

# Appendix 12.4

## Viewpoint Analysis

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### Introduction

A viewpoint assessment has been carried out on a selection of key viewpoint locations to assess the likely magnitude and significance of landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Development. Over 20 viewpoints were visited and considered as part of the design process and from these locations a total of 14 were selected as being representative of the main landscape and visual receptors in the study area. The location of selected viewpoints is shown in Figures 12.1-12.10, and the existing/predicted views are illustrated with reference to Visualisations 1-14.

The viewpoint analysis is summarised in Table 12.5, Chapter 12 of the EIA.

The assessment considers the scale of change to landscape character and visual amenity at the individual viewpoint. It does not consider the geographic extent of such change upon the receptor as a whole. The extent of change is considered in the main chapter, which then considers scale and extent to arrive at an overall magnitude of change upon the receptor.

The viewpoint assessment assumes excellent clear weather conditions, although the influence of different weather, sunlight and visibility conditions are also considered where relevant.

**Viewpoint 1: View from Meenbog**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from local road at Meenbog 900m
<b>Grid Ref</b>	609817 887794
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands Medium/Low
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user Medium Nearby residents High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view comprises rising ground with a simple upland bog / grassland land cover. it is open and exposed. There are timber telegraph poles to the left of the view. The view is short as it is curtailed by the rising ground in the foreground.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The proposed turbines would be prominent in the view. The closest turbine would be at a distance of c.900m with the towers and moving blades of 10 turbines visible and the tips of 5 turbines noticeable beyond the horizon. The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 43° in a reasonably balanced composition. The met mast and substation would not be visible.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is very large scale, simple, open and exposed. There would be prominent views of the closest turbines with topographic screening of the more distant turbines.  The turbines would represent new large scale vertical elements within the landscape and the movement of the blades would contrast with the largely static qualities of the landscape.  From these open areas the scale of change would be large.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a reasonably balanced composition, with the more distant turbines receding in the view.  Considering the open visibility of the view and proximity and prominence of the turbines, the scale of change in this particular view would be large (note that commentary on effects upon residential visual amenity in the round is considered within the main LVIA chapter).

**Viewpoint 2: View from Local Road in the Townland of Taughboy**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Local Road in the Townland of Taughboy  2.2km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	610362 889124
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium/Low
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium/Low  Nearby Resident  High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across a domestic garden, past foreground commercial forestry towards the site which comprises extensive commercial forestry on higher ground along the horizon. The Lough Golagh turbines are visible on the horizon as minor features.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The proposed turbines would be clearly visible, forming a legible composition. The foreground commercial forestry would provide some screening to the towers and lower rotating blades of 5 of the turbines, and predominant screening of 2 turbines. The met mast would be largely screened from this viewpoint, and the substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 51°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be clearly visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape  The turbines would represent large scale vertical elements within the landscape.  From these open areas the scale of change would be large/medium.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the open visibility of the view and proximity of the turbines, the scale of change would be medium/large.

**Viewpoint 3: View from The National Road N15 in the townland of Croghanagh**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from The National Road N15 in the townland of Croghanagh 2.6km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	605136 888519
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium/Low around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is located at the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium/Low (this view looks away from the protected Barnesmore Gap view, and the road is busy with fast moving traffic)
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across simple upland bog. It is open and exposed. There are extensive areas of commercial forestry in the middle distance and along the horizon.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The proposed turbines would be clearly visible, forming a legible and simple composition. All turbines would be visible. The met mast would be visible from this viewpoint, but the substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 51°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be clearly visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape  The turbines would represent large scale vertical elements within the landscape.  From these open areas the scale of change would be large/medium.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the open visibility of the view and proximity of the turbines, the scale of change would be medium/large.

