

Appendix 16.1

Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Assessment of Visual Impacts at Viewshed Reference Points

(Photomontage Booklet is included in Appendix 16.2)

Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Degree of Associated within 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	M	M	HM	HM	M	M	H	HM	M	HM	HM	M	M	M	H

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

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

Values associated with the view	VP16	VP17	VP18	VP19	VP20	VP21	VP22	VP23	VP24	VP25	VP26	VP27	VP28	VP29	VP30
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	M	M	HM	HM	H	HM	HM	HM	HM	M	H

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	N24 at Kilmolash Lower - This is a view afforded from the N24 national primary route that extends across a low section of roadside vegetation northwest of Clonmel. The view extends across a landscape interspersed with hedgerows and stacked mature vegetation. In the distance, rolling ridgelines carpeted in extensive areas of conifer forest and moorland contain the view's background.	Medium	As highlighted in the wireframe view, there is potential to afford brief views of up to three of the proposed turbine blade sets from this considerable distance of just under c. 18km. The proposed turbine blade sets will be partially visible, rotating along the broad upland ridge in the background of the view, and are considered to have a minimal visual presence in this view. Whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development along this upland ridge, due to the viewing distances involved, they will have a limited effect on the visual amenity of this busy roadside view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Negative / Long term
VP2	Local road at Gortnalower, south of Ardfinnian – This is a view afforded from the southern outskirts of the settlement of Ardfinnian. The view is partially contained in the fore-to-middle ground by nearby dwellings and stacked mature vegetation. The view is contained in the distance by the foothills of the Knockmealedown Mountains and the distant Comeragh and Monavullage Mountains.	Medium	The proposed turbines will be partially and intermittently visible in the distant background, where they present with a notable degree of contrast against the distant upland ridge. Nonetheless, the turbines will be viewed as very small-scale distant background features from this distance of over 17km and are considered to have a minimal visual presence. Whilst there will be some degree of visual ambiguity associated with the actual location of the turbines, and a minor degree of visual clutter generated by the stacked view of turbine blade sets, these negative aesthetic effects are heavily diluted by the viewing distances involved and the broad nature of the view. Furthermore, one of the most notable aspects of visual amenity here relates to the broad view of the nearby Knockmealedown Mountains ridge line, which is clearly visible at a near distance to the south and southwest. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term
VP3	Local road layby at Glendalough - This is a pleasant designated scenic route afforded from a layby north of Glendaloughin. The channelled view extends along a broad valley context enclosed by sloping terrain to the east and west. Several large blocks of coniferous	High-medium	A partial view of the rotating blade sets of up to six of the proposed turbines is afforded from this elevated scenic view. The partially visible turbines rotate along the vegetated skyline at a distance of 7km and are viewed in the opposite direction to the scenic view designation, which is to the northwest. Overall, the heavily screened turbines are considered to have a	Slight / Negative / Long-term

	<p>forestry are visible in the middle ground, whilst the rolling ridgelines of the Knockmealdown Mountains and their surrounding foothills contain the view's background.</p> <p>It is important to note that this view is representative of a static scenic view (Scenic View 2) in the current Waterford CDP. Nonetheless, the designated scenic view is oriented to the northwest in the opposite direction to the proposed development</p>		<p>sub-dominant visual presence in this broad view. Aesthetically, it is not ideal to have partial views of turbine blade sets rotating along the vegetated skyline as it can generate a degree of visual ambiguity and visual clutter. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this elevated upland context, the proposed turbines are viewed offset from the main aspect of the visual amenity and are heavily screened by a nearby conifer forest. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	
VP4	<p>Local road at Sillaheens - This is an elevated view from an elevated local road in the townland of Sillaheens that extends southeast across the lowlands and towards the wider Comeragh and Monavullage Mountains, which contain the background of the view.</p>	High-medium	<p>Up to nine of the proposed turbines are visible here to varying degrees ranging from almost fully revealed turbines to partial views of blade tips. The proposed turbines are predominately viewed backed by the rolling Comeragh Mountains ridge, with some turbines presenting backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Overall, from this distance of over 9km, the proposed development is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Whilst the overlapping of turbine blade sets will generate some sense of visual clutter and visual irritation in this view, the turbines present in a relatively legible manner along the transitional foothills of the Comeragh Mountains. The turbines will generate a notable increase in the intensity of development along this section of the Comeragh Mountains. However, they do not appear over-scaled in the context of broad landscape features, and land uses throughout the view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP5	<p>Newcastles Birdge at Moloughnewtown, north of River Suir – This is a pleasant view afforded from a small seating area located along a local road immediately north of Newcastle Bridge and north of the settlement of Newcastle. The depicted view is oriented to the east across the foothills of the Knockmealdown Mountains south of the River Suir corridor, which are cloaked in pastoral farmland and blocks of mature</p>	Medium	<p>Up to five of the proposed turbines are revealed in the background of the view, rising just above the rolling foothills of the Knockmealdown Mountains located throughout the middle ground of the view. The nacelles and full blade sets of up to two of the proposed turbines are visible, whilst partial views of blade sets are also visible, rotating along the intervening rolling ridges. Whilst the moving turbine components have the potential to be noticed here, they present as modest-scale background features and are considered to have a visual presence in the order of</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term

