

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 11.1 - Assessment of Representative Viewpoints

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1.1 Introduction

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the **Chapter 11 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** and provides an appraisal of visual receptor sensitivity and operational phase visual effects generated by the proposed Project. This appendix aligns with the methodology set out in **Chapter 11 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** refer to **Section 11.2**.

1.1.1 Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

The study area encompasses a mix of landscape types and visual receptors, some of which are more robust in nature, while others exhibit a higher degree of visual amenity and a more localised sense of naturalistic character. Notably, some of the most sensitive landscape areas and receptors are identified by the presence of scenic designations, several of which are located throughout the study area. The lakelands and river corridors within the study area are frequently associated with scenic designations, reflecting their visual quality and sense of natural beauty. These areas are also valued for their recreational amenity, with walking routes and small harbours often situated in their immediate surroundings. Overall, scenic designations around loughs and river corridors typically correspond to visual receptor sensitivities ranging from High-Medium to Medium, with areas of Medium sensitivity generally influenced to some extent by nearby settlement or built development.

Scenic designations also occur throughout the wider parts of the study area that are not specifically associated with watercourses or waterbodies in the surrounding landscape. Many of these designations have been selected due to their locally elevated nature or because they provide scenic views from sensitive amenity and heritage receptors. Notably, several of these designations overlap with heritage sites of note, such as the Rathcroghan Complex, located in the wider western extent of the study area. Owing to its sensitive heritage associations, national and international importance, and the high degree of visual amenity afforded from this location, the receptor sensitivity is assessed as High at the Rathcroghan mound. Other locally elevated scenic designations within the wider study area are assigned receptor sensitivities ranging from High-Medium to Medium.

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, the wider landscape is also influenced by an array of anthropogenic features such

as existing wind farm development, 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 a Medium sensitivity representing more open expansive views across the wider inland landscape. It is also worth noting that some local amenity and heritage features also occur throughout the study area, which heightens the degree of receptor sensitivity at a local level.

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 proposed Project 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 11.3 of Chapter 11 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**, visual receptor sensitivity judgement are provided for each representative viewpoint in the **Table 1.1** below.

