# Appendix 13-1- Visual Effects

## (i) Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

### Degree of Association within each Criterion

| Strong association | Moderate association | Mild association | Negligible association |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

### Receptor Sensitivity Criterion and Analysis at each Viewshed Reference Point (VRP)

| Susceptibility / Values associated with the view | DR1 | DR2 | DR3 | DR4 | DR5 | DR6 | DR7 | DR8 | DR9 | DR10 | DR11 | DR12 | DR13 | DR14 | DR15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susceptibility of receptor group to changes in view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recognised scenic value of the view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | HM | H | HM | HM | H | HM | HM | HM | HM | M | M | M | HM | HM | M |

| Susceptibility / Values associated with the view | DR16 | DR17 | DR18 | DR19 | DR20 | DR21 | DR22 | DR23 | DR24 | DR25 | DR26 | DR27 | LC1 | LC2 | LC3 | LC4 | LC5 | CP1 | CP2 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susceptibility of receptor group to changes in view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recognised scenic value of the view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | H | H M | H M | H M | H M | H M | H M | H M | VH | H | H | H M | M | ML | M | ML | ML | ML | M |

| Susceptibility / Values associated with the view | CP3 | CP4 | CP5 | CP6 | CP7 | MR1 | MR2 | MR3 | MR4 | MR5 | MR6 | MR7 | MR8 | MR9 | MR10 | AH1 | AH2 | AH3 | AH4 | AH5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susceptibility of receptor group to changes in view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recognised scenic value of the view | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | ML | ML | ML | L | L | L | L | L | ML | ML | ML | ML | ML | ML | ML | H M | H M | H | H | ML |

### (ii) Appraisal of Visual effect magnitude

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR1** | N4 at Fearnaght | 177 degrees | 21.2 km | 22 |

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| Representative of: | • A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a broad panoramic vista to the south afforded from the crest of a hill to the east of Lough Boderg, which is the key aspect of visual amenity in this instance. A series of dwellings line the eastern side of a short section of local access road that runs parallel to the N4 at this location and also enjoy this view. To the right hand side of the road marshy farmland and tree-lined hedgerows descend towards and partially screen the lough in the middle distance. The lough presents as a labyrinth of island and bays cloaked in riparian woodland. The skyline to the south is fairly flat, whilst Slieve Bawn and its associated wind farm can be seen in the distance to the southwest. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | All of the proposed turbines will be visible from here in clear viewing conditions rising in silhouette above the flat distant skyline to the south. They will be seen at a small scale and with a low degree of contrast against the sky. Nonetheless, the proposed development has a reasonable lateral extent and is aligned with the main focus of this vista – Lough Boderg. On balance, the proposed turbines are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.<br><br>Aesthetically the proposed turbines are seen in a relatively clear and unambiguous manner. Although there are several instances of turbine overlap any associated visual clutter is diminished by the viewing distance. Although the turbines are seen on alignment with the Lough, they are a distant background feature by comparison.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section **Error! Reference source not found.** of Chapter 6 of the EIAR, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR2** | Rathcroghan heritage area on the N5 | 123 degrees | 31.7 km | 0 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view<br>• An amenity and heritage site<br>• A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High** | | |
| Existing View | This is a 360° panorama from the archaeological site at Rathcroaghan, the main visible feature of which is a large Neolithic mound. This site is associated with the early rulers of Connacht and is one of six royal sites around Ireland. The views take in a vast lowland landscape that is predominantly contained in pastoral farmland. Notably, the field boundaries in the immediate context are defined by dry-stone walls typically found in the limestone areas of Roscommon. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will not be visible from here due to screening by intervening vegetation in the foreground. The magnitude of visual effect is, therefore, **Negligible** by default. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR3** | Local road at Carns | 118 degrees | 26 km | 12 |

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| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | High-medium | |
| Existing View | This is a vast panoramic vista to the east from the upper eastern slopes of a slightly elevated spine within the lowland landscape of Roscommon. It takes in an immediate context of large pastoral fields contained within a network of stonewall field boundaries. Pastoral farmland also extends beyond with more typical hedgerow field boundaries. The elongated ridge of Slieve Bawn | |

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| | occupies the eastern skyline and this is cloaked in forestry and dotted with wind turbines. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The hubs and partial blade sets of around a dozen of the proposed turbines can be seen rising above the skyline ridge to the right of Slieve Bawn and its associated wind farm. The proposed turbine components are seen at a smaller scale than those of the existing Slieve Bawn turbines, though they are more densely stacked. In the context of this vista the proposed turbines are deemed to have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence.<br><br>The partial view of tightly clustered turbine blades on the skyline can give rise to a degree of visual clutter and confusion, particularly in the context of the clearer and more comprehensible view of the Slieve Bawn turbines from here. However, the proposed turbines are also much less noticeable than the Slieve Bawn turbines due to the viewing distance and degree of screening and this serves to lessen their overall effect on visual amenity.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Low-negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Low-negligible | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR4** | Local road at Corn Hill | 218 degrees | 19.6 km | 22 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is an elevated view from the southern face of Corn Hill in northern Longford. The local road bordered by occasional mature trees and roadside scrub, descends away from the viewer in the foreground. Dense scrubby hedgerows quickly mask the view of the intervening pastoral fields in the lower slopes of the hill with only occasional glimpses of grassland. As the view opens up over the terrain, the dense mature intervening vegetation becomes stacked in perspective and cloaks the landscape all the way to the flat horizon. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will be substantially visible from here to the left of the road alignment. However, the turbines are seen as small-scale features at this long viewing distance penetrating just above the distant horizon. Indeed, the turbines will only be faintly visible in all but the clearest of viewing conditions. Nonetheless, the proposed development has a reasonable lateral extent and will draw attention as a distinctive feature within this vast, but relatively homogenous scene. On balance the visual | | | |

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| | presence of the development is likely to be sub-dominant in clear viewing conditions.<br><br>In aesthetic terms the turbines are generally well spaced with only a couple of instances of turbine overlap. There is a simplicity to the way in which the turbines rise from the dark plinth of the ground plane at the horizon. This is also an anthropogenic rural landscape context within which the wind farm is not an incongruous feature. Thus, it is not considered that the proposed development will measurably detract from visual amenity at this location.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low-negligible**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High-medium | Low-negligible | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| **Viewshed Reference Point** | | **Direction of View** | **Distance to nearest turbine:** | **Number of turbine nacelles visible:** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR5** | Graveyard at Granard | 241 degrees | 26.5 km | 15 |
| Representative of: | • A designated view<br>• A centre of population<br>• A place of reflection | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a vast panoramic vista from a tranquil graveyard setting at the edge of the settlement of Granard. The surrounding slopes are contained in large fields of pastoral farmland dotted with occasional farmsteads and rural dwellings. The same land use pattern continues across the lowland middle ground into the distance, but with the field boundary vegetation gradually merging together to form a vegetated band below the skyline. Slieve Bawn is a noticeable feature on the otherwise flat horizon and the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm is just discernible on its slopes. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blade sets of the proposed wind turbines will be visible rising beyond an intervening ridge in silhouette with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. The partial turbines will be seen at a relatively small scale from this distance and although they are a noticeable feature they may not draw the attention of a casual observer in the context of this vast view. Thus the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be sub-dominant to minimal. | | | |