	<p>vegetation. The view is contained in the distant background to the east by the Comeragh Mountains. It is important to note that one of the main aspects of visual amenity at this seating area relates to views of the immediate river corridor context to the south.</p>		<p>subdominant to minimal. This is a partial but relatively legible distant view of the proposed turbines, albeit there is a slight sense of visual ambiguity as to the actual location of the turbines. Nonetheless, the turbines will only marginally increase the intensity of built development in this scene and are viewed in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity, which is to the south towards the immediate River Suir corridor and Knockmealedown Mountains. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible.</p>	
VP6	<p>Local road at Ballymacarbry – This is a view afforded from a local road on sloping terrain north of the River Nire Valley in the townland of Ballymacarbry. The view extends south across the sloping valley side terrain where the nearby landscape context is heavily screened by dense hedgerow vegetation in the foreground of the view. In the distance, a view is afforded towards a foothill landscape cloaked in a mix of pastoral farmland, networks of dense hedgerow vegetation and blocks of conifer forest plantations. The view is contained in the background by the rolling Comeragh Mountains.</p>	Medium	<p>Up to six of the proposed turbines will be visible to varying degrees along the rolling ridge in the background at a distance of c. 5km. The proposed turbines are viewed at a notable scale in this view and present backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The proposed turbines present along transitional lands where the foothills meet the more elevated uplands. Overall, the moving turbine components will likely be noticed from here, albeit they do not appear over-scaled in the context of the surrounding broad landscape features. Whilst some minor negative aesthetic effects will be generated by the partial views of turbine blade sets rotating along the rolling ridge, overall, this is a relatively clear and comprehensible view of the proposed turbines, where they appear to mimic the rolling profile of the underlying ridge. Nonetheless, the proposed turbines will generate an increase in the quantum of built development in this pleasant view, although they are not considered to appear out of place in this transitional landscape context that comprises other working land uses such as extensive areas of forestry and pastoral farmland. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
VP7	<p>Nire Valley Trails – Coumduala Loop at Knockanaffrin South – This is an elevated sweeping 360-degree panoramic view afforded from the summit of Knockanaffrin South in the Comeragh Mountains. The depicted view is oriented across the western extent of the Comeragh Mountains and its surrounding foothills. Much of the elevated uplands are</p>	High	<p>Eight of the proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees along the transitional rolling lands on the western extent of the Comeragh Mountains. Viewed from this distance of over 6km, the proposed turbines are likely to draw the eye in this elevated view, where they present with a visual envelope of fewer than 20 degrees in this sweeping 360-degree panorama and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. The turbines in the array's eastern extents will be viewed in a</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