**Viewpoint 4: View from Local road in the townland of Croaghonagh**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Local road in the townland of Croaghonagh 2.7km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	604449 887697
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Bluestack  Medium/Low around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is located at the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium due to presence of Barnesmore Gap protected view
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across simple upland bog on rising ground. There are areas of commercial forestry along the horizon and mixed coniferous trees and deciduous scrub in the foreground. There are timber telegraph poles crossing the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The proposed turbines would be largely screened by topography and tree cover. Only the hubs and blades of 2 turbines would be visible. The met mast would be screened from this viewpoint. The substation would be predominantly screened in this view.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is large scale and simple. The turbines would be largely screened with only 2 visible. They would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape.  The scale of change would be small.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout would be largely screened.  Considering the limited visibility, the scale of change would be small.

**Viewpoint 5: View from Townland of Cashelnavean**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Townland of Cashelnavean  2.8km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	605832 889445
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium/Low around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is located at the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium/Low (this view looks away from the protected Barnesmore Gap view, and the road is busy with fast moving traffic)
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across simple upland bog. It is open and exposed. There are extensive areas of commercial forestry in the middle distance and along the horizon. The edge of Lough Mourne is visible to the left of the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The proposed turbines would be clearly visible, forming a legible and simple composition. All turbines would be visible. The met mast would be visible from this viewpoint, but the substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 46°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be clearly visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape.  The turbines would represent large scale vertical elements within the landscape.  From these open areas the scale of change would be large/medium.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the open visibility of the view and proximity of the turbines, the scale of change would be medium/large.

**Viewpoint 6: View from National Road N15 in the townland of Cashelnavean**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Townland of Cashelnavean  2.9km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	606913 889955
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium/Low around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is located at the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium due to presence of Barnesmore Gap protected view
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across Lough Mourne towards simple upland bog. It is open and exposed. There are extensive areas of commercial forestry in the middle distance and along the horizon to the right of the view. The operational Lough Golagh turbines are visible on the horizon to the right of the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The central and southern turbines would be visible, forming a legible and simple composition. The northern turbines would be largely screened by landform with only tips visible above. The met mast would be visible from this viewpoint, but the substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 42°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape  The turbines would represent large scale vertical elements within the landscape.  From these open areas the scale of change would be medium.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the degree of visibility and proximity of the turbines, the scale of change would be medium.

**Viewpoint 7: View from National Road in Meenacrumlin**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from National Road in Meenacrumlin 3.2km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	607690 890330
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium/Low around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is located at the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium due to presence of Barnesmore Gap protected view
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across Lough Mourne towards simple upland bog. It is open and exposed. There are timber telegraph poles, fenced enclosures and small sheds on the shore of Lough Mourne. There are areas of commercial forestry to the left of the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines and met mast would be predominantly screened with only the very tops of blade tips visible beyond landform. The substation would not be visible in this view.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be predominantly screened.  The scale of change would be negligible.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout would be predominantly screened.  Considering the degree of visibility the scale of change would be small.



**Viewpoint 8: View from Local road in the townland of Kinletter**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Townland of Kinletter 4.5km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	613080 889353
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands Medium/Low
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user Medium/Low
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across simple upland bog and commercial forestry. It is expansive in scale, open and exposed. The operational Lough Golagh turbines are visible on the horizon. Timber telegraph poles cross the view
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be visible, forming a legible and simple composition in the distance. The met mast would be visible from this viewpoint, but the substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 42°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape  From these open areas the scale of change would be medium/small.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the degree of visibility, the scale of change would be medium/small.

**Viewpoint 9: View from Townland of Tievecloghoge**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Townland of Tievecloghoge 5.15km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	614255 886705
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands Medium/Low
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user Medium/Low Nearby residents High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks along the road and across simple upland bog with commercial forestry along the horizon. It is mostly expansive in scale, open and exposed, although there is some smaller scale settled landscape visible to the right of the view. Timber telegraph poles run along the road.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be visible beyond commercial forestry on the horizon, with the lower towers screened by landform. There would be some screening from vegetation along the road. The turbines would form a legible and simple composition in the distance. The met mast and substation would not be visible.  The array of turbines would occupy a horizontal angle of approximately 27°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is mostly expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be visible and would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape.  From these areas the scale of change would be small.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition. It would be partially screened.  Considering the degree of visibility, the scale of change would be small.