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| | Aesthetically, the view of turbine blades rotating on the skyline is not ideal, but such effects are strongly diluted by the low degree of contrast against the sky and the viewing distance.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low-negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High | Low-negligible | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR6** | R366 at Castlecoote | 73 degrees | N/A | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view<br>• A centre of population<br>• A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated and panoramic vista from the dispersed rural settlement of Castlecoote, which lines the R366 as it sweeps parallel to the Smalghrean River. Indeed, the main prospect of this scenic view is the river, which flows through the lower eastern foreground and is partially obscured by riparian vegetation that lines its banks. Beyond the river is gently undulating farmland, which stretches to a rolling skyline in the middle distance. Also of note are the two wind turbines from the long established Skrine development, which are partially visible at a small scale above the eastern skyline. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed turbines will be obscured by intervening vegetation and, therefore, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Negligible** by default. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR7** | Graveyard on local road at the outskirts of Longford | 236 degrees | 7.4 km | 22 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• A centre of population (Longford Town) | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated and vast panoramic view to the west from the gates to a graveyard on a local road to at the south-western outskirts of Longford Town. It takes in a broad lowland context of agricultural farmland and interspersed with areas of peatland. The Lanesborough Power station can be seen rising above the flat horizon just to the left of the low elongated ridge of Slieve Bawn, which is populated with the turbines of the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | All of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising in silhouette from the middle distance plains above the flat skyline beyond. The turbines will therefore have a low degree of contrast against the sky. The proposed development has a broad lateral extent across the south-western quarter, but with a relatively loose linear layout. The proposed development will be a distinctive background feature in the context of this vast panorama and on balance its visual presence is deemed to be in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.<br><br>Aesthetically, the long linear arrangement of the turbines and the flat profile of the proposed development reflect the planar nature of the landscape context. The turbines have a relaxed, low intensity spacing for the most part, but with one minor instance of turbine overlap at the southern end of the proposed development. However, despite the frequency of reasonable sized gaps between turbines, the proposed development in conjunction with the Slieve Bawn turbines contributes to most of the skyline to the west being occupied by wind energy development.<br><br>On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High medium | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR8** | N63 west of Lanesborough | 94 degrees | 5 | 19 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• A centre of population | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a pleasant lake view afforded on the N63 approach to Lanesborough. The view takes in the N63 corridor that is lined on the opposite side by a low clipped hedgerow and a small marshy field that borders the northern extents of Lough Ree. A tree-lined hedgerow divided by the N63 corridor runs across the near middle ground and extends to the banks of Lough Ree. This tree line masks much of the settlement Lanesborough allowing only filtered views of dwellings and the large power station building on the opposite side of the town. On the opposite side of the lake a dense band of lake-side and hedgerow vegetation forms a relatively flat skyline in the middle distance. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blade sets of the majority of the proposed turbines will emerge in silhouette above the skyline at a modest distance. They will present at a noticeable scale and with a broad lateral extent that spans between the settlement context and its rural hinterland to the south. Though they are a background feature of this lake-side scene, the turbines are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence.<br><br>There may be some visual clutter and sense of contextual/scale confusion in respect of the turbines that rise above the settlement and this relates to the view of the turbines above and amongst intervening treetops, utility poles, buildings and the power station. The view of the proposed development becomes less complex to the south where the turbines rise out of a rural context well beyond the lake. The blade sets in this section of the view also rotate more freely above the skyline. These turbines allow the viewer a clearer understanding of the background hinterland context of the turbines in respect of the settlement. There is a clear contextual separation between the lake and the turbines and the principle viewing direction for the lake is oblique to the south of the proposed development. Thus, the integrity of the lake view (the reason for this designation) is not compromised by the development.<br><br>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Medium | **Moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
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| **DR9** | Local road at Castlerea Mountain | 265 degrees | 6.1 km | 7 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is an elevated point on a local road west of the proposed development. This view is defined by a sense of enclosure apart from channelled view to a lowland in the background. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The vast majority of the proposed turbines will be screened by intervening vegetation. Portions of seven turbines will be visible from here in a staggered line occupying the distant middle ground. The blade sets of the turbines will rise above the skyline to be seen with a lower degree of contrast against the sky. Turbines will be relatively distant and seen at a modest scale. The turbines occupy a limited lateral extent but will be noticeable features in the view. In the context of this vista the proposed development is deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.<br><br>The turbines are well assimilated in terms of both scale and productive function.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** | |
| | High medium | Low | **Moderate slight** | |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR10** | Local road south of Abberyderg | 281 degrees | 4.7 km | 13 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated, broad view from a gateway on a local road southwest of the proposed development. The view extends across a small pastoral field that is defined on the opposite side by dense mature tree-lined hedgerows. Filtered views of pastoral fields beyond are afforded through gaps in the hedgerows. Further beyond, scrubby woodland and a conifer plantation merge together to create a thick band of vegetation that contains this view at a modest distance. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around 13 no. of the proposed turbines are visible from here at varying scales and degrees of exposure above the intervening vegetation. They are seen at a modest yet noticeable scale in a relatively contained cluster rising | | | |

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| | in silhouette above the middle ground vegetation. In the context of this panoramic view, the proposed development is deemed to have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.<br><br>The turbines are seen in a clear and legible manner with a relatively even spacing and blade sets rotating freely above the skyline. There are only a couple of instances of turbine overlap and blades rotating amongst treetops. The variation in scale between the nearest and furthest turbines generates a degree of perspective that highlights the dispersion of the turbines within this broad and robust landscape context.<br><br>For the reasons outline above, the magnitude of visual effect tis judged to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR11** | Local road south of Lanesborough | 65 degrees | 5.1 km | 18 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated vista from a local road east of Lough Ree. In the foreground, the view extends over a series of fields contained in rough grazing and improved grassland that are defined by scrubby tree-lined hedgerows. A series of more mature broadleaf tree-lines merge together in perspective to create a dense band of vegetation across the eastern extents of the view. More open visibility is afforded to the northeast across lower field boundaries and the silhouette of an upland area can be seen in the far distance. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The majority of the proposed turbines can be seen from here rising against a backdrop of sky above the middle-distance vegetated horizon. Those at the northern end of the proposed development are almost fully revealed, whilst visibility diminishes to only partial blade sets for the southernmost turbines. Nonetheless, the wind farm has a broad lateral extent when viewed from here and its visual presence is deemed to be co-dominant.<br><br>In aesthetic terms, the turbines are generously spaced with very few instances of overlap when viewed from this angle. Although the view of the blades of around 6 turbines rotating within treetops at the southern end of the proposed development is slightly ambiguous, this is moderated by the | | | |

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| | clearer view of the remaining turbines. The turbines are well accommodated in terms of scale and function within this view over a broad rural landscape pattern. The main issue is the considerable lateral extent of the development, however, there are several gaps between turbine clusters that provide visual respite and south-easterly views remain free of turbines.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR12** | Local road at Carrickmoran | 46 degrees | 6.2 km | 6 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a flat and relatively contained view from a local road east of Lough Ree that is separated from the foreground pastoral field by a low clipped hedgerow. The view extends across an agricultural field that is contained at a short distance on the opposite side by a dense woody hedgerow. Beyond this can be seen the tree tops of a mature line of conifers, but little else. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around 6 no. of the proposed turbines can be seen rising above the intervening vegetation to the extent that only blades sets and partial blade sets are revealed. These turbine components are seen at a modest yet noticeable scale from this distance and the visual presence of the development is deemed to be sub-dominant.<br><br>Aesthetically, the view of turbine blades rotating amongst intervening tree tops can give rise to visual clutter and there is also a small degree of contextual confusion – as to the landscape context in which the turbines are actually situated. They also increase the intensity of built development within the view. Nonetheless, this is productive rural scene, within which, the turbines are not spatially dominant or out of keeping with the prevailing landscape character.<br><br>On balance, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |

| | Visual Receptor Sensitivity | Visual Effect Magnitude | Significance of visual effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR13** | Local road at Elfeet | 34 degrees | 6.8 km | 21 |