VRP No.	Baseline View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of effect
VP1	N4 at Carrick-On-Shannon: This is a pleasant view afforded across the River Shannon from the central parts of the settlement of Carrick-on-Shannon. The view is both representative of the settlement as a major route receptor and of the Shannon corridor, which is a prominent amenity feature. The view extends south across the surrounding context of the river, which is bordered by riparian vegetation and low, rolling drumlin hills and ridges that frame the view at a relatively short distance.	High-medium	The proposed Project is entirely screened here by the rolling terrain cloaked in dense vegetation to the south of the river corridor. Thus, the magnitude of effect is deemed Negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
VP2	L1601 local road at Furnace, north Dromod: This view is afforded from the L1601 local road, north of the settlement of Drumod and immediately east of Lough Scannal. The depicted view is oriented southwest across the lake and represents both the centre of population and the lake as an amenity feature. Only a brief view of the lake is visible here, as it is partially screened by roadside vegetation. In the distance, the terrain on the opposite side of the lake is cloaked in dense vegetation, while the view is framed by further low, rolling ridges, where existing turbines are visible, rotating along the ridges in the background	High-medium	All six turbines are visible, rotating along the elongated ridgeline in the background at a distance of approximately 10.5km. The turbines will not be highly prominent features of this view, as they are set against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The turbines present with relatively sporadic spacing characteristics, with some visually stacked, which may create a slight sense of visual clutter. The turbines are also view in front of the more distant Sliabh Bawn turbine, which appear further away at a comparably smaller scale. Overall, the proposed turbines will increase the intensity of wind energy development in this view but will not appear out of place in the context of the existing Sliabh Bawn turbines. As a	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			result, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low.	
VP3	L1031 local road east of Elphin: This is a locally elevated view afforded from a local road to the east of the settlement of Elphin. The view represents the centre of population and extends across a flat area of terrain, cloaked in pastoral farmland and intervening vegetation. Low rolling ridges rise in the distance, similarly covered in pastoral lands and hedgerow vegetation, framing the background of the view. Further to the south, the existing Sliabh Bawn turbines are visible as small-scale background features.	Medium	All six of the proposed turbines will be visible here to varying degrees, ranging from almost fully revealed turbines to partial views of turbine blade sets. The visible turbines are viewed as modest-scale background features and present with a low degree of visual contrast against the sky. Overall, the proposed turbines are considered to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to minimal and will only marginally increase the intensity of built development in this open view. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low-negligible	Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term
VP4	Local road at Carrigeen: This is a contained aspect of a view afforded from a local road scenic route in the townland of Carrigeen, immediately east of Grange Lough. The view is representative of the scenic route designation; however, it is important to note that the scenic designation relates to views oriented to the west across the Lough. The depicted view is oriented to the southeast along the local road corridor and is partially contained by dense vegetation in the near foreground. A veiled view of a ridge is afforded in the background of the view	Medium	A partial view of the proposed turbine blade sets is afforded along the ridge in the background of the view at a distance of some 5.5 km. The proposed turbines are partially viewed in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity here, although they have the potential to draw the eye in this aspect of the view. Nonetheless, the turbines will be partially screened here by a combination of intervening terrain and layers of winter vegetation. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed Project is deemed sub-dominant. Aesthetically, the partial views of the proposed turbine blade sets can generate a sense of visual ambiguity in relation to their actual location. Nonetheless, the turbines are viewed in the more robust	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			viewing aspect from this scenic route and will not detract from the main aspect of visual amenity, which is to the west. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low.	
VP5	R371 east of the Shannon at Roosky: This is a view afforded from the R371 regional road on the periphery of the settlement of Roosky. The view is afforded from the roadside and extends across slightly sloping terrain, partially truncated at a near distance by dense layers of stacked mature vegetation in the foreground that also screen and visibility of the Shannon corridor. Partial views of more distant rolling ridges are afforded over the top of the stacked vegetation, with a brief view of the distant Sliabh Bawn turbines to the south.	Medium-low	Whilst the proposed turbines are screened in the depicted view by a stand of mature trees, the wireframe view highlights the potential for partial views of the turbines further north or south along this regional road and in the surrounding local landscape. Indeed, where visible, the turbines will present as relatively modest-scale built features in the view's background, viewed at a distance of some 7.7 km. In this regard, the proposed turbines are only considered to present with a visual presence of sub-dominant from this distance. Aesthetically, the proposed turbines will present in a legible manner, albeit some of the central turbines are stacked and have the potential to generate a slight sense of visual clutter. Nonetheless, this is not a conspicuous view of the turbines, nor are they considered to appear incongruous in this landscape context that is already influenced by distant views of existing turbines. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed no greater than Low.	Slight / Adverse / Long-term
VP6	Local road at Clooneen (Blakeny): This is a view from a local road at Clooneen, west of Kilglass Lough, which is representative of local community receptors in the surrounding area of the Lough. The depicted view is oriented southeast across the Lough and its	Medium	All six of the proposed turbines are visible here to varying degrees, from almost fully revealed turbines to partial views of blade tips. The turbines are visible, rotating above the ridgeline to the east, and are viewed against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. While the rotating turbines are	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term