	cloaked in extensive areas of moorland, which transition to a mix of conifer forestry and pastoral farmlands as the terrain descends towards the working landscape below. The view extends a considerable distance to the south towards the Waterford coastline, whilst, to the west, the Knockmealedown Mountains contain the view's background.		slightly condensed cluster and present stacked, generating a degree of visual clutter. Nonetheless, the turbines further to the west present in a clear and comprehensible manner rotating well above the underlying ridge. Overall, the proposed turbines will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this upland setting. However, they will not appear over-scale, especially in the context of the broad upland landscape. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low .	
VP8	Local road at Shanballyanne south of Nire River - This is a heavily contained vista afforded from a local road scenic route within the River Nire valley. The depicted view is oriented uphill to the south in the opposite direction to the River Nire and is contained at a near distance by dense mature vegetation along the sloping north-facing valley-side terrain.	High-medium	The proposed development will not be visible from here due to the dense stacked intervening vegetation in the direction of the site. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is Negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
VP9	R671 Ballymacarbry Main Street – This is a contained vista afforded from a scenic route designation along the main street of Ballymacarbry adjacent to a service station. The depicted view is oriented directly along the regional road corridor to the southeast and is contained by the built surrounds of the settlement in combination with the densely vegetated sloping lands in the view's background.	Medium	Up to two of the proposed turbines will be visible, rotating just along the vegetated skyline in the distance and are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The most prominently visible of the two turbines is viewed in direct alignment with the local road and is likely to be noticed here, especially for road users travelling southeast. Only a partial view of the blade set of the other turbine will be visible, rotating just above the dense background vegetated. Overall, the partial view of the proposed turbine is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence in this contained vista. In terms of aesthetics, partial views of turbines and turbine blade sets rotating along the vegetated skyline is not an ideal scenario, as it can generate a degree of visual ambiguity in the view with regard to the proposed turbines' actual location. Nonetheless, this is a relatively simple partial view of two turbines that will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this enclosed landscape context. The turbines do not appear overscale or out of place in this context; thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low .	Slight / Negative / Long Term

<p>VP10</p>	<p>Local road at Knockanaffrin – This is a pleasant view afforded across the Nire Valley context from a local road scenic route in the townland of Knockanaffrin. The surrounding partially enclosed Nire Valley landscape context, which is visible throughout the fore-to-middle ground of the view, is cloaked in pastoral farmland, dense hedgerow vegetation and blocks of conifer forest plantations. In the distance, the terrain ascends towards the more elevated uplands in the Comeragh Mountains, which contain the view's background.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Up to six proposed turbines are visible at a notable scale rotating along the broad ridgeline in the view's background. The nacelles and full blade sets of three turbines are revealed here, whilst only partial views of the blade sets of the remaining three turbines are afforded. The turbines are viewed backed by the sky and present at a notable but not overbearing scale from this distance of just over 3km and are deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence. Whilst the partial views of blade sets can generate a sense of visual ambiguity, this is diluted by the clear and legible views of the three fully revealed turbines. Whilst the turbines will slightly detract from this pleasant valley setting, they do not appear overscaled in the context of the surrounding broad landscape features, nor will they appear out of place as they are viewed in combination with the working transitional foothills. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term</p>
<p>VP11</p>	<p>Nire Valley Trails Car Park – This is a view from the Nire Valley Trails Car Park that extends across the origin of the Nire Valley, located along the sloping foothills of the Comeragh Mountains. The depicted view is oriented across the valley to the southwest, where land cover transitions from the more typical foothill land uses such as pastoral farmland to areas of moorland, heath and blocks of conifer forestry. In the background, the view is contained by an elongated rolling ridge located along the western extent of the Comeragh Mountains.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>More than half of the proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees along the elevated ridge in the background of the view. From this distance of just over 4km, the proposed turbines present as notable built features. Whilst the moving turbine components do not appear over-scaled here, they will likely be noticed by the casual observer. In general, the turbines present here in a legible manner, with the nacelles of 5 of the visible turbines rising above the underlying ridge. There will be some sense of visual irritation generated by the turbine blade sets rotating along the ridges. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this valley context, they will only slightly detract from the visual amenity of the scene and are viewed offset from the more elevated uplands further to the east. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term</p>
<p>VP12</p>	<p>Local road at Knockaunbrandaun - This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Knockaunbrandaun south of the Nire Valley and some 2km north of Milk Hill,</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Five of the proposed turbines are revealed to varying degrees along Milk Hill and its surrounding ridgeline, where they are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The turbines are viewed at a distance of 2.4km and will be</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term</p>