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|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• Local community views |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** |
| Existing View | This is a locally elevated view from a designated scenic route just to east of Lough Ree, which appears to be the main reason for its designation. To the east, the terrain gently descends away from the busy foreground context of this view, which encompasses single-several dwellings and a network of tightly clipped hedgerows. In the middle ground, filtered views of dwellings and a patchwork of pastoral fields that are generally defined by low clipped hedgerows can be seen. The tree lines and hedgerows beyond become stacked in perspective and generate a dense band of vegetation that crosses the middle ground this view. The silhouette of distant upland areas can be seen on the horizon. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Nearly all of the proposed turbines can be seen from here at a modest scale in a series of linear clusters that run across the middle distance skyline. Whilst several of the turbines are screened behind intervening trees, the remainder are fully revealed in silhouette. Though the wind farm has a considerable lateral extent in the context of the easterly view, this location also affords elevated views towards Lough Ree in the opposite direction. Thus, the visual presence of the development is deemed to be in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.<br><br>The proposed turbines have a generous spacing that avoids overlapping and rather than generating visual tension, the gaps between clusters provides some respite from the broad line of turbines. The turbines increase the intensity of built development within the easterly vista, but they are not at odds with the underlying terrain or land cover context. Overall, this is a clear and simple view of the turbines.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Medium-low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | Visual Receptor Sensitivity | Visual Effect Magnitude | Significance of visual effect |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium high | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR14** | Local road at Newtown Cashel | 35 degrees | 5.8 km | 10 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view<br>• A centre of population | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated view from the small and relatively disperse rural settlement of Newtowncashel. The main aspect of the view is to the east and southeast where it takes in a lowland landscape of farming and peatland that stretches far into the uncontained distance. A Sliver of Lough Ree can be seen through winter vegetation to the southwest. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Ten of the proposed turbines will be visible to the northeast from here. They are fully exposed above the flat peatland landscape in which they sit and will be seen at a modest but noticeable scale and with a relatively broad lateral extent. The turbines will present with a relatively low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky and they are slightly peripheral to the main aspect of the vista. For these reasons the visual presence of the proposed development is judged to be sub-dominant.<br><br>Although the visible turbines have a relatively broad lateral extent, this reflects the broad flat peatland area in which they are contained. These turbines also present with a loose linear arrangement that has a low degree of intensity. Again, this reflects the low intensity and broad scale land uses within the scene.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR15** | Local road at Corrool | 12 degrees | 7.6 km | 3 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | • Local community views | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a flat and contained view from a gateway along a local road that forms part of a designated scenic route south of the proposed development in the vicinity of Lough Ree, which lies in the opposite direction (west) to the depicted view. The view extends across a flat pastoral field that is defined on the opposite side by a dense hedgerow, which contains this view at a relatively short distance. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The partial blade sets of around 6 turbines can be seen rotating along the top of the intervening hedgerow. Whilst this is not an ideal aesthetic scenario as it can lead to visual clutter and ambiguity, the modest scale turbines are not a prominent feature of this view and will not significantly affect visual amenity here. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR16** | Local road causeway to Saints Island | | 7.1 km | 3 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic route<br>• Access to a heritage feature | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a view across a distinct setting of marshy grassland that separates Saints Island from the eastern shore of Lough Ree proper. It is divided by an elevated causeway road, which is the subject of this scenic route designation. The near shore of Lough Ree is lined by relatively dense bands of vegetation revealing occasional lake-side dwellings. The eastern horizon is flat aside from a small section of distant upland, which rises above the vegetated middle ground skyline. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blades sets of around 3 no. turbines will emerge between intervening trees to the northeast. They will be seen at a noticeable scale, albeit partially camouflaged amongst the trees (particularly during summer months). In the context of 360° views across a distinctive lakeside foreground. The proposed turbines are considered to have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence.<br><br>The view of blade sets rotating within an intervening tree line may generate a minor degree of visual clutter as well as contextual ambiguity as to the scale, distance and landscape setting of the turbines. However, given the low | | | |

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| | degree of visual presence and the fact that the turbines occur within the least sensitive aspect of this lakeside vista, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High | Low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR17** | Local road at Moydow, south of Roscommon | 60 degrees | 18.5 km | 22 |
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a vast panoramic view from a local road that crosses a hilltop west of Lough Ree. The view extends across a gently sloping pastoral field that is bound by a dry stonewall. Beyond the brow of the hill the extensive Lough Ree is the main feature of the view. It contains numerous wooded islands and the lakeside landscape consists of pastoral farmland and areas of riparian woodland. Several upland areas can be seen in the distance and the most prominent of these is Slieve Bawn to the north (not depicted) where the Slieve Bawn wind farm is a noticeable feature. Aside from occasional upland areas this is a flat lowland landscape with a horizontal vegetated skyline. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development is full exposed from here with a broad lateral extent comprising three distinct linear clusters. The turbines are visible at a considerable distance with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. Nonetheless, the proposed development is a distinctive feature in the background of the eastern aspect of the 360° vista afforded from here. On balance the wind farm is deemed to have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.<br><br>Aesthetically, the proposed turbines are seen in a clear and unambiguous manner from here. The turbines within each cluster have a generous and even spacing with gaps between clusters that provide some respite from the broad lateral extent of the turbines. The blade sets of the turbines will also rotate freely above the horizon line in a simple arrangement. The main issue is the considerable lateral extent of the proposed development, but in the context of this vast planar landscape this is not considered to be excessive or ambivalent to the prevailing land cover pattern.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High medium | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR18** | Local road west of Lough Ree | 38 degrees | 13.1 km | 20 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view |
| Receptor Sensitivity | High medium |
| Existing View | This is a similar view to that described above in respect of DR17 in that is a vast elevated view towards Lough Ree from a hilltop in County Roscommon. In this instance the lake is slightly further away and there is more of an intervening lowland context of stonewalled pastoral fields and riparian woodlands. The Lanesborough power station can be seen just beyond Lough Ree at the left hand side of the view. Aside from a couple of upland areas in the far distance this is a flat lowland landscape. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | All of the proposed turbines are fully visible from here rising out of the distant vegetated plains in a sequence of four linear clusters. They are generally seen against a distant backdrop of terrain with only the upper blade sets rotating in silhouette above the faded skyline beyond. The proposed development has a considerable lateral extent when viewed from this angle, but in the context of the vast multi-directional views on offer the visual presence is deemed to be co-dominant to sub-dominant at this distance.<br><br>The proposed development is seen in a simple and legible manner within a broad and flat landscape context in which the turbines do not appear out of place in terms of scale or productive function. Although the lateral extent of the proposed development is considerable, it is broken by a series of distinct gaps, which is considered preferable to a continuous line of turbines. There is some sense of symbiosis with the Lanesborough power station and the turbines are set well back form the lake context such that they form a backdrop to this sensitive feature without imposing on its immediate context.<br><br>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High medium | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR19** | Local road at Glebe east of Lough Ree | 358 degrees | 13.8 km | 22 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated view from a local road east of Lough Ree and south of the proposed development in County Westmeath. The view extends across undulating pastoral farmland defined by tightly clipped, tree-lined hedgerows. A patch of dense scrubby woodland occurs in the lower middle ground at the right-hand-side of the view. Lough Ree is visible to the left-hand-side of the view surrounded by a combination of riparian vegetation and lakeside farmland. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed turbines will appear against a backdrop of sky above an undulating middle ground skyline between intervening treetops. Some are fully revealed from base to tip whilst others have only partially revealed blade sets. They turbines are seen at a modest scale from this distance and with a reasonable lateral extent. In the context of this view the turbines are considered to be a sub-dominant background feature.<br><br>The turbines present with a varied arrangement of tightly clumped and loosely spaced clusters from this viewing angle resulting in a number of instances of turbine overlap. Intervening trees and skyline vegetation also contribute to visual clutter in conjunction with the turbines. The flat profile of the wind farm is slightly at odds with the intervening skyline, but this also highlights that it exists in a flat landscape context beyond the rolling farmland of the fore-to-middle ground. The turbines will not impose on the views of Lough Ree, which are oriented more to the north.<br><br>On balance of the factors outlined above the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | nacelles visible: |
| **DR20** | Local road at Littletown | | 12.2 km | 10 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** |
| Existing View | This is a locally elevated view across lakeside farmland in County Westmeath. The view descend across several pastoral fields, which then give way to riparian woodland and partial views of Lough Ree are revealed between sections of woodland. To the right of the lake extends a vast flat landscape that presents as a band of vegetation that is stacked by perspective. Slieve Bawn and its namesake wind farm can be seen rising in the far distance. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will be partially and intermittently visible from here between sections of intervening treelines that line the lower foreground. The visible turbines will be presented with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. They will be seen at a modest scale, but with a reason bale lateral extent.<br><br>As a partial view of the development there is some ambiguity relating to the spatial arrangement and extent of turbines and there will also be minor degree of visual clutter generated by the turbines overlapping with each other and intervening treetops. Nonetheless, the turbines rise out of the broad, flat, lowland plains well beyond and to the northeast of the more sensitive Lough Ree context.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High medium | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR21** | Local road west of Lough Owel | 286 degrees | 28.6 km | 6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** |
| Existing View | This is a vast hilltop view that takes in a series of pastoral fields on the descending slopes of the hill. These are defined by mature tree-lined hedgerows, which partially mask the fore-to-middle ground landscape context. Extending beyond is a lowland landscape that presents as a carpet of stacked hedgerow vegetation where only occasional glimpses of the |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | intervening fields area afforded. The distant skyline is flat to gently undulating. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blades and blade tips of around 6 no. turbines are potentially visible from here in clear viewing conditions. These will be presented in low-contrast silhouette against a backdrop of sky and at a very small scale. The blades of most of the visible turbines will rotate on the distant vegetated skyline and although this can generate ambiguity and visual clutter in some instances, at this distance the turbines will be barely discernible. Consequently, the development will have a **Negligible** magnitude of visual effect. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High medium | Negligible | **Slight imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR22** | Local road south east of Ballynacarrigy | 292 degrees | 22.7 km | 17 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a vast panoramic vista across the lowland landscape of the midlands. It comprises of gently rolling pastoral farmland in the foreground and extends into a planar landscape cloaked in vegetation with increasing distance. This largely consists of hedgerow field boundaries that merge together in perspective to generate a dense, dark band below the flat horizon. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development is seen as a relatively tight cluster of turbines from this angle with those at the southern end of the development revealing full blade sets and those at the northern end, only blades. Nonetheless, the northern turbine blades will be presented in stronger contrast against a backdrop of terrain than the southern blade sets which are presented against the sky. The wind farm will only be visible in clear viewing conditions and even then it will be a scarcely noticeable background feature in the farm distance. For these reasons it is considered to have a minimal visual presence without material consequence for visual amenity. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High-medium | Negligible | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR23** | R392 west of Mullingar | 298 degrees | 23.9 km | 21 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a vast panoramic vista afforded from an elevated section of the R392. To the right of the road alignment scrubby hedgerows occupy the immediate foreground with large pastoral fields stretching across the lower slopes of the hill. On the more distant plains to the northwest, the field boundaries become stacked in perspective to form a carpet of vegetation to the horizon. Several low ridges provide the only relief to an otherwise flat skyline. One of these, Slieve Bawn, hosts a wind farm of the same name that is just discernible under exceptional viewing conditions. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will be seen rising above the distant north-westerly horizon both against the sky and against a backdrop of Slieve Bawn. Those turbines at the northern end of the proposed development will stand out in slightly stronger contrast against this terrain feature. However, at this considerable distance the turbines will be small-scale features that are only faintly visible under good viewing conditions. The visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be in the order of sub-dominant to minimal.<br><br>This is a relatively simple and unambiguous view of the proposed development rising out of the distant rural plains. There will be some turbine overlap and the blade sets of the northernmost turbines will rotate on and intervening vegetated skyline. However, any visual clutter or irritation associated with these factors is strongly diluted by the viewing distance. There may be some scale and contextual confusion relating to the view of the proposed turbines to the fore of the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm, but the latter is another 8 km further distant and even more difficult to discern.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low-negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High medium | Low-negligible | **Slight imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR24** | Hill of Uisneach | 307 degrees | 25 km | 21 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view<br>• An important heritage feature |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Very High** |
| Existing View | This is an elevated view from the top of the Hill of Uisneach, which is an ancient ceremonial hilltop associated with the festival of Bealtaine. Although panoramic views are afforded in all directions, they tend to be filtered by foreground vegetation. Such is the case with the north-westerly view in question, which is channelled between scrubby foreground trees. Immediately beyond is a pastoral field. There is also the stone remnants of an ancient monument and similar such features occur across the Hill of Uisneach. On the lower plains in the far distance is an agricultural landscape of predominantly fields and hedgerows. Slieve Bawn provides a distant backdrop and the turbines from the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm can just be discerned on its slopes. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The majority of the turbines from the proposed development are visible from here rising out of the distant lowland plains to the fore of Slieve Bawn, which provides a backdrop to most of the turbines. They are a noticeable, distant background feature of the north-westerly vista. However, in the context of the 360° views on offer and the heritage features that are richly scattered within the foreground context of the hilltop, the development is deemed to have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence.<br><br>The proposed turbines are seen in a relatively comprehensible manner with their blade sets rotating freely above the intervening terrain. The spacing is reasonably condensed, but with only a few instances of turbine overlap. However, there may be some scale / contextual confusion in relation to the Slieve Bawn turbines which occur on the same alignment, but about 8km beyond. All of these minor aesthetic considerations are of little relevance in respect of visual amenity at this site, which is focussed on the immediate heritage features and the overall character of the hilltop site. Although long-distance views are a key aspect to the importance of this site, such vistas take in a modern-day, productive rural landscape. Within this surrounding context the proposed turbines are considered to be a compatible feature contributing a **Negligible** magnitude of visual effect. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Very high | Negligible | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR25** | Lough Ree near Inchcleraun Island | 27 degrees | 10 km | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A recreational amenity feature<br>• An important heritage feature | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High** | | |
| Existing View | This is an open view across the Lough towards its north-eastern shores. This rises gently as a tapestry of pastoral farmland to the northeast and mature riparian woodland to the east. A modest rolling skyline then contains the view in these directions. Slieve Bawn and its associated wind far can be seen in the distance further to the north beyond the head of the lough. Inchcleraun Island and the ruins of its former monastery can be seen in close proximity in the opposite direction. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Only the blade tips of around 3-4 turbines may be potentially visible amongst treetops in a low, wooded section of the intervening skyline to the east and at distances in excess of 9 km. The blade tips will have a low degree of contrast against the sky and for these reasons their visual presence will be Minimal.<br><br>Although the view of blade tips rotating amongst skyline treetops can be visually ambiguous, the fact that they are unlikely to be noticed at all by a casual observer strongly limits the effect on visual amenity.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DR26** | Lough Ree near border between Westmeath, Longford & Roscommon | 6 degrees | 13.2 km | 13 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A designated scenic view (Westmeath CDP)<br>• A recreational amenity feature | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High** | | |
| Existing View | This is a broad view from the middle of Lough Ree across one of the widest sections of the lough. Along the eastern shore the horizontal view is provided | | |

