APPENDIX 12.1

12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoint Locations

12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

The study area comprises a mix of landscape areas which can principally broken down by the highly susceptible coastal context and the more robust inland landscape influenced by typical working land uses. The southwest quadrant of the study area also encompasses an area of more remote and visually susceptible upland terrain.

The coastal landscape presents a high degree of scenic amenity due to the rugged nature of this landscape context, which comprises an array of coastal features, including steep cliffs, distinctive rock formations, broad estuaries and sandy beaches and strands. The highly scenic nature of this landscape context is further highlighted by the numerous scenic route designations that occur along coastal routes within the study area, in addition to the linear amenity receptors such as the highly popular Wild Atlantic Way, which also traverse this coastal context. Visual receptors along the coastline tend to range between Very High to High-medium with those of the highest sensitivity associated with sensitive and popular amenity and heritage features such as the Céide Fields and Downpatrick Head.

Views of the inland working agricultural landscape are generally pleasant in terms of its rolling pastoral aesthetic and 'green', settled working character. The network of hedgerows and vegetation that occur throughout it contributes to some sense of naturalness and, in combination with its undulating topography, generates a high degree of containment in many locations. However, whilst a pleasant pastoral aesthetic is noted throughout some parts of the study area, the wider landscape is also influenced by an array of anthropogenic features such as existing wind farm development, urban settlements, commercial and industrial development and major route receptors. Overall, the sensitivity of visual receptors within the more inland working landscape context tends to range between Medium and Medium-low, with those of a Medium sensitivity representing more open expansive views across the wider inland landscape. It is also worth noting that some local amenity and heritage features also occur within the inland working landscape, which heightens the degree of receptor sensitivity at a local level. Overall, there is a notable reduction in the degree of scenic amenity afforded within the inland parts of the study area, where there is a notable and longstanding sense of human intervention on the landscape.

Key differentials in terms of visual receptor sensitivity relate to the occupation of the visual receptor and whether views of the surrounding landscape are an inherent part of the experience. Static residential receptors are considered generally more susceptible to changes in views over those where views are experienced transiently by those travelling through the landscape, particularly on major transport routes where road infrastructure and traffic volume draw from visual amenity.

Likewise, receptors located in closer proximity to the Wind Farm Site are considered more susceptible to changes in views over those where views are experienced at a distance.

On the basis of the site-specific factors outlined above and in accordance with the general visual receptor sensitivity considerations contained in the methodology **Section** Error! Reference source not found., visual receptor sensitivity judgement are provided for each representative viewpoint in the table below in **Section 12.1b** below.

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

The assessment of visual impacts at each of the selected viewpoints is aided by spatially accurate wireframe images and photomontages that have been produced in accordance with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual representation of wind farms: Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017).

The presented images for each viewpoint include;

1. Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)
2. Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
3. Wireframe view (53.5° included angle)
4. Montage View (53.5° included angle)

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	**Downpatrick Head** – This is a view inland afforded from Downpatrick Head peninsula that is representative of users of the highly scenic walk. The depicted view is oriented inland, where an open view is afforded across smooth rolling terrain contained in a mix of pastoral farmland, bogland and blocks of conifer forestry. It is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to views in the opposite direction across the immediate coastline and towards Dún Briste sea stack.	**High**	The nacelles of up to five turbines and the blade sets of up to four other turbines have the potential to be viewed here across the distant ridge, where they present at a modest scale in the background. The turbines are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast and will have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence in this open view. The turbines do not appear over-scaled along the broad elongated ridge at just under c. 6km. However, they will generate a minor sense of visual clutter as the proposed blade sets are viewed overlapping. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will result in a very minor increase in the intensity of built development in this view, they will not detract from this highly scenic coastal setting. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP2	**Local road intersection at Muingrevagh** – This is a view afforded from a local road intersection south of the main Downpatrick Head carpark. The view is representative of the local community, a section of this scenic route and users of the Wild Atlantic Way driving route. The depicted view is oriented inland and extends across a settled working rural landscape. It is important to note that the main aspect of amenity along this local road scenic route relates to views in the opposite direction towards the coastline.	**High-medium**	Views of the blade sets of up to three turbines have the potential to be afforded here, where they present along the elevated elongated ridge at a distance of over 4km. The blade sets present with a very low degree of visual contrast backed by the sky and will have a sub-dominant visual presence in this view. Whilst there is some sense of visual ambiguity generated as to the actual location of these turbines, any negative aesthetic visual impacts are heavily offset by the limited visibility of the turbines. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP3	**Local road at Doonadoba** – This is an inland view afforded from an elevated coastal road at Doonadoba. The view is representative of local community receptors and users of the local road, which forms part of a scenic route designation and the Wild Atlantic Way. The depicted view extends inland in the opposite direction to the more scenic and susceptible coastline, and is contained at a short distance by the sloping terrain cloaked in a mix of pastoral farmland and conifer forestry.	**High-medium**	Up to six turbines will be revealed to varying degrees in this uphill view. Whilst the turbines will have the potential to be noticed from this distance of just over 2.7km, they do not present with any strong visual presence, some of which are heavily screened by the ridgetop block of conifer forest. It is not considered that the proposed turbines will distract the viewer from the more sensitive and highly scenic coastal views; thus, the turbines' visual presence is deemed sub-dominant. In terms of aesthetics, the turbines present in a legible manner, albeit the two nearest visible turbines present stunted as their towers are heavily screened. The partial view of turbine blade sets will also generate a slight sense of visual irritation. Notwithstanding, the turbines are well offset from the road corridor and will not detract from the views across the coastline and out to sea, which is the main aspect of visual amenity in this instance. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low.	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP4	**Céide Fields** – This is a broad, highly scenic view afforded from the Céide Fields visitor centre. The view is representative of this internationally renowned heritage receptor and the scenic route that occurs along the coast road located immediately to the north of the visitor centre. The depicted view extends east across the rugged coastline and rolling remote inland landscape and is contained by a series of ridges in the distance to the east.	**Very High**	Partial visibility of up to six of the proposed turbines has the potential to be afforded from this elevated view. The turbines will be viewed as small-scale background features from this distance of over c.10km and will have a minimal visual presence in this broad sweeping panorama. The proposed turbines will be viewed in a relatively condensed cluster with some instances of stacked views of turbines. Notwithstanding, any negative aesthetic effects are considerably offset by the viewing distances involved and the broad nature of the view. It is also important to note that the turbines are viewed well offset from the coastline, which is the most visually susceptible landscape feature in this view. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP5	**Local road at Creevagh** – This is a view from a section of local road scenic route that also forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way situated at an elevated location along the coastline at Creevagh. The view is representative of local community receptors in addition to the scenic designation and linear amenity feature. The view extends inland in the opposite direction to the coastline across an area of moorland towards a nearby forestry plantation that contains this aspect of the view. It is important to note that this route's main aspect of visual amenity is across the coastline and out to sea, in the opposite direction to the depicted view. Furthermore, this section of the local road is also notably influenced by an existing quarring facility.	**High-medium**	The northernmost turbines in the proposed array will be visible here, the nearest of which rises some 1.9km from this representative viewpoint. Nonetheless, the turbines do not present with any spatial dominance and are considered to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to co-dominant along this section of the local road corridor. Indeed, the turbines are well offset from the local road corridor and present beyond the nearby conifer forestry plantation. Whilst the visible turbines will generate a clear increase in the intensity of development along this inland section of the view, they will have little notable impact on the coastal views afforded from here, as the turbines present inland in the opposite direction from the main aspect of visual amenity. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium-low.	**Moderate-Slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP6	**R314 at Doonfeeny Upper** – This is a locally elevated view from a section of a scenic route designation located along the R314 regional road west of Ballycastle Beach. The view is representative of users of the regional road scenic route and local community receptors along this section of the coastal route. The view extends east, where Ballycastle Beach is visible in the middle ground and is backed by areas of low-lying pastoral farmland. In this distance, the view is contained by a broad low ridge cloaked in a mix of forestry, pastoral farmland and areas of moorland.	**High-medium**	The proposed development is visible along the broad elongated ridgeline at a distance of over 6km. The turbines will be visible here, albeit as modest scale background features and will have a sub-dominant visual presence. Nonetheless, the proposed wind farm presents with a relatively notable lateral extent with the potential for visibility of up to 15 proposed turbines, which will be revealed to varying degrees ranging from full nacelles to partial glimpses of blade tips. Nonetheless, as the ridgetop vegetation will partially and intermittently screen the majority of the theoretically visible turbines, the perceived scale and extent of development will be notably less than the 15 potentially visible turbines highlighted in the wireframe view. Overall, the visible turbines will increase the intensity of development in this aspect of the view but will have little visual influence over the more	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			susceptible sections of the coastline viewed in the opposite direction to the development. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed Low.	
VP7	**Kilbride Graveyard** – This is an uphill view afforded from a local road adjacent to Kilbride Graveyard. The view is representative of the local community and local heritage receptor, whilst this section of the local road corridor also forms part of the Western Way. The depicted view is oriented uphill to the east, whereas the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to the open views across the landscape to the west.	**Medium**	The blade tips of up to three turbines have the potential to be viewed rotating along the elongated vegetated ridgeline located to the east and southeast of the neighbouring graveyard. The rotating turbine components will have a minimal visual presence here due to their limited visibility, and even if viewed from here, the turbine components will have little notable impact on the visual amenity of this scene. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**
VP8	**Local road at Knockboha** – This is a view afforded from a small residential cluster in a remote area of the landscape in the townland of Knockboha. The view is representative of the local community and affords views across the surrounding elevated plateau contained in forestry, moorland and pastoral fields.	**Medium**	Whilst the turbines are partially screened in the depicted view, clearer views of the turbines will be afforded from the neighbouring dwellings, as highlighted in the wireframe view. The proposed development presents here with a broad lateral extent of c. 100 degrees, where the nacelles and blade sets of up to 11 turbines will be visible, whilst views of the blade tips of a further seven turbines also have the potential to be afforded. The proposed turbines will present with a dominant visual presence here due to the near distance of the turbines, the nearest of which is less than c.700m from the view. Aesthetically, there will be some sense of visual clutter and confusion generated by the overlapping of the nearby blade sets, whilst some of the turbines will appear slightly stunted as their towers are screened by a combination of terrain and intervening vegetation. Nevertheless, the turbines viewed to the south present with a notable sense of perspective, highlighting the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array. Overall, the turbines will generate a marked	**Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			increase in the intensity of built development in this locally elevated and remote context. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed High-medium.	
