

APPENDIX 12.1

12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Visual sensitivity is a two-sided analysis of receptor susceptibility (people or groups of people) versus the value of the view on offer at a particular location. To assess the susceptibility of viewers and the amenity value of views, the assessor uses a range of criteria and provides a four point weighting scale to indicate how strongly the viewer/view is associated with each of the criterion identified in **Section 12.2.6.1** above.

Table 12.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Scale of Value for each criterion

Strong association	Moderate association				Mild association				Negligible association						
Values associated with the view	VP1	VP2	VP3	VP4	VP5	VP6	VP7	VP8	VP9	VP10	VP11	VP12	VP13	VP14	VP15a
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views															
Recognised scenic value of the view															
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas															
Primary views from residences															
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)															
Viewer connection with the landscape															
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views															
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location															
Degree of perceived naturalness															
Presence of striking or noteworthy features															
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance															
Rarity or uniqueness of the view															
Integrity of the landscape character within the view															
Sense of place at the viewing location															
Sense of awe															
Overall sensitivity assessment	M	ML	ML	HM	HM	ML	HM	HM	M	VH	HM	H	VH	VH	VH

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

Values associated with the view	VP15b	VP16	VP17	VP18	VP19	VP20	VP21	VP22	VP23	VP24	VP25	VP26	VP27	VP28	VP29	
Susceptibility of viewers to changes in views																
Recognised scenic value of the view																
Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas																
Primary views from residences																
Intensity of use, popularity (number of viewers)																
Viewer connection with the landscape																
Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views																
Sense of remoteness / tranquillity at the viewing location																
Degree of perceived naturalness																
Presence of striking or noteworthy features																
Sense of Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance																
Rarity or uniqueness of the view																
Integrity of the landscape character within the view																
Sense of place at the viewing location																
Sense of awe																
Overall sensitivity assessment	H	M	M	HM	H	H	H	M	M	ML	*M	M	ML	*M	HM	ML

* Broad / elevated vista in opposite direction is of higher sensitivity

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:						
VP1	Local Road at Gortnagross	SW	3.5 km						
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Views 								
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium								
Existing View	<p>This is a broad and elevated views across the landscape of the central study area where such open views are not frequent. It takes in a rugged landscape of rolling hills covered in a grainy texture of marginal farmland, reverting scrub, commercial forestry and patches of woodland. Rising above the complex skyline ridge in the middle distance are the turbines from the Derragh and Cleanrath wind farms to the south and southwest and more distant turbines to the west. There are very few dwellings in view and a general sense of rural tranquillity.</p>								
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines will rise from a middle distance spur ridge to the southwest to the fore and to the right of the Derragh turbines, compared to which, they are considerably larger. The turbine array has a reasonable, but consolidated lateral extent and there is also some intensity to the cluster highlighted by the overlapping in perspective of at least half of the 15 turbines, all of which are clearly visible from here. The visual presence of the proposed development in the context of this broad vista is deemed to co-dominant.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there is some visual clutter associated with the frequent overlapping of turbine blade sets. However, this is also balanced by a general legibility of the development with all turbines clearly visible, nearly all blade sets rotating above the skyline ridge and an appreciation of where the turbines are anchored within the landscape of the site. Although, the overlapping turbines generally an intensity of tall moving structures, their spatial separation across the site is apparent.</p> <p>In terms of context the proposed turbines will appear in a rugged and productive upland setting that is already characterised, in part, by the presence of wind turbines. The turbine array does not appear over-scaled relative to the broad underlying landform and landcover context.</p> <p>In combination with the Derragh turbines, there is a sense that it could be a single more extensive development that trails off across a more distant ridgeline. However, with the smaller existing turbines to the rear there is a legibility to the relationship that accentuates the sense of perspective and with it, the sense of space and distance across / between the two developments – whereas smaller turbines to the fore can cause a sense of scale confusion and a perceptual condensing of the vista.</p> <p>On balance of the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>								
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</th> <th>Visual Impact Magnitude</th> <th>Significance of Visual Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Medium</td> <td>Medium</td> <td>Moderate</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact	Medium	Medium	Moderate
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Medium	Medium	Moderate							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:						
VP2	Local Road north of Coolea Village	S	2.8 km						
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Views 								
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium low								
Existing View	<p>This is a slightly elevated view from the northern side of the valley that contains the small rural village of Coolea. The village itself is not contained within the ZTV pattern hence it was necessary to move slightly north and uphill to obtain potential views of the development. The scene consists of rolling farmland and a scattering of dwellings in the lower portion of the valley, giving way to scrub and forest covered slopes on higher ground. The view is contained by and undulating and encompassing series of ridges from the near to middle distance and there are several wind turbines visible above a more distant section to the west.</p>								
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The partial blade sets of around six of the proposed turbines and the blades of a four will be seen rising above the ridge to the south to varying degrees. They present at a modest but noticeable scale from this distance. While they are contained within a relatively short section of ridgeline this adds to their intensity, which results in some visual stacking and clutter in combination with blade sets rotating in silhouette against the skyline ridge. Whilst this is not an ideal aesthetic for the wind farm it is a legible view of turbines above, and following the general profile, of the skyline.</p> <p>The scene has a productive upland character which is already influenced by more distant wind turbines, so the view of the proposed turbines is not ambiguous.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low</p>								
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</th> <th>Visual Impact Magnitude</th> <th>Significance of Visual Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Medium-low</td> <td>Medium-low</td> <td>Moderate-slight</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-slight
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-slight							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP3	Local road at Fuhirees	S	1.2 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium low		
Existing View	<p>This is a relatively enclosed setting within the central study area that hosts several dwellings and farmsteads within a landcover matrix of pasture on flat and gently sloping lower ground</p>		

	with scrub and forestry on steeper enclosing slopes. Such is the nature of the uphill view in question.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The majority of the proposed turbines will be visible from here at relatively close quarters, but to varying degrees. Around five of the turbines are fully revealed above the terrain and vegetation whilst the remainder reveal partial blade sets and blades tips above the near skyline ridge. The turbines will be a distinctive and prominent feature of this view and consequently, the visual presence is deemed to be dominant. However, they are not considered to be a spatially overbearing feature and their scale is well assimilated by the broad upland landform and landcover context. They are also substantially contained within one aspect of the available view as opposed to wrapping around the setting.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there are some minor instances of turbines overlapping but this tends to be less of an issue for close views as the physical separation between units is more apparent than from greater distances. Whilst partial blade sets rotating on a near ridgeline can be slightly ambiguous and visually irritating, such effects are offset in this instance by the clearer and more legible view of the more fully revealed turbines, which tend to draw more attention than their partially revealed counterparts. Contextually, the proposed turbines do not appear out-of-place or over-scaled in this setting, but they do impart a much higher intensity of built development than currently exists.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium-low	High-medium	Moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP4	Local road at Lumnagh Beg	SE	2.2 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic Route • Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High-medium		
Existing View	Although this section of road is designated as a scenic route it is not afforded particularly vast or remarkable views. Instead, the main attribute is a tranquil and enclosed upland aesthetic of forested upper slopes and scrub covered lower slopes with patches of managed grassland in flat areas between. In this regard it is a relatively simple setting with a low degree of built development.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	Approximately 10 of the proposed turbines will rise into view above the nearby forested ridge to the southeast and will be seen to varying degrees from full blade sets to just blade tips. The lower portions of the turbine towers is generally screened by a combination of terrain and forestry and several of the turbines are viewed through a veil of intervening trees on the		