	<p>which is visible in the distance. The depicted view extends across rolling pastoral farmland that accends towards Milk Hill in the distance. Mill Hill and its surrounding ridges contain this southern aspect of the view and are cloaked in the moorland, whilst blocks of conifer forest carpet its lower slopes.</p>		<p>noticeable features of the view to the south. Nevertheless, the turbines do not present over-scaled across the broad underlying ridge and in the context of the surrounding elevated uplands. Turbines T01 and T02 are almost fully revealed, whilst only a partial view of the blade sets of the three other turbines is afforded here. In terms of aesthetics, this is a relatively simple and comprehensible view of turbines rotating along a ridgeline. The partial view of blade sets will generate some minor negative aesthetic effects. However, the proposed turbines are not considered an inappropriate addition to this working foothill context and are viewed offset from some of the more visually sensitive elevated parts of the Comeragh Mountains. On balance of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	
VP13	<p>Local road at Lyre West east of Glenastuckaun Stream – This is a partially contained view from a relatively remote rural context west of the Comeragh Mountains and south of the Nire Valley. The depicted view is oriented to the southwest across sloping transitional lands and is partially contained by a near-mature tree-lined hedgerow. The view extends towards a broad elongated ridgeline that extends west from the principal ridgeline in the Comeraghe Mountains and is cloaked in extensive areas of moorland and blocks of commercial conifer forestry. Views of more elevated rugged lands within the Comeragh Mountains are partially further to the east.</p>	Medium	<p>Up to six of the proposed turbines are revealed to varying degrees along the broad ridgeline that contains the view to the south. The turbines will be viewed at a notable but not overbearing scale from this distance of 2.5km and present backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. In the context of this partially contained vista, the proposed development is considered to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aside from the minor sense of visual clutter generated by the partial views of blade sets rotating along the broad ridge, this is a relatively clear and comprehensible view of the proposed turbines. The proposed development is viewed in the context of the more transitional landscape as opposed to the more visually sensitive uplands, which a briefly visible further in the distance to the east. Although the moving turbine components will generate a notable increase in the intensity of built development in this remote rural context, they will not appear incongruous in the context of the surrounding working transitional land uses. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term
VP14	<p>Local road at Knockavannia – This is a view afforded from a small cluster of residential</p>	Medium	<p>Up to four of the proposed turbines will be visible along Milk Hill and its surrounding ridgelines. Only partial glimpses of the</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long Term

	<p> dwellings north of Milk Hill in the townland of Knockavannia. The depicted view is oriented to the south towards the summit of Milk Hill and its surrounding ridgeline, which contain the southern aspect of this view. It is important to note that one of the main aspects of visual amenity from this small residential cluster relates to the broad views towards the Knockmealedown Mountains to the west and to the northern extent of the Comeragh Mountains to the north.</p>		<p> blade tips of two of the turbines will be afforded from here, whilst turbine T01 is visible, rotating just above the summit of Milk Hill, and turbine T02 is visible at a similar scale further to the east. Both turbines T01 and T02 present here at a notable scale, which is further accentuated by the uphill nature of the view and the near distance of c 1.5km. Overall, the visible turbines will present with a dominant visual presence in this uphill view. Aesthetically, this is a relatively simple view of the proposed turbines where the present backed by the sky and rotate just above the ridge. The will be some minor sense of visual irritation generated by the partial views of blade tips rotating along the skyline ridge, whilst the turbines T01 and T02 appear slightly stunted as their towers are partially screened by the ridge below. Overall, the turbines will be one of the most prominent features of this southerly view and will generate a notable increase in the intensity of development in this small residential cluster. However, it is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity from this sloping context relates to views to the north and west towards distant elevated uplands. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.</p>	
<p>VP15</p>	<p>Kilclooney Mountain Summit (Fauscoum) - This is an elevated broad panoramic view afforded from the summit of Kilclooney Mountain. The depicted view is oriented to the west and looks across a series of elevated rolling ridges cloaked entirely in mountain moorland. The elevated nature of the terrain in the immediate landscape provides for a distant view the Knockmealdown Mountains, which rise in the distance and contain the view's background.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Up to 5 of the proposed turbines will be visible to varying degrees in this sweeping panoramic view. The proposed turbines are viewed at a distance of 6.7km and present as relatively modest-scale features in this elevated broad view. The partially visible turbines are viewed backed by the distant terrain and are viewed with a notable degree of contrast against the complex background. Nevertheless, within the sweeping 360-degree view, the turbines are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>There is a slight degree of ambiguity associated with this partial view of the turbines where the near upland ridge almost entirely screens their towers. A slight degree of visual clutter and visual tension is also generated by the overlapping of the turbine blade sets, and the view of the turbine blade sets rotating along the ridge. Whilst the turbines will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this remote</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long term</p>