VP9	**Local road at Castletown** - This is a view afforded from a locally elevated linear cluster of dwellings located along a local road in the townland of Castletown that is representative of the local community. The depicted view extends uphill to the west for a short distance, where it is contained by the nearby sloping terrain and residential dwellings. It is important to note that the main aspect of amenity here relates to views to the east across Lacken Strand and Carrowmore Beach and its surrounding coastline, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.	**High-medium**	The nacelles and rotating blade sets of two turbines will be visible from here, whilst the blade tip of one further turbine has the potential to be viewed rotating along the near ridge. The two nearest turbines will present at a prominent scale from this near distance of some c. 900m, however they present with no notable sense of overbearing as they rise beyond the nearby ridgeline. Whilst it is not an ideal scenario to have turbine blade sets viewed rotating along the rooflines of nearby dwellings, the proposed turbines are viewed in the opposite direction of the main aspect of visual amenity, which is to the east, which is highlighted by the orientation of the dwellings located along this local road section. Overall, the turbines will generate a considerable increase in the quantum of built development along this local road section, albeit they will have little influence on the views afforded across the coastline to the east. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP10	**Carrowmore Beach Carpark** – This is a highly scenic elevated panorama afforded from a parking area above Carrowmore Beach. The view is representative of users of this local amenity feature and surrounding local community receptors, as well as a local walking trail. The depicted view extends across the broad Carrowmore Beach back by a dune system. The view is contained further to the west by a broad working ridge cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland.	**High-medium**	The proposed turbines are clearly visible, rotating along the broad elongated ridgeline in the background of the view and present with an extensive horizontal extent. The majority of the visible turbines rotate freely above the underlying ridge and are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Although the turbines will be a noticeable feature of this locally elevated view, they present at a modest scale from this distance of over 3km and are considered to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to co-dominant. In terms of aesthetics, this is a highly legible view of a wind energy development that does not appear out of place in terms of its scale or function. Whilst the turbines will increase the intensity of	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			development in the view, they are well offset from the immediate coastline and will not markedly detract from this coastal setting. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium-low.	
VP11	**Local road at Conaghra** – This is a broad, sweeping panoramic view afforded from a local road at Conaghra, which also forms part of the Western Way. The view is representative of the local community and users of the linear amenity feature. From this elevated vantage point, a sweeping panoramic view is afforded across the rolling nearby landscape, which is principally cloaked in moorland, extensive areas of conifer forest and pastoral farmland. Killala Bay is visible in the distance to the east, whilst to the south and southwest, the view is contained in the distant background by distinctive upland hills and ridges in the Ox Mountains and the Nephin range. The existing Killala wind farm is also visible in the distance to the southeast.	**High-medium**	All 18 no. turbines will be visible in this view to varying degrees, with the nearest proposed turbine located just over 300m northeast of the representative viewpoint. Whilst the nearest turbines located north and south of the local road are viewed here in a prominent manner, due to the loose and irregular spacing characteristics, they do not generate any strong sense of overbearing. Indeed, in this broad elevated setting, the turbines will not appear out of place in terms of their scale or function. Whilst the proposed turbines will be one of the most prominent built features along this section of the local road and western way trail, they do not block or strongly obstruct the distant views across the wider landscape. Furthermore, the loose arrangement of the turbines allows for a high degree of visual permeability through the proposed array. Nevertheless, there will be a marked increase in the intensity and scale of development in this local landscape context, and therefore, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium.	**Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP12	**R314 regional road at Carrowhibbock Lower east of Ballycastle** - This view is afforded along the R314 road corridor on the eastern periphery of Ballycastle, in the townland of Carrowhibbock. As such, the view is representative of the local community, the regional road, and the population centre of Ballycastle. The depicted view follows the road corridor downhill to the east, contained by farm	**Medium**	The nacelles and rotating blade sets of up to five turbines have the potential to be visible from here, in combination with the blade tips of up to six further turbines, as shown in the wireframe. Nonetheless, due to localised vegetation screening at this location, only a portion of these are clearly visible in the depicted view. The clearest views of turbines are afforded in the northern extent of the scheme, where the proposed turbines and turbine blade tips rotate along the skyline ridge at a modest but noticeable scale. The single turbine along the ridgeline is viewed at a	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	and residential buildings to the north and shelter vegetation to the south, while broader rolling landforms can be seen rising in the distance. However, there are broader views over open farmland to the north and south, with views to the north sloping gradually towards the coast.		distance of over 3.5km and is easily absorbed into this broad landscape context, with little influence on the viewer experience, as are the partial blades or tips, which are visible immediately to the south of it. However, the pair at Cloonanass will present at a more prominent scale, from a distance of c. 2.6km. Although partially screened by vegetation, the movement of blades rotating behind vegetation may cause some visual irritation or confusion. As the view varies with road users' location along the road, there will be a reduction in screening further to the east, resulting in the legibility of the proposed development in the wider landscape context. In contrast to this, the turbines have the potential to be afforded further layers of vegetative screening within the central parts of the settlement of Ballycastle further to the west. Overall, the turbines will generate an increase in the quantum of built development along this road section, particularly as they are revealed from behind vegetation. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium-Low.	
