the backdrop of the view to the south.</p> <p>Two of the existing Leabeg turbines are visible in the distance to the left of the utility pole supporting overhead lines adjacent to the cemetery. The existing Derrinlough, Cloghan and Meenwaun Wind Farms are shown in the wireline view but are not visible from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>Proposed turbines T15 and T14 are visible to their full extent from this view. The remaining turbines and met mast are either fully or partially screened by the mature dense vegetation in the centre of the image. Though, slightly greater visibility will likely occur during winter months when the deciduous trees have lost their foliage. Irrespective of the season, most of the proposed turbines (excepting T15 and T14) will be screened from view.</p> <p>The permitted Lea Mor turbine is visible in the photomontage to the left of the two existing Lea Beg turbines. The permitted Cush Wind Farm is visible in the wireline view, located beyond and within the horizontal extent of the existing Derrinlough turbines. They will not be visible from this viewpoint.</p>

Viewpoint 07 – St. Manchan’s Cemetery	
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	Cumulative visual effects occur as the proposed turbines T14 and T15 will be viewed in combination with the two existing Leabeg turbines, as well as the permitted Lea Mor turbine in a future receiving environment. Due to the difference in distance, the turbines are clearly separate developments, and they comprise a very small portion of the overall view from this vantage point.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This view is assigned a High sensitivity on account of St Manchan’s Cemetery, nearby residential receptors in the area and ‘Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise’.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are set back from this viewpoint, are partially visible and only occupy a small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</li> <li>➤ 13 no. proposed turbines are fully or partially screened from view beyond a prominent treeline in the background of this image, with visibility limited to turbine blade tips.</li> <li>➤ Views towards the proposed turbines from elsewhere in the cemetery and within the settlement of Boher are greatly restricted, views to the south-west are mostly obscured by mature and dense vegetation and the built environment.</li> <li>➤ A photowire (an early-stage photomontage) was captured from a viewpoint on the local road nearby the cemetery – See PWVP-M in Appendix 14-5. It demonstrates that limited visibility of the proposed turbines occurs elsewhere in the village, similar to photomontage VP07.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are sited at a lower base elevation relative to the elevated vantage point of this viewpoint and the settlement of Boher. This factor reduces the visual prominence of the proposed turbines when they are visible and also causes the mature vegetation to the south-west of the village to have a disproportionate screening effect, obscuring views of the majority of the proposed turbines from most receptors in this area.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not infringe upon the longer ranging views of higher scenic quality to the south and south-east, towards the Slieve Bloom mountains shown to the left-hand side of the image.</li> <li>➤ The potentially of more visibility in winter when trees have lost their foliage amounts to ‘Slight’ residual visual effect, given the setback distance and that the turbines occupy a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>

Viewpoint 07 – St. Manchan’s Cemetery	
	“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”

1.3.8

## VP 08: Cloghan Lake

Viewpoint 08 – Cloghan Lake	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; View from Cloghan Lake, within Lough Boora Discovery Park.</li> <li>&gt; This viewpoint is representative of the designated key amenity route on the R357 Regional Road in the OCDP, although it is located approximately 150m north of the designated route itself</li> <li>&gt; Located approximately 8.2km southwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).</li> <li>&gt; Grid Reference: E: 610,476 N: 719, 537</li> <li>&gt; Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	> Offaly ILCA 2 – Central Wetlands – <b>High</b>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Receptors travelling along the Key Amenity Route - the R357 Bluebell to Shannonbridge - <b>High</b></li> <li>&gt; Visitors to the Lough Boora Discovery Park - <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image shows a medium-ranging view overlooking Cloghan Lake. An amenity walking trail and car park are visible on the far left-hand side of the image. Dense vegetation comprising woodland, scrub and some forestry spans the entire central middle ground, extending into the distant background.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible in this image.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>14 no. of the proposed turbines are visible to their full extent within this view, while only the blade tip of proposed turbine T01 is visible above dense vegetation. The turbines appear as small-scale vertical elements, occupying a relatively short horizontal extent in the distant background. Visual stacking occurs between turbines T11 and T09, as well as T06 and T03. Some visual overlap also occurs between turbines T08 and T07, and T05 and T12. The proposed met mast is theoretically visible to the right of turbine T01 as seen in the wireline view. In reality, however, it is screened from view by intervening vegetation.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed wind farms are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Some distant views of the existing Derrinlough and Cloghan Wind Farms may occur in the opposite direction of the proposed turbines, therefore not shown in the photomontage. Some combined (in succession) views may occur with the existing Derrinlough and Cloghan Wind Farms. However, the expansive, flat landscape is capable of effectively accommodating the proposed and cumulative turbines. As such, Significant cumulative visual effects will not occur. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in</i>	<b>High:</b> This view is assigned a High sensitivity on account of Lough Boora Discovery Park and the nearby designated Key Amenity Route in the OCDP (150m south from VP08), as well as the recreation amenity provided by Cloghan Lake.

Viewpoint 08 – Cloghan Lake	
<i>LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are seen but clearly set back from the viewpoint and are of small scale, comprising a relatively small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This location provides one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines. This viewpoint is not actually located on the key amenity scenic route. Actual views towards the proposed turbines from the key amenity scenic route will be greatly restricted due to the presence of dense roadside vegetation and visual effects on the designated receptor will not be significant.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ This is not the only view of the lake, as there are numerous locations from which the lake can be seen without any turbines in view. From this viewpoint, the proposed turbines occupy a relatively small horizontal extent and are well absorbed within the many wide-angle views available across the lake. As such, the proposed turbines only form a very minor component within a single view of the wider lake setting.</li> <li>➤ Given the set-back distance from this viewpoint, the proposed turbines, while visible, do not affect the sensitivity of the view derived from the lake’s amenity value nor the character of its surrounding environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i>

1.3.9

## VP 09: Ballylin

Viewpoint 09 – Ballylin	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L30047 Local Road in the townland of Ballylin.</li> <li>➤ Representative of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.6km west of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 613,178 N: 726,027</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 13/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential Receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines - <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Ferbane – <b>High/Medium</b></li> </ul>

