TOBIN

Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Project

Appendix 13-1
Visual Impact Appraisal

ROOAUNALAGHTA
Green Energy

BUILT ON KNOWLEDGE

13.1.1 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

The study area encompasses a diverse range of landscape types and visual receptors, extending from extensive areas of robust and modified rural landscape within the central study area and the northern, eastern and southern extents of the wider study area, to areas of higher scenic value and more pronounced naturalistic character within the western extent of the wider study area, particularly in the environs of the lakelands, uplands, and along elevated hills and ridges.

The most visually susceptible parts of the study area are associated with the lakelands within the western half of the wider study area. These areas encompass the highest concentration of designated scenic routes and scenic views, in addition to numerous tourism, amenity and heritage features. The lakelands themselves represent one of the principal recreational and tourism resources within the study area, recognised as a popular fishing destination and for a broad range of water-based recreational activities. Scenic amenity is at its greatest along the immediate lakeshore, where expansive waterbodies, irregular shorelines, wooded peninsulas and numerous islands combine to create a distinctive and highly scenic landscape character. As a result, scenic designations, amenity features and heritage assets located along the immediate lakeshore are generally classified with a visual receptor sensitivity ranging from High-medium to High. Receptors towards the upper end of this sensitivity range are typically associated with areas of the lakeshore that are less influenced by built development and present with a stronger sense of naturalness and tranquillity.

The western extent of the study area also encompasses elevated terrain west of Lough Corrib, together with foothills that transition towards the Maumturk Mountains within the wider western periphery of the study area. These landscapes present with a greater degree of distinctiveness in comparison to the more typical working rural landscapes that characterise much of the eastern half of the study area, whilst also affording a heightened degree of scenic amenity reinforced by the presence of several scenic designations. Land use within these elevated areas is reflective of their upland character, with mountain moorland and blocks of coniferous forestry forming the principal land cover types. Overall, these elevated areas afford broad and expansive views across the lakelands and wider study area, some of which are designated in the Galway CDP, with visual receptor sensitivity generally ranging from High-medium to High. The most elevated and expansive panoramic viewpoints are considered to be of High sensitivity due to their elevated scenic quality and susceptibility to visual change.

The central and wider study areas also encompass a variety of heritage assets, some of which are also associated with designated scenic views and routes. Of particular note, Ross Errilly Friary within the central study area represents a significant heritage asset located within the near surrounds of the site. The setting of the friary is characterised by a pleasant pastoral landscape containing river corridors and turlough features, although the wider context is influenced by surrounding working rural land uses. The nearby scenic view designation is classified as being of 'County' importance within the current County Development Plan, representing the second lowest of four scenic classifications.

The wider study area also encompasses numerous heritage assets and amenity features of note, some of which possess more pronounced tourism and recreational value, including Ashford Castle and the settlement of Cong within the north-western quadrant of the study area. These receptors, situated along the immediate shoreline of the lakelands, present with a

notably heightened degree of scenic amenity and are therefore highly susceptible to visual change. In addition to these more sensitive receptors, the central and wider study areas also encompass a range of more localised heritage and amenity features, including local walking routes, churches and graveyards. Whilst these receptors possess an inherent degree of sensitivity, their value is generally more localised in nature. Overall, tourism, amenity and heritage receptors within the study area are considered to encompass visual receptor sensitivities ranging between Medium and High, with receptors of national or international importance, particularly those located within the immediate lakeland context, being the most susceptible to visual change.

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 urban settlements, commercial and industrial development, major route receptors and localised areas of existing wind farm development. Overall, the sensitivity of visual receptors within the more working landscape context, which relates to much of central study area and wider northern, western and southern extent of the study area, 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, visual receptor sensitivity judgements are provided for each representative viewpoint in the table below.

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP1	**N84 at Kilmaine**: This view is representative of the settlement of Kilmaine and is afforded from a section of the N84 to the south of the settlement. The depicted view is oriented along the road alignment, which is bounded by vegetation and rural development. Stacked intervening vegetation to the south, along with surrounding built form, truncates any strong sense of openness	Medium-low	Partial views of the blade sets of the proposed turbines, rotating above intervening vegetation, would be possible at a distance of c. 7.8 km, along with some hubs and partial towers. While heavily screened by stacked layers of intervening vegetation, these moving blade sets have the potential to draw the eye, in particular for road users travelling south along the N84. In the context of this typical rural view, and at this distance, it is not considered that this partial visibility would generate a notable influence on the view, nor notably detract from any sense of visual amenity within this view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**
VP2	**L-2220 Local road at Kilconly**: This view is representative of the village of Kilconly in the north-eastern extent of the study area and is located along a local road south of the village centre. The depicted view extends across pastoral fields bounded by a mix of stone walls and intervening vegetation,	Medium-low	The proposed turbines are intermittently visible as small-scale distant features, rising above a low ridge at a distance of c. 12 km. Due to their perceived scale and separation distance from this landscape context, the proposed turbines are unlikely to draw the eye and will have little consequence on the visual amenity afforded from here. Thus, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low-negligible** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term**