VP13	**Local road at Lacken Strand** - This is a pleasant view from the local road access to the Wind Atlantic Way Point at Lacken Strand. Representative of the Co. Mayo scenic designation, a tourism attraction in the form of a Wild Atlantic Way Point, and the surrounding local community – including the residences and St. Patrick's Church, visible in the foreground. These built features are backed by vegetation and a low hill, which contains views to the northwest, sweeping to the south to reveal the very tops of the Nephin range. The existing Killala Wind Farm is visible	**High-medium**	The proposal presents as a number of smaller groups of turbines due to distance and screening. To the south, there are two clearly visible over intervening landform and vegetation, further north, to the southwest of the viewpoint are five turbines and the met mast clearly visible at a larger scales southwest of Lacken Castle and surrounding residences. Due to the height of the turbines and context within vegetation over the ridgeline, these five do not overwhelm the nearby built form, however they introduce an intensity of anthropogenic development. Finally, directly to the west of the view, there are two partially visible over the adjacent residence, partially screened by vegetation. Across the width of the depicted view, between these groups, there are a number of partial	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	to the south-eastern periphery of the view. It should be noted that the depicted view, although pleasant, is the opposite direction to the primary amenity over Lacken Bay, as indicated by the orientation of the residences along the local road.		blades and tips which add a degree of clutter and ambiguity to the extent of the wind development, however in terms of visual presences they do not overwhelm the view or surrounding residences. Additionally, these are all viewed in the opposite direction to the main aspect of amenity, which is to the east across Lacken Strand. Therefore, the magnitude of effect is deemed Medium-Low.	
VP14	**Local road at Glebe northwest of lack Old Graveyard** - This is a partially enclosed, uphill view located on a local road in the townland of Glebe, near Lack Old Graveyard. The viewpoint is representative of the local community receptors and the heritage receptor of the graveyard. There is partial visibility through roadside vegetation to the crest of the hill. There are anthropogenic influences across the view in the form of a residence along the road towards the top of the hill and a farm shed and gates immediately adjacent to the viewpoint.	**Medium**	Although there are a number of proposed turbines theoretically visible across the crest of the hill as highlighted in the wireframe view, the full extent of the potential visible turbines is not readily discernible due to the screening by surrounding vegetation and built development. To the south, where the landform and vegetation drop away to reveal a more open view, there are four turbines rise at a notable scale, albeit two of these are partially screened by vegetation and a nearby farm shed in the depicted view. There are a number of blade tips potentially visible across the view also, including over the roofline of the residence along the road corridor which has the potential to generate a degree of visual clutter and irritation in the view. Overall, the proposed development will add clutter to the view and generate a considerable increase in the quantum of built development along this local road section. It is also important to note that the principal aspect of amenity along this road relates to views to the east towards Lacken Strand and the coastline, which the proposed turbines will have little notable influence on. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP15	**Local road at Carrowmacshane** - This is an expansive view across the wider landscape surrounding Killala Bay (albeit Killala Bay is only briefly visible), located	**Medium**	All 18 no. turbines will be visible in this view to varying degrees, with the nearest proposed turbine located just over 800m south of the representative viewpoint. Whilst the nearest turbines located north and south of the local	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	along a local road in the townland of Carrowmacshane and is representative of the local community. The landform falls away from the viewer, revealing a patchwork of bog and extensive areas of conifer forestry. In the distance, the horizon is defined by the Ox Mountains and Nephin Range, visible at the periphery of the depicted view to the north and south, respectively.		road are viewed here in a prominent manner, due to the loose and dispersed spacing characteristics, they do not generate any strong sense of enclosure or become overbearing. In this broad, elevated setting, the turbines will not appear out of place in terms of their scale or function. Although the proposed turbines extend to a full 180-degree extent of the view, including over the key landscape features of the wider landscape (Killala Bay, Nephin), there is a strong sense of visual permeability afforded through the scheme. The proposal will be one of the most prominent built features along this section of the local road, and while there is a clear contextual separation from the viewer through the turbines being located within the wider bog and conifer forestry, the intensification of development in this local landscape context is a marked change from the existing view. Therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	
VP16	**Local road at Lissadrone West** - This is a wide view representative of elevated local residences in the townland of Lissadrone West. Located along the local road, the depicted view is oriented to the west, slightly uphill towards the adjacent residence, which is set within a mix of land-uses typical of the area. To the east, there are expansive highly scenic views, sloping views towards Killala Bay and the Ox Mountains, which is the primary source of amenity in this instance, highlighted by the orientation of the neighbouring dwelling.	**Medium**	Clear and prominent views of the proposed turbines in the central parts of the array will be afforded from this near distance of just under c. 600m. The nearest turbines present with a dominant visual presence, albeit they do not present over-scaled or with any strong sense of overbearing across this broad elevated crest of hills and ridges. The nearest proposed turbines present in a clear manner, well-spaced across the view, although with one instance where the proposed turbines visually overlap the residence. Additionally, the proposed development is well contained to the ridgelines or uphill areas and is well separated from the nearby farmland or highly susceptible coastal areas. While the proposal is located in close proximity to the viewpoint and dominates much of the view to the west, this is mitigated by the clear relationship with the receiving landform, spacing of turbines along the ridgeline, and location away from the primary amenity of	**Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			the view. Therefore, the magnitude of effect is deemed High-medium.	