			<p>upland context, they do not appear over-scale, nor do they present in a highly prominent manner. Whilst the turbine will marginally detract from the remote upland character, they are viewed against a backdrop of a mix of working rural land uses such as conifer forest plantations and pastoral farmland. Furthermore, a view of existing turbines is also afforded further in the distant background to the west, and therefore the proposed development will not appear as an incongruous feature in this broad panorama. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	
<p>VP16</p>	<p>Local road at Tooraneena north of Bryan's Cross Roads – This is a view afforded from a local road in the townland of Tooraneena, west of the Comeragh Mountains. The depicted view is oriented to the east across the low-rolling transitional foothills cloaked in a mix of pastoral farmland and conifer forest plantations. As the terrain ascends towards the more elevated uplands, the land cover transitions to extensive areas of moorland, which cloak the entire upland landscape.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>From this distance of 2.5km, the proposed turbines will present at a notable scale and will be prominent features of this eastward view. The two most westward turbines present at the most prominent scale and are fully revealed along the rolling ridge in the background, whilst the remaining other visible turbines are partially revealed to varying degrees ranging from partial views of blade tips to views of nacelles and partial blade sets. Despite their notable scale, the proposed turbines do not present here with any sense of overbearing, nor do they appear over-scaled in the context of the broad elevated uplands further in the distance. Overall, the proposed turbines are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence in this view.</p> <p>Whilst a relatively clear and comprehensible view is afforded of the two nearest turbines, the overall development present with some degree of visual clutter and visual confusion due to the stacked views of turbines and partial views of blade sets rotating along the ridge. A notable sense of visual ambiguity as to the actual location of some of the turbines is generated as the towers and nacelles of several turbines are heavily screened by the western extent of the horseshoe ridge than contains the site. Whilst the turbines will be a prominent feature of the view and will detract from the scenic amenity of this transitional landscape context, they do not block the view of the distant uplands, which are still clearly visible in the background. Overall, the turbines will generate a notable increase in the intensity of built development in this landscape</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long term</p>

			context, and thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium .	
VP17	Knockmealedown Summit – This is a pleasant panoramic view afforded from the summit of Knockmealdown. The depicted view looks across an elevated rolling landscape cloaked in moorland. A broad sweeping panorama is afforded in the distance to the east and south across the lowlands between the Knockmealdown Mountains and elevated uplands of the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains, which contain the background of the view.	High	All 10 proposed turbines are visible as distant small-scale features along the transitional foothills of the Comeragh Mountains and present with some degree of contrast against the backdrop of the elevated distant uplands. The proposed turbines are viewed at a considerable distance of some 18km in this sweeping panoramic view and will have a minimal visual presence. Overall, the proposed development presents a reasonable visual envelope where several of the turbine blade sets are viewed overlapping. Nonetheless, any potential for notable aesthetic effects is heavily offset by the considerable viewing distance in combination with the sweeping panoramic nature of this upland view. Furthermore, the proposed turbines will not appear incongruous in this view, where other existing wind farm developments are viewed at a similar and nearer distance to the south and west. On balance of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long term
VP18	Local road west of Sweep Cross Roads – This is a locally elevated view from a foothill landscape context west of the Comeragh Mountains in the townland of Reandampaun Commons. The depicted view is oriented to the east towards the rolling foothill context comprising pastoral fields and blocks of commercial conifer forestry. The view is contained in the distance by a rolling ridge cloaked in moorland.	Medium	The nacelles and blade sets of five of the turbines are visible here at a notable scale, whilst the blade tips of three other turbines are partially visible rotating along the skyline ridge. The proposed turbines will be a prominent feature of this eastward view, although they do not appear over-scaled in the context of this broad transitional ridge. They will draw attention as distinctive moving features and are considered to have a visual presence in the order of dominant to co-dominant. Whilst the partial view of the proposed turbine blade tips rotating along the ridge is not an ideal aesthetic, this is heavily offset by the clear views of the turbines that rise in silhouette against the sky and rotate freely well above the underlying ridge. Whilst the turbines will generate a considerable increase in the intensity of built development in this working foothill context, they do not block or obstruct the view and will not appear out of place in this working rural scene. On balance of	Moderate / Negative / Long term