Viewpoint 09 – Ballylin	
	<p>➤ Receptors travelling along the L40047 – <b>Low</b></p>
Description of 'Existing View'	<p>This image is of a short-range view of a local road junction, bordered by hedgerows and deciduous trees. A localised hill can be seen in the centre middle ground, limiting long-ranging landscape views. Utility poles supporting overhead lines, and street signs are seen within the view. The character of the view is that of a rural, settled landscape.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within this image.</p>
Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'	<p>13 no. of the proposed turbines are visible within this view, occupying a moderate horizontal extent and partially screened by intervening vegetation. The closest turbines, T01, T02, and T03, appear as tall vertical features within the landscape, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled elements. Due to the grid-like layout, the proposed turbines are positioned at varying distances across the landscape, while maintaining a relatively staggered linear arrangement.</p>
Cumulative Effects	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>
Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s) <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This view is assigned a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines</p>
Magnitude of Change <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines are seen of a moderate scale comprising a wide horizontal extent of views.</p>
Significance of Effect	<p><b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i></p>
Mitigating Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</li> <li>➤ The grid-like layout of the proposed turbines within the flat landscape limits their overall spatial extent in the view, with the turbines occupying a relatively moderate horizontal extent. The perceived scale of the proposed turbines gradually reduces in height as they recede into the distance, with only the proposed turbines in close proximity fully visible.</li> <li>➤ The lower sections of the turbine towers are partially screened by intervening topography within the landscape, reducing their visual prominence.</li> <li>➤ The upward-sloping agricultural field and roadside shrub vegetation provide further screening of the lower sections of the turbines, creating a sense that the turbines are visually set back from the viewpoint. This reduces the overall visual prominence of the proposed turbines for residential receptors in this direction.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 09 – Ballylin	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ This view is not a distinctive view of any local, county, regional or national renown and is representative of typical views of agricultural fields within the midland landscape.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is representative of only a select few residences along this local road at the very eastern extent of Ferbane. Visibility within Ferbane itself will be less due to screening from the built environment and setback distance in this flat landscape.</li> <li>➤ Many residential properties in this area have mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, further reducing visibility of the proposed turbines and visual amenity on the houses in this general area to the west of the proposed turbines.</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.10

## VP 10: Slieve Bloom Mountains

Viewpoint 10– Slieve Bloom Mountains	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from an Osi Viewing Point, and Scenic View 2 in the OCDP, from within the Slieve Bloom Mountains</li> <li>➤ This view is from the R440 Regional Road within the townland of Glenregan.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 24.7km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T3).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 625,970 N: 704,393</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
LCA and Sensitivity	➤ Offaly ILCA 2 – Slieve Bloom Upland Area – <b>High</b>
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scenic View 2 (OCDP) – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Osi Viewing Point – <b>Very High</b></li> </ul>
Description of ‘Existing View’	<p>This image is of a long-ranging view from the Slieve Bloom Mountains overlooking the expansive, flat, midland landscape, which is primarily comprised of agricultural fields delineated by trees and shrub vegetation.</p> <p>The existing Derrinlough, Meenwaun, Cloghan and Leabeg wind farms are seen in the left-hand side, in the distant background of the view.</p>
Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’	<p>All 15 proposed turbines are visible as small vertical elements in the distant background, arranged in a coherent, staggered linear array, and occupying a limited horizontal extent within the view.</p> <p>The permitted Lea Mor turbine is visible in the photomontage in between the two existing Leabeg turbines. The permitted Kilbeggan turbine is visible wireline view, in the distant background. Given its scale and distance, it will not be visible from this viewpoint.</p>

Viewpoint 10– Slieve Bloom Mountains	
	The proposed Umma More Wind Farm will be seen to the left of the proposed Lemanaghan Wind Farm, but far beyond them in the landscape.
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>In combination cumulative visual effects will occur as the proposed turbines are seen in combination with the existing Derrinlough, Meenwaun, Cloghan and Leabeg wind farms and permitted Kilbeggan turbine.</p> <p>In a future receiving environment, the proposed Umma More Wind Farm will potentially be visible in the same general direction as the proposed turbines, although there is a large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines from this viewpoint. The proposed turbines add to the extent of turbines visible from this viewpoint. The large-scale and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and permitted wind energy developments. From this viewpoint, the landscape is capable to effectively absorbing the proposed turbines and all other cumulative turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Very High:</b> This view is assigned a Very High sensitivity on account the Osi Viewing Point at this viewpoint. People come here to enjoy landscape views
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Negligible:</b> The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at a large setback distance from the viewpoint, occupying a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view. The proposed turbines and cumulative turbines are all effectively accommodated in this wide and expansive landscape view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Very High × Negligible = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”.</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Visibility of the proposed turbines is substantially mitigated by distance (approximately 24.7km) and hence, the proposed turbines are seen as very small elements in the distant background.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are effectively absorbed in the expansive, flat landscape view, where they occupy a very small horizontal extent of the panoramic views from this location.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines occupy a very small portion of the expansive, open, and flat panoramic landscape, which has the capacity to effectively accommodate both the proposed turbines and other cumulative wind energy developments within this lowland midland setting.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct any landscape features or significantly impact the quality or sensitivities of this long-ranging panoramic view.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

