



Cush Wind Farm

Annex 9.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity &
Magnitude of Visual Impacts at
Representative Viewpoint Locations

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1.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Visual sensitivity is a two-sided analysis of receptor susceptibility (people or groups of people) versus the value of the view on offer at a particular location. To assess the susceptibility of viewers and the amenity value of views, the assessor uses a range of criteria and provides a four-point weighting scale (**Table A9.1**, below) to indicate how strongly the viewer/view is associated with each of the criterion identified in **Section 9.2 of Chapter 9**.

The visual receptor Sensitivity rating is provided at **Tables A9.2-A9.4** below.

Strong Association	Moderate association	Mild association	Negligible association
N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity			

Table A9.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Values associated with the view	VP 1	VP 2	VP 3	VP 4	VP 5	VP 6	VP 7	VP 8	VP 9	VP 10
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	H	M	ML	HM	M	ML	ML	M	L	HM	
N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity											

Table A9.2: Visual Receptor Sensitivity – Viewpoint Sensitivity VP1 – VP10

Values associated with the view	VP 11	VP 12	VP 13	VP 14	VP 15	VP 16	VP 17	VP 18	VP 19	VP 20	VP 21
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	ML	ML	ML	ML	M	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	H
N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity											

Table A9.3: Visual Receptor Sensitivity – Viewpoint Sensitivity VP11 – VP21

Values associated with the view	VP 22	VP 23	VP 24	VP 25	VP 26	VP 27	VP 28	VP 29	VP 30	VP 31	VP 32
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	VH	M	ML	ML	HM	M	ML	ML	ML	M
N = Negligible; L = low sensitivity; ML = medium-low sensitivity M = medium sensitivity; HM = High-medium sensitivity; H = high sensitivity; VH = very high sensitivity											

Table A9.4: Visual Receptor Sensitivity – Viewpoint Sensitivity VP22 – VP32

1.2 Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

The assessment of visual impacts at each of the selected viewpoints, as presented at **Table A9.5** below, is aided by spatially accurate wireframe images and photomontages that have been produced in accordance with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual representation of wind farms: *Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017)*. The presented images for each viewpoint include;

- Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)
- Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
- Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative turbines (53.5° included angle)
- Montage View - proposed and cumulative turbines (53.5° included angle)

VP No.	Existing View and Permitted Baseline View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
<p>VP1</p>	<p>Clonmacnoise</p> <p>This view is representative of the immediate surrounds of Clonmacnoise, as the historic site itself is fully screened by landform. Located on the R444 regional road on the eastern side of the Esker Riada. This slightly elevated view faces away from the sensitive Shannon/ Clonmacnoise/ Esker Riada context, and towards the expansive area of cutaway bog over the midground. The southern edge of the Slieve Bloom mountains is visible along the horizon, but generally screened by foreground vegetation.</p> <p>The key difference with regards to the existing photography and permitted baseline for this view is the introduction of Derrinlough permitted development. This development is viewed in clusters between Meenwaun and Cloghan existing wind developments, which results in a distribution of wind turbines, low across the horizon. However, this is only partially visible through the foreground vegetation.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>The project is visible over the cut-bog across the foreground by a low area of vegetation, forming a background feature to the view, separated from the viewer by different land uses and a clear sense of perspective provided by the scale of open bog in the midground. This serves to perceptually distance the viewer and the surrounding sensitive landscape from the project site, partially mitigating views.</p> <p>In terms of cumulative impact, the combination of the proposed project, the existing Meenwaun development and the permitted Derrinlough development results in a continuous band of turbines with higher levels of overlap and intensity of development.</p> <p>As such, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Low-negligible and of a Negative Quality</p>	<p>Slight/ Negative/ Long-term</p>
<p>VP2</p>	<p>Offaly Way Start Point</p> <p>This view is located adjacent to Leamonaghan Graveyard & Heritage Site, which in combination with it being the trailhead of the Offaly Way, introduces recreational and amenity receptors in addition to the rural community and regional road (R436) users. The surrounds of the view to the north are 10th-12th century parish church ruins, with the inclusion of a graveyard, Priest's House, church ruin, Bullaun (located in the middle of the road junction), as well as a holy well and a ruined oratory set within pasture and large trees. In contrast, the view to the south is over irregular fields bordered by residences and farm yards. The</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposal is screened by a combination of elements from this location, with vegetation, built form and slightly rolling landform resulting in little to no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality</p>	<p>Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term</p>

	foreground is one such field, contained by built form to the east and west, and hedgerow vegetation along the horizon.			
VP3	<p>N62 at Ferbane</p> <p>This view is a typical view of a small town within the surrounding landscape, where the main road allows views over the wider rural context, framed by residential development around the periphery. This channels views along the N62, as the road dips away from the viewer, allowing visibility across Ferbane and to the treed landscape across the horizon.</p> <p>The permitted baseline includes Derrinlough turbines visible in the distance running across the horizon. These are separated from the viewer by the intervening visible landscape, and combine with the existing Cloghan turbines along the rolling landform across the width of the visible horizon, in line with the road.</p>	Medium-Low	<p>The project is visible between the permitted Derrinlough turbines, with a number of instances of turbine overlap and creating a clear sense of perspective due to the scale difference. While the presence of the proposed project is secondary to the existing Cloghan and permitted Derrinlough, the proposal introduces a 'depth' to the spatial extend of wind development. Finally, there is an increase in visual clutter of the wind development combined with the power lines and poles within the immediate viewer context, however the turbines themselves are well spaced, presenting in four pairs. Overall, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Medium - Low and of a Negative Quality</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
VP4	<p>Shannonbridge</p> <p>This is a relatively scenic view, representative of the surroundings at Shannonbridge, and the Roscommon scenic view located to the west along the local road in the foreground. All of these receptors are focused on the higher sensitivity landscape of the Shannon Corridor, where it is joined by the River Suck. This view has a high level of natural/rural amenity, with no visual access to the built form at Shannon Bridge, likely due to the risk of flooding as shown in the site photography. The view itself is located on the regional road, where the junction with the L76055 and a field gate allow an opening in vegetation over the wider landscape. The midground is generally pasture down low sloping landform to the main river corridor and flats. The horizon is defined by woodland over the bog to the south of the Suck/Shannon, and to the east by the southern</p>	High-medium	<p>The blade tips of some of the proposed turbines will be just discernible rising above the vegetated skyline in the far distance. They will have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and they are perceived to be well beyond the context of the foreground river corridor. The proposed turbines will be seen in the context the existing Meenwaun turbines and the imminent Derrinlough turbines. Whilst together these turbines are slightly cluttered and form an intense group, they are a cohesive group. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative / Long-term

	end of the Slieve Blooms. Within the permitted baseline there will be the partially visible addition of Derrinlough turbines to the east of the view, intermittently visible against the upland horizon.			
VP5	<p>Moyclare</p> <p>This view is a designated scenic view within the Offaly County Development Plan, of which the description is 'Southwards towards the Slieve Blooms'. The viewer context is the rural periphery of Ferbane, along a local road scattered with residences. The foreground view is gently sloping pasture away from the viewer, with an increase in vegetation over the lower elevations, which trace the River Brosna and Grand Canal (neither of which are visible through the vegetation). The level landform across the midground into the distance is generally screened by vegetation to the base of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, over a wide-open view (to the south/southeast). This contrasts slightly with the landform in closer proximity to the viewer (to the south/southwest) where views are contained by a slight increase in landform/elevation, with more visible ground surface/pasture. On the far side of the south/southwest hill is the existing Cloghan Wind Farm. Combined with Cloghan in the permitted baseline scenario is Derrinlough Wind Farm, which frames the forementioned hill. None of these overlap with the Slieve Blooms when viewed from this location.</p>	Medium	<p>Most important to this location is the contextual separation between the left and the right of the depicted view. The foreshortened section of the view by rolling topography is dominated by wind energy, while the more scenic and distant view is clear of turbines and features clear views to the Slieve Bloom Mountains over level topography with a high degree of vegetation.</p> <p>When considered cumulatively with the existing/permitted development, the proposed Cush Wind Farm represents an intensification of wind energy development as the proposal is located within the lateral extents of the existing/permitted development, maintaining the relationship between this concentrated area of wind development and the wider context of the view.</p> <p>Therefore, the magnitude of visual impact is Low and of a Negative quality.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP6	<p>Lough Boora</p> <p>This view is located on the R357 regional road north of Lough Boora, surrounded by walkways which connect to the recreation park. The context is surrounded by cutaway bog and woodland, including large areas of conifer forestry, which when combined with the flat topography, serve to substantially screen visibility. The immediate</p>	Medium-Low	<p>The proposal is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality</p>	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term

	<p>surroundings of the view are short fields set below the road corridor which transition into the forementioned woodland and particularly conifer forestry. To the north of the road is the existing Leabeg Wind Farm, located in close proximity to the viewer and is a key part of the viewer experience. There is also a few of the Cloghan turbines visible over trees in the distance. The permitted Derrinlough Wind Farm features similar levels of visibility, with intermittent blades and partial views along the tops of trees towards the site.</p>			
<p>VP7</p>	<p>Stonestown This view is representative of scenic view 'V12' within the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027, with the description of 'Over bog lands and Slieve Bloom Mountains'. There is a framed view towards boglands (partially occupied by Cloghan wind farm), however views to the Slieve Blooms are partially screened and located out to the eastern (left) periphery of the view. There is a scattering of residences along this road that generally enjoy the broad views to the south. This view is through a field gate over pasture and sloping landform to the open bog, and across the level landform with scrubby vegetation. The permitted Derrinlough Development is located on either side of the Cloghan Wind Farm, which serve to create an expanse of turbines across the visible horizon, backed by the smaller schemes further south.</p>	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>Generally, the visual impact of the proposal is secondary to the proximity and number of existing/permitted development through the midground of the view. The proposal adds a strong sense of perspective in the middle of the view, where it is visible between the Cloghan and Derrinlough turbines, at a (visually) smaller scale due to the distance. This distance and perceptual scale difference serves to reduce opportunities for clutter and overlap. While there is a small channel/break in all turbines in the centre of the view, there is a large, relatively continuous expanse of wind energy development across the view. However, the proposal presents in a well spaced manner, as four evenly spaced pairs. As with VP5, a mitigating factor is the separation from views towards the Slieve Blooms to the left of the depicted view. The proposed turbines represent a modest intensification of turbines within a visual context that is characterised by wind energy development, but in a legible and supplementary manner. They serve to emphasise the broad context of the underlying landscape through the sense of depth perspective they bring. The magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low, and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term</p>

<p>VP8</p>	<p>Shannon Harbour This is a relatively common view along the Shannon and Grand Canal Corridor, with boats docked along the shore, with water surface in the foreground, all set against the vegetated surroundings. In this case the vegetation comes from the surrounding fields which run into the partially extracted bog to the south. There is visible wind development in the form of Meenwaun, and Cloghan visible to the periphery of the view, above the canal. Derrinlough is visible through the existing power infrastructure over the view. The combination of these add an additional layer of land use into the distance of the view.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposal is highly screened and where visible, the partial visibility is tertiary to the surrounding wind development. However, as there is potential for the proposal to contribute to the intensification of wind development over the view, the magnitude of impact is deemed Low-Negligible, and of Negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term</p>
<p>VP9</p>	<p>Taylor's Cross This view is from the wide agricultural fields and flat landform located to the northwest of the site. The midground is contained by vegetation, slightly more open to the north and dissected by a larger overhead line. The view is taken from along the R439 regional road, and views the project site against the backdrop of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The existing Meenwaun turbines are visible to the northeast, as is the permitted Derrinlough scheme, which extends further north. These are contained to the left/north of the depicted view, which is more open than the right/south where vegetation and the vertical structures of power infrastructure screen distant views.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The full width of the array is visible, with only T4 screened by localised vegetation. The proposal extends the are of wind energy development laterally across the view, however it is generally contained to the north of the road (with the exception of T2, which is spaced slightly away from the main group). The proposed turbines are seen in a clear and legible manner, albeit with a couple of instances of turbines overlap that generate a minor degree of visual clutter. The dense vegetation over the midground perceptually separates the viewer from the area of development, from within a robust working landscape. Overall, the magnitude of impact is deemed Medium-low, and of Negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term</p>
<p>VP10</p>	<p>Meelick Quay This is a pleasant view located on the banks of the Shannon, just north of the Meelick Weir. The river surface and banks dominate the foreground. The far bank features a disused cottage and Keeloge Battery, both partially enclosed by vegetation. There is a variety of vegetation characteristics,</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The majority of the blades of the proposed turbines are visible above the vegetation along the horizon. While these are well separated from the viewer both with regards to distance and screening, there will be some impact on the scenic amenity of the view as they represent a new form of moving built development within a scene which is currently characterised by a low</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term</p>

	with the individual trees, woodlands, scrub, and trimmed hedgerows layered over the view. The viewer side of the river features a higher degree of development and activity, making the depicted view representative of the likely viewer experience. There are partial and full blades of the Meenwaun and permitted Derringlough array visible along the vegetation over the horizon, however these become screened by the battery and associated vegetation.		degree of development. As such, the magnitude of impact is rated Low and of a Negative quality.	
VP11	L3006 at Garbally Located on the local road which runs east/west along the north of the site, between the proposal and Meenwaun Wind Farm, this view is mainly representative of local community views. It is a relatively focused view, directed towards the site over the intervening vegetation, while being representative of viewers who will experience this viewpoint in a transient manner driving along the local road. The surrounds are highly enclosed by hedgerow lined narrow roads, with occasional views out provided by gateways and intersections. This is one such location, with a access track to the right of the depicted view, and a hedgerow lined field across the foreground of the view. The field is backed by a hedgerow and large deciduous trees which continue around a residence and farm sheds. This residence and the viewer are slightly elevated from the proposal site, with a dip in the landform to the north/east of the viewer (out of the depicted view) the existing Meenwaun turbines are visible over an area of conifer forestry.	Medium-Low	There are instances where the proposed turbines will be visible over/through the vegetation which lines the horizon of the view. With turbine T1 and T4 being visible from the tip to the hub between the tree tops. There is a degree of scale conflict/confusion between the distance from hub to ground level and between the perceived size of the turbine and the foreground structures, which are a more familiar and relatable height. Aside from the specific instances of screening for individual turbines, this view indicates that the potential for partial visibility of the upper section of the proposal. Combining this visibility with the views to Meenwaun, there is potential for individual residences to have visible wind development on both sides of the road, intensifying the level of development in this rural context. As such the magnitude of impact is deemed Medium-low , and of Negative quality.	Moderate-slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP12	L3006 at Ballyslavin This is a partially open view, with the landform sloping away from the viewer, but upward, screening views to the west. As above (VP12), this view is representative of local receptors and the local road in all directions features varied visibility.	Medium-Low	This is a relatively clear, open view of the turbines trailing across the view, with a generally symmetrical cluster around turbine T3 in the centre of the view. The scale and extent of the development does result in an intensification of built development. However, the viewer is	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term

	In this instance, there is a more scrubby, natural foreground which screens much of the intervening midground, until the horizon is defined by views of Slieve blooms. As with VP11 – the Meenwaun wind farm is visible behind the viewer.		contextually separated by the field and vegetation throughout the foreground. While this is a legible view of the proposed turbines within a landscape context that is compatible in terms of scale and function, they will intrude slightly on the distant partial view of the Slieve Blooms beyond. As such, the impact of High-medium , of Negative quality.	
VP13	N62 at Galros Cross Roads This is a broad view along the N62 national road, with long range views along the road which draw the eye to the rolling horizon. The visibility is open to esker landforms and the Slieve blooms to the east, however this is separated from the view by a highly disturbed exposed bog landscape. In contrast, the view is enclosed by scrubby hedgerow vegetation to the west. However, this view is representative of the road corridor experience, including the residence immediately to the north, which are not dependant on individual trees, and vary greatly in terms of enclosure along the N62 at this location.	Medium-Low	The introduction of the project at this location will change the type of land use, but not the intensity of use or utilitarian character, with a thematic link between the harvesting of peat for energy and the introduction of wind energy infrastructure. The scale of the turbines is unavoidable at this close location, however the clear views and legibility also serve to introduce a level of interest to the section of the road which passes through the proposal. The turbines are well spaced (visually) from the road, and are 'paired off' on either side. With the above considered, the scale of the array and change to the character of the view is deemed to be High-Medium and of Negative quality.	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term
VP14	Fivealley Located at the layby at Fivealley, where there is a cluster of local buildings and services, offset slightly from the N52, which is on the far side of the hedge to the left/east of the viewer. The foreground features a post and rail fence, backed by a field and low hedgerow. The landform is generally down towards the national road, with a slight rise in landform forming the horizon to the west.	Medium-Low	There will be partial visibility of turbines above the hedgerow within the middle of the view. There are some instances of overlap and coupled with the blade sets rotating against the intervening hedgerow, this will create a degree of visual clutter. Such effects are mitigated by the high degree of screening and therefore the impact is deemed Low and of a Negative quality.	Slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP15	Local Road at Knockhill and Drinagh This is a locally elevated location, which affords expansive view over surroundings. The foreground is open pasture with landform sloping away from the viewer. The midground features vertical	Medium	The project is consistent with the surrounding development in scale and distance, however there is a break between the two groups which visually separates them. While this provides a break in the extent of wind turbines, it also extends	Moderate-slight/ Negative/ Long-term

	<p>elements in the form of a tree and existing power lines. However, these features do not form any significant interruption to the broad view over the surrounding landscape. The view over the lowlands is highly vegetated with scattered built form. The permitted baseline of Derrinlough, when combined with the existing development forms a cohesive band of wind energy of part of the panorama. The smaller cluster to the southwest of the study area is partially screened by the landform, with the proposed Carrig Renewables wind farm located to the left of the depicted view.</p>		<p>wind energy development further south. The proposal will increase the breadth of wind energy development across the horizon, but it represents a familiar and legible form of development in the distant productive lowland context. With the inclusion of Carrig Renewables Wind Farm, is a clear taper of proximity and scale of wind development to the south. As such, the magnitude of impact is deemed Medium-low, of a Negative quality.</p>	
<p>VP16</p>	<p>R438 at Deerpark This is a generic, but pleasant, rural view over fields, contained by vegetation over a subtle rolling ridge. Over the wider view, the landform falls to the north/left of the view offering fleeting views of the surrounding landscape. The existing wind developments of Cloghan, Meenwaun, and permitted development of Derrinlough are visible in this direction, clustered together and partially screened by the midground vegetation.</p>	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>The development is clearly visible over the horizon of this view, however the majority of turbines are cropped by intervening landform at the base. This results in the lower sweep of the rotor appearing slightly stunted behind the horizon and associated vegetation. However, this relative height results in the development appearing at a similar scale and height along the horizon as the existing vegetation. There will also be some visual clutter from overlapping turbines. As such, the visual impact of the proposal is deemed to be Medium-Low magnitude, of Negative quality.</p>	<p>Moderate-slight/ Negative/ Long-term</p>
<p>VP17</p>	<p>Local Road at Birr Golf Club This is a pleasant slightly elevated view over the rolling landform to the south of the site, located along the local road which borders Birr Golf Club. The foreground allows views over open treelined fields, which continue to the horizon to the east. There is a high voltage line which marches across the view along this more open, pastoral land use. In contrast, over the midground to the west, the ground surface is concealed by scrubby vegetation and blocks of conifer forestry. The horizon is generally level, with an even covering of vegetation. To the right/west of the view, the</p>	<p>Medium-Low</p>	<p>The project is seen at a prominent scale from this near distance. It is separated from the viewer by the alignment of landcover transition into scrub and is located on the far side of the high voltage line. This leaves the eastern side of the view (where the northern end of the Slieve Blooms are visible) generally free of vertical energy structures. The proposal appears well spaced and provides a clear sense of perspective relative to the surrounding developments, which are distributed across the horizon. The project does increase the intensity of land use, however this is a robust rural landscape, with a clear division between land uses through linear elements (overhead lines) and</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative/ Long-term</p>

	existing Cloghan and permitted Derrinlough developments line the horizon.		landcover. As such, the impact of the project is deemed High-medium , of Negative quality	
VP18	<p>N62 at Cooleeny</p> <p>This is robust rural landscape with a high degree of anthropogenic influence and built features. The viewer is set in a slight depression in the surrounding esker landform, with views directed upwards along the N62 towards a cluttered skyline of overhead lines and scrub and one residence. There are a couple of buildings to the west of the view, with the gateway in the foreground access to an area of gravel extraction of unknown age or use, but marked by the access gates and pull-off area for heavy vehicles.</p>	Medium-Low	The project array is highly visible from here, dominating the skyline as the viewer/road user travels across the landform. The proposal adds to the clutter on the ridgeline. While this is a robust landscape, the location of the turbines in close (visual) proximity to familiar features such as houses emphasises the scale of the turbines and generates a degree of scale conflict. On balance, there is High-medium magnitude of impact, of Negative quality.	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term
VP19	<p>R489 at Lisinisky</p> <p>This is a slightly elevated view, located along the R489, with views afforded of the lowlands towards the Slieve Blooms. These views are facilitated in this case by the trimming of hedgerows along the southeast. The viewer context is open rural, with larger fields and low vegetation. There are a number of residences in either direction along the road corridor. Further east (midground of the view) there is an increase in vegetation, generally screening the landform and covering the horizon before the Slieve Blooms rise to line much of the view at a reasonable distance. The permitted and existing developments over the study area are generally screened by vegetation to the north of the road corridor, although the proposed Carrig Renewables Wind Farm will be partially visible to the southern extent of the view.</p>	Medium-Low	The project is visible as a relatively contained cluster, over the cohesive blanket of vegetation, slightly offset from the road corridor. The development does not overlay the visible ridge of the Slieve Blooms. The proposal will generally present with a low visual contrast, due to distance (over 16km) and placement along the skyline. However, there is potential to generate a degree of visual clutter over the currently uniform horizon. While the development will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view, this is mitigated by the distance. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible and of a Negative quality.	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative/ Long-term
VP20	<p>R489 at Pike</p> <p>This is a partially enclosed view at a sweeping bend along the R489, with pasture in the immediate surrounds and a mix of hedgerow vegetation providing screening along the road.</p>	Medium-Low	The project is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality.	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term

VP21	<p>Walled Garden within Birr Castle and Demesne</p> <p>This view is located within the walled garden at Birr Castle, and as such is a high amenity context, with orderly clipped vegetation and historic features.</p>	High	<p>The project is screened by the garden wall and vegetation resulting in no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality.</p>	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term
VP22	<p>N52 at Birr</p> <p>This view is a northwards view along the main street of Birr looking towards its rural hinterland landscapes. The built form surrounding the viewer channels views along the national road, as the road dips away, with visibility along the streetscape and to the treed landscape on the horizon.</p> <p>The permitted baseline including Derrinlough turbines are screened by skyline vegetation.</p>	Medium	<p>The project is generally screened by vegetation and built form, however T5 and T6 are visible from the hub to tip, just to the right of the main road alignment, with overlap between the variety of overhead infrastructure down the street. While there is an increase in visual clutter of the wind development combined with the complex and dynamic viewer context, the development is separated by the band of vegetation on the skyline, which removes the turbines from being perceived 'within' the built-up area. Instead, they are clearly a part of the rural hinterland of the settlement. While the visibility is partially mitigated by the distance to the viewer and viewer context within a highly modified, built-up environment, it does introduce an intensification and diversification of land use within this scene. On balance, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Medium and of a Negative quality</p>	Moderate / Negative/ Long-term
VP23	<p>'The Leviathan' telescope within Birr Castle and Demesne</p> <p>Located within the open lawns surrounding the castle with the historic telescope behind the viewer, this is a popular recreation and high amenity value location, surrounded by mature vegetation.</p>	Very High	<p>The project is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality</p>	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term
VP24	<p>St Johns Hall, William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse Statue, R440</p> <p>This view is located along the R440, with a number of heritage features and recorded structures along the street in either direction. The viewer faces St</p>	Medium	<p>The project is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be Negligible and of a Neutral Quality</p>	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term

	Johns Hall, lined by built form in either direction, but backed by vegetation.			
VP25	<p>R440 at Ballygowan</p> <p>This is a partially enclosed rural view over a low hedgerow, from the R440. The foreground is over open pasture, which leads across to an internal track with farm buildings and a residence screened by further hedgerows.</p>	Medium-Low	The project is partially visible, with a central cluster of turbines visible from the hub over the buildings in the midground, however this will be a fleeting view through roadside vegetation. On balance, the impact is deemed to be Low , of Negative quality	Slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP26	<p>R421 at Lissanure</p> <p>This is fleeting open view over the surrounding landscape as it slopes away from the viewer. The foreground is defined by a low wall and field, but the majority of the view is highly vegetated. The existing, permitted and proposed development is partially visible in the distance along the horizon, partially screened by vegetation.</p>	Medium-Low	There will be partial views of the project between vegetation and built form, however these are secondary to the visual complexity of the foreground and clearer views of the surrounding wind farm development. As such, the impact magnitude is deemed Low , of a Negative quality.	Slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP27	<p>R440 at Slieve Blooms</p> <p>This is an elevated view along the R440 regional road as it crosses the Slieve Blooms, located at a point where wide views of the lowland landscape become apparent. The viewer is located within upland bog vegetation, however there are areas transitioning around the periphery of the view into conifer forestry, in particular over the lower slopes to the south. The permitted baseline of Derrinlough, and the other existing development included in this assessment are visible in the distance within the level landscape.</p>	High-Medium	The project and other cumulative development are separated from the viewer by landscape context and substantial distance. The proposal is integrated with the existing and permitted development, which extends across the left/south of the distant landscape at the periphery of the viewer focus (which is along the line of the road to the open horizon). It does not appear out of place in this context, but it increases the lateral extent of wind energy development across the distant lowland landscape. As such, the magnitude of impact is deemed Low , and of a Negative quality.	Slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP28	<p>R493 at Carrigahorig</p> <p>This is a pleasant but contained view afforded from a section of the R493 regional road scenic route in the townland of Carrigahorig, a short distance east of Lough Dergs shoreline. The depicted view is oriented to the northeast and is contained at a middle distance by rolling terrain cloaked in dense mature vegetation. It is</p>	Medium	A fleeting view of the proposed turbines will be afforded from here, where they present along the densely vegetated skyline at a distance of nearly 19km. The partially visible rotating blade sets are viewed in alignment with the regional road corridor to the northwest and present backed by the sky, with a very low degree of visual contrast. Indeed, in only the clearest viewing conditions are	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term