	<p>near side of the valley. The turbines are seen at a prominent but not overbearing scale and they are distinctive moving structures in a scene that is presently characterised by stillness and a low degree of built development. They are seen in a legible manner where the loose scattering of the more visually exposed turbines offsets the potentially irritating scenario of blade tips rotating on the skyline ridge. Although they add considerably to the scale and intensity of built development within this scene, they are not over scaled or out of place in this scene of broad forested slopes.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High-medium	Medium	Moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP5	Local road intersection at Derrylahan	E	N/A
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic route • Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		
Existing View	<p>This is a channelled, almost 'V notched' view to the east from a saddle where two local roads meet at an acute junction. One descends towards Coolea and the other winds around the slope towards the proposed development site. On the lower more distant slopes to the east is a land cover of scrubby woodland and patchwork farmland with occasional blocks of forestry. This rises towards a rolling ridgeline in the middle distance.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>'While the ZTV indicates potential partial visibility of the wind farm from this location, site survey and the photomontage confirm that the wind farm will not be seen from here. Screening is afforded by the near hillside to the southeast and if the road that runs in that direction is followed the proposed turbines would likely come into view (depending on forestry screening – see VP6). The road to Coolea drops quickly and there will not be any visibility of the scheme from further to the east along that section of scenic route.</p> <p>This is an 'illustrative view' that shows the absence of visibility from one of the scenic routes close to the site. The magnitude of visual impact is Negligible by default.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High medium	Negligible	Imperceptible

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP6	Local road at Laharan East	SE	1.1 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic Route • Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium-low		
Existing View	<p>This is a strongly enclosed view within an upland area that is contained in commercial forestry that appears to be around mid-rotation in terms of its size. It may have been that this section of scenic route was designated at a point of time when the landscape was more open and broad elevated views to the south were likely to have been afforded from here. Currently and for the next decade or so, the scenic designation is less warranted and this is reflected in the sensitivity rating. The view in question is from a small clearing within the forestry that allows some potential for visibility in the direction of the site.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The full blade set of one turbine and the partial blade sets of two others will be seen rising in relatively close proximity and therefore at a substantial scale above the top of the nearby treeline. There is a degree of contextual ambiguity relating to the actual location of the turbines relative to the visible landscape and the fact that only partial blade sets can be seen rotating against the tree tops. However, this is a typical upland scene passing through a forested area and the view of wind turbines is not an unexpected or particularly detracting feature.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p> <p><i>Note: Based on the wireframe image, it can be determined the a more comprehensive view of the proposed turbines will be afforded at a point in time when the forestry is cleared and before the area is likely re-established in forestry. At that time there will be a more open view generally afforded, which will have most of the attributes that led to this being designated as a scenic route. Thus, the sensitivity would increase in that inter-forest period, albeit in the context of typical logging detritus. Whilst the future visual impact may increase relative to the current assessment, the turbines would not appear to be intruding on long distance views and it is not considered likely that significant effects will occur.</i></p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP7	Local road at Caraghnacaha	E	0.6 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic Route • Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		
Existing View	<p>This is a vast elevated view, but not in the direction of the site. Whilst the subject view to the east is truncated at a short distance by a combination of forestry and a rugged moorland knoll, it is the view to the south that is channelled through an upland valley towards distant lowland farmland. Turbines from the Derragh wind farm can be seen lining the eastern ridge of the upland valley at relatively close quarters.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>Four of the proposed turbines will be prominently visible at a short distance from here, rising above the slopes and peak of the knoll to the east. The nearest turbine is also the most elevated above the centre of the knoll and its scale and sense of perspective to its surrounding counterparts is accentuated by the uphill nature of the view. Even in the context of the overall view, the proposed development is deemed to have a dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aesthetically, this is a clear and comprehensible view of the turbines where the visible turbines are substantially visible and the rest are substantially screened by terrain and vegetation. The proposed turbines are seen at a considerably larger scale than the Derragh turbines, but they are also closer which tends to accentuate the sense of space and distance between them and within the upland context generally. The turbines serve to frame rather than obstruct the main vista to the south and work with the Derragh turbines in this regard. The profile of the wind farm also mimics that of the underlying terrain, almost accentuating the knoll and its descending ridges. Notwithstanding all of the above factors, the proposed wind farm does substantially increase the scale and intensity of built development in this remote upland setting, albeit with a familiar form. It also tends to draw attention away from the natural feature of the rugged moorland ridge it lines.</p> <p>On balance of the above factors, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High-medium	High-medium	Substantial-moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP8	Local road intersection at Gorteenakilla	NNE	3.4 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic Route • The Beara Breffni Way • Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		
Existing View	<p>This is an uphill view from settled area of upland farmland north of Ballingearry that host a road section of the Beara Breffni Way. The view consists of scrub and marginal grazing land to the left of the road alignment with improved pasture to the right. In the middle distance is a scattering of rural dwellings and farmsteads amongst grazing land and forestry on the higher slopes. Six turbines from the Derragh Wind farm can be seen spaced along the skyline ridge.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines can be seen just to the left of the Derragh Wind Farm and with the blade of one turbine overlapping with the leftmost Derragh turbine. The blade sets of two further turbines can also be seen amongst intervening vegetation rising above the ridge, although several others may also come into view travelling up the road further. Though the proposed turbines are larger than the Derragh turbines the greater setback distance presents them at a similar scale and in the same ridgetop context as their existing counterparts. They are also more substantially screened than the Derragh turbines and are not considered to make wind energy development along the ridge distinctly more noticeable.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the view of partially screened blades and blade sets rotating above a ridge and amongst tree tops is not ideal, but in this instance such effects are offset by the clearer view of the Derragh turbines and the fact that the two developments run seamlessly together and will be perceived as a single development.</p> <p>Overall, and taking account of a view of potentially more turbines from slightly further up the road, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed be Medium-low from here.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High-medium	Medium low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP9	Local road south of Ballingearry	N	4.7 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Scenic Route 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre of population (Ballingeary nearby) 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		
Existing View	<p>This view is obtained from an otherwise fairly enclosed setting of riparian woodland and marginal farmland to the south of Ballingeary. There is a degree of tranquillity and natural landcover and there is a distant view afforded to the north of a series of farmed and moorland ridges. One section of ridgeline is occupied by the Derragh Wind Farm.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The majority (c.10) of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising in silhouette above the skyline ridge to the north slightly overlapping with the western (left) portion of the Derragh Wind Farm. The proposed turbines appear at a comparable scale to the Derragh turbines, despite being further away, by virtue of being larger. Whilst seven of the proposed turbines are substantially revealed the remainder reveal only partial blade sets or nothing at all. The proposed development increases the visual prominence of wind energy along the northern ridgeline, by effectively doubling its lateral extent and adding to the intensity of turbines in the overlapping section with Derragh Wind Farm.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there is a degree of symmetry and seamless melding with the Derragh Wind Farm as both developments sweep down from their extremities with a loose linear arrangement of turbines that intensifies towards their meeting point on a slightly lower section of the ridge. Aside from some congestion and overlap in that central portion, the view of turbines is clear and legible and does not appear out of place or over scaled in this working rural / upland context where wind turbines are already a characteristic feature. However, the proposed turbines do contribute to a greater intensity of development within a setting characterised by relatively low levels of development in general.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Medium low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP10	Summit of Crohane Mountain	SE	14.4 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amenity feature 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Very High		
Existing View	<p>This is a vast mountaintop view from the summit of Crohane Mountain, which is the easternmost peak in the Mangerton range. The summit is generally reached from the northern side via a road along the eastern edge of the scenic Lough Guitane. It is a steep and challenging climb and a lesser known trail than others in the Mangerton range, so it is not a highly frequented location and generally by fit and experienced hill walkers. Whilst the view to the north takes in Lough Guitane and Killarney lakes national park, the view in</p>		

