

APPENDIX 13.1 VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Assessment of Visual Impacts at Viewshed Reference Points

Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

The study area encompasses a mix of landscape types and visual receptors, some of which are more robust in nature, while others exhibit a higher degree of visual amenity and a more localised sense of naturalistic character. Notably, some of the most sensitive landscape areas and receptors are identified through the presence of scenic designations, several of which are located throughout the study area. The river corridors within the study area are frequently associated with such designations, reflecting their visual quality and more prominent sense of natural beauty. These areas are also valued for their recreational amenity, with walking routes and small harbours often located in their immediate surroundings. Overall, scenic designations associated with river corridors typically correspond to visual receptor sensitivities ranging from High-Medium to Medium, with areas of Medium sensitivity generally influenced to some extent by nearby settlement or built development.

Scenic designations also occur throughout the wider parts of the study area that are not specifically associated with watercourses or waterbodies. Many of these areas have been designated due to their locally elevated topography, which affords open views across the surrounding landscape. However, these views often present with a longstanding sense of human influence, primarily associated with traditional pastoral land use and other built forms of rural development.

In addition to these locally elevated areas, several more prominent hills and ridges within the wider study area exhibit a high degree of visual and recreational amenity. The nearest of these is Tory Hill, located to the south of the proposed project, which affords panoramic views across the surrounding working rural landscape. Slieve Coillte is situated within the wider south-eastern quadrant of the study area, while Bandon Hill lies within its northern half. Bandon Hill demonstrates the most notable degree of visual amenity within the study area, being one of the most elevated locations within the 20 km study extent and a popular area of outdoor pursuits. It also possesses some sense of naturalness, characterised along its upper slopes by mountain moorland. As a result, Bandon Hill has been classified as a receptor of High sensitivity, while other prominent hills and ridges within the surrounding study area have been assigned a High-Medium receptor sensitivity as they tend to have a more notable influence by working land uses such commercial conifer forestry and pastoral farmland.

There are numerous heritage and amenity features distributed throughout the 20 km study area, the majority of which are located within the wider surrounding landscape. Recreational receptors tend to occur in parts of the study area that exhibit a high degree of visual amenity, such as Bandon Hill and other prominent hills and elevated lands, as well as along river corridors including the River Blackwater and River Suir. The South Leinster Way is a notable amenity feature within the study area, traversing several elevated areas and intersecting with both river corridors and settlements.

There are also numerous heritage features within the wider study area, including the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, Dunbrody Abbey, and the John F. Kennedy Arboretum. Similar to the amenity features, heritage assets within the study area also tend to be located in areas that display a higher degree of visual amenity.

Overall, amenity and heritage receptors within the study area range between High and Medium receptor sensitivity, with those of higher sensitivity typically associated with a more distinctive sense of scenic amenity.



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 landscape. It is also worth noting that some local amenity and heritage features also occur throughout the study area, which heightens the degree of receptor sensitivity at a local level.

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 proposed Project 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 13.3** of Chapter 13, visual receptor sensitivity judgement are provided for each representative viewpoint in the table below.

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	Brandon Hill: This view is from the summit of Brandon Hill and takes in a vast panoramic scene to the southwest. It is afforded to those that have climbed this popular recreational walking route. The fore to middle ground context consists of mountain moorland, which gradually transitions into forestry then agricultural fields which extend across a rolling rural landscape that reads as a broad semi-upland plateau.	High	<p>All of the proposed turbines are visible from base to tip, but at a considerable distance and within a vast rural context such that they read at a small scale. Whilst they are a distant background feature, they are also a distinctive one which may draw the eye of those who have climbed to the summit of Mount Brandon, albeit as one small component of a vast 360° panorama. They add to the diversity of anthropogenic development within the view, but they are by no means an ambiguous feature in this productive rural landscape.</p> <p>On the basis of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low-negligible and of a marginally Negative quality.</p>	Slight/ Negative / Long-term
VP2	Local road at Tullagher: This is a slightly elevated view from a local road to the north of the site. It takes in a rolling rural landscape of fields and hedgerows and is contained in the middle distance by a low ridge to the south, which is occupied by four wind turbines. It is afforded to local residents and road users.	Medium-low	<p>The partial blade sets of all of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising just above the skyline ridge in the middle distance. They are seen at a modest scale, but are likely to draw the eye on the basis of their movement on the skyline. There is some visual clutter associated with the overlapping of turbines and their blades sets rotating against the skyline ridge, however, the nature of the development is obvious to the viewer and occupies only a small portion of the available vista. There is clear separation to the existing wind farm further to the east along the ridge, however, there is some scale disparity with these noticeably smaller turbines which are fully exposed above the ridge line. The proposed turbines will add to the intensity of wind energy development within the view in the context of a familiar, rather than new form of development.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low and the quality of the effect will be Negative.</p>	Slight/ Negative / Long-term
VP3	Kilkeasy Graveyard west of the R448: This is a slightly elevated view from the edge of the graveyard, which takes in a foreground of agricultural fields divided by mature tree lines	Medium	The partial blades and nacelles of around five of the proposed turbines, as well as the blade tips of a similar number of others, can be seen rising above the skyline ridge or between intervening treetops in the middle distance. They are a noticeable feature, but	Slight/ Negative / Long-term

