

APPENDIX 12.1

12.1a Visual Receptor Sensitivity

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoint Locations

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** of Chapter 12.

Table A12.1: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Scale of Value for each criterion

Strong association	Moderate association	Mild association	Negligible association

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

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

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

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

12.1b Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

The assessment of visual impacts at each of the selected viewpoints is aided by spatially accurate wireframe images and photomontages that have been produced in accordance with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual representation of wind farms: Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017). The presented images for each viewpoint include;

1. Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)
2. Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
3. Wireframe view (53.5° included angle)
4. Montage View (53.5° included angle)

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	<p>R297 west of Easky – Scenic View</p> <p>This is a relatively broad view looking south from near the outskirts of the dispersed rural village of Easky. Beyond a stone wall in the foreground can be seen open fields of pasture and a substantial Farmstead, beyond which, snippets of fields can be seen between low scrubby hedgerows. Plantation forestry occupies a low ridge in the middle distance. Although this is a designated scenic route, the principal visual amenity in towards the coast in the opposite direction to the site.</p>	Medium	Only the blade tips of the proposed turbines will be potentially visible above the middle distance skyline. They are further obscured by forestry on the skyline and are unlikely to be noticed by a casual observer. For these reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Negligible and the quality of the effect Neutral .	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term
VP2	<p>R297 at Leaffoney – Scenic View</p> <p>This is a similar view to VP1 from the coastal zone, but looking inland towards the Ox Mountains to the south. Again, it looks across a series of marginal grazed fields and a scattering of rural dwellings. The view is then substantially contained by a stacked band of vegetation that runs across the middle ground with glimpses of the Ox Mountains rising in the distance, but providing little containment to the view. Although this is a designated scenic route, the principal visual amenity in towards the coast in the opposite direction to the site.</p>	Medium	The hubs and upper blade sets of the proposed turbines will be seen amongst middle-distance treetops and foreground utility poles and residences, albeit they contained in the vast area of ground between these foreground features and the Ox Mountains in the distance. In this regard, there is a degree of visual clutter and also a degree of distance confusion. However, the proposed turbines will not be a particularly noticeable feature of this view and in this area most of the visual amenity relates to coastal views in the opposite direction. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible and of a Negative quality.	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative/ Long-term
VP3	<p>R297 at Carrowmarble and Dromore West – Scenic View</p> <p>This is a vast south-westerly Buster from a slightly elevated location on the R297. He takes in sweeping fields of past year and low scrubby hedgerows in the foreground, which then give way to a matrix of Fanta fields and plantation forestry. This middle-distance context is also occupied by a series of windfarms and in the far distance can be seen the undulate in profile of the ox mountains.</p>	High-medium	The proposed turbines will rise in silhouette just to the right of the existing set of turbines from the Carroleagh Wind Farm. They can be seen to the fore and to the right of the more distant Bunniconilon turbines. However, together these wind energy developments are all contained within the same aspect of the view – that being, the distant flat bog plateau that is contained between the Ox Mountains and the nearer agricultural landscape. The proposed turbines will be a noticeable, but small and distant feature of this view, which already contains wind turbines. In this regard, The proposed turbines represent the intensification rather than introduction of wind energy	Slight / Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			<p>development within this vast vista and have a correspondingly small effect on the prevailing visual amenity.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible, but the effect will be of a Negative quality.</p>	