	surrounding sloping pastoral lands and wetlands. The neighbouring ridge to the east of the Lough is cloaked in stacked layers of intervening vegetation, limiting visibility to the east. A brief view is afforded to the south, where the Sliabh Bawn turbines are visible, rotating in the distance.		likely to draw the eye from this distance of just under 3km, the proposed turbines do not appear over scaled in the context of the broad underlying ridgeline. Overall, the visual presence of the proposed Project is deemed sub-dominant. Aesthetically, the turbines are viewed here in a relatively legible manner and tend to appear evenly spaced across the ridge. While there will be some minor instances of turbine overlap that generate a slight sense of clutter, the clearer views of the other visible turbines will considerably offset any notable negative aesthetic effects. Although the turbines will increase the intensity of wind energy development within the view, they will not present as incongruous features here and do not block or obstruct any sensitive viewing aspects. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed medium-low	
VP7	Kilglass Marina: This is a view from the car park at Kilglass Marina, along the eastern banks of Kilglass Lough. While the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to views across the Lough to the west, the depicted view extends back across the Marina car park to the southeast, where the sloping terrain is cloaked in layers of dense intervening winter vegetation, which obscures this aspect of the view at a near distance.	Medium	While the wireframe identifies the potential for visibility of the nacelles and blade sets of two turbines, as well as the partial view of blade sets of two other turbines, actual turbine visibility is limited to partial views of rotating blade sets from up to three turbines, due to the dense intervening vegetation in the direction of the proposed wind farm site. Although, even from this distance of 1.8km to the nearest visible turbine, the partially visible turbines will not present as highly prominent features, the rotating turbine blade sets, viewed beyond a layer of winter	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			vegetation, have the potential to draw the eye. The partial views of the turbine blade sets here will present in a slightly ambiguous manner, especially in relation to their actual landscape context. Nevertheless, the turbines will only be partially visible here and will present in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity, which is to the east across the Lough. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low.	
VP8	L1411 at Killastalliff: This is a relatively typical rural view across a foreground of farmland, viewed from a local road in the townland of Killastalliff, and is representative of surrounding local community receptors. The view extends south from the local road across a slightly sloping pastoral field and is further contained in the distance to the south by areas of intervening hedgerow vegetation, backed by blocks of dense conifer forest.	Medium-low	The proposed turbine array is visible here at a notable scale and appears in a slightly condensed cluster. Turbine, T06 is viewed at the largest scale and rises above the nearby farm sheds and areas of mature vegetation, while three other turbines are seen slightly offset to the east and present with evenly spaced characteristics. The two southernmost turbines are partially screened, with only their partial blade sets visible directly south of turbine T06. Although the turbines are viewed at a notable scale, they are contextually separated from the foreground by the dense conifer forest, which screens the lower half of their towers and slightly diminishes their perceived visual presence. The visual presence of the proposed Project is deemed co-dominant. The proposed turbines present in a relatively clear and comprehensible manner here. While there will be a minor sense of visual clutter generated by the stacked view of the blade sets of T06 and the southernmost turbines, the remaining visible turbines are viewed in a highly legible manner. Overall,	Moderate / Adverse / Long-term

			the proposed Project will result in a notable increase in the quantum of built development in the view, although the turbines are offset from the main aspect of the view and do not generate any sense of overbearing. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium.	
VP9	R371 and L1411 intersection at Glen: This is a view from the regional road scenic route in the townland of Glen east of Kilglass Lough. The view is afforded from the intersection of the R371 and the L1411 and extends southeast across the intersection, in the opposite direction to the Lough, which is the principal aspect of scenic amenity here and the reason behind the location of the scenic route. To the southeast, the view is truncated at a near distance by a low stone boundary wall and sloping terrain where brief visibility of winter vegetation is visible along the skyline.	Medium	A partial view of the proposed turbine array is afforded here, where the development presents in a slightly ambiguous manner, with several of the turbine blade sets rotating along the near skyline ridge at a notable but not overbearing scale. The southernmost turbines are viewed in a more legible manner, with the nacelles and blade sets rotating freely above the skyline. Although the turbines are presented in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity, they are still likely to draw the eye, with the nearest visible turbines located just over 1km away, albeit screened in the depicted view by foreground elements. Overall, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed co-dominant. Aesthetically, it is not an ideal view of the turbines, as there will be a notable sense of visual ambiguity regarding the actual location of the nearest visible turbines. The partially visible turbine blade sets rotating along the skyline ridge will also generate some sense of visual irritation in this aspect of the view. On balance, and for the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed medium.	Moderate / Adverse / Long-term

VP10	Local road at Clooneen (Hartland): This is a pleasant, open pastoral view across an area of farmland, afforded from a local road in the townland of Clooneen (Hartland). The depicted view extends east across the Scramoge River valley, which is enclosed by a patchwork of pastoral farmland and layers of dense intervening winter vegetation. Further to the east, the terrain rises on the eastern side of the valley towards a low, rolling ridge, similarly cloaked in pastoral fields and dense vegetation, which contains this aspect of the view.	Medium	The proposed turbines are visible along the rolling ridge to the east, at a distance of around 2.5km, and are viewed in silhouette against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. While the moving turbine components are likely to draw the eye in this aspect of the view, they do not appear as highly prominent built features, are evenly spaced across the rolling ridge, and are deemed to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant. Aesthetically, this is a legible view of the proposed wind farm Project that responds well to the landscape context in terms of its scale and function. While there will be some minor sense of visual clutter and irritation generated by the partial views of turbine blade sets in the central parts of the array, these effects are strongly diluted by the clearer and more visually legible views of the fully revealed turbines to the north and south. Overall, the proposed Project will increase the intensity of built development along the ridge to the east, but the turbines will not appear incongruous here. On balance, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium-low	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term
VP11	Rathcroghan Mound: This is a broad, sweeping panorama afforded from Rathcroghan Mound. The depicted view is oriented to the east across flat pastoral fields and is partially truncated in the near distance by areas of mature vegetation. Views across the wider, flat	High	The proposed Project will be entirely screened from Rathcroghan Mound by the dense vegetation located a short distance to the east of this viewpoint. Even if briefly discernible from the surrounding local landscape, the turbines will have no effect on the visual amenity of this context, as they will	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term