	and in particular a distinct line of conifers in the near middle ground, which partially obscures the landscape beyond. Above and between treetops can be seen a rolling landscape of fields, hedgerows and conifer plantations stretching into the distance. Several wind turbines can also be seen lining the skyline ridge in the distance. This view is afforded to those visiting the graveyard and local residents in the vicinity.		a relatively small-scale one in the context of a broad vista to the southeast. There is some visual clutter associated with the overlapping of turbines and their blade sets rotating against the skyline ridge or intervening treetops. However, the nature of the development is obvious to the viewer and occupies only a small portion of the available vista. Together with the existing turbines, the proposed turbines will appear as a single, modest-scale development, and the scale differential between the turbines of each development is not ambiguous in this context. Thus, the proposed turbines only add to the intensity of an existing form of development within this visual setting. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low, and the quality of the effect will be Negative.	
VP4	Local road at Glenpipe: This is a view from a section of the South Leinster Way which runs approximately 4 km to the north of the site. The view is afforded to those walking the route as well as those that live in the area and move along this local road. Whilst this elevated location affords open visibility to the east, the view to the south is obscured at this point by a roadside hedgerow allowing only brief glimpses of the rolling rural landscape beyond.	Medium	Aside from the brief glimpse of one or two blade tips rotating above an between intervening hedgerows, the proposed Project is fully screened from here by vegetation. There might be some sections of the road that affords a slightly greater visual exposure of the scheme. Even in such instances the turbines are peripheral to the main view to the east, but they would be seen at a noticeable scale with partial blades sets rotating on the skyline ridge. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative.	Slight/ Negative / Long-term
VP5	R794 at Listerlin: This is a pleasant pastoral view along a shallow semi-upland valley framed on either side by low ridges. It is a rolling rural context of fields and hedgerows in the fore-to-middle distance with the background contained in commercial forestry plantations. A windfarm consisting of six turbines can be seen rising in silhouette above the low ridge on the right hand side of the view in the middle distance. This view is afforded to road users on the regional road and those that live in the vicinity.	Medium	This is a view along the main axis of the proposed windfarm and thus, the nearest turbines are seen as a noticeable scale and diminish with distance and also terrain / vegetation screening. Aside from some visual clutter generated by overlapping turbines, those nearest to the viewer are seen in an unambiguous manner whilst those furthest from the viewer have blades sets that will cut in silhouette against the skyline ridge. The scale differential between the nearer and further turbines generates a sense of perspective and distance which, in turn, highlights the depth and dispersion of the array. The lateral extent of the proposed array is relatively condensed in the context of this broad panorama, but together with the existing turbines, a higher proportion of the skyline will be occupied by turbines. There is some degree of scale	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

