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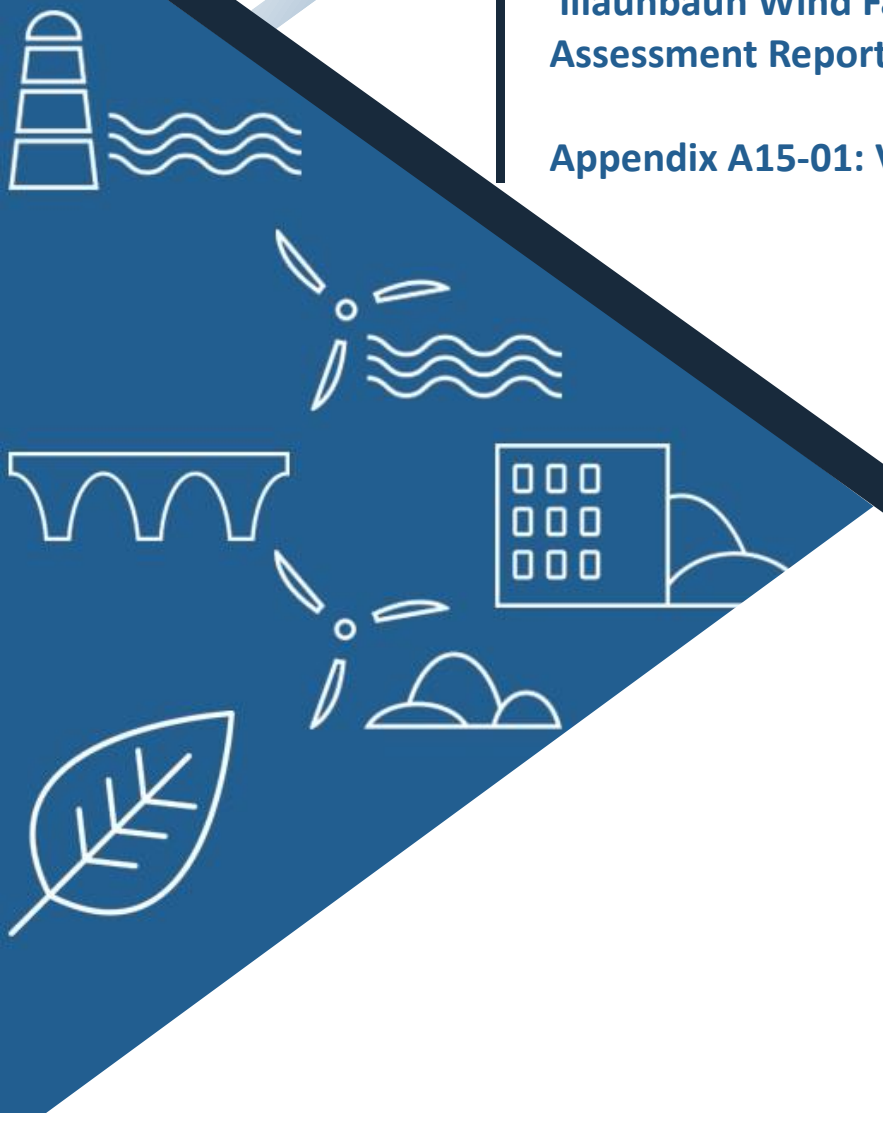
Illaunbaun Wind Farm - Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Appendix A15-01: Visual Impact Assessment



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1.1 A15-01A VISUAL RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY

Visual sensitivity is a two-sided analysis of receptor susceptibility (people or groups of people) versus the value of the view on offer at a particular location. To assess the susceptibility of viewers and the amenity value of views, the assessor uses a range of criteria and provides a four-point weighting scale to indicate how strongly the viewer/view is associated with each of the criterion identified in Section 13.3.3.6 of Chapter 13.