	with rural development visible throughout the view. The view is contained in the distance by low rolling terrain and intervening vegetation.			
VP3	**R346 at Cross**: This is a locally elevated view afforded from a section of the R346 at the settlement of Cross. The view is afforded through a gap in the residential development that lines the regional road corridor, with stacked layers of vegetation carpeting the landscape visible in the distance.	Medium	A clear view is afforded of six turbines at a distance of c. 6.4 km, with several of the remaining turbines screened by intervening vegetation, albeit views of these turbines are likely to be afforded from varying sections of this road corridor. The southernmost four turbines present in a clear and legible manner, allowing for a relatively high degree of visual permeability. The two turbines further to the north, along with the partially screened turbines (as evidenced by the wireframe), present as a more condensed cluster, with a degree of turbine overlap generating some sense of visual clutter. Whilst the turbines will increase the intensity of built development within this aspect of the view, they present as distant features and do not markedly detract from the visual amenity afforded from here. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**
VP4	**R345 north of Lough Corrib at Dúráithe**: This view is representative of a scenic view designation and major route corridor located to the north of Lough Corrib. The depicted view	High-medium	A brief glimpse of the turbines is afforded here at a distance of over 14 km, where the intervening terrain and vegetation along the northern shoreline of Lough Corrib partially contain visibility in the direction of the proposed project. Where visible, the turbines present against the sky	**Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term**

	extends across the northern shoreline of Lough Corrib and is partially contained by locally rolling terrain and intervening vegetation. Whilst the principal aspect of visual amenity here relates to views to the south across the wider lakeland context, the depicted view is somewhat offset to the southeast.		with a very low degree of visual contrast. Overall, the turbines will only very marginally detract from the scenic amenity afforded here, with the principal viewing aspect well offset from the partially visible turbines On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low-negligible** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP5	**L-5662 at Mocorha**: This view is a view afforded across rolling farmland representative of local community receptors in the surrounding vicinity. The depicted view extends south across fields of pasture bound by dry-stone walls and intervening vegetation. Whilst a pleasant pastoral aesthetic is presented here, this represents typical rural views in this part of the country	Medium-low	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees in this view, rotating above the undulating ridgeline at a distance of c. 2.9 km. Whilst the turbine hubs are generally visible, the towers are largely concealed by terrain, leading to a degree of ambiguity as to the exact turbine locations. Some degree of turbine overlap to the south-east results in a sense of visual clutter. However, the array generally presents with good spacing characteristics and is viewed beyond the rolling distant ridge, which diminishes the overall visual presence of the proposed project. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**

VP6	**Lakeside view at Ard Na Gaoithe Forest Park**: This view is representative of the surrounding amenity features of the forest park, in addition to the scenic viewpoint location and the wider setting of Ashford Castle, a notable tourism and heritage feature within the region. The open view across Lough Corrib presents a strong sense of tranquillity, with very limited forms of built development exerting any notable influence on the view. The depicted view extends south-east across the lake and its intervening islands and is contained in the distance by low terrain and stacked vegetation along the eastern shores of Lough Corrib. It should be noted that a broad open panorama of over 180 degrees is afforded here, with wider views across the lake available directly to the south.	High	The proposed turbines are visible here at a distance of c. 10 km to the south-east across Lough Corrib. The proposed turbines occupies a limited extent of this expansive view, with the turbines presenting in silhouette against the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. Although the turbines will have a sub-dominant visual presence here, they represent the tallest built structures within this aspect of the view, and their moving components have the potential to draw the eye. Nevertheless, whilst they will increase the intensity of built development within this aspect of the view, they are not highly prominent features and do not markedly detract from the sense of scenic amenity afforded here. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**
VP7	**Local cemetery at Shrule**: This view is a pleasant open rolling view afforded from a cemetery at the settlement of Shrule. The depicted view extends south-west across a patchwork of pastoral fields largely bounded by dry-stone walls and intervening vegetation.	Medium	All 13 proposed turbines are visible in this view, with the nearest turbine viewed at a distance of c. 2.6 km to the south-west. As highly visible kinetic structures, the proposed turbines would represent a notable increase in the intensity, scale and extent of built development within part of the view that is otherwise characterised by a pleasant rural character and a strong sense of time depth.	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

	The silhouette of the elevated lands west of Lough Corrib is visible in the distant background, further highlighting the open nature of the view.		Whilst the proposed turbines present here as a relatively condensed cluster with some notable degree of overlap, the proposed turbines also presents with a strong sense of depth, highlighting the dispersion of the turbines across the surrounding landscape. Furthermore, the broad open nature of the view aids in assimilating the scale of the development into this context, whilst the working pastoral character of the landscape can reasonably accommodate the development in terms of its function. The proposed turbines also tend to be viewed beyond a distant low ridge, providing a strong sense of separation from this centre of population. Overall, the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature here and will result in an increased intensity in the scale and extent of built development within the view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP8	**L-1615 at Cahernabrock**: This is a pleasant pastoral view afforded from a locally elevated section of the local road corridor at Cahernabrock. The view is representative of local community receptors within the surrounding context of the local road, with the depicted view extending southwards across a rolling pastoral landscape. Directly south, the nearby low rolling	Medium	All 13 proposed turbines will be visible here, with the turbines within the eastern array presenting most prominently. Indeed, the turbines within the eastern array present with a dominant visual presence from this near distance of just under c. 700 m. The proposed turbines will represent the most prominent form of built development within the view, with the nearest turbines presenting with a slight sense of overbearing. Nonetheless, the open nature of the view, combined with the dispersed turbine layout and slender form of the proposed turbine	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