VP4	<p>N59 at Culleens</p> <p>This is a broad vista across a flat to gently undulating terrain that extends towards the Ox Mountains in the distance. The fore-to-middle ground context consists of marginal grazing, low scrubby hedgerows as well as areas of peatland and conifer plantations. Four turbines from the Black Lough Wind Farm can be seen in silhouette against the sky in a lower section of the mountain backdrop, whilst more distant turbines from the Carrowleagh and Bunnyconnellan Wind Farms are seen with a lower degree of contrast against the backdrop of the mountain terrain.</p>	<p>Medium low</p>	<p>The proposed turbines will rise in an orderly line from within the middle ground peatland / forestry context. They are seen partially in silhouette against the sky, but mainly with a low degree of contrast against the backdrop of the Ox Mountains. They appear just to the right of the existing Carrowleagh and Bunnyconnellan turbines, but are more prominent due to their larger size and closer proximity. Nonetheless, they are not particularly prominent feature within the broad context of this view and nor are they an uncharacteristic feature. The proposed turbines will intrude upon a slightly greater degree of the Ox Mountains backdrop, but overall, the magnitude of visual change is considered to be Low and of a negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term</p>
VP5	<p>Killala Quay</p> <p>This view from Killala Quay takes in a pleasant coastal context of estuarine islands and sand spits that lie to the east of the village. Although not depicted in VP5, the six turbine Killala Wind Farm can be seen in relatively close proximity just beyond the settlement to the southwest. The view to the southeast is broad and open and reveals the distant coastal Plateau to the fore of the Ox Mountains, which form a low-lying backdrop to the scene.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>On clear days, the proposed turbines will be seen rising from the coastal plateau in the far distance to the southeast. They will be seen against a backdrop of the Ox Mountains terrain as small-scale features with a low degree of contrast. In the context of this broad and complex vista, which generally draws the viewers' attention along the coastline to the east and west the proposed turbines are not a particularly noticeable feature. Aesthetically, the proposed turbines present in an orderly and legible line with only a couple of instances of turbine overlap.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low-negligible, but of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
<p>VP6</p>	<p>R314 at Ballintean</p> <p>This is a rare open view to the southeast from the R314 between Killala and Ballina. From this gateway there is a sweeping view of agricultural land in the direction of the Ox Mountains, which form a distant backdrop to the scene. Sandwiched between the foreground agricultural setting and the mountains can be seen a narrow horizontal sliver, which is the partially forested bog plateau that leads up to the mountains. This section of the view also contains the turbines of three separate wind farms, but these present with a low degree of contrast against the backdrop of terrain.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The proposed turbines present in a slightly staggered linear layout and a predominantly contained below the skyline ridge of the Ox Mountains. However, several of the turbine blade tips will present just above the ridge in silhouette. The proposed turbines present in a simple and legible manner rising out of the broad context of the plateau bog. However, they are seen to the fore and to the right of the Bunnyconnellan and Carrowleagh turbines, thereby generating a degree of visual clutter from the perspective stacking. A considerable portion of the apron of the Ox Mountains already contains wind energy development and whilst the proposed development adds to the intensity of this development, it does not contribute substantially to an increase in its overall visual envelope. The addition of further turbines within this distant plateau context, which is already characterised by the combination of plantation forestry and wind farms is not excessive will not unduly detract from visual amenity at this location.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low and of a Negative quality.</p>	<p>Slight / Negative/ Long-term</p>
<p>VP7</p>	<p>Rosserk Friary</p> <p>This is the view that is presented to visitors to Rosserk Friary as they make their way down the access road towards the ruins perched on the western bank of the River Moy. On the opposite side of the river can be seen undulating pastoral farmland and a low vegetated ridge that affords only glimpsed views of the Ox Mountains in the distance beyond. The blade sets of some of the Bunnyconnellan turbines will be faintly visible against a backdrop of the mountains in clear conditions.</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>Due to the low-lying nature of this view, only the blades of some of the proposed turbines can be seen rising amongst the treetops on the vegetated middle-distance ridge. In the context of the near views of the Friary and river corridor, the proposed turbines are not a particularly noticeable background feature and will not have a material bearing on visual amenity or the visitor experience.</p> <p>For these reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible and the quality of that effect, Negative.