

APPENDIX 12.1

12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoint Locations

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12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

In terms of visual sensitivities, the landscape of the study area is highly modified, and in many locations, there is a palpable sense of longstanding human intervention on the landscape. Much of the landscape has strong rural qualities and a pleasant agrarian aesthetic, as defined by its settled, 'green', working character. However, it is noted that in some parts of the study area, views are influenced by an array of anthropogenic features such as existing wind farm development, urban settlements, commercial and industrial development and major road and rail infrastructure.

Whilst some parts of the landscape have a strong sense of rural detachedness, given the modified nature of the landscape, there are not considered to be any locations in the wider study area where there is a strong sense of remoteness, or awe in relation to the landscape, when compared with an upland or mountainous landscape. Visual sensitivity in the study area is considered to relate primarily to the following criteria:

- Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views
- Recognised scenic value of the view
- Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas
- Primary views from residences
- Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)
- Viewer connection with the landscape
- Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views
- Sense of tranquillity at the viewing location
- Degree of perceived naturalness
- Presence of striking or noteworthy features
- Sense of Historical, cultural and/or spiritual significance
- Rarity or uniqueness of the view
- Integrity of the landscape character within the view
- Sense of place at the viewing location

In terms of visual receptors, 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.

Throughout the wider study area, there are numerous designated scenic routes, Views and Prospects of Special Amenity Value, Areas of High Scenic Quality (AHSQ) and a small Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Although the landscape is heavily modified, these designations recognise the scenic values in certain parts of the landscape. Particular concentrations of these relate to the coastal landscapes within the northeastern part of the study area where views of the wider Dundalk Bay and the Cooley and Mourne Mountains are possible to the north. Other concentrations exist within the Boyne Valley, given the integrity of the landscape and the important heritage sites it hosts.

In this regard, the wider landscape is important from an archaeological perspective, and contains many features of archaeological importance, notable amongst which is the Brú Na Bóinne ancient monument complex and ritual landscape which is recognised as one of the world's most important neolithic landscapes, and is designated a World Heritage Site. These features have an important visual relationship with their landscape setting and are highly visited destinations. Correspondingly, visual sensitivity at these important locations is considered to be very high.

Overall, the sensitivity of visual receptors within the more working landscape context tends to range between Medium and Medium-low, with those of a Medium sensitivity representing visual receptors that avail of more open expansive views across the wider landscape, and where scenic values are considered to be comparatively higher. Visual receptor sensitivity is also heightened at important heritage sites, where visual receptors are considered to be more sensitive to changes in their view of the landscape.

Based on the site-specific factors outlined, and in accordance with the general visual receptor sensitivity considerations contained in the methodology Section 12.2.6.1, visual receptor sensitivity judgments are provided for each representative viewpoint in the table below in Section 12.1b.

12.1b 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 and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
3. Wireframe view (53.5° included angle)
4. Montage View (53.5° included angle)