1.3.11

## VP 11: Lemanaghan

Viewpoint 11 – Lemanaghan (Views 11A, 11B)	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the R436 Regional Road (Ballycumber Rd.) in the townland of Lemanaghan.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 998 metres south of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 616,388 N: 726,670</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential receptors in close proximity – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Receptors travelling along the R436 Regional Road – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing Views’ (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>View 11A:</b> This image is of a short-range view overlooking an agricultural field enclosed by dense hedgerow and tree vegetation, restricting any long-range views beyond this field. A residential dwelling and agricultural buildings can be seen in the far left-hand side of the image. The overall character of the landscape is of a modified rural working landscape.</p> <p><b>View 11B:</b> This image is of a short-range view of an agricultural field enclosed by dense hedgerow vegetation. Some open views of the bordering agricultural pasture fields exist to the far-right hand side of the image. The overall character of the landscape remains a modified rural working landscape.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within either of the existing views.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’ (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>View 11A:</b> All of the proposed turbines are visible from this field of view, across a relatively wide horizontal extent. The closest turbines (T04), appears as a large and prominent feature within the view, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled features, visually set-back from this viewpoint, beyond the deciduous tree line. The proposed met mast is just about discernible to the right of turbine T02 as a slender vertical feature, behind the vegetation.</p> <p><b>View 11B:</b> All of the proposed turbines are visible from this field of view, across a relatively wide horizontal extent. The closest turbine (T05) appears as a tall vertical feature within the view, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled vertical elements, set-back beyond multiple treelines. Turbines T10 and T09 are largely screened by intervening vegetation, with only blade tips visible. Some visual overlap occurs with turbines T11 and T12.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible within either of the proposed photomontage views.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>

Viewpoint 11 – Lemanaghan (Views 11A, 11B)	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> The proposed turbines are of large scale, comprising a large horizontal extent of views, occupying more than the 90-degree field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct or intrude upon any sensitive or scenic views from this location; they are only seen above the horizon in the background of the view.</li> <li>➤ This is a short-range view of a rural working landscape, typical of the Irish midlands, it is not a distinctive view comprising any special scenic qualities and is therefore not a view of local, county, regional or national value or sensitivity.</li> <li>➤ The variations in scrub and tree vegetation in the foreground softens the visual impact of the proposed turbines within the view as they provide varying levels of visual screening.</li> <li>➤ Road users will be travelling at speeds close to the speed limit of 80 km/h. on this straight section of the road, where the turbines will be located in a direction perpendicular to the direction of travel along road. As a result, any views of the proposed turbines are likely to be brief and intermittent from local road users.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines appear visually set back from this viewpoint, beyond multiple treelines (as seen in 11B), giving a sense of set back and spatial separation from the viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines read coherently in the view. The arrangement and spacing of the proposed turbines give an orderly and visually coherent appearance within the view, with limited overlap of turbine components, avoiding visual confusion and supporting their assimilation into the landscape.</li> <li>➤ This location represents one of the few areas along this road where such open views toward the proposed turbines occur. Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility and visual impact due to mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which will further reduce visibility of the proposed turbines and effects on their visual amenity.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>

1.3.12

## VP 12: St Manchan’s Estate

Viewpoint 12 – St Manchan’s Estate (Views 12A, 12B)	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L3002 / St Manchan’s Estate Local Road in the townland of Lemanaghan.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is located on the Offaly Way Walking Route and was chosen to show potential impacts on the setting of the Lemanaghan monastic site.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.2km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 617,079 N: 726,914</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 14/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential receptors in close proximity – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ The Offaly Way Recreational Route – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Lemanaghan Monastic Site – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’ (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>View 12A:</b> The image is of a medium-range view overlooking a working agricultural landscape. An agricultural grassland field is seen in the foreground of the image, with a tract of woodland in the centre midground limiting long range views into the distant background. Residential dwellings and agricultural buildings can be seen scattered throughout the landscape. The character of the view is of a working, rural landscape.</p> <p><b>View 12B:</b> The image is of a medium-range view overlooking a flat working landscape. An agricultural field is visible in the left foreground, enclosed with dense vegetation limiting long-range views in this flat landscape. Utility poles supporting overhead lines, residential dwellings and agricultural buildings are seen within the view, forming part of the working, rural landscape. The ruins of Lemanaghan Monastic Site are seen to the right-hand side of the image, enclosed by a grove of mature deciduous trees.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within either of the existing views.</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage Descriptions (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>View 12A:</b> The closest proposed turbine (T05) is a prominent feature, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled features within the view. The lower bases of all the proposed turbines are fully screened from view. Turbines T01 and T08 are largely screened by intervening vegetation, with only turbine blades visible.</p> <p>The proposed met mast is just about discernible as a slender vertical feature to the right of turbine T02, beyond the 53.5° field of view.</p> <p><b>View 12B:</b> Proposed turbines T13, T14 and T15 are primarily fully screened from view by the dense grove of trees, with only the blade tip of turbine T14 just about discernible above the dense tree vegetation. Though, slightly greater visibility will likely occur during winter months when the deciduous trees have lost their foliage. Irrespective of the season, proposed turbines T13, T14 and T15 will remain largely screened from view. Turbines T12 and T11 are visible from approximately mid-tower upwards.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.</p>

Viewpoint 12 – St Manchan’s Estate (Views 12A, 12B)	
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	The proposed Umma More Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the wireline view of VP 12B. In reality, however, visibility will not occur due to the substantial distance and intervening vegetation in such a flat landscape. As such, the proposed Umma More Wind Farm has no potential to cause cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines, the ‘Offaly Way’ Recreational Route.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> The proposed turbines are of large scale, comprising a large horizontal extent of views, occupying more than the 90-degree field of view.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Substantial = Major/Moderate = Very Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon, visible beyond distant treelines and agricultural buildings and do not obstruct or intrude upon scenic views of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint, and they are not designated or protected views.</li> <li>➤ The baseline view is typical of a rural working landscape and includes features such as houses, utility poles and agricultural buildings. This is a view and landscape setting already subjected to a high degree of human modification. The visual setting of the Lemanaghan monastic site is therefore already strongly influenced and characterised by the existing trend of development.</li> <li>➤ The grove of trees enclosing the monastic site (seen within 12B) provides substantial visual screening of the proposed turbines located behind it (turbines T13, T14, T15), with the majority of the proposed turbines only visible to the left-hand side of the view, visually separate from the monastic site. As a result, this reduces the horizontal extent of visible turbines from this viewpoint and diminishes the overall impact of the proposed turbines on the visual setting of the monastic site.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a broadly staggered linear array with varied setback positions due to their grid-like layout, establishing an ordered and visually coherent arrangement of turbines within the landscape, limiting visual overlap and reducing the perceived prominence of the turbines within the view.</li> <li>➤ As discussed in Section 14.7.3.2.3 of Chapter 13, this viewpoint represents one of the most open views towards the proposed turbines from along the ‘Offaly Way’ walking route. As discussed throughout Chapter 13, visibility of the proposed turbines significantly decreases with distance within this flat, low-lying midland landscape. Beyond 5km, as the walking route follows the low-lying contours of the landscape, views of the turbines will be seen intermittently as small-scale elements in the distant background.</li> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 12 – St Manchan’s Estate (Views 12A, 12B)	
	<p>distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to further set-back distance and mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which will further reduce visibility of the proposed turbines and effects on the perceived visual amenity.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.13

