FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

Appendix 15.1

Viewpoint Assessments

FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR THE PROPOSED BALLINAGREE WIND FARM

VOLUME 2 - MAIN EIAR

APPENDIX 1 – VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AT VIEWPOINTS

Prepared for: Ballinagree Wind DAC

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Appendix

Appraisal of Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Degree of Associated within each Criterion

Strong association	Moderate association	Mild association	Negligible association

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

Values associated with the view	VP1	VP2	VP3	VP4	VP5	VP6	VP7	VP8	VP9	VP10	VP11	VP12	VP13	VP14	VP15
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	M	M	M	L	HM	ML	M	ML	M	M	HM	M	M	M

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	VP16	VP17	VP18	VP19	VP20	VP21	VP22	VP23	VP24	VP25	VP26	VP27	VP28	VP29	VP30
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	HM	M	M	M	HM	M	ML	ML	M	HM	ML	ML	ML	M	M

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	VP31	VP32	VP33	VP34
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	**HM**	**M**	**HM**	**HM**

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

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP1	R576 at Kanturk	16.4km (T21)	S

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Major route
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-Low**
Existing View	This is a view from the R576 regional road overbridge at the settlement of Kanturk. The depicted view extends south across the corridor of the River Allow, which is bound by dense riparian vegetation and large industrial warehouses and factories which contain much of the view at a near distance. In the far distance, an elongated ridgeline is briefly discernible above the near factories and vegetation and contains the background of the view.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 8 of the proposed turbines have the potential to be visible from here rotating above and along the distant ridge (wireframe view). However, due to the high degree of existing intervening screening in the form of vegetation and built development, residual brief glimpses of a reduced number of turbines will only be afforded from here. Up to 4 turbines are visible in the depicted view in the distant background and are viewed backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. In the context of this busy anthropogenic vista, the proposed turbines are considered to have a minimal visual presence. The proposed turbines are viewed in a relatively clear and legible manner albeit from a considerable distance and despite the intermittent screening. They are viewed along a distant ridge that already contains existing turbines, and therefore will not appear out of place, although they present at a slightly larger scale than the existing visible turbines. It is not considered that the proposed turbines will have any notable effect on the visual amenity of this already highly industrialised scene. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Negligible.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-Low	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP2	R577 at Boherbue	17.3km (T15)	SE

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Major route
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**

Existing View	This is a broad elevated vista afforded from the R577 regional road as it approaches the small settlement of Boherbue from the southeast. The vast view looks across a large sloping pastoral field in the near foreground towards an area of rolling terrain contained in pastoral farmland that occupies much of the middle ground context of the view. In the distance, the rolling ridges of the Boggeragh Mountains contain the view, with their easternmost extents encompassing a high degree of existing wind energy developments.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	All 8 of the proposed turbines within the northern cluster will be visible from here at a modest scale along the distant ridge backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The turbines will be distant but noticeable features with 6 of the 8 turbines rising fully in silhouette against the sky. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines are visible immediately adjacent to a number of existing wind energy developments and present at a notably larger scale than the existing counterparts. Overall, in this broad vista, it is considered that the visual presence of the proposed development is sub-dominant. The proposed turbines present in a relatively legible manner from here and are well spaced. However, there will be some degree of visual ambiguity associated with the three easternmost proposed turbines as they are viewed immediately beyond the existing Boggeragh turbines and present at a notably larger scale. These turbines are also viewed stacked against the existing turbines and will intensify the sense of visual clutter in this aspect of the view. Nevertheless, the westernmost proposed turbines appear in a highly legible manner and are considerably offset from Musheramore ridge, which is one of the more sensitive landscape features in this aspect of the view. Whilst the proposed turbines will not appear out of place in this broad view that encompasses a large number of existing turbines, it will notably increase the intensity of wind energy development along the Boggeragh ridge. On balance of the reasons outline above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

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

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP3	N72 west of Mallow	17.2km (T21)	SW
Representative of:	• Major route • Centre of Population • Scenic route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		

Existing View	This is a pleasant brief vista afforded from the corridor of the N72 national secondary route west of the settlement of Mallow and immediately north of Mallow racecourse. The view looks across an agricultural gateway along the verge of the national secondary route corridor, which has also been designated as a scenic route, where Mallow racecourse occupies much of the fore-to-middle ground context of the view. The view is partially truncated in the middle ground by a dense band of mature stacked vegetation, however, Mount Hillary and the rolling hills and ridges within the Boggeragh Mountains rise up in the distance to contain the background of the view. Partial glimpses of existing wind energy developments are also discernible along the rolling distant ridgelines.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The blade sets of two of the proposed turbines will be visible along the distant ridgeline and are viewed against a backdrop of sky with a very low degree of contrast - so much so, that they will likely go unnoticed along this brief section of the N72 scenic route. As a result, the proposed turbines are considered to have a minimal visual presence. Whilst there may be some degree of visual ambiguity associated with the partial view of blade sets here, this is heavily offset by the notably low degree of visual exposure of the proposed turbines from here. For the reasons outline above, it is not considered that the partial visibility of the blade sets of two turbines will have any notable impact on the visual amenity of this scene, and therefore the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Negligible.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP4	Local cemetery at Banteer	11.0km (T21)	S
Representative of:	• Heritage feature • Centre of population • Major route (National Railway Line)		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a relatively enclosed view from a local cemetery at the settlement of Banteer immediate south of the national railway line corridor. In the foreground, the view takes in the local cemetery which is enclosed to the south by a dense mature hedgerow that contains the western half of the afforded view. In the distance, the western extents of Mount Hillary rise above the near dense hedgerow and contain the eastern aspect of the view.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The wireframe montages identify that the blade tip of one turbine is theoretically visible from here, however, due to the high degree of dense vegetation within the intervening landscape, it will be entirely screened from here. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is **Negligible** by default.		

Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP5	N72 at Dromskehy	11.8km (T15)	S
Representative of:	• Major route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Low**		
Existing View	This is a relatively enclosed brief view from the corridor of the N72 national secondary route in the townland of Dromskehy adjacent to its intersection with the R583 regional road. The depicted view looks south across the N72 route corridor towards a small pastoral field situated at a lower elevation than the road corridor. A dense mature tree-lined hedgerow, in combination with stacked layers of hedgerow vegetation beyond, partially contains the view. Only filtered glimpses are afforded of neighboring fields through gaps in the near tree-lined hedgerow. In the distance, filtered views of the rolling Boggeragh Mountains are afforded above and through the near vegetation and contain the background of the view. Glimpses of existing wind turbines are also discernible along the skyline.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 7 of the proposed turbines will be potentially visible from here above and through a dense veil of stacked (winter) vegetation. The turbines will be revealed to varying degrees from here and are viewed against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The turbines present at a relatively modest scale similar to that of the existing visible turbines although the proposed turbines will slightly increase the vertical extent of wind energy development within this view. Overall, this is a fleeting view of the proposed turbines along a busy road section, and therefore the visual presence of the proposed project is considered to be sub-dominant. In terms of aesthetics, there will be some degree of clutter generate by the stacked views of the proposed turbines from here, however as the N72 is not a static receptor, the degree of visual clutter is likely to alter as road uses travel further to the east/west. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines appear as an extension to the existing turbines albeit, they present at a slightly larger scale and will increase the intensity of built development seen along this section of the N72. In the context of this busy road corridor view and robust rural landscape setting, the proposed turbines do not appear out of place. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Low**.		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Low	Low	**Slight-imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP6	Mount Hillary	9.2km (T21)	SW

Representative of:	• Amenity Feature (Mount Hillary Loop Walk)
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**
Existing View	This is an elevated broad panorama afforded from a section of the Mount Hillary Loop walk located to the north of the Boggeragh Mountains. The view extends across the south-facing slopes of Mount Hillary, which swiftly descend away from the viewer and are contained in low scrubby vegetation. Beyond this, the broad elevated view extends across the northern rolling foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains which are carpeted in a patchwork of pastoral farmland. The view is contained in the distance by the rolling upland ridges of the Boggeragh Mountains which are cloaked in a dense layer of conifer plantations and existing wind energy developments.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 8 of the proposed turbines in the northern cluster will be clearly visible from here and primarily stand clear in silhouette against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. The visible turbines present with rhythmic and even spacing characteristics and are viewed at a notable scale from this distance of just under 10km. Aside from a partial glimpse of the blade tips of two turbines, the turbines in the southern cluster are almost entirely screened from view here. Overall, the visual presence of the proposed turbines is considered to be sub-dominant. Whilst the proposed turbines in their own right would be viewed in a highly legible manner with very few instances of turbine overlap, they will be viewed in combination with a large number of existing turbines and present at a notably larger scale generating some sense of scale conflict. Furthermore, the view of the proposed turbines in combination with the existing turbine will appear stacked in perspective also generating a sense of visual clutter and tension. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines will not appear out of place in this visual context where wind energy already contributes to the character of the Boggeragh mountains, although it will give rise to an increase in the intensity of wind energy development in this view. Furthermore, the proposed turbines are buffered away from the more upland and visually sensitive areas of the Boggeragh Mountains further to the west. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-Medium	Low	**Moderate-Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP7	L1120 at Rathcool	8.0km (T15)	S/SE

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Major route (National Railway Corridor)
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**
Existing View	This is a view from the L1120 local road immediately east of the small settlement of Rathcool and c. 300m south of the National Railway Line. The view is directed along a local road corridor bound on both sides by small pastoral fields which occupy much of the foreground context of the view. The view is contained in the near distance to the east by an area of dense mature riparian vegetation that flanks the River Rathcool, whilst further to the south, dense layers of hedgerow vegetation partially screen the landscape beyond. In the background, the terrain rises above the middle distance hedgerows and is cloaked in pastoral farmlands and dense networks of hedgerow vegetation. Several existing wind turbines are visible rotating above the low ridge in the distance.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 7 of the proposed turbines will be visible here to varying degrees, with one turbine almost fully screened by the riparian vegetation immediately east of the local road. Three of the turbines are visible together in a tight cluster with one of the turbines presenting at a larger scale, whilst a partial view of blade sets is afforded of a proposed turbine further along the ridgeline to the west. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines will appear as modest scale features in this view and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. The proposed turbines present here in a relatively clear and legible manner albeit there will be some degree of visual clutter associated with the stacked views of the proposed and existing turbines. The proposed turbines are also viewed at a slightly larger scale than the existing turbines which has the potential to generate a slight sense of scale conflict. Nonetheless, the proposed turbines do not appear incongruous in this working rural landscape setting that already affords views of existing wind turbines. In this regard, the proposed development will appear as an extension to the existing wind farm development and will result in a slight intensification of wind energy development along the distant ridge. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Low**.
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP8	R582 at Millstreet	9.8km (T1)	SE

