

Appendix 13-1 – Viewpoint Assessment



Degree of Associated Sensitivity with each Criterion

Strong association	Moderate association	Mild association	Negligible association

Receptor Sensitivity Criterion and Analysis at each Viewshed Reference Point (VRP)

Values associated with the view	VP1	VP2	VP3	VP4	VP5	VP6	VP7	VP8	VP9	VP10	VP11	VP12	VP13	VP14	VP15
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views															
Recognised scenic value of the view															
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas															
Primary views from residences															
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)															
Viewer connection with the landscape															
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views															
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location															
Degree of perceived naturalness															
Presence of striking or noteworthy features															
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance															
Rarity or uniqueness of the view															
Integrity of the landscape character within the view															
Sense of place at the viewing location															
Sense of awe															
Overall sensitivity assessment	HM	H	M	M	HM	HM	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	HM	M

N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity

Values associated with the view	VP16	VP17	VP18	VP19	VP20	VP21	VP22	VP23	VP24	VP25	VP26	VP27	VP28	VP29
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views														
Recognised scenic value of the view														
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas														
Primary views from residences														
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)														
Viewer connection with the landscape														
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views														
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location														
Degree of perceived naturalness														
Presence of striking or noteworthy features														
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance														
Rarity or uniqueness of the view														
Integrity of the landscape character within the view														
Sense of place at the viewing location														
Sense of awe														
Overall sensitivity assessment	M	HM	M	ML	HM	HM	HM	M	HM	M	M	M	M	ML

N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	<p>N56 at Loughanure – This is a broad sweeping panorama afforded from a bend in the N56 south of the settlement of Loughanure. The view extends across a landscape interspersed with small loughs and rugged rolling hills and is backdropped by rolling upland terrain.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The proposed development will not be visible from here; thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term</p>
VP2	<p>R254 at Bingorms north of the River Barra – This is a pleasant designated scenic view afforded from a remote section of the R254 regional road in the townland of Bingorms. The channelled view extends along a broad valley context enclosed by steep terrain to the north and south. Several small blocks of conifer forest are visible in the middle ground, whilst Lough Barra and distant rugged ridgelines contain the view's background.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The proposed turbines are partially revealed in the distance rotating along a rugged sloping ridgeline and are partially backed by the sky and distant rolling terrain. The turbines are viewed here at a distance of over 12km, present as relatively small-scale background features and are considered to have a subdominant visual presence in this broad scenic view.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the stacked view of turbines rotating along the distant ridges is not ideal as it generates a sense of visual clutter and visual irritation. Nonetheless, any negative aesthetic effects are heavily diluted by the viewing distances involved and the broad nature of the view. Whilst the proposed development will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this view that is characterised by few other forms of built development, the proposed turbines will not contribute to a strong detracting in the scenic amenity of this view. As a result of the</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long Term</p>

			reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	
VP3	N56 north of Dungloe at Meenmore – This is a brief view afforded through a gap in roadside vegetation along a section of the N56 north of Dungloe. The view extends across a small Lough surrounded by low rolling heathland and is backed by a broad conifer forest. In the distance, low rolling ridgelines carpeted in extensive areas of mountain moorland and conifer forest plantations contain the background of the view.	Medium	<p>The proposed development is viewed in the distant background where the turbines present in four distinctive clusters. Although the turbines are viewed at a distance of over 12km, they present with a notable degree of contrast as they are primarily backdropped by elevated terrain cloaked in an extensive conifer forest. In this broad view afforded on the outskirts of Dungloe, the turbines present as modest-scale background features and are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>As the turbines present in four distinct condensed clusters, they appear stacked and generate a notable degree of visual clutter. Nonetheless, there is an apparent rhythm to their clustered appearances, as the spacing characteristics between each cluster are almost identical. This, combined with the broad nature of the view and viewing distances involved, slightly diminishes any negative aesthetic effects. Overall, the scale and function of the turbines are well assimilated in this broad view that comprises other working upland uses such as commercial forestry. Therefore, on balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible.</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term
VP4	R254 at Commeen north of the Owenwee River – This is a channelled view from a partially contained section of the R254 regional road at Commeen. The depicted view is oriented along the valley to the southwest, which is	Medium	A partial view of the blade sets of up to 7 of the turbines has the potential to be revealed along the distant rugged rolling ridgeline. The partially revealed turbines are viewed at a distance of c. 9km and present backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast and are deemed to have a subdominant	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term