	landform partially contains visibility at a close distance, whilst to the south-west the view extends further across similar low rolling terrain and pastoral lands.		structures, tends to diminish any strong sense of enclosure. Indeed, whilst the turbines will interrupt visibility to the south, their slender form allows for a degree of visual permeability through the scheme, whilst the varying perceived scales of the turbines also generate a sense of depth within the array. In terms of aesthetics, the proposed turbines present in a legible manner with no strong sense of visual clutter or discord. Overall, the proposed project will generate a marked degree of visual change within this visual context, although the robust working nature of the prevailing rural landscape does not markedly conflict with the function of the proposed project. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP9	**L-16152 at Brodullagh South**: This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Brodullagh South and is representative of some of the nearest local community receptors to the east of the proposed project. The depicted view is oriented west across the surrounding pastoral lands. Whilst the lowlying dry-stone walls generate a sense of openness here, the rolling terrain to the west contains visibility of the wider distant landscape. Overall,	Medium-low	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible to varying extents, with the nearest turbine viewed at a near distance of some 722m to the west. The easternmost turbines within the array present a dominant visual presence, whilst the turbines further to the west appear stunted, with large portions of their towers heavily screened by the low-rolling terrain and intervening vegetation. This is a somewhat ambiguous view of wind energy development, with visibility ranging from full turbine visibility in the foreground to partial turbine views. Indeed, this varied visibility generates a degree of visual ambiguity	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

	this is a typical pastoral view that presents with a pleasant pastoral aesthetic.		in terms of the actual location of some of the turbines and their apparent scale. The partially rotating turbine blade sets, viewed cutting against the skyline ridge, are also not an ideal aesthetic outcome, as they generate a sense of visual clutter and visual tension. The well-maintained network of drystone walls lends a strong sense of place to this view, with the proposed project representing a marked intensification in the scale and extent of built development visible here. However, in the context of this modified landscape setting, it is not considered that the function of the proposed project would heavily conflict with the working rural nature of the prevailing landscape context. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP10	**R334 at Glencorrib**: This view is afforded from the R334 and Main Street within the village of Glencorrib and is representative of both the centre of population and a major route receptor. The depicted view is oriented southwards along the alignment of the regional road, with existing rural development and pastoral lands lining both sides of the route corridor. The		The proposed turbines are viewed here in two distinct clusters, with the western cluster presenting more prominently to the west of the regional road corridor on locally elevated terrain. To the east, the larger turbine cluster is partially screened by a combination of existing built development and intervening vegetation. Whilst the proposed turbines do not present in a dominant manner here, they will nonetheless be noticeable features viewed to the south of the settlement.	

	terrain rises to the south, becoming more pronounced towards the southeast, and is cloaked in pastoral lands and intervening vegetation	Medium-low	In terms of the partial turbine views to the southeast, the turbines present some Adverse aesthetic effects relating to stacked views, which generate a degree of visual clutter, whilst the visibility of rotating turbine blades along the rooflines of surrounding dwellings is also not an ideal aesthetic outcome. Nonetheless, the proposed turbines are afforded a clear sense of separation from the settlement, set back beyond several pastoral fields, whilst to the southwest the turbines present beyond the vegetated ridgeline. Overall, whilst the proposed project will increase the intensity of built development visible here, the turbines do not appear markedly incongruous within the context of the robust working character of the surrounding landscape. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**
VP11	**L-66663 at Ballisnahyny (1)**: This is a relatively contained aspect of a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Ballisnahyny. The view extends eastwards from the local road corridor and is truncated at a near distance by a low ridgeline cloaked in low scrubby vegetation. It should be noted that the principal viewing aspect afforded from this location relates to	Medium-low	A partial view of the turbines within the western array is afforded here, where the intervening terrain provides a notable degree of screening. The nacelle and partial blade sets of one turbine are visible along the near ridgeline, whilst additional partial blade sets are viewed rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge. Whilst the rotating turbine components will likely draw the eye, they present within an aspect of the view that is less susceptible to visual change. Furthermore, the intervening terrain heavily diminishes the overall scale and extent of the proposed	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**

	the open views to the west in the direction of Lough Corrib.		project here, with no visibility of the turbines further to the east afforded. Overall, the moving turbine components have the potential to draw the eye and will increase the quantum of built development within this aspect of the view. However, they will have little effect on the principal aspect of visual amenity afforded from this location, which relates to the open views to the west towards Lough Corrib On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP12	**L-16158 at Kinlough**: This is a pleasant open view afforded from a local road in the townland of Kinlough, representative of local community receptors to the southeast of the site. As the landform descends away from the local road to the northwest, it allows for a strong sense of openness, with extensive views afforded across the low-rolling pastoral landscape encompassing drystone walls and layered belts of intervening vegetation. The view extends westwards as far as the elevated terrain beyond Lough	Medium	A clear view is afforded of all thirteen proposed turbines, with the nearest visible turbines viewed at a prominent scale at a near distance of some 766m. The turbine array presents in two relatively distinct clusters from this location, with the four western turbines viewed at a notably smaller perceived scale than the turbines within the eastern extent of the array. The turbines within the eastern extent of the array present with a visual presence in the order of dominant, although the proposed turbine array also presents with a strong sense of depth, highlighting its dispersion across the surrounding landscape. Whilst the turbines encompass a setback from the local road corridor, they will nonetheless be viewed as the principal built feature within the local landscape context and will result in a marked degree of visual change.	