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	Scenic Route SR18 at Linns along R166. This view from the Harbour Road (R166) at Annagassan, and is representative of LCC Views and Prospects of Special Amenity Value Views 18 and 19, and Scenic Route SR18. Inland views are over a lightly undulating arable context, interspersed by overhead electrical equipment, and successive belts of vegetation. Views towards the site are pleasant but are typically over a productive rural landscape.	High-Medium	The proposed turbines are visible, rising from the distant terrain at a distance of c. 10.6km. They present in a legible manner with no turbine overlap, albeit from this location turbine 1 sits as a slight outlier to the other four turbines, which generates a slight degree of visual tension. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye in this view, they are viewed as modest scale, distant features, with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad agricultural panorama. Aesthetically, the turbines are well accommodated along the distant landscape in terms of their scale. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and of a Negative quality.	Slight Negative Long-term
VP2	Scenic Route SR18 at Lurganboy along L2244. This view from the Coast Road (L2244) at Lurganboy adjacent to the public car park, and is representative of Scenic location LCC Views and Prospects of Special Amenity Value View 22, and on Scenic Route SR18. The primary aspect of visual amenity from this road and locality is towards the coast and wider Dundalk Bay, which includes views to the north towards the Cooley and Mourne Mountains. These views generate high scenic value. Inland views are over a flat and in places lightly undulating productive rural landscape, and whilst pleasant are not considered to be particularly notable.	High-Medium	The proposed turbines are visible, rising above the foreground agricultural context at a distance of c. 7km. They present in a legible manner with no turbine overlap, and are well spaced with a modest spatial extent. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye in inland views from this location, they will be viewed as modest scale, distant features, with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad agricultural panorama. As the turbines present inland in the opposite direction from the main aspect of visual amenity, they will have little notable impact on the coastal views afforded from here. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and of a Negative quality.	Slight Negative Long-term
VP3	R170 at Skibbolmore, Dunleer. This view is taken from the R170 south west of Dunleer, and is representative of views experienced from this centre of population, and from the regional road which forms part of the Táin Trail Cycling and Touring Route. Views from this location are naturally influenced by the immediate road corridor and the urban edge location, with views towards the site being over a foreground sports pitch, to which the wider agricultural landscape rises in the near-middle	Medium	The proposed turbines will be visible on the near-middle distance skyline, rising above the foreground agricultural and commercial forestry context at a distance of c 3.5km. The turbines present in a legible manner, albeit from this location appear grouped, which generates a slight degree of visual tension, and turbines 3 and 5 appear stacked, where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter to the view. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye, they occupy a modest spatial extent, and will be viewed as modest scale, features in the middle distance, with a sub-dominant visual	Moderate-Slight Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	distance behind the vegetated valley through which the Belfast-Dublin railway line, and White River pass. The skyline in the direction of the site is formed by mature conifer plantation.		presence. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.	
VP4	Local road north of site at Rokeby. This view is from the local road north of Gallstown Quarry, and is representative of local community receptors and users of the local road. Wider views from the road are generally precluded by dense roadside vegetation, albeit in certain locations field entrances and breaks in this vegetation afford longer range views. This location is at a field entrance, which should be considered in the context of road users who will experience this transiently and at speed. However, views are over a rising pastoral context interspersed with hedgerows and small stands of vegetation, to a short distance horizon (c. 700m) that is defined by a hedgerow that precludes views further south.	Medium - Low	Four of the proposed turbines are visible on the skyline to the south west at a distance of between c. 0.9km and 2.2km. From this location, turbine 1 is screened by vegetation. Turbine 2 will be visible at a prominent scale given its proximity, and this is accentuated by the slightly uphill nature of the view. The other turbines are visible less prominently, owing to the intervening landform which acts to truncate the extent of turbines 3 to 5 visible. Whilst this acts to generate a degree of visual ambiguity in relation to the actual location of the turbines, it helps to moderate the perceived scale and extent of development. Turbines 2 and 3 appear stacked from this locations, where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter. The development has a notable visual presence, but does not generate any strong sense of overbearing in this broad elevated setting. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.	Moderate Negative Long-term