Table 1-1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity Criterion

Scale of Value for each criterion

Strong association	Moderate association	Mild association	Negligible association

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

Table 1-2: Visual Receptor Sensitivity at Viewshed References Points

Analysis of Visual Receptor Sensitivity at Viewshed Reference Points 1 – 10										
Values associated with the view	**VP1**	**VP2**	**VP3**	**VP4**	**VP5**	**VP6**	**VP7**	**VP8**	**VP9**	**VP10**
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views										
Recognised scenic value of the view										
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas										
Primary views from residences										
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)										
Viewer connection with the landscape										
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views										
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location										
Degree of perceived naturalness										
Presence of striking or noteworthy features										
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance										
Rarity or uniqueness of the view										
Integrity of the landscape character within the view										
Sense of place at the viewing location										
Sense of awe										
Overall sensitivity assessment	**M**	**HM**	**H**	**M**	**M**	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**

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

Analysis of Visual Receptor Sensitivity at Viewshed Reference Points 11 – 20										
Values associated with the view	**VP11**	**VP12**	**VP13**	**VP14**	**VP15**	**VP16**	**VP17**	**VP18**	**VP19**	**VP20**
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views										
Recognised scenic value of the view										
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas										
Primary views from residences										
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)										
Viewer connection with the landscape										
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views										
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location										
Degree of perceived naturalness										
Presence of striking or noteworthy features										
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance										
Rarity or uniqueness of the view										
Integrity of the landscape character within the view										
Sense of place at the viewing location										
Sense of awe										
Overall sensitivity assessment	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**	**ML**	**M**	**ML**	**M**	**M**	**ML**

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

Analysis of Visual Receptor Sensitivity at Viewshed Reference Points 21 – 22		
Values associated with the view	**VP21**	**VP22**
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views		
Recognised scenic value of the view		
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas		
Primary views from residences		
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)		
Viewer connection with the landscape		
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views		
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location		
Degree of perceived naturalness		
Presence of striking or noteworthy features		
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance		
Rarity or uniqueness of the view		
Integrity of the landscape character within the view		
Sense of place at the viewing location		
Sense of awe		
Overall sensitivity assessment	**M**	**ML**