	Corrib, which contains the view in the background.		As previously noted, the well-maintained network of drystone walls lends a strong sense of place to this view. The introduction of the proposed turbines represents a notable change to the landscape character of this scene, albeit the function of the proposed project is not incongruous with the working nature of this pastoral setting. Overall, the proposed project will result in a notable increase in the intensity and scale of built development visible within this scene. However, the relatively loose arrangement of the turbine structures allows for a degree of visual permeability towards the distant landscape to the west. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High-medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**
VP13	**L-2104 at Bunnasillagh north of Lough Hacket**: This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Bunnasillagh, representative of surrounding local community receptors. In both directions along the local road, east and west, views are characterised by surrounding pastoral lands, often bound by low stone walls and intervening vegetation. Whilst there is a degree of openness within this landscape context, the surrounding	Medium-low	This viewpoint encompasses two aspects. To the east, distant views of the proposed turbine array are afforded across low, rolling pastoral lands, although visibility is notably restricted by intervening roadside vegetation. In the opposite direction, the proposed 110 kV substation is visible within the surrounding pastoral landscape, set well back from roadside boundaries and nearby dwellings. In terms of the proposed turbines, where visible, they will be viewed relatively low on the skyline, with the nacelles barely breaking the intervening ridgeline. Consequently, the turbines will present in a somewhat visually ambiguous	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**



	lands represent a relatively typical rural environment that is not highly distinctive.		manner, with overlapping blade sets generating a degree of visual clutter. Nonetheless, the potential for notable adverse visual effects is considerably diminished by the viewing distance to the site and the degree of intervening vegetation that screens and filters views towards the proposed turbine array. The proposed 110 kV substation is viewed in the opposite direction to the turbine array from this local road context. Due to the considerable separation distance between the two elements, the substation is unlikely to be perceived as an integral component of the proposed wind farm. Instead, it is more likely to be perceived as part of the wider network of electrical infrastructure within this rural landscape. Whilst the built elements of the 110 kV substation have some potential to draw the eye, existing intervening vegetation will serve to partially screen and filter views of the proposed infrastructure. Furthermore, the proposed control buildings will present at a scale broadly comparable to small, single-storey dwellings and, consequently, will not appear particularly incongruous within this settled rural landscape. Overall, the proposed 110 kV substation will result in a localised intensification of built development within the surrounding landscape, although its visual influence will remain relatively contained. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	

VP14	**L-26151 at Toorard**: This is a view afforded from a local road laneway in the townland of Toorard. The view is representative of local community receptors, with several dwellings and farmsteads lining the local road to the south of the depicted view. To the west, visibility is truncated at a near distance by a low ridge, whilst to the north and east a more open view is afforded across the surrounding low-rolling lands. A locally elevated area of terrain to the northeast, cloaked in scrubby vegetation, contains visibility at a middle distance within this aspect of the view.	Medium	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible throughout this view, with the turbine array to the west partially screened by the intervening terrain, presenting these turbines as slightly stunted. In contrast, the turbines viewed to the north and east present with a dominant visual presence and will represent the principal built feature within this local landscape context. Whilst the eastern turbines present with a dominant visual presence, with the nearest turbine located just over 614m from this viewpoint, the eastern turbine array is viewed in a highly legible manner with clear spacing characteristics. Nonetheless, due to the broad spread of the proposed turbines, which spans over 180 degrees, the proposed turbine array will generate a degree of enclosure within this view. However, these effects are somewhat offset by the slender nature of the turbines combined with their relatively loose arrangement, which allows for a degree of visual permeability through the proposed turbines. Overall, within this local landscape context, the turbines will markedly increase the intensity and scale of built development. Whilst the turbines will result in some detracting effects on the visual amenity afforded from this location, the function of the proposed project does not heavily conflict with the working rural character of the prevailing landscape context.	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP15	**R334 at Toorard**: This is a view afforded from the R334 regional road in the townland of Toorard that is representative of both the major route corridor and surrounding local community receptors, particularly the residential dwellings located along its immediate corridor. To the east of the regional road, there is a degree of containment afforded by the locally rolling terrain, with more open views afforded to the southeast across rolling pastoral fields. More extensive open views are afforded to the west of the road corridor, with broad panoramic views extending in the direction of Lough Corrib and the more distant uplands beyond. This western aspect represents the principal visual amenity afforded from this location.	Medium	Located between the northern and southern portions of the array, clear views of all thirteen proposed turbines are afforded from this location. The four turbines to the west present at a considerable scale, with the closest visible turbine located at a distance of 513m. The nearest turbine to the east presents at a similar scale to the western turbines, albeit the turbines further to the east present at a slightly reduced scale due to their greater offsets from the regional road corridor. In both directions, east and west, the turbines present with a dominant visual presence and generate a degree of enclosure for receptors located within the immediate vicinity of this view. Aesthetically, the turbines present in a highly legible manner here, with clear spacing characteristics and a limited sense of visual clutter. Indeed, whilst the proposed turbines will partially obstruct visibility to the west, their slender forms allow for a degree of visual permeability throughout the scheme so as not to notably block the extensive views afforded in this direction. Overall, the turbines represent a marked degree of visual change here in terms of their scale and extent and will become the principal built feature within this local landscape context.	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP16	**Local road at Inis Mhic an Tír**: This is a pleasant view afforded from Inis Mhic an Tír, a small island located within the eastern extent of Lough Corrib. The view is representative of both local community receptors on the island and the lakelands as an amenity feature. The depicted view extends inland to the east across a section of Lough Corrib and presents with a notable degree of tranquillity and naturalness. The shoreline to the east is largely cloaked in mature vegetation, with some isolated settlement visible, whilst further in the distance the low-rolling terrain that contains the view is characterised by fields of pastoral farmland.	High-medium	All thirteen proposed turbines have the potential to be viewed here to varying degrees, with the four turbines within the eastern extent of the array presenting in a slightly more prominent manner. Nonetheless, the turbines present as relatively modest-scale features in the distance, viewed well set back from the immediate shoreline, and exhibit a low degree of visual contrast when viewed in silhouette against the sky. Whilst the rotating turbine components will likely draw the eye within this landscape context, they are viewed offset from the principal aspect of visual amenity afforded from this location, which relates primarily to the south across the islands dispersed throughout the wider Lough Corrib. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**
VP17	**Moyne Cemetery**: This is a view afforded from a local cemetery within the dispersed settlement of Moyne. The view is representative of both surrounding local community receptors and the local heritage feature. To the	Medium	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible to varying extents within this view, with the eastern turbine array presenting with a dominant visual presence. Whilst the western part of the array is also visible, the turbines are partially screened by surrounding built development and intervening vegetation, with turbine blade sets viewed	**Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