VP5	Local road north of site at Stonehouse. This view is from the local road north of Gallstown Quarry, and is representative of local community receptors and users of the local road. Wider views from the road are generally precluded by dense roadside vegetation, albeit in certain locations field entrances and breaks in this vegetation afford longer range views. Views from this location are comparatively open, and it is noted that the location adjoins what will become the access road to turbine 1. Views are over a foreground pastoral context that is backed by a broad belt of commercial forestry that extends across the full breadth of the short distance horizon (c. 800m). This	Medium - Low	All of the proposed turbines are visible on the skyline to the south east at a distance of between c. 0.8km and 2.4km. Turbine 1 will be visible at a prominent scale given its proximity, and this is accentuated by the slightly uphill nature of the view. The other turbines are comparatively less prominent, owing to their distance and the intervening conifer woodland, which acts to truncate the extent of turbines 2 to 5 visible. Whilst this also acts to generate a degree of visual ambiguity in relation to the actual location of the turbines, it helps to moderate the perceived scale of the development. The turbines present in a legible manner with no turbine overlap, and are well spaced. Despite proximity, the development does not generate any strong sense of overbearing in this broad elevated setting. Overall, the proposed development will contribute to a marked increase in the intensity of built	Moderate Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	vegetation, combined with the topography precludes views further south.		development in this local landscape context, with the proposed wind farm becoming one of the defining built features along this section of local road. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.	
VP6	Local road west of site at Priest Town. This view is from the local road west of Priest Town and is representative of local community receptors and users of the local road. Views from the road are generally enclosed by roadside hedgerows, with more open views limited to field entrances and hedgerow gaps. Where open, views towards the site are over a foreground productive rural agricultural context, to which the vegetated road corridor of the M1 and the rising plateau of landscape comprising broad areas of commercial forestry, form the near middle distance skyline. Views from this locality are comparatively contained, and less extensive over the wider landscape, and whilst pleasant are not considered to be particularly notable.	Medium - Low	From this location turbine 5 sits as a slight outlier to the other four turbines which generates a slight degree of visual tension, albeit at this location is partially screened by the adjacent tree line. Turbines 3 and 4 appear stacked, and to a lesser extent turbines 1 and 2, where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter. The turbines present at a notable scale given their proximity and comparative elevation, but are not considered to generate a sense of overbearing, with their arrangement maintaining a high degree of visual permeability. While the proposed turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity and scale of built development, they occupy a relatively modest spatial extent, and will be seen in the context of a robust working rural setting. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.	Moderate-Slight Negative Long-term
VP7	Clogherhead Hill. This view from an elevated position on Clogherhead headland, and is representative of LCC Scenic Route SR18. This location is in an AONB, and is therefore designated for its natural beauty. However, views are heavily influenced by built development and agricultural activities throughout the inland landscape, with natural and scenic values considered to relate more strongly with the wider Dundalk Bay, and the distant views north towards the Cooley and Mourne Mountains. These views generate high scenic value. Inland views are over a settled, and lightly undulating productive rural landscape, and whilst pleasant are not considered to be particularly notable.	High-Medium	The proposed turbines are visible, rising above the foreground agricultural context at a distance of c. 8.4km. They present in a legible manner with minimal turbine overlap, and are relatively well spaced with a modest spatial extent. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye in inland views from this location, they will be viewed as modest scale, distant features, with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad agricultural panorama. As the turbines present inland in the context of a rolling settled landscape, in the opposite direction from the main aspect of visual amenity, they will have little notable impact on the coastal views afforded from here, but will be noticeable elements in views inland from this elevated location. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and of a Negative quality.	Slight Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP8	<p>L2278 east of site at Garrolagh. This view is taken from the L2278 and is representative of LCC Views and Prospects of Special Amenity Value View 23. Longer distance views from this road are generally hampered by roadside vegetation albeit in certain sections (such as this), views open out to longer range views over the wider rural context. From this relatively elevated location, views are afforded west towards the elevated plateau on which the site is located, over an undulating, productive rural landscape, to which coniferous woodland plantation forms a backdrop in the middle distance. The view is representative of the local community and users of this local road, and represent views experienced from this designated scenic view, albeit views change quite significantly along other parts of the road.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposed turbines are visible, rising above the foreground agricultural context at a distance of c 3.6km. They present in a legible manner with minimal turbine overlap, albeit from this location appear grouped, which generates a minor degree of visual tension. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye, they occupy a modest spatial extent, and will be viewed as modest scale, features in the middle distance, with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad agricultural panorama. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Moderate-Slight Negative Long-term</p>