	contained to the north and south by rugged rolling ridgelines cloaked in mountain moorland and rocky outcrops.		visual presence. Whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this valley context, they will not notably detract from the channelled down valley views. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	
VP5	Picnic Area at the R252 north of Doochary – This is a pleasant locally elevated view from a small picnic area/viewing point along the R252 immediately north of the small village of Doochary. A sweeping panorama is afforded here to the south and east across the near valley context and is contained by the rugged upland terrain in the distance. The depicted view is oriented to the south/southwest, whereas the main aspect of visual amenity stems from the sweeping inland views to the east.	High-medium	<p>The northern and central portions of the proposed wind farm are visible at a distance of c. 2.7km. The turbines. Most visible turbines are fully revealed, rising from the sloping conifer-cloaked valley-side terrain. The proposed wind farm will be a notable feature from this elevated viewing point, albeit the southernmost extent of the development is partially screened by an area of mature vegetation in the foreground of the view. It is important to note that the depicted view represents only a small extent of the view afforded from here, with a sweeping panoramic view afforded towards elevated uplands to the east. In the context of this broad view, the visual presence of the proposed wind farm is deemed co-dominant.</p> <p>Whilst some of the proposed turbines present visually stacked, and with some notable turbine overlap, it is not considered that the proposed turbines appear out of scale or inappropriate in this transitional landscape that comprises large-scale landscape features and broad underlying land uses patterns. Although the proposed development only occupies a relatively compact visual envelope of less than 30 degrees in this broad sweeping panorama, the proposed wind farm will notably increase the quantum of built</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long Term

			development in this river valley context. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium .	
VP6	Local road at Doochary east of the Gweebarra River – This is a pleasant view afforded from the banks of the Gweebarra River at Doochard. The depicted view is oriented southwest along the river corridor contained by riparian vegetation. Several residential dwellings are partially visible to the north of the river corridor, whilst the view is contained by the rugged sloping valley-side terrain north and south of the river corridor.	High-medium	<p>The proposed turbines will be partially and intermittently visible, rotating along the rolling ridgeline south of the Gweebarra River at a distance of c 2.2km. The nacelles of up to 3 turbines are visible, rising just above the rugged ridgeline, whilst the blade sets of numerous other turbines rotate against the ridge. The nearest visible turbines present at a notable scale in this uphill view, however, they do not present with any sense of overbearing.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the partial views of stacked turbines rotating along the near ridge will generate a sense of visual clutter and visual irritation. The partial views of turbines also generate a sense of visual ambiguity as to the actual location of the proposed turbines. Nonetheless, the turbines are viewed opposite to the main aspect of scenic amenity here, which is to the west along the immediate corridor of the Gweebarra River. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term
VP7	L1783 at Derryleconnell Far south of Doochary – This is a view from the L1783 local road that extends across the immediate Gweebarra River corridor, which is screened by vegetation in this view. Small pockets of vegetation are interspersed throughout the river corridor context throughout the fore-to-middle ground, whilst in the distance, the view is contained by	Medium	All 19 of the proposed turbines are revealed here to varying degrees, with the majority of the turbines fully revealed. The proposed turbines primarily present backed by the sky and rise from the rolling sloping hills cloaked in extensive conifer forest plantations. Whilst the proposed turbines are viewed at a considerable scale at with a broad lateral extent from this distance of just over 1.6km, they do not present over-scaled or with any sense of overbearing in the broad landscape context.	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term