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Major route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a brief view from the R582 regional road in the centre of the settlement of Millstreet. The view looks across the entranceway to a local school in the immediate foreground. The eastern aspect of the view is contained at a short distance by a neighbouring church building, which screens the landscape context beyond. Filtered views of a low rolling ridge contained in pastoral farmland are afforded in the distance, beyond which the view is contained in the background by the distinctive domed form of Musheramore Mountain.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Whilst the wireframe view indicates the potential for visibility of up to four turbine blade tips, they will be entirely screened here by the built surrounds of the settlement of Millstreet. Furthermore, the potentially visible blade tips will be considerably offset from Musheramore ridge, the most sensitive landscape feature in this vista. Even if brief views are afforded of the proposed turbine blade tips from the settlement of Millstreet, they will likely be viewed in combination with the existing Boggeragh turbines and will appear as an extension to an already established land use. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Low-negligible.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low-negligible	**Slight-imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP9	Local road at Horsemount North, west of Kilcorney	4.7km (T15)	SE

Representative of:	• Local community views • Centre of population	
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**	
Existing View	This is a broad vista afforded from a local road in the townland of Horsemount North looking towards the rolling northern foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains as the viewer approach the village of Kilcorney from the southwest. The view extends across a number of fields contained in pasture and defined by hedgerow vegetation in the near foreground, where the terrain descends towards the broad Ivale river valley. The terrain rises up again in the middle ground towards the Boggeragh Mountains and is contained in a patchwork of pastoral farmland bound by mixed hedgerow vegetation.	

	The rolling ridges of the Boggeragh Mountains contain the background of the view and are cloaked in a mix of moorland and geometric blocks of conifer forest. A considerable number of existing wind turbines are also visible along the rolling northern hills and ridges of the Boggeragh in the eastern aspect of the depicted view.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 7 of the proposed turbines have the potential to be seen from here to varying degrees ranging from partial views of blade sets to fully revealed turbines, all of which are viewed against the sky with a low degree of contrast. The proposed turbines are likely to draw the eye in this view, however, they do not appear over-scaled in the context of the broad rolling upland ridges. The three turbines in the central portions of the depicted view will present as the most prominent, whilst the remaining turbines situated further to the east and west along the ridge will only be partially visible. As a result, the proposed turbines are likely to be a noticeable feature from here and the visual presence of the proposed project is deemed to be co-dominant. In terms of aesthetics, the proposed turbines are viewed at a variety of scales and encompass a number of instances of turbine overlap which can lead to a sense of visual clutter and ambiguity. The proposed turbines also present at a notably larger scale than their existing counterparts further along the ridge to the east which has the potential to generate a slight degree of scale conflict. Nevertheless, the turbines occupy a relatively small visual envelope along this broad rolling ridge and will appear as an extension to an established land use. The turbines are also considerably set back from the more visually sensitive aspect of this vista which is to the south towards the most elevated areas of the Boggeragh Mountains. On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP10	Blackwater Way (Duhallow) at Glannaharee East	6.9km (T21)	SW

Representative of:	• Amenity feature
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**
Existing View	This is a view from a section of the Blackwater Way – Duhallow, where it crosses the rolling eastern hills of the Boggeragh Mountains in the townland of Glannaharee East. Much of this section of the Blackwater Way passes through areas of dense conifer forest plantations, which typically cloak much of the upland areas of the Boggeragh Mountains. In the foreground, the view extends across an area of gravel access tracks towards a low embankment backed by an area of immature conifers which screen this aspect of the view at a short distance. Brief filtered views are visible of a number of existing turbines through the immature planting.

	A glimpse of a neighbouring rolling ridge contained in conifer forest is also afforded further to the south which contains a number of existing wind turbines. It is also important to note that this section of the Blackwater Way passes through the recently operational Esk wind farm where turbines are visible at a near distance to the trail.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The blade tips of up to four of the proposed turbines will be partially and intermittently visible through the immature planting in the near foreground. Whilst it is not an ideal scenario to have partial views of blade sets rotating among the treetops, they will be viewed in conjunction with the existing Esk and Boggeragh II turbines which are more prominent visible from this section of the Blackwater Way. Consequently, the main impact here relates to the intensification of wind energy development, which will be very minor due to the heavily screened view of the proposed turbines. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low-negligible** (and most likely Negligible by the time the wind farm would be constructed due to forestry screening).		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low-negligible	**Slight-imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP11	Local road at Inchamay South	1.6km (T21)	S
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a broad upland view afforded from a local road scenic route in the townland of Inchamay in the northern foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains. The view extends across the broad valley of the Owenagluggin River which runs immediately to the south of the viewpoint. The terrain rises again from the river valley to the south towards a broad ridge contained in a mix of moorland and extensive blocks of conifer forest. To the west, an existing wind energy development traverses the crest of the near ridge, whilst further to the east the rolling foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains are also cloaked in a dense block of conifer forest where a view is also afforded of numerous existing wind turbines.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	All 8 of the proposed turbines of the northern clusters will be prominently visible from here, whilst the blade set of one of the turbines in the southern cluster will also be partially visible rotating along the middle distance ridge. The turbines are viewed at a relatively near distance and rise well above the underlying ridge in silhouette against the sky. The turbines present at a notable scale from this distance and their perceived scale is slightly increased by the uphill nature of the view. Overall, from this near distance, the proposed turbines are deemed to have a dominant to co-dominant visual presence.		