	west, residential dwellings associated with the settlement of Moyne are viewed beyond nearby pastoral fields, whilst to the north and east the surrounding landscape context is principally characterised by pastoral lands bound by drystone walls and intervening vegetation. A locally elevated area of terrain, cloaked in layered vegetation, contains visibility within this aspect of the view.		rotating above the roofs of nearby dwellings to the west of the view. Whilst the proposed turbines are prominent built forms within this scene, they are viewed set back from the cemetery, which diminishes any strong sense of overbearing visual influence. Aesthetically, the eastern array presents in a highly legible manner, with the proposed turbines afforded good spacing characteristics, many of which stand tall in silhouette against the sky with few instances of turbine overlap. To the west, there is a more notable sense of ambiguity and visual clutter associated with turbine blade sets rotating along the built skyline. Overall, the proposed turbines represent a marked increase in the scale and quantum of built development within this landscape, which is characterised by relatively typical working rural land uses. Although the turbines will generate some detraction from the degree of visual amenity afforded from this location, they will not significantly detract from the visual setting of the cemetery. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **High-medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP18	**L-66663 at Ballisnahyny (2)**: This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Ballishnahyny, representative of local community receptors to the west of the proposed turbine array. The depicted view	Medium-low	The four southernmost turbines are visible at a distance of 1.8 km, rising beyond the brow of a nearby hill. A number of blade tips associated with the turbines within the eastern array also have the potential to be visible here, rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge. The four turbines within the western array present in a legible	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**