			<p>conflict between the proposed and existing turbines, which may lead to distance confusion. However, they will generally be perceived as a single continuous development with the smaller existing turbines appearing slightly further away than their proposed counterparts. The proposed turbines add to the intensity of an existing form of development within this visual setting rather than the introduction of a new and uncharacteristic feature.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Medium-low and the quality defect, Negative.</p>	
VP6	<p>New Ross Marina: This is a pleasant view across the River Barrow at the settlement of New Ross. It takes in a scene consisting of boats moored at the marinas on both sides of the river. The setting is contained in the near middle distance by a low vegetated ridge that rises above the river to the west. This view is afforded to residents of New Ross and those visiting the marina.</p>	High-medium	<p>The proposed turbines will not be visible from here to the screening by intervening terrain vegetation on the western side of the river except for one blade tip. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible.</p>	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term
VP7	<p>R704 west of Three Friars Cross: This is a relatively enclosed view to the east, that is slightly more open to the south where it extends across a plateau landscape of broad fields divided by tree-lined hedgerows. A low roadside hedgerow contains views to the southeast at a short distance. In the same direction can be seen the partial blades sets of six turbines rising in relatively close proximity above the intervening vegetation in silhouette. This view is afforded to road users on the R704 and local road it intersects with as well as those that live in the vicinity.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The proposed turbines appear as a natural extension of the existing turbines, which continue further along the ridge to the southeast. Together, these two developments will be perceived as a single, more extensive array, but without ambiguity regarding the difference in turbine size, as the smaller turbines from the existing scheme are located closer to the viewer. In this context, the proposed development reads as an extension of an existing, established land use that is characteristic of this productive rural landscape.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality effect, Negative.</p>	Moderate/ Negative / Long-term
VP8	<p>L7499 at Ballymartin: Whilst this view is substantially obscured by mature trees in the foreground these allow windows of visibility between them and there may be other sections</p>	Medium-low	<p>Notwithstanding the roadside trees that partially obscure the view, the proposed turbines can be seen at a close distance and a large scale from here rising above the plateau of farmland and forestry at a prominent scale. They are seen in a clear and</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term