	The proposed turbines are viewed from here in a highly legible manner where they present evenly spaced along the ridge with no instances of turbine overlap. The turbines do not appear over-scaled in this landscape context and mimic the profile of the underlying ridge. The clear and even spacing characteristics generate a sense of rhythm where the proposed turbines will likely appear as an extension to the existing ridgetop turbines situated further to the east. The turbines appear at a similar scale to the surrounding existing turbines, and therefore, there will be no sense of scale conflict. Whilst the turbines will not appear out of place in this upland productive landscape where wind energy development is already a key contributor, the proposed turbines will notably increase the intensity of wind energy development within this area of the Boggeragh Mountains and serve to occupy one of the only remaining sections of undeveloped ridgeline that can be seen from here. On balance of the reasons outlined above, and particularly due to their contribution to the surrounding nature of cumulative turbines in this view, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **High-medium.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	High-medium	**Substantial-moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP12	L2758 at Ballynagree East	1.2km (T14)	E/S
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Amenity feature • Local community views.		
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**		
Existing View	This is an extensive upland view afforded from the L2750 scenic route where it intersects with the Blackwater Way (Duhallow) along an elevated section of the Boggeragh Mountains. The depicted view is contained at a short distance by the Seefin ridge to the east and framed by Mushermore ridge to the south, both of which are carpeted in moorland grasses and partially contain the southern and eastern aspects of the afforded view at a near distance. The terrain descends away from the view towards the Ballinagree Basin, which is cloaked in extensive areas of commercial conifer forest in addition to small patches of pastoral farmland. A number of subsequent rolling ridges and hilltops continue throughout the view and are similarly cloaked in blocks of conifer forest and farmed fields, whilst several of the Bawnmore turbines are visible rotating along a middle distant ridgeline. It is important to note that a notable degree of scenic amenity afforded along this scenic route occurs on the western side of the upland saddle that connects the rolling ridges of Mushermore and Seefin in the opposite direction to the proposed development.		

	Those westerly views are subject of a more sensitive section of scenic route as they pass through a Higher sensitivity landscape unit (in accordance with the Cork CDP.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	All of the turbines within the southern cluster will be clearly and prominently visible from here and are partially viewed backed by the rolling terrain beyond and partially backed by the sky. Up to 4 of the turbines in the northern cluster will also be prominently visible here rotating against Seefin ridge at a near distance. Whilst the turbines in the southern cluster will be a dominant feature of the view, they do not present with any notable sense of overbearing as they are viewed at a lower elevation and are generally contained and assimilated within the landscape basin. However, the visual prominence of the visible turbines in the northern cluster is heightened by the uphill nature of the view. Overall, the proposed project will be the most notable feature of the view afforded in a general easterly direction from this section of the scenic route. Consequently, the proposed development is considered to have a highly dominant visual presence. In terms of aesthetics, the northern cluster has the most potential to present with negative aesthetics effects. The proposed northern turbines are viewed here in a relatively ambiguous manner, where their blade sets are only partially revealed and rotate against the near ridge generating a sense of visual irritation. There is also some degree of visual ambiguity associated with the actual landscape setting of the proposed northern cluster. To the south/southeast, the view of turbines is much more comprehensible, where they present in a relatively clear and legible manner and are seen to mimic the profile of the rolling underlying terrain with only a number of instances of turbine overlap. The turbines present here with a strong sense of perspective due to the scale differential between the turbines from furthest to nearest, whilst the loose arrangement of the turbines allows for visual permeability through the project towards the distant landscapes. The turbines also appear to be relatively contained within the context of the landscape basin. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines represent a considerable intensification in the degree of wind energy development within this view albeit wind energy currently strongly contributes to the working upland rural character of the Boggeragh Mountains. It is also important to note that there a no residential dwelling in the immediate vicinity of this view and this view principally represents road users along the L2750 scenic route and walkers along the Blackwater (Duhallow) Way. Consequently, visual impacts along both of this linear transport routes are considered to be transient effects. On balance of the above reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **High-medium.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	High-medium	**Substantial-moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP13	Millstreet Country Park	4.9km (T1)	E

Representative of:	• Amenity features		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a partially contained view from the western entrance to Millstreet Country Park. The depicted view looks east along the access tracks where and enclosed by dense mature vegetation which partially contain much of the afforded vista at a near distance. Above the mature treelined avenue, a view is afforded of a sloping hillside contained in a mix of immature and mature conifer forest. Beyond this, the view is contained in the background by the elevated ridge of Musheramore Mountain.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines will be entirely screened by the elevated sections of Mushermore Ridge from here. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is **Negligible** by default. This view was chosen for illustrative purposes to show there will be no turbine visibility from the sensitive receptor of Millstreet County Park.		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP14	R579 at Barrahaurin	3.4km (T21)	W
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Major route • Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a cross-valley view afforded from the R579 regional road designated scenic route in the townland of Barrhaurin. In the foreground, across the regional road corridor, towards an area of rolling farmland and a neighbouring ridge that is partially screen by a near conifer treeline. The elevated portions of the neighbouring rolling ridges are cloaked in dense conifer forest and contain the view. The existing Boggeragh turbines are clearly visible here where they are seen to rotate along the near ridge, whilst some of the Carrigcannon turbines are partially visible further to the north. It is important to note that much of the scenic amenity along this scenic route stems from the down valley views to the south.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	All 8 of the turbines in the northern cluster have to potential to be viewed here along the rolling ridges to varying degrees. The proposed turbines will be viewed at a similar scale to the existing Boggeragh turbines and will slightly extend the visual envelope of wind energy development within this view. For these reasons, it is considered that the proposed turbines will marginally increase the visual presence of wind energy development along this ridge.		