## VP 13: Lemanaghan Monastic Site

Viewpoint 13 – Lemanaghan Monastic Site (Views 13A, 13B)	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the Lemanaghan Monastic Site in the townland of Lemanaghan.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.2km southeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T5).</li> <li>➤ At the request of the National Monuments Service (NMS), a winter photomontage has been prepared for this viewpoint. The photomontage presents both seasonal views and does not alter the magnitude of change as assessed below. Grid Reference: E: 617,094 N: 726,964</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 10/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lemanaghan Monastic Site – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Residential receptors in close proximity – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing Views’ (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>13A:</b> This image is of a medium-range view overlooking the Lemanaghan Monastic Site in the foreground. Beyond the cemetery, the view primarily consists of agricultural fields, dense hedgerows, and trees, which limit long-range views. The visual setting is strongly influenced by existing residential buildings, overhead lines and network cables within the view. Excepting the monastic site, the overall character of the landscape is of a modified rural area.</p> <p><b>13B:</b> This image is of a short-range view towards the Lemanaghan Monastic Site ruins and cemetery in the foreground, which is enclosed by a dense grove of trees, limiting long ranging views. Residential dwellings and agricultural buildings seen in the left background of the view.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within either of the existing views.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’ (Two Views)</b>	<p><b>13A:</b> The closest proposed turbine, T05 appears as a tall vertical feature within the landscape, while the remaining turbines appear as moderately scaled elements, at a larger set back distance. Turbine T01 is primarily fully screened by intervening vegetation, with only the blade tip just about discernible. Some minimal visual overlap will occur with the blades of turbines T05 and T06.</p>

Viewpoint 13 – Lemanaghan Monastic Site (Views 13A, 13B)	
	<p><b>13B:</b> A majority of the proposed turbines are primarily full screened from view by intervening vegetation, while blade tips of turbines T09, T10 and T12 are just about discernible behind the dense vegetation. Visual stacking occurs with turbines T10 and T12.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The proposed Umma More Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the wireline view of VP 13B, however, in reality, visibility will not occur due to the substantial distance and intervening vegetation in such a flat landscape. As such, the proposed Umma More Wind Farm has no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account local residences in close proximity and the Lemanaghan Monastic Site.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines are seen of a large scale, comprising a large horizontal extent of views, comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of views. While turbine visibility may increase slightly during winter months due to reduced foliage, the magnitude of change remains Moderate.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Proposed Wind Farm is set-back beyond the buffer specifically created to mitigate impacts on the Lemanaghan Monastic Site as set out in local planning policy through the 2021 amended Wind Energy Zoning (as per the Chief Executive’s Report), with the exception of turbine T05, which is located on the boundary of an area designated ‘not Deemed Suitable for Wind Energy Developments’ (See maps and discussion in Section 1.5 of <i>Appendix 13-5: Lemanaghan Monastic Complex: Historic, Landscape, and Visual Context</i>).</li> <li>➤ The grove of trees enclosing the ruins of the monastic site provides substantial visual screening of many of the proposed turbines from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ While there is an impact on the visual setting of the landscape, this visual setting is already characterised by existing residential and agricultural development, as well as overhead lines and utility poles.</li> <li>➤ This is a short-range view and is not a distinctive or protected view of county, regional or national renown and is representative of typical rural landscape within the midland landscape.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are not situated within the immediate visual context of the monastic site, as they are seen beyond intervening treelines and the built form of agricultural sheds and houses, and as such, do not result in Significant visual effects on receptors experiencing the monastic site. An impact assessment on the Cultural Heritage and setting of Lemanaghan monastic site is included in Chapter 13.</li> <li>➤ The lower towers of the proposed turbines are screened from view by features such as mature vegetation and buildings in the intervening landscape, reducing their visual prominence in this view.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 13 – Lemanaghan Monastic Site (Views 13A, 13B)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a grid-like layout in line with the best practice siting and design guidance for peatland landscape types in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines. Consequently, they are seen in a broadly staggered linear array with varied setback positions from this viewpoint reducing the perceived prominence of many proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines read as a coherent arrangement of turbines within the landscape from this viewpoint with adequate spacing and limited visual overlap.</li> <li>➤ Potential visual impacts on the setting of the monastic site are considered reversible, given the proposed turbines are Long-Term in nature and have a defined operational lifespan of 35 years (see Operational Effects, Section 13.7).</li> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</li> </ul>
Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.14

## VP14: Hermitage

Viewpoint 14 – Hermitage – As Requested by National Monuments Service (NMS)	
Viewpoint Description and Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the Lemanaghan Hermitage Site in the townland of Lemanaghan.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint location was requested by the National Monuments Service (NMS)</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.28km south of the nearest proposed turbine (T14).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 617,527 N: 726,917</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 9/15</li> </ul>
LCA and Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lemanaghan Hermitage Site – <b>High</b></li> </ul>
Description of ‘Existing Views’	<p>This image of a short-range view overlooking the ruins of the Lemanaghan Hermitage Site in the centre foreground enclosed by shrubs and deciduous trees on an elevated mound. Some residential buildings can be seen in-between the breaks of the trees.</p> <p>There are no other existing wind farms visible within either of the existing views.</p>
Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’	<p>Proposed Turbine T09 is the most visible turbine from within this viewpoint, as it is visible to almost its full extent. All other turbines are largely screened from view by intervening landscape features, with primarily turbine blades discernible beyond the tree cover. Visibility will be further constrained during the summer months when trees are in full foliage.</p> <p>No other permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.</p>