	<p>question, to the south, covers a sparsely populated upland area. This is a fissured plateau of upland ridges and valleys contained in a regular and balanced mix of patchwork farmland and scrubby woodland in the valleys with rocky moorland, commercial forestry and wind turbines occupying the higher slopes and ridges. Lowland farmland can be seen in the far distance to the southeast. In terms of wind energy development, the upland area to the south of the Mangerton range has a high stocking of wind turbines.</p>								
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines will be seen as one of the more distant wind farms within the upland area to the south and one of the few to break the skyline ridge. This provides slightly less contrast than those turbines to the fore, which are seen against a darker immediate backdrop of terrain. In terms of extent, the proposed turbines only marginally increase the visual envelope occupied by turbines within this view, but they will add noticeably to the overall intensity and draw the general emphasis of turbines further to the southeast.</p> <p>In terms of scale they are considerably larger than the turbines that immediately surround them, but they are also on higher ground. They present at a smaller scale than the much near Inchincoosh cluster of wind farms and at a similar or larger scale than the main body of turbines from Grousemount cluster, which is slightly nearer the viewer. Whilst there is a general balance of turbine scale there may be a minor degree of scale/ distance confusion as the proposed turbines could present as slightly nearer than they are (relative to other turbines). However, such effects require scrutiny and the main effect is the further intensification of wind energy development within this view. It is considered that wind energy development is a characteristic feature of the upland area to the south of the Mangerton range, but not the sole defining one. Instead there is a balance of productive upland land uses contained in this area, which has slightly less scenic amenity than views of higher mountains to the east and west and in the Killarney valley to the north. It is not considered that the proposed development tips the balance.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact and by consequence cumulative impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>								
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Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Very High	Low-negligible	Moderate slight							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP11	N22 at Derrynasaggart	S	6.2km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Scenic Route Major route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		

Existing View	<p>This is an elevated view to the south afforded from the N22 above an immature band of roadside vegetation. It should be noted that vegetation obscures such views for much of the alignment of road in this area. The rolling middle ground slopes are contained mainly in broad tracts of conifer forest, whereas the hillsides beyond also integrate patchwork farmland. The eye is generally drawn down-valley to the southeast where a lowland farming landscape can be seen in the far distance. A high voltage electricity line cross the foreground of the view and turbines from the Derragh and Cleanrath Wind farms can be seen rising above the middle distance skyline ridge at a modest scale.</p>								
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines are seen at noticeable scale rising unobstructed from the same section of the middle distance skyline ridge as several of the Derragh turbines. Due to relative distance and relative dimensions, the proposed turbines appear considerably larger than their existing counterparts. However, they do not appear over-scaled relative to the broad nature of the underlying terrain and land cover and within the overall vista. Their visual presence is deemed to be in the order of co-dominant to sub-dominant.</p> <p>Compositionally, the turbines are well presented with an even spacing and legible layout depth that follows the underlying terrain. Whilst there will be minimal visual clutter generated between the proposed turbines there may be a minor degree in combination with the foreground utility line / pylon. There is some scale disparity with the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines, but in this scenario it will read as the existing developments begin further beyond the proposed turbines than they actually are.</p> <p>The proposed turbines are contextually integrated into this productive upland landscape, which already contains wind turbines and they will not obstruct or unduly intrude on the long distance down valley views to the south east. Instead they will serve as a framing element.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low</p>								
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Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
High medium	Medium low	Moderate							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP12	Local road at Coomnagire	SW	7.4km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Scenic Route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High		
Existing View	<p>This is a broad elevated view from local road that runs across the lower south-western slopes of Kilcaskan Mountain. It takes in a folding upland landscape that varies in landcover between marginal and good quality grazing, commercial forestry and reverting scrub. It is dotted occasionally with rural dwellings and farmsteads. There is also a series of wind turbines from the Derragh and Cleanrath wind Farms lining distant ridges to the southwest.</p>		

<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>The proposed wind farm will be fully visible to the fore and generally to the right of the Derragh turbines, although there is some overlap between the developments in perspective. The proposed turbines are seen at a modest but readily noticeable scale from here within the heart of the south-westerly view, which is the main aspect of distant visibility from here. They are also seen at a considerably larger scale than the adjacent Derragh and Cleanrath turbines, which tends to heighten the visual presence of turbines in this portion of the vista generally.</p> <p>The variation in scale between the existing and proposed turbines does not generate a senses of conflict or confusion, but instead, suggests a greater distance between the developments and adds a degree of spatial perspective (lengthening) of the view. However, it also brings a greater intensity and scale of wind energy development as well as a degree of clutter from overlapping turbines (both internally and with the Derragh turbines).</p> <p>In terms of context, this is a broad upland landscape where wind energy development is one of a small range of characteristic features. Thus, the turbines do not appear over-scaled or out of place and on balance of the numerous factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>								
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Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
High	Medium-low	Moderate-slight							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP13	Western Summit of 'the Paps of Anu'	S	12.6 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amenity and heritage feature 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Very High		
Existing View	<p>This is a vast mountaintop view in all directions, but this summit and the adjacent summit, which are together known as 'the Paps of Anu' have particular heritage value as they are both topped by Iron Age cairns suggesting they were an important part of ancient rituals / worship for the inhabitants of this area. The view in question, to the south, takes in the steeply ascending moorland slopes of the Paps followed by an upland terrace of ridges and valleys contained in large tracts of commercial forestry, some patchwork farmland and a relatively extensive scattering of wind turbines. Although the latter consists of a number of sperate developments, they tend to run together in perspective in this elevated oblige view and trail along the higher slopes and ridges.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines are seen rising from a section of ridgeline in the distant middle ground of this view, to the east (left) of the main body of turbines centred further to the west and there is a distinct ridge of higher ground that runs between them. Like the other turbines in view, the proposed turbines are seen predominantly against a backdrop of terrain with a stronger degree of contrast than for the few partial blade sets at the higher western end of the cluster, which penetrate above the skyline. The proposed turbines are seen at a slightly larger scale than the other turbines in view even though the viewing distance is similar and</p>		