VP9	<p>The Brambles at Drumshallon, east of site. This view is from the small road known as The Brambles, which connects into the Ballymakenny Road. It is representative of local community receptors. Views are open to the south due to the lack of foreground vegetation and the elevated nature of the landscape, and are over an undulating, productive rural landscape. Views from this locality are less extensive over the wider landscape, relating primarily to the landscape within around 2km with some glimpses beyond this to around 3.5km. Whilst views are pleasant, they are not considered to have notable scenic value.</p>	<p>Medium - Low</p>	<p>This is a relatively clear and comprehensible view of the development where all of the proposed turbines are clearly visible on the skyline to the south west at a distance of between c. 0.9km and 2.3km. Turbine 4 will be the most prominent turbine visible given its proximity, but all will appear prominently from this location given the slightly uphill nature of the view. Whilst the met mast is visible, it will present discretely given its scale and lattice structure. A small part of the substation will also be visible from this location, but will be difficult to discern. The turbines present in a legible manner, and are well spaced out across the wider view, and as such allow a high degree of visual permeability such that they do not generate any strong sense of overbearing in this broad elevated setting. Overall, the proposed development will contribute to a marked increase in the intensity of built development in this local landscape context, with the proposed wind farm becoming the defining built feature. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-Medium and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Substantial - Moderate Negative Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP10	<p>Drumshallon Forge Heritage Centre. This view is from the car park of the Heritage Centre and is representative of local community receptors and patrons of the centre on arrival. Views are contained in nature to the car park, and immediate pastoral context to the north, east, and south, where vegetation allows. Views towards the site and wider context to the west are substantively precluded by the roadside hedgerow resulting in views being of a short distance skyline. Views are of no particular scenic value at this location.</p>	<p>Medium - Low</p>	<p>This is a relatively clear and comprehensible view of the development where all of the proposed turbines and the met mast clearly visible on the skyline to the west at a distance of between c. 0.9km and 2.4km. Turbine 4 will be the most prominent turbine visible given its proximity, but all will appear prominently from this location given the slightly uphill nature of the view, and the minimal context visible beyond the roadside hedgerow. The turbines present in a legible manner, and are spaced out across the wider view to the west, albeit turbines 2 and 5 sits as slight outliers which generates a degree of visual tension, and turbines 1, 3, and 4 overlap, which contributes to a degree of visual clutter. Whilst the nearest turbines are viewed here in a prominent manner, due to the loose and irregular spacing characteristics, they do not generate any strong sense of overbearing in this broad elevated setting. Overall, the proposed development will contribute to a marked increase in the intensity of built development in this local landscape context, with the proposed wind farm becoming the defining built feature along this section of local road. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-Medium and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Substantial-Moderate Negative Long-term</p>
VP11	<p>Local road southwest of site at Kircock. This view is from the L6286 west of maidens Cross and is representative of local community receptors and users of the local road. Views are over an area of relatively upland pastoral fields interspersed with areas of scrub and grasslands, to which broad areas of commercial forestry form the near middle distance skyline. Views from this locality are less extensive over the wider landscape, relating primarily to the landscape within around 2km, albeit long distance views are available to the north towards the Cooley Mountains, which contributes to the scenic value of the view.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>All five of the proposed turbines are visible above the vegetated skyline in this direction to the north east at a distance of between c. 1.8km and 2.8km. They present in a legible manner with no turbine overlap, and are well spaced with a modest spatial extent. The turbines present at a notable scale given their proximity and comparative elevation, but are considered consistent with the scale of the landscape with no sense of being overbearing. The loose arrangement of the turbines allows for a high degree of visual permeability through the proposed array, which moderates their prominence. It is also noted that they do not obscure views towards the Cooley Mountains. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Moderate Negative Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP12	Local road east of site at Piperstown. This view is from Ballymakenny Road at the junction with the Piperstown Equestrian Centre. Views from this location are relatively contained, and short distance in nature as a result of hedgerows and belts of vegetation crossing the landscape, with views therefore relating primarily to the immediate productive rural landscape.	Medium - Low	All five of the proposed turbines are visible above the rising landform to the north west at a distance of between c. 1.1km and 2.5km. The turbines present in a legible manner, albeit from this location turbine 5 sits as a slight outlier to the other four turbines and is partially screened at this location by the adjacent tree line, which generates a slight degree of visual tension, and turbines 1 and 3 appear stacked, where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter. The turbines present at a notable scale given their proximity, but are not considered to generate a sense of overbearing, with their arrangement maintaining a high degree of visual permeability. While the proposed turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity and scale of built development, they will be seen in the context of a robust working rural setting. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.	Moderate Negative Long-term