Viewpoint 14 – Hermitage – As Requested by National Monuments Service (NMS)	
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the Lemanaghan Hermitage Site.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate horizontal extent, set-back from the viewpoint.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Slight = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  “An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines respect and adhere to the set-back distances from the Lemanaghan Monastic Site as set out in local planning policy through the 2021 amended Wind Energy Zoning (as per the Chief Executive’s Report), with the exception of turbine T05, which is only located approximately 2 m within the buffer.</li> <li>➤ The trees enclosing the Hermitage Site provide substantial screening from the proposed turbines. This screening will be greater during the summer months, when trees are in full foliage.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are not situated within the immediate visual context of the Lemanaghan Hermitage, as they are seen beyond intervening treelines, and as such, do not result in Significant visual effects on receptors experiencing the monastic site. An impact assessment on the Cultural Heritage and setting of Lemanaghan Hermitage site is included in Chapter 13.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a grid-like layout in line with the best practice siting and design guidance for peatland landscape types in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines. Consequently, they are seen in a broadly staggered linear array with varied setback positions from this viewpoint reducing the perceived prominence of many proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines read as a coherent arrangement of turbines within the landscape from this viewpoint with adequate spacing and limited visual overlap.</li> <li>➤ Potential visual impacts on the setting of the Hermitage site are considered reversible, given the proposed turbines are Long-Term in nature and have a defined operational lifespan of 35 years (see Operational Effects, Section 14.7.3).</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.”

1.3.15 **VP 15: Kilpatrick**

Viewpoint 15 – Kilpatrick	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L2016 Local Road in the townland of Kilpatrick.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 4.6km east of the nearest proposed turbine (T15).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 622,365 N: 729,091</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Receptors travelling along the L2016 – <b>Low</b></li> <li>➤ Church – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The view is from a local road overlooking an agricultural field of pasture, enclosed by mature tree vegetation, limiting long-range views into the distant background. The grounds of Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church are visible on the left-hand side of the image. Agricultural buildings are seen in the centre midground of the image. Dense deciduous woodland is seen in the distant background of the view. The overall landscape is of a rural character.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within this image.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>All 15 no. of the proposed turbines are visible from this view, from approximately mid-tower upwards, arranged in a staggered linear array. The proposed turbines occupy relatively small horizontal extent of the view above the horizon. The proposed turbines reduce in scale from right to left with increasing distance. Some visual stacking occurs between turbines T01 and T07, as well as between T11 and T10. The tip of the proposed met mast is just visible above the treeline in the distant background to the left of Proposed turbine T05.</p> <p>No permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>No other turbines are visible from this viewpoint; therefore, no cumulative visual effects will arise.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Low:</b> This viewpoint was assigned a Low sensitivity on account of receptors travelling along the local road. There is limited actual visibility from the church itself.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Slight:</b> The proposed turbines are partially visible over a moderate horizontal extent and their addition results in overall low levels of change within the view.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Low × Slight = Minor/Negligible = Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The baseline view is of a common rural landscape and does not comprise any distinctive or unique special qualities.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 15 – Kilpatrick	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The turbines are not in the direction of travel, therefore, are not in the direct line of vision of motorists along the road.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Not Significant (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.”</i></p>

1.3.16

## VP 16: Straduff

Viewpoint 16 – Straduff	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L70026 Local Road in the townland of Straduff.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 1.6km northwest of the nearest proposed turbine (T01).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 613,501 N: 728,891</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 12/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential receptors – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Local school – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>➤ Receptors travelling along the L70026 - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>The image is of a short-range view overlooking a flat agricultural field enclosed by mature boundary vegetation, limiting any long-range views into the bordering fields. The character of the landscape is of a working agricultural landscape.</p> <p>There are no existing wind farms visible within this image.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>12 of the 15 proposed turbines are partially visible as moderately scaled features in the distant background, beyond the dense vegetation. Turbines T01, T02, and T03 are fully screened by intervening vegetation (as seen in the wider 90° field of view). Turbines T10 and T11 are the most visible within this view, while the remaining turbines are seen from approximately mid-tower upwards, largely screened by intervening vegetation. Turbines T06, T05, T07, and T04 are primarily fully screened by intervening vegetation, with only the blade tips visible. Partial visual overlap occurs between turbines T09 and T13, as well as between turbines T12 and T08.</p> <p>No permitted or proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The permitted Kilbeggan turbine is theoretically visible in the wireline view. In reality, however, visibility does not occur due to the turbine being located in the distant background beyond distant treelines in this very flat landscape. As such, the permitted Kilbeggan turbine has no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.</p>

Viewpoint 16 – Straduff	
(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> (See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)	<b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines are seen of moderate scale, comprising a wide horizontal extent.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also adheres to the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines.</li> <li>➤ This viewpoint is representative of the worst-case scenario for residential receptors in the townland of Straduff, where only a small number of dwellings along this local road will experience such views of the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ Whilst more visibility will occur during the winter months when trees have lost their foliage, or through gaps in vegetation, the residual visual effect still amounts to ‘Moderate’, as the turbines do not alter any sensitive elements of the environment and are consistent with the existing and emerging baseline character of the landscape.</li> <li>➤ All turbine components are viewed above the distant horizon and do not obstruct or intrude upon views of any valuable or unique landscape features of county, regional or national sensitivity from this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are arranged in a staggered linear array with varied setback positions due to their grid-like layout, in line with the best practice siting and design guidance for peatland landscape types in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines. Consequently, they are seen as a coherent arrangement of turbines within the landscape, with reduced prominence of turbines within the view.</li> <li>➤ The baseline view is generally unremarkable and is typical of many other views of agricultural fields within the surrounding area.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.</i>