</p>	<p>Slight-imperceptible/ Negative/ Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP8	<p>L2605 Rinroe</p> <p>This is a designated scenic route, albeit, the principal viewing direction is to the northwest across the corridor of the River Moy in the direction of Killala. The view in question, towards the proposed windfarm site, in the opposite direction, is much more contained. It consists of a marginal field of grazing flanked by a tree-lined hedgerow and occasional rural dwellings. In the far distance can be seen a small section of the Ox Mountains.</p>	<p>Medium low</p>	<p>The proposed turbines will not be visible from here due to the screening by intervening vegetation. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is Negligible / Neutral by default.</p>	<p>Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term</p>
VP9	<p>N59 at Tullylinn</p> <p>This is an expansive horizontal view from an open section of the N59 national road looking southwards towards the Ox Mountains. The foreground consists of large marginal fields of grazing with low scrubby hedgerows between. The middle distance consists of a slightly elevated apron to the ox mountains cloaked in commercial conifer plantations and peatland. Turbines from the Black lough, Carrowleagh and Bunnyconnellan wind farms can be seen against the backdrop of mountains and also rising and silhouette above the ridge line.</p>	<p>Medium low</p>	<p>Whilst there is a couple of instances of turbine overlap the causing a minor degree of visual clutter, the proposed windfarm is presented in a relatively clear and legible manner with a staggered linear layout. The turbines rise between the foreground agricultural context and the background mountains where they are visible against a backdrop of terrain and also in silhouette against the sky. They present at a modest, but noticeable scale that is slightly greater than the more distant and smaller existing turbines. In the context of the other windfarms there is some degree of clutter from the added intensity of development, but there remains a clear distinction between the proposed turbines and their existing counterparts.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low in the quality of the effect, Negative.</p>	<p>Slight / Negative/ Long-term</p>
VP10	<p>Sligo Way north of Lough Easky</p> <p>This view reveals the extensive nature of the peatland plateau that exists between the Ox Mountains which sweep down from the south and the agricultural coastal farmland that occurs further to the north. The landcover context of the peatland plateau is a combination of plantation forestry marginal grazing, natural / cutaway peatland and wind turbines. In terms of the latter,</p>	<p>High-medium</p>	<p>The proposed turbines will rise amongst the Carrowleagh turbines and although they are fractionally further away they appear closer because they are taller. Whilst this can generate scale / distance confusion in some instances, it is not a particular issue in this context of numerous turbines lining the distant horizon. The turbines will intrude to a slightly greater degree on the distant views of Nephin Mountain than the existing turbines do and there</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative/ Long-term</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	turbines from the Black Lough, Carrowleagh, and Bunnyconnellan wind farms trail away across the vista from east to west. The prominent feature of Nephin Mountain is visible in the distance on clear days.		<p>will be an increase in visual clutter from turbine overlap. Nonetheless, additional turbines, even larger ones, do not appear incongruous in this compatible setting where turbines are already part of a symbiotic landscape character of broad, low intensity natural and utilitarian features.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low in the quality of the effect, Negative.</p>	
VP11	<p>N59 at Corbally</p> <p>This is a slightly elevated view inland from the N59 at the small settlement of Corbally. The view extends across a foreground of marginal grazing to a dark middle ground band of forestry. A layer of turbines then exists between the forestry and the Ox Mountains that form a backdrop to this view.</p>	Medium-low	<p>All of the proposed turbines will rise from the same stratified layer as the existing turbines i.e. between the forestry band and the mountains, but to a greater degree. They present full blades sets that are partially in silhouette above the skyline ridge and partially against the backdrop of terrain. By contrast most of the existing turbines are below the skyline. There is a minor degree of scale / distance confusion between the proposed and existing turbines such that the former appear closer than the latter, even where this might not be the case. There will also be an increased level of visual clutter from turbines overlapping in perspective. However, there is also a good degree of visual and contextual legibility to the view of the turbines rising from the portion of the view where wind farms are an established and compatible feature.