	of the road that allow for slightly more open visibility. Beyond the roadside trees is a plateau landscape comprising of large fields divided by sporadic hedgerows as well as extensive forestry plantations. This view is afforded to local road users and those that live in the vicinity.		<p>unambiguous manner with generous spacing between the nearest turbines and a strong sense of perspective between the nearest in furthest of the turbines. This is a broad and expansive rural landscape that can accommodate the scale of the turbines without them unduly altering the productive rural landscape character or obscuring long distance views.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be a High-medium and the quality of the effect, Negative</p>	
VP9	Local road at Ballywairy: This is a view from a short distance to the east of the site that looks along and elevated plateau of farmland divided by tree-lined hedgerows. The nearest of these consists of a stand of mature conifers which partially obscures the view to the west. Further along the ridge can be seen four turbines from a wind farm in the middle distance and also pylons from a high voltage line running across the view in between. This view is afforded to local residents and road users.	Medium-low	<p>Most of the proposed turbines will be obscured from view at this location by a combination of terrain and the nearby stand of conifers. The partial blade sets of two of the turbines can be seen just to the right of this stand of conifers and these will rotate amongst the treetops lining the ridgeline in perspective. There will be considerable scale disparity between the proposed turbines in the existing ones further along the ridge which are much smaller. The visual effect is that the existing turbines appear further away than they actually are, but this is less confusing than if the scenario were reversed. The proposed turbines contribute a greater intensity and scale of built development, but one which is consistent with existing land use along the ridgeline.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect, Negative.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP10	Local road at Ballintlea: This is a heavily contained view with a foreground setting that consists of a rural residence surrounded by a clipped hedge. Beyond the hedge is a sloping pastoral field that extends to a nearby ridgeline, which is also lined by a clipped hedgerow. This view is afforded to local residents and road users.	Medium-low	<p>The partial blade sets of four turbines and the blade tips of three others can be seen rising above the nearby vegetated skyline just to the left of the foreground house. These turbine components present at a noticeable, but not overbearing scale from this distance. There is a degree of visual clutter generated by the turbines overlapping with each other and their blades sets rotating on the skyline ridge. There is also some ambiguity associated with the actual landscape setting of the wind farm which is obscured from view at this location.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium in the quality of affect, Negative.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP11	<p>L7498 local road at Ballymartin: This is a relatively open view and yet it does not extend a great distance because it consists of an elevated plateau of farmland and forestry with little visible beyond the edges of the plateau. Of particular note is the turbines that can be seen rising above the skyline ridge in the near distance to the east. This view is afforded to local road users, but there are a few residences in the vicinity.</p>	Medium-low	<p>Whilst most of the proposed turbines are potentially visible from here, it is the nearest ones to the south that rise most prominently above this plateau setting of farmland in forestry. Indeed, the nearest turbine is seen at a prominent scale and those beyond at diminishing scales that contribute to the sense of perspective and distance. There is one instance of turbine overlap, but otherwise the turbines appear well spaced and dispersed. The key consideration is the relationship with the existing turbines which are much smaller than their proposed counterparts. There is considerable scale conflict between the existing and proposed turbines, however, the nearest of each array is separated by more distant turbines which tends to blend the scale relationship so that it is less ambiguous. Together, the existing and proposed turbines will appear as a single development albeit with some confusion as to the scale relationship. This is becoming more commonplace scenario throughout the country where first-generation turbines are being joined by latest generation turbines of a much larger scale.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be High and the quality of the effect will be Negative.</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP12	<p>L3424 at Ballyfasy Upper (1): This is a view from the crossroads in an elevated rural setting comprising of rising terrain to the northwest, which extends to a nearby ridgeline topped by a dwelling, a farm building and high-voltage powerlines. To the southwest is a descending landscape of rolling fields and hedgerows. This view is afforded to road users and local residents in the vicinity.</p>	Medium-low	<p>All of the proposed turbines are potentially visible from here, but to varying degrees. The visible turbine components present at a distinctive, but not overbearing scale from this distance. There is a slight degree of ambiguity associated with the scale of the turbines here, the majority of which appear stunted due to screening from the nearby terrain. Visibility of turbine blades rotating against various skyline features also generates some degree of visual clutter and ambiguity, however this is balanced by the substantial degree of visual screening. The proposed turbines introduce an increased intensity and scale of built development within the scene, but they are not out of place in this productive rural context.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium and the quality of that affect, Negative.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP13	L3424 at Ballyfasy Upper (2): This view is similar in nature to VP12 in that it extends from the local road across a fore-to-middle ground consisting of agricultural fields. It is then contained by the brow of a low ridge at the age of the agricultural plateau. There is a two storey dwelling in the foreground to the north. This view is afforded to road users and local residents in the vicinity.	Medium-low	<p>Like the nearby VP12, all of the proposed turbines are potentially visible from here, but to varying degrees. The visible turbines present at a prominent, but not overbearing scale from this distance. Four full blade sets are presented with the remaining turbines revealing partial blade sets and blade tips. They are seen with a loose arrangement that avoids turbine overlap with the blades it will still rotate amongst the vegetation skyline generating some degree of visual rotation. The proposed turbines add considerably to the built development within this view and will be one of the defining features. They have a broad lateral extent but the extent of the development is not considered excessive where the turbines present with loose spacing characteristics.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium in the quality of the effect, Negative.</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP14	L3424 at Kilandrew: This is a slightly elevated view looking along the local road alignment to the east. The view is a complex one which consists of clipped roadside hedges and rural dwellings flanked by mature trees and stands of tall conifers in the foreground. In the middle distance can be seen a low-lying rural plateau of farmed fields and conifer plantations, which extend to a vegetated skyline in the middle distance. Wind turbines can be seen to the northeast rising above a mature conifer plantation. This view is afforded to local road users and local residents in the vicinity.	Medium-low	<p>Except for the tall trees in the foreground the proposed turbines would all be visible from here rising at a prominent scale across the middle ground plateau with good spacing characteristics (more notable in its southern extent) and a strong sense of perspective. However, because of the intervening screening the view of the turbines is slightly more ambiguous with partial blades sets rising above and between foreground features. The proposed turbines are well accommodated in terms of scale and function within this broad locally elevated setting. However, there is a notable degree of scale conflict between the existing and proposed turbines which are seen similar distances. The confusion arises because the existing turbines appear further away than they actually are when compared to their larger proposed counterparts. There is a short distance between the two developments, but they are clearly separate and this generates a degree of visual tension within the scene.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium in the quality of the effect will be Negative.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP15	L3424 at Ballyquin: This is an expansive view across an upland plateau of farmed fields and	Medium-low	The proposed turbines are substantially revealed from here at a prominent scale, albeit they are screened to varying degrees by	