	The proposed turbines will present with a notable degree of turbine overlap which is likely to generate a sense of visual clutter and irritation, however these effects are notably offset by both the clearer views of the other proposed and existing turbines. Overall, this is a relatively simple view of the proposed turbines which will appear as an extension to the existing Boggeragh turbines. The proposed wind farm will not appear out of place in this working upland rural context where turbines are a well-established feature. On balances of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Medium-Low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Medium-Low	**Moderate-Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP15	Local road a Ballinagree Upper	1.0km (T1)	E
Representative of:	• Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a broad, sweeping, elevated panorama afforded from the eastern slopes Musheramore Mountain in the western extents of the Boggeragh range. The view extends eastwards across the broad landscape basin which occupies a large majority of the fore-to-middle ground context and is cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forest. The view is contained to the north and south by a number of elongated ridgelines and rolling upland hills similarly contained in conifer forest plantations. The view is channelled through the basin towards distant rolling hills contained in a mix of pastoral farmland and blocks of conifer forest, whilst a number of existing wind energy developments are visible in the distance along the rolling ridges to the north and south of the landscape basin.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines will be viewed at a near distance and are visible in two distinct clusters. The nearest of the two clusters is that of the southern cluster where the nearest turbine is situated 1km to the east of the view. All 12 of the turbines within the southern cluster will be visible at a prominent scale and are primarily viewed backed by the sky. The turbines to the north are viewed in a relatively condensed cluster along Seefin Mountain and a similarly viewed in silhouette against the sky. The turbines will be the most prominent feature of this view, however, owing to the broad nature of the land form and land uses as well as the downhill nature of the view, the proposed turbines do not appear over-scaled or present with any notable sense of overbearing. Nonetheless, the proposed project is considered to have a highly dominant visual presence in the context of this vista. The loose spacing of the turbines in the southern cluster allows for a strong degree of visual permeability so that the southern cluster of turbines does not unduly enclose the broad elevated view.		

	There is a clear distinction between the northern and southern clusters here as they are clearly viewed in different and distinct contexts. The turbines to the north are viewed in a highly legible manner contained along an upland ridge. The southern cluster also presents in a highly legible manner albeit at a much higher intensity than the northern cluster. The variation in the scale of the turbines in both clusters also highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed wind farm layout. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines will result in a marked increase in the intensity of wind farm development. However, in the context of this sweeping upland setting that comprises broad land uses and a number of large-scale existing wind energy development, the proposed turbines are not considered to appear out of place in terms of their scale or function. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **High-medium.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	High-medium	**Substantial-moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP16	Local road at Musheramore	2.9(T1)	E

Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community views
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**
Existing View	This is a view afforded from the west-facing hills of Musheramore ridge. The depicted view looks back up the steeply slopping hillside of Mushermore mountain which is cloaked in extensive areas of moorland. This aspect of the view is contained at a near distance by the elevated sections of Musheramore Mountain. It is important to note that the primary sense of scenic amenity here relates to the broad distant views down the valley to the south as well as the tranquillity and sense of naturalistic upland of the immediate setting.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	There will be no visibility of the proposed turbines from here, and thus, the magnitude of visual impact is **Negligible** by default. This view was chosen for illustrative purposes to show there will be no turbine visibility from the sensitive section of the scenic route. Nevertheless, views of the proposed turbines are still likely to be afforded from other sections of this scenic route further to the southeast and have been assessed at VP24.
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP17	L2758 at Carrigagulla (1)	1.1km (T10)	N/W

Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community view • Amenity feature
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**
Existing View	This is a partially contained view from the L2758 local road scenic route in the townland of Carrigagulla. The northern aspect of the view extends across an ascending pastoral field which is backed by a conifer forest plantation. In the distance, the terrain rises above the conifer plantation to Seefin ridge which is similarly cloaked in conifer forest and contains the northern vista. To the west, the view extends across the low scrubby hedgerow that lines the local road corridor towards the broad valley of the River Laney which is enclosed by extensive areas of conifer forest. In similar circumstances to the northern aspect of the view, the distant terrain rises on the opposite side of the basin and is cloaked in a mix of conifer forest and moorland and contains the background of the view.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines are visible here to the north and south of the local road corridor. To the north, the turbines are viewed at a prominent scale due to the uphill nature of the view although they do not present in spatially overbearing sense and are viewed rotating well above the near ridgeline. To the south, all 12 of the proposed turbines are viewed a similarly prominent scale albeit their visual prominence varies and is dependent on their distance to the view and whether an uphill or downhill view of the turbine is afforded. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines occupy a visual envelope greater than 180º and will have a highly dominant visual presence along this section of the local road scenic route. The northern turbine array is viewed from here in a highly legible manner and benefits from a relatively loose and irregular layout which results in little in the way of turbine overlap. The turbines appear to mimic the rolling profile of the underlying ridge and do not appear over-scaled, even when viewed uphill from this near distance. To the south, the proposed turbines in the southern cluster are also viewed in a similarly legible manner albeit at a much higher intensity. They are seen to occupy much of the landscape basin and the surrounding southern lip of the basin and are primarily viewed in silhouette against the sky, with some of the westernmost turbines presenting with a notable degree of contrast against the elevated upland terrain beyond. The depth of the layout and distance between turbines is also highlighted by the sense of perspective generated by the scale differential between the nearest and furthest turbines. This also dilutes any minor sense of visual clutter generated by the overlapping of turbine blade sets.