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

1.2 A15-01B 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)

Table 1-3: Visual Receptor Impact Assessment

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP01	**N67 at Lisdoonvarna** – This is a relatively narrow roadside view afforded from a point along the N67 primary route, which forms part of Scenic Route No. 1 of the Clare CDP, just south of Lisdoonvarna. The view is contained by roadside vegetation, and a parcel of riparian woodland. Beyond the roadside context, there are extended views across a low lying landscape cloaked in coniferous forestry. In the distance, a low ridge rises above a densely planted patch of coniferous forestry.	Medium	All 6 of the proposed turbines will be visible from this location at a distance of c.16.6km, with the upper sections of the towers, the hubs and majority of the blades visible above the vegetation along the horizon. From this distance, the turbines form a background feature to the view, separated from the viewer by different land uses and a clear sense of perspective provided by the scale of vegetation in the middle-background. This serves to perceptually distance the viewer from the proposed turbines, partially mitigating views. This section of the N67 is designated as a scenic route, with the principal aspects of scenic amenity along this scenic route pertaining to coastal views along the Atlantic Coastline. Furthermore, this scenic designation relates to an extensive route which stretches almost the entire length of the county with varying degrees of scenic amenity throughout. As such, this is not a particularly scenic portion of the route. Therefore, given the distance between the scheme and this location, and intervening landscape, the proposed turbines will not notably detract from any potential scenic amenity afforded at this location. The proposed turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this densely vegetated landscape, however, due to the viewing distances involved, they will have little impact on the visual amenity of this working, roadside scene. Overall, it is considered that the proposed development will have a sub-dominant visual presence, thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **Low-negligible** and of a **Negative** quality.	**Slight-imperceptible/ Negative/ Long-term**
VP02	**R478 at Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre** – This is a broad elevated panoramic view afforded from the entrance to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre, along the R478 which forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way and Scenic Route No. 1 of the Clare CDP. The view looks out over several agricultural fields in the direction of Liscannor Bay, on	High-medium	From this location, all 6 of the proposed turbines will be visible on the far side of Liscannor Bay. Viewed at a distance of 11.5km, the turbines are separated from the viewer by different land uses within this heavily textured scene, with a clear sense of perspective provided by the scale of the bay, in the middle ground and Slieve Callan in the background. Furthermore, the proposed turbines appear well spaced across the landscape, and present relatively uniform in terms of scale and distance.	**Moderate-slight / Negative/ Long-term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	either side of which the settlements of Liscannor and Lahinch can be seen. Across the bay, the elevated peak of Slieve Callan can be seen punctuating the skyline, atop which several of the turbines from the operational Boolinrudda Wind Farm (aka Slieve Callan Wind Farm) can be identified, scattered across the slopes of the mountain.		It is important to note that whilst this is an important location in terms of tourism and heritage relating to the Cliffs of Moher, it is a heavily travelled transport route, primarily serving a transient tourist population. Furthermore, the cliffs themselves and visitor centre are separated from this location by an intervening ridge, with the associated visual amenity generally pertaining to views north and south, as opposed to east toward in the proposed development. In terms of cumulative impact, the combination of the proposed Clare 4 development and the existing Boolinrudda development results in a continuous band of turbines across the elevated slopes of Slieve Callan with higher levels of overlap and intensity of development. Notwithstanding, given the scale of the proposed development, the lateral footprint of wind development within the view is only marginally increased. Whilst the turbines will likely catch the eye of the casual observer from this elevated location, in the context of this broad panoramic view, the proposed development is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. As such, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Low** and of a **Negative** quality.	
VP03	**Moher Tower at Hag's Head along Cliffs of Moher Walking Trail –** Similar to VP02, this is a pleasant, panoramic view over Liscannor Bay, afforded from an elevated point along the Cliffs of Moher trail walk at Moher Tower, Hag's Head. The view is oriented southeast and is primarily contained by the bay, on the opposite side of which the main landscape feature is the Slieve Callan mountain peak. Again, turbines from the operational Boolinrudda Wind Farm (aka Slieve Callan Wind Farm) can be identified, scattered across the slopes of the mountain.	High	The proposed development is visible between the existing Boolinrudda turbines, with a number of instances of turbine overlap, creating a clear sense of perspective due to the scale difference. While the presence of the proposed Clare 4 development is secondary to the existing Boolinrudda wind farm, the proposal introduces a 'depth' to the spatial extend of wind development within this scene. Notwithstanding, the lateral extents of wind development within the view is contained to the existing footprint as a result of the overlap. Finally, there is an increase in visual clutter as a result of the additional development, however in this broad, extensive panoramic view wind development only occupies a defined proportion and does not appear over-scaled given the context. Whilst the turbines will likely catch the eye of the casual observer from this elevated location, in the context of this broad panoramic view, the proposed development is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			Again, it is important to note that whilst this is a significant location in terms of tourism and heritage relating to the Cliffs of Moher, the visual amenity associated with the cliffs generally pertains to views north and south of this location, rather than southeast toward the development. Overall, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Low** and of a **Negative** quality.	