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| | with a subtle degree of containment by low rising densely wooded slopes. These gently peter out to the south where an even lower lying section of the landscape is defined by mature vegetation just above the waterline. Again, the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm can be seen on the distant slopes of its namesake to the north. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | From this location, the northernmost cluster of proposed turbines is largely screened by a combination of terrain and mature skyline vegetation. The middle cluster presents partial blade sets above the same skyline context, but these will be noticeable within the view. The southernmost cluster of seven turbines is fully or substantially visible within a flatter terrain context. All of the turbines will present with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky at distances in excess of 13.5 km. On balance the visual presence of the development is deemed to be sub-dominant to minimal within this vast 360 degree viewing context.<br><br>In terms of aesthetics, the fully revealed southern turbines have a simple and orderly arrangement that avoids visual clutter and ambiguity. They are also much more noticeable than their more northern counterparts, which present with partial blades sets and blade tips rotating on the skyline. These obscured turbines are also further away and less likely to be noticed by a casual observer.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low-negligible**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Low-negligible | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DR27 | Sliabh Bawn Multi-Use Forest Trail, Doughil | 115 degrees | 7.7 km | 22 |
| Representative of: | • An amenity and recreation feature | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a broad and elevated view from a Multi-Use Forest Trail at Sliabh Bawn. The foreground was formerly forested but is regenerating naturally, and the landform here slopes away from the viewpoint. The middle ground is low-lying terrain where patchwork farmland is juxtaposed with large tracts of cutaway bog and the adjacent Lanesborough power station. Low ridges rise gently on a distant horizon. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | All 22 no. turbines will be clearly visible in the background of the view. The northernmost turbines will be viewed against a backcloth of a low ridge while the remaining turbines extend southwards towards the rear of | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Lanesborough power station. There are some overlapping turbines which are most pronounced at the southern end of the proposed development. The proposed development has a considerable lateral extent when viewed from this angle, but in the context of the vast view on offer, the visual presence is deemed co-dominant to sub-dominant at this distance.<br><br>The proposed development is seen simply and legibly within a broad and flat landscape context in which the turbines do not appear out of place in terms of scale or productive function. Although the lateral extent of the proposed development is considerable, it is broken by a series of distinct gaps, which is considered preferable to a continuous line of turbines. There is some sense of symbiosis between the Lanesborough power station and the cut-away bog.<br><br>On balance, of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LC1** | Local road north of site | 149 degrees | 0.9 km | 10 |
| Representative of: | • Local Community Views<br>• A place of reflection (graveyard) | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This is the relatively contained setting of a graveyard adjacent to a local road immediately to the north of the proposed development site. The foreground of the view is dominated by the small, stonewall-enclosed graveyard and a cluster of amenity trees that surround it. On the opposite side of the road is a farm house backed by a conifer plantation as well as a band of broadleaf trees at the roadside. Slightly more open views beyond the graveyard to the southeast. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around a 10 of the proposed turbines will appear within various sections of this view and at a range of scales due to relative proximity. The nearest and most prominent of these occur above the house and forest plantation at the right hand side of the view, whilst those seen intermittently to the southeast above the graveyard are seen at diminishing scales. The turbines will be seen at a prominent scale across a broad section of this view and they are considered to have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence in this scene. | | | |