	<p>they also have a noticeably looser spacing. Overall, they have the effect of increasing the intensity of wind energy development in the view and drawing the general emphasis further to the east. They also serve as something of a link between the Derragh / Cleanrath cluster and the more extensive Grousemount / Inchincoosh clusters further to the west, albeit with a distinctive bridge of higher ground remaining between.</p> <p>In their own right the proposed Gortyrhilly turbines are well presented from this vantage point with an even spacing and a legibility to the depth of the array which corresponds with the underlying terrain. There is a degree of scale disparity with the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines which lie just beyond, but this will likely be perceived that they are further beyond, thereby enhancing the sense of scale and distance.</p> <p>The main visual effect from here is a cumulative one and though the proposed turbines will make a noticeable contribution to what is already a dense spread of turbines across the upland plateau to the south, wind turbines are an established part of the landscape character of that area, without being the overtly dominant one. The concentration of turbines in this area and their relative absence from other more iconic aspects of the landscape that is visible from here, shows a degree of consistency and strategy in terms of the land management of the area through planning policy.</p> <p>Overall, the visual impact magnitude, which is inherently a cumulative judgement is considered to be Low,</p>								
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 1010 1423 1171"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="427 1010 719 1111">Visual Receptor Sensitivity</th> <th data-bbox="719 1010 1018 1111">Visual Impact Magnitude</th> <th data-bbox="1018 1010 1423 1111">Significance of Visual Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="427 1111 719 1171">Very high</td> <td data-bbox="719 1111 1018 1171">Low</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1111 1423 1171">Moderate</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact	Very high	Low	Moderate
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Very high	Low	Moderate							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP14	Summit of Mangerton Mountain	SE	19 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amenity feature 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Very High		
Existing View	<p>This is a vast mountain-top view from the peak that lends its name to the Mangerton range. Though slightly less iconic than the MacGillycuddy Reeks further to the west, the Mangerton range and chiefly Mangerton Mountain provide part of the dramatic backdrop to Killarney Town and the Killarney Lakes National Park, both of which lie outside of the study area and visibility potential from the proposed development further to the northwest. By way of finer context, Mangerton Mountain is reached via the popular Devil's Punchbowl walking loop which begins just outside of Killarney. However, the broad peak of Mangerton Mountain is not actually on that loop and is likely to be visited by only a fraction of those embarking on the Devil's Punchbowl circuit.</p> <p>The south-easterly vista in question is dominated for some distance by the plateau brow of Mangerton Mountain itself, which limits the visibility of much of the lower middle-distance landscape beyond. A more distant band of rolling ridges emerges beyond the brow, cloaked</p>		

	<p>in a combination of mountain moorland on higher slopes, forestry and marginal farmland on mid-slopes and more arable farmland in the sheltered valley between. Dozens of turbines from predominantly the Grousemount and Inchincoosh Wind Farms can also be made out on higher ground within the distant upland setting.</p>								
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines will be fully exposed, but seen only in clear viewing conditions rising above a distant section of ridgeline backed by a combination of faint lowland landscape and sky. They will be a noticeable feature of the distant landscape in the context of numerous other turbines. They are also visible with a comparatively less remarkable aspect of the available vista relative to more iconic and dramatic views in other directions towards the likes of the Mangerton ridge (east), MacGillycuddy Reeks (west), Killarney Lakes and the Devil's Punchbowl (north and northwest).</p> <p>The turbines present in a legible and reasonable well-spaced manner and their main visual effects relating to the cumulative scenario within this already densely populated area of turbines. The elevated nature and angle of this view sees the proposed turbines stack up behind series of other closer turbines, albeit without overlapping in perspective. Whilst there is a clear sense of open ground between these developments, the larger scale of the proposed turbines has the effect of condensing that section of the view in perspective making it appear that the rise only a short distance beyond the smaller Inchincoosh turbines. In this regard there may be a minor degree of scale confusion for those that choose to scrutinise this section of the vista. Otherwise, the proposed turbines will simply be perceived to contribute a noticeable share to the wind energy development of the distant south-eastern hillscape – an upland area that has become increasingly defined by such development.</p> <p>Overall, the proposed development is not considered to draw markedly from the distinct visual amenity afforded from Mangerton Mountain and the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>								
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Visual Receptor Sensitivity</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Visual Impact Magnitude</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Significance of Visual Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Very High</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Low-negligible</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Moderate-slight</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact	Very High	Low-negligible	Moderate-slight
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Very High	Low-negligible	Moderate-slight							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP15a	Gougane Barra (Lakeside – St Finbarrs Oratory)	NE	N/A
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An iconic heritage, tourism and amenity feature 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Very High		
Existing View	<p>This is a view from the carpark adjacent to the access to St Finbarr's Oratory, which sits in the middle of Gouganebarra lake near the eastern end. The view takes in the lake and oratory surrounded by steep bluffs that provide dramatic, enclosed atmosphere. The enclosing terrain dissipates towards the eastern end of the lake where the rugged terminal moraine responsible for forming the lake rises to form a low ridge and giving way to a farmed and settled context.</p>		

	<p>By way of overall context there are other nodes of interest and potential viewpoints within the Gouganebarra complex, which include the Hotel and scenic (arrival) approaches from the east, but these are either substantially screened by vegetation or oriented for views away from the proposed development. The selected view is one with a potential combined view of St Finbarr's Oratory and the proposed development within the same viewing arc. A second view (15b) has been selected from the Beara to Breifne Way walking trail high above Gouganebarra lake to the south as a potential worst-case-scenario view of the proposed development within the wider Gouganebarra setting, but not necessarily an iconic one. There is a network of Coillte walking trails up the steep and winding valley to the west, but these have little potential exposure to the proposed development.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>None of the proposed turbines will be visible from here and the magnitude of visual impact is Negligible by default. This has been used as an 'illustrative view' i.e., to illustrate the absence of effect at an important receptor location.</p>		
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Very High	Negligible	Imperceptible