VP13	Monasterboice Cemetery carpark. This view from the car park at Monasterboice, is representative of LCC Views and Prospects of Special Amenity Value View 26 - Newtown Monasterboice towards Monasterboice Tower. Whilst the focus of views is with the Monasterboice tower and the immediate leafy setting, wider views of the rural pastoral landscape form part of the wider setting.	High	Given the combined influence of topography available, views of the turbines would be substantively precluded. Only the rotating blade tips of one turbine has the potential to be visible along the partly vegetated ridgeline, albeit it will likely be screened by vegetation. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and of a Negative quality.	Imperceptible Negative Long-term
VP14	L2278 at Milltown. This view is from The Meadows Road to the north of Milltown. Views from this location are relatively contained, and generally relate to the immediate road corridor, with occasionally longer open views at field entrances over a lightly undulating agricultural context. Longer range views are limited by topography, and successive layers of vegetation in the landscape, and the views over this productive rural landscape, are influenced by residential development, both within Milltown, and dispersed	Medium - Low	All five of the proposed turbines are visible from this location at a distance of c. 3.3km. From this location, turbines 2 and 5 sit as slight outliers from the other three turbines which generates a degree of visual tension. There is a minor degree of turbine overlap with turbines 1, 3 and 4, albeit this is not notable and occurs in part of the view that is partially screened by vegetation along a property boundary. The partial screening afforded by vegetation will reduce the perceived prominence of the turbines. Generally, whilst the proposed turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity and scale of built development, the turbines occupy a limited spatial	Moderate Slight Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	through the landscape. Although generally pleasant, views are not considered to be particularly notable.		extent, and will be viewed with a sub-dominant visual presence in middle distance views over a robust working rural landscape. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and of a Negative quality.	
VP15	Local road at Fieldstown. This view is from a local road heading north from Fieldstown. This location falls within the Monasterboice Area of High Scenic Quality. Views towards the site are most extensive at this short elevated section of road where it descends to the north, at which point long distance views are available north east towards the sea at Clogherhead, and north to the Cooley Mountains. Views are over a settled, productive rural landscape to which coniferous woodland plantation forms a backdrop in the middle distance. Views are influenced by adjoining residential properties. The view is representative of the local community and users of this local road, albeit it is recognised that views change quite significantly with reduced elevation.	High-Medium	All five of the proposed turbines are visible above the elevated landform to the north east at a distance of c. 1.4km. They present in a legible manner, albeit from this location turbine 1 sits as a slight outlier to the other four turbines, which generates a slight degree of visual tension, and turbines 4 and 5 appear stacked, where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter to the view. The turbines present at a notable scale given their proximity and comparative elevation, but are not considered to generate a sense of overbearing. The loose arrangement of the turbines allows for a high degree of visual permeability through the proposed array, which is considered of benefit in terms of maintaining views towards the Cooley Mountains, and their location does not obscure views available towards the sea. While the proposed turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity and scale of built development, it occupies a relatively modest spatial extent in the context of wider views, and will be seen in the context of a robust working rural setting. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.	Moderate Negative Long-term
VP16	Ballymakenny Road. This view is from Ballymakenny Road to the south east of Fieldstown. This location falls within the Monasterboice Area of High Scenic Quality. Whilst there are some broader views to the north east, this aspect of the view represents a typical rural vista, and scenic values are compromised by the enclosed nature of the road, and chain-link fencing bounding a nearby agricultural property. Views towards the site are over a foreground pastoral context to which coniferous woodland plantation forms a backdrop in the middle distance.	Medium	All five of the proposed turbines are visible above the elevated landform to the north east at a distance of c. 1.8km. They present in a clear, well-spaced, legible manner, with only a slight degree of turbine overlap where the overlapping of their blade sets rotating along the skyline will introduce a degree of visual clutter to the view. Foreground commercial forestry acts to truncate the extent of the turbines visible, and will generate a minor degree of visual ambiguity in relation to their actual location. This partial screening however will reduce the perceived prominence of the turbines. Generally, the turbines occupy a limited spatial extent, and will be viewed with a sub-dominant visual presence in near-middle	Moderate-Slight Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	Views are influenced by adjoining residential properties dispersed throughout this typically rural landscape. Longer range views, and the primary aspect of visual amenity lies in views towards the sea to the north east. The view is representative of the local community and users of this local road. With the focus of views being with the road corridor generally, rather than specifically towards the site.		distance views over a robust working rural landscape. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-Low and of a Negative quality.	