VP04	**R478 north of Lahinch –** This is a relatively broad mid-distance view afforded from a point along the R478 regional road, just north of Lahinch. The view looks out over the Inagh River Estuary, backed by high sand dunes which are located within the Lahinch Golf Course. In the background, brief distant views of slightly more elevated, gently undulating terrain are afforded. This section of the R478 is designated as a scenic route (No. 1) within the Co. Clare CDP.	Medium	A partial view of the proposed turbines is afforded just over 7km south of this section of the R478, rising above the undulating terrain which occupies the midground. The proposed turbines are viewed at a modest scale from this viewing distance and present partially screened and backed by sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Whilst the moving turbine components along the distant skyline have the potential to be noticed from here, they will have little notable impact on the visual amenity of this roadside scene. There is a minor degree of turbine overlap, albeit any negative aesthetic effects are strongly diminished by the viewing distance involved and the partial screening of the proposed development. In addition, a number of the existing Boolinrudda turbines are visible from this location. However, a mitigating factor to cumulative visual impacts is the separation distance between the proposed development and the turbines on Slieve Callan, to the left of the depicted view. The proposed turbines represent a modest intensification of turbines within a visual context that already includes wind energy development, but in a legible and supplementary manner. Again, the development is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence in this scene. This section of the R478 is designated as a scenic route, with the principal aspects of scenic amenity along this scenic route pertaining to coastal views along the Atlantic Coastline. Therefore, whilst the turbines will marginally contribute to an increase in the intensity of built development along this scenic route designation, given the existing development within the view and the terrain screening which blocks coastal views at present, they will not notably detract from the scenic amenity afforded at this location.	**Slight / Negative / Long-term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			On balance of the above, the magnitude of visual impact along this regional route is deemed **Low** and of a **Negative** quality.	
VP05	**R478 at Lahinch Golf Club –** This is a contained view captured from a point along the R478 regional road in the town of Lahinch. The view is oriented south and is dominated by the built-up town features of Lahinch. In the background, slightly more elevated terrain to the south of Lahinch can be seen above the rooftops of the intervening buildings. This section of the R478 is designated as a scenic route (No. 1) within the Co. Clare CDP.	Medium	The proposed development is partially visible above the tops of buildings within Lahinch town at a distance of just over 6km north. Only the upper sections of the turbine towers, hubs and partial blade sets visible from this relatively low-lying point along the R478. Whilst the turbines will introduce a new form of development to this view, they form a background feature, presenting with a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad view characterised by a highly textured middle ground. The turbines that rise above intervening rooftops give a sense of contextual confusion, however, this is ameliorated by the view of other turbines beyond the middle distance ridge. These reinforce the separation distance from the settlement and that the proposed turbines are contained within a wholly rural context . Whilst this section of the R478 is designated as a scenic route, the principal aspects of scenic amenity along this scenic route relates to coastal views, toward the west. Therefore, whilst the turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity of built development along this scenic route designation, they will not notably detract from the scenic amenity afforded from here. Overall, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Medium-low** and of a **Negative** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term**
VP06	**Port of Liscannor –** This is a wide, pleasant coastal view afforded from a small pier in the settlement of Liscannor. The view extends across the bay toward a gradually undulating landscape cloaked in patchwork fields and forestry, with the elevated peak of Slieve Callan visible in the background.	Medium-low	The proposed turbines will be visible in the distance some c. 7km from this location. The proposed development is visible in conjunction with the existing Boolinrudda turbines and thus extends the lateral extent of turbines within the view. Although the proposed turbines will present at a larger scale than the existing turbines they are distinctly separate and this is reinforced by the sense of distance perspective derived from the scale differential between the turbines of each development. Indeed, whilst the proposed turbines will increase the extent and intensity of wind farm development within this view, they do not present as ambiguous features in this landscape context as they are viewed in combination with other	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			turbines. On balance, it is considered that the proposed development will have a co-dominant visual presence within the broad view. Thus, the visual impact magnitude is deemed **Medium-low** and of a **Negative** quality.	