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| | In terms of visual amenity, this is a somewhat ambiguous view of the proposed turbines as they tend to be partially revealed in different sections of the view, rotating amongst foreground treetops and giving a sense of enclosing the southerly aspects of this visual setting. The nearest turbine is seen directly above the foreground dwelling generating a degree of scale disparity. It is also considered that the rotating turbine blades will be something of a background visual distraction to those visiting the graveyard. Despite the proximity of this viewpoint to the broad peatland landscape in which the turbines are located, there is little sense of this markedly different landscape context in this more enclosed setting. On the ameliorating side, the arrangement of the turbines is not intensely clustered and there is a strong sense of perspective generated by the scale variation between the nearest and furthest turbines giving a sense of the overall dispersal and layout depth of the proposed development.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **High**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | High | **Substantial- moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LC2** | Local road southeast of Lanesborough | | 1.2 km | 4 |
| Representative of: | • Local Community Views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a short distance, slightly uphill view to the east from one of the nearest local roads to the development site. The foreground contains a series of two storey detached dwellings centrally placed within well-kept, rural / residential size properties. These properties are backed by a tree-lined hedgerow at the top of the slope, which limits further visibility to the east. It should be noted that the dwellings in question are afforded more extensive visibility across gently rolling farmland to the west of the road. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Several of the proposed turbines will rise into view from the peatland landscape that lies beyond the adjacent rise to the east. The partial blade sets of the nearest two turbines will be seen at a prominent scale above the hedgerow that contains the easterly view. They will draw the attention as distinctive moving features and are considered to have a visual presence in the order of dominant to co-dominant.<br><br>The view of turbine blades rotating in silhouette above nearby tree tops is not ideal in an aesthetic sense as it can lead to a sense of visual clutter and | | | |

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| | ambiguity, especially as the disparate landscape context of the turbines (open peatland) is not visible from here. Nonetheless, the vast majority of the proposed development is screened from here by intervening terrain and vegetation and more open views, which will remain unaffected, are afforded in the opposite direction.<br><br>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **High-medium**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium low | High-medium | **Moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LC3** | Canal crossing west of Keenagh | 301 degrees | 1.7 km | 1 |

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|---|---|
| Representative of: | • Local community views<br>• An amenity feature |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated view along a short section of the Royal Canal that is framed by mature canal-side vegetation. A small amenity area with picnic tables and a car park is contained in the lower foreground. The canal veers to the northeast at a distance of approximately 200m and the viewing corridor is then truncated by canal-side vegetation. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | One of the proposed turbines will rise into view on almost direct alignment of the canal corridor (another blade tip will be discernible amongst treetops). The full blade set is revealed above the canal-side vegetation and it will be one of the defining features of this canal view. For this reason the visual presence of the turbine is considered to be co-dominant.<br><br>In aesthetic terms, the clear and simple view of one turbine lazily turning on the alignment of the canal is not without merit. There is an innate visual relationship between the elements of wind and water (represented herein by the turbine and the canal). It is also pertinent to consider the original purpose of the canal as a trade and transport conduit constructed in the spirit of industry and facilitating rural productivity. Thus, there is something of a thematic relationship between the canal and the wind farm as man-made rural landscape features with productive purpose. However, it could also be argued that today the canal is a tranquil recreational resource that is also an |

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| | established ecological corridor with high biodiversity. This would still not render the visible wind turbine an inappropriate visual detraction.<br><br>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LC4** | Local road at Derryadd | 150 degrees | 0.8 km | 21 |
| Representative of: | • Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a vista to the west from a local road just to the east of the site. The road is lined by a series of farmsteads and rural dwellings that are afforded similar views. The view in question is partially enclosed in nature but a channelled view along the road corridor is afforded. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Most of the proposed turbines are openly visible from here in an arc that stretches from south to north with the closest and most prominent of these being to the west. Two or three of the turbines are seen at a slightly larger scale (due to proximity) than the others, but none are considered to be spatially overbearing in this open visual context. Nonetheless, with the emergence of over 20 turbines throughout the western quarters the proposed development can only be considered to have a dominant visual presence in an otherwise typical rural scene. The upper portion of the proposed meteorological mast is identifiable to the south.<br><br>There may be a minor degree of visual clutter and confusion generated by turbines of different scale emerging and partially emerging between sections of vegetation throughout a broad viewing arc. However, the clearer and less ambiguous view of the nearest turbines to the west is likely to make the overall proposed development more legible. The variation in perceived scale between the nearer and further turbines generates a sense of perspective that highlights the depth of the proposed development and the dispersal of the turbines. Whilst the turbines appear throughout the western quarters of the view, they have a relatively loose arrangement and modest intensity, often with substantial gaps between. It is not considered that the proposed development conflicts with the broad scale land form and land use patterns in this area. It is also not thematically at odds with this productive rural area, though there will be a considerable increase in the intensity of built development within this visual context. | | | |

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| | On balance of the factors described above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **High-medium**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium-low | High-medium | **Moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LC5** | R398 at Cloontaghmore | >100 deg | 0.9 km | 6 |
| Representative of: | • Local community view | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | | |
| Existing View | The view from this location is enclosed in nature due to mature roadside vegetation on both sides of the road. A house is visible to the south of this road. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Looking south, nacelles and blade sets of two turbines are intermittently visible between gaps in the roadside vegetation. Looking north, blade sets of two turbines are intermittently visible between gaps in the roadside vegetation. The scale of the nearest turbines means that they are considered co-dominant.<br><br>There may also be a degree of contextual confusion from seeing turbines within this context, and there will be a degree of ambiguity witnessing rotating blades between the vegetation. However, the enclosed character of the view means that the eye will likely be more directed to the road corridor.<br><br>On balance, of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** | |
| | Medium-low | Low | **Slight** | |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|

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| **CP1** | Cloondara north of site | | 4.7 km | 2 |
| Representative of: | • A centre of population<br>• An amenity feature (Royal Canal) | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated view from a bridge over the Royal Canal within Cloondara. A local road runs down one side of the canal and a towpath along the other. A school and several dwellings mark the urban area to the left of the canal, whilst marshy grassland and scrubby hedgerows mark the rural hinterland of the settlement to the right. The Canal veers in a southerly direction about 100m away and is lost from view. The skyline to the southwest is formed at a modest distance by a dense band of lowland vegetation. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blade tips of two, and the blade set of another two of the proposed turbines will rise into view on the general alignment of the canal, which is the focus of this vista. They range in exposure from blade sets to blade tips above the vegetated skyline in the middle distance. They are likely to draw attention but not as the principle focus of this relatively complex visual setting. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be sub-dominant.<br><br>There may be some visual clutter generated by the turbine blades rotating amongst intervening treetops but the clearer view of two of the turbines reduces the sense of ambiguity associated with the partial view of the other turbines. The canal corridor is not strongly contained in this area and it veers from its alignment after a short distance, so there is little sense that the turbines are contained within a channelled view along the canal corridor. Instead, they are read as a background feature within a more distant and separate landscape context.<br><br>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** | |
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** | |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP2** | Lanesborough Bridge | 79 degrees | 3.3 km | 0 |
| Representative of: | • A centre of population<br>• An amenity and recreation feature (the River Shannon) | | | |

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| | • A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is something of an iconic view in the context of Lanesborough looking north-eastwards along the Shannon from the middle of the main street bridge. River-side moorings and a marina occupy the north-western bank of the river, whilst a less formal area of riparian vegetation and pathway occupy the other bank. Beyond a dense stand of trees in the fore-to-middle ground rises the significant profile of the Lanesborough power station – itself a locally iconic feature. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blade tip of just one turbine will be visible from here due to screening by intervening vegetation and the power station. This tip is unlikely to be noticeable by a casual observer and will not detract from the visual amenity as it occurs immediately beside a chimney in the Lanesborough power station; thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Negligible**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP3** | Lanesborough east (N63) | 68 degrees | 2.6 km | 2 |
| Representative of: | • A centre of population<br>• A major route | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | Medium low | | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly uphill view afforded from the N63 national secondary road exiting Lanesborough to the east. A partially developed site occurs to the right hand side of the road and a pastoral field occurs on the left hand side to the fore of the Lanesborough power station. Residential development can be seen lining the road corridor ahead. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Two of the proposed turbines will rise at a prominent scale directly on alignment with the road corridor above vegetation and houses but one will be largely screened from view. The more prominent turbine will rise in silhouette against a back drop of sky and the visual presence of the proposed development is considered to be sub-dominant in the context of this relatively busy and complex urban foreground setting.<br><br>The more visible turbine has sentinel qualities on the road alignment and is seen in an alethically clear and unambiguous manner with its blade set rotating above the intervening tree tops . However, there may also be a degree of contextual confusion from seeing the turbine within an urban | | | |