VP17	**Local road at Carrowtrasna** – This is a pleasant view that extends across Lacken Strand and its surrounding pastoral landscape from a locally elevated section of road at Carrowtrasna that is representative of both the local community and a local walking trail. The view is contained further west of Lacken Strand by a broad working ridge cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland, intervening hedgerow vegetation and blocks of conifer forestry.	**Medium**	This is one of the few landscape contexts where the nacelles of all 18 turbines will be visible. The full lateral extent of development is discernible here and extends for over 120-degrees of the afforded view. Whilst the turbines will not present in a dominant manner from this distance over c. 3km, their considerable lateral extent will define them as one of the more notable built features in this view. Thus, the visual presence of the development is considered co-dominant. Notwithstanding, the turbines are well offset from the more visually susceptible coastline and are situated along elevated sections of the broad distant ridge, some of which are partially obscured by a low rolling ridge located in the foreground of the view to the southeast. Despite their considerable lateral extent, the turbines are viewed in a highly legible manner with clear and loose spacing characteristic and few instances of overlapping blade sets. Overall, the scale and intensity of development will notably increase in this aspect of the view, however the turbines will not appear as incongruous features in the context of their working underlying land uses. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium-low.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP18	**R314 at Aghaleague east of Heathfield River** – This is a partially contained view afforded from a section of regional road adjacent to a linear cluster of residential dwellings in the townland of Aghaleague. The depicted view extends east from the regional road and is representative of the major route and surrounding local community receptors. The view is partially contained by a near mature tree	**Medium-low**	This is a relatively clear and comprehensible view of the development where only two turbines are prominently visible rising above the near vegetated ridgeline at a distance of some c. 900m, with the blade tips of several other turbines partially visible rotating against the ridge a short distance to the north of these turbines. While the turbines will be noticeable features of the eastward view, they are well offset from the regional road corridor and are afforded a clear degree of contextual separation situated beyond the broad low ridge. The clear and legible views of	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	line that denotes the corridor of the Heatfield River, beyond which a low rolling ridge cloaked in a mix of pastoral lands and commercial conifer forestry encloses the eastern aspect of the view.		the two nearest turbines will considerably offset any sense of ambiguity generated by the partial views of turbine blade tips whilst the turbines do not appear out of place in terms of their scale or function in this relatively robust landscape context. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	
VP19	**Local road at Carrowmore** – This is a relatively contained view afforded from a local road section in the townland of Carrowmore. The view is representative of the local community in addition to the Wild Atlantic Way and Western Way, both of which traverse this section of the local road. The depicted westward view is contained at a relatively short distance by rolling terrain located immediately west of the local road in combination with the surrounding vegetation and nearby dwellings. To the east, a brief view is afforded across rolling pastoral lands in the direction of Lacken Strand; however, it is important to note that this section of local road is otherwise heavily surrounded by dense areas of roadside vegetation.	**Medium**	Whilst the wireframes identify the potential for visibility of up to 13 turbine nacelles and a further four turbine tips, there will be a much lesser degree of actual visibility due to the high degree of intervening vegetation in this local landscape context. Nonetheless, there is potential for partial views of turbines to be afforded from a near distance along this section of the local road corridor. A cluster of three turbines will be intermittently visible at a distance of c. 1.2km from the local road corridor, albeit partially and intermittently screened by the intervening vegetation and rolling nearby terrain. Visibility of two turbines is also afforded in the northern extent of the development, whilst the southern extent of the scheme will be heavily veiled by surrounding vegetation. In some instances, some visual and contextual ambiguity will be generated as to the actual locations of the turbines with their towers partially screened by intervening vegetation and terrain. Overall, the proposed wind farm will result in a notable increase in the quantum of built development along this section of the local road, however, the turbine will not appear as an inappropriate addition to this working landscape. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP20	**R297 at Quigaboy** – This is a pleasant coastal view afforded from the R297 regional road at Quigaboy that represents the regional road scenic route designation and users of the major route.	**High-medium**	The proposed turbines will be visible across Killala Bay, rotating along locally elevated lands at a distance of over 15km. The turbines will present as small-scale background features and will only be visible during the clearest of viewing conditions. Whilst the rotating	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	While the scenic route is designated for coastal views, the coastline is well offset from this section of the regional road, with much of the fore-to-middle ground context influenced by pastoral lands and nearby wind turbines. A view across Killala Bay is afforded to the west, whilst distant views out to sea are afforded to the north.		components have the potential to be noticed here, they are deemed to have a minimal visual presence in this broad sweeping panorama. Although there will be some stacked views of turbines, any notable negative aesthetic effects will be heavily offset by the sweeping nature of the view and the viewing distances involved. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible.	