**Viewpoint 10: View from Local road to the southeast of Deevoge bridge**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Local road to the southeast of Deevoge bridge 5.4km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	614056 884991
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	West Tyrone Hills and Valleys Medium/Low
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user Medium/Low Nearby residents High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across pasture and individual house in the foreground towards simple upland bog with commercial forestry along the horizon. It is large scale, open and exposed, although there are some deciduous trees along field boundaries and around the houses.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be largely screened by topography and commercial forestry with only the tips of 5 turbines visible beyond.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is large scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be largely screened. The scale of change would be small/negligible.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout would be largely screened. Considering the degree of visibility, the scale of change would be small.

**Viewpoint 11: View from Townland of Altnapaste**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Local road to the southeast of Deevoge bridge 6.4km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	604430 892819
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Cashelnaven Border & Uplands  Medium around viewpoint in the direction of the site (whilst this is within the edge of the AEHSA which covers the Bluestack Mountains, the focus of the view is across the simple Cashelnaven Uplands of lower sensitivity)
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium/Low  Walkers  High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across an expansive and simple upland landscape of heath, upland bog and extensive commercial forestry. High ground rises to the left and right of the view with longer distance views possible to lower lying land in the centre of the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be visible on the lower lying land to the south east, along the horizon. They would form a legible composition.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is expansive in scale, simple, open and exposed. The turbines would be largely screened. The turbines would be perceived in the context of the simple upland landscape. The scale of the turbines would accord with that of the landscape and would not conflict with that of the upland hills.  The scale of change would be medium/small.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout presents a balanced and legible composition.  Considering the degree of visibility, the magnitude of change would be small.

**Viewpoint 12: View from Track and Bluestacks Way in the in the townland of Greenan**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Track and Bluestacks Way in the in the townland of Greenan  11.3km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	595442 885217
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Lough Eske  Medium/High
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Walkers  High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across Lough Eske, the small scale settled shores and lower slopes beyond, and the large scale Bluestack Mountains in the distance which form the horizon. Lough Golagh operational turbines are visible on the horizon.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be effectively screened by landform.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	There would be no effect upon landscape character.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	There would be no visual effects.

**Viewpoint 13: View from Local road in the townland of Magheraval**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Local road in the townland of Magheraval  13.8km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	612009 900712
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Finn Valley  Medium
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road user  Medium/Low
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across a small valley comprising forestry, pasture fields and heathland. The Bluestack Mountains form the distant horizon. The operational turbines at Meenagrauv and Meenalita are prominent in the view.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be visible as very minor features towards the distant horizon. Most of the turbines would be visible occupying a horizontal extent of 8°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is medium/large scale in this area. The operational turbines around the viewpoint result in an existing significant effect. The turbines would be seen as very minor features towards the distant horizon.  The scale of change to the existing situation would be negligible.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout would be distant feature in the context of foreground turbines.  Considering the degree of visibility, the scale of change would be small/negligible.

**Viewpoint 14: View from Class B road B72 south of the village of Castlederg**

<b>Location and distance from closest turbine</b>	View from Class B road B72 south of the village of Castlederg 16.7km
<b>Grid Ref</b>	625249 882788
<b>Landscape Character Area &amp; Sensitivity</b>	West Tyrone Hills and Valleys  Medium in the vicinity of the viewpoint due to the smaller scale settled nature of the landscape.
<b>Visual Receptor &amp; Sensitivity</b>	Road users  Medium/Low  Nearby Residents  High
<b>Existing View / Do Nothing Scenario</b>	The view looks across a smaller scale settled landscape of pasture fields bound by hedgerows and trees, and scattered settlement. In the distance is a simpler expansive upland landscape with commercial forestry.
<b>Predicted view</b>	The turbines would be visible as very minor features within the distant upland landscape. Most of the turbines would be visible occupying a horizontal extent of 11°.
<b>Scale of landscape change</b>	The landscape is medium/small scale in this area. The turbines would be seen as very minor features towards the distant horizon.  The scale of change to the existing situation would be negligible.
<b>Scale of visual change</b>	The proposed layout would be distant feature.  Considering the degree of visibility, the magnitude of change would be small/negligible.