VP17	Scenic Route SR18 at Duffsfarm along R166. This view from the Big Street (R166) near to Duffsfarm Stud at Termonfeckin, and is representative of LCC Scenic Route SR18. The primary aspect of visual amenity from this road and locality is east, towards the sea, where this is viewed over an arable foreground context. Whilst these views have high scenic value, views in other directions are towards the wider Termonfeckin settlement, and a typical agricultural context inland, where views towards the site are restricted by vegetation in the grounds of Rath House. Whilst pleasant, views inland over a flat and in places lightly undulating productive rural landscape, are not considered to be particularly notable.	Medium	Whilst views of turbine 5 are partially visible through the tree line, and to a much lesser extent turbines 3 and 4, foreground vegetation restricts visibility of turbines 1 and 2, and will entirely screen the development when in leaf. The turbines will not be immediately discernible and have little bearing on the overall view. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-Negligible and of a Negative quality.	Slight - Imperceptible Negative Long-term
VP18	Irish Military Museum at Starinagh. This viewpoint is located in a local road to the east of the Irish Military Museum at Starinagh. Pleasant views to the east over a wider agricultural context are afforded from this location over the adjoining roadside hedgerows, albeit the primary visual relationship, and aspect of visual amenity from this road and locality is towards the village of Collon, and the rounded hilltop to the north which plays host to Melifont Abbey.	Medium	All five of the proposed turbines are visible above the elevated landform to the north east at a distance of c. 7.3km. They present in a clear, well-spaced, legible manner, with no turbine overlap, across this foreground landform, which acts to truncate the extent of the turbines visible. Whilst the turbines have the potential to draw the eye from this location as a result of the direct nature of the view in the line of travel, the visible rotating turbines occupy a limited spatial extent, and will be viewed as modest scale features, with a sub-dominant visual presence in middle distance views over the	Slight Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			wider agricultural context. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and of a Negative quality.	
VP19	<p>Local road at Yellowbatter, north of Drogheda. This is a relatively typical urban edge view from Ballymakenny Road on the urban fringes of Drogheda. Views towards the site are interrupted by residential development and street lighting, and the focus of views remains with the immediate urban edge context, and new residential developments present. The view is representative of the local community and users of the local road. With the focus of views being with the road corridor generally, rather than specifically towards the site.</p>	Medium - Low	The turbine blades would be seen rotating across the rooftops from this location. Whilst substantially screened by intervening residential properties, views of blade tips rotating along the roofline has the potential to draw the eye. At 5.7km distance, and in the context of features present in wider views, it is not considered that this partial visibility would generate a notable influence on the view. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and of a Negative quality.	<p>Slight - Imperceptible Negative Long-term</p>
VP20	<p>Scenic View VP75 along R151. This view from the R151 is representative of MCC Views and Prospects View 75 - Boyne estuary view from coast road between Mornington and Drogheda (past Grammar School). It is a view over the River Boyne and its coastal marshes towards the residential frontage at Queensborough, which sits in front of a block of deciduous woodland. The view is representative of the local community, users of the R151 and those availing of the protected view.</p>	High-Medium	Given the presence of foreground deciduous vegetation, views of the proposed turbines would not be visible. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and of a Negative quality.	<p>Imperceptible Negative Long-term</p>
VP21	<p>Hill of Slane. This view is representative of MCC Views and Prospects – View 29 and 30 - Hill of Slane. Views are elevated and panoramic in nature over the wider landscape within which there are extensive signs of human influence in the landscape. This includes extensive agricultural use, the village of Slane and the N2, Drogheda and the Mary McAleese Bridge, the prominent Irish Cement plant at</p>	Very High-High	All five of the proposed turbines are visible, rising from the distant terrain at a distance of just over c. 14km. They present in a clear, well-spaced, legible manner, with no turbine overlap, across the foreground landform. The intervening landform truncates the extent of the turbines visible. The visible rotating turbines occupy a limited spatial extent, and are considered a minor visual intrusion in wider panoramic views. Whilst they have the potential to draw the eye in clear conditions, they would have a comparable scale to the	<p>Slight Negative Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	Mullaghcrone, and the cluster of wind turbines to the north. The focus of the view in this location is with the tower and Franciscan Monastery ruins, to which the wider landscape forms its setting.		turbines visible in views to the north, and be visible in that part of the view that is influenced by the nearby residential property. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-Negligible and of a Negative quality.	