VP21	**Local road at Ballynaleck** – This is a locally elevated view afforded from a local road in the townland of Ballynaleck. This is a view of two aspects and is representative of the local community. To the north, the view is contained at a relatively short distance by a near-rolling hill cloaked in pastoral farmland. To the south, a much broader and open view is afforded and extends across an expansive area of pastoral fields and blocks of commercial conifer forestry. In this distance, the rolling uplands in the OX Mountains and Nephin range define the skyline.	**Medium**	The proposed turbines are viewed here in several groups, some of which are viewed at a near distance. The nearest cluster of visible turbines is located uphill to the north, where two turbines will be visible at a prominent scale, the nearest of which is situated some c. 800m from the local road context. The visual presence of these turbines is also slightly accentuated by the uphill nature of the view. To the south and west, several clusters of turbines are visible at a prominent but not overbearing scale, albeit the two turbines to the west are heavily screened from this viewing context by the roadside vegetation. The proposed substation is also visible to the south at a distance of c. 1km and is viewed surrounded by pastoral fields. Aesthetically, the turbines present in a relatively comprehensible manner, with some visual clutter and visual irritation generated by the overlapping of turbines viewed to the north. Nonetheless, the perceived scale and extent of development is slightly diminished by the dispersed layout of the proposed turbines. This also allows for a strong degree of visual permeability through the proposed development. Overall, the proposed development will contribute to a marked increase in the intensity of built development in this local landscape context, with the proposed wind farm becoming one of the	**Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			defining built features along this local road. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High.	
VP22	**Local road at Ballymurphy** – This is a view afforded from a relatively remote local road corridor in the townland of Ballymurphy. The view has been selected to represent several isolated residential receptors in this local landscape context. To the north, an uphill view is afforded along the local road corridor, which is bound by sloping pastoral fields and blocks of conifer forest along the more elevated lands in the distance. The view to the south is afforded a more notable degree of containment, with an adjacent conifer forest plantation truncated views to the southeast. Partial visibility across the neighbouring scrubby lands is afforded to the southwest and is contained shortly thereafter by another nearby block of conifer forest.	**Medium-low**	The proposed development presents in several directions from this remote local road laneway. The two most prominently visible turbines are situated to the northwest, the nearest of which is viewed at a distance of just over c. 500m. The scale of these turbines is slightly accentuated by their uphill nature, however, they do not appear over scaled in the context of this remote context that comprises broad underlying land uses patterns. To the northeast, two turbines and the proposed met mast are fully revealed, rotating in silhouette against the sky at a distance of c. 1.5km whilst the blade sets of up to three other turbines are viewed rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge. A cluster of three turbines and an additional met mast will also be visible at a notable scale to the south, rising above an extensive conifer forest plantation. Although the several clusters of turbines will generate a slight sense of enclose in this remote landscape context, the clustered nature of the proposed development allows for a degree of visual respite between each. Overall, the dispersed and irregular layout of the developments diminishes its overall perceived scale, where a combination of terrain and vegetative screening screens several of the other turbines in the proposed array. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed High-medium	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP23	**Local road at Ballykinlettragh** – This is a pleasant locally elevated view situated along sloping lands at Ballykinlettragh. The view is representative of local community receptors along these sloping lands in the wider southwest quadrant of the central study area. The afforded view is oriented to the east, where a series of	**Medium**	Up to two turbine blade tips have the potential to be viewed along the ridge at a distance of a little over 5km. Only the tips of the rotating blade sets will be visible, rotating along the vegetated ridgeline. Due to their limited degree of visual exposure, they will have no notable effect on the visual amenity of this view. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	rolling pastoral fields in the foreground heavily veil the middle ground context. In the distance, the view is contained by an elevated elongated ridge and Aghaleague Hill, both of which are cloaked in a mix of pastoral farmland, moorland and blocks of conifer forestry.			
VP24	**Local road at Carbad More** – This is a pleasant but relatively typical rural view of rolling pastoral fields and blocks of conifer forestry afforded from a section of local road in the townland of Carbad More. The view is representative of the local community and users of the Wild Atlantic Way driving route, which passes along this local road. The view extends west from the local road across a series of low-rolling fields cloaked in pastoral farmland and scrubby vegetation. To the northwest, the view extends towards a distant low-rolling hill cloaked in pastoral fields and conifer forestry. It is important to note that there is no real sense of the coastline from this landscape context despite the local road forming part of the Wild Atlantic Way.	**Medium-low**	The proposed development presents here in two distinct clusters. Directly to the west, the southern turbines in the proposed array present at a notable scale, the nearest of which is situated just over 700m from the local road context. To the northwest, the northernmost turbines in the proposed development present in a condense cluster at a more modest scale. Overall, the proposed wind farm will be one of the more notable built features along this section of the local road corridor and is considered to have a dominant visual presence. The loose arrangement of the turbines in the southern array allows for a highly legible view of the turbines, where they present with a strong sense of perspective, highlighting the depth and dispersion of the proposed array along this rolling landscape context. To the northwest, the more distant condensed cluster of turbines generates a clear sense of visual clutter and visual irritation due to the stacked views of turbines and turbine blade sets. Whilst the proposed wind farm development will result in a marked increase in the intensity of built development in this landscape context, the turbines do not appear out of place in terms of their scale or function, whilst the dispersed and irregular spacings of the proposed array will slightly diminish the overall perceived scale of development. Therefore, on balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP25	**Templemurry Graveyard** – This is a locally elevated view afforded from Templemurray Graveyard immediately east of Rathfran Abbey. The view is representative of this heritage receptor and the surrounding local community and affords a view to the west across rolling terrain cloaked in broad pastoral fields. The ascends towards a broad ridges that are partially visible in the distance. It is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to the views across the adjacent river corridor to the east and to the northeast towards Lacken Strand and the coastline.	