	rolling elevated terrain cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forest.		In terms of aesthetics, some notable elements of turbine overlap will generate a sense of visual clutter and irritation. Nonetheless, the variation in the scale of the proposed turbines from furthest to nearest highlights the depth of the proposed development across the broad landscape context. Overall, the turbines do not appear incongruous in the context of this working transitional setting, however, they will markedly increase the intensity of built development in the valley setting. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium .	
VP8	Local road at Drumlaghdrid west of the N56 – This is a broad view afforded from a local road east of Trawenagh Bay that takes in a rolling landscape cloaked in a mix of heathland, mature vegetation, conifer forest and isolated rural dwellings. The view is contained in the background by broad ridgelines cloaked in moorland and rocky outcrops.	Medium	<p>All 19 of the proposed turbines will be visible at a distance of 5.5km, rising beyond a middle-distant rolling ridge. The turbines are predominantly viewed backed by elevated rolling terrain and present at a relatively modest scale but with a notably broad visual envelope. In the context of this broad open view, the proposed development is deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Despite their broad visual envelope, the turbines present here in a highly legible manner with good spacing characteristics and little turbine overlap. Whilst the proposed wind farm will contribute to a notable intensity of built development in this scene, it will not appear out of place in this transitional working landscape that comprises a range of other anthropogenic land uses such as forestry and electrical infrastructure development. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long Term