	to gently rolling landscape are afforded beyond the nearer vegetation, where the landscape is cloaked in stacked layers of mature, intervening hedgerow and areas of mature woodland.		appear as small-scale background features and will be barely discernible from this distance of over 18km. Thus, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed negligible.	
VP12	Local road at Ballyfeeny: This is a partially contained uphill view afforded from a local road in the townland of Ballyfeeny, representative of the surrounding local community receptors. The view is in a similar landscape context to VP10 above, albeit to the east of the Scramoge River. The depicted view extends east along the local road corridor, where a dense, mature, tree-lined hedgerow contains the view to the south. To the east and northeast, the view extends across ascending terrain cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral farmland. This aspect of the view is contained in the background by a broad, low ridge	Medium-low	Whilst the wireframe view identifies the potential for visibility of up to five turbines to varying degrees, only the nacelles and blade sets of one turbine, along with the partial view of the blade tips of two other turbines, will be visible here. This is due to the mature, tree-lined hedgerow along the southern verge of this local road, which screens the turbines in the southernmost extent of the site. The northernmost turbine in the array is the most visually exposed, with the nacelle projecting just above the vegetated skyline. Nonetheless, it does not appear highly prominent, and overall, the visible turbines are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence. Aesthetically, the partial views of turbine blade sets and blade tips rotating along the vegetated skyline ridge are likely to generate a sense of visual clutter and tension in this aspect of the view. There is also a slight sense of scale disparity between the turbine blade sets and the rural dwellings located along the ridge in the distance. Nonetheless, the main aspect of amenity here is typical to the west, across the River Scramoge corridor. Overall, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium-low.	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term
VP13	Local road Laneway at Culleenaghmore: This is a pleasant but	Medium-low	All six turbines are fully revealed here and are viewed at a prominent, but not	Substantial-moderate /

	typical rural view from a local road laneway in the townland of Culleenaghmore, representative of the surrounding local community receptors. The view extends west along the local road alignment, where a sense of openness is created by the views across the low, clipped hedgerows, which are contained in winter vegetation. The view continues across the surrounding flat to gently rolling agricultural lands and more distant blocks of commercial conifer forestry. It extends further to the south, where existing wind turbines are visible, rotating along the elevated surrounds of Sliabh Bawn		overbearing, scale. The nearest turbine (T03) is located some 600m to the west, while the furthest is viewed at a distance of approximately 1.8km to the southwest. The proposed turbines will considerably extend the vertical extent of built development in this view, although the overall scale and extent of the development are not overwhelming and responds well in terms of its scale and layout, to the existing landscape context. Overall, the turbines are considered to have a dominant visual presence here. The relatively loose spacing characteristics of the turbines allows for a strong sense of visual permeability through the development, while the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines, from nearest to furthest, highlights the depth and dispersion of the turbine layout, generating a notable sense of perspective. Indeed, while the rotating turbines will be one of the most prominent built features in this local landscape, they are not considered an inappropriate addition to this robust rural landscape context, which is characterised by an array of other working rural land uses and existing wind energy development in the distance. Overall, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed high.	Adverse / Long-term
VP14	Local road at Caul: This is a slightly channelled view afforded between two residential rural dwellings along a local road in the townland of Caul. The view extends across two residential	Medium-low	All six of the proposed turbines are visible in the background of the view at a distance of 2km and appear at a similar scale, set against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Aside from two visually stacked	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term