VP07	**N85 east of site –** This is a roadside view afforded from a low lying point along the N85 national road. The view is oriented west and looks out over a rolling landscape cloaked in forestry. The background is contained by the Slieve Callan peak and surrounding foothills.	Medium-low	The proposal is screened by vegetation resulting in no visibility of the scheme at this location. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Negligible** and of a **Neutral** quality.	**Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term**
VP08	**Local road at Lackamore, north of site –** This is a typical upland view over the sloping landform to the north of the site, located along an unnamed local road. The view is oriented southwest and looks out over a stone wall across terrain that slopes toward the skyline. The inclining slopes of this shallow ridge are occupied by a mixture of pastoral land and dense blocks of coniferous plantation which conceal a large portion of the ground surface.	Medium-low	A clear and relatively close view of 5 of the proposed 6 turbines is afforded from this elevated local road which passes the site to the north. The proposed turbines will be viewed at a distance of c. 1km presenting in a prominent manner given their location along the horizon of this view, with only a small portion of the turbines cropped by vegetation, at their base. Overall, it is considered that the proposed turbines will present in a prominent manner from this near distance, which is accentuated by the uphill nature of the view. Nonetheless, whilst the development will considerably increase the height and intensity of built development within this scene, the proposed turbines will present in a clear and unambiguous manner. In addition, there are very few instances of overlapping blade sets which minimises the potential for visual irritation. Overall, the proposed rotating turbines will be one of the most notable features along this elevated local road and will considerably increase the intensity of development in this productive rural landscape context. Overall, it is considered that the proposed development will have a dominant visual presence. As such, the impact of the development is deemed **High-medium**, of **Negative** quality of impact.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP09	**Local road at Fahanlunaghta Beg, northeast of site –** This is a view afforded from a point along an unnamed local road,	Medium-low	The proposal is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility of the turbines. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Negligible** and of a **Neutral** quality.	**Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	in the townland of Fahanlunaghta Beg. The view is truncated by a dense coniferous plantation, which is characteristic of the immediate surrounds. Beyond the conifer plantation is a rolling agricultural landscape that can be seen just to the fight of the plantation.		In the event of the foreground conifer plantation being felled, there is likely to be a clear view the proposed turbines rising above a farmed ridge as a series of single and double turbines. They will not be over-scaled or out of place in this setting and the magnitude of visual impact is likely to be in the order of Medium.	Post forest felling (Moderate-slight / Negative / Long term)
VP10	**Local road at Illaunbaun, east of site –** This is a south-facing uphill view afforded from a local road located east of the proposed development. The sloping terrain comprise a grassy pasture backed by linear parcels of conifers with a singular dwelling located toward the horizon of the ridge in the distance.	Medium-low	Only three of the proposed turbines are clearly visible from this location with only the lower section of the tower screened by terrain and vegetation. The blade tips of two other turbines are barely visible above the elevated terrain in the background, and the final turbine screened entirely by intervening terrain. Overall, it is considered that the scheme will present with a dominant visual presence. The three clearly visible turbines will be seen in a clear and unambiguous manner, and in a linear layout with no instances of blade overlap. These turbines also generate a minor sense of visual irritation as they are viewed rotating against the near ridgeline and sightly dwarf the near dwelling due to their scale in comparison. Notwithstanding, whilst the turbines will introduce a greater intensity and scale of built development, there is a clear sense of perspective afforded by the various proportions of visibility of each successive turbine. Furthermore, they are not perceived as over-scaled in this general setting, which is characterised conifer plantations and broad scale agriculture. For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **High-medium**, while the effect will be of a **Negative** quality.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**
VP11	**Kilfarboy Church and Graveyard, west of site –** This is a textured rural view afforded from a small local graveyard and church ruins to the west of the site. The view is oriented east and is contained by mature hedgerow vegetation which lines the nearby local road and is scattered throughout the fields in the midground. The background is contained by rolling pastures and dense patches of forestry,	Medium-low	All 6 of the proposed developments are afforded some degree of visibility from this location. Two of the turbines located farther east within the scheme are partially screened from view at this location by the intervening topography, whereas the four nearer turbines are clearly visible from here. Due to the proximity of this view just under 1km from the development the turbines will be viewed at a considerable vertical scale and will be the most prominent feature within the view. On balance the scheme will have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence. Whilst the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature from here given their elevated location, they do not appear overbearing in this context. Furthermore, a strong sense of	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	which cloak the upland areas in the distance.		perspective is generated by the modest variation in the scale of the turbines within the view, which highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed development across this undulating landscape. There will be some minor instances of turbine overlap, which can cause a slight sense of visual clutter, nevertheless, the proposed turbines generally present well-spaced with a modest lateral extent and do not intrude on this working rural landscape. Overall, the turbines will notably increase the intensity of built development in this view, and the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **High-medium** with a **Negative** quality of effect.	