	extends eastwards along the local road corridor, where the terrain rises towards a low ridge in the distance, with the surrounding landscape cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland and intervening low hedgerow vegetation.		manner with some slight degree of overlap and occupy a limited spatial extent within this view. Whilst the rotating turbine components are likely to draw the eye here as some of the largest built elements within this aspect of the view, they do not appear incongruous in terms of either their scale or function within the surrounding working rural landscape context. Overall, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP19	**L-5666 at Cloghmoyne (1)**: This is a view afforded from a heavily contained local road in the townland of Cloghmoyne, to the south of the western turbine array, and is representative of local community receptors within the surrounding vicinity. The view represents a brief section of more open visibility afforded adjacent to a nearby residential landholding, although visibility to the north, in the direction of the depicted view, is contained by sloping terrain and dense mature vegetation, which truncate views in this aspect.	Medium-low	The nearest turbine to the northwest is partially visible at a distance of some 863m, albeit heavily concealed by the dense intervening vegetation along the sloping lands to the north. The three other turbines within this array are similarly screened, with only intermittent visibility of the proposed nacelles and blade sets. Nonetheless, due to their proximity, these rotating turbine components are likely to present with a visual presence in the order of co-dominant. To the northeast, the turbines within the eastern array are heavily screened, with only partial views of some turbine blade tips visible rotating along the skyline ridge. In aesthetic terms, there is a degree of visual ambiguity associated with the views of the proposed turbines from this location, particularly in relation to their actual location, which is entirely screened. Nevertheless, the overall scale and extent of the proposed wind farm are heavily	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			diminished here due to the substantial degree of intervening screening in the direction of the proposed project, even at a viewing distance of less than 1 km to the nearest turbine On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP20	**L-5666 at Cloghmoyne (2)**: This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Cloghmoyne, further west of VP19 above, and is representative of surrounding local community receptors. In similar circumstances to VP19, this view represents a brief opening in visibility afforded to the north, with large sections of the surrounding local road heavily contained by mature roadside vegetation. The depicted view extends northwards across sloping terrain cloaked in mature hedgerow vegetation and mature trees, which provide a strong sense of containment. Indeed, views to the north are truncated only a short distance beyond the local road by the combination of sloping terrain and mature vegetation.	Medium-low	All four turbines within the western cluster are visible here in a prominent manner, accentuated by the uphill nature of the views afforded from this local road context. A partial glimpse of the turbines within the eastern array is afforded through a gap in the vegetation; however, the four turbines to the west are the most prominent turbines within this view and present with a dominant visual presence, with the nearest turbine located some 719m from this location. Whilst the visible turbines present as prominent built features here, they do not generate any strong sense of overbearing influence, and the overall scale and extent of the wider development are heavily diminished due to the contained nature of the view. Although the turbines present with a degree of overlap, generating a slight sense of visual clutter, this is offset by the clearer views afforded of the other visible turbines. Although the turbines will increase the intensity of built development visible along this contained local road context, they will only be intermittently visible and do not present as an	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			inappropriate form of built development within the prevailing landscape setting. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP21	**L-5666 at Cloghmoyne (3):** This view is located along the L5666, further west of both VP19 and VP20 above, within the townland of Cloghmoyne, and is representative of surrounding local community receptors. This section of the local road represents a slightly more open area of visibility in comparison to the previous two representative views; albeit, there remains a notable degree of containment afforded by the surrounding roadside vegetation, particularly to the north in the direction of the depicted view. Indeed, the roadside vegetation to the north, together with layers of intervening vegetation immediately beyond, tend to contain visibility at a relatively near distance.	Medium-low	Intermittent visibility of the proposed turbine array is afforded here through gaps in the roadside vegetation, with up to all 13 of the proposed turbines theoretically visible from this local landscape context. Nonetheless, due to the layered intervening mature vegetation, the perceived scale and extent of the overall project will be considerably diminished. The four western turbines present most prominently here, with the nearest turbine situated some 1.4 km from this section of the local road corridor. Overall, the turbines will present with a visual presence in the order of co-dominant from this context. Aesthetically, the overlapping blade sets of the visible turbines, along with the partial visibility of turbine blades rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge, will generate a degree of visual clutter and confusion, much of which relates to the ambiguity surrounding the actual landscape context of the turbines, which is not readily apparent here. Nonetheless, in the context of this robust working landscape, the proposed turbines are not considered to present as a highly incongruous form of development,	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			albeit they will generate a notable increase in the intensity of built development. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of a **Adverse** quality.	
VP22	**L-5666 at Mounthenry**: This is an open aspect of visibility afforded from the L5666, located within the townland of Mounthenry, that is representative of local community receptors within the wider western extent of the central study area. The depicted view extends east across a small farmstead in the foreground, where rolling terrain, intermittent vegetation, and dry-stone walls characterise the view. The view is contained in the distance by low rolling terrain cloaked in pastoral lands and vegetation. It should be noted that this view is representative of dwellings located within the wider surrounds of the Lough Corrib shoreline, where the principal aspect of visibility tends to be across the lakelands to the west, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.	Medium-low	All thirteen proposed turbines have the potential to be visible in the distance to the east, with the nearest visible turbine located some 2.5 km from the viewpoint. Whilst the proposed turbines do not present in a dominant manner here, they are likely to draw the eye as the largest moving built structures within this aspect of the view. The four turbines within the western array present at the most notable scale, whilst the remaining turbines sit lower on the skyline and are partially screened by intervening terrain. The turbine array presents here as a slightly condensed cluster, resulting in stacked views of the proposed turbines, which will generate some degree of visual clutter. Nonetheless, the varying perceived scales of the turbines, from furthest to nearest, highlight the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array across the surrounding landscape, with the majority of the turbines presenting beyond the skyline ridge. Overall, the turbines represent a notable intensification of development within this aspect of the view; albeit, it should be noted that the principal aspect of visual amenity within this local context	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**

			relates to views westwards across the lakelands, in the opposite direction to the proposed project. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP23	**Ross Errilly Franciscan Friary:** This is a view afforded from a notable heritage asset within the local surrounding landscape. The view is afforded adjacent to the remains of Ross Errilly Friary and extends in a northerly direction across the Black River corridor and neighbouring Rostaff Turlough. The surrounding landscape is characterised by typical rural land uses, with pastoral lands and intermittent rural settlement visible throughout the layers of stacked intervening vegetation. The low rolling terrain and stacked vegetation contain the view to the north in the distance.	High-medium	All thirteen proposed turbines have the potential to be visible in this view, with the nearest turbines viewed at a distance of some 2.1 km. Whilst the proposed turbines will present here as notable built forms, they are viewed well separated from the context of Ross Errilly Friary, rising from behind layers of stacked intervening vegetation and low rolling terrain to the north. Indeed, this provides a strong sense of separation from the visual setting of the heritage feature. The proposed turbine array presents with clear spacing characteristics and no instances of turbine overlap. This is a clear and coherent view of wind energy development, which was identified as a constraint to the project at an early stage and, as such, the turbine array was designed in consideration of this receptor (refer to Section 13.7.1 of the LVIA Chapter). This view presents with a strong sense of place owing to the setting of the Friary a short distance from the Black River and Rostaff Turlough to the north. The surrounding agricultural landscape, demarcated by dry-stone walls, lends a notable sense of time-depth to views from this	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