	<p>important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity along this scenic route typically relates to views to the west towards Lough Derg, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.</p> <p>The permitted Derringlough turbines will be entirely screened from this section of the regional road by mature roadside vegetation along the western verge of the regional road corridor, however the proposed Carrig Renewables turbines are clearly visible.</p>		<p>the proposed turbines likely to be noticed from this considerable viewing distance. Furthermore, even if briefly glimpsed from this distance, the partial view of rotating blade sets will have no notable impact on the visual amenity of this contained scene. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible, and the quality effect is Negative.</p>	
VP29	<p>N52 at Hazelfort</p> <p>This is a partially contained view afforded over a roadside hedgerow along a bend in the N52 national secondary route at Hazelfort. The depicted view extends over the clipped hedgerow and is contained at a slightly further distance by intervening hedgerow vegetation, mature trees and blocks of conifer forest.</p> <p>The permitted Derrinlough turbines will be briefly visible, rotating along the vegetated skyline in the distant background, while the proposed Carrig Renewables wind turbines are presented closer to the view, partially screened by localised vegetation.</p>	Medium-Low	<p>The proposed turbines will be visible, rising above the distant vegetated skyline over 13km northeast of this section of the N52. The proposed turbines are viewed at a small scale from this considerable viewing distance and present backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. Whilst the moving turbine components along the distant skyline have the potential to be noticed from here, they will have little notable impact on the visual amenity of this robust working scene. The proposed turbines will present with some degree of turbine overlap, albeit any negative aesthetic effects are strongly diminished by the viewing distances involved and the partially screened view of the proposed development. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact along this busy national secondary route is deemed Low-negligible and of a Negative quality.</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term
VP30	<p>N62 at Rathbeg Lane- This is a locally elevated view afforded from the busy N62 national secondary route in the townland of Rathbeg Lane. The depicted view is oriented in a general northerly direction along the N62 corridor and extends across a typical pastoral scene comprising agricultural fields and stacked hedgerow vegetation. To the west, the view is partially contained by dense mature vegetation</p>	Medium-Low	<p>The proposed turbines are visible, rising above the vegetated skyline in the view's background at a distance of over 10km. Whilst the moving turbine components will likely be noticed in this locally elevated view, they present with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad view characterised by other existing turbines. Although the proposed turbines will present at a slightly larger scale than all other existing and permitted turbines and are</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term

	<p>immediately west of the national route corridor. Several existing turbines are visible in the distant background.</p> <p>To the north, the permitted Derrinlough turbines will be visible in two clusters in the view's background.</p>		<p>viewed stacked in combination with the more distant turbines, they will not appear incongruous in this robust working landscape. Overall, the turbines will generate an increased sense of visual clutter in this view, however, this is slightly diluted by the viewing distance involved and the notable spacing between the eastern and western turbine clusters. On balance, and for the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	
VP31	<p>Local Road at Leap Castle</p> <p>This is a pleasant and partially contained view afforded across rolling farmland from a gap in a roadside hedgerow along a local road a short distance to the west of Leap Castle. The depicted view is oriented to the north and is contained by the middle distant rolling terrain and intervening mature vegetation. A brief glimpse of existing turbines is visible in the distant background.</p>	Medium-Low	<p>A partial and fleeting view of the proposed turbines is afforded in the distant background and is partially obscured by the rolling terrain and area of mature vegetation in the distance. A dense cluster of stacked turbines is visible in the distance and presents with a very low degree of visual contrast backed by the sky. If briefly viewed from here, the stacked turbines have the potential to generate a degree of visual clutter in the view. However, this is heavily diluted by the limited visibility of the proposed turbines. Whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view, they will have no notable impact on the visual amenity of this pastoral scene due to the viewing distance of over c.13km. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible and of a Negative quality.</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term
VP32	<p>Local Road at Clonlee</p> <p>This is a pleasant elevated view afforded from a local road in the townland of Clonlee that extends across a broad flat landscape cloaked in pastoral farmland and stacked vegetation. The existing Cloghan and Carrig turbines are visible as small-scale distant features in the view's background.</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed turbines will be visible in the distant background some c. 11km from this local road context. The proposed development will extend the lateral extent of turbines within the view and present at a marginally larger scale than the existing and permitted turbines. Nonetheless, due to the considerable viewing distance, the proposed turbines will not present with any sense of scale conflict with the other existing or</p>	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term

	<p>The permitted Derrinlough turbines will be visible in the distant background at a similar but slightly larger scale to the existing turbines.</p> <p>The proposed Carrig Renewables Wind Farm is located at the periphery of the view, separated from the larger cluster of wind development.</p>		<p>permitted turbines. Indeed, whilst the proposed turbines will increase the intensity of wind farm development within this view and generate some additional sense of visual clutter, they do not present as ambiguous features in this landscape context as they are viewed in combination with numerous other existing and permitted turbines. Thus, the visual impact magnitude is deemed Low-negligible and of a Negative quality.</p>	
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Table A9.5: Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