VP12	**R460 at Cloonanaha, east of site –** This is a typical rural roadside view afforded from a point along the R460. The view is oriented northwest and looks out across a heavily vegetated grassy landscape. In the distance, the gently undulating terrain of a skyline ridge occupies the view, cloaked in agricultural fields and mixed forestry.	Medium-low	The proposal is screened by vegetation resulting in little to no visibility. On balance, by default the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Negligible** and of a **Neutral** quality of impact.	**Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term**
VP13	**Local road at Tooreen, southeast of site -** Oriented west, this relatively short roadside view looks out over a gradually inclining patchwork of pastoral fields demarcated by a mixture of scrubby and mature treelined vegetation. Toward the upland areas within this view, there is a gradual transition from grassy agricultural pastures to marginal moorland fields.	Medium-low	There are varying degrees of visibility of the turbines from this location. Three of the proposed turbines are clearly visible presenting in a legible and unambiguous manner above the skyline ridge. One turbine is partially screened, by the intervening terrain with only the upper section of the tower, hub and partial blade sets visible. Of the remaining two turbines, only the tips of blades will be visible above the terrain whilst one turbine is screened entirely from view here. Viewed at a distance of 900m to the nearest turbine, the development presents at a notable scale at this relatively low-lying location. Overall, it is considered that the proposed development will have a dominant visual presence. There is a moderate sense of ambiguity as to the extent of the development where there are some partially screened turbines toward the background of the view. Notwithstanding, the spacing allows for a sense of perspective and permeability through the scheme and reduces the potential for viewers to feel 'surrounded' by turbines. There will be some minor instances of visual clutter and visual irritation generated by overlapping views of the proposed	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			turbines and blade sets rotating on the ridgeline, however, these negative aesthetic effects will be slightly offset by the clearer views of the nearer and more exposed turbines. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **High-medium**, while the effect will be of a **Negative** quality.	
VP14	**Local road at Slievenalicka, southwest of site –** This is a wide view afforded from a point along an gradually inclining local road to the southwest of the site, in the townland of Slievenalicka. The view looks out across an undulating landscape primarily contained by a mixture of dense coniferous forestry and native hedgerows. Toward the midground of the view, several shed structures related to a nearby quarry are seen, just above the mixed vegetation. In the background the ground profile of the rolling terrain is cloaked in dense mature coniferous forestry. A number of telephone/distribution lines are present within the view, scattered across the landscape.	Medium-low	Given the elevated nature of this view, the proposed turbines are visible rotating above the stacked vegetation and along the rolling terrain in the background. The turbines are viewed at a notable scale from this location, where the nearest turbine is viewed at a distance of only 900m. The proposed turbines will be one of the most notable built features from this open section of the local road however they do not appear over-scaled, nor do they present with any sense of overbearing along this vegetated ridge. Nonetheless, due to the near distance of the turbines, the proposed development is deemed to have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence in this viewing context. The turbines are reasonably well spaced both laterally and in terms of the perceived depth of the array with only one minor instance of turbine overlap. Due to the spacing and proximinty, there is a sense of visual permeability afforded by spaces between the other turbines. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **High-medium.**	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP15	**Local road at Rockmount National School, Slievenalicka, south of site –** Located at the peak of a gradually inclining local road, this view looks out across a typical uphill landscape cloaked in marginal moorland fields and densely planted, mature conifers. The landscape within the view is undulating however the ground profile is relatively hidden on account of the coniferous forestry. Toward the west of this location there are pleasant distant views, where this locally elevated point is afforded visibility of the Co. Clare coastline.	Medium-low	All 6 of the proposed turbines are viewed relatively closely and clearly from this hilltop location. The proposed turbines will present at a reasonable scale from here, however, they do not present with a sense of overbearing, nor do they appear over-scaled in the context of the broad underlying land use patterns and surrounding landscape features. Overall, it is considered that the proposed development will have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence in this broad textured scene. The turbines are for the most-part, highly visible with three partially screened by vegetation. Furthermore, the scale differences between turbines and their dispersal across the landscape provide a sense of depth and perspective with no sense of ambiguity as to their relative locations. In addition, there are very few instances of blade overlap, thus little sense of visual clutter is generated at this location.	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **High-medium.**	