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP15b	Beara Brefni Way (southern slopes above Gouganebarra)	NE	8.2 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An national way-marked walking trail • A heritage and amenity feature 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High		
Existing View	<p>This is an elevated view from a section of the Beara Breffni Way that overlooks the valley containing Gouganebarra lake to the north. It is a window of visibility between sections of foreground vegetation and beyond a small clearing woodland obscures much of the view of the lake. The peak of the roof from St Finbarr's Oratory can be seen amongst that vegetation. On the far side of the lake is a band of gently ascending farmland that soon gives way to the steep rocky faces that enclose much of the Gouganebarra setting. To the northwest is a lower ridge of moraine at the mouth of the valley which is cloaked in a combination of farmland and scrub. Two of the turbines from the Derragh Wind Farm can also be seen rising in silhouette above this lower section of ridge.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The blade sets of most of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising to varying degrees above the lower ridge of moraine that marks the mouth of the valley. They are seen at a modest, but noticeable scale and with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. They are peripheral to the main view over the lake which is nearer and more engaging. On the basis of these reasons, the visual presence of the proposed turbines is deemed to be sub-dominant.</p>		

	<p>Aesthetically, the proposed turbines generate some visual clutter due to several instances of overlapping and partial blade sets rotating on the skyline. However, this is offset by the clearer view of other blade sets rotating freely above the skyline and the profile of the wind farm follows that of the underlying ridge. The connection with the Derragh turbines is also fairly seamless in terms of both scale and positioning as the taller proposed turbines are slightly further away with their towers screened to a proportionally greater degree by the intervening ridge.</p> <p>Contextually, the proposed turbines visible within the same scene as the Gouganebarra valley but they a peripheral background feature seen beyond the more settled and productive section of landscape at the mouth of the valley adjacent to an existing wind farm. They will not unduly draw from the view across the lake which is not a comprehensive one in the overall context of the Gouganebarra setting.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of impact is deemed to be Low.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High	Low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP16	Local road at Threegneeves	NE	N/A
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated scenic route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		
Existing View	This is a relatively enclosed setting characterised by forest and scrub covered slopes and a light scattering of rural dwellings. It is a remote and tranquil area with a narrow local road that approaches the Gouganebarra valley from the east. The view in question is uphill towards a near ridge that is mainly obscured by forestry except for a small section of moorland.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	Only a single blade tip is even fractionally visible from here in the wireframe view and that particular section of the ridge is obscured by forestry. Thus, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible.		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Negligible	Imperceptible

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP17	Beara Breffni Cycle Route at Gortnacarriga	N	8.3 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A way marked cycling route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		
Existing View	<p>This is an elevated vista to the north that is channelled by a moorland ridge to the northwest and framed by trees in the foreground. Beyond the scrubby marginal farmland in the foreground can be seen ascending slopes in the distance that are contained in a combination of scrubby woodland and pasture in equal measure. This gives way to commercial forests and moorland on the higher slopes and ridgeline where three turbines from the Derragh Wind Farm can also be seen to rise.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>Nearly all of the proposed turbines can be seen from here rising fully above the skyline ridge to the north in silhouette with the exception of a couple of turbines that only reveal partial blade sets. Though relatively distant, and therefore modest in scale, the proposed turbines are contained in the distant focus of the northerly vista and will be a noticeable feature. They are also discernibly larger than the Derragh turbines, which are on the same alignment and add to the intensity of the overall cluster. On balance, the visual presence is deemed to be sub-dominant in the context of the overall scene.</p> <p>In their own right, the proposed turbines present in a clear and legible manner with an even spacing and blade sets generally rotating freely above the skyline ridge, the profile of which is matched by the turbine array. In combination with the Derragh turbines there is a marginally greater degree of clutter generated by turbine overlap and the even spacing characteristics are slightly upset. There is also a minor degree of scale confusion as the Derragh turbines are discernibly nearer (their bases are visible) and yet they are still smaller than the proposed turbines just beyond. This is a relatively minor disparity and is likely to be attributed by a viewer to a lower ground level for the Derragh turbines. Contextually, the proposed turbines rise from an area of productive rural landscape adjacent to a modest scale existing wind farm.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Medium low	Moderate slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP18	Local road above lough Allua	NW	7.2 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated scenic route 		

Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		
Existing View	This is a broad and slightly elevated view from just to the south of Lough Allua. The descending foreground slopes are contained in a combination of farmland and scrubby riparian woodland with similar land cover emerging again on the opposite side of the Lough where there is also a loose scattering of houses. On higher slopes low moorland scrub and rocky outcrops can be seen along with small conifer plantations and with turbines from the Cleanrath Wind Farm rising above the ridgeline. Further to the north the terrain gets higher and several turbines from the Derragh Wind Farm are also visible.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The majority of the proposed turbines are visible to a limited degree above the same section of ridgeline as the Derragh turbines. Those to the right reveal only blade tips, whilst those to the left are more openly visible on distant terrain through a lower section of the nearer ridge. Whilst they generate a marginal degree of intensity in-combination with the Derragh turbines, the nearer and more exposed Cleanrath turbines still draw the eye to a greater degree.</p> <p>Compositionally, the proposed turbines have several issues including blades rotating on the skyline ridge, which can cause visual ambiguity and irritation. Whilst there are clearer view of some turbines, two of these are heavily overlapped with each other and there is also some scale confusion with the smaller Derragh turbines, which appear to rise from the same ridge. These aesthetic issues are generally diluted by the modest degree of visual exposure and the clearer and less ambiguous view of the Cleanrath turbines further along the ridge. Furthermore, the proposed turbines will not obstruct or unduly intrude on the views of Lough Allua, which is the main feature of visual amenity in this scene.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High-medium	Low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP19	Local road at Gortnahoughtee	NW	9.5 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated scenic route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High		
Existing View	The is a vast elevated view across the upland context of the study area principally comprising of a series of folding, elongated ridges and valleys cloaked in marginal farmland and scrubby woodland at lower elevations and forestry and moorland at higher elevations. There is a loose scattering of dwellings visible and a prominent feature of the foreground is an ancient ringfort. Lough Allua can be glimpsed in the lower middle distance and the		