VP9	<p>L1783 at Galwolie (1) – This is a locally elevated view from the L1783 local road at Galwolie. The view is oriented to the south and takes in the north-facing valley-side slopes of the Gweebarra River, which are cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forest. The view is contained in the distance by a broad, rolling, rugged ridgeline.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>A broad view of the proposed wind farm is afforded from the south-facing valley side slopes of the Gweebarra River Valley. The proposed turbines are clearly visible here at a considerable scale, the nearest of which is turbine T3 and viewed at a distance of 1.6km. The large moving turbines present here with a dominant visual presence and will be the most prominent feature of the southward view, and are primarily viewed backed by the sky.</p> <p>Despite the scale and presence of the wind farm, the turbines are generally viewed in a legible manner. Whilst there are a number of instances of turbine overlap, these negative aesthetic effects are strongly diminished by the clear and legible views of the turbines in the central parts of the development. The proposed development is also notably set back from the principal corridor of the Gweebarra River, which reduces its potential to heavily detract from the riverside setting. Overall, the proposed development will become a defining feature of views to the south from this local setting. Nonetheless, due to the notable turbine spacing characteristics, there is a strong sense of visual permeability through the proposed development, which does not block views of the distant rolling hills and ridges. Therefore, on balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium.</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>
VP10	<p>Local road at Cloherachullion – A relatively broad uphill view is afforded from a local road laneway on the southern side of the Gweebarra River corridor. The depicted view extends</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All 19 of the proposed turbines will be revealed from here to varying degrees ranging from fully revealed turbines to partial views of turbine blade tips rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge. The proposed development presents with a highly-dominant visual</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>across rolling terrain cloaked in extensive conifer forest and is backdropped by distant rugged ridgeline.</p>		<p>presence, with the nearest turbine (turbine T3) viewed at a distance of just over 700m at a considerable scale. Despite the near views of the proposed wind farm and considerable lateral visual envelope of just over 120 degrees, the proposed development does not present with a strong sense of overbearing, nor do the turbines appear over-scaled in this visual setting. This is principally a factor of the broad scale of the land scale features, and underlying land uses within this landscape context, where a wind energy development of this scale and nature can be assimilated.</p> <p>Whilst there will be some instances of turbine overlap and turbines rotating along the distant vegetated skyline, which can generate a sense of visual clutter and visual irritation, overall, the proposed turbines present in a legible and unambiguous manner. The proposed wind farm also presents with a strong sense of perspective here, highlighting the depth of the proposed wind farm development across this extensive area cloaked in rolling forestry. Nonetheless, the proposed wind farm will markedly increase the intensity of built development in this local landscape context. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High.</p>	
<p>VP11</p>	<p>L1783 at Galwolie (2) - This broad, locally elevated view afforded from the L1783 local road extends across the Gweebarra River Valley context and its surrounding terrain. This broad view is oriented to the south, where the north-</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>This is one of the clearest views of the proposed development that will be afforded in its entirety, where all 19 of the proposed turbines will almost be fully revealed and are viewed partially backed by the distant rolling terrain and partially backed by the sky. The proposed turbines rise from the extensive conifer</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>facing valley side terrain is cloaked in extensive commercial conifer forest plantations. A sweeping rugged ridgeline comprising several hilltop summits contains the view in the distance.</p>		<p>forest plantation on the southern side of the Gweebarra River valley and present with a dominant visual presence with a lateral extent of over 100 degrees in this broad view. Whilst the proposed wind farm will be one of the most prominent built features in this view, the large rotating turbines do not appear over-scaled in this broad landscape context.</p> <p>In terms of aesthetics, the loose spacing of the proposed wind farm allows for a degree of visual permeability through the scheme towards the elevated rolling rugged ridgeline that contains the view's background. The subtle variations in scale also highlight the depth and dispersion of the wind farm layout across the sloping north-facing hills and the broad river valley corridor. Although the proposed wind farm will become a defining feature for receptors along this local road context, the turbines are well offset from the immediate Gweebarra River corridor and are well assimilated into this broad landscape context that comprises existing upland working land uses such as the vast areas of commercial conifer forest in addition to other anthropogenic land uses such as overhead electricity cable corridors. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium.</p>	
VP12	<p>N56 at Boyoughter west of Lough Nascollop – A view across an extensive area of low rolling heathland and small loughs is afforded here. A small block of conifer forest partially contains the view to the south, whilst a distant view</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm development is clearly visible at a distance of 3.6km across a broad area of low rolling terrain cloaked in heathland and small loughs. All of the turbines will be visible from here, albeit a nearby conifer forest partially screens two of the southernmost turbines. The proposed wind farm</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>of rolling, rugged upland terrain is afforded to the northeast and east.</p>		<p>presents with a broad visual envelope where the turbines are viewed partly backed by the sky and partly backed by the distant rolling rugged ridgelines. In this broad open view, the proposed development is deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Whilst there are some minor elements of turbine overlap, this is a highly legible view of a large wind farm development in a broad landscape context. The loose arrangement of the proposed turbines allows for visual permeability through the scheme towards the distant rugged ridges, whilst the broad underlying land uses patterns can well accommodate the scale of the proposed wind farm development. It is important to note that broad 360-degree views are afforded from this section of this cycle trail and the neighbouring N56 national secondary route. Overall, the proposed development will generate a notable increase in the quantum of built development in this transitional landscape, but it is not considered an inappropriate form of development in this broad landscape context that comprises a range of other working land uses. As a result, the visual impact magnitude is deemed Medium.</p>	
<p>VP13</p>	<p>Local road at Cloghercor – This is a contained vista from a local road in the townland of Cloghercor. A near mature conifer forest plantation heavily contains the view to the south of the local road corridor. To north and west, a pleasant view across the Gweebarra River valley is afforded, whilst views of</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Despite their near distance to this section of the local road, the proposed turbines will be heavily screened by the neighbouring conifer forest plantations, with only glimpses of turbines and turbine blade sets. It is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to views to the west along the Gweebarra River corridor and towards the</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>the coastline and the Gweebarra River estuary are discernible in the distance.</p>		<p>Gweebarra Estuary and coastline visible in the distance.</p> <p>It is also important to note that the nearest residential receptors to this view are located further downslope to the north, are offset from the local road corridor and will not afford such a high degree of screening from the conifer forest. As a result, the wireframe view will likely give a better indication of the potential visibility from these dwellings. There is likely potential for uphill views to be afforded of turbines and turbine blade sets rotating above the conifer forests. Whilst the partial visibility of turbines will generate some degree of visual irritation; it is important to highlight that these dwellings afforded broad elevated views across the Gweebarra River valley in the opposite direction to the proposed development. On balance of the above reasons, a cautious Medium visual impact magnitude is deemed appropriate in this instance.</p>	
VP14	<p>Local road south of Lough Finn at Meentymorgal – This is a pleasant lakeside view afforded banks of Lough Finn along a local road in the townland of Meentymorgal. The depicted view extends back along the Lough, surrounded by rolling terrain cloaked in a mix of rough grassland, riparian vegetation and isolated rural dwellings. The view is contained in the distance by low rolling ridges and elevated upland terrain.</p>	High-medium	<p>The blade tip of one turbine (turbine T2) will be partially visible at a distance of over 6.4km in this broad lakeside view. Due to the limited visibility of the proposed turbine, it will be difficult to discern in this view, especially as it is backed by the sky and presents with a very low degree of visual contrast. However, even if viewed from here, the partial glimpse of the turbine blade tip will have little impact on the visual amenity of this scene, which is characterised by other anthropogenic built features such as residential development and overhead electricity cables. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible.</p>	<p>Slight-Imperceptible / Negative / Long Term</p>