			the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium .	
VP19	Local road at Glennaneane – This is a partially enclosed view afforded from a local road in the townland of Glennaneane, west of the Colligan River. Whilst the depicted view is oriented to the north and is partially contained by a combination of nearby rolling terrain and intervening vegetation, the eastern aspect of the view is contained by the elevated Comeragh Mountains, which are carpeted in extensive areas of mountain moorland.	Medium	<p>All ten of the proposed turbines have the potential to be viewed here, albeit an area of mature vegetation in the middle ground of the view will partially screen some of the more distant turbines in the array. The proposed turbines present at a considerable scale from this near distance and will have a dominant visual presence. Nonetheless, viewed in the context of the adjacent Comeragh Mountain uplands, the proposed turbines don't not appear over-scaled, nor do they present with any notable sense of overbearing.</p> <p>In terms of aesthetics, several of the more distance turbines are viewed slightly stacked and will generate a sense of visual clutter in this view. However, the clearer and more legible views of the nearest turbines along the eastern and western extents of the horseshoe ridge are likely to make the overall scheme more comprehensible. Furthermore, the variation in perceived scale between the nearer and further turbines generates a sense of perspective that highlights the depth of the scheme and the dispersal of the turbines across this contain horseshoe ridge. Overall, it is not considered that the proposed wind farm conflicts with the broad scale land form and land use patterns in this area. It is also not thematically at odds with this productive foothill context, though there will be a considerable increase in the intensity of built development within this partially enclosed visual context. It is also important to note that the proposed turbines appear well contained in this transitional landscape context and will not block or obstruct the views of the more visually sensitive elevated uplands to the east. As a result of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed High.</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long term
VP20	Local road at Tooraneena – This is a view afforded from a local road to the north of the small village of Tooraneena. The depicted view is oriented east from the local road carriageway across a nearby pastoral field backed by stacked intervening vegetation in	Medium	Although the wireframe view identifies the potential for visibility of all ten of the turbines, the nacelles and blade sets of up to three of the turbines in the northern extent of the array will be visible at a distance of just under 5km, whilst there is potential for brief visibility of the blade tips of several other turbines. However, the visible turbines will present here at a	Slight / Negative / Long term

	<p>the middle distant landscape. Whilst much of this mature vegetation contains the view, partial views are afforded towards the Comeragh Mountains further to the east, which contain the view's background. It is important to note that the principal aspect of amenity from the settlement of Tooraneena relates to views toward the Knockmealedown Mountains to the west, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.</p>		<p>relatively modest scale and are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Overall, the proposed development is considered to have a subdominant visual presence in this working pastoral scene. Whilst the partial visibility of blade tips rotating along the vegetated skyline is not an ideal aesthetic, these negative aesthetic effects are strongly diluted by the clearer visibility of the turbines further to the north. Furthermore, the overall scale of the development is heavily diminished here as a result of the intervening screening in the direction of the site. Overall, the proposed turbines will generate a marginal increase in the intensity of built development in this working pastoral scene, however, they are not viewed in some of the most visually sensitive viewing aspects afforded from this small village settlement. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low.</p>	
VP21	<p>Local road at Bleantasour – This is a pleasant view from the Comeragh Mountains' foothills in the townland of Bleantasour. The depicted view is oriented to the north and is partially contained by near intervening mature vegetation located in the immediate surrounds of the adjacent residential dwelling. Further to the east, a view is afforded towards the broad Comeragh Mountain uplands, which are cloaked in extensive areas of mountain moorland. It is also important to note that a broad view is afforded to the south across the low rolling foothill landscape in the direction of Dungarvan and the coastline.</p>	Medium	<p>The eastern extent of the array will be clearly visible here, whilst the turbines further to the west are heavily veiled by dense mature vegetation in the near foreground. The rotating turbine components will be a distinctive feature of this view to the north and are considered to have a dominant visual presence. Nonetheless, the turbines are not considered to generate any sense of overbearing from this distance of 2.5km.</p> <p>Whilst some sense of visual clutter and visual ambiguity will be generated by the stacked views of the central turbines in the array, and the partial view of turbines rotating beyond the dense winter vegetation, the highly legible view of the eastern turbines in the array will slightly offset these negative aesthetic effects. Despite their relatively prominent visual presence, the turbines appear well accommodated in this transitional landscape context in scale and function. They will notably increase the intensity of built development in this view and will slightly detract from the visual amenity afforded here. However, the turbines are notably offset from the more upland parts of the Comeragh Mountains, viewed further to the east. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long term
VP22	<p>R672 at Kilcooney south of Clooncogaile Cross Roads – This is a pleasant view afforded from the R672 regional road scenic route located</p>	High-medium	<p>The nacelles and blade sets of eight of the proposed turbines are viewed here in the background of the view at a distance of just over 5km. The moving turbine components will be</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long term

	<p>south of Clooncogaile Cross. The view takes in a broad pastoral scene throughout the fore-to-middle ground landscape context and is backdropped by the Comeragh Mountains and its surrounding transitional foothills in the distant background.</p>		<p>noticeable features in this landscape context, and in the context of the broad panorama of the Comeragh Mountains, they are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence. Whilst the turbines in the easternmost extent of the array are fully revealed here and present in a highly legible manner, there is some sense of visual ambiguity associated with the actual location of some of the turbines in the western half of the array, as the intervening rolling foothill landscape context partially screens their towers. Some other minor negative aesthetic effects will also be generated by the overlapping of turbine blade sets, and turbine blade sets rotating along the ridge. Nonetheless, these effects are notably offset by the viewing distances involved and the clearer and more comprehensible views of the turbines in the western half of the array. Overall, the proposed turbines will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this working foothill context, however, the turbines are viewed well offset from the more upland and visually sensitive sections of the Comeragh Mountains located further to the west. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.</p>	
<p>VP23</p>	<p>Local road at Kilbrien – This is a locally elevated pleasant view from a local road scenic route in the small village settlement of Kilbrien on the western foothills of the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains. The depicted view is oriented north along the local road where layers of intervening vegetation in the near landscape partially contain the view of the fore-to-middle ground landscape context. In the distance, the view is contained by elevated transitional lands west of the main Comeragh Mountains ridgeline.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>All but one of the proposed turbines will be visible here, located within and along the distant horseshoe ridge that contains the site. The easternmost turbine in the array will be almost entirely screened by a rolling ridge cloaked in a dense conifer forest. Whilst the turbines will be a noticeable feature of this relatively broad view, they do not appear overscaled in the context of the large-scale landscape features contained throughout this view. Nonetheless, the turbines are likely to draw the eye and are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence. In terms of aesthetics, the proposed turbines present with a notable degree of overlap here, with some turbines viewed stacked immediately on top of each other and will generate a sense of visual clutter and visual tension. Nevertheless, despite the visibly stacked nature of some of the turbines, overall, the array presents with a relatively loose arrangement here and does not appear out of place in terms of its scale or function in this working transitional landscape</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long term</p>

			setting. The turbines are also well offset from some of the more visually sensitive upland parts of the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains located further east of this view. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low .	
VP24	Local road at Bohadoon - This is a pleasant, broad sweeping panoramic view afforded from a scenic route on the western slopes of the Monavullagh Mountains. Whilst the depicted view is oriented to the north along the western extent of the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains, this section of the route is also afforded a broad view of the working lowlands to the west and southwest and is contained in the distance by the Knockmealdown Mountains	High	All ten proposed turbines are visible, rotating along the sloping transitional terrain west of the principal ridgeline in the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains. Whilst the rotating turbine components will likely be noticed from here, they are viewed in the context of an elevated sweeping panoramic view and are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Whilst the three westernmost turbines in the array are viewed in a highly legible manner rotating well above the underlying ridge, the remaining visible turbines are partially screened and generate a slight sense of visual clutter due to the partial overlapping of the rotating blade sets. Nonetheless, this is a relatively legible view of a wind farm that does not appear incongruous in terms of its scale or function in this transitional setting that comprises a range of working land uses. Overall, the turbines will not block or obstruct some of the most sensitive viewing aspects in this broad view, and thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low .	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP25	R669 at Boherboyrea - This is a view afforded from the R669 scenic route in the townland of Boherboyrea. The depicted view overlooks a rolling landscape cloaked in pastoral fields and conifer plantations. A view of the Comeragh and Monavullagh uplands is afforded in the distance to the northeast. It is important to note that one of the main aspects of visual amenity along this scenic route is to the north towards the Knockmealdown Mountains rugged ridgeline.	High-medium	The proposed turbines have the potential to be glimpsed from this section of the R669 regional road scenic route. However, the turbines will present as small-scale background features and are partially screened by a distant vegetated ridgeline. Even if viewed from this considerable distance of over 15km, the turbines will have little bearing on the visual amenity of this scenic route, where the main aspect of the visual amenity is to the north, towards the rugged Knockmealdown Mountains. On balance of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term
VP26	R672 at Colligan – This is a view from the R672 regional road scenic route in the townland of Colligan, west of the Comeragh Mountains and east of the foothills of the Knockmealdown	High-medium	The proposed turbines are fully revealed, rotating along the transitional foothills of the Comeragh Mountains at a distance of over 8km. The proposed turbines are viewed within and along the horseshoe ridge that contains the sight, albeit	Slight / Negative / Long-term