VP16	**N67 at Fintra Beg, west of site –** This a broad roadside view afforded from a point along the N67 national route. The view is oriented east and looks out over a relatively low-lying agricultural landscape interspersed by one-off dwellings, farmsteads and low clipped hedgerows that serve to delineate field boundaries. There are distant views of rolling upland terrain which contains the background, cloaked in moorland and coniferous forestry. This section of the N67 is designated as a scenic route (No. 1) within the Co. Clare CDP.	Medium	All 6 of the proposed turbines are visible from this location, dispersed across the distant upland terrain in the background. From this distance of just over 4km, the proposed turbines are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Each of the turbines is visible in a clear and legible manner above the skyline ridge where they are backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Furthermore, the turbines appear well spaced along the rolling terrain whilst maintaining a modest lateral extent. The proposed turbines will not appear as incongruous features in this robust agricultural landscape. Whilst this section of the N67 is designated as a scenic route, the principal aspects of scenic amenity along this scenic route relates to coastal views, toward the west. Therefore, whilst the turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity of built development along this scenic route designation, they will not notably detract from the scenic amenity afforded from here. As such, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Medium-low** and of **Negative** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP17	**Local road at Ballynew, south of site –** A relatively short uphill view is afforded from this local road located south of the site. The view depicts a typical rural scene comprising a grassy pastoral landscape that slopes upward toward the background. Along the elevated terrain in the background of the view a number of dwellings and farmsteads are scattered across the skyline, oriented facing west, where there is some sense of visual amenity afforded by elevated, distant views of the Atlantic coastline.	Medium-low	The proposed turbines are partially and intermittently visible rotating along the ridgeline in the background at a distance of c. 1.6km north from this location. The proposed turbines are revealed here to varying degrees ranging from partial views of blade sets to the upper elements and most of the tower revealed, presenting backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. From this distance, given the landscape context, the proposed turbines are considered to have a dominant visual presence. In terms of aesthetic, the partially screened turbines appear slightly stunted as the ridge line partially screens their towers. These turbines also generate a notable sense of visual irritation as they are viewed rotating against the near ridgeline and sightly dwarf the near dwellings scattered across the intervening ridge due to their relative scale and the lack of visibility of the	**Moderate / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			landscape that lies between the turbines and the houses. This is not the same viewing context as experienced from the houses (see VP14 and VP15). Furthermore, It is important to note that these dwellings are oriented for views facing west, in the direction of the coastline away from the turbines. Overall, the proposed turbines will be one of the more notable features of this section of the local road and will considerably increase the intensity of development in this landscape context, whilst generating some scale confusion and contextual ambiguity. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **High-medium** with a **Negative** quality of effect.	
VP18	**N67 at Miltown Malbay –** This a typical rural roadside view afforded from a point along the N67 national route which forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way driving route, just north of Miltown Malbay. The view is oriented northeast and looks out over a relatively low-lying agricultural landscape, throughout which a number of dwellings are dispersed. Other textures within the view include scrubby hedgerow vegetation, alongside overhead distribution lines which traverse the landscape, heading in the direction of Miltown Malbay. Distant views of rolling upland terrain are afforded toward the background of the view. This section of the N67 is designated as a scenic route (No. 1) within the Co. Clare CDP.	Medium	All 6 of the proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees from this location, dispersed across the distant upland terrain in the background. Three of the proposed turbines situated to the east of the scheme are partially screened by intervening vegetation, terrain or dwellings, whereas the three remaining proposed turbines are fully visible in the distance. Regardless, all of the visible portions of the turbines present backed by sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Aesthetically, the turbines are reasonably well spaced with no instances of overlap and blade sets that rotate fully above the skyline ridge. The proposed turbines will generate a slight increase in the intensity of built development in this view. Although the turbines are likely to be noticed in this open view, they are viewed in the context of a broad roadside scene and will have a sub-dominant visual presence from this distance of just over 4km. The turbines will not appear incongruous or over-scaled in this landscape, which is characterised by other productive and settled land use. Much the same as VP16, whilst this section of the N67 is designated as a scenic route, the principal aspects of scenic amenity along this scenic route pertain to views of the Atlantic Coast, toward the west. Therefore, whilst the turbines will be visible from this route, they will not notably detract from the scenic amenity afforded from here. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **Medium-low** with a **negative** quality.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP19	**R474 at Knockloskeraun, southwest of site –** This is a view afforded from a point along the R474 regional road, located southwest of the site and southeast of Miltown Malbay. The view is oriented northeast and depicts a gently undulating landscape terrain cloaked in a patchwork of agricultural pastures, delineated by mixed hedgerow vegetation. One-off houses and farmsteads are also scattered throughout the view, visible above the intervening vegetation. This transport route is designated as a scenic route (No. 15) within the Co. Clare CDP.	Medium	Viewed at distances beyond 4.1km, all of the proposed turbines are afforded some degree of visibility at this location beyond the ridgeline in the background. The proposed turbines are partially screened by terrain with visibility ranging from partial views of blade sets to fully revealed turbines, and predominately present backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Although the turbines are likely to be noticed in this view, they are viewed in the context of a textured rural roadside scene and will have a co-dominant visual presence. Whilst this regional road is designated as a scenic route, visual amenity is primarily oriented south and east where there are broad panoramic views of inland Clare. In terms of aesthetics, the partial views of turbines rotating along the vegetated ridgeline will generate a slight sense of visual tension and visual irritation. Nonetheless, these turbines do not appear obtrusive or over-scaled in this working rural landscape context and they are evenly spaced. Therefore, whilst the turbines will contribute to an increase in the intensity of built development along this route, they will not notably detract from the scenic amenity afforded from here, which is influenced by a range of other productive land uses. Therefore, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **Medium-low**, with a **negative** quality of effect.	**Moderate-slight / Negative / Long Term**
VP20	**R482 at Spanish Point –** This is a textured view afforded from a point along the R482 regional road within the settlement of Spanish Point. The main feature of the view is a crumbling historic dwelling 'The Retreat' (built c. 1825) setback from the road within a field. Otherwise the view is contained by relatively low-lying terrain with clusters of dwellings scattered throughout. Distant views of rolling upland terrain is afforded from this location, with a brief view of the existing Boolinrudda	Medium-low	This landscape context affords a distant, filtered view of the proposed turbines atop a ridgeline in the distance. Although the turbines are likely to be visible in this open view, they are viewed in the context of a broad textured scene, backed by sky resulting in very little visual contrast. Thus, the turbines will have a sub-dominant visual presence from this distance of over 6km. The proposed turbines will generate a slight increase in the intensity of built development in this view. However, they will not appear incongruous in this landscape, which is characterised by other built and working land uses. Given the perceived distance between the proposed development and the existing Boolinrudda turbines, there is a strong sense of visual permeability across the landscape with distant views remaining intact and not blocked by	**Slight / Negative / Long Term**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	turbines afforded toward the southeast, on the northern slopes of Slieve Callan.		turbines. Furthermore, the space between the schemes clearly separates them avoiding any scale / distance confusion or clutter from stacking in perspective. On balance of the reason outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **Low**.	
VP21	**N67 at Quilty –** This is a broad and pleasant roadside view afforded from a point along the N67 in the town of Quilty. The view is oriented northeast and depicts a portion of Quilty beach beyond which it extends across relatively flat landscape in the fore to midground. In the distance, the gradual undulations within the landscape become apparent, with distant ridgelines visible in the background, punctuating the skyline.	Medium	The proposed turbines will be visible rotating along an upland area in the background of the view, at a distance of just under 10km. The turbines will present as small-scale distant background features and are primarily viewed backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. They are deemed to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to minimal in this broad panoramic view and do detract from the coastal views afforded along this route. As such, given the viewing distances involved, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed **Low-negligible**.	**Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long Term**
VP22	**Local road at Doo Lough, south of site** – This is a slightly elevated view from a point along an unnamed local road located just south of Doo Lough. The view looks across the lake to a typical rural scene on a gently undulating landscape, comprising one-off housing, patchwork fields and densely planted coniferous forestry. Several of the existing Boolinrudda turbines are visible from this location, to the northeast of the view.	Medium-low	Only the tips of blades of three turbines are partially visible at this location, but are barely discernible backed by sky and partially screened by a vegetated intervening landscape. Therefore, the magnitude of visual Impact is considered to be **Negligible** and of a **Neutral** Quality	**Imperceptible / Neutral / Long Term**

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