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| | street scene without a clear comprehension of its scale and distance as well as landscape context in which it is located.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP4** | Killashee | | 2.4 km | 6 |
| Representative of: | • A centre of population | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a view from the edge of a housing estate at the south-western periphery of the small village of Kilashee. The foreground consists of pastoral farmland framed by a combination of roadside hedges and mature tree-lined hedgerows. Beyond to the southeast can be seen broad lowland context of cutaway peatland and conifer plantations. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Portions of six of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising out of the cutaway peatland context in the middle distance to the southeast. The turbines will present at a noticeable scale and with a reasonable lateral extent. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be co-dominant within the depicted view. However it should be noted that the houses from the adjacent estate are generally oriented to take in views to the southeast – northwest and effectively gable-on to the south-westerly view towards the turbines.<br><br>The proposed turbines occur within a broad peatland context that is somewhat discrete to the immediate enclosed pastoral / residential setting. It is not considered that the turbines are at odds with the scale and nature of the landscape features and patterns within the afforded view. Whilst the proposed development increases the diversity and degree of built development within the view it will not markedly reduce the sense of rural amenity.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Medium-low**. | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP5** | Keenagh (R397) | 288 degrees | 2.3 km | 3 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A centre of population<br>• A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | |
| Existing View | This is a relatively open view across the car park and grounds of a church, which is the main foreground feature. A clipped formal hedge contains the church grounds with a band of more distant tree tops and dwelling roofs rising above it in the near middle distance. Seceral floodlighting poles from an adjacent sports ground also rise as noticeable vertical elements within this relatively short distance sub-urban view. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The full blades sets of three turbines and the partial blades sets and blades tips of a further four turbines will emerge above and beyond the fore-to-middle ground context. In perspective, the turbines will rise to a slightly lesser height than the nearer lighting poles, but they are likely to be more noticeable due to their movement and more distinctive form. The turbines are likely to draw the attention of viewers, but within the context of a relatively complex street scene. Thus, the visual presence of the turbines is in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.<br><br>The turbine blade sets may give rise to a degree of visual clutter in conjunction with lighting and utility poles, roofs and treetops, but the baseline view does not contain a simple skyline. There is clear comprehension that the turbines are contained within a rural hinterland context beyond the bounds of Keenagh, which is not always the case with more contained street scenes.<br><br>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual presence is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Mediu- low | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP6** | Roscommon Town | E | N/A | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A centre of Population<br>• A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | Low | | |
| Existing View | This is a relatively restricted view from the north-eastern outskirts of Roscommon Town afforded to some residents as well as motorists leaving town in the direction of Lanesborough. A car sales yard can be seen on the opposite side of the road with a dense and tall conifer hedge serving as an abrupt divide to the rural hinterland beyond. Pastoral fields can be seen briefly between roadside vegetation and scrubby tree lined hedgerows just beyond. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will not be visible from here due to a combination of foreground terrain and vegetation screening. The visual effect will be **Negligible** by default. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Low | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CP7** | Ballymahon | NW | 7.8 km | 0 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A centre of Population<br>• A major route |
| Receptor Sensitivity | Low |
| Existing View | This is relatively open vista afforded to those exiting Ballymahon to the northwest along the R392 in the direction of Lanesborough. A car dealership lies adjacent to the viewpoint on the same side of the road, whilst agricultural fields line the opposite side. Ahead in the near middle distance is a hump-backed bridge over a watercourse, which is backed by a dense and tall layered treeline. This treeline wraps around the north-eastern quarters of the view limiting views beyond. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The blade tips of several distant turbines will be partially visible amongst the treetops in the middle distance and may be noticeable due to their |

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| | movement, albeit in the context of a busy hinterland road corridor. The visual presence of these turbine blades is deemed to be minimal.<br><br>The view of turbine blade tips rotating amongst treetops can be somewhat ambiguous without the context of the remainder of the development and its relative landscape setting. However, such effects are strongly diluted, in this instance, by distance and the degree of screening.<br><br>For these reasons, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Low-negligible**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Low | Low-negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR1** | R371 south of Curraghroe | 127 degrees | 5.6 km | 17 |

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|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A major route |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Low** |
| Existing View | This is a relatively open view across a series of pastoral fields and hedgerows that flank the left hand side of R371 on the northerly approach to Lanesborough. Although not readily apparent from here, the openness of this view is related to the flat peatland landscape that lies a short distance beyond the foreground fields. The view is also framed by a two large broadleaf trees in the nearest field. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The majority of proposed turbines are visible from here at a noticeable scale and in a relatively dense cluster between sections of taller skyline vegetation. Though they are oblique to the direction of travel the turbines will draw attention as a distinctive feature in this otherwise simple view. The visual presence of the turbines is deemed to be co-dominant in this scene.<br><br>The turbine blade sets generally rotate freely in silhouette above the skyline vegetation in a clear and unambiguous manner. Furthermore, given that this is an 'end-on' and therefore laterally condensed view of the proposed development, there is surprisingly little turbine overlap, particularly within the nearest cluster. There is also some sense of perspective generated by the scale differential between the nearest and furthest turbines, which aids the comprehension of the depth of the layout and the actual space between turbines.<br><br>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Medium-low**. |

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| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Low | Medium-low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR2** | N5 east of Cloondara | 197 degrees | N/A | 0 |
| Representative of: | • A major route | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a view to the southwest across a large open field of grassland that gradually merges into marshland as it approaches a small watercourse. Thereafter, a dense band of riparian woodland crosses the view and limits visibility of the landscape beyond. A high voltage electricity transmission line also crosses the foreground of the view. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The proposed development will not be visible from here due to the dense band of middle ground screening. The magnitude of visual effect is therefore **Negligible** by default.<br><br>This view has been used for illustrative purposes to highlight a typical view from within the lowland landscape that surrounds the site and the effect of vegetative screening even when this occurs at a reasonable distance from the viewer c. (100-300m). | | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** | |
| | Low | Negligible | **Imperceptible** | |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR3** | N5 west of Longford | 216 degrees | 5.2 km | 15 |
| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• A centre of population | | | |

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| Receptor Sensitivity | **Low** |
| Existing View | This view to the southwest encompasses a matrix of fore-to-middle ground fields of marshy grazing land divided by post and wire fencing. This context has few significant trees but in the distance can be seen a more consolidated band of taller trees, which form a middle-distance skyline. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The majority of proposed turbines are visible from here to varying degrees, which ranges from almost full blade sets to just blade tips. They are seen at a modest scale amongst the and just above the middle distance treetops. The proposed development has a broad but intermittent lateral extent and is oblique to the direction of travel. Thus, the visual presence of the development is deemed to be sub-dominant.<br><br>Aesthetically, there will be some visual clutter generated by turbines rotating on and amongst the skyline treetops in perspective. However, the clearer view of those turbines that rotate freely above the skyline tends to draw attention away from their less visible and more ambiguous cohorts. Otherwise the turbines do not appear out of place in this anthropogenic rural context.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Low | Low | **Slight-imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR4** | R371 northwest of Lanesborough | 106 degrees | 8 km | 5 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local Community Views |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** |
| Existing View | This is a relatively contained view across several fields of marshy grazing that are divided by scrubby hedgerows and then a mature tree line that runs across the middle ground. It is also a brief view between sections of roadside vegetation. The chimneys and taller structures of the Lanesborough power station can just be seen at the right had side if the depicted view rising above intervening treetops. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The full and partial blade sets of around 5 no. turbines will be seen from here, rising in silhouette above the middle distance treetops. They are seen at a noticeable scale, but it is a fleeting and oblique view from the road heading |

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| | southwards into Lanesborough. Thus, the visual presence of the turbines is deemed to be sub-dominant.<br><br>This is a relatively complex view of the turbines rotating amongst and just above the slightly sporadic profile of the vegetated skyline. There are a couple of instance of turbine overlap, which also add marginally to visual clutter, but otherwise the turbines have a reasonably consistent spacing.<br><br>On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is judged to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR5** | N63 at Rappareehill | >100 deg. | 3.6 km | 9 |
| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | | |
| Existing View | Views to both the north and south of the road are relevant in this instance as this road divides the northern end of the site. The view to the south is contained at a short distance by an immature treeline and peatland scrub. The view to the north is much more open, taking in a broad expanse of cutaway peatland and scrubby fringe areas with Slieve Bawn providing a subtle backdrop in the distance. The silhouette of the Lanesborough Power Station can also be seen above the middle distance horizon. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around 2 no. of the proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees to the south of the road rising above foreground vegetation. The nearest of these is seen at a considerable scale and substantially exposed whilst those beyond diminish rapidly in terms of scale and exposure above the foreground screening. By comparison the 7 no. turbines to the north of the road are more openly visible. Again, the nearest turbine is seen at a large scale, which reduces markedly for those beyond due to relative viewing distances. The substation and meteorological mast are readily visible to the north. The lightening masts are the most prominent vertical structures in the substation compound. In the context of close up views of turbines on both sides of the road, and the substation in the middle ground, the visual presence of the proposed development is considered highly dominant. | | | |