1.3.17

## VP17: Tumbeagh

Viewpoint 17 - Tumbeagh	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from the L7002 Local Road in the townland of Tumbeagh.</li> <li>➤ This local road dissects the EIAR site Boundary and the viewpoint was selected to show the proposed onsite 220kV substation and Grid Infrastructure.</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 690m north of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 615,527 N: 730,064</li> <li>➤ This is a rendered view of the proposed onsite 220kV substation</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 17 - Tumbleagh	
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receptors travelling along the L7001 Local Road - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of 'Existing View'</b>	This image is of a medium-range view across a cutover bogland landscape, with shrub vegetation throughout. Dense deciduous trees are visible to the left-hand side of the view, while a line of residential buildings can be seen in the distant background.
<b>Description of 'Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative'</b>	<p>The proposed on-site 220kV substation, towers and overhead lines are visible within the area of cutover peatlands visible in the centre foreground of the photomontage, set-back from the viewpoint.</p> <p>No proposed turbines are visible in the photomontage, however most of the proposed turbines will be visible behind this viewpoint and will have a substantial contribution to the overall visual effects from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	No other existing, permitted or proposed wind energy developments are visible from this viewpoint and no cumulative effects occur.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Low:</b> This viewpoint represents low trafficked local road through the Proposed Project site. (The visual impact of residences seen in the background of the view are assessed using the photomontage from Viewpoint 17);
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Substantial:</b> Whilst the visual change arising from the proposed onsite 220kV substation and grid infrastructure is considered 'Slight', the overall magnitude of change account for the impact of the proposed turbines which will be visible in relatively close proximity to the south of this viewpoint in the other direction.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Low × Substantial = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This viewpoint represents a low trafficked local road within the site, one of the few locations where the proposed onsite 220kV substation and OHL will be visible from the public road network. There will be no visibility of the proposed onsite 220kV substation from residential receptors located adjacent to other areas of this local road.</li> <li>The proposed onsite 220kV substation are seen within a short-range view comprising a cutover peatland, they are not seen with a view comprising any unique special qualities, and it is not a view of local, regional or national renown.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.18

## VP 18: Cooldorragh

Viewpoint 18 – Cooldorragh	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› View from the L7001 Local Road in the townland of Cooldorragh.</li> <li>› Located along the ‘Pilgrim’s Road to Clonmacnoise’ walking trail.</li> <li>› Located approximately 2.1km north of the nearest proposed turbine (T10).</li> <li>› Grid Reference: E: 614,876 N: 731,380</li> <li>› Number of proposed turbines visible: 14/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Offaly ILCA 4 – North-Western Lowland Farmland and Marginal Peatland – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Residential receptors in proximity – <b>High</b></li> <li>› Walkers on the ‘Pilgrims Road to Clonmacnoise’ Walking Trail - <b>Medium</b></li> <li>› Receptors travelling along the L7001 Local Road - <b>Low</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image shows a long-range view from an elevated vantage point on a local road overlooking Lemanaghan Bog. Large tracts of dense shrub vegetation and deciduous woodland can be seen throughout the bog, extending into the distant landscape. A disused railway used to facilitate historic peat extraction is visible in the centre middle-ground of the image. An existing met mast is just about discernible as a slender structure in the centre middle-ground of the image.</p> <p>The existing Leabeg Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the distant background in the wireline view, however, in reality, it is not visible from this viewpoint.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>14 no. of the proposed turbines are visible to their full extent within this view. Proposed turbine T15 is fully screened from view by dense vegetation on the far left-hand side of the image (seen only in the 90° field of view). There is partial visual stacking occurring between turbines T11, T13, and T14, as well as turbines T9, T10, and T12, where they appear as separate clusters to the remaining turbines. The remaining turbines (T05, T06, T08, T04, T07, T03, T02) are seen in a staggered linear array from this viewpoint. The closest turbines, T10 and T11, appear as the most prominent features from this viewpoint, while the remaining turbines are perceived as moderately scaled elements, reducing in size and scale from left to right with increasing distance. The proposed met mast is just about discernible as a slender vertical feature to the right of turbine T01 in the distant background (in the 90° field of view).</p> <p>The proposed on-site 220kV substation, towers and overhead lines are visible within the area of cutover peatlands visible in the right foreground of the photomontage beyond the historic railway.</p>
<b>Proposed Photomontage with Mitigation Planting</b>	<p>This photomontage shows the proposed onsite 220kV substation infrastructure once mitigation planting has matured.</p> <p>The eastern and northern extent of the proposed on-site 220kV substation compound is enclosed by willow and birch screen planting located on a tall berm, visually screening lower portions of this infrastructure.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>The existing Leabeg Wind Farm is theoretically visible in the wireline view, in reality, visibility will not occur due to the substantial distance and intervening vegetation in such a flat landscape. As such, the existing Lea Beg Wind Farm has</p>