	Whilst the proposed layout benefits from a relatively loose arrangement where both the northern and southern turbine arrays are viewed as distinctly separate clusters, the overall project will lead to a marked increase in the intensity of wind energy development within the surrounding local landscape. Despite this, the proposed wind farm is not considered to present as an incongruous feature within the Boggeragh complex where existing wind energy developments strongly contribute to its working rural character. It is also important to note that there will be few instances where both the northern and southern clusters will be so clearly visible in combination at this near distance as much of this local road corridor is heavily enclosed by dense surrounding vegetation. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **High.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	High	**Substantial-moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP18	L2758 at Carrigagulla (2)	1.8km (T10)	N/W
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community view		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a view from the L2758 local road scenic route situated north of the Laney River valley. The westward view extends across a number of rolling fields contained in pasture and descends towards a broad valley carpeted in extensive commercial conifer forests. Beyond the river valley context, the terrain rises towards a number of near rolling ridges which contain the southern aspect of the view. The distinctive ridge of Musheramore rises in the distance above a near conifer tree line and is contained in mountain moorland. North of the local road corridor a filtered view of the neighbouring ridges is afforded through the dense roadside vegetation.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	In similar circumstances to the VP17, the proposed turbines present here as two separate clusters. North of the local road, the northern turbine cluster appears through a veil of near roadside vegetation, and whilst only partially visible, the proposed turbines appear at a prominent scale due to the uphill nature of the view here. West of the local road, all 12 of the proposed turbines will be prominently visible, although three of the westernmost turbines in the array are partially obscured by the near mature tree line. Within this relatively enclosed landscape setting, the proposed turbines will be one of the defining features and are considered to have a dominant visual presence.		

	A minor degree of visual clutter is generated by a couple of instances of turbine overlap in the southern cluster, however, aside from this, both turbine clusters present in a clear and comprehensible manner and do not appear over-scaled in this broad but enclosed landscape context. Both turbine clusters appear to mimic the underlying topography and benefit from a loose arrangement and even spacing characteristics. Whilst the most notable effect will be the marked increase in the intensity of built development in this rural scene, the Boggeragh range is a productive working rural landscape where large-scale forestry and existing wind energy developments are already well-established land uses. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **High-medium.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	High-medium	**Substantial-moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP19	R579 regional road at Barrahaurin	6.5km (T21)	W
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Major route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a broad middle distance vista afforded from the southern tip of the S19 designated scenic route on the R579 regional road. The depicted view is oriented to the west and extends across the broad Dripsey river valley which is primarily contained in a patchwork of sloping pastoral farmland and blocks of conifer forest. The terrain rises up towards a low ridge in the distance, which is cloaked in dense conifer forest and contains this westerly aspect of the view. A number of the existing Boggeragh turbines are visible to the north rotating along the broad ridge.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines a visible in two brief clusters. The southern cluster of turbines is partially revealed where the distant broad ridge begins to descend to the south, whilst slightly further to the north, the blade sets of all 8 of the proposed northern cluster of turbines are partially revealed rotating along a flat section of the distant vegetated ridgeline. Overall, the proposed turbines are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence in the context of this broad vista. In terms of aesthetics, it is not an ideal scenario to have partial views of turbines and turbine blade sets rotating along a vegetated ridgeline as it can generate a sense of visual clutter and irritation. Nevertheless, these negative aesthetic effects are balanced by the clearer views of the existing turbines and the relatively low degree of visual exposure of the proposed project from here.		

	Furthermore, whilst the proposed turbines will add to the intensity of built development within this rural vista, they are not considered to appear out of place in this productive landscape where wind energy development is considered to be an established land use. It is also important to note that much of the visual amenity along this scenic route relates to the long distance views that are afforded to the south, in the opposite direction to the proposed turbines. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP20	L2758 at Glenaglogh North	2.9km (T10)	W/NW
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-Medium**		
Existing View	This is a pleasant, locally elevated view afforded from the L2758 local road scenic route in the townland of Glenaglogh east of the River Laney. The view extends across a foreground of pastoral farmland interspersed with dense vegetation which partially screens the middle ground context of the view. To the west, the vista opens up across a broad landscape basin cloaked in a dense layer of conifer forest and is contained in the distance by the broad rolling ridges of Musheramore Mountain. The view is similarly contained to the north by a number of rolling ridges and hilltops that are similarly contained in a mix of conifer forest and mountain moorland.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines are clearly visible from here and present in three distinct clusters. The southern cluster is the most visually prominent of the three clusters and is viewed in the context of the landscape basin to the west of the view. The remaining two clusters are visible along the rolling upland ridges to the north of the view where 5 of the proposed turbines are visually contained along Seefin ridge and two other of the proposed turbines appear as slight outliers further to the east. Whilst the turbines present in three distinct clusters, each cluster is afforded a notable degree of separation which helps to reduce the sense that this is an extensively sprawling development. Nonetheless, the introduction of up to 20 turbines and their moving components can only be considered to have a dominant visual presence from this near distance. The turbines present in a clear and comprehensible manner, albeit there are some minor instances of turbine overlap within the southern turbine cluster.		