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| | The proposed development is not without aesthetic merit in this landscape setting, particularly the more noticeable cluster to the north of the road. For this cluster of turbines there is a strong sense of perspective generated by the scale differential between the nearest and furthest turbines. This highlights the depth of the layout and negates the cluttering effect of overlapping turbines as they are clearly perceived to be generously spaced. There is also something of a spatial and thematic relationship between the turbines and the underlying cutaway peatland. The broad flat nature of the peatland assimilates the scale of the turbines. However, the substation and meteorological mast notably increase the visual clutter. There is also a sense of a 'changing of the guard' in terms of power generation from fossil fuel burning to renewable electricity generation and this is heightened by the view of the Lanesborough Power Station in the background. The turbines from the Slieve Bawn Wind Farm can be seen at a small scale in the background, but they are clearly contained within a separate and distant landscape context.<br><br>This viewpoint represents a situation referenced in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (p55) relating to 'siting and design guidance for flat peatland areas' where it states *"... the possibility of driving through a wind energy development closely straddling a road could prove an exciting experience"*. However, in this instance, the view of the turbines to the south of the road is ambiguous and legibility of those to the north is effected by the substation and meteorological mast, it is considered that these will detract from visual amenity.<br><br>On balance of the high order visual presence against the highly legible view of the proposed development from here, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **High-medium**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium-low | High-medium | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR6** | R398 at Derrygeel | >100 deg. | 0.7 km | 14 |
| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local community view | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a short distance view to the east of the R398 across a series of scrubby field boundaries and roadside vegetation with rough grazing in the fields | | | |

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| | between. A sporadic hedgerow provides a near vegetated skyline with a complex and undulating profile. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | To the east, around 9 no. of the proposed turbines will be seen rising above and between sections of the vegetation that forms the near middle-ground skyline. Only about six of these present full blade sets with the remainder more substantially screened. The turbines are seen at a moderate scale and the proposed development has a broad, albeit intermittent, lateral extent. To the north, only about four of the blade tips will be visible. On balance, the visual presence of the development is considered to be co-dominant.<br><br>The view of full and partial blade sets rotating within and just above the treetops on the near skyline is likely to give rise to some sense of visual clutter and ambiguity. However, the clearer view of some of the turbines provides some legibility to the view of the proposed development. The peatland context and the depth of the layout is not immediately apparent from here. This contributes to a degree of contextual confusion, though in a thematic sense, the wind farm is not an ambiguous feature in the rural landscape context.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR7** | R398 at Cloontabeg | >100 deg. | 1.9 km | 22 |

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| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local community views |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** |
| Existing View | This is a very similar viewing scenario to MR5 described above, as it is from a regional road that divides the southern end of the site in this instance. The view to the north and south of the road is therefore relevant. The view to the north is across a broad expanse of cutaway peatland surrounded by marginal scrubby fringes. Slieve Bawn and associated wind farm are also visible in the distance. The view to the south is less extensive and takes in an area of peatland scrub. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Six turbines can be seen to the south of the road at a moderate scale and partially screened by intervening vegetation. All of the remaining turbines to the north of the road are openly visible within the cutaway peatland contest to the north of the road. The nearest five turbines to the north of the road are |

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| | seen at a substantially larger scale than those beyond due to relative viewing distances. Without being spatially dominant or overbearing, the proposed development is the most prominent and defining feature of this visual setting and thus, its visual presence is deemed to be highly dominant.<br><br>The view of the larger portion of the proposed development to the north of the road is clear and unambiguous. There is a strong sense of perspective generated between the closest and furthest turbines, which aids the comprehension of the turbine array throughout the vast peatland context. This also limits the sense of visual clutter from overlapping turbines as they are clearly separated by generous distances. There is also a comprehensible, albeit slightly contrasting, visual relationship between the dark horizontal expanse of the cutaway peatland and the fine, light vertical nature of the turbines. Thematically, the cutaway peatland and the turbines both relate to energy generation though the latter is synonymous with the emerging age of renewables and the former, the passing age of fossil fuel burning.<br><br>Overall, the turbines are well assimilated within this context and the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR8** | R392 southwest of site | 344 degrees | 0.7 km | 18 |
| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local community views | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | | |
| Existing View | This is a slightly elevated view across an open foreground of large pastoral fields to the east of the R392. The fields are then backed by a dense, mature band of vegetation consisting of broadleaf treelines and a conifer plantation, which forms a vegetated skyline in the near middle distance. | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around 9 no. of the proposed turbines will rise in silhouette above the vegetated skyline at varying scales and with varying degrees of exposure. A cluster of turbines will be seen just to the right of the road alignment, but will be partially obscured by foreground features and vegetation so that only | | | |

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| | their blade sets tend to be revealed. Another similar cluster of turbines will be partially revealed further to the east at right angles to the road. Overall, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be in the order of dominant to co-dominant.<br><br>Whilst there will be a minor degree of visual clutter generated through the rotation of some blade sets amongst and just above the intervening treeline, this is ameliorated somewhat by the clearer view of other more prominent turbines blade sets rotating freely above the skyline. The broad scale and productive nature of the underlying land use pattern is not at odds with the wind farm within this view.<br><br>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium low | Medium-low | **Moderate slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR9** | R392 northwest of Ballymahon | 325 degrees | 1.6 km | 2 |

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| Representative of: | • A major route<br>• Local community views |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** |
| Existing View | This view from the R392 is obtained from the brow of a low hill occupied by a cluster of rural / residential dwellings, which occupy the foreground. The remainder of the near skyline to the northeast is formed by garden trees and tree-lined hedgerows. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The partial blade sets and blade tips of around four turbines are intermittently visible between trees and roofs on the skyline. They are seen at a modest scale and only their movement is likely to draw the attention of a casual observer. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed development is judged to be sub-dominant.<br><br>The turbines will contribute to visual clutter on the skyline, but in the context of a relatively complex mix of built and vegetative forms. Otherwise the low degree of visibility will tend to moderate any effects on visual amenity at this locality.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Low**. |

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| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium low | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MR10** | N63 northeast of Roscommon Town | 103 degrees | 4.3 km | 15 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A major route | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **Medium-low** | | |
| Existing View | This view to the east and south from the N63 is afforded from a low rise in terrain and is also enjoyed by a series of dwellings on the northern side of the road. Beyond the road corridor to the southeast the terrain falls gently as a series of pastoral fields defined by low-clipped hedgerows that give way to taller hedgerows and treelines in the lower middle ground. In the far distance can be seen a low farmed ridge that defines the eastern side of Lough Ree, though the Lough itself is not visible. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Around 15 turbines present blade sets above the distant farmed ridge and will be a noticeable feature of this broad vista on a clear day, albeit with a low degree of contrast against the sky and at distances in excess of 14 km. Thus, the visual presence is deemed to be sub-dominant to minimal within the context of this broad vista.<br><br>Aesthetically, there is some visual clutter and ambiguity associated with occasional overlapping turbines and the slightly sporadic linear arrangement emerging between foreground tree tops. Some of the blade sets will just touch to the skyline, but they generally rotate freely above it. These effects are diluted by the viewing distance and broad nature of the view.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is considered to be **Low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium low | Low | **Slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine |
|---|---|---|---|

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| | | | | nacelles visible: |
| **AH1** | Royal Canal Way southeast of Killashee | >100 deg. | N/A | 0 |

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| Representative of: | • An amenity and heritage feature<br>• Local community views | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | |
| Existing View | This is a typical view from this stretch of the Royal Canal with a moderate to high degree of canal-side vegetative screening affording only glimpses of the farmed fields just beyond. In this instance there is also a slight incline within the fields to the west of the canal and coupled with the dense hedgerow vegetation the elements contain the view at short distance. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | None of the proposed turbines are discernible in the depicted view, though there is a slightly increased potential to see turbine blades through a dense veil of winter branches in this scenario. Nonetheless, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be minimal with little material effect on visual amenity – **Negligible** magnitude of visual effect. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High-medium | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AH2** | Royal Canal Way northwest of Keenagh | | 1.1 km | 6 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Representative of: | • An amenity and heritage feature<br>• Local community views |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High medium** |
| Existing View | This is a short distance view across the Royal Canal to the west from a small cluster of dwellings and farm buildings near Keenagh. There is little in the way of canal-side vegetation along this section as it opens directly on to the adjacent agricultural setting. There is a low rise in the terrain on the opposite side of the canal and this is lined by a number of farm sheds. The other notable feature is the scattering of mature broadleaf trees, which add to the containment and pleasant pastoral character of this view. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Four of the proposed turbines will rise at a prominent scale above the farmyard setting on the opposite bank of the Canal. The blades of the more distant turbines will also be visible, but is much less noticeable by comparison to the nearer turbines. Though the turbines will undoubtedly draw attention, the they are not spatially dominant or dwarfing in relation to other features |