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP12	<p>Local Road at Carrowleagh</p> <p>This view typifies the landscape context of the site and much of the central study area being a combination of peatland, woody scrub and conifer plantations. A fraction of the eastern Ox Mountains can be seen above the forestry on alignment with the local road and some</p>	Medium-low	<p>Ten of the proposed turbines will be visible from here as three are screened by foreground forestry to the right of the road. The proposed turbines, which are slightly closer to the viewer than the Carrowleagh turbines, will rise much more prominently and appear considerably closer than their existing counterparts. However, they are seen in a clear and legible manner and the scale difference between the existing and proposed turbines only serves</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	turbines from the Carrowleagh Wind Farm rise just above the middle distance skyline.		to enhance the sense of perspective, space and depth of the view. Furthermore, the scale of the turbines is not excessive in this context of broad landform and land use patterns. There is also a sense compatibility with the existing low intensity rural land uses. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium , but the quality of the effect is only marginally Negative .	
VP13	L6612 Local Road at Carrowleagh This view is very similar in nature to that described above for VP12 as it is also from within the central study area where the view is dominated by the combination of peatland, woody scrub and conifer plantations. In this instance existing turbines are barely discernible.	Medium-low	As with VP12, there are 10 of the proposed turbines visible from here above the rolling terrain and forested skylines. The degree of exposure ranges from nearly the full height of one of the nearer turbines to just the partial blade sets of the more distant ones. The turbines do not appear out of place or over-scaled in this broad and productive rural setting, albeit they introduce a greater intensity and scale of built development. On balance the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium, but the quality of the effect is only marginally negative	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
VP14	Sligo Way at Meenagleragh/Meenamaddo This view is obtained from a very isolated section of the Sligo Way at one of the few points where the proposed wind farm will be potentially visible from this receptor within the heart of the Ox Mountains. The view takes in a fore-to-middle ground of forested slopes with some bare and scrubby ground. Through a brief window of open visibility out into the peatland plateau to the north of the mountains can be seen a line of around a dozen turbines from the Carrowleagh Wind Farm.	High-medium	Around 10 of the proposed turbines will rise to a slightly greater height than the Carrowleagh turbines overlapping with the left hand side of the existing visible array. This will cause a minor degree of scale / distance confusion between the proposed and existing turbines such that the former appear closer than the latter, even though this is not the case. There will also be an increased level of visual clutter from turbines overlapping in perspective. Nonetheless, they will be relatively distant features with a low degree of visual contrast and contained within a landscape context that is somewhat discrete relative to the immediate mountain setting.	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.	
VP15	<p>Local Road at Mullaun near Lough Rumduff</p> <p>This is from a section of designated scenic route that overlooks Easky Lough within the Ox Mountains. The land cover surrounding the lough is naturalistic moorland whilst plantation forestry takes over further to the south.</p>	High	<p>The proposed wind farm will not be visible from here due to terrain screening and the magnitude of visual impact is therefore Negligible by default.</p> <p>This has been used as an 'illustrative view' i.e. to illustrate the absence of impact from a highly sensitive receptor within the study area.</p>	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
VP16	<p>Castlefield Manor, Ballina</p> <p>This view is obtained from the top of an internal green space within one of the few housing estates in Ballina that afford potential views towards the proposed wind farm site and there are no potential views from within the core of the settlement which sits in the base of the valley that contains the River Moy. Beyond the housing estate that occupies the foreground setting is a rural landscape of fields and scrubby tree-lined hedgerows. This stretches to the east for some distance before the Ox Mountain foothills begin to rise as a backdrop to the scene. Contained at the base of the Ox Mountains are turbines from the Carrowleagh and Bunnyconnellan Wind Farms</p>	Medium-low	<p>Turbines from the southern half of the proposed development will be visible from here through a gap in foreground vegetation and these will rise on the same alignment as the Carrowleagh turbines. They will present as much taller than their existing counterparts even though they are only marginally closer, but this will aid the sense of spatial separation between the developments and also reduces the sense of visual clutter. The proposed turbines are still only small scale features in the context of the overall view given the viewing distance and they appear in a legible manner in the same context as existing wind energy development - the foothill / plateau at the base of the Ox Mountains.