	turbines of the Cleanrath and Derragh Wind Farms occupy different sections of ridgeline beyond.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The proposed turbines will be seen on the same alignment and just beyond the Derragh turbines, albeit with a greater lateral and vertical extent. They will be seen at a modest, but noticeable scale from this distance with a low degree of contrast against the sky. Together with the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines, they will draw more attention to wind energy development in this portion of the view than is currently the case. Indeed, except for a small, but distinct gap between the Gortyahilly/ Derragh Cluster and the Cleanrath Wind Farm, they could be perceived as a large continuous array sprawling across several ridges.</p> <p>Compositionally, the proposed turbines integrate with the existing Derragh turbines to the degree that they will be perceived as a single and substantial development, albeit with the potential for some scale confusion between the nearer yet smaller Derragh turbines and larger more distant proposed turbines. Nonetheless there is relatively little turbine overlap, between the developments and within the proposed cluster itself. Consequently, a sense of visual stacking is avoided. Whilst the three combined development occupy a considerable lateral extent and portion of the skyline, there is a much broader skyline in view and the Cleanrath turbines are clearly contained on a nearer discrete ridge section.</p> <p>Contextually, the proposed turbines bring a noticeably increased intensity to wind energy development within this broad vista, but they do not introduce it as one of the characteristic components of this marginal, but productive upland rural area.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High	Medium-low	Moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP20	Local road at Kilbarry	NW	10.7 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated scenic route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High		
Existing View	<p>Similar in nature to VP19, this is a vast elevated view across rugged, but consistent height hills and valleys of the study area. Whilst the foreground setting is that of pastoral farming, the background is more heavily vegetated with scrub, woodland patches and forestry. There are a series of undulating ridgelines, but the skyline is a relatively horizontal blend of them. In the central middle distance, turbines from the Cleanrath Wind Farm can be seen merging with turbines from the Derragh Wind Farm just beyond.</p>		

<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>The proposed turbines will also be seen on alignment with the nearer Cleanrath and Derragh turbines, but also extending further to the east (right). Whilst they have a similar, or even slightly smaller, scale than the Cleanrath turbines (due to relative viewing distance) they are noticeably larger than the Derragh turbines. Viewed in combination as a relatively dense overall cluster of turbines, the scale disparity is less obvious and does not contribute to a marked sense of ambiguity. The proposed development will become the main contributor to the intensity of wind energy development within this portion of the view making the overall cluster a more prominent feature of it. However, all of the wind energy development will be consolidated within a relatively small portion of the overall vista and there is a relatively low degree of turbine stacking given the aligned angle of the three wind farms. Indeed, the proposed turbines consolidate a conspicuous gap between the two easternmost Cleanrath turbines and the main body of Cleanrath and Derragh turbines.</p> <p>In terms of context, the proposed turbines add to the intensity and visual envelope of wind energy development within the distant middle ground rather than introducing a new and unfamiliar form of built development. This is a broad working landscape that can absorb the scale and nature of the proposed development, in conjunction with its existing counterparts.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact, which is also the cumulative impact, is deemed to be Medium low.</p>		
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	<p>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>Visual Impact Magnitude</p>	<p>Significance of Visual Impact</p>
	<p>High</p>	<p>Medium-low</p>	<p>Moderate</p>

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP21	Rossnakilla	NW	16 km
<p>Representative of:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated scenic route • Small centre of population 		
<p>Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>High</p>		
<p>Existing View</p>	<p>This is a vast north-westward panorama from the small village of Rossnakilla. The foreground setting is that of a cluster of rural dwellings contained in 'house fields' of good quality pasture. The lower fore-to-middle ground consist of scrubland and small patches of woodland before farmland reemerges just beyond. This combination of farmed and more naturalistic land cover as well as blocks of commercial forestry extends into the distance across a series of elongated ridgelines. The turbines of the Cleanrath and Derragh Wind Farms can be seen on alignment with each other on distant ridges in a similar manner to VP20 (very similar viewing angle).</p>		

<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>As with VP20 the proposed turbines will be seen to overlap laterally with part of the Cleanrath / Derragh turbine cluster, whilst extending further to the northeast (right). However, in this instance there is more of a vertical separation apparent due to the elevation and distance. The proposed turbines still contribute the greater share of intensity and extent to the overall cluster, but there is a stronger sense of space and distance across the combined developments, which appear across three discrete ridge sections. The eye will be more drawn to the intense cluster of wind turbines in the north-western distance but they are consolidated into a modest section of the overall panorama.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the combined cluster of turbines is relatively evenly spaced with surprisingly few instance of turbine overlap. There is a minor degree of scale / distance confusion due the more distant proposed turbines presenting at a similar or larger scale than their nearer counterparts, but this effect is strongly diluted by the overall sense that this is a distant consolidated cluster of turbines.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>								
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="434 824 1417 972"> <tr> <td data-bbox="434 824 721 922"> <p>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</p> </td> <td data-bbox="727 824 1015 922"> <p>Visual Impact Magnitude</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1021 824 1417 922"> <p>Significance of Visual Impact</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="434 931 721 972"> <p>High</p> </td> <td data-bbox="727 931 1015 972"> <p>Low</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1021 931 1417 972"> <p>Moderate-slight</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>Visual Impact Magnitude</p>	<p>Significance of Visual Impact</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Moderate-slight</p>
<p>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>Visual Impact Magnitude</p>	<p>Significance of Visual Impact</p>							
<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Moderate-slight</p>							

<p>Viewshed Reference Point</p>		<p>Direction of View</p>	<p>Distance to nearest visible turbine:</p>
<p>VP22</p>	<p>N22 at Toonlane</p>	<p>SW</p>	<p>5.9 km</p>
<p>Representative of:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated scenic route • A major route 		
<p>Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>Medium</p>		
<p>Existing View</p>	<p>This is a slightly elevated view from the busy N22 national road within a relatively enclosed setting. The enclosure is generated by a combination of rolling terrain and coniferous treelines in the fore-to-middle ground. The land cover is that of marginal farmland and scrub covered slopes along with areas of commercial conifer plantation. The blade sets of several turbines can be seen rising above a low section of the skyline ridge. There is a series of dwellings perched on the slopes immediately above the road that take in the same south-westerly cross-valley view.</p>		
<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>Most of the proposed turbines will be visible from here rising from the same lower section of the skyline as the existing turbines, albeit slightly to the right and at a considerable larger scale. They are tightly bunched and partially obscured by the tops of foreground trees. The scale of the proposed turbines is relatively modest from this distance, but the tight lateral extent of the cluster is balanced in a visual presence sense by its intensity. They will be a noticeable feature of the view and the visual presence is deemed to be sub-dominant.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the tight bunching of the turbines from this angle results in numerous instances of turbine overlap and coupled with the partial screening by intervening treetops there will</p>		