Viewpoint 18 – Cooldorragh	
	no potential on cumulative visual effects with the proposed turbines from receptors represented by this viewpoint.
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of residential receptors in close proximity to the proposed turbines.
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<b>Moderate:</b> The proposed turbines are seen of a large scale comprising all of the 53.5-degree field of view. They are a visually coherent in this view and set back from this elevated vantage point. The proposed on is clearly visible in combination with the proposed turbines.
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<b>High × Moderate = Moderate = Significant (EPA, 2022)</b> <i>“An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.”</i>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With regard to the siting of turbines in proximity to residential dwellings, the Proposed Project exceeds the minimum 500m set back distance in the current DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and also exceeds the 4 times tip height set-back distance set out for residential visual amenity prescribed by the Draft DoHPLG 2019 Guidelines for receptors represented by this viewpoint.</li> <li>➤ This view is representative of a typical degraded peatland landscape and is not a view of any distinctive landscape features or designated views of local, county, regional or national renown.</li> <li>➤ A landscape plan including berms and planting measures are proposed along the eastern and northern boundary of the proposed onsite 220kV substation as a measure to visually soften and partially screen the proposed substation infrastructure from view and mitigate visual impacts.</li> <li>➤ This location represents one of the few areas along this road where such open views toward the proposed turbines occur, afforded by an unobstructed view from an elevated vantage point. Many receptors in the surrounding area, such as residences, will not experience comparable levels of visibility due to roadside screening and due to mature boundary vegetation surrounding their properties, which further obscures views of the Proposed Project. For many receptors along this road, views will be similar as to those experienced at VP15, with the intervening vegetation softening the visual impact of the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ This view is of a vast planar extent of peatland, where the open and expansive, flat nature of the peatland has the capability to effectively absorb and accommodate the scale of the Proposed Project.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located within an area designated as ‘Open to Consideration’ by the OCDP. The proposed turbines are therefore visible within an area of the landscape where it is envisioned for turbines to be seen, as guided by local planning policy.</li> <li>➤ As shown by the Route Screening Analysis in Chapter 14, this viewpoint, located along a bridge, is one of the few locations in this area to the north of the site with open visibility towards the Proposed Project. Other sections of the road are primarily characterised has having dense roadside screening from mature vegetation, limiting visibility towards the Proposed Project.</li> <li>➤ Mature vegetation is well-established in this area of the landscape where this viewpoint has been captured and in other areas along the walking trail, causing high levels of visual screening towards the proposed turbines from other locations along the road, particularly from lower-lying lands of the walking</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 18 – Cooldorragh	
	<p>trail. Significant visual effects is not anticipated from the ‘Pilgrim’s Way to Clonmacnoise’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located within a landscape that is suitable for wind energy development according to the local planning policy, which designates peatlands as capable landscapes to “accommodate wind energy developments”.</li> <li>➤ The lower portions of eastern and northern extent of the proposed onsite 220kV substation is enclosed by willow and birch screen planting.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.”</i></p>

1.3.19

## VP 19: Knockastia Hill

Viewpoint 19 – Knockastia Hill	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ View from Knockastia Hill in the townland of Coolatoor.</li> <li>➤ Located on Protected View 9 in the WCDP 2021-2027, a designated scenic view of 'local significance'</li> <li>➤ Located approximately 16km northeast of the nearest proposed turbine (T16).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference: E: 624,483 N: 743,404</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Westmeath LCA 8 - South Central Hills – <b>Medium</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Westmeath protected view 9 - <b>High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Existing View’</b>	<p>This image comprises a long-ranging and expansive, panoramic view overlooking a flat landscape comprising agricultural fields delineated by trees and other mature boundary vegetation. A sparse scattering of residential dwellings and farms are visible amongst the abundance of mature woodland existent throughout the landscape.</p> <p>The existing Leabeg, Derrinlough, Meenwaun and Cloghan wind farms are just visible as very small features in the distant background of the view (Nearest Cloghan turbine is 30km from this Viewpoint).</p>
<b>Description of ‘Proposed Photomontage with Cumulative’</b>	<p>All 15 no. turbines are visible as small-scale features, occupying a limited horizontal extent in the distant background. Visual stacking occurs between T14 and T15, T06 and T08, T11 and T09, as well as between T07, T08, and T02.</p> <p>The permitted Lea Mor turbine and permitted Cush Wind Farm are just about discernible in the distant background beyond the proposed turbines.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative visual effects occur where the proposed turbines are seen in combination with the existing Derrinlough, Meenwaun and Cloghan wind farms. All of these existing turbines are visible directly behind the Proposed Project. They are visible within the same line of sight from this vantage point and occupy the same horizontal extent of the view as the proposed turbines. The permitted Cush Wind Farm would add to this group of wind farms in a future receiving</p>

Viewpoint 19 – Knockastia Hill	
	<p>environment. These other existing and permitted turbines are visible beyond the proposed turbines and are of differing scale but are visible within the same narrow field of view from this viewpoint. The existing Leabeg and permitted Lea Mor turbine are visible slightly to the left of the photomontage.</p> <p>The proposed Umma More Wind Farm will potentially be visible from this location in a future receiving environment, an uncertain scenario. The proposed Umma More turbines will potentially be visible to the north-west from the peak of this hill, in an opposing field of view than presented in the photomontage. In combination successional cumulative visual effects could potentially occur, where a visual receptor would have to turn their head to see either development in a differing field of view. Cumulative visual effects would not be significant due to the large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines and the expansive nature of the panoramic landscape views from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The large-scale, flat and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and permitted wind energy developments. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>High:</b> This viewpoint was given a High sensitivity on account of the designated scenic view in the WCDP.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Negligible:</b> The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at a large setback distance from the viewpoint. The proposed turbines occupy a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view and do not extend the horizontal extent of turbines visible in the landscape.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>High × Negligible = Minor = Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are effectively absorbed in the expansive landscape view with a setback distance of 16km.</li> <li>➤ There is no easily accessible right of way to this viewpoint, and it is only designated of ‘local’ significance in WCDP. The walk to the top of the hill is not a way-marked or well-trafficked trail and the viewpoint is not a recreational or tourism hotspot.</li> <li>➤ The field structures and constituent elements of the expansive landscape provide a sense of scale in relation to the large setback distance of the proposed turbines, with proposed turbines viewed as sited beyond many fields and features, in the distant background, occupying a very short horizontal extent.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and other cumulative turbines comprise a relatively small horizontal extent of the 360 panoramic views available from this location.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>