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP17	<p>Local Road at Carrownalagh, Glenree River</p> <p>This is a view from the low intensity agricultural context that surrounds the forestry / peatland of the site and central study area to the west. The view takes in gently undulating pastoral fields defined by scrubby tree-lined ditches with occasional farmsteads. Turbines from the Carrowleagh Wind Farm can be seen intermittently in silhouette above the middle distance skyline between intervening trees.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The proposed turbines will rise intermittently between foreground trees and they are seen at a modest but noticeable scale from this distance. Because of the distinct scale disparity with the Carrowleagh turbines beyond there is a minor degree of scale confusion but little visual clutter. The variation in scale also tends to enhance the sense of space and distance rather than foreshortening the depth of the scene. The proposed turbines do not appear out of context in the setting and</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			overall, the magnitude of impact is deemed to be Medium-low.	
VP18	<p>Local Road at Glenree</p> <p>This is a view from one of the closest receptors to the site, being a narrow bog road that serves forestry and turf cutting interests. However, there is also a residence to the rear of the viewer where similar views would be afforded from. The existing Carrowleagh turbines can be seen rising just above the skyline forestry plantation and also within a gap between forestry plantations. They are partially screened by terrain and presented at a relatively modest scale.</p>	Medium-low	The proposed turbines will be seen in the same direction as the Carrowleagh turbines, but at a much more prominent scale due to their nearer distance and larger dimensions. They will bring a considerably increased scale and intensity of built development to the view. However, they are seen in a clear and unambiguous manner with a strong degree of perspective between the nearest in furthest units, which helps to ameliorate any sense of clutter from overlap. The turbines are not considered to be over-scaled in this broad open scene consisting of cutaway peatland and forestry as well as other wind turbines. The considerable scale disparity between the Nearer proposed turbines and the existing Carrowleagh turbines does not appear ambiguous in this context. The existing turbines simply feel further away than they actually are, which accentuates the sense of space and distance. On balance of the scale versus legibility aspects described above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be High-medium.	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term
VP19	<p>Western Way near R294 at Drumsheen</p> <p>This is a vast and elevated view afforded to road users on the R294 road as they exit the Ox Mountains in a north-westerly direction towards Ballina. The sweeping view consists of peatland / moorland covered slopes interspersed with occasional blocks of plantation forestry and small water bodies throughout the fore-to-middle ground. In the far distance can be seen a narrow sliver of agricultural farmland. The turbines from the Carrowleagh and Black Lough wind farms can be seen above the forestry plantation in the middle distance.</p>	High-medium	The proposed turbines will be seen predominantly to the left of the existing turbines within this view and at a notably larger scale. However, the scale difference does not appear ambiguous - it generates a stronger sense of separation between the developments as well as enhancing the view-depth. Nonetheless, there will be a markedly increased scale and intensity of built development within this particular portion of the view. This still leaves the majority of the broad vista unimpeded by wind energy development. The proposed turbines do not appear out of place in this context, which consists of broadscale landform and land cover patterns as well as other wind energy developments. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP20	<p>R294 at Windy Gap</p> <p>This view is slightly further back along the R294 to the south than VP19 and consequently it feels more enclosed to the east and west by the surrounding slopes of the Ox Mountains. Down the valley to the north is a landscape comprising of peatland / moorland and plantation forestry with wind turbines from the Carrowleagh and Black Lough wind farms rising above the latter in the middle distance.</p>	High-medium	<p>This viewing scenario is very similar to that described above for VP19 with the proposed turbines appearing to the left of the existing turbines and at a larger scale. Again, there is little ambiguity in the scale differential between these turbines, just a sense of greater separation distance than is actually the case. Indeed, the scale difference between the nearest and furthest turbines serves to accentuate the sense of perspective and distance. There will be a notably increased intensity and scale of development within the view, but it is not perceived to be development contained within the Ox Mountains context, but rather the apron of peatland and forestry that occurs to the north of the mountain range. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium.</p>	Moderate/ Negative/ Long-term