			location, whilst typical pastoral farmlands also characterise the surrounding landscape context. The introduction of wind energy infrastructure at a relatively close distance represents a notable change in the character of this landscape setting; however, it is not considered to be highly incongruous within the context of the surrounding robust working rural landscape. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of a **Adverse** quality.	
VP24	**Donaghpatrick Cemetery**: This is an open view afforded from a local cemetery that is representative of local heritage assets, a local centre of population, and the R333 major route corridor. The view extends north-west across pastoral lands bound by dry-stone walls and intervening vegetation.	Medium	All thirteen turbines are theoretically visible from this location, as illustrated by the wireline view. However, intervening vegetation and residential dwellings either fully or partially screen a number of the turbines. At a distance of some 6.3 km, the intermittently visible turbines present at a modest scale, with the two arrays appearing distinctly separate. Overall, whilst the rotating turbine components have the potential to draw the eye, they will have a limited effect on the visual amenity afforded from this location and do not appear out of place within the context of this working rural landscape setting. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**

VP25	**L-21032 south of Ross Errilly Franciscan Friary**: This is a designated scenic view afforded from a local road that leads to Ross Errilly Friary. The view is characterised by pastoral lands, dry-stone walls, and intervening vegetation, with the Friary visible on locally elevated land in the distance to the north. The Friary is distinctly visible against the skyline as one of the tallest built elements within this aspect of the view, which is otherwise characterised by dispersed dwellings set within a matrix of hedgerow vegetation and mature trees. It should be noted that the current Galway County Council Development Plan designates this scenic view with a 'County' level of significance, representing the second lowest tier within a four-tier classification system. A view of 'County' level significance is defined as "*A view – often a panorama – that encompasses a wider expanse of territory, or a large or prominent natural features – a hill, bay, ridge, headland or lake shore which gives a sense of a large unit of*	High-medium	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible here, with the nearest turbines viewed at a distance of some 2.5 km. The eastern turbine array is viewed in alignment with the heritage asset to the north, whilst the western array presents slightly offset from this to the north-west. Whilst the turbines do not have a dominant visual presence here, they present as notable built features within the view and are deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence. Indeed, their presence detracts to some degree from the setting of the heritage asset within this view, which represents the principal focus of this scenic designation. Aesthetically, the rotating turbine components viewed against the silhouette of Ross Errilly Friary generate a degree of visual tension. In terms of scale, the proposed turbines present slightly larger than the Friary tower, albeit they are much more slender in form. Nonetheless, these moving turbine components have the potential to draw the eye away from, and distract attention from, the heritage feature, thereby detracting from the degree of visual amenity afforded from this location. However, it should be noted that visual mitigation measures were incorporated at an early stage in the design process to reduce visual effects at this receptor (refer to Section 13.7.1 of the LVIA Chapter). The final turbine layout, shown in the depicted VP25 photomontage, represents a more considered and legible turbine arrangement that seeks to minimise Adverse aesthetic effects insofar as possible	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**

	countryside that is felt to be typical of that part of the county"		On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP26	**Residential Housing Estate at Headford**: This is a view afforded from a residential housing estate on the outskirts of the settlement of Headford that is representative of a centre of population within the central study area. The depicted view extends across the boundary wall of a peripheral residential housing estate within the settlement. Beyond the context of the housing estate in the foreground, the surrounding landscape is characterised by flat to low-rolling lands cloaked in pastoral farmland and layers of stacked intervening vegetation, presenting as a relatively typical rural setting.	Medium-low	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible in this view, with the nearest turbines located at a distance of some 3.5 km. The proposed turbines presents here as two distinct parcels, with some of the turbines within the eastern turbine array presenting at a marginally greater scale due to their nearer distance. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines are likely to draw the eye here, they do not present as overly prominent. In terms of aesthetics, the eastern array presents with a more noticeable degree of visual clutter due to the numerous stacked views of turbines. The four western turbines present in a more legible manner, appearing in silhouette against the sky with limited turbine overlap. Overall, the proposed turbines will generate an increase in the scale and intensity of development within this and the surrounding local context. However, in terms of their scale and function, the proposed turbines do not appear out of place within this relatively open working landscape setting. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium-low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term**