VP15	<p>Local graveyard north of the Gweebarra River at Boyoughter – This is a locally elevated view afforded north of the Gweebarra River corridor in the townland of Boyoughter. The depicted view extends across the broad Gweebarra River corridor in the middle ground of the view and is backed by rolling terrain carpeted in extensive areas of conifer forestry.</p>		<p>The southern and central parts of the turbine array will be clearly visible south of the Gweebarra River on rolling lands cloaked in broad areas of conifer forest. The proposed turbines will present at a large scale, the nearest of which is viewed at a distance of c. 2km. Although the turbines are notably offset from here, they will be a prominent feature of the view and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Despite the prominent nature of the proposed development in this view, the turbines do not appear over-scale, nor do they present with any sense of overbearing. Furthermore, the proposed turbines present here in a relatively legible manner and with a strong sense of perspective, highlighting the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array across this valley context. While the proposed moving turbines will generate a considerable increase in the intensity of built development in this view, it is not considered that the turbines are incongruous features in this landscape context and instead contribute to the range of working upland land uses in the view. It is important to note that views of the rolling hills directly south and views towards the Gweebarra Estuary to the southwest will not be obstructed by the view of the proposed turbines. As a result of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium.</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>
VP16	<p>N56 at Lettermacaward – This is a roadside view afforded from the N56 national secondary route corridor at the dispersed Gaeltacht settlement of</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposed turbines are visible rising from the distant conifer-cloaked rolling hillsides in the background of the view and are partly backed by the rolling terrain and the sky. The nearest of the turbines</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>Lettermacaward. The depicted view is oriented east along the N56 corridor, bound by residential dwellings, local sports pitches and mature vegetation. The view is backdropped by broad rolling upland terrain cloaked in a mix of moorland and extensive areas of conifer forestry.</p>		<p>rises some 3.8km and are viewed beyond a near small residential housing estate south of the N56 corridor. The turbines will be a noticeable feature of the view and are deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>In terms of aesthetics, this is not an ideal view of a wind farm where the proposed turbines are viewed rotating just above the roofline of the nearest residential dwelling. Whilst the towers of the more distant turbines are fully revealed, the nearer turbine towers are partially screened by the near residential dwellings, which can generate a sense of visual ambiguity as to the actual location of the proposed turbines. Several of the proposed turbines are also viewed stacked and will generate a sense of visual clutter and irritation. Nonetheless, the variation in the scale of the visible turbines highlights the depth of the proposed wind farm development across the distant rolling terrain. Whilst the proposed wind farm development will not appear out of place in this transitional landscape context that is backdropped by broad-scale landscape features, the proposed turbines will considerably increase the intensity of built development in this view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.</p>	
<p>VP17</p>	<p>Local road at Corr Point – This is a locally elevated view afforded to the north of the Gweebarra River Estuary on sloping terrain in the townland of Corr. The depicted view is oriented to the east and extends across a sloping</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The proposed development will not be visible from here; thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term</p>