VP21	<p>N26 at Tonybaun</p> <p>This is a broad vista afforded from the N26 approaching Ballina looking to the northeast along the northern slopes of the Ox Mountains. The lower fore-to-middle ground consists of patchwork farmland and hedgerows. The existing Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm can be seen at a small scale on the foothills of the Ox Mountains amongst forestry in moorland.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The proposed turbines will be seen in silhouette above and between intervening vegetation to the north of the mountains. They present with a low degree of contrast in this scenario and at a small scale, such that they will be barely noticeable to passers-by. They will not appear ambiguous in this productive rural setting, which already contains wind energy development as a compatible and characteristic feature. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be Low.</p>	Slight/ Negative/ Long-term
VP22	<p>N26 at Sraheen</p> <p>This view is afforded from further south along the N26 than VP21 described above. The view in question is a brief gateway glimpse between foreground vegetation across a lower fore-to-middle ground of pastoral fields and hedgerows. Beyond can be seen the forested northern slopes of the Ox Mountains rising to a modest degree and containing the vista in the middle distance. The existing Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm can be seen</p>	Medium-low	<p>The blade tips of three of the proposed turbines are potentially visible in the same saddle as the Bunnyconnellan turbines, but slightly lower and to the left. These will be barely discernible in this context and at this distance. If noticed, the blade tips may appear slightly ambiguous as they are clearly from either bigger or closer machines (than Bunnyconnellan), but the actual context is not apparent. Such effects are strongly diluted by the viewing distance and on balance the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	rising at a small scale / in silhouette in a saddle between hills.			
VP23	<p>Hydrogen Plant View - Local road north of hydrogen site at Carraun</p> <p>This is a short distance uphill view across a low hedge and marginal grazing towards a near ridgeline that is substantially cloaked in hedgerow vegetation.</p>	Medium-low	The proposed hydrogen plant will not be visible from here due to screening by a combination of terrain, hedgerow vegetation, and a forestry plantation. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral/ Long-term
VP24	<p>Hydrogen Plant View - Local road northeast of hydrogen site at Knockbrack</p> <p>This viewpoint is slightly further east along the road from VP23 and is slightly more open. The setting consists of gently rolling fields of marginal grazing backed by conifer plantations. Occasional dwellings can also be seen.</p>	Medium-low	The proposed hydrogen plant will not be visible from here due to screening by a combination of terrain, hedgerow vegetation, and a forestry plantation. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is negligible by default.	Imperceptible / Neutral/ Long-term
VP25	<p>Hydrogen Plant View – N59 west of hydrogen site at Carraun</p> <p>This is a view from the N59 looking across open fields of rolling terrain divided by mature tree-lined hedgerows in the foreground. Lining the near ridge is scrubby vegetation that presents in silhouette against the sky.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The upper roof profile of the proposed hydrogen plant building will be potentially visible from here through and between intervening broadleaf trees and the scrubby ridgeline vegetation. It will present as a solid dark tone hinting at a farm shed or similar. Consequently, it will not appear ambiguous in this context if it is noticed at all.</p> <p>The proposed structure will present with an agricultural green tone and the intervening ridgeline is proposed to be planted with hedgerow vegetation. Once this has become established, the building will be barely discernible. Therefore the magnitude of impact is deemed to be Negligible.</p>	Imperceptible / Neutral/ Long-term
VP26	<p>Hydrogen Plant View - Local road south of hydrogen site at Dooyeaghny</p> <p>This is a glimpse view above a roadside grassed embankment of the rolling green fields of good quality</p>	Medium-low	Only the upper corner of one end of the proposed hydrogen plant building will be potentially visible from here rising just above the Skyline ridge. It will have an agricultural green tone and is barely noticeable in this context. If noticed, it will read as an agricultural shed beyond the ridge and it is, therefore, not considered to	Imperceptible / Neutral/ Long-term

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	pasture, which rise beyond towards a low ridge that hosts occasional patches of vegetation.		draw from visual amenity at this location. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be negligible.	