	landholdings towards slightly ascending terrain, contained in a patchwork of pastoral farmland and dense layers of intervening hedgerow vegetation. The view is contained in the background by a combination of a low ridge in the distance and stacked layers of hedgerow vegetation.		turbines, the proposed array is almost evenly spaced and responds well in terms of scale to the elongated, low ridgeline. Thus, the proposed turbines are deemed to have a visual presence in the order of sub-to-co-dominant in this western aspect of the view. Aesthetically, this is a clear and comprehensible view of the proposed Project, albeit with a slight sense of visual clutter generated by the two visually stacked turbines. Nonetheless, while the proposed development will increase the intensity of wind farm development in this aspect of the view, it does not appear incongruous in terms of its scale or function within this robust working landscape. As a result of the above factors, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium-low.	
VP15	Local road at Ballyfeeny east of the R371: This is a view from a section of local road located along west-facing sloping terrain in the townland of Ballyfeeny. Whilst the main aspect of visual amenity relates to the elevated views afforded to the west, the depicted view extends east and southeast towards the plateau summit of the underlying ridge. The view to the east extends along the local road corridor, which is enclosed on both sides by mixed hedgerow vegetation and an intermittent mature tree line. Both north and south of the local road corridor, the landscape is contained by	Medium-low	The proposed Project is intermittently visible on both sides of the local road corridor. A veiled view of one of the proposed turbines is afforded through winter vegetation to the south, whilst the remaining five turbines are visible to varying degrees to the north of the local road corridor. Indeed, the nearest visible turbines on both sides of the local road are viewed at a notable scale, with turbine T02 on the northern side of the local road corridor visible at a distance of just under 600m. The remaining visible turbines to the north are presented slightly stunted here, with their towers heavily screened by the plateau ridge and intervening vegetation. Whilst the visual presence of the proposed Project is considered dominant here, it is	Substantial-moderate / Adverse / Long-term

	a mix of scrub, rough grazing, and areas of coniferous forest.		important to note that when the surrounding vegetation is in full leaf, the visual presence will be slightly diminished as the turbines will be afforded a greater degree of screening. Despite the heavily veiled view of the nearest turbines, they are presented in a relatively legible manner here, rising clearly in silhouette against the sky, with no clear instances of the blade sets overlapping. However, there will be a slight sense of enclosure generated along sections of this local road further to the east, where the proposed turbines will be visible on both sides of the road at a near distance. Nonetheless, the depicted view represents the nearest residential receptor along this local road, whilst sections of this road further to the east are already influenced by anthropogenic built features such as a reservoir and an existing telecoms structure. It is also important to note that the proposed Onsite Substation and Relay Mast will be visible adjacent to these other existing built features, further increasing the intensity of built development along this relatively remote rural road. It should also be noted that the nearest residential dwelling benefits from views to the west across the Scramoge River Valley, which is the principal viewing aspect from here as in the opposite direction to the proposed turbines. On balance, and for the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is	
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			deemed High here, noting that the turbines will benefit from a greater degree of screening from surrounding vegetation during the months when the surrounding vegetation is in full leaf.	
VP16	R368 at Strokestown: This is a view afforded from the northern extent of the settlement of Strokestown, which is representative of the centre of population and of a section of the National Famine Way. The view extends east along a local road adjacent to Strokestown Cemetery, where surrounding built development further to the east, in combination with layers of intervening vegetation, partially contain this aspect of the view. A more open view across agricultural farmland is afforded to the northeast, where the view is contained in the distance by a low ridge, carpeted in a mix of agricultural farmland and areas of stacked mature vegetation. It is important to note that this view is representative of various visual receptors within the settlement of Strokestown.	Medium	As identified in the wireframe view, there is potential for visibility of all six turbines from the settlement of Strokestown, all of which rise just above the distant vegetated skyline ridge. Nonetheless, in the depicted view, the surrounding built development and intervening mature vegetation will partially screen the turbines from this local visual context. Indeed, there is potential for much clearer visibility on the furthest outskirts of the town, where there is less built development that could potentially screen the proposed Project. Nonetheless, from this distance of over 4km from the proposed wind farm site, the proposed turbines are not considered to present in a highly prominent manner and will be viewed as modest-scale features in the distance, where they rotate intermittently along the skyline. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed Project is considered to be sub-dominant here. The partial and intermittent visibility of the turbines will generate some sense of visual ambiguity, as the landscape context they are rising from is not clearly apparent from here. Furthermore, it is not an ideal aesthetic to have views of turbine blade sets rotating along the ridges of surrounding residential dwellings as it can generate a sense of	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			visual irritation. Notwithstanding, the turbines are well set back from the settlement and contextually separated by the Scramoge River Valley. Whilst the turbines will increase the intensity of built development in this already modified view, they do not present as an inappropriate addition to this rural hinterland context. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low.	
VP17	Local road at Moneenacully: This is a view from a contained section of local road in the townland of Moneenacully, which is representative of the surrounding local community receptors. The view is partially contained at the roadside by scrubby hedgerow vegetation, while brief visibility across the neighbouring pastoral fields and blocks of coniferous forestry is afforded over the top of the adjacent hedgerow.	Medium-low	A veiled view of the proposed Project is afforded here, where all six of the turbines are viewed at a relatively prominent scale, rising from areas of coniferous forestry more than 1km from the view. As the turbines are well set back from this local landscape context, they do not generate any sense of overbearing. However, the proposed turbines will be the most prominent built features in this aspect of the view and are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence. The turbines are viewed here in a relatively comprehensible manner, with the southern turbines in the array benefiting from looser spacing characteristics. The northern extent of the array appears slightly stacked here, generating a slight sense of visual clutter. Nonetheless, this is a legible view of a wind farm development from a near distance, that does not appear over-scaled or out of place in this working rural context. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed medium.	Moderate / Adverse / Long-term