	<p>foreground contained in residential dwellings and mature vegetation. In the distance, the view is contained by rolling, rugged elevated terrain cloaked in a mix of forestry and mountain moorland.</p>			
VP18	<p>Local road at Meenagowan – This is a brief view afforded from a local road at Meenagowan adjacent to a local church. A view is afforded across a foreground contained in pastoral fields, dense vegetation and overhead cable corridors. The view extends across the Gweebarra River Valley and towards Cleengort Hill on the southern side of the Gweebarra River corridor. In the distance, rolling upland terrain cloaked in mountain moorland and extensive areas of conifer forestry contains the background of the view.</p>	Medium	<p>The southern extent of the proposed wind farm development is clearly visible in the distance, whilst the northernmost turbines are partially screened by an area of mature scrubby vegetation in the near foreground. The proposed turbines are viewed offset from the Gweebarra river corridor and the nearby Cleengort Hill and a deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aesthetically, several of the turbines present in small stacked clusters whilst the nearest turbines in the southern extents of the development are viewed rotating against a low rolling ridge and present slightly stunted as their towers are partially screened. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the proposed development will likely generate some sense of visual clutter and visual irritation. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines do not appear over-scale in the context of the broad landscape features and extensive conifer forest plantations. The turbines will markedly increase the intensity of built development in this inland view, however, the main aspect of visual amenity along this coastal peninsula typically relates to views across the Gweebarra River estuary and the coastline, which will remain uninterrupted by the proposed development. On</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term</p>

			balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low .	
VP19	Local road laneway at Derryloghan (1) - This is a contained view from a local road laneway in the townland of Derryloghan. The view extends across a small field contained in rough grazing in the foreground and is enclosed by mature conifer forests.	Medium-low	Up to 10 proposed turbines will be partially and intermittently visible from this relatively remote local road laneway. Turbine T18 is viewed at a distance of c. 1km and presents at a considerable scale in this view. The nearest turbines rise in silhouette against the sky, whilst several of the more distant turbines are viewed partially rotating along the vegetated skyline. The proposed turbines will be a distinctive feature along this local road laneway and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence. The turbines are viewed here in a relatively clear and legible manner with only some minor instances of turbine overlap. There will be some ambiguity associated with the actual location of the more distant turbines, which are partially screened, however, any notable negative aesthetic effects are heavily offset by the clearer views of the nearest turbines. Overall, the proposed turbines will contribute to a notable increase in the quantum of built development in this view and are deemed to have a visual impact in the order of High-medium .	Moderate / Negative / Long Term
VP20	Gweebarra Bridge - This is a pleasant designated scenic view afforded in both directions from the Gweebarra Bridge. To the northeast, an upstream view is afforded for the Gweebarra River corridor, which is contained to the north by Cleengort Hill and more distant elevated elongated ridgelines.	High-medium	The proposed turbines are viewed rising from the commercial conifer forest to the south of the Gweebarra River corridor in the view's background at a distance of 4.4km. The proposed turbines present at a noticeable scale and are viewed partially backed by the rugged terrain of Croaghleheen Hill. In the context of the views to the northeast from the	Moderate / Negative / Long Term