	<p>be a degree of visual clutter generated. Otherwise the turbines have a consolidated and even spacing and the profile of the scheme mirrors the skyline ridge they rise upon.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>		
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Medium low	Moderate-slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP23	N22 at Inchinlinane	W	10.3 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A designated scenic route • A major route 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		
Existing View	<p>This is a pleasant view from the N22 road corridor across a foreground of flat pastoral farmland in the base of the valley giving way to middle distance slopes of farmland and woodland. The view is contained at a modest distance by an undulating, vegetated ridge and mature trees line the road ahead for west bound road users.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>All of the proposed turbines will be at least partially visible from here, rising as full blade sets, or just blade tips, above a low section of an intervening wooded ridge. They are consolidated within a small section of the view where it is their intensity rather than extent of scale that may draw the attention of passing road users. They will also be seen with a relatively low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. In the context of the view on offer where the fore-to-middle ground is the engaging aspect, the proposed turbines will have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to Minimal.</p> <p>Given the lateral consolidation of the proposed wind farm, there is surprisingly little turbine overlap. However, this does occur in a couple of instances and along with blade tips rotating on the skyline vegetation, there will be a minor degree of visual clutter. The main aesthetic issue is that the proposed turbines look under-scaled relative to the foreground setting which they emerge into as the kilometres of landscape between is screened from view i.e. they could be perceived as a tight bunch of small turbines rising from the near wooded ridge. This is still a considerable preference compared to appearing over-scaled within a view and it is therefore more of an observation than an issue.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>		
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Low	Slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP24	Local road at Gortyrally	SW	1.1 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium low		
Existing View	<p>This is a relatively contained view from within an upland valley in the central study area. The main aspect of visual amenity is across / along the valley to the north and northwest, whereas the view in question is more of a close upslope view partially contained by a band of trees a short distance beyond the road. There is also a reasonable degree of containment by vegetation along the road alignment itself. Further along the valley can be seen a rugged moorland ridge.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>Two of the nearest of the proposed turbines are substantially screened from view behind the nearby treeline and would only reveal partial blade sets above the enclosing ridge. The remaining visible turbines, of which there are 3-4 are also partially screened by sporadic roadside vegetation. When / if visible only two of them are fully revealed above the skyline ridge with the others presenting blade sets only. Due to proximity, the visible turbines present at a prominent scale and as distinctive built / moving features within this quiet upland setting. However they are also partially screened and serve as a framing element in the more engaging north-westerly views. Their visual presence is considered to be in the order of dominant to co-dominant in this setting.</p> <p>Due to the degree and nature of foreground screening elements, this is a slightly obscure view of the turbines that may generate a degree of ambiguity and clutter. This will be balanced by the clearer and more legible view of the two nearer and more exposed turbines at various points along this road. There is a strong degree of perspective between the nearest and furthest visible turbines (generated by scale differential), which aids the sense of framing along the enclosing valley ridge. As they are peripheral within the context of this view, the turbines will not obstruct or unduly intrude on the amenity aspect of this scene. The proposed turbines are contextually suited to this upland working landscape context where other turbines are frequently visible.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium-low	Medium	Moderate slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP25	Local road at Gortnabinna	N	0.6 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A designated scenic route An amenity feature (Beara Brefni Way) Local Community views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium (broad view in opposite direction higher sensitivity)		
Existing View	<p>This is a view from a quiet upland road that is designated as a scenic route on the basis of channelled, long distance views down valley to the south, whereas the view in question (towards the site) is a short distance uphill one to the north. This takes in a rugged landcover context of marginal gazing, forestry and rocky moorland. Two of the turbines from Derragh Wind Farm can be seen rising at a reasonably scale above the skyline ridge a short distance to the southeast.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>The full blades sets of four of the proposed turbines will be seen rising at a prominent scale above the near ridgeline to the north along with the partial blade sets and blade tips of a further 3. Given the uphill nature of the view and the proximity, the proposed turbines will be a dominant feature of the northerly view, but less dominating in the context of overall vista where the main visual amenity and more engaging aspect is to the south. For the same reason it is not considered that the proposed turbines will unduly draw from the visual amenity enjoyed at this location despite adding appreciably to the intensity and scale of built development. Furthermore, they are not the only turbines contributing to wind energy development being a notable feature of the setting, if not the critical view.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Medium	Moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP26	Local road near Kilnamartyra	W	8.2 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small centre of population 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		

Existing View	<p>This is a broad elevated vista from just above the settlement of Kilnamartyra, the houses, commercial buildings and playing pitches of which can be seen in the fore-to-middle ground wrapped by a hinterland of pastoral farmland. Whilst the middle distance landscape remains predominantly farmland, scrub, forestry and rugged moorland can be seen on the slopes and ridges beyond, which extend to a relatively horizontal skyline in the distance. The turbines from the Cleanrath and Derragh Wind Farms can be seen rising at a modest scale above closely associated, but discrete, sections of ridgeline in the distant middle ground.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>All of the proposed turbines can be seen from here rising with blades sets in silhouette against a backdrop of sky and towers presented with higher degree of contrast against an immediate backdrop of terrain. The turbines present at a modest scale from this distance and in the context of such a broad vista. They are seen in a consolidated cluster that is highly legible, relatively evenly spaced and generally avoids turbine overlap.</p> <p>The proposed cluster lies a short and distance to the right of the Derragh turbines with the gap being comparable to that between the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines. Despite the notable increase to the quantum of turbines visible in this section of the view there is a good degree of legibility to the cumulative scenario with each of the developments presenting in a similar manner. The relative viewing distance to each development tends to balance the perceived turbine height with the dimensionally taller proposed turbines not generating undue scale / distance confusion.</p> <p>Contextually, the proposed turbines are well assimilated within this broad setting that currently consists of a small range of productive upland land uses - wind energy development being one of them.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>		
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	Low	Slight

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP27	Local road at Coolea South	S	1.4 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community View 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium-low		
Existing View	<p>This viewpoint is contained within an upland valley context in the central study area. There is a scattering of dwellings in the base of the valley and also on the gentle slopes above. The view to the south takes in a foreground of improved pasture followed by a lower ground contained in marshy woodland and scrub before rising again as farmland and then naturalistic moorland forest plantations near the enclosing ridgeline.</p>		

<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>Nearly all of the proposed turbines are visible from here above the domed ridgeline to the south, albeit to different degrees. Around 6-7 are fully revealed with the remainder presenting partial blade sets and blade tips above the ridge. They are seen at prominent, but not overbearing scale and the lateral extent of the development is relatively broad. In the context of this enclosed setting the distinctive turbines have a dominant visual presence. They do not appear over-scaled relative to the underlying landform or landcover pattern, but there is a minor degree of scale conflict between the turbines and dwellings seen further downslope as the physical separation distance between them is not readily apparent from this vantage point.</p> <p>Compositionally, the proposed turbines are generously and evenly spaced with few instances of overlap and the profile of the development mimics the underlying ridge. There is also a good sense of perspective generated between the nearest and furthest turbines due to relative scale, which emphasises the depth of the layout across the hill. Contextually, the proposed turbines will add considerably to the intensity of built development within this quiet upland setting though they do not appear out of place in this productive rural area.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium.</p>								
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="427 913 1423 1077"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="427 913 719 1014">Visual Receptor Sensitivity</th> <th data-bbox="719 913 1018 1014">Visual Impact Magnitude</th> <th data-bbox="1018 913 1423 1014">Significance of Visual Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="427 1014 719 1077">Medium-low</td> <td data-bbox="719 1014 1018 1077">High-medium</td> <td data-bbox="1018 1014 1423 1077">Moderate</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact	Medium-low	High-medium	Moderate
Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact							
Medium-low	High-medium	Moderate							