**High-medium**	16 turbines will be revealed here to varying degrees, ranging from views of blade tips to fully revealed turbines standing in silhouette against the sky. The nearest of the proposed turbines is viewed at a distance of c. 3.6km, albeit this viewing context provides a notable sense of separation from the development as the turbines rise beyond the low ridge in the view's fore-to-middle ground. The visible turbines present in several clusters, the most notable of which are located o the north and south, with several more isolated turbines situated in the centre of the view, but heavily veiled by intervening vegetation and built development. Overall, the turbines are considered to have a subdominant visual presence in this aspect of the view. Aesthetically, this is a highly legible view of a wind energy development that benefits from good spacing characteristics. The irregular spacing of the turbines also aids in reducing the perceived scale of the development, allowing for a degree of visual respite. Whilst the visible turbines will generate a notable increase in the quantum of built development in this aspect of the view, they do not appear incongruous or over-scaled in the context of the broad underlying land uses. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP26	**R314 at Carn** – This is a heavily contained view afforded from a section of the R314 regional road at Carn. The view is representative of users of the major route and local community receptors such as the adjacent dwelling. The view to the north and east is contained at the roadside edge by dense roadside vegetation, whilst to the west, the nearby residential land holding is also contained by dense mature vegetation.	**Medium-low**	Whilst the wireframe view highlights the potential visibility of all 18 turbines to varying degrees, the actual visibility of the development will be considerably less due to the contained nature of this viewing context. The majority of turbines are situated on the opposite side of the regional road corridor and will be substantially screened by the roadside hedgerow vegetation. To the west, three turbines rise beyond the dense mature vegetation and will be noticeable features of this aspect of the view located some c. 500m from the regional road. Whilst these three turbines will only be briefly visible along this section of the	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			regional road, they will have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant to dominant. In terms of aesthetics, the proposed turbines will generate some sense of ambiguity in this view, especially with regard to their actual location, which is heavily screened by the intervening vegetation. There is also potential for the turbines to the north to present with a degree of ambiguity as veiled views of rotating turbine components have the potential to be afforded through gaps in the adjacent hedgerow. Nonetheless, the overall scale and extent of development is not readily discernible from this contained landscape context. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium.	
VP27	**Local road at Carn –** This is a pleasant but contained view afforded from a local road situated in the townland of Carn. The view is representative of local community receptors and extends north across a foreground contained in low-rolling pastoral fields and intervening hedgerow vegetation. The view extends slightly further to the northeast, whilst to the northwest, dense layers of vegetation and vegetation surrounding a nearby dwelling contain this aspect of the view at a near distance.	**Medium-low**	Whilst several of the southernmost turbines will be visible at a prominent scale in this view, the northern half of the array is heavily screened by a combination of terrain and intervening vegetation. Turbine AT02 is the nearest turbine to this representative view and rises beyond the nearby residential land holding at a distance of c. 800m. Whilst this turbine will likely draw the eye, it is partially veiled by a mature tree line along the boundary of the adjacent dwelling. To the northeast, the blade sets of several other turbines are also partially visible, rotating along the vegetated skyline in the distance to the north. Aesthetically, the cluster of partially visible turbines located to the northwest will generate some visual ambiguity in relation to their actual location, whilst the overlapping of their blade sets and blade sets partially rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter and complexity to the view. In contrast, the turbines viewed to the northeast present in a highly legible manner in silhouette against the sky. Overall, the turbines will result in a marked increase in the intensity of development in this contained local landscape context, and thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed High-medium.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP28	**Local road at Ballybeg** - This is a typical rural vista afforded from a local road in the townland of Ballybeg and is representative of the local community. The view extends north from the local road across pastoral lands. The view is contained at a relatively short distance by the low rolling terrain and several blocks of commercial conifer forestry.	**Medium-low**	Despite the wireframe highlighting visibility of all 18 turbines and the proposed met mast, the actual visibility of the proposed development will be considerably less due to the high degree of mature vegetation in the direction of the Wind Farm Site. The most prominently visible turbines relate to a cluster of three turbines situated some 1.9km northwest of this local road section. These three turbines present at a notable scale but generate no sense of overbearing. Indeed, they present in a highly legible manner, rising in silhouette against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Several other turbines are also visible further to the north, whilst the blade sets of a number of turbines are visible, rotating along the vegetated skyline in the distance. While the proposed turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity of built development in this relatively remote rural context, they do not appear incongruous in this robust working rural setting. Therefore, on balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP29	**Cliff Road, Enniscrone** – This is a highly scenic view afforded from a locally elevated road at the settlement of Enniscrone. The view is representative of the settlement of Enniscrone and the numerous amenity features located along its immediate coastline. The depicted view extends across Bartragh Island and Killala Bay, which is backed in the distance by a broad peninsula. The existing Killala Wind Farm is visible rising above Bartragh Island, whilst the westward aspect of the view is contained in the distance by a broad crest of hills	**High-medium**	The broad and dispersed nature of the proposed development is clearly apparent in this view, with all 18 turbines visible in the background of the view at distances upwards of c.13.5km. Whilst the turbines in the northern extent of the development are viewed backed by the sky and present with a low degree of visual contrast, the turbines further to the south are viewed backed by distant elevated terrain and present with a more notable degree of contrast. Whilst the turbines will have a limited visual presence in this view due to the viewing distances involved and atmospheric perspective, they represent a clear increase in the intensity of development in this coastal context. Nonetheless, the turbines are well offset from the immediate coastline and do not appear out of	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	and ridges cloaked in a mix of pastoral lands at lower elevations, whilst extensive areas of conifer woodland and areas of moorland cloaked the more elevated lands.		place in terms of their scale or function, especially in the context of the broad landscape features and land use patterns. On balance of the reason outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.	
VP30	**Killala Cemetery** - This is a pleasant coastal view afforded from Killala Cemetery along a coastal inlet at Killala Bay. The view is representative of the settlement of Killala, the local heritage receptor and the scenic coastal landscape. The depicted view extends across the small coastal inlet, backed by rolling terrain cloaked in pastoral lands. The western aspect of the view is contained at a near distance by some locally rolling terrain, whilst in the distance to the northwest, the view is contained by broad low rolling ridges cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forestry.	**High-medium**	The proposed turbines are visible, rising from the distant terrain at a distance of just under c. 5.9km. They present in a legible manner, with much of the southern extent of the development screened or partially screened by the nearby rolling terrain to the west of the depicted view. The visible rotating turbines further to the northwest have the potential to draw the eye in this view, although they are viewed as modest scale features in the distance and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Aesthetically, the turbines present in a clear and comprehensible manner with very few instances of turbine overlap, and are well accommodated along the distant landscape in terms of their scale and function. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP31	**Local road at Ardnagor** – This is an open vista afforded from a small centre of population at Kincoin, situated adjacent to Mount Palmer National School. The view is representative of the local community and the small settlement and extends across an area of low-rolling pastoral lands throughout the fore-to-middle ground. The view is contained in the background by a low, elongated ridge cloaked in a mix of forestry and agricultural lands.	**Medium-low**	A view of the proposed project is afforded from this distance of c. 3.4km from the nearest turbine. The afforded view extends through the proposed turbine array from south to north, with the nearer turbines presenting along the lower rolling terrain and the more distant turbines situated along the low, broad ridge in the background of the view, and is considered to have a sub-to-co dominant visual presence in this view. The proposed wind farm presents here in a relatively condensed cluster with numerous instances of turbine overlapping, generating a notable sense of visual clutter and irritation. Nevertheless, the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines generates a strong sense of perspective and	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine layout across the distant landscape. Overall, whilst the turbines will increase the intensity of development in this working rural scene, they appear well accommodated in this landscape context in terms of their scale and function. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	
VP32	**L2605 at Killanly** – This is a highly scenic view afforded from a local road scenic designation on the Sligo border immediately east of the River Moy. The view is representative of users of the scenic designation and extends across the wider context of the River Moy corridor, which is dotted with heritage assets such as Roserk Friary, which is visible along the river corridor in the middle ground of the view. The existing Killala turbines are visible in the distance, whilst the view is contained by low rolling broad terrain in the background of the view.	**High-medium**	The proposed turbines are visible in the distant background and are primarily viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Several of the southernmost turbines present with a stronger degree of contrast backed by the darker tones of the elevated rolling terrain. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will considerably increase the lateral extent of wind energy development in this view, due to atmospheric perspective (fading of distant objects), the turbines are considered to have a subdominant to minimal visual presence in this view. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP33	**Moygownagh New Cemetery** – This is a contained view from a local cemetery in the small village of Moyngownagh and is representative of the small settlement and local heritage receptor. The view to the north is contained at the boundary of the cemetery by existing vegetation and neighbouring built developments.	**Medium**	The proposed development will be barely discernible from this settlement due to the layers of intervening vegetation in the direction of the Wind Farm Site, in addition to the existing built development located throughout the settlement. Brief views of blade tips have the potential to be afforded along the vegetated skyline. However, any partial glimpses of the proposed turbine blade tips will have little or no visual influence on the setting of this settlement. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**
VP34	**St . Tiernan's Cemetery Crossmolina** – This is a locally elevated view afforded	**Medium-low**	The proposed turbines will be visible as distant background features and present at a small scale, rotating	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	from a local cemetery on the outskirts of the settlement of Crossmolina. The view is representative of the settlement of Crossmolina, the N59 major route and the heritage receptor. The view extends across a low rolling landscape intercepted by layers of mature hedgerow vegetation, which truncates any strong sense of openness.		along a vegetated skyline. The proposed turbines will be primarily viewed backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast and have a minimal presence from this distance of over c. 15km. Whilst there are some notable instances of stacked views of turbines, the considerable viewing distances will strongly dilute and have notable negative aesthetic effects. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	
VP35	**Local GAA Club at Ballina** – This is a partially open view afforded from a local GAA club at the settlement of Ballina. The view is representative of the settlement and extends across the nearby sports pitches, which are partially contained by dense surrounding vegetation. Views of residential development are also afforded in the distance to the northeast, after which the view is contained by layers of mature intervening vegetation. One of the existing Killala turbines is briefly visible in the distance rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge.	**Medium-low**	The proposed turbines will be entirely screened from here due to the dense layers of intervening vegetation located in the direction of the proposed development. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible by default.	**Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term**