	<p>North of the river corridor, the terrain is much less distinctive and is cloaked in stacked mature vegetation. To the west/southwest, a broad, highly scenic view of the Gweebarra River estuary and its surrounding distinctive coastal features is afforded.</p>		<p>Gweebarra Bridge, the proposed wind farm is considered to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>The proposed turbines are viewed in a slightly condensed cluster with a visual envelope of c. 30 degrees, and as a result, there is a notable sense of visual clutter generated by the overlapping of turbine blade sets. Nonetheless, the proposed development presents with a strong sense of perspective here, highlighted by the variation in the scale of the turbines from furthest to nearest. This strong sense of perspective highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed development along the sloping hills south of the Gweebarra River. It is also important to note that existing wind turbines are visible along the western aspect of this scenic view, and therefore the proposed turbines will not appear incongruous in this view. Overall, it is not considered that the proposed wind farm conflicts with this area's broad-scale landform and land use patterns. It will also not strongly detract from the protected view afforded to the northeast of the Gweebarra Bridge, which it is considerably setback from. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.</p>	
<p>VP21</p>	<p>Portnoo Harbour – This is a pleasant coastal panorama that extends across Portnoo Harbour and its surrounding coastline. Inishkeel Island is visible to the north, whilst a sweeping panorama of the coastline is afforded to the east. In the distance, the elevated</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The proposed turbines are visible in the view's background at a distance of over 13km. Given the viewing distances involved, this results in a low degree of visual contrast due to 'atmospheric perspective' (fading of distant objects). Furthermore, whilst the turbines are likely to be noticed from here,</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long Term</p>

	mountainous terrain further inland backdrops the view to the east.		<p>they are deemed to have a subdominant visual presence in this sweeping panoramic coastal view.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there will be some sense of visual clutter generated by the stacked views of some of the turbines. However, these negative aesthetic effects will be strongly diluted by the viewing distance involved and the broad sweeping nature of the view. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low in this coastal view.</p>	
VP22	<p>Local road laneway at Derryloghan (2) – This is an elevated view afforded from a local road laneway at Derryloghan. The depicted view looks across an elevated rolling ridge cloaked in a mix of moorland and conifer forest. A broad sweeping panorama is afforded in the distance across the elevated uplands of northwest Donegal.</p>	High-medium	<p>An elevated view of the proposed turbines is afforded here, where the nearest visible turbine (turbine T19) is located slightly downslope at a distance of 1.2km. Whilst the turbines will be viewed at a considerable scale and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence, they do not present with any sense of overbearing due to the broad and downhill nature of the view.</p> <p>There is some visual clutter generated by the overlapping of the turbine blade sets, whilst a degree of visual ambiguity as to the actual location of the turbines is generated by the partial views of turbines. Several of the nearest turbines also appear slightly stunted as the lower parts of their towers are screened by a nearby low ridge. Nevertheless, while the turbines will markedly increase the intensity of built development along this upland ridge, the turbines do not block the distant views of the rolling, rugged Donegal landscape that backdrops the view to the north. Overall, the proposed turbines will not present as an inappropriate form of land use in this working upland setting comprising extensive</p>	<p>Substantial- moderate / Negative / Long Term</p>

			commercial forestry plantations and overhead electricity cable corridors. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High-medium .	
VP23	R250 at Shallogan More – The depicted view is oriented north from the R250 regional road towards a nearby conifer forest plantation that partially truncates the view. A low rolling ridge comprising several hilltop summits rises in the distance and contains the view's background.	Medium	<p>A partial view of up to 4 turbine blade sets has the potential to be afforded along this section of the R250, whilst a near conifer forest will entirely screen an additional turbine blade set. The turbine blade sets will be partially and intermittently visible, rotating along the broad rolling ridge and just above the near conifer forest plantation. Whilst the nearest turbine is viewed at a distance of just over 2km, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be sub-dominant as the visible turbines are only partially revealed here.</p> <p>In terms of aesthetics, the partial view of turbine blade sets rotating above a ridge or vegetated skyline can generate a slight degree of ambiguity as to the actual location of the proposed turbines. Nonetheless, the proposed turbines will only marginally increase the intensity of built development in this view and are not viewed in the main aspect of scenic amenity along this route, which is the down valley views oriented to the east and west. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long Term
VP24	Viewing point on the N56 at Mulnamin More south of the Gweebarra Estuary – This is a broad view afforded across the Gweebarra River Estuary from a viewing point along the N56. The	High-medium	The proposed turbines are visible on sloping transitional lands beyond the Gweebarra River Estuary at a distance of 7.6km. The proposed wind farm is viewed in the context of a working transitional landscape that is backdropped by broad landscape	Moderate-Slight / Negative / Long Term