	Mountains. To the east, the view extends across low-rolling pastoral fields throughout the fore-to-middle ground context and is contained in the distance by the Comeragh Mountains.		turbine T11 presents here as a slight outlier further to the east of the array. Although the turbines will be clearly visible in this view, in the context of the broad panoramic view of the Comeragh Mountains, the proposed turbines are only considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Although the turbines present here in a relatively unambiguous manner and do not appear incongruous or over-scaled in this broad landscape context, they will contribute to a degree of visual clutter as several of the turbine blade sets are viewed cutting against each other. Nonetheless, the proposed wind farm is comfortably assimilated within this landscape context in terms of both its function and scale. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low .	
VP27	Local road at Currabaha – This is a pleasant locally elevated view from a local road scenic route in the townland of Currabaha west of the Comeragh Mountains. The depicted view is oriented to the north and extends across the western extent of the Comeragh Mountains and its surrounding foothill landscape. To the northeast, the view is contained by the Comeragh and Monavullagh Mountains, whilst to the north, the view extends across a working landscape cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland intervening hedgerow vegetation.	High-medium	All of the proposed turbines are almost fully revealed along the distant transitional foothills of the Comeragh Mountains just under 10km north of this view. Whilst the rotating turbine components have the potential to draw the eye here, the proposed turbines present as relatively modest scale features and do not appear over-scaled in the context of the elevated uplands immediately to the east. Whilst some stacked views of turbines have the potential to generate some negative aesthetic effects, this is heavily diluted by the viewing distances involved and the clearer views of other turbines in the array. Overall, the proposed development generally presents in a highly legible manner from this locally elevated rural context and is well offset from the more visually sensitive elevated uplands located further east of the site. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low .	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP28	Local road at Dromana east of the River Blackwater – This is a pleasant sweeping panoramic view afforded to the east of the River Blackwater at Dromana. The depicted view is oriented north across a low rolling landscape cloaked in pastoral farmland and pockets of dense vegetation in the surround of the Blackwater River Valley. In the distance, the Knockmealdown Mountains and their	High-medium	Whilst all ten proposed turbines have the potential to be viewed here, they will present as small-scale background features from this considerable distance of over 19km. The turbines are partially viewed backed by the Comeragh Mountain uplands and the sky and will have a minimal visual presence in this broad view. Overall, the distant view of the proposed development will have little bearing on the visual amenity of this broad view and is viewed offset from the more	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term

	surrounding foothills contain the background of the view.		elevated parts of the Comeragh Mountains. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	
VP29	Davitts Quay, Dungarvan - This is a pleasant view across Dungarvan Harbour, afforded from Davitts Quay in Dungarvan. The view is dominated by the built-up town of Dungarvan. In the distance, the elevated mountainous terrain further inland backdrops the view to the north.	Medium	Whilst the wireframe view identifies the potential for visibility of one turbine blade tip, it is likely to go unnoticed from here as a result of the notable viewing distances involved combined with the intervening vegetation in the direction of the site. Even if the partial view of the blade tip is noticed from here, it will have little bearing on the visual amenity of this urban scene and the magnitude of impact is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
VP30	N25 layby at Barranalira (Viewing point) - This is a pleasant broad sweeping view afforded from a scenic designation along the N25. The depicted view is oriented to the north and extends across a working lowland landscape backdropped by elevated uplands. It is important to note that the scenic view designation is oriented toward Dungarvan Harbour, to the northeast.	High	All ten proposed turbines will be visible at a considerable distance from this elevated scenic viewing point. Given the viewing distances involved of over 19km, this results in a low degree of visual contrast due to 'atmospheric perspective' (fading of distant objects). In the context of this broad elevated view, the proposed turbines are considered to have a minimal visual presence. Furthermore, the proposed turbines are viewed offset from the designated scenic view, which is to the northeast towards Dungarvan Bay. Therefore, on balance of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term



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