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| | of the view and their visual presence is, therefore, deemed to be co-dominant.<br><br>The four most prominent turbines rise to the extent that their blade sets will substantially rotate above intervening buildings and vegetation in an uncomplicated manner. They also tend to draw attention away from the lower and more distant turbines blades that will rotate amongst skyline features and would otherwise contribute to visual clutter. The four nearest turbines have an generous spacing and there is just enough sense of distance within the view that the wind farm reads as a background feature of a more distant rural context. Albeit there is not a hint of the vast peatland landscape that they are actually contained in. Though the canal appears as something of a naturalistic watercourse and today it is used for recreational amenity, it was constructed in the spirit of rural industry and transportation of goods. Thus, it is not considered that the view of an array of rural landscape features including wind turbines is necessarily detraction from the visual amenity of canal users. Furthermore, the turbines offer variety and something of a 'way-marker' for the journeying nature of canal recreational use.<br><br>Overall, it is not considered that the proposed development appears incongruous in this Canal-side rural scene and the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Medium High | Medium-low | **Moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AH3** | Corlea Trackway visitors centre (adjacent) | 331 degrees | 1.6 km[JL1] | 16 |
| Representative of: | • A tourism and heritage feature | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | | |
| Existing View | This view is afforded from a short distance to the north of the Corlea trackway visitors centre where a series of constructed wetland ponds can be reached by visitors via a short modern boardwalk. The ponds can be seen in the immediate foreground of the view and these are backed by ecological tree and shrub planting. Further beyond is a vast open cutaway peatland flanked by scrubby bog woodland. The visitor centre lies in the opposite direction (south). | | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | From the majority of the proposed turbines are revealed at vastly different scales and degrees of exposure depending on proximity and intervening vegetation. The nearest 7 turbines are seen at a prominent scale with the | | | |

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| | remainder tapering in apparent size as the viewing distance increases along the peatland. The density of turbines also increases with distance due this end-on viewing angle of the proposed development and the reduced sense of perspective between the more distant units. Due to the simple nature of this vista the turbines are the most noticeable feature, but without being spatially dominant or overbearing. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be dominant.<br><br>In aesthetic terms, this is a clear and unambiguous view of the wind farm stretching along a vast cutaway peatland landscape that can comfortably assimilate it in terms of scale and function. The nearer and apparently larger turbines provide a strong sense of perspective in relation to the more distant turbines, which accentuates the sense of vastness in this peatland landscape. The nearer turbines are also fully revealed in a simple manner that draws attention away from the more cluttered appearance of the more distant turbines, which become stacked in perspective.<br><br>The most important consideration in this instance is the Trackway visitor's experience and whether the turbines are a significant detraction or not. In this respect it is important to recognise that this will not be a visitor's first view of the turbines as they will need to drive immediately to the south of the wind farm site to access the visitor centre. The visitor centre itself is an introspective building, which provides interpretive displays, and there are few opportunities to see the outside landscape and turbines to the north. The exposed section of trackway is also enclosed, but at the end of the presentation shutters rise to reveal the surrounding landscape and the turbines will be visible as a distinctive background feature in this context. This will generate a juxtaposition of the ancient and the modern, which is unlikely to be lost on visitors, but for which opinion may vary widely.<br><br>On balance of all of the above factors, it is considered that the magnitude of visual effect is **Medium**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Medium | **Substantial-moderate** |

| **Viewshed Reference Point** | | **Direction of View** | **Distance to nearest turbine:** | **Number of turbine nacelles visible:** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AH3A** | Corlea Trackway visitors centre (adjoining) | 329 degrees | 1.6 km | 21 |
| Representative of: | • A tourism and heritage feature | | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | **High-medium** | | | |

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| Existing View | This Viewshed Reference Point is linked to the previous AH3. This view is afforded from the Corlea trackway visitors centre with a view of the modern boardwalk that leads to the adjacent Viewshed Reference point AH3. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | Thus, it is a worst-case-scenario view in terms of quantity of openly visibility turbines from the visitor centre as 21 nacelles are visible with turbines revealed at vastly different scales and degrees of exposure depending on proximity and intervening vegetation. The nearest 3-4 turbines are seen at a prominent scale with the remainder tapering in apparent size as the viewing distance increases along the peatland. The density of turbines also increases with distance due this end-on viewing angle of the proposed development and the reduced sense of perspective between the more distant units. Due to the simple nature of this vista the turbines are the most noticeable feature, but without being spatially dominant or overbearing. Thus, the visual presence of the proposed development is deemed to be dominant.<br><br>In aesthetic terms, this is a clear and unambiguous view of the wind farm stretching along a vast cutaway peatland landscape that can comfortably assimilate it in terms of scale and function. The nearer and apparently larger turbines provide a strong sense of perspective in relation to the more distant turbines, which accentuates the sense of vastness in this peatland landscape. The nearer turbines are also fully revealed in a simple manner that draws attention away from the more cluttered appearance of the more distant turbines, which become stacked in perspective.<br><br>The most important consideration in this instance is the Trackway visitor's experience and whether the turbines are a significant detraction or not. In this respect it is important to recognise that this will not be a visitor's first view of the turbines as they will need to drive immediately to the south of the wind farm site to access the visitor centre. The visitor centre itself is an introspective building, which provides interpretive displays, and there are few opportunities to see the outside landscape and turbines to the north. The exposed section of trackway is also enclosed, but at the end of the presentation shutters rise to reveal the surrounding landscape and the turbines will be visible as a distinctive background feature in this context. This will generate a juxtaposition of the ancient and the modern, which is unlikely to be lost on visitors, but for which opinion may vary widely.<br><br>On balance of all of the above factors, it is considered that the magnitude of visual effect is **Medium**. |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. |

| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | High | Medium | **Substantial-moderate** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
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| **AH4** | River Shannon – North of Site | 159 degrees | 2 km | 7 |

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| Representative of: | • A tourism feature | | |
| Receptor Sensitivity | High | | |
| Existing View | This is an enclosed view from the River Shannon. The water's edge, including riparian vegetation, from marginals to mature trees, occupies the foreground and foreshortens the view to the south. | | |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | The nacelles of 7 no. turbines can be seen above or between the trees in the foreground. Only one of these presents full blade sets, with the remainder more partially or substantially screened. The turbines are seen at a moderate scale, and the proposed development has a broad, albeit intermittent, lateral extent. On balance, the visual presence of the development is considered to be co-dominant.<br><br>The view of full and partial blade sets rotating within and just above the treetops on the near skyline will likely give rise to a degree of visual clutter and ambiguity. However, the clear view of the nearest turbine provides some legibility to the view of the proposed development. The peatland context and the depth of the layout is not immediately apparent from here. This contributes to a degree of contextual confusion, though in a thematic sense, the wind farm is not an ambiguous feature in the context of this major waterway.<br><br>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be **Medium-low**. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | High | Medium-low | **Moderate-slight** |

| Viewshed Reference Point | | Direction of View | Distance to nearest turbine: | Number of turbine nacelles visible: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **AH5** | Local road near Center Parcs, Clooncallow | NW | N/A | 0 |

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|---|---|
| Representative of: | • A tourism feature |
| Receptor Sensitivity | Medium-low |
| Existing View | This is channelled view of a damp pasture with a dead tree and utility poles, enclosed by mature hedgerows and treelines. |
| Visual effect of the proposed development | None of the proposed turbines are discernible in the depicted view, though there is a slightly increased potential to see turbine blades through a dense veil of winter branches in this scenario. Nonetheless, the visual presence of |

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| | the proposed development is deemed to be minimal with little material effect on visual amenity – **Negligible** magnitude of visual effect. | | |
| Summary | Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 2.4.5 of Chapter 6 of the EIS, the significance of visual effect is summarised below. | | |
| | **Visual Receptor Sensitivity** | **Visual Effect Magnitude** | **Significance of visual effect** |
| | Medium-low | Negligible | **Imperceptible** |