VP18	R371 at Bellanamulia north of Scramoge: This is a partially contained view from the R371 regional road as it extends north from the settlement of Scramoge. The depicted view stretches north along the regional road corridor, which is lined by mixed winter vegetation. To the north, the view is contained at a short distance by a dense area of scrubby, immature woodland located to the northeast of the regional road.	Medium-low	The rotating blade sets and nacelle of the southernmost turbine in the array (T01) will be visible here, slightly offset from the regional road corridor at a distance of 1.6km. The blade tips of up to four other turbines will also be intermittently visible, rotating along the vegetated skyline. While T01 is the most prominently visible turbine, it does not appear in an highly prominent manner and is contextually separated from this local landscape context by stacked vegetation that screens much of the lower half of its tower. Although the partially visible blade tips of the other turbines may create some visual irritation and visual ambiguity, the clearer view of T01 helps to mitigate these negative aesthetic effects. On balance, the magnitude of the visual effect is considered Medium-low.	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term
VP19	Local road at Killinordanbeg: This is a partially contained view afforded from a local road at Killinordanbeg that is representative of surrounding local community receptors and of the National Famine Way which traverses this section of local road. Due to the rolling nature of this local road section, combined with the heavily vegetated landscape to the north, visibility along this local road is intermittent and often contained by layers of surrounding	Medium-low	Whilst the wireframe view identifies the potential for visibility of all six turbines, actual visibility of the turbines is considerably reduced due to the layers of intervening vegetation to the north of the local road. Nonetheless, there will be some fleeting visibility of the Project from some sections of this local road through gaps in the surrounding vegetation. However, the turbines are only ever likely to be partially and intermittently visible from this contained local road context. Indeed, at most, the visual presence of the proposed Project	Moderate-slight / Adverse / Long-term