VP27	**Killursa Church and Graveyard**: This is a pleasant open view afforded from a local cemetery, representative of the local heritage receptor and surrounding local community receptors. The view is afforded from locally elevated terrain, with views extending across the surrounding pastoral landscape to the north, characterised by pastoral farmland bound by dry-stone walls and intervening hedgerow vegetation.	Medium	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible here and present at a prominent, but not overbearing, scale, with the nearest turbines located some c. 3 km to the north of this landscape context. The proposed turbines present with a notable lateral extent here and are deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence. Whilst generally well-spaced across the working agricultural landscape, some instances of turbine overlap, most notably between the two westernmost turbines, result in a minor degree of visual clutter; however, this is largely offset by the clearer views of the other visible turbines. As noted in previous views, the well-maintained network of dry-stone walls throughout the landscape lends a strong sense of place and time-depth to this view, with the proposed project representing a notable degree of change within the landscape character. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will result in a notable intensification of built development here, within this modified working rural context, the proposed turbines do not present as highly incongruous built features. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Medium** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Moderate / Adverse / Long-term**
VP28	**L-1310 at Newvillage west of Lough Corrib**: This is a broad sweeping panorama afforded from a local road	High	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible within this view, rotating on the far side of Lough Corrib, with the nearest turbines visible at a distance of some 13.2 km. The	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**

	within the townland of Newvillage, west of Lough Corrib. The view is representative of a designated scenic view and extends from elevated lands west of Lough Corrib across the lake towards the more typical low-rolling rural lands east of the lough. This is a highly scenic view and presents with a notable sense of distinctiveness in relation to the setting of Lough Corrib.		proposed turbines occupies a limited lateral extent within this expansive panorama across the lake and does not obstruct, or notably detract from, the scenic amenity afforded from this location. Whilst the moving turbine components have the potential to be noticed here, they do not present with a notable visual presence and are viewed set against the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP29	**Oughterard Graveyard**: This is a view afforded from Oughterard Graveyard, representative of the local heritage feature, the neighbouring scenic route along the N59, and the centre of population of Oughterard. The local cemetery slopes downhill to the east towards Lough Corrib, which is visible in the distance. Much of the foreground to middle-ground landscape context is cloaked in dense mature vegetation, resulting in a notable sense of containment. Brief intermittent visibility is afforded towards the distant landscape east of Lough Corrib.	Medium	A brief glimpse of the proposed turbines is afforded beyond intervening vegetation at a distance of some 12.3 km. The visible turbines present as small-scale distant features along the vegetated skyline and have a minimal visual presence from this distance. Indeed, even where visible from this location, the proposed turbines will have a very limited effect on the visual amenity afforded from here and from the surrounding settlement. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low-negligible** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term**

	It should be noted that the scenic route receptor immediately west of the local cemetery also affords a notable degree of containment from surrounding built development and roadside vegetation, with only limited views of Lough Corrib afforded from sections of the scenic route within the immediate surroundings of Oughterard.			
VP30	**Knockferry Pier Lough Corrib**: This is an open lakeside view afforded from a local pier at Knockferry that is representative of lake as an amenity feature. The depicted view is oriented northeast across Lough Corrib and is contained on the opposite side of the lake, which is only a short distance away in this instance, by mature riparian vegetation and dense stacked vegetation further beyond. It should be noted that more extensive views are afforded across the lakeland complex both north and south from this location.	High-medium	Whilst the wireframe view identifies the potential for partial visibility of all 13 turbines, actual visibility is considerably reduced due to the dense vegetation that surrounds the eastern shoreline. Whilst there will still be potential residual visibility of the turbine blade tips from this location, they are viewed at distances of over c. 8 km and will have a minimal visual presence here. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low-negligible** and of an **Adverse** quality.	**Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term**
VP31	**L-1311 at Bunnagippaun**: This is a broad elevated scenic view afforded from elevated moorland areas within the	High	All thirteen proposed turbines are visible across Lough Corrib, with the nearest turbines located some 16 km from this viewpoint. Whilst theoretically visible within this	**Slight / Adverse / Long-term**

	townland of Bunnagippaun, south of the settlement of Oughterard. The depicted view is oriented northeast towards Lough Corrib, which represents one of the principal features of the view. The surroundings of the lake are cloaked in dense layers of stacked vegetation, whilst in the distance the eastern shoreline of the lake is visible, characterised by further layers of stacked vegetation and areas of pastoral land		elevated panorama, the proposed turbines will present with a minimal visual presence at these considerable distances. Indeed, due to atmospheric perspective (the fading of distant objects), even during the clearest viewing conditions, the proposed turbines will present as small-scale features within the distant background and will have a very limited effect on the visual amenity afforded from this location. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be **Low-negligible** and of an **Adverse** quality.	
VP32	**N59 at Clydagh Roundabout**: This is a view afforded from the N59 roundabout south of Moycullen, representative of centre of population and major route receptors. The major route passes directly west of Ballyquirke Lough, which is intermittently visible to the northeast in the direction of the depicted view. Otherwise, this aspect of the major route corridor tends to be well contained by mature vegetation throughout the foreground to middle-ground landscape context to the northeast.	Medium	The proposed project is entirely screened from view by intervening vegetation. As such, the magnitude of visual change is considered **Negligible** and of a **Neutral** quality by default.	**Imperceptible / Neutral / 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 higher ranging effects, these are **not considered to reach the significant threshold** and are classified as 'not significant'.

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