	The turbine array also presents with a notable sense of depth and perspective due to the scale differential of the turbines from furthest to nearest. The more dispersed areas of the array in the central basin allow for a degree of visual permeability through the wind energy development. Whilst the proposed turbine array affords a number of visual breaks between each of the distinct clusters, the turbines encompass a broad visual envelope and will contribute to a considerable increase in the intensity of built development within this scene that is otherwise characterised by modest levels of built development. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines will not appear incongruous in this upland rural setting where existing wind energy developments are an established land use. On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Medium.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	Medium	**Moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP21	Donoughmore New Cemetery	9.4km (T21)	W

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Heritage feature
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**
Existing View	This is a pleasant broad vista afforded through an agricultural gateway immediately adjacent to Donoughmore New Cemetery at the settlement of Stuake. In the foreground, the view extends across a number of sloping fields contained in pasture and mixed hedgerow vegetation. A number of wooded thickets and small blocks of conifer forest partially contain the view in the middle distance. The view opens up across a rolling landscape further to the south, whilst the rolling uplands of the Boggeragh Mountains rise above the middle ground vegetation and contain the background of the view. A number of the existing Boggeragh turbines are visible in the distance rotating above an upland ridge clocked in a dense conifer forest.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Both the northern and southern turbine clusters will be visible from here in the distant background. The northern cluster is visible along the distant ridge and is viewed in the immediate context of the existing Boggeragh turbines. Further to the south, the southern cluster presents at a notably lower elevation and is partially screened by the dense middle ground vegetation. The majority of the turbines in both clusters will be viewed in silhouette against the sky with a low degree of visual contrast, although some of the turbines in the southern cluster will be partially backed by the terrain just beyond. In the context of this broad vista, the proposed project is considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. A reasonable degree of visual clutter is generated here by the northern turbine cluster where it appears visually stacked with the existing Boggergah turbines.

	Furthermore, the southern cluster of turbines also appears in a slightly condensed manner with a notable degree of turbine overlap. These negative aesthetic effects are strongly diluted by the viewing distances involved and the broad nature of the view. Although the turbines will lead to an increased intensity of wind energy development within this scene, they are not considered to be an incongruous feature in the context of this working rural landscape setting where wind energy development is already a familiar feature. Overall the proposed turbines and not considered to notably impact the visual amenity afforded from this vista, and thus, the visual impact is deemed to be **Low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP22	Local road northeast of Ballinagree	1.0km (T5)	W/NW
Representative of:	• Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**		
Existing View	This is a brief view afforded from a local road northeast of the small settlement of Ballinagree. In the foreground, the view extends across a near flat pastoral field which is enclosed by dense stacked hedgerow vegetation on the opposite side. The densely stacked vegetation partially screens one-half of the afforded vista, whilst a view is afforded towards a neighbouring low ridge contained in a patchwork of pastoral farmland further to the northwest. It is important note that much of the visual amenity enjoyed from these south facing slopes is across the valley to the south and down valley to the southwest.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 6 of the proposed turbines in the southern cluster will be prominently visible from here rotating above the nearby vegetated ridgeline and are viewed against the sky. The turbines present here at a considerable scale that is accentuated by the uphill nature of the view. The turbines will be a distinct feature along this particular section of the local road, and thus, their visual presence is considered to be dominant. This is a clear and unambiguous view of turbines rotating along a near ridge, where their blade set will typically rotate freely above the vegetated skyline ridge. A minor sense of clutter and visual ambiguity will be generated by the overlapping to the two southernmost turbines, and the partial view of the blade set of turbine T10 rotating against the near ridge. Nevertheless, these effects will be strongly diluted by the clear and legible view of the other visible turbines. The turbines also do not appear out of place or uncharacteristic in this working rural vista. For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **High-medium.**		

Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	High-medium	**Moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP23	Residential estate east of Rylane	6.2km (T8)	W/NW
Representative of:	• Centre of population		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**		
Existing View	This is a pleasant but fairly typical rolling rural vista afforded from a residential estate at the small settlement of Rylane. In the foreground, the view extends across a number of small pastoral fields where it is partially contained by stacked intervening hedgerows and areas of mature vegetation. A clearer view is afforded across distant rolling hills to the southwest, whilst to the north and northwest, filtered views are afforded towards distant upland ridges contained in a mix of conifer forests and existing wind energy developments. Musheramore Mountain rises in the distance and contains the background of the view, but not as a particularly distinctive feature in this context.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Filtered views of the proposed turbines will be afforded from here, where the northern and southern clusters appear distinctly separated, as a nearer ridge and area of dense stacked vegetation will screen a large number of the turbines in the southern cluster. The turbines in the southern cluster are revealed here to varying degrees and are viewed against the darker tones of Musheramore Mountain and, as a result, present with a notable degree of contrast. The northern turbine cluster will be similarly revealed to varying degrees from here although the turbines will be viewed backed by the sky with less contrast. Even though the turbines are only partially revealed from here, the proposed project is likely to be a noticeable feature and is considered to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to co-dominant. This is a slightly ambiguous view of the wind energy development with regard to the actual landscape setting of the proposed project as the proposed turbines are only partially and intermittently revealed in the distant landscape. The is also a degree of visual clutter associated with the visible turbines, some of which appear with a notable degree of overlap. However, such effects are diluted by the low degree of visual exposure of the proposed development and the broad nature of this vista, which is also expansive in other directions. Although the visible turbines will increase the degree of built development within this view, the proposed turbines will not appear out of place or over-scaled in this upland context where existing turbines contribute to the working rural character of the landscape. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Medium-low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	Medium-low	**Moderate-slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP24	Local road at Rahalisk	2.1km (T4)	N
Representative of:	• Scenic route • Local community views		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a partially enclosed view afforded from a local road scenic route in the townland of Rahalisk. The depicted view is oriented in a general northerly direction along a local road laneway that intersects the local road scenic route in the near foreground. East of the local road laneway the view is truncated at a near distance by a conifer forest plantation, whilst to the west, an uphill view is afforded across a field contained in scrubby grassland. Further uphill are several dwellings that are backed by the crest of a near ridge that contains the eastern aspect of the view. To the north, the view continues along the local road corridor which is flanked by a low ridge carpeted in a patchwork of pastoral farmland that contains the northern aspect of the view in the middle distance.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 7 of the proposed turbines are revealed from here rotating along the near undulating ridge, some of which present at a notable scale from this distance of just over 2km. The turbines are revealed to varying degrees with the nacelles of 5 of the turbines visible. Turbine T6 presents at a notably larger scale than the other visible turbines. The turbines will be viewed against the sky and are likely to catch the eye along this section of the local road scenic route albeit in an oblique direction to the main down valley view to the south and southwest. As a result, the proposed turbines are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence. In terms of aesthetics, there is some degree of ambiguity associated with the partially visible turbines rotating on the skyline ridge. Nevertheless, this is a relatively clear view of turbines that are well-spaced and do not appear over-scaled along these broad upland ridges. Whilst the partial view of blade sets rotating along the near vegetated ridgeline will generate some sense of visual irritation, this is notably offset by the clearer views of turbine T6 which stands tall in silhouette against the sky and rotates well above the underlying ridge. Although the proposed turbines will generate and notable increase in the intensity of built development in this scene, they are not considered to appear as incongruous features in the context of this working rural upland context. The proposed turbines are also viewed in the context of rugged upland farmland and are away from the more visually sensitive ridge of Musheramore Mountain which is viewed further to the west. They also lie in the opposite direction to the vast down valley views to the south. For the reasons outline above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Medium.**		

Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Medium	**Moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP25	Local road at Labbadermody	12.6km (T2)	E
Representative of:	• Scenic route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**		
Existing View	This is an elevated broad vista afforded from a local road scenic route in the townland of Labbadermody along the eastern foothills of the Derrynasaggart Mountains. The view looks across the local road corridor in the foreground, beyond which, the terrain swiftly descends downslope toward a broad forested valley. The southern aspect of the view is contained by a near ridge, whilst to the east, the terrain descends further towards a landscape of low rolling farmland. The terrain rises up once again in the distance towards the Boggeragh Mountains which are similarly cloaked in extensive areas of conifer forest and areas of mountain moorland. An existing wind energy development is also discernible along the foothills of the Boggeragh range in the distance.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 9 of the proposed turbines have the potential to be visible from here to varying degrees along a distant vegetated ridgeline that extends southwards from the Boggeragh range. The nacelles of 6 of the turbines will rise above this distant ridge and are viewed in silhouette against the sky, whilst only a partial view of the blade sets of the remaining 3 turbines will be afforded from here. The proposed turbines present as modest scale background features in this broad view and are considered to have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence. Aesthetically the turbines present in a relativity clear and comprehensible manner with a slight degree of turbine overlap between two of the turbines. The turbines appear in a transitional area of the landscape where the rolling farmland transitions to the uplands land uses in the Boggeragh Mountains. Nonetheless, the proposed turbines are considerably offset from the more visually sensitive elevated areas of Musheramore ridge located further to the north. Whilst the turbines will slightly increase the intensity of wind energy development in this view, they are not considered to appear out of place in terms of their scale or function. On balance of the factors outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**

	High-medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP26	Local road southwest of Ballinagree	2.1km (T5)	N/NW

Representative of:	• Centre of population • Local community views
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**
Existing View	This is an uphill view afforded from a local road just southwest of the centre of the village of Ballinagree. In the foreground, the view extends across a slightly sloping field contained in pasture, which is enclosed on the opposite side by a low tree-lined hedgerow. In the middle ground, a number of intervening hedgerows become stacked and partially screen the views of the undulating ridgeline in the background. To the north, the view is contained by a higher section of ridge cloaked in conifer forest plantations, whilst further in the distance to the northwest, the distinctive ridgeline of Musheramore Mountains contains the view.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines are viewed at a near distance and present at a prominent scale, which is heightened slightly by the uphill nature of the afforded view. The turbines will be a noticeable feature along this section of the local road and are likely to draw the eye, however, they do not present with any sense of overbearing in this transitional upland context. Overall, the turbines are considered to have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant to dominant. The proposed turbines present in a relatively legible manner in silhouette against the sky, however, there will be some degree of visual clutter and irritation generated by the overlapping of some of the more distant turbines. The variation in the perceived scale of the turbines generates a notable sense of perspective from here and highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed wind energy development beyond the ridge. Whilst the proposed turbines will not appear incongruous in this productive rural landscape and do not obstruct the view of Musheramore Mountain, they will considerably increase the intensity of built development within this pastoral scene, which forms a backdrop to Ballinagree Village. In this respect it is important to recognise that the settