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Appendix 10.1

Landscape and Visual: Assessment of VRPs

Keerglen Wind Farm

Mayo Planning Authority - Inspection Purposes Only

10.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

The study area comprises a mix of landscape areas which can principally broken down by the highly susceptible coastal context, the upland and bog context, and the more robust inland landscape influenced by typical working land uses. The VPs are overlaid with an indicative map of these areas below, followed by a summary of the landscape setting and VP sensitivity, which are closely related in this instance.

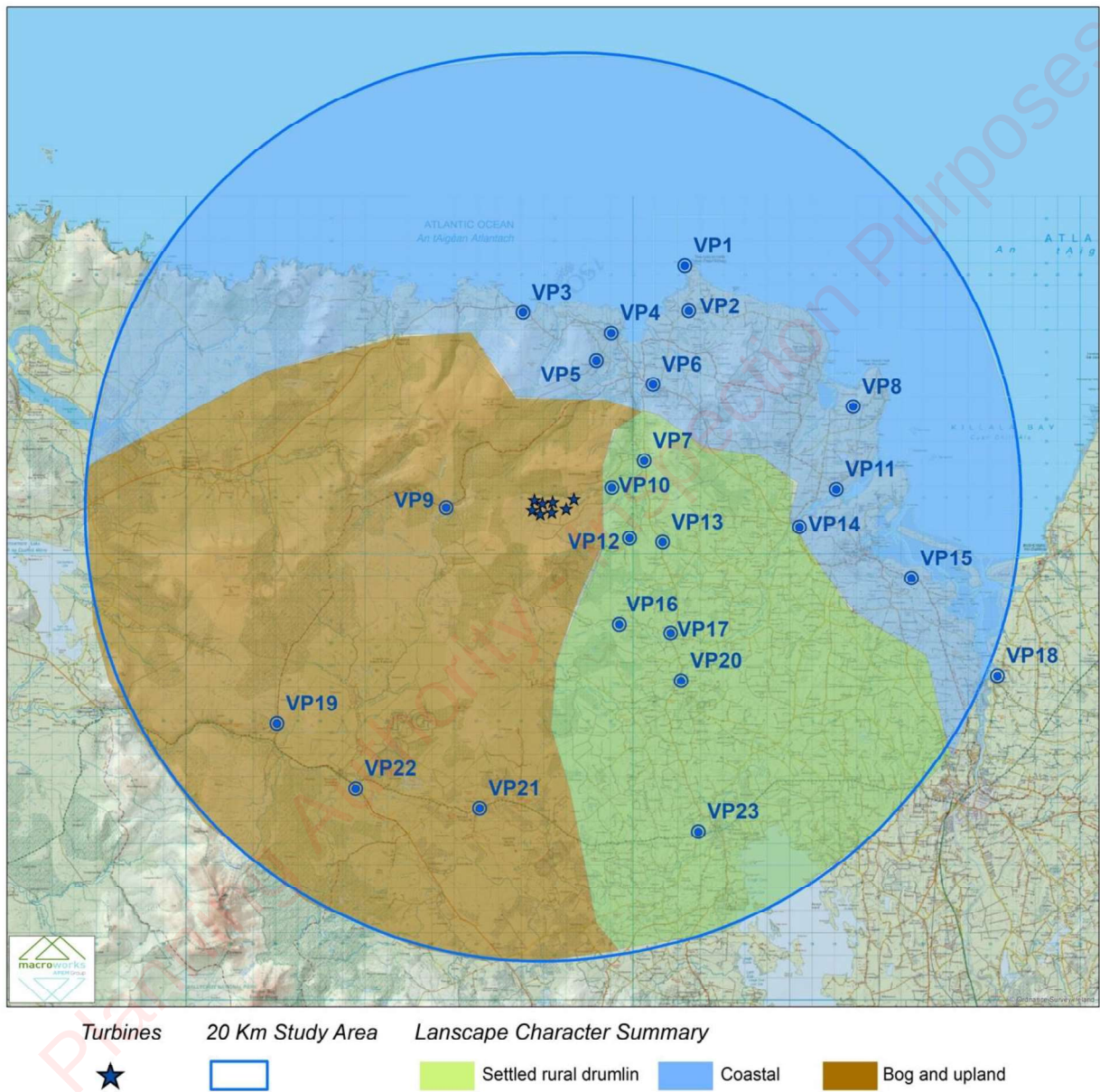


Table 1 Viewpoint sensitivity and primary landscape characteristics		
VRP No.	Sensitivity	Landscape setting
VP1	High	Coastal
VP2	High-medium	Coastal

VRP No.	Sensitivity	Landscape setting
VP3	Very High	Coastal
VP4	High-medium	Coastal
VP5	Medium	Coastal
VP6	Medium	Coastal
VP7	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP8	Medium	Coastal
VP9	Medium	Upland and Bog
VP10	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP11	High-medium	Coastal
VP12	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP13	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP14	Medium	Coastal
VP15	High-Medium	Coastal
VP16	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP17	Medium-low	Settled rural
VP18	High-medium	Coastal
VP19	Medium	Upland and Bog
VP20	Medium	Settled rural
VP21	Medium-low	Upland and Bog
VP22	Medium	Upland and Bog
VP23	Medium-low	Settled rural

The coastal landscape presents a high degree of scenic amenity due to the rugged, windswept nature of this landscape context, which comprises an array of coastal features, including steep cliffs, distinctive rock formations, broad estuaries and sandy beaches and strands. The highly scenic nature of this landscape context is further highlighted by the numerous scenic route designations that occur along coastal routes within the study area, in addition to the linear amenity receptors such as the highly popular Wild Atlantic Way, which also traverse this coastal context. Visual receptors along the coastline tend to range between Very High to High-medium, with those of the highest sensitivity associated with sensitive and popular amenity and heritage features such as the Céide Fields and Downpatrick Head. Others within this context, which are more typical rural views, with some influence from the scenic coastal areas, are of Medium sensitivity.

Views of the inland working agricultural landscape are generally pleasant in terms of its rolling pastoral aesthetic and 'green', settled working character. The network of hedgerows and vegetation that occur

throughout it contributes to some sense of naturalness and, in combination with its undulating topography, generates a high degree of containment in many locations. However, whilst a pleasant pastoral aesthetic is noted throughout some parts of the study area, particularly the Ballinglen River Valley, the wider landscape is also influenced by an array of anthropogenic features such as farm buildings, urban settlements, commercial and industrial development and major route receptors. Overall, the sensitivity of visual receptors within the more inland working landscape context tends to range between Medium and Medium-low, with those of Medium sensitivity representing local amenity receptors. It is also worth noting that some local amenity and heritage features also occur within the inland working landscape, which heightens the degree of receptor sensitivity at a local level. Overall, there is a notable reduction in the degree of scenic amenity afforded within the inland parts of the study area, with a notable and longstanding sense of human intervention on the landscape.

Finally, the western and upland extents of the study area primarily represent the Western Way and the major route through the Bellacorrick Basin. There is a tension within these views between the naturalistic, upland areas and the visibility allowed across the broad, highly modified Bellacorrick Basin and bog. As outlined in the LVIA, the Bellacorrick Basin combines features of historic values surrounding energy production and the current intensification of Wind Energy Development. Views representative of the Western Way within this landscape are of Medium sensitivity, while those on main routes are Medium-low or Medium if the view is particularly expansive.

Key differentials in terms of visual receptor sensitivity relate to the occupation of the visual receptor and whether views of the surrounding landscape are an inherent part of the experience. Static residential receptors are considered generally more susceptible to changes in views over those where views are experienced transiently by those travelling through the landscape, particularly on major transport routes where road infrastructure and traffic volume draw from visual amenity. Likewise, receptors located in closer proximity to the site are considered more susceptible to changes in views over those where views are experienced at a distance.

On the basis of the site-specific factors outlined above and in accordance with the general visual receptor sensitivity considerations contained in the methodology Section 10.5 of the Landscape and Visual, visual receptor sensitivity judgement are provided for each representative viewpoint in the table below in Appendix Section 10.1b below.

10.1b Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

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). The presented images for each viewpoint include;

1. Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)
2. Wireframe view – proposed (V150) and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
3. Wireframe – proposed (N133) and cumulative turbines view (90° included angle) – Only included in VP1, VP7, VP10, VP12, VP16
4. Wireframe (V150) view (53.5° included angle)
5. Montage (V150) View (53.5° included angle)

Table 2 Viewpoint sensitivity and primary landscape characteristics				
VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	Downpatrick Head – This is an inland view afforded by the Downpatrick Head peninsula that is representative of users of the highly scenic walk. The depicted view is oriented inland, where an open view is afforded across smooth rolling terrain contained in a mix of pastoral farmland, bogland and blocks of conifer forestry. It is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to views in the opposite direction across the immediate coastline and towards Dún Briste sea stack.	High	The blade sets of up to eight turbines have the potential to be viewed here across the distant ridge, where they present at a modest scale in the background. The turbines are viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast and will have a minimal visual presence in this open view. The turbines do not appear over-scaled along the broad elongated ridge at c. 11.6km. However, they will generate a minor sense of visual clutter as the proposed blade sets are viewed intermittently over the ridgeline. Nonetheless, whilst the turbines will result in a very minor increase in the intensity of built development in this view, they will not unduly detract from this highly scenic coastal setting. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible. As this is a highly sensitive location, this viewpoint was also used to examine the difference in effect between the two proposed turbine options (V150 and N133). As can be seen in the comparative wireframe, the visual impact of the change in dimension is not discernible at this distance. Therefore, the visual impact assessment remains as above.	Slight / Negative / Long Term
VP2	Local road intersection at Muingrevagh – This is a view afforded from a local road intersection south of the main Downpatrick Head carpark. The view is representative of the local community, a section of this scenic route and users of the Wild Atlantic Way driving route. The depicted view is oriented inland and extends across a settled working rural landscape. It is important to note that the main aspect of amenity along this local road scenic route relates to views in the opposite direction towards the coastline.	High-medium	Views of the partial blade sets of up to five turbines have the potential to be afforded here, where they present along the elevated elongated ridge at a distance of under 10km. The blade sets present a very low degree of visual contrast backed by the sky and will have a sub-dominant visual presence in this view. Whilst there is some sense of visual ambiguity generated as to the actual location of these turbines, any negative aesthetic visual impacts are heavily offset by the limited visibility of the turbines. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term

VP3	Céide Fields – This is a broad, highly scenic view afforded from the Céide Fields visitor centre. The view is representative of this internationally renowned heritage receptor and the scenic route that occurs along the coast road located immediately to the north of the visitor centre. The depicted view extends east across the rugged coastline and rolling remote inland landscape and is contained by a series of ridges in the distance to the east.	Very High	This is primarily an illustrative view due to the sensitivity of the receptor. However, due to the intervening landform, the proposal is not visible from this viewpoint. As such, the visual effect is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
VP4	R314 at Doonfeeny Upper – This is a locally elevated view from a section of a scenic route designation located along the R314 regional road west of Ballycastle Beach. The view is representative of users of the regional road scenic route and local community receptors along this section of the coastal route. The view extends inland, with the foreground contained by a boundary wall and a small cluster of residences, which are set within and backed by areas of low-lying pastoral farmland. In this distance, the view is contained by a broad low ridge cloaked in a mix of forestry, pastoral farmland and areas of moorland.	High-medium	The proposal is substantially screened from this location, with only the very ends of the blade tips visible over the ridgeline. These are unlikely to be noticed and will not impact the viewer experience at this location, which relates primarily to amenity to the north, away from the proposed development. As such, the visual effect is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
VP5	Local Road at Ballyknock – Inland from VP4, this viewpoint is representative of the local community within the north of the study area, to the west of Ballycastle. The viewpoint is located on a sweeping slope which presents views across a broad ridgeline, while the landform flattens and opens to the north and Ballycastle Bay.	Medium	Although the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility, the proposal is only visible as blade tips, which do not draw the eye or influence the visual character at this location. Therefore, the magnitude of impact is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
VP6	R314 at Ballycastle – This viewpoint is located in the centre of Ballycastle, at the minor heritage and amenity attraction of 'The Shambles'. The main built centre and attractions of Ballycastle are located to the west/right of the view. The view of the wider landscape is allowed by a break in the built form of the main street, specifically over the rear of 'The Seaview Lounge' pub. The view is representative of the settlement of Ballycastle, the R314 major route and the heritage receptor. The view presents a glimpse through to a rolling ridgeline.	Medium	As shown in the wireframe, there is a partial view of one turbine, however this is done visible due to the landform and built screening. As such, the visual effect is deemed Negligible .	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term
VP7	R315 at Ballinglen – This is a pleasant rural view typical of the Ballinglen Valley. The river is visible across the midground, with layers of hedgerows forming a highly vegetated view, backed by more open rolling landform overlayed with bog. The viewpoint is representative of	Medium-Low	The proposed development is visible along the broad elongated ridgeline at a distance of over 3.5km. All turbines will be visible here, albeit on a modest scale and will have a co-dominant visual presence. They are well settled into the landform and have a strong sense of perspective, which adds separation and	Moderate-slight/ negative/ Long-term

	the R315 main route, and the local community receptors within the surrounding rural residences.		legibility from the viewer's context to the transitional landscape in which the proposal is located. Nonetheless, the proposed wind farm presents with a notable intensification of built development in this visual setting due to the potential for visibility of up to 8 of the proposed turbines, which will be revealed to varying degrees, but predominantly involving full blade sets. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed Medium-Low. This viewpoint was also used to examine the difference in effect between the two proposed turbine options (V150 and N133). As can be seen in the comparative wireframe, the visual impact of the change in dimension is limited to the impression that the development is slightly further away, however this is unlikely to be readily noted. Therefore, the visual impact assessment remains as above.	
VP8	Local road at Carrowtrasna – This is a pleasant view that extends across Lacken Strand and its surrounding pastoral landscape from a locally elevated section of road at Carrowtrasna that is representative of both the local community and a local walking trail. The view is contained further west of Lacken Strand by a broad working ridge cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland, intervening hedgerow vegetation and blocks of conifer forestry.	Medium	The proposed development is revealed by a slope of landform in the midground. The turbines will not present in a dominant manner from this distance of over c. 13.1km and have a limited lateral extent. Thus, the visual presence of the development is considered sub-dominant. The turbines are well offset from the more visually susceptible coastline and are situated along elevated sections of the broad distant ridge. Some of them are partially obscured by a low rolling ridge located in the foreground of the view to the west. Overall, the scale and intensity of built development will marginally increase in this aspect of the view. However, the turbines will not appear to be incongruous features in the context of the productive underlying land uses. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low.	Slight / Negative / Long Term
VP9	Western way at Altderg – This is a broad open view from a quiet local access road at the northern extent of the Bellacorrick Basin near the headwaters of the Owenboy River. The Western Way long-distance walking route passes through this locale in an east-west direction as it skirts the foothills of the northern extents of the Nephin range. The view takes in a combination of vast peat bog on flat ground and forestry on raised and gently sloping ground with a backdrop of the western portion of the Nephin range. The wind turbines from the Oweninny Phase I and Phase II wind farms occupy much of the distant middle ground.	Medium	There is partial visibility of one turbine blade over the low slope which defines the horizon. This is a very limited influence on the context of the Western Way. While this turbine may be intermittently visible, its influence on the setting and walker experience will be limited. As such, the magnitude of impact is deemed Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / negative / long term

VP10	Local Road to east of site at Keerglen – This viewpoint clearly presents the transitional context of the proposed development. Looking up (west) the valley, the landform opens slightly and the landcover transitions to conifer and bogs, typical of the wider upland setting. Simultaneously, down the valley to the east, the landcover is increasingly pastoral farmland, featuring smaller scale land uses, with defined fields, hedgerows and a small number of rural residences. These residences are the key receptors of this viewpoint, as the local roadway is primarily for their access.	Medium-Low	This viewpoint presents a comprehensible view of this array with regard to layout depth and legibility. Aesthetically, the proposed development is of an appropriate scale and layout for the setting, located at the boundary of the larger scale land uses. This serves to separate the proposed development from the immediate viewer context, reducing the impacts of the rural character to the east of the viewer. While there is a small degree of overlap and visual clutter, the proposal is viewed at a notable scale in relation to the smaller scale land uses adjacent to the viewer and has a co-dominant to dominant visual presence. While this is mitigated by the depth and clear sense of perspective, the proposed development represents a notable intensification of the land use within this context. Therefore, the magnitude of impact is deemed Medium. This viewpoint was also used to examine the difference in effect between the two proposed turbine options (V150 and N133). As can be seen in the comparative wireframe the visual impact of the change in dimension is limited to the impression that the development is slightly further away, however this is unlikely to be readily noted. Therefore, the visual impact assessment remains as above.	Moderate/ Negative/ Long term
VP11	Templemurry Graveyard – This is a locally elevated view afforded from Templemurray Graveyard immediately east of Rathfrán Abbey. The view is representative of this heritage receptor and the surrounding local community and affords a view to the west across rolling terrain cloaked in broad pastoral fields. The ascends towards broad ridges that are partially visible in the distance. It is important to note that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to the views across the adjacent river corridor to the east and to the northeast towards Lacken Strand and the coastline.	High-medium	All turbines will be revealed here to varying degrees, with a condensed lateral extent. The proposal is aligned with the centre of the view over the historic site of Rathfrán Abbey. The nearest of the proposed turbines is viewed at a distance of c. 11.8km. The intervening landform from this viewing context provides a notable sense of separation from the development as the turbines rise beyond the low ridge in the view's middle ground. The visible turbines present in two clusters - two groups of four. Both clusters feature overlap, with a corresponding level of visual clutter; while this is not ideal, the complexity is mitigated by the distance and correspondingly reduced visual presence. Overall, the turbines are considered to have a subdominant visual presence in this aspect of the view. On balance of the aesthetic value and visual presence, the magnitude of impact is deemed Low.	Slight/ Negative/ Long term
VP12	Local Road south of site at Glenedagh Oughter - This is a typical rural view representative of the rural community to the southeast of the site. The landform features more rolling rural characteristics, with the upper section of the Ballinglen River across the midground. On the far side of the river, the landform slopes upward, covered by layers of	Medium-Low	The entirety of the array is visible from this location, irregularly spaced across a ridgeline in the midground of the view. Seven turbines are clustered to the southwest of the view, while one stands alone further north, with greater visual presence. There is a degree of scale disparity to the visible rural buildings. While this is partially mitigated by the separation from the proposed development by landform, the screening of the lower sections of	Moderate / Negative/ Long-term

	hedgerows and one visible rural building. In the distance, broad ridgelines can be seen, overlaid with conifer forestry and bog.		the turbines also serves to add some visual confusion as to the exact location of the proposed development. The proposed development is deemed to have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence. The surrounds of this view are currently primarily of rural character, with limited influence from the upland land uses to the northwest; the development represents a notable intensification of built development, signalling a transition to broader land uses in the wider setting, which contrasts with the smaller scale rolling agricultural setting of the viewer. Therefore, the magnitude of impact is deemed Medium. This viewpoint was also used to examine the difference in effect between the two proposed turbine options (V150 and N133). As can be seen in the comparative wireframe the visual impact of the change in dimension is limited to the impression that the development is slightly further away, however this is unlikely to be readily noted. Therefore, the visual impact assessment remains as above.	
VP13	R315 at Creevagh More – Located slightly east of VP12, this view is typical of the rolling rural landscape to the wider east of the study area. Located along the R315, within a dense network of hedgerows enclosing a variety of land uses, including pasture, bog and forestry, the setting is of rather utilitarian rural character, with low levels of built development. The well-vegetated setting is backed by more open rolling landforms overlaid with larger-scale land uses, including bog and forestry. The viewpoint is representative of the R315 main route and the local community receptors within the surrounding rural residences.	Medium-low	In this location, the proposed development presents characteristics and arrangements similar to those of VP12. The visual presence is reduced by distance and contextual separation over the fore and midground. This separation reduces the impact of the viewer setting; however, the array introduces an element of modernity and intensification to the viewpoint despite being located in the backdrop. Aesthetically, the extent of the development is clear, and the clustered array reduces the lateral extent. However, this clustering results in overlap and the potential for visual irritation. Whilst the visible turbines will generate a notable increase in the quantum of built development in this aspect of the view, they do not appear incongruous or over-scaled in the context of the broad underlying land uses and, as mentioned above, are contextually separated from the viewer. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Medium-low.	Moderate-slight / Negative/ Long-term
VP14	Local Road at Castlereagh (Eurovelo) – This is a locally elevated view afforded from a local road south of the R314, where it crosses the Cloonaghmore River at Palmerstown Bridge. It is also the route of the Eurovelo cycle route. The view is primarily representative of the cycle tourism receptor and the surrounding local community, with the secondary representation of the major route and the heritage and amenity values of the bridge and river. The viewpoint affords a view to the west across rolling terrain cloaked in broad pastoral fields. The ascends towards a broad ridge that is partially visible in the distance.	Medium	The proposed turbines are visible in the background at a distance of 10.2km, primarily viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Several of the north-western turbines overlap behind the intervening landform, which introduces a limited degree of visual irritation, exacerbated by vegetation screening, which further screens the lower sections of some turbines. Aesthetically, there is some confusion through two instances of three turbines overlapping one another. This is mitigated by the two clusters being separated by a single turbine which allows permeability of the scheme. This complexity within	Slight/ Negative/ Long term

			the layout is somewhat mitigated by the distance and correspondingly reduced visual presence. Overall, the turbines are considered to have a subdominant visual presence, and on balance of the aesthetic value and visual presence, the magnitude of impact is deemed Low .	
VP15	Western Way at Moyne Abbey – This viewpoint is representative of the Mayo designated view along this section of road, the Eurovelo cycle route, the 'Monasteries of the Moy' greenway and cycle route, as well as the Western Way. The view is not particularly scenic, appearing as a typical rural local road, with rolling landforms and scattered rural residences. However, the high number of attractions associated with this stretch will increase the number of viewers who are in transit to higher-sensitivity locations, and the impression of the surrounding landscape has some potential to contribute to this experience.	High-medium	The proposed turbines will be visible as distant background features and present at a small scale, rotating along a vegetated skyline. The proposed turbines will be primarily viewed backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast and have a minimal presence from this distance of over c. 15km. Whilst there are some stacked views of turbines, the considerable viewing distances will dilute notable negative aesthetic effects. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight/ Negative/ Long term
VP16	Local Road at Carnlough – Similar to VP10 and VP16, this viewpoint clearly presents the transitional context of the proposed development. Looking up (west), the landform slopes up to conifer forestry; to the east, the land cover is increasingly pastoral farmland, featuring smaller-scale land uses with defined fields, hedgerows and a small number of rural residences. This local road is also one of the few which crosses into the northeast of the Bellacorrick Basin. Therefore, this VP is representative of the local residents that utilise this road and the local residents within the surrounding rural landscapes.	Medium-Low	The proposed development is progressively revealed from behind a forested slope at a modest distance of over 5.6km. All turbines will be visible to varying degrees across the elongated ridgeline and will have a co-dominant visual presence. There is a strong sense of separation from the viewer context to the transitional landscape in which the proposal is located; however, there is ambiguity as to the extent of the proposal across the wider upland landscape context, in particular with the existing wind farms in the surrounds. The proposed wind farm presents as a relatively notable intensification and extension of this land use towards the rural landscape to the east of the study area. However, this is somewhat mitigated by the clear visibility and relative isolation of the easternmost turbine, which ensures the weight of wind farm development in the view is favoured to the west towards the highly developed Bellacorrick Basin, where wind energy is a familiar land use. On balance of the aesthetic and contextual reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed Medium-Low . This viewpoint was also used to examine the difference in effect between the two proposed turbine options (V150 and N133). As can be seen in the comparative wireframe the visual impact of the change in dimension is not discernible at this distance. Therefore, the visual impact assessment remains as above.	Moderate-slight/ Negative/ Long term
VP17	R315 at Garanard – This viewpoint is an open rural view along the R315, within a rolling pasture bordered by low scrubby hedgerows and conifers; the setting is of a rather utilitarian rural character, with low levels of built development. The exception to this is the surrounding rural residences located 180 degrees to the depicted view	Medium-low	As with VP16, the proposal is located between two gently sloping ridges, with the lower sections of turbines screened to the west and revealed to the east. The spacing between the turbines increases to the east, with the only instance of overlap occurring in the centre left (west) of the array. The location within	Moderate-slight/ Negative/ Long term

	along the R315. The well-vegetated midground is backed by a broad ridgeline overlaid with larger-scale land uses, including bog and forestry. The viewpoint is representative of the R315 main route and the local community receptors within the surrounding rural residences		the transitional landscape context reduces the influence on the viewpoint context, grouping the wind energy development with the wider patterns of large-scale land uses. Overall, the development has a Medium-low magnitude of impact.	
VP18	L2605 at Killanly – This is a moderately scenic view afforded from a local road scenic designation on the Sligo border immediately east of the River Moy. The view is representative of users of the scenic designation and extends across the wider context of the River Moy corridor, which is dotted with heritage assets such as Rosserk Friary, which is visible along the river corridor in the middle ground of the view. The existing Killala turbines are visible in the distance, whilst the view is contained by low rolling broad terrain in the background of the view.	High-medium	The proposed turbines are visible in the distant background and are primarily viewed backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. There is localised screening by vegetation across the rolling rural landscape on the far side of the River Moy. At a distance of 20.4km, whilst the turbines will increase the lateral extent of wind energy development in this view, due to atmospheric perspective (fading of distant objects), the turbines are considered to have subdominant to minimal visual presence in this view. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term
VP19	Western way at Ballmonnelly - This is a vast view from a slightly elevated section of local road near the western edge of the Bellacorrick basin that also hosts a section of the Western Way. It is an extensive vista across the open peatland basin, which is now occupied by the wind turbines of the Owneninnny Phase II and then Phase I turbines throughout the fore-to-middle distance with a strong sense of perspective generated by the scale difference between the nearest and furthest units. The Nephin range wraps to the north of the view. There is a small dispersed settlement to the west of this viewpoint, but dwellings are generally oriented to the south, and few have the view described above.	Medium	The proposed turbines will all be partially visible across a broad ridgeline in the distance across the broad expanse of the Bellacorrick Basin. The effect is one of intensification and concentration of wind energy development within the central portion of the basin but with a minor increase to its overall visual envelope. Despite the high number of turbines now contained within the central portion of the basin, there is little overlap and clutter between the proposed and existing turbines as the proposed development is well-spaced along the upland backdrop, separated by landform and distance. This is testimony to the ability of this vast landscape setting to assimilate this degree of wind energy development in what is unmistakably a strategic area for the same. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual impact of the proposed development is deemed to be Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long term
VP20	Moygownagh New Cemetery – This is a contained view from a local cemetery in the small village of Moyngownagh and is representative of the small settlement and local heritage receptor. The view to the north is contained at the boundary of the cemetery by existing vegetation and neighbouring built developments.	Medium	The proposed development will be highly screened from this settlement due to the layers of intervening landform and vegetation in the direction of the site, in addition to the existing built development located throughout the settlement. Brief views of blade tips have the potential to be afforded along the vegetated skyline. However, any partial glimpses of the proposed turbine blade tips will have little or no visual influence on the setting of this settlement. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low .	Slight/ Negative / Long Term
VP21	Junction of N59 / and R312 (Western Way) – This is an open and expansive viewing context located within the centre of Bellacorrick. The foreground consists of scrub and natural bog grassland, giving way to a middle ground band of conifers and then the turbines from the Oweninny Phase I and Phase II wind farms to the north and	Medium-low	The proposed development will be highly screened from this settlement due to the layers of intervening landform and vegetation in the direction of the site. Brief views of blade tips have the potential to be afforded along the vegetated skyline, with one to two turbines visible below the nacelle. However, any	Slight-imperceptible / negative / long term

	northwest, respectively. Also running across the foreground is a series of high-voltage overhead lines and pylons/twin pole sets.		partial glimpses of the proposed turbines will have little or no visual influence on the setting of this view due to the foreground development and scale difference/distance to the site. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible .	
VP22	N59 at Dooleeg More – This view is slightly further east along the N59 than VP21 and represents a small cluster of dwellings that top a small rise in the local terrain and enjoy broad vistas to the north. These vistas consist of a plateau of natural grassland in the foreground backed by a band of conifer plantations across the middle ground. Sections of distant forested / moorland slopes can also be seen at the northern end of the Bellacorrick basin. Rising above this context throughout the northern quarters are the considerable number of turbines from the Oweninny Phase I and Phase II developments.	Medium	The proposed development will be partially screened from this location due to the layers of intervening landform and vegetation in the direction of the site. Brief views of blade tips have the potential to be afforded along the vegetated skyline. However, any partial glimpses of the proposed turbine blade tips will have little or no visual influence on the setting of this settlement. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low .	Slight/ Negative / Long Term
VP23	St . Tiernan's Cemetery Crossmolina – This is a locally elevated view afforded from a local cemetery on the outskirts of the settlement of Crossmolina. The view is representative of the settlement of Crossmolina, the N59 major route and the heritage receptor. The view extends across a low rolling landscape intercepted by layers of mature hedgerow vegetation, which truncates any strong sense of openness.	Medium-low	The proposed turbines will be visible as distant background features and present at a small scale, rotating along a vegetated skyline. The proposed turbines will be primarily viewed backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast and have a minimal presence from this distance of over c. 15.5km. Whilst there are some notable instances of stacked views of turbines, the considerable viewing distances will strongly dilute and have notable negative aesthetic effects. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term