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP28	Local road at Derryfineen	W	1.1 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Scenic Route Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium		
Existing View	<p>This is an up-valley westerly view from a from a scenic route for which it is considered that the original designation related to elevated, long distance, down-valley views to the east. On the righthand side of the road alignment, the terrain rises in the foreground and there is a series of dwellings perched above the road that are aligned to take advantage of the same views described above (cross-valley / down-valley to the south and east). One of these can be seen in the foreground depicted at VP28. On the left hand side of the road the terrain falls gently and there is a more naturalistic land cover of reverting scrub forestry and some marginal grazing. Along the road alignment, the view is contained at a modest distance by an undulating scrub and forest covered ridge partly occupied by the turbines from the Derragh Wind Farm. Across the valley to south the containing ridge is occupied by turbines from the Cleanrath Wind Farm. The presence of these wind farms, which were permitted and constructed after this road was designated as a scenic route supports the theory that is</p>		

	the easterly, down-valley views that are most valued as these are merely framed / backed by the existing turbines.		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>Except for a modest gap on the ridgeline that aligns with the road direction, the proposed turbines will almost complete the enclosure of turbines that occupy the encircling upland ridges to the south, west and now northwest at the head of this valley. The majority of proposed turbines will be visible from here to varying degrees above the near ridgeline and they will present at a prominent scale, particularly the nearest one. The proposed turbines will be a dominant feature of the north-westerly aspect and will contribute to wind energy development being one of the defining features of this visual setting in a general sense. While there will be some sense of being surrounding by turbines at the head of this valley, it will be less so in the context of open and more expansive views down-valley to the east.</p> <p>Compositionally, this is a reasonably legible view of the proposed turbines array as it flows the ridge profile around the north-western quarter of the view with the diminishing scale of turbines away from the viewer aiding the sense of perspective. There are some instances of turbine overlap as well as blades rotating on the ridgeline, which can generate visual clutter. Given the relative proximity of the foreground house to the turbines beyond it there is not a marked sense of scale conflict, but this is more pronounced in respect of the nearest turbine to the rear (north) of the dwelling. Notwithstanding, the dwelling has a garage to the rear and clearly obtains visual amenity from elevated views in the opposite direction.</p> <p>Contextually, the proposed wind farm contributes to the scale, intensity and extent of wind energy development within this setting rather than introducing an unfamiliar form of development. In this regard it is the cumulative effect that is the key consideration and the proposed development makes a substantial contribution to that. Although there is some scale disparity between the proposed turbines and the adjacent Derragh turbines, there is a noticeable gap between them and the road alignment and ridge profile also serves to perceptually separate them to reduce the sense of scale / distance confusion.</p> <p>On balance of the factors outlined above including the key aspect of visual amenity being down-valley in the opposite direction, the proposed wind farm in conjunction with its existing counterparts is considered to generate a High magnitude of visual impact.</p>		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	Medium	High	Substantial-moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP29	Local road at Gortnabinna	N	0.6 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Scenic route Local Community Views 		
Receptor Sensitivity	High medium		

Existing View	<p>This is a channelled, long-distance view to the east down an upland valley afforded from near a saddle in the enclosing ridge at the head of the valley. Above the road are short steep slopes of rocky montane scrubland, whilst the slopes below are contained in various rotations of commercial forestry, scrub and marginal grazing in the valley floor. The longer distance view to the east encompasses lower lying arable farmland and a more settled rural landscape. A distinctive feature of the view is the wind turbines from the Derragh and then Cleanrath Wind farms that line the skyline ridge as it wraps around the valley to the south and southeast. These serve as framing features of the main viewing aspect and contribute strong perspective to the view due to the scale reduction from the nearest to the furthest visible turbines.</p>		
Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm	<p>Only one of the proposed turbines will be visible from here, but it will rise prominently, and for the first time, on the left hand (northern) side of the valley. It will either be perceived as an outlier turbine relative to the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines that wrap around the other side of the valley, or suggest that unseen turbines envelope the head of the valley to the rear of the viewer. Either way, it is not overbearing in terms of scale in this broad upland context and is not out of keeping with the baseline setting. Like the Derragh and Cleanrath turbines, it serves to frame the key easterly aspect of the vista and is not without sentinel aesthetic qualities that also serve to provide balance to the turbines on the opposing ridgeline. It contributes notably to the intensity and extent of wind energy development within view, but in a manner that does not undermine the values associated with the view, which include distance and scale coupled with enclosure and framing.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact, accounting for cumulative effects, is deemed to be Medium-low</p>		
Summary	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance of Visual Impact
	High-medium	Medium-low	Moderate

Viewshed Reference Point		Direction of View	Distance to nearest visible turbine:
VP30	Future N22 Bypass above Ballyvourney	N	5.9 km
Representative of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major route • Centre of population (Ballyvourney nearby) 		
Receptor Sensitivity	Medium-low		
Existing View	<p>This is an elevated yet relatively enclosed view from the northern slopes of the valley above the settlement of Ballvourney, which lies on the N22 national road. This location was selected to represent likely views from the imminent N22 Ballyvourney bypass, the initial construction works for which can be seen in the foreground field below. Beyond this are sloping pastoral fields that descend towards the settlement of Ballyvourney in the base of the valley. There is a band of mature trees framing the fore-to-middle ground portion of the view to the left and wooded and farmed slopes on the far side of the valley.</p>		

<p>Visual Impact of proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>All of the proposed turbines will be visible from here to varying degrees, rising in silhouette above the middle-distance vegetated ridgeline. Only one or two of them will present full blades sets with the remainder presenting partial blade sets at a modest but, noticeable scale. They are relatively tightly clustered so there is an intensity to the array even if its lateral extent is relatively short. In the context of oblique views from the new road in a complex visual setting, the turbines are considered to be sub-dominant in terms of visual presence.</p> <p>Whilst compositionally the turbines may give rise to a minor degree of visual clutter and ambiguity due to overlapping with each other and rotation of blades on the skyline, contextually they are well assimilated in this anthropogenic upland setting.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>		
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined in section 12.2.5 the significance of visual impact is summarised below.</p>		
	<p>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</p>	<p>Visual Impact Magnitude</p>	<p>Significance of Visual Impact</p>
	<p>Medium-low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Slight</p>