



APPENDIX 16-1

***VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AT SELECTED VIEWPOINTS***

16.

APPENDIX 16.1 – VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AT REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS (VP)

16.1

Introduction

This appendix contains assessment of Visual Receptor sensitivity followed by assessment of visual impact magnitude at selected representative viewpoint locations. These receptor sensitivity and impact magnitude judgements will then be combined to determine overall significance of effect at each VP.

16.2

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. As with landscape sensitivity, the sensitivity of a visual receptor is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Negligible. Unlike landscape sensitivity however, the sensitivity of visual receptors has an anthropocentric (human) basis. It considers factors such as the perceived quality and values associated with the view, the landscape context of the viewer, the likely activity the viewer is engaged in and whether this heightens their awareness of the surrounding environment.

A list of the factors considered by the assessor in estimating the level of sensitivity for a particular visual receptor is outlined below to establish visual receptor sensitivity at each viewpoint location.

16.2.1

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors

In accordance with GLVIA¹3, visual receptors most susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity are:

- “Residents at home;
- People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape and on particular views;
- Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;
- Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area;
- Travellers on road rail or other transport routes where such travel involves recognised scenic routes and awareness of views is likely to be heightened”.

Visual receptors that are less susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity include;

- “People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;
- People at their place of work whose attention may be focussed on their work or activity, not their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life”.

¹ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, *Guidelines of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (2013) (GLVIA3)*

16.2.2 Value attached to Views

The value attached to a view is determined by considering the following:

Recognised scenic value of the view (Development Plan designations, guidebooks, touring maps, postcards etc). These represent a consensus in terms of which scenic views and routes within an area are strongly valued by the population because in the case of County Development Plans, for example, a public consultation process is required;

Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas. These are likely to be in the form of Architectural Conservation Areas, which are incorporated within the Development Plan and therefore subject to the public consultation process. Viewers within such areas are likely to be highly attuned to the landscape around them;

Primary views from residential receptors. Even within a dynamic city context, views from residential properties are an important consideration in respect of residential amenity;

Intensity of use, popularity. This relates to the number of viewers likely to experience a view on a regular basis and whether this is significant at a national or regional scale;

Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views. This relates to the extent of the view on offer and the tendency for receptors to become more attuned to the surrounding landscape at locations that afford broad vistas;

Sense of remoteness and/or tranquillity. Receptors taking in a remote and tranquil scene, which is likely to be fairly static, are likely to be more receptive to changes in the view than those taking in the view of a busy street scene, for example;

Degree of perceived naturalness. Where a view is valued for the sense of naturalness of the surrounding landscape it is likely to be highly sensitive to visual intrusion by distinctly manmade features;

Presence of striking or noteworthy features. A view might be strongly valued because it contains a distinctive and memorable landscape / townscape feature such as a cathedral or castle;

Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance. Such attributes may be evident or sensed by receptors at certain viewing locations, which may attract visitors for the purposes of contemplation or reflection heightening the sense of their surroundings;

Rarity or uniqueness of the view. This might include the noteworthy representativeness of a certain landscape type and considers whether the receptor could take in similar views anywhere in the broader region or the country;

Integrity of the landscape character. This looks at the condition and intactness of the landscape in view and whether the landscape pattern is a regular one of few strongly related components or an irregular one containing a variety of disparate components;

Sense of place. This considers whether there is special sense of wholeness and harmony at the viewing location;

Sense of awe. This considers whether the view inspires an overwhelming sense of scale or the power of nature.

Those locations which are deemed to satisfy many of the above criteria are likely to be of higher sensitivity, whilst those that satisfy few of those criteria are likely to be considered of a lower overall sensitivity. No relative importance is inferred by the order of listing.

Overall sensitivity may be a result of a number of these factors or, alternatively, a strong association with one or two in particular. An indication of higher and lower degrees of receptor susceptibility and view value, which combine to determine overall receptor sensitivity, are provided in Table 1.2.

Table 16-1 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Viewer Susceptibility	View Value
Very High	Viewers who have sought out a particular view due to its remarkable scenic qualities and who are likely engaged in active or passive recreation. Minimal tolerance for change.	Unique views of remarkable scenic quality involving distinct, naturalistic or historic features that are designated for protection and/or obtained from landscapes / seascapes protected by policy at a national or international level. Minimal tolerance for change.
High	Viewers travelling on designated scenic routes or engaged on active or passive recreation where views of the surrounding landscape / seascape are important to the experience and residents of areas where views contribute to the landscape / seascape setting. Low tolerance for change.	Views of considerable scenic quality involving distinct, naturalistic or historic features that are designated for protection and/or obtained from landscapes / seascapes protected by policy at a Regional / County level. Low tolerance for change.
Medium	Viewers travelling on routes that have some scenic quality or sense of tranquillity. Recreationalists engaged in activities where scenic amenity is appreciated, but not key to the experience and residents of areas where views do not contribute strongly to the landscape / seascape setting. Medium tolerance for change.	Views with some scenic quality that might involve notable, naturalistic or historic features that are not designated for protection and are not obtained from landscapes / seascapes identified for protection. Medium tolerance for change.
Low	Viewers engaged in recreation that does not involve an appreciation of scenic amenity, those travelling on busy roads with little scenic quality within the surrounding landscape / seascape setting. People at their place of work where visual setting is not key to the working experience. High tolerance for change.	Views without recognised scenic quality that are typical in nature and without naturalistic and historic features present, but likely with utilitarian features present. High tolerance for change.
Negligible	Viewers engaged in activities or present at locations where visual amenity is not a consideration or where the visual setting is a detraction. High tolerance for change.	Views without any amenity value where the visual setting may be degraded. High tolerance for change.

16.2.3

Magnitude of Visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoints

The assessment of visual impacts at each of the selected viewpoints 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). In addition to the views required by this guidance, a 90° contextual montage view is also provided to aid the interpretation of the Project in the context of the broader context of each view, whereas the 53.5 degree images are produced more in relation to scale accuracy (standing in the field with the montage in hand). The presented images for each viewpoint (Volume 7B of the EIAR) include;

1. *Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)*
2. *Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative WTG (Contextual 90° included angle)*
3. *Montage View (Contextual 90° included angle)*
4. *Wireframe view (53.5° included angle)*
5. *Montage View (53.5° included angle)*

NatureScot guidance is used for the production of verifiable photomontages because it is specifically developed for Wind Energy developments and has become the industry standard for onshore and offshore wind farms in the UK and Ireland.

Table 16-2 Magnitude of Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP1	<p>Spiddal Pier This westerly view is afforded from the upper level of Spiddal Pier and it should be noted that without climbing the pier wall, there are no views to the west due to screening by the wall itself. It is a view that is afforded to tourists and recreational visitors to the pier as well as those that use the pier for maritime work purposes. There is a reasonable amount of coastal development in this area, but view value relates to coastal scenic amenity and some sense of the naturalistic.</p> <p>The view in question takes in the rocky shoreline of this section of north Galway Bay. Back from the beach is a naturalistic band of coastal grass and scrub lined with stone wall remnants. This is followed by a settled band of frequent but sporadic dwellings amongst patches of vegetation which together line the low horizon. A key consideration is that the principal direction of visual amenity is to the south across the near shoreline and then Galway Bay towards the distinct skyline of the Burren on the other side of the bay.</p>	High-medium	Whilst several turbine blade tips are shown to be potentially visible above the westerly landform at a distance of over 40km, the proposed WTGs will not actually be visible from here due to intervening screening by vegetation and buildings. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP2	<p>Inverin Beach This westerly view is afforded from the head of Inverin Beach between the shore and the visitor car park. It is a view that is afforded to tourists and recreational visitors to the beach. There is a reasonable amount of coastal development in this area, but view values relates to coastal scenic amenity and some sense of the naturalistic.</p> <p>The view in question takes in the rocky shoreline of this section of north Galway Bay. Back from the beach is a naturalistic band of coastal grass and scrub lined with stone wall remnants and also containing Inverin Cemetery. This is followed by a settled band of frequent but sporadic dwellings amongst patches of vegetation which together line the low horizon. A key consideration is that the principal direction of visual amenity is to the south across the near shoreline and then Galway Bay towards the distinct skyline of the Burren on the other side of the bay.</p>	High-medium	The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>
VP3	<p>Cartron Harbour (section of the Wild Atlantic Way) This westerly view is afforded from a distinctive rock near the harbour car park that invites viewers to climb it to take advantage of broader views in</p>	High-medium	The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p>



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>this otherwise enclosed context. It is a view that is afforded to tourists and recreational visitors to the beach as well those using the harbour to launch recreational or small working vessels. There is a small amount of coastal development in this area, but view values relates to coastal scenic amenity, sheltered tranquillity and some sense of the naturalistic.</p> <p>The view in question takes in the rocky shoreline of this section of north Galway Bay. Back from the beach is a naturalistic band of coastal grass and scrub lined with stone wall remnants and also containing Inverin Cemetery. This is followed by a settled band of frequent but sporadic dwellings amongst patches of vegetation which together line the low horizon. A key consideration is that the principal direction of visual amenity is to the south across the near shoreline and then Galway Bay towards the distinct skyline of the Burren on the other side of the bay.</p>			Not Significant
VP4	<p>Bauntragh Cemetery</p> <p>This westerly view is dominated by the cemetery in the foreground. It is a view that is afforded to tourists and recreational visitors to the nearby beach as well those visiting the cemetery. There is a reasonable amount of small scale coastal development in this area, but view values relates</p>	High-medium	The partial blade sets (predominantly above the hubs) of all of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here rising in silhouette above the low skyline ridge to the west at distances beyond 25.3km. They will have a low degree of contrast against the sky backdrop, but their movement may draw the eye. Given the viewing distance, they will only be visible in clear viewing conditions. The turbine blades will	Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>to coastal scenic amenity, some sense of the naturalistic and this being a tranquil place of reflection and remembrance.</p> <p>The view in question takes in the cemetery in the foreground followed by a rocky shoreline backed by fields of marginal grazing lined by stone walls. In the middle distance can be seen the indented rocky coastline beyond the mouth of Costello Bay with residential dwellings dotting the low headlands and ridges. A key consideration is that the principal direction of visual amenity is to the southwest across the near shoreline and then the mouth of Galway Bay towards the Aran Islands.</p>		<p>generate a degree of visual clutter associated with overlapping between them and from blade sets rotating against the skyline ridge in perspective. However, they do not occupy a section of open sea horizon and will not intrude on views of the Aran Islands. Indeed they occupy a modest lateral extent of the overall vista to the south and west afforded from here.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of that impact is Negative.</p>	
VP5	<p>Rossaveel Harbour</p> <p>This is a view across the Costello Bay from the eastward extents of Rossaveel harbour which otherwise tends to be enclosed by structures and vessels associated with this working port and the mainland terminus of the Aran Islands ferry. It is therefore afforded to ferry users being either tourists or locals as well as port workers.</p> <p>The westward view takes in port office buildings in the foreground with a relatively narrow water channel beyond. On the opposite side is the low peninsular land form that hosts the dispersed</p>	Medium-low	<p>The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>settlement of Carraroe. Numerous dwellings occupy the sheltered east facing slopes across the bay. They are scattered amongst small stone walled fields and vegetation patches above a rocky shoreline.</p> <p>The view is characterised by busy marine industry associated with the port. The view value is associated more with the productive marine based setting that sustains the local economy than to coastal scenic amenity and natural character or tranquillity.</p>			
VP6	<p>R336 at Lough Carrafinla (Designated Scenic Route and section of the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>This view is from the inland setting characterised by the West Connemara Landscape Character Area within a landscape dominated by bogs and lakes. It is on a designated scenic route and a major route, which is also lined by a small number of residential dwellings in the vicinity. It is therefore a view afforded to local residents of the area, those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists driving between Maam Cross and Rossaveel Harbour.</p>	High-medium	<p>The partial blade sets (predominantly above the hubs) of around half of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here rising in silhouette above the low skyline ridge just to the left of the summit of Lettermore Island, which otherwise screens the rest of the WTGs. They are seen at distances beyond 25km and will have a low degree of contrast against the sky backdrop, but their movement may draw the eye. Given the viewing distance, they will only be visible in clear viewing conditions. The turbine blades will generate a degree of visual clutter associated with overlapping between themselves, the skyline buildings and vegetation and from partial blade sets rotating against the skyline ridge in perspective. However, they do not occupy a critical section of the vista and they have a very limited visual presence in the context of the whole vista.</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>The westerly view takes in Carrafinnla Lough in the foreground surrounded by bog and rough grazing dotted with dwellings and patches of scrubby vegetation. The domed summit of Lettermore Island can be seen in the distance just above the nearer skyline ridge.</p> <p>There is frequent but small scale residential development in view and the view is valued for natural and remote character.</p>		<p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of that impact is Negative.</p>	
VP7	<p>Coral Strand (Designated Scenic View and section of the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>This is a designated scenic view from the popular beach setting of Coral Strand on the Carraroe peninsula looking across the narrow Greatman's Bay towards the island of Gorumna. It is afforded to beach goers whether they are local residents or tourists and there are numerous dwellings on the slopes above the beach.</p> <p>In the immediate foreground is the white sand beach of Coral Strand and its associated car park. Thereafter, the view takes in the channel of Greatman's Bay which is backed by a low Rocky peninsula lined with stone walled fields of rough grazing and a scattering of dwellings.</p>	High	<p>The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	There is frequent but small scale residential development in view and the view is valued for natural and remote coastal character as well as recreational amenity.			
VP8	<p>Lettermore (Designated Scenic Route)</p> <p>This view is obtained from the village of Lettermore on Lettermore Island overlooking the narrow section of water that links Greatman's Bay to Casheen Bay and separates Lettermore from Gorumna Island. It is immediately outside of Saint Cholimchille's Church and it represents the seaward end of a section of scenic route. The view is afforded to village residents as well as visitors and tourists passing through.</p> <p>The westerly view along the water channel takes in the church car park in the first instance across the busy regional road and then a scrubby and rocky shoreline. Innishbarra Island at the head of the channel provides enclosure and prevents an open sea view.</p> <p>The setting is busy and dominated by development associated with the settlement of Lettermore, but it still has coastal scenic value and</p>	High-medium	<p>The partial blade sets of all of the proposed WTG will be visible from here rising in silhouette above the low, vegetated, skyline ridge to the west at distances beyond 17km. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky backdrop, but their movement is likely to draw the eye. Given the viewing distance, they will only be visible in clear viewing conditions. The turbine blades will generate a degree of visual clutter associated with overlapping between themselves and from partial blade sets rotating against the vegetated skyline ridge in perspective. However, they do not occupy a section of open sea horizon and will not intrude on a critical aspect of the vista. Indeed they occupy a modest lateral extent of the overall view afforded throughout the southern quarters from here.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of that impact is Negative.</p>	<p>Slight /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	some sense of the naturalistic within the marine context. There is also a strong sense of place.			
VP9	<p>R336 at Screebe (Designated Scenic Route)</p> <p>This view is from the inland setting characterised by the West Connemara Landscape Character Area within a landscape dominated by bogs and lakes. It is on a designated scenic route and a major route. There are relatively few residential dwellings in the vicinity. It is a view afforded to those few local residents of the area, those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists driving between Maam Cross and Rossaveel Harbour – particularly those visiting the Screebe fisherman's Hut, which is a locally iconic feature a short distance further south.</p> <p>The south-westerly view takes in a sweeping slope of rock strewn blanket bog with Lough Ahalia a short distance beyond.</p> <p>There is little man-made development in view and the view is valued for natural and remote windswept character.</p>	High-medium	The wireline view shows that two blade tips are potentially visible from here rising just above distant skyline terrain, but these are not discernible in the photomontage image due to intervening vegetation. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP10	<p>R340 at Glencoh (Designated Scenic Route and section of the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>This designated view overlooks a sea lough from the busy R340 where it is surrounded by numerous dwellings from the dispersed settlement of Glencoh. It is a view afforded to those residents plus tourists and day to day users of this section of the R340.</p> <p>The view is dominated by the lough in the fore-to-middle ground but is then truncated by a low ridge of land at Rosduff that is cloaked in dense coastal woodland and scrub with occasional residential dwellings also visible. The smooth and dramatic moorland slopes of Cnoc Mordain frame the view to the west.</p> <p>There is a notable degree of modest scale residential development in the immediate vicinity but the broader westerly view contains little development and is valued for coastal and mountain scenic amenity as well as naturalistic character.</p>	High	The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>
VP11	R340 at Ardmore	High	The proposed WTGs will be substantially visible on the western seaward skyline at distances beyond 11.2km with	Major-moderate /

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>(Designated Scenic Route and section of the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>This section of designated scenic route follows the R340 regional road as it approaches the small dispersed settlement of Ardmore. It is therefore a view afforded to local residents of the area, those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists driving between Screebe and Carna on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>The westerly view takes in a broad elevated scene dominated by a sweeping hillside of scrub and rough grazing within stonewall field boundaries that levels out on the southern side of the road as it approaches a shoreline of small beaches and rocky outcrops. The area is dotted with residential dwellings and there is a narrow horizontal view of open sea in the distance. There is a more intricate setting of islands and inlets across Kilkieran Bay to the south and the Aran Islands are visible to the southwest.</p> <p>In terms of apparent development and management, there is a relatively high density of residential dwellings and an aquiculture site (fish farm) just off Ardmore Pier. Frequent utility poles provide the main man-made vertical elements in the foreground of this scene. The view is valued</p>		<p>the blade sets of most WTGs rotating fully above intervening landform, vegetation and buildings. The southern half of the array is more exposed in open sea with the northern half rising above landscape that inclines to the north. The proposed OSS is visible as a subtle and subordinate feature of the development near the southern end of the turbine array.</p> <p>The WTGs are a prominent feature of the scene especially being aligned with the road and the direction of travel for west-bound road users. However, the array will occupy less than half of the open sea horizon that is visible from here and will not intrude on views of the Aran Islands to the southwest.</p> <p>There is no particular order to the arrangement of the WTGs, but they are reasonably evenly spaced and this complex section of coastline is not one that demands order from such a development. There is a minor sense of clutter from overlapping WTG and those that rotate against the intervening vegetated skyline.</p> <p>Perceptually, the development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea just out from a complex section of the Connemara coastline, but is not perceived as being within the exposed Atlantic context from this viewpoint.</p>	<p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	for coastal scenic amenity, view extent and natural character within the marine setting. There is also a strong sense of place.		On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium .	
VP12	<p>Mweenish Cemetery Mweenish Island is the closest permanently inhabited land to the proposed OAA and it is connected to the mainland via a short causeway. The cemetery is a focal point of the local community which is otherwise dispersed across the island and it is oriented westwards towards the open sea in a manner that is consistent with many coastal graveyards. The view is afforded to local residents and visitors to the graveyard looking out to sea from the coastal edge of the graveyard.</p> <p>The westerly view comprises a rocky shoreline that sweeps to the north and south. Sceirde Rocks can be seen out to sea in the middle distance and Mason Island is closer to the northwest.</p> <p>There is frequent but small scale residential development to the flanks and rear of the viewer, which is otherwise valued for remote windswept character and the peaceful tranquillity of remembrance associated with visiting the graveyard. There is also a sense of naturalistic</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present with a dominant visual presence from this distance of 5.7km to the nearest of them, but without a sense of overbearing. The OSS is also clearly visible from here. The WTG occupy a broad lateral extent which encompasses over half of the visible open sea horizon and that being the section directly offshore surrounding Sceirde Rocks. The proposed OSS is visible as a subtle and subordinate feature of the development near the southern end of the turbine array.</p> <p>The WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the open sea context albeit with the most northerly turbine close to the edge of Mason Island. There is a noticeable difference in scale between the nearest and furthest WTG, which generates a sense of perspective and an understanding of the depth of the array.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but they are loosely presented in about 5-6 clusters with some permeability between the clusters which slightly reduces the sense of enclosure of the open sea view. Furthermore, orderly rows of WTGs would not be appropriate in this disorderly section of coastline where a more organic layout is deemed more appropriate. There is</p>	<p>Major / Negative / Long-term Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	character within the marine environment and a strong sense of place.		<p>some clutter from overlapping of WTGs, but this is not confusing in a context where the depth of the array, and therefore the distance between WTGs, is clearly apparent.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is framed by a complex shoreline and islands such that it is only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs placed to take advantage of that exposure such that they are not an ambiguous feature.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High.</p>	
VP12 (night time)	<p>Mweenish Cemetery (night time view)</p> <p>There is a relatively low degree of ambient light from onshore sources around Mweenish Island and these relate to domestic lighting from the scattering of dwellings in the vicinity. There are no permanent light sources within the seaward section of the view to the west. This is an area that is likely valued for dark skies, but not designated in respect of them i.e. as a dark sky reserve.</p>	Medium (at night)	<p>The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTGs and the yellow maritime lights near the base will both be visible from here in clear night time viewing conditions, but they are not a prominent feature of the night sky and will reside just above the horizon. They read as dots of light that are noticeably stronger than the stars that can be seen in the sky above them, but they are light sources that are designed to be seen rather than illuminate the setting around them and they will not draw from the ability to see stars in the sky overhead. There will be some ambiguity in the lighting due to the different colours and heights of the two forms of lighting. The lights will also serve to enclose the night time view to a minor degree giving a reduced sense of open sea</p>	<p>Slight /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			and associated darkness and distance. The magnitude of impact is considered to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative .	
VP13	<p>Glynsk Pier (Waypoint on the Wild Atlantic Way) This is an enclosed north facing setting at Glynsk Pier which is a waypoint on the Wild Atlantic Way. The pier hosts a small local fishing fleet and views are afforded to local residents, fishermen and tourists on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>The slightly inland view to the southwest is truncated by a low hill occupied by several dwellings amongst coastal scrub and marginal farmland.</p> <p>The setting is valued for its local recourse to maritime pursuits and its enclosed sense of place. There is some coastal scenic amenity and natural character associated with views to the north, but less so for inland views.</p>	Medium	The wireline view shows that only one of the proposed WTG blade tips will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening, but this is not visible in the photomontage view due to vegetation screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term Not Significant</p>
VP14	<p>R342 at Cloonisle Quay (Designated Scenic Route & View and section of the Wild Atlantic Way) This is a semi-enclosed setting from a small pier utilised by local fisherman and recreationalists and an often photographed pull-in spot on the Wild</p>	High	The blade tips of around half of the proposed WTGs will rotate just above the skyline to the west at distances beyond 17.6km. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky backdrop, but their movement is likely to draw the eye. Given the viewing distance, they will only be visible in clear viewing conditions. The turbine blades will	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Atlantic Way. It is afforded to local residents, maritime recreationalists and fishermen, those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>The south-westerly view in question is a tranquil one across a small sheltered stretch of water towards a low rocky peninsula that is uninhabited and cloaked in coastal grasses and scrub. The tops of promontory headlands rise just above the peninsula in the middle distance.</p> <p>There is little in the way of built development within the westerly aspect of the view and it is valued for coastal scenic amenity, tranquillity and natural character. There is also a strong sense of place.</p>		<p>generate a degree of visual clutter associated with them rotating against the vegetated skyline ridge in perspective and there may be a sense of ambiguity as the nature and location of the development relative to the immediate setting. This is countered by the limited visual presence of the WTGs due to the distance and degree of screening.</p> <p>The development will bring moving structures to a section of the view not currently characterised by built development but on balance, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>	Not Significant
VP15	<p>Roundstone</p> <p>(Designated Scenic Route & View and section of the Wild Atlantic Way</p> <p>Long-term)</p> <p>This slightly elevated view represents the small coastal village of Roundstone, which hosts a small</p>	High	<p>The wireline view shows that only one partial blade set and one blade tip from the proposed WTGs will be even potentially visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. The photomontage image shows that these will be fully screened by ridge-top vegetation above the village. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>harbour sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds. It is a popular tourist destination on the Wild Atlantic Way. It is a view afforded to village residents, those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>The picturesque view to the southwest is framed by the main street of the village winding uphill from the harbour flanked by traditional and contemporary buildings of 3-4 storeys. These are also nestled amongst mature trees lining the ridge above. Across the harbour is the long low profile of Inishnee Island, with occasional residences amongst stone walled fields.</p> <p>The is a richly varied and framed view with picturesque qualities as well as aspects of both cultural and natural value and a strong sense of place – hence its designation as a scenic view.</p>			
VP16	<p>Gurteen Bay (Designated Scenic Route & View and Waypoint on the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>This is a popular beach location in Connemara and a complex and richly diverse section of coastline. The view is from a promontory headland above a sandy spit that has beaches on both sides – Gurteen Bay to the east and Dogs</p>	High	<p>The WTGs are all revealed to varying degrees above and between the low peninsula that contains Gurteen Bay to the south and the islands of Croaghnaakeela and Illaunnacroagh Beg beyond. There are several full WTGs visible at the south-eastern end of the scheme whilst the remainder tend to be full and partial blade sets only. The WTGs are seen at a prominent scale at distances between 9.9 and 16km away to the south.</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Bay to the west. This provides access to a low rocky peninsula that runs perpendicular to the sand spit. The small island of Inshlackan can be seen just to the east along with an indented and enclosed section of coastline beyond and the undulating ridge of Cnoc Mordain providing distant containment (beyond depicted view).</p> <p>It is a view afforded to a modest number of local residents, summer holiday makers who stay in the adjacent caravan park, as well as beach goers and tourists on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>It is a view that has a modest degree of small scale coastal development present and is valued for broad and elevated coastal scenic amenity. It is a vibrant scene that has a strong sense of place as well as natural and recreational value within the marine area.</p>		<p>Whilst the array has a reasonable lateral extent in the context of the broad coastal vista to the south, there are only glimpses of open sea horizon and all aspects of the complex coastline compete for the viewers attention. Indeed, the scenic view is specified as being across the bay to the south east.</p> <p>There is some clutter associated with the partial blade sets overlapping with each other and rotating the against the profile of the low coastal landforms in perspective. There is also some ambiguity as to the relationship between the WTGs and the land form as it is only clearly apparent at the south-eastern end of the array that the WTGs are contained with open sea. There is no particular order to the turbine arrangement, but nor is this an orderly section of coastline that might command such a design response.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is framed and underlain by a complex shoreline and islands such that it is not perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs placed to take advantage of that exposure such that they do not appear out of place in this scene.</p>	

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium and of a Negative quality.	
VP16 (night time)	<p>Gurteen Bay (Night time view) Aside from some low level lighting associated with the camp ground and residences to the rear of the viewer, the view in the direction of the OAA is largely devoid of artificial light sources. The dark low form of the spit on the opposite side of Gurteen bay can be made out against the sea below and the sky above and particularly so on the moonlit night depicted.</p> <p>This is an area that is likely valued for dark skies, but not designated in respect of them i.e. as a dark sky reserve.</p>	Medium (at night)	<p>The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTG will be visible, but due to terrain screening, the yellow maritime lights near the base will not be visible from here. The lights read as small pinpricks of light that are only marginally stronger than the stars that can be seen in the sky above. The lights will serve to enclose the night time view to a minor degree, albeit above landform, giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance. However, the intensity of the lighting is such that the lighting will only be a subtle feature of the night time views to sea. The magnitude of impact is considered to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative.</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>
VP17	<p>R341 at Callow (Designated Scenic Route and section of the Wild Atlantic Way) This section of the R341 affords broad and slightly elevated coastal vistas across a fore-to-middle ground of rocky farmland, which then gives way to a rocky exposed shoreline with several small islands in view. The open sea presents as a narrow</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present at a prominent scale from this distance of 11.7km to the nearest of them, but without dominating the view. They occupy a reasonable lateral extent which encompasses a modest and slightly peripheral section of the open sea horizon that can be seen from here with more open views further to the west.</p> <p>The majority of WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the</p>	<p>Major-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>horizontal band beyond the immediate coastal setting.</p> <p>It is a view afforded to a modest number of local residences whose dwellings can be seen dotted through the scene following series of bohereens that link from the main road to the shore. These are lined by utility poles, which are quite distinctive in this open setting. The view is also afforded to those working and moving around Connemara on the regional road network as well as tourists on the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>It is a view that has a modest degree of small scale coastal development present including an overhead utility line in the foreground. It is valued for broad and elevated coastal scenic amenity. It has a strong sense of place as well as some natural value associated with the marine area.</p>		<p>open sea context, which reduces the sense of ambiguity from those at the south-eastern end that rise beyond Croaghakeela Island. There is some minor visual clutter associated with overlapping blade sets.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but there are two small clusters at the western end of the array with gaps between which gives some permeability to the array and a sense of dissipation towards the open sea. Furthermore, an organic layout is deemed more appropriate in this complex coastal setting.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is framed by a complex shoreline and islands such that it is only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs located to take advantage of that exposure such that they are not an ambiguous feature.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium.</p>	
VP18	<p>Bunowen Beach (Designated Scenic Route & View and section of the Wild Atlantic Way)</p> <p>Bunowen is a distinctive white sand beach framed by rocky outcrops and the Bunowen pier to the</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present at a distinctive scale from this distance of just over 15.5km to the nearest of them, but without dominating the view. They will rise beyond the pier and pier-side development with approximately half of them openly visible and the others substantially obscured by</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long-term</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>south which hosts a smokehouse. Despite being a waypoint on the Wild Atlantic Way, it has maintained a quiet and remote character enjoyed by a modest number of local residents.</p> <p>The designated view is to the east across the inlet and inland towards the Twelve Bens. The seaward view in question, to the south and east is contained by the pier and a series of islands and inlets such that there is not a strong presence of open sea or even sections of open sea horizon. A distinctive feature is the green-blue waters of the bay itself.</p> <p>It is a view that has a modest degree of small scale coastal development present relating to local settlement and industry. The view is valued for semi-enclosed coastal scenic amenity. It has a strong sense of place as well as some natural value associated with the marine area.</p>		<p>buildings at the base of the pier. Consequently, the lateral extent of the development is quite restricted, but the WTGs appear beyond the southern focus of the view.</p> <p>The easternmost WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner, but although they rise above and beyond the pier, the relationship is not immediately clear. There will also be a degree of clutter generated between overlapping WTGs and those that rotate between and beyond the nearer buildings.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea but beyond the development associated with the pier. It is a complex shoreline of islands and inlets that is not perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the coastal industry and exposed setting, such that the wind WTGs have a locational legibility.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>	Not Significant
VP19	<p>Derrigimlagh Bog (Designated Scenic View and WAW Discovery Point)</p> <p>This view is afforded from a dedicated waypoint on the Wild Atlantic Way with its own car park and iterative signage. Aside from being within an</p>	High-medium	<p>Only minute sections of two blade tips are even potentially visible from here above the low skyline ridge to the south as indicated by the wireline view. At a distance of nearly 20km to the nearest turbine, they will not be noticeable in this context and the magnitude of visual impact is Negligible.</p>	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>area of pristine blanket bog with a boardwalk around it, the site is famous for receiving Marconi's first transatlantic radio signal in 1907 and also the location of Alcock and Brown's crash landing on the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1919.</p> <p>The southerly view takes in the bog which is contained in the middle distance by a low rock strewn ridge.</p> <p>It is a relatively contained view, but one valued for a strong sense of the naturalistic as well as cultural heritage association.</p>			Not Significant
VP20	<p>Alcock and Brown Memorial (Designated Scenic Route & View and WAW Discovery Point)</p> <p>On a hill nearby to the northwest of VP19 at Derrigimlagh Bog is a monument to the Alcock and Brown flight across the Atlantic which crash landed in the bog, but was still the first successful non-stop flight across the Atlantic. The hilltop affords vast and panoramic vistas across the Connemara coastal bog, indented coastline and prominent hills and mountains. The distant open sea presents as a narrow horizontal band beyond the coastal bog setting.</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present at a noticeable scale from this distance of 19.8km to the nearest of them, but without dominating the view. They occupy a reasonable lateral extent which encompasses a modest and slightly peripheral section of the open sea horizon that can be seen from here with more open views further to the west.</p> <p>The westernmost WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the open sea context, but the majority rise beyond intervening terrain and Croaghakeela Island. There is some minor visual clutter associated with overlapping blade sets and the</p>	<p>Moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This is a view that is afforded to tourists and visitors to the monument, but there are few local residences in the immediate area with similarly elevated views.</p> <p>It is a view that has a modest degree of small scale development present beyond the immediate setting and is valued for broad and elevated scenic amenity. It is a has a strong sense of place as well as well as some natural value associated with the marine blanket coastal bog.</p>		<p>rotation of a small number of blade sets against the skyline terrain.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but there are two small clusters at the western end of the array with gaps between which gives some permeability to the array and a sense of dissipation towards the open sea.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea beyond a lightly development and managed coastal bog context. It is a complex shoreline of islands and inlets such that it is only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint where the open ocean is further to the west. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs located to take advantage of that exposure.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>	
VP21	<p>Sky Road Viewpoint – Clifden (Designated Scenic Route & View and WAW Discovery Point)</p> <p>This is one of the iconic views of Connemara and one of the most popular discovery points on the Wild Atlantic Way as it optimises the wild and windswept, craggy coastline of this part of the</p>	Very High	<p>The proposed WTGs will be fully visible along the coastline to the south at a nearest distance of close to 24.5km. Consequently, the WTGs will be seen at a modest yet noticeable scale, but only in clear viewing conditions. They have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and whilst they occupy a reasonable lateral extent, this is only a small section of the broad vista available.</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>country. It is the intersection of tenacious settlement and the elements. There is a large car park which is near constantly frequented by tourists travelling out from Clifden on the renowned Sky Road.</p> <p>The vast elevated view takes in coastal mountains and bogs to the southeast with a transition of rock strewn coastal bog and scattered residential dwellings closer to the craggy indented shoreline. It is a complex coastline of peninsulas and islands to the south with evidence of long time, low intensity agricultural management in the form of stone walled fields. There are rocky outcrops and sandy inlets. The view to the west is of the open Atlantic Ocean framed by further islands and rocky outcrops to the northwest.</p> <p>Although there is a relatively intense scattering of coastal dwellings and evidence of farming within this coastal setting it is small scale and dispersed and adds to the nostalgic character of the view. In all other respects the view is highly valued for its coastal scenic amenity, tourism value and natural windswept character. It has a very strong sense of place as well as a sense of awe.</p>		<p>The majority of WTGs can be seen within open sea with the easternmost WTGs rising above low coastal promontories and islands. Thus the array is seen more in the context of the complex and settled coastline, than within the wild and open Atlantic context, which opens up further to the west.</p> <p>Aside from the minor overlap with the coastline to the south, the WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner within open sea. They are reasonably evenly spaced with only a small degree of visual clutter from overlapping WTGs, which tends to matter less at distance than from nearer locations.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs represent a noticeable increase in the scale, extent and diversity of man-made development within the vista. Yet, there is a legible correlation between the exposed coastal setting, the settlement patterns and the WTGs, such that they do not appear as an ambiguous feature in this view. They will serve as a background focal point of the southerly view, but without dominating it in a spatial or thematic sense.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP22	<p>Eyrephort Beach This is a popular beach at the end of the peninsular that hosts the Sky Road and is therefore a setting enjoyed by tourists and beach goers as well as a small number of local residents.</p> <p>The beach is enclosed by small headlands north and south and by the nearby islands of Inishturk and Turbot. In this regard it is an idyllic coastal setting, but not one that affords broad panoramic vistas. The subject view to the south is enclosed by a headland contained in rough grazing.</p> <p>The view is valued most for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity as well as sheltered coastal scenic amenity and natural character.</p>	High-medium	The wireline view shows that none of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here due to intervening terrain screening. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of effect is Neutral by default.	<p>Imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>
VP23	<p>Lettermullen This is a broad coastal panorama afforded from the western edge of the settlement of Lettermullen, which is one of the closest settlements to the proposed OAA. Whilst most of the village is not afforded such open views, there is a line of dwellings just above the road that enjoy this viewing context. It is therefore a view experienced by some local residents as well as tourists and visitors heading towards Golam headland and</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed WTGs and associated OSS are fully visible from base to tip and they are seen at a prominent scale from this distance of just over 11.6km to the nearest of them. They have a broad lateral extent in the context of the north-westerly skyline but this is in the context of a broad vista throughout the western quarters.</p> <p>They rise out of a narrow horizontal strip of sea that is almost obscured by the flat intervening peninsula such that there is some scale / distance / context confusion as to whether they actually rise from the nearer landform. This</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Tramore beach at the coastline a further 2km out along the peninsula.</p> <p>The fore-to-middle ground is occupied by coastal scrub, rocky outcrops and dispersed dwellings beyond which can be seen small sections of water enclosed by inlets and islands. There are also brief glimpses of open sea in the distance between headlands and islands. The tower on Golam head is also a distinctive feature.</p> <p>It is a view valued for a sense of remoteness, natural character and exposed coastal scenic amenity. However, there is a reasonable degree of development in the foreground context associated with the settlement as well as a housing estate to the back of the viewer.</p>		<p>effect is alleviated slightly by the northernmost turbine which are more clearly seen to be rising from open sea. There is some visual clutter generated by WTGs overlapping with each other, but they are generally evenly spaced and dissipating in intensity towards the periphery.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but there are small clusters at the ends of the array with gaps between which gives some permeability to the array and a sense of dissipation. Furthermore, an organic layout is deemed more appropriate in this complex coastal setting.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is framed by a complex shoreline and islands such that it is only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs located to take advantage of that exposure such that they are not an ambiguous feature.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium and of a Negative Quality.</p>	
VP23 (night time)	<p>Lettermullen (night time view)</p> <p>The night time view in this village outskirts setting has a number of existing light sources, but not</p>	Medium-low (at night)	<p>The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTGs will be visible, but due to terrain screening, the yellow maritime lights near the base will not be visible from here. The lights</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible /</p> <p>Negative /</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>dramatic ones. In the foreground is the yellow luminance from a street light with other residential lights in the near distance. The peninsula to the west reads as a dark low form relative to the marginally less dark sky.</p> <p>This is an area that is likely valued for dark skies, but not designated in respect of them i.e. as a dark sky reserve.</p>		<p>read as small pinpricks of light that are only marginally stronger than the stars that can be seen in the sky above. The lights will serve to enclose the night time view to a minor degree, albeit above landform, giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance. However, the intensity of the lighting is such that the lighting will only be a subtle feature of the night time views to sea. The magnitude of impact is considered to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative.</p>	<p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>
VP24	<p>Tramore – Golam Head</p> <p>This is an isolated beach and headland at the western (seaward) end of Lettermullen Island. It is afforded to a few local residents and recreationalists.</p> <p>The north-westerly view takes in a complex rocky coastline with small sandy coves as well as Golam island in the near middle ground. This hosts a small stone tower which is a focal point of the view. Coastal mountains can also be seen in the northerly distance.</p> <p>It is a view with little human intervention present other than the tower, stone wall remnants and a beach toilet block. It is valued for its isolated and</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs will be substantially visible on the north-western seaward skyline at distances beyond 10.3km with the blade sets of most WTGs rotating fully above open sea skyline or Golam Island to the right of the tower. The blades sets of around seven of the WTGs will partially rotate against the profile of the island. The proposed OSS is not readily visible against the profile of the island.</p> <p>The WTGs are a prominent feature of the scene, but will occupy less than half of the open sea horizon that is visible from here. There is a noticeable gap through the middle of the array that provides some sense of permeability through an otherwise densely stocked array.</p> <p>There is no particular order to the arrangement of the WTGs, but this complex section of coastline is not one that demands order from such a development. There is a minor</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	windswept natural character, cultural heritage (tower) and coastal scenic amenity.		<p>sense of clutter from overlapping WTGs and those that rotate against the intervening island skyline. There is a minor sense of intrusion on the view of the Golam Tower but also a legible sense of the spatial and contextual separation between them. They provide an interesting juxtaposition between old and new built features within the view that may appeal to some viewers, but not others.</p> <p>Perceptually, the development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea just out from a complex section of the Connemara coastline, but it is not perceived as being within the exposed Atlantic context from this viewpoint.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium.</p>	
VP25	<p>Connemara Golf Links This view is from near the club house within the popular Connemara Golf Links, which lies a short distance to the northwest of Aillebrack Beach (VP18). It is a view principally afforded to golfers, but is similar in distance and nature to views afforded from the nearby Keerhaunmore Holiday Park and Connemara Bay Beach.</p> <p>The view takes in foreground of the golf course car park, the southern extents of the links course itself and then a sandy / rocky beach with</p>	High-medium	<p>The proposed WTGs present at a noticeable scale from this distance of 17.5km to the nearest of them, but without dominating the view. They occupy a reasonable lateral extent which encompasses a modest and slightly peripheral section of the open sea horizon that can be seen from here with more open views further to the west.</p> <p>The westernmost turbine is seen from base to blade tip within the open sea context, but the remainder rise beyond intervening terrain. There is some minor visual clutter associated with overlapping blade sets and the rotation of a</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>turquoise shallows. There is also a promontory headland to the southeast.</p> <p>It is a view valued for scenic and recreational amenity and there is a reasonable sense of built development and landscape management but one that blends with the naturalistic setting of the coast.</p>		<p>small number of blade sets against the skyline terrain at the eastern end of the array.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, which are relatively evenly spaced and the organic layout does not conflict with the natural elements and patterns within the view.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea beyond a lightly developed and managed coastal context. It is a complex shoreline of islands and inlets such that the WTGs are only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint where the open ocean is further to the west.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>	
VP26	<p>Diamond Hill Diamond Hill is something of a standalone peak within Connemara National Park just to the east of the settlement of Letterfrack from which it is accessed via a popular walking trail. It lies in the northwest corner of the iconic Twelve Bens alpine area.</p> <p>The southerly view from Diamond Hill is a vast panorama framed to the east by the taller peaks of</p>	Very High	<p>The proposed WTGs will be substantially visible rising before the distant sea horizon at a nearest distance of just under 29km. The promontory headland of Errisbeg screens the towers of nine of the WTGs in the centre-right of the cluster. The WTGs will be seen at a small yet noticeable scale, but only in clear viewing conditions. They will serve as a distant feature of this vast vista seaward vista but will only occupy a modest proportion of the sea horizon that can be seen from here. Furthermore, this view is vast and</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>the Twelve Bens. The fore-to-middle ground consists of undulating hills of moorland and forestry that gives way to a lowland setting of lakes, coastal bog, marginal farmland and more conifer forests. There are numerous hills and coastal promontories towards the coast with the most prominent being the rugged headland of Errisbeg. In the far distance is an intermittent band of sea interspersed with islands.</p> <p>Although there is evidence of landscape settlement and management within the landscape context, other than for the conifer plantations, it is small scale and dispersed and adds to the rich texture of the view. In all other respects the view is highly valued for its mountain and distant coastal scenic amenity, tourism value and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place as well as a sense of awe.</p>		<p>complex and the distant sea context is only a minor element of it.</p> <p>The WTGs are clearly contained within open sea in a legible manner, albeit divided by a coastal promontory and just beyond a labyrinth of islands and inlets. Thus the array is seen within a context that does not read as the wild and open Atlantic context.</p> <p>The WTGs are reasonably evenly spaced with only a small degree of visual clutter from overlapping WTGs, which is an effect that is diluted at long distances such as this.</p> <p>The proposed OAA represents a noticeable increase in the scale, extent and diversity of man-made development within the vista. However, it is a very distant one that does not appear out of place or detract from some of the salient aspects of this view, which relate to vastness and richness of landcover. The WTGs will serve as a background focal point of the southerly view, but without dominating it in a spatial or thematic sense.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	
VP27	<p>Maumeen Chapel</p> <p>The Maumeen Chapel is an ancient place of worship on a high saddle within the Maumturk</p>	Very High	<p>The proposed WTGs will be fully visible rising before the distant sea horizon at a nearest distance of just over 30km. Consequently, the turbine will be seen at a small yet</p>	<p>Moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Mountains that define the landward extent of Connemara. It is located on the Western Way national waymarked walking route and marks the start / end of the alpine section of the trail along the main Maumturk ridgeline. It is also a popular picnic spot for those seeking a shorter walk from the dedicated car par to the southwest. Thus, it is a view afforded mainly to recreationalists, but of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>The westerly view is a striking panorama framed by the mountains that define the saddle in the foreground and include the cross from the Chapel. There is a sweeping apron of moorland and rock that gives way to a lightly settled lowland setting of coastal bog, marginal farmland and conifer forest. There are numerous hills and coastal promontories and in the far distance is an intermittent band of sea interspersed with islands.</p> <p>Although there is evidence of landscape settlement and management within the middle ground context, it is small scale and dispersed and adds to the rich texture of the view. In all other respects the view is highly valued for its mountain and coastal scenic amenity, tourism value and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place and cultural heritage as well as a sense of awe.</p>		<p>noticeable scale, but only in clear viewing conditions. They will serve as a distant focus of this framed vista towards the sea and will occupy the majority of the sea horizon that can be seen from here. However, this view is vast and complex and the distant sea context is but one small element of it.</p> <p>The WTGs can be seen within open sea in a clear and comprehensible manner, albeit just above coastal promontories and islands. Thus the array is seen within a context that does not read as the wild and open Atlantic context.</p> <p>The WTGs are reasonably evenly spaced with only a small degree of visual clutter from overlapping WTGs, which is an effect that is diluted at long distances.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs represents a noticeable increase in the scale, extent and diversity of man-made development within the vista. However, it is a very distant one that does not appear out of place or detract from some of the salient aspects of this view, which relate to vastness and richness. They will serve as a background focal point of the south-westerly view, but without dominating it in a spatial or thematic sense.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP28	<p>Twelve Pins alpine route at Lettery This view is afforded from the northern end of the Glencoaghan Horseshoe route that is the most popular alpine route around the Twelve Pins. It is a view obtained by advanced hill walkers just before descending towards Ben Lettery Hostel on the N59 below. Thus, receptors tend to be relatively few but highly attuned to the landscape around them.</p> <p>The westerly view takes in a naturalistic transition from high mountains to foothills and flats of blanket bogs and lakes that seamlessly give way to coastal bogs, inlets and islands in a complex labyrinth of waterways that defines the Connemara coastline. Several coastal promontories serve as distant focal points throughout the view.</p> <p>Although there is subtle evidence of landscape settlement and management within the middle ground context, it is low intensity and dispersed and adds to the rich texture of the view. In all other respects the view is highly valued for its mountain and coastal scenic amenity, recreational value and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place as well as a sense of awe.</p>	Very High	<p>The proposed WTGs will be fully visible rising before the distant sea horizon at a nearest distance of 23.5km. Consequently, the WTGs will be seen at a modest yet noticeable scale, but only in clear viewing conditions. They will serve as a distant focus of this broad vista towards the sea. They will occupy a subordinate proportion of the open sea horizon that can be seen from here.</p> <p>The WTGs can be seen within open sea in a clear and comprehensible manner, just above coastal promontories and islands, but short of the distant horizon. Thus the array is seen within a context that does not read as the wild and open Atlantic context, but more of a transitional zone.</p> <p>The WTGs are reasonably evenly spaced with only a small degree of visual clutter from overlapping WTGs, which is an effect that is diluted at long distances.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs represents a noticeable increase in the scale, extent and diversity of man-made development within the vista. However, it is a distant one that does not appear out of place or detract from some of the salient aspects of this view, which relate to vastness and richness. They will serve as a background focal point of the south-westerly view, but without dominating it in a spatial or thematic sense.</p>	<p>Major-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.	
VP29	<p>Macdara Island Monastery Macdara's Island is a small uninhabited island at the end of a chain of islands extended out from the mainland via Mweenish Island and Mason Island. It is the closest island to the proposed OAA site and its most distinctive aspect is that it hosts St Macdara's Island Monastery. This consists of a small stone chapel and associated stone enclosures that date from the 10th century having replaced an earlier wooden church. Although the island is not inhabited, it is visited once a year on the 16th of July as part of a pilgrimage by residents of the local area for a blessing of boats (Saint Macdara is the patron saint of seafarers). Thus, views from the island are afforded predominantly on the 16th of July each year for local pilgrims.</p> <p>Views from the island consist of open sea views to the west, long shore views to the north and south including the Aran Islands in that southernly aspect. Also, views towards the mainland including Mason Island and Mace Head in the near vicinity. While the offshore views are expansive and simple in composition, those</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present with a dominant visual presence from this distance of 3.2km to the nearest of them. The proposed OSS is also clearly visible from here. Although the moving WTGs will be a visually dominating feature of the offshore view with a broad lateral extent, their vertical extent does not present with a sense of overbearing. The lateral extent of the array encompasses the majority of the visible open sea horizon that can be seen between the summit of the island to the west and the Aran Islands to the south. Notwithstanding, due to the close proximity of this viewpoint to the array, there is a greater sense of visual permeability through it than is experienced from more distant viewpoints. The proposed OSS is visible as a subtle and subordinate feature of the development near the southern end of the turbine array.</p> <p>The WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the open sea context albeit with the most northerly WTGs partially obscured by the summit of the island from this particular location. There is a noticeable difference in scale between the nearest and furthest WTGs, which generates a sense of perspective and an understanding of the depth of the array and distance between individual WTGs.</p>	<p>Major / Negative / Long-term Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>including the rocky shoreline and islands are much more complex.</p> <p>Other than the ancient stone chapel and enclosures, which add to the cultural heritage value of the setting, there is little contemporary anthropogenic influence on the offshore views. The view is highly valued for its remote and windswept coastal scenic amenity and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place and cultural heritage as well as a sense of awe from the expansiveness of open sea. Only the limited number of viewers afforded these views on an annual basis limits the sensitivity of this receptor location to any measurable degree.</p>		<p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but they are loosely presented in about 5-6 clusters with some permeability between the clusters which slightly reduces the sense of enclosure of the open sea view. Furthermore, orderly rows of WTGs would not be appropriate in this complex coastal setting where a more organic layout is deemed more appropriate. There is some clutter from overlapping of WTGs, but this is not confusing in a context where the depth of the array, and therefore the distance between WTGs, is clearly apparent.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is perceived as a transition to the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs placed to take advantage of that exposure. It is also that sense of remoteness and exposure that inspired the creation of monastic sites at the edge of the known world. There is a distinct juxtaposition between ancient and contemporary built features within this view that may appeal to some viewers, but not others.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High and of a Negative quality.</p>	
VP30	Inishmore Island at Cloghadockan	High	The proposed WTGs present with a co-dominant visual presence from this distance of 13.7km to the nearest of	Moderate /

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This view is from the western (seaward) end of Inishmore Island which is the northernmost of the three Aran Islands that guard the entrance to Galway Bay. Inishmore, is the largest and most populous of the Aran Islands and attracts tourists who catch the regular Aran Island Ferry from Rossaveel on the mainland or fly from the Aerodrome at Inverin. Once on the island, the main form of transport is bicycle. One of the key attractions of the Island is the ancient sea fort of Dun Aonghasa. This is on the southern side of the island and is precluded visibility towards the OAA, but those who have ventured to see it are also likely to continue on to the western tip of the island where they will encounter northward views like that represented by VP30. The view is therefore afforded to tourists and inhabitants of the western end of Inishmore Island.</p> <p>The northerly view in question takes in a foreground of a lichen covered flaggy shoreline that descends gently towards the rocky shoreline. In the distance to the north and northeast can be seen the complex shoreline and nearshore islands of Connemara with promontory headlands and the Connemara Mountains rising above. Open ocean is presented to the northwest between the small islands at the end of Inishmore and the Connemara coastline.</p>		<p>them. Although the moving WTGs will be a visually prominent feature of the long shore view with a reasonable lateral extent this is subordinate and offset from visible open sea horizon that can be seen between the end of the island to the west and the Connemara coastline to the north. The proposed OSS is visible as a subtle and subordinate feature of the development near the middle of the turbine array.</p> <p>The WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the open sea context albeit with the most easterly WTGs partially overlapping with nearshore islands and headlands of the Connemara coastline that lie beyond. In this regard, the array is contained within a semi-enclosed nearshore context that is not perceived to be within the open extents of the Atlantic Ocean which lie further to the west.</p> <p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but that is not at odds with this complex coastal setting where this more organic layout is deemed appropriate. There is some clutter from overlapping of WTGs, but this is diluted by the viewing distance.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of sea that is perceived as a transition to the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. However, there is some perceptual connection between the remote</p>	<p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	There is little anthropogenic influence on the offshore views to the north. The view is highly valued for its remote and windswept coastal scenic amenity and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place as well as a sense of awe from the expansiveness of open sea.		windswept setting and the WTGs placed to take advantage of that exposure. On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.	
VP31	<p>Inishmore Island Lighthouse</p> <p>This view is from the highest central point of Inishmore Island which is the northernmost of the three Aran Islands that lie at the entrance to Galway Bay. Inishmore, is the largest and most populous of the Aran Islands and attracts tourists who catch the regular Aran Island Ferry from Rossaveel on the mainland or fly from the Aerodrome at Inverin. Once on the island, the main form of transport is bicycle. One of the key attractions of the Island is the ancient sea fort of Dun Aonghasa. This is a popular stopping point on the way to the fort. The view is afforded to tourists and inhabitants of Inishmore Island.</p> <p>The northerly view in question takes in a foreground of intricate stonewall field boundaries on this plateau summit of the island. The nearest</p>	High	<p>The proposed WTGs present with a co-dominant visual presence from this distance of nearly 20km to the nearest of them. The moving WTGs will be a noticeable feature of the north-westerly open sea view. The array has a reasonable lateral extent that occupies around half of the visible open sea horizon that can be seen between the end of the island to the west and the Connemara coastline to the northwest. The proposed OSS is barely discernible as a subtle and subordinate feature of the development near the middle of the array.</p> <p>The WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner from base to blade tip within the open sea context just out from the nearshore islands and headlands of the Connemara coastline. The array is perceived to be contained within a semi-enclosed nearshore context that is not perceived to be within the open extents of the Atlantic ocean which lie further beyond to the west and northwest.</p>	<p>Moderate-slight /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>section of shoreline is obscured from view but further west can be seen the rocky western end of Inishmore scattered with dwellings. In the distance to the north and northeast can be seen the complex shoreline and nearshore islands of Connemara with promontory headlands and the Connemara Mountains rising above. Open ocean is presented to the northwest between the western end of Inishmore and the Connemara coastline.</p> <p>While there is evidence of human intervention in the fore-to-middle ground island context of this view, this is small scale and reads as a subtle cultural layer weaved into the more naturalistic fabric of this vista. The view is highly valued for its remote and windswept coastal scenic amenity and natural character. It has a very strong sense of place as well as a sense of awe from the expansiveness of open sea.</p>		<p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but that is not at odds with this complex coastal setting where this more organic layout is deemed appropriate. There is some clutter from overlapping of WTGs, but this is diluted by the viewing distance.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of sea that is perceived as a transition to the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. However, there is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs placed to take advantage of that exposure.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	
VP32	<p>Inis Ní (Waymarked Walking Loop)</p> <p>The island of Inis Ní lies across the bay from the popular tourist village of Roundstone, which is a discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way. It is much less developed and frequented by comparison to Roundstone and its immediate hinterland, but has a looped walking route that</p>	Medium	<p>The partial blade sets of most of the proposed WTGs will be visible from here rising in silhouette above the low skyline ridge of Inis Ní to the west at distances beyond 12.4km. Around five full WTGs are seen towards the northern end of the array with the northernmost turbine partially obscured by Croaghnaakeela Island. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky backdrop,</p>	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>links it to the mainland. It is a view from the west facing slopes of the central portion of the island and is enjoyed by recreational walkers and a few local residents.</p> <p>The south-westerly view takes in a foreground of marginal grazing that slopes down towards a bay that is formed by a narrow split to the southern lobe of the island. Several dwellings can be seen on that opposing section of the island beyond which is a complex coastline of inlets, spits and other islands.</p> <p>It is a view valued for scenic and recreational amenity and there is a reasonable sense of built development and landscape management but one that blends with the naturalist setting of the coast.</p>		<p>but they have a broad lateral extent and their movement is likely to draw the eye.</p> <p>The turbine blades will generate a degree of visual clutter associated with overlapping between themselves and from partial blade sets rotating against the skyline ridge in perspective. However, only the more legible full WTGs occupy a section of open sea horizon and there is a wider gap to open sea horizon further to the north that remains unobstructed. The more openly visible WTGs provide legible context to the offshore context of the array which might otherwise cause contextual confusion based on those WTGs that rise above intervening landform.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of sea, but not one that is perceived as the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.</p>	
VP33	<p>Dooyeher (Waymarked Walking Loop)</p> <p>This is a remote section of a walking loop associated with Moyrus beach just to the north. It is from a slightly elevated local laneway that serves several dwellings. The view is enjoyed by recreational walkers and a few local residents.</p>	Medium	<p>Except for partial screening by foreground dwellings at this precise location, the proposed WTGs are openly visible rising out of an offshore context from here. However, there is a divide provided by the intervening peninsula that sees the central cluster of WTGs rising above terrain. The WTGs are seen at a prominent scale from this distance of 7.1km to the nearest of them.</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>The south-westerly view takes in marginal costal farmland and a couple of dwellings on a gradual descent to the shoreline in the middle distance. Beyond is a complex coastline on inlets and islands.</p> <p>It is a view valued for scenic and recreational amenity and there is a reasonable sense of built development and landscape management, but one that blends with the naturalistic setting of the coast.</p>		<p>There is no particular rhythm or order to the arrangement of WTGs, but there is a combination of gaps and tight clusters which gives some permeability to the array. Although it is a disorderly arrangement, an organic layout is deemed more appropriate in this complex coastal setting.</p> <p>The development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea that is framed by a complex shoreline and islands such that it is only partly perceived as being within the open Atlantic context from this viewpoint. There is some perceptual connection between the remote windswept setting and the WTGs located to take advantage of that exposure, such that they are not an ambiguous feature.</p> <p>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium and of a Negative Quality.</p>	
VP34	<p>Black Head (County Clare) (Designated Scenic Route & View and WAW) This is a vast and open seaward view from a roadside pull-in point on Black Head within the Burren Geopark in County Clare. It lies just above Black Head Lighthouse, which is a functioning contemporary structure rather than a tourism or</p>	High	<p>At a nearest distance of nearly 45km, the proposed WTGs will be seen as very small and distant features and only in the clearest of viewing conditions. Only the blade sets will be visible above the horizon due to earth curvature. Even in clear conditions they will have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and eye acuity (the ability to</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible / Neutral-Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>heritage feature. There are no local residents in the vicinity, but this road forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way tourist driving route, it is a designated scenic route and it is also utilised by those that live and work in the area.</p> <p>The landward view is a striking one up steep and bare limestone slopes that are unique to this area. The seaward view is a simple one across the mouth of Galway Bay and out to the Atlantic Ocean. The Aran Islands can be seen at the entrance to Galway Bay, but like the Connemara coastline beyond, the landform presents with a low profile from this distance. Onshore WTGs on the opposite side of Galway Bay can also be seen.</p> <p>Aside from the lighthouse there is little human intervention evident in the foreground setting and what can be seen across Galway Bay is small and discrete from here. The view is valued for its natural windswept character, coastal scenic amenity, unique geomorphology as well as tourism and recreational value.</p>		<p>resolve narrow objects at distance) will also contribute to a minimal visual presence.</p> <p>The easternmost WTGs will rise above the low landform of the southwest Connemara coastline, whilst the vast majority will rise out of open sea, albeit between the mainland and the Aran Islands. At this distance the array appears as a simple line but with one noticeable gap in the middle. The OSS is not apparent.</p> <p>The WTGs do not intrude on sensitive feature in this vast view and read as simply a distant background feature that is discrete from the surrounding coastal context. They are not perceived as being contained within the open Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible. And of a marginally negative quality – Neutral-Negative.</p>	
VP35	<p>Inishbofin Island</p> <p>This is a view afforded from the southern side of Inishbofin Island which lies off the coast of north</p>	High	At a nearest distance of 40km, the proposed WTGs will be seen as very small and distant features and only in the clearest of viewing conditions. Even in such conditions they	<p>Slight-imperceptible /</p> <p>Neutral-Negative /</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Galway / south Mayo and is accessible by ferry from the mainland. It is not as popular with tourists as the Aran Islands but it still attracts recreational visitors and the view is otherwise afforded to residents of the island.</p> <p>The southerly view in question takes in a local beach and a number of small islands in the foreground. Beyond in the distance, can be seen the complex inlets, headlands and nearshore islands of the north Connemara coastline.</p> <p>There is little human intervention evident in the foreground setting or within the mainland context visible from here. The view is valued for its natural windswept character, coastal scenic amenity, as well as its recreational value.</p>		<p>will have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and eye acuity (the ability to resolve narrow objects at distance) will also contribute to a minimal visual presence.</p> <p>Only the blade sets of the WTGs will rise above a low section of the west Connemara coastline. At this distance the array appears as a simple line and the clutter caused by overlapping WTGs is negated by distance. The OSS is not apparent.</p> <p>There may be some minor contextual confusion as to whether the WTGs are part of an onshore or offshore development, but generally they will read as a distant background feature that is discrete from the surrounding coastal context. They are not perceived as being contained within the open Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible. And of a marginally negative quality – Neutral-Negative.</p>	<p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>
VP36	<p>Cliffs of Moher (County Clare) (Designated Scenic Route & View and WAW Discovery Point)</p> <p>This vast and elevated panoramic coastal vista is afforded from one of the country's most visited natural heritage features – The Cliffs of Moher. These dramatic coastal cliffs feature on postcards of Ireland and are one of the iconic features on</p>	Very High	<p>At a nearest distance of just over 45km, the proposed WTGs will be seen as very small and distant features and only in the clearest of viewing conditions. Even in such conditions they will have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and eye acuity (the ability to resolve narrow objects at distance) will also contribute to a minimal visual presence.</p>	<p>Slight /</p> <p>Neutral-Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>the Wild Atlantic Way. Thus, the view is afforded primarily to tourists visiting the Cliffs of Moher Visitors Centre and recreationalists walking the renowned cliff edge route between Liscannor to the south and Doolin to the north.</p> <p>Importantly, this view is obtained from O'Brien's Tower which perches on a promontory ridge that frames the northern side of the main Cliffs of Moher visitors centre enclave. It is reached with a brisk uphill walk of around 300m from the main viewing area that affords the iconic south-westerly vista along the scalloped cliffs. Landform precludes visibility towards the site from this main viewing point and the visitors centre.</p> <p>The view in question from O'Brien's Tower takes in a vast and open Atlantic scene to the west and the more enclosed setting of the mouth of Galway Bay to the north. The Aran Islands are a key feature at the entrance to the Bay and serve to divide it from the open Atlantic context. In the immediate context are a series of scalloped sea cliffs heading in a north-easterly direction.</p> <p>This viewing location is valued as one of Ireland's most iconic and dramatic coastal settings, its tourism draw and its natural coastal scenic</p>		<p>Only the partial blade sets of the WTGs will rise above the low profile of the Aran Islands. At this distance the array appears as a simple line and the clutter caused by overlapping WTGs is negated by distance. The OSS is not visible.</p> <p>There may be some minor contextual confusion as to whether the WTGs are part of an onshore or offshore development, but generally they will read as a distant background feature that is discrete from the surrounding coastal context. They are not perceived as being contained within the open Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible. And of a marginally negative quality – Neutral-Negative.</p>	

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	amenity. It has a strong sense of place and sense of sublime awe.			
VP37	<p>Carna (Designated Scenic Route and WAW)</p> <p>The small village of Carna is located just over 8km to the northeast of the site and consists of a main street that divides two housing estates in a setting that is relatively contained by buildings, vegetation and rocky outcrops. Closer to the indented and complex shoreline to the southwest of the village centre is the ‘Emigrants Commemorative Centre’ which affords clearer coastal views than much of the settlement, the car park of which has been used as the representative VP location for Carna in this instance.</p> <p>The view in question takes in a complex rocky shoreline consisting of tidal pools and outcrops within a broader setting of an enclosed inlet that is flanked to the west by a promontory hill. Across the inlet can be seen a series of residential dwellings lining Mweenish Island. These occur within naturalistic rocky outcrops and dry stone walls. Mason Island and Macdara’s island complete the containment and restrict open-sea views.</p>	High-medium	<p>All of the proposed WTGs will be substantially visible from here rising above low, rocky and populated sections of the intervening coastline at a nearest distance of 8.2km. They present at a prominent, but not overbearing scale from here and they occupy a little more than half of the seaward skyline that is visible from here.</p> <p>There is some ambiguity relating to the exact location of the OAA because the open sea is not visible from here and the WTGs have a slightly confusing scale and distance relationship to the nearer dwellings on Mweenish Island.</p> <p>There is no particular order to the arrangement of the WTG, but they are reasonably evenly spaced and this complex section of coastline is not one that demands order from such a development. There is a minor sense of clutter from overlapping WTG and those that penetrate below the intervening skyline with the bottom of their blade rotation.</p> <p>Perceptually, the development will introduce tall moving structures into an undeveloped area of open sea just out from a complex section of the Connemara coastline, but is not perceived as being within the exposed Atlantic context from this viewpoint.</p>	<p>Major-moderate /</p> <p>Negative /</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium	
VP37 - Night time view	<p>Carna (night time) Notwithstanding the greater degree of light emanating from the village setting to the rear of the viewer, within the south-westward view there are some minor light sources on Mweenish Island and other intervening residential areas. On the clear evening in question the bulk of the intervening landform is apparent due to its relative darkness compared to open sky.</p> <p>This is an area that is likely valued for dark skies, but not designated in respect of them i.e. as a dark sky reserve.</p>	Medium (at night)	The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTG and the yellow maritime lights near the base will both be visible from here in clear night time viewing conditions, but they are a subtle feature of the night sky just above the horizon. They read as small pinpricks of light that are only marginally stronger than the stars that can be seen in the sky above. There will be some ambiguity in the lighting due to the different colours and heights of the two forms of lighting. The lights will also serve to enclose the night time view to a minor degree giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance. However, the intensity of the lighting is such that the lighting will only be a subtle feature of the night time views to sea. The magnitude of impact is considered to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative .	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>
VP38	<p>Ballyconneely (Designated Scenic Route and WAW) The small and dispersed village of Ballyconneely is located just over 16km to the north of the site in the centre of a low peninsula where it is subtly contained by hummocky landform, vegetation and the scattering of buildings lining the R341 regional road that forms the main street. However the terrain is more elevated at the outskirts of the</p>	High-medium	The proposed WTGs will be fully visible along the coastline to the south at a nearest distance of 16.6km. Consequently, the WTGs will be seen at a modest yet noticeable scale, but only in clear viewing conditions. They have a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and whilst they occupy a reasonable lateral extent, this is only a small section of the broad vista available and a subordinate proportion of the open sea horizon that is visible further to the west.	<p>Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>village where it rises to the east where the village cemetery is located. This location affords elevated and open vistas to the south, but is very much a worst case receptor, in terms of visual exposure, relative to the village itself.</p> <p>The view in question takes in a recently completed dwelling in the foreground and a southerly slope down to marginal rock strewn grazing land and a scattering of dispersed dwellings. A short distance beyond begins a complex rocky coastline of promontory headlands, inlets and islands but there are open sea views further to the west and southwest. The headland at Errisbeg frames the southerly view in the distance.</p>		<p>The majority of WTGs can be seen within open sea with the easternmost WTGs rising above low coastal promontories and islands. Thus the array is seen more in the context of the complex and settled coastline, than within the wild and open Atlantic context, which opens up further to the west.</p> <p>The WTGs are seen in a clear and comprehensible manner within open sea. They are reasonably evenly spaced with only a small degree of visual clutter from overlapping WTG, which tends to matter less at distance than from nearer locations.</p> <p>The proposed OAA represents a noticeable increase in the scale, extent and diversity of man-made development within the vista. Yet, there is a legible correlation between the exposed coastal setting, the settlement patterns and the WTGs, such that they do not appear as an ambiguous feature in this view. They will serve as a background focal point of the southerly view, but without dominating it in a spatial or thematic sense.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	