	<p>depicted view looks upstream along the Gweebarra River corridor, which is contained by rugged elevated ridges contained in upland land uses to the south and more low rolling terrain cloaked in pastoral farmland to the north. It is important to note that the main aspect of scenic amenity here relates to views across the coastline and wider Gweebarra Estuary context to the west, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.</p>		<p>features. As a result, the proposed turbines do not appear over scaled or out of context in this view and are deemed to have a visual presence in the order of subdominant to codominant.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there is some visual clutter and complexity generated by the stacked views of turbines and turbine blade sets rotating along the skyline ridge. Whilst the turbines will intrude on the inland views, they are oriented in the opposite direction to the scenic view designation, which is to the west across the broad Gweebarra River Estuary and surrounding coastline. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	
VP25	<p>R250 at Shallogan More – This is a view from the R250 regional road in the townland of Shallogan More. Whilst a view across the broad enclosed valley context is afforded to the east, the depicted view is oriented to the north and is truncated by an elevated hill carpeted in mountain moorland.</p>	Medium	<p>A brief and partial view of 2 turbine blade sets will be visible, rotating along the rugged ridge to the north of the regional road at a distance of just under 2km. The partially revealed turbine blade sets have the potential to grab the attention of road users travelling east along this route and will be viewed in the context of the existing overhead cables that traverse the sloping terrain. Whilst the partially visible blade sets will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view; they will have little impact on the visual amenity of this broad scene that encompasses distant views along the valley to the east. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long Term
VP26	<p>R250 at Straboy north of the Stracashel River – This is a view from the R250</p>	Medium	<p>Two of the proposed turbines will be partially and briefly visible, rotating along a near-sloping ridgeline.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long Term

	regional road at Straboy. The view looks across the relatively flat terrain within the valley cloaked in rough grazing, isolated residential dwellings and pockets of mature vegetation. The view is contained in the distance by the rolling ridges cloaked in a mix of forestry and mountain moorland.		The partially visible turbines are viewed at a distance of c. 3.9km and backed by the sky with a low degree of contrast. The partial view of the turbine blades rotating on and just above the skyline vegetation generates a degree of visual clutter, which is further accentuated by the overlapping of the turbine blade sets. Nonetheless, this is a brief view of the proposed turbines, which is also characterised by other working and anthropogenic land uses such as commercial forestry and overhead electricity cable corridors. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low .	
VP27	R250 at Gortnamucklagh north of Genties – This is a view channelled along the R250 regional road corridor in the townland of Gortnamucklagh on the outskirts of the settlement of Genties. The view extends along the road corridor contained by residential dwellings and mature vegetation. Elevated upland terrain rises in the distance and contains the view's background.	Medium	A partial view of the blade set of turbine T19 will be afforded at a distance of 5.8km along the vegetated skyline ridge in the background of the view. The turbine blade set is viewed in silhouette against the sky with a low degree of contrast and has a visual presence in the order of subdominant to minimal in this roadside view. Whilst the partial view of the turbine blade set will marginally increase the intensity of built development along the distant rolling ridge, it will have little notable impact on the visual amenity of this scene that comprises broad rolling ridges and upland hills. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term
VP28	N56 at Main Street Genties – This is a heavily contained view afforded from Main Street at Genties. The view is truncated at a near distance by a terrace of buildings that lines the street corridors.	Medium	The proposed development will not be visible from here; thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term

VP29	R261 Portnoo Road at Ardara – This is a partially contained vista afforded from a locally elevated area north of the village of Ardara. The depicted view is oriented to the northeast and is heavily contained by stacked vegetation and surrounding residential dwelling. A brief glimpse of the distant upland terrain is afforded in the background.	Medium-low	The proposed development will not be visible from here; thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
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