	forestry plantations dotted occasionally with farmsteads. There is a large two storey dwelling in the foreground. The foreground is also partially obscured to the northeast by near distance hedgerows and a coniferous tree line, whilst the view is more open to the southeast. This view is afforded to local residents and road users.		<p>intervening vegetation and terrain. Two full turbines are to the southeast with the blades sets of two closer turbines to the northeast. Beyond these are the remaining turbines which are seen at a smaller scale and to a lesser degree above the treetops. The proposed turbines are well accommodated in terms of scale and function within this broad upland setting. Nonetheless, they introduce a considerably increased scale and intensity of the development. There are smaller existing turbines further to the north, so the proposed development represents an extension and intensification of wind energy within this elevated plateau rather than a new and uncharacteristic form of development.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium and the quality of that affect is Negative.</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP16	<p>L3424 at Farnoge West: This is a contained viewing aspect, experienced from a local road in the townland of Farnoge West, representative of the surrounding local community receptors. While more open views across pastoral lands are afforded to the west, the depicted view, oriented to the east and northeast, is visually contained at a near distance by scrubby vegetation, backed by dense coniferous forestry.</p>	Medium-low	<p>Nine of the ten proposed turbines will be visible here to varying degrees, ranging from near-distant views of turbines situated just under 900 metres away to partial views of more distant turbines at the north-eastern extent of the array. Turbines T1, T2, and T10 will also be visible at a considerable scale, although their full vertical extent is somewhat diminished as their towers will be partially screened by the nearby coniferous forestry from which they rise. Overall, due to the notable perceived scale of the turbines, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed dominant.</p> <p>Aesthetically, this is a legible view of a wind farm development rising from coniferous forestry. Turbine T8 stands as a slight outlier from the main array, situated on the southern side of the local road corridor. However, the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines generates a strong sense of perspective, highlighting the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine layout across the intervening landscape. Overall, the turbines will bring about a marked degree of visual change, notably increasing the intensity of built development in this local landscape context. Nevertheless, it is considered that the scale and nature of the development can be well accommodated in this robust working rural context, which is influenced by broad-scale working land uses such as forestry and agriculture. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed High-medium.</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP17	L3423 north of Mullinavat GAA Club: This view is afforded from a local road at the western edge of the settlement of Mullinavat. It is representative of both the Centre of Population and a section of the South Leinster Way, which passes along the L3423 local road through the settlement. The depicted view extends eastward towards the central parts of Mullinavat, where existing built development and vegetation provide some degree of containment. Further to the east, the terrain ascends towards a low ridge and towards Tory Hill to the southeast, both of which serve to contain the view in the distance.	Medium	<p>Partial views of nacelles and turbine blade sets are afforded where they rotate along the vegetated skyline in the distance to the east. The turbines are viewed well offset from Tory Hill and are set against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. While the rotating turbine components have the potential to draw the eye as one of the few moving built features within the view, they do not appear as highly prominent and are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence from this distance of over 4.5 km.</p> <p>Aesthetically, this is a somewhat ambiguous view of the wind energy development, as there is no clear perception of the exact location of the proposed turbines. The partially visible turbines rotating along the ridge will generate a slight degree of visual clutter, marginally increasing the intensity of built development along the skyline. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines do not obstruct views of any sensitive landscape features and do not appear out of character with the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Medium-Low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
VP18	Poulanassy Waterfall: This is a heavily contained view experienced from Poulanassy Waterfall. The primary focus of the view is the waterfall itself and the surrounding intimate landscape setting, which is well enclosed by dense, mature vegetation. The contained nature of the view considerably limits outward visibility to the surrounding landscape.	High-medium	The proposed development will be fully screened from here. This view was included to highlight the heavily contained nature of this sensitive receptor, which will afford no visibility of the proposed turbines. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Negligible by default.	Imperceptible Neutral / Long-term
VP19	Local road at Farnoge East: This is a partially contained viewing context, experienced from a local road within the townland of Farnoge East, representative of surrounding residential receptors located within a heavily wooded landscape. The viewpoint is situated adjacent to a residential dwelling and is backed by dense coniferous forestry. Although a more open view is afforded to the west, it is important to note that the wider landscape context is entirely enclosed by existing forestry in all directions. The view to the north follows the alignment of	Medium-low	Although the nearest turbines are located just over 800 metres from this landscape context, their full extent and scale are significantly diminished due to the high degree of visual screening provided by adjacent coniferous forestry. To the north, relatively clear visibility of three turbines is afforded, one of which is partially screened by nearby forestry. These turbines are viewed at distances ranging from approximately 1.3 km to 2.1 km and are perceived at a notable, but not overbearing scale within the view. Turbine T8, the closest visible turbine, is situated to the northeast of the adjacent dwelling and is partially screened by the adjacent forestry, with only partial views of the nacelle and rotating blade	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