	stacked hedgerow vegetation, as highlight in the depicted view.		along this road section is considered to co-dominant. It is not an ideal aesthetic to have partial views of blade sets rotating just above stacked layers of intervening vegetation as it can generate a sense of visual ambiguity as to the actual landscape context of the turbines, as highlighted in the depicted view. Overall, the partial and fleeting visibility of the turbines along this road section will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this local landscape context, although the turbines will not appear out of place in this robust and relatively typical rural setting. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed no greater than Medium-low.	
VP20	R371 at Tooreen: This is a locally elevated view afforded from the R371 on the east-facing slopes of Sliabh Bawn. The depicted view extends northeast across sloping farmland and intervening mature tree lined hedgerows. The layers of hedgerow become stacked in perspective throughout the middle ground and partially screen the landscape context beyond. In the distance, the view is contained by a low elongated ridgeline cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forest.	Medium	All six proposed turbines are visible rotating along the broad ridge in the background at a distance of some 3.5km. Whilst the turbines will be noticeable features here, they do not appear over-scaled whilst their profile reflects the sloping nature of the underlying terrain. Overall, the visual presence of the proposed Project is considered sub-dominant. Aesthetically, this is a highly legible view of a wind farm development that presents with even spacing characteristics and no instances of turbine overlap. Whilst the turbines will increase the intensity of wind farm development in this local landscape context, they will not appear as incongruous features in the context of the existing Sliabh Bawn turbines, which are viewed in the opposite direction to the depicted view, uphill to the west. On balance	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low.	
VP21	Local road north of Carnfree Mound: This is a locally elevated, designated scenic view from a local road adjacent to Carnfree Mound. The view is representative of the scenic designation and the neighbouring heritage receptor and extends east across sloping farmland. In the middle ground, layers of intervening hedgerow vegetation are stacked in perspective and cloak much of the wider surrounding landscape. The view is contained in the distance by low, elongated rolling ridges, with the existing Sliabh Bawn turbines visible in the distant background to the southeast.	High-medium	The proposed turbines will be visible in the distant background and are viewed in silhouette against the sky. Give the viewing distances involved (over 15km), this results in a very low degree of visual contrast due to 'atmospheric perspective' (fading of distant objects). Nonetheless, even if viewed from here the turbines will present as small-scale distant background features and are viewed at a similar scale to the existing Sliabh Bawn turbines visible to the southeast. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term
VP22	N5 west of Termonbarry: This view represents fleeting visibility afforded to the northwest from the N5, west of Termonbarry. The view is framed by a tree-lined hedgerow along the national primary route, extending across pastoral fields defined by layers of intervening hedgerows. Brief glimpses of a distant low ridge, cloaked in farmland and conifer forest, are visible in the background.	Medium-low	Intermittent views of the proposed turbines may be possible from this local road, although in the depicted view, areas of hedgerow vegetation in the middle ground partially screen the distant turbines. However, brief visibility of the turbines could be afforded from sections further east and west of the depicted viewpoint. Even when visible, the turbines will not be prominent features from this distance of over 7km, and their visual presence will remain sub-dominant. While the visible turbines may slightly increase the perceived intensity of development in this landscape, they will not	Slight / Adverse / Long-term

			appear out of place in this robust, modified context. As a result, the magnitude of the visual effect is considered no greater than Low.	
VP23	L1127 at Ballymacormack Cemetery south of Longford Town: This is a locally elevated view afforded from the Ballymacormack Cemetery on the outskirts of Longford town that is representative of the centre of population and surrounding scenic designations. The view extends across the cemetery in the near foreground and through a veil of winter vegetation towards a broad flat landscape cloaked in stacked layers of mature vegetation. Sliabh Bawn and its associated wind turbines contain the view in the distant background to the west.	High-medium	The proposed turbines have the potential to be viewed through the veil of winter vegetation situated throughout the near foreground. The turbines will only be faintly visible viewed against the sky in the distant background with a very low degree of visual contrast. Indeed, from this distance the proposed turbines are unlikely to draw the eye and will have no notable effect on the visual amenity of this broad locally elevated view. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term
VP24	R371 north of Lanesborough: This view is from a section of the R371 regional road, north of Lanesborough, representing the centre of population. The view extends north along the major route corridor, which is bordered on its western verge by dense hedgerows and mature trees. To the east and northeast, a partial view is afforded over the top of the roadside hedgerow, extending across areas of pastoral farmland and further layers of intervening vegetation that contain the view in the distance.	Medium-low	Intermittent visibility of the turbines has the potential to be afforded from this distance of over 11km. The proposed turbines will be viewed through layers of intervening hedgerow vegetation and will appear as small-scale background features, set against the sky, with minimal visual contrast. Even if discernible from this location, the turbines will have little noticeable impact on the visual amenity of this robust, modified landscape. Therefore, the magnitude of the visual effect is considered Low-negligible.	Slight-imperceptible / Adverse / Long-term

VP25	Local road at Rathcline east of Lough Ree: This view is from a local road scenic route immediately east of Lough Ree, near the ruins of Rathcline Castle. Despite the scenic designation, visibility along this stretch of road is limited by the dense surrounding vegetation, particularly in the direction of the Lough.	High-medium	The proposed Project will not be visible due to the dense vegetation in the near foreground. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
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