1.3.20 **VP20: Hill of Uisneach**

Viewpoint 20 – Hill of Uisneach	
<b>Viewpoint Description and Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Drone Photomontage from atop the Hill of Uisneach</li> <li>➤ View from County Westmeath Protected View 26 (WCDP, 2021-2027).</li> <li>➤ Grid Reference (ITM): E: 629,030 N: 749,000</li> <li>➤ Number of proposed turbines visible: 15/15</li> </ul>
<b>LCA and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LCA 9 – Hill of Uisneach – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ Westmeath Area of High Amenity – <b>High</b></li> <li>➤ Tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site – <b>Very High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Visual Receptor(s) and Sensitivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Westmeath Protected View 36 – <b>Very High</b></li> <li>➤ Cultural Heritage Destination – <b>Very High</b></li> </ul>
<b>Description of ‘Rendered Wireline - Existing View’</b>	<p>This image is of a long-range view showing the expansive, long-ranging views of undulating agricultural farmland comprising patchwork of fields delineated by hedgerows and clusters of mature woodland. The peaked form of Knockastia Hill is a noticeable topographical feature visible in the centre midground of the image. A localised hill can be seen in the centre foreground to the left of the photomontage.</p> <p>The existing Leabeg, Derrinlough, Meenwaun and Cloghan wind farms are just visible as very small features in the distant background of the view.</p>
<b>Description of ‘Rendered Wireline Proposed View with Cumulative’</b>	<p>All 15 proposed turbines are seen as very small features in a neat linear array across the background of this view, comprising a very small horizontal extent in the panoramic landscape view. As shown by both the ‘Rendered Wireline’ photomontage and the corresponding wireline visual, the turbines are sited within the lower lands of the landscape, to the left of Knockastia Hill. The hubs of the proposed turbines are vertically aligned in the landscape giving the proposed turbines an organised and coherent form.</p> <p>The permitted Lea Mor turbine and permitted Cush Wind Farm are discernible in the distant background beyond the proposed turbines.</p>
<b>Cumulative Effects</b>	<p>Cumulative visual effects occur where the proposed turbines are seen in combination with the existing Derrinlough, Meenwaun and Cloghan wind farms. All of these existing turbines are visible directly behind the Proposed Project. They are visible within the same line of sight from this vantage point and occupy the same horizontal extent of the view as the proposed turbines. The permitted Cush Wind Farm would add to this group of wind farms in a future receiving environment. These other existing and permitted turbines are visible beyond the proposed turbines and are of differing scale but are visible within the same narrow field of view from this viewpoint. The existing Leabeg and permitted Lea Mor turbine are visible slightly to the left of the photomontage.</p> <p>The proposed Umma More and Derryadd Wind Farms will potentially be visible to the west and north-west from this location in a future receiving environment, an uncertain scenario. These will be visible in an opposing field of view than presented in the photomontage. In combination successional cumulative visual effects could potentially occur, where a visual receptor would have to turn their head to see either development in a differing field of view. Cumulative visual effects would not</p>

Viewpoint 20 – Hill of Uisneach	
	<p>be significant due to the large visual separation between these turbines and the proposed turbines and the expansive nature of the panoramic landscape views from this viewpoint.</p> <p>The large-scale, flat and expansive nature of the view effectively accommodates the addition of the proposed turbines with other existing and permitted wind energy developments. There are no Significant cumulative visual effects that arise at this viewpoint as a result of the proposed turbines. The cumulative visual effects that do arise have been incorporated into the determination of the magnitude of change below.</p>
<b>Sensitivity of Visual Receptor(s)</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Very High:</b> All visual receptors visiting the Hill of Uisneach are given a ‘Very High’ sensitivity on account of the importance and significance of the Hill and the likelihood that most receptors are visiting in a recreational capacity to experience the monuments on the Hill and its landscape setting, as well as take in the panoramic views available from elevated vantage points</p> <p>It is to be noted that the Hill of Uisneach is privately owned land and there is <b>no</b> public access to the hill or its monuments, only paid access at the behest of the landowner.</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change</b> <i>(See Definitions in LVIA Methodology Appendix 14-1)</i>	<p><b>Negligible:</b> The proposed turbines are seen as very small features at a very large setback distance from the viewpoint, occupying a very small portion of the 53.5-degree field of view.</p>
<b>Significance of Effect</b>	<p><b>Very High × Negligible = Moderate/Minor = Moderate (EPA, 2022)</b></p> <p><i>“An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends”.</i></p>
<b>Mitigating Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located 23.5km south-west from the Hill of Uisneach, at a significant distance from this viewpoint, where they are seen as very small features in the distant landscape.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines are located 16km beyond Knockastia Hill, in the distant background, as seen in the rendered wireline view and therefore there is substantial separation in the landscape, and they do not directly disrupt any visual connectivity between the Hill of Uisneach and Knockastia.</li> <li>➤ The substantial set back distance in combination with intervening features of the landscape such as the rolling landform, varied field patterns and the abundance of mature vegetation provide a physical landscape buffer between the proposed turbines and the Hill of Uisneach landscape and the setting of the important cultural heritage monuments at this location.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines and other existing turbines comprise an extremely narrow spatial extent within in an otherwise expansive panoramic landscape view.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines do not obstruct intervisibility between any heritage sites and the Hill of Uisneach and do not compromise the integrity of any visual links between the Hill and the wider cultural landscape.</li> <li>➤ As demonstrated by ZTV mapping, indicative online imagery and investigation of aerial satellite imagery, the proposed turbines are only likely to be visible from elevated areas on the south-western aspect of the Hill of Uisneach.</li> </ul>

Viewpoint 20 – Hill of Uisneach	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Potential visual impacts are considered reversible, given the proposed turbines are Long-Term in nature and have a defined operational lifespan of 35 years (see Effects on Tentative UNESCO Landscape Receptors, Section 14.7.3.4).</li> <li>➤ There are large areas within the Hill of Uisneach site, including areas where culturally significant monuments are located where there are no potential for views of the proposed turbines.</li> <li>➤ The proposed turbines will not fundamentally detract from the visitor experience of the Hill, its landscape and monuments, or any visual connectivity with other landmarks or places of significance elsewhere in the wider landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Residual Effect (incl. mitigating factors)</b>	<p><b>Slight (EPA, 2022)</b>  <i>“An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.”</i></p>