	the local road but remains visually contained by further blocks of forestry.		<p>sets visible. The visual presence of the proposed development in this view is considered to range from co-dominant to dominant.</p> <p>A slight degree of visual ambiguity arises from the intermittent screening of some turbines, though this is lessened by the clear and legible visibility of Turbines T1 and T10 to the north. Overall, while the turbines will result in a noticeable increase in built form within this otherwise enclosed landscape setting, they do not appear incongruous within the modified, working rural context. As such, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Medium</p>	
VP20	N25 at Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge: This is an open view afforded from a layby on the eastbound carriageway, located to the east of the main span of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge. The view is oriented to the northwest across the wider Barrow Valley, although the valley itself is screened from direct view by nearby mature vegetation. In the distance to the north and northwest, the view is visually contained by an elongated, farmed ridge in the background, where views of existing wind energy development are afforded.	Medium	<p>Partial views of the proposed turbines are afforded from this location, situated over 7 km to the east of the turbine array. The northern extent of the array is subject to a lesser degree of intervening vegetative screening in this view, with visibility ranging from full views of nacelles and blade sets to partial glimpses of blade tips. At this distance, the turbines do not form a visually prominent feature and are perceived as modest-scale elements in the background. As such, their visual presence is assessed as sub-dominant to minimal.</p> <p>While there is some visual ambiguity regarding the precise landscape context of the proposed turbines—due to screening and distance—these effects are considerably moderated by the notable viewing distance and partially screened nature of the turbines. The turbines do not obstruct or detract from any sensitive viewing aspects here or key features within the view and do not appear out of place along the distant, farmed ridge. Therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP21	L7522 at Kilmakevoge: This is a contained view from a local road intersection in the townland of Kilmakevoge, representative of surrounding local community receptors. The view is directed to the north and is partially truncated by nearby treelines, hedgerows, and a farmstead, which limit the extent of visibility and contribute to a sense of enclosure.	Medium-low	Although located just over 1.3 km from the nearest turbine, the full scale and extent of the proposed development are not readily apparent from this viewpoint due to a notable degree of intervening screening, provided by mature treelines and hedgerow vegetation. The nearest turbine is partially obscured by a mature line of conifers; however, the rotating blade sets remain visible, drawing the eye and contributing to an increased vertical extent of built development within the view. Partial views of other turbine blade sets are also discernible, although only a limited number of nacelles are visible here, which further diminished the perceived intensity and scale of the development. Despite the	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