VP22	Dowth Passage Tomb. This view is representative of MCC Views and Prospects View 88 – Dowth Passage tomb. It also reflects other Views and prospects in the locality including View 34, 62, 63, and 64 which are all on the surrounding road network. Views are elevated and panoramic in nature over the immediate and wider landscape, albeit restricted in places by the well treed nature of the locality. Again, views demonstrate extensive signs of human influence in the landscape, and the relative elevation affords views to the cluster of wind turbines to the north. The adjacent complex at Dowth Hall and Dowth Abbey is particularly notable, and forms a key focus of the view in this location, to which the wider landscape forms its setting.	Very High-High	The proposed turbines are visible above the distant terrain at between 10.8km and 12km. Whilst the nacelles of turbines 1 and 5 are visible above the landform, this landform truncates the extent of the turbines visible, and restricts visibility of turbines 2-4 to tips only. Collectively, the visible rotating turbines will be seen as modest scale background features, and occupy a limited spatial extent in wider panoramic views. They are considered a minor visual intrusion that are not immediately discernible, with a sub-dominant visual presence. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-Negligible and of a Negative quality.	Slight Negative Long-term
VP23	Knowth Passage Tomb. This view is representative of MCC Views and Prospects View 59 – Knowth tumulus, and is taken from the medieval grange on the top of the feature. It also reflects other Views and prospects in the locality including View 34, 62, 63, and 64 which are all on the surrounding road network. Views are comparable to those from VP22, albeit at greater distance from the site. Mature vegetation in the adjoining building complex restricts views in the direction of the site, with views to the south towards the River Boyne being more open and forming the predominant focus of views.	Very High-High	The proposed turbines are visible above the distant terrain at between 12.8km and 13.8km. Whilst the nacelles of turbines 1, 3, 4 and 5 are visible, these occur just above the landform, which truncates the extent of the turbines visible, and restricts visibility of turbine 2 to tips only. Foreground vegetation hampers views of Turbine 1 from this exact location. Collectively, the visible rotating turbines will be seen as modest scale background features, and occupy a limited spatial extent in wider panoramic views. They are considered a minor visual intrusion that are not immediately discernible, with a sub-dominant visual presence. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-Negligible and of a Negative quality.	Slight-imperceptible Negative Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP24	<p>Newgrange Passage Tomb. This view is representative of MCC Views and Prospects View 87 – Newgrange Passage Tomb. It also reflects other Views and prospects in the locality including View 34, 62, 63, and 64 which are all on the surrounding road network. Views are comparable to those from VP22 and 23, albeit views towards the site are restricted by a block of mature vegetation in the curtilage of a property around 230m to the north east. Views in the direction of the site are considered less important than those towards the River Boyne, which aligns with the entrance to the portal tomb. These views are more open and expansive, and form the predominant focus of views.</p>	<p>Very High</p>	<p>The proposed turbines are visible above the distant terrain at between 12.7km and 13km. Whilst the nacelles of turbines 1 and 5 are visible, these occur just above the landform, which truncates the extent of the turbines visible, and restricts visibility of turbines 2-4 to tips only. Foreground vegetation hampers views of Turbine 1 from this exact location. Collectively, the visible rotating turbines will be seen as modest scale background features, and occupy a limited spatial extent in wider panoramic views. They are considered a minor visual intrusion that are not immediately discernible, with a sub-dominant visual presence. For the reasons outlined, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-Negligible and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight Negative Long-term</p>
VP25	<p>R132 at Roxborough. This is a relatively typical rural view of pastoral fields towards a middle distance horizon that is defined by blocks of conifer forestry. The view is representative of the local community and users of the R132 which is also part of the Tain Trail Cycling and Touring Route. Views towards the site are interrupted by roadside vegetation along the R132 which generates occasional views to the east. The focus of views is with the road corridor generally, and the intermittent residential development adjoining it rather than specifically towards the site.</p>	<p>Medium-low</p>	<p>Whilst the turbines will be visible at a prominent scale in this view, they are partially screened by foreground built form and vegetation. Turbine 5 is screened at this location by vegetation. Turbines 1-4 are visible beyond the nearby farm complex at a distance of between c. 1.5km and 2.8km. Whilst the turbines will likely draw the eye, they are partially veiled by intervening tree lines. Aesthetically, the cluster of partially visible turbines present in a relatively well spaced and legible manner. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Moderate-Slight Negative Long-term</p>