			<p>screening, the development remains a prominent visual feature and is considered to have a co-dominant visual presence within this aspect of the view.</p> <p>The legibility of the development is slightly compromised due to intermittent screening, which introduces a degree of visual ambiguity regarding the number and precise location of the turbines. Nevertheless, where visible, the turbines are not perceived as over-scaled and do not appear incongruous within the context of this robust rural landscape. The development results in a noticeable increase in the intensity of built form within an otherwise low-intensity rural setting. Accordingly, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Medium.</p>	
VP22	<p>Tory Hill: This is a pleasant, elevated view experienced from the summit of Tory Hill, where sweeping panoramic views extend across the surrounding working landscape. The depicted view is oriented to the northeast, overlooking a broad, locally elevated plateau of low rolling hills and ridges, characterised by a patchwork of pastoral farmland and blocks of coniferous forestry. Two existing wind energy developments are visible in the distant middle ground, while the background is visually enclosed by Brandon Hill, the wider Blackstairs Mountains, and Mount Leinster, which together provide a strong sense of containment to the view.</p>	High-medium	<p>A clear view of all ten proposed turbines is afforded from this elevated viewing context, with the nearest turbine visible at a distance of approximately 2.7 km. The turbines will form a prominent built feature within this aspect of the view, integrating into the existing visual envelope of the existing wind energy development visible to the northeast. While they are visually prominent, the scale and extent of the proposed turbine array is not considered excessive, particularly in the context of the broad, underlying working landscape, which is currently influenced by existing wind energy development. Overall, the visual presence of the development in this panoramic view is assessed as co-dominant.</p> <p>Although some localised instances of turbine stacking are apparent—generating a slight sense of visual clutter—the array maintains a relatively loose spacing, contributing to a strong sense of depth and perspective further reinforced by the variation in apparent turbine scale from nearest to furthest. Furthermore, the loose spacing of the turbines allows for a strong sense of visual permeability through the development towards the distant uplands to the northeast. The proposed turbines will result in a noticeable increase in the overall intensity of wind energy infrastructure in this part of the view; however, they are not perceived as incongruous within a landscape already influenced by existing wind farm development and other working rural land uses. On balance, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Medium.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP23	<p>Slieve Coilte: This is an expansive 360-degree panorama afforded from the summit of Slieve Coilte, a location that is publicly accessible by car and features local loop walks around the hill. The depicted view is oriented to the northwest, extending across the River Barrow corridor, where the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge forms a notable built element intersecting the landscape in the middle ground. The prevailing character is that of a working pastoral landscape, interspersed with natural landscape features such as the Barrow corridor, Tory Hill, and more distant elevated terrain. Existing wind energy developments are also visible at distance to the northwest and west, forming part of the wider visual context.</p>	High-medium	<p>The proposed turbines are visible in the distant background at a distance of approximately 11 km. They do not appear as highly prominent features and are perceived at a modest scale within this portion of the panorama. However, as moving built elements, the rotating blades have some potential to attract visual attention. Nevertheless, within the context of this broad, sweeping view—characterised by a mix of working land uses and other anthropogenic features—the turbines are considered to have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence.</p> <p>The proposed turbines present with a notable lateral extent here and are seen in the immediate context of the existing, smaller Ballymartin turbines. While the existing turbines are situated slightly further in the distance, the separation between the two schemes is sufficient to reduce the risk of notable scale conflict. Overall, the proposed turbines will increase the overall quantum of built form within the view but will not appear incongruous within this highly modified and settled landscape context. As such, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Low-negligible.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP24	<p>Local Road at Ballinclare: This view is experienced from a steep, locally elevated section of a local road within the townland of Ballinclare, and is representative of local community receptors within the surrounding landscape context. To the north, a slightly filtered view extends across a gently rolling landscape characterised by a patchwork of pastoral farmland, intervening hedgerows, and blocks of coniferous forestry. Tory Hill rises prominently a short distance to the west, while in the distance to the north, the existing Ballymartin turbines are visible rotating along the skyline.</p>	Medium	<p>All ten of the proposed turbines are visible, rotating along the distant ridge to the north, with the nearest turbine located approximately 3.9 km from this viewpoint. The turbines will form a noticeable built feature within the view; however, their scale is not considered excessive when viewed within the context of this broad, locally elevated landscape. The array appears well spaced overall, although the western extent presents a slightly more condensed configuration. Nevertheless, the visual presence of the development is considered sub-dominant within this open view.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the development presents as a legible and coherent wind energy scheme. The relatively loose spacing of the turbines avoids a sense of visual clutter and allows for a degree of visual permeability through the array. While the presence of the turbines will result in a perceptible increase in built form within this rural context, they are not considered to conflict with the underlying character of a working agricultural landscape. Accordingly, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Medium-Low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
VP25	<p>L3438 at Kilmacow: This view is experienced from the settlement of Kilmacow, adjacent to the</p>	Medium-low	<p>There is potential for visibility of up to three turbine blade tips, as indicated in the wireframe view. However, visibility will be limited due to the surrounding layers of intervening vegetation that</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term

	local church and graveyard. The view extends to the northeast across pastoral fields and surrounding residential dwellings that form part of the wider settlement fabric. The view is partially contained by mixed, mature vegetation interspersed throughout the scene, providing some visual filtering. In the background, the distinctive profile of Tory Hill provides a sense of enclosure and contains the view in the distant background.		intermittently screen the partially visible turbine blade sets. Where visible, the turbine blade sets will be seen against the sky, presenting with a low degree of visual contrast and a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence within the wider view. Although the blade sets are seen in the context of Tory Hill, they are located against its lower western slopes and do not form a prominent feature. As such, they are not considered to notably detract from the distinctive character or visual integrity of this landscape feature. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Low-negligible.	
VP26	M9 Motorway at Miltown: This view is experienced from the northbound carriageway of the M9 motorway within the townland of Miltown. The view is directed northeast across the motorway, where roadside vegetation provides partial screening of the adjacent pastoral landscape. The foreground is characterised by transient views due to the speed and nature of motorway travel. The middle distance is defined by low, rolling, farmed ridges to the northeast and east, which contribute to a gently undulating landscape structure. To the north, Tory Hill forms a prominent landscape feature, offering a distinctive profile that provides a degree of visual containment and contrast with the surrounding ridges.	Medium-low	The rotating blade sets of several turbines have the potential to be perceived from this location, where they are seen rotating against a relatively flat section of a farmed ridge in the background. The turbines will not form a prominent feature within this transient viewing context, which is primarily experienced by road users travelling north. While the rotating turbine blade sets have the potential to draw the eye here, they are viewed offset from Tory Hill to the east and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence within the wider view. Although partial views of rotating blades may result in a degree of visual distraction or ambiguity, they do not appear out of place within the context of a working rural landscape. While the turbines will marginally increase the perceived intensity of built development, they are not considered incongruous in terms of either scale or character. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as Low.	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP27	Chapel Street, Mooncoin: This is a view afforded from the northernmost extent of Chapel Street in the settlement of Mooncoin. The depicted view extends across the rural landscape to the north of the settlement. The foreground is comprised of flat pastoral lands, with signs of increased anthropogenic activity visible to the northeast in the surrounds of the village of Ballytarsney. In the distance, low, rolling farmed hills and ridges enclose the view.	Medium-low	The proposed development will not be visible from this location, as it is fully screened by the dense layers of intervening vegetation throughout the landscape to the northeast. Therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Negligible.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
VP28	Dunbrody Abbey: This is a view afforded from the main pedestrian access to Dunbrody Abbey	High-medium	The proposed development will not be visible from this location, as it is fully screened by the dense layers of intervening vegetation	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term

	from the R733. The heritage asset is the principal feature of this aspect of the view, situated on a locally elevated site above the regional road and surrounded by dense vegetation to the north, with more distant, vegetated hills visible to the west.		to the north of the Abbey. Therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Negligible.	
VP29	L3408 Newrath Road: This is an open view afforded from the wider northern extent of Waterford City. The depicted view extends across terrain that descends away from the viewer, resulting in an open panorama across the wider landscape. Nearby electrical infrastructure is a notable built feature in the near foreground, while the middle to background of the view is characterised by more typical rural land uses and layers of intervening hedgerow vegetation. The view is enclosed by distant farmed ridges and Tory Hill to the north.	Medium-low	All ten of the proposed turbines will be visible here to varying degrees, with the distant intervening terrain partially screening them. From this distance of approximately 10 km, the turbines will appear as modest-scale, distant features in the background of the view, seen against the sky with a low level of visual contrast, and are considered to have a subdominant visual presence. The proposed turbines are located to the east of the more distinctive, rolling Tory Hill and are set along a more robust, distant farmed ridge. Aesthetically, some of the turbines appear visually stacked in this view, creating a degree of visual clutter, and they will also be seen overlaid with nearer overhead cable infrastructure. However, within the context of this broad, working rural/peri-urban landscape, the proposed turbines will not appear incongruous or over-scaled. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be Low.	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP30	Faithleg Demesne: This is a pleasant view afforded from the gently sloping lands of Faithlegg Demesne, near the main Faithlegg access that is representative of the heritage and amenity receptor and the nearby scenic route designation. The view extends across the golf course in the near foreground and is surrounded by dense, mature winter vegetation. Beyond the demesne, the low, rolling surrounding hills—cloaked in pastoral land and layered vegetation—enclose the view. Partial visibility of Tory Hill is afforded in the distant background, where several turbines can also be seen rotating along the distant ridge.	High-medium	All ten turbines have the potential to be visible from this distance of over 13 km, where they will appear as small-scale, distant features in the background of the view. The visible turbines are revealed to varying degrees and are seen against the sky, with a very low level of visual contrast. While the moving turbine components may be visible from this location, they will present a subdominant visual presence and will have little impact on the visual amenity experienced from here. Indeed, although they will marginally increase the intensity of built development within this view, they will have minimal effect on the overall visual amenity, which is already influenced by a mix of working land uses and views of other existing wind turbines. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term
NOTE: As per Table 13.3 in the methodology section of the LVIA chapter, judgements deemed 'substantial (yellow colour)' and above are considered to be 'significant effects' in EIA terms. Whilst judgements of 'substantial-moderate' are deemed close to significant visual effects, these are not considered to reach the significant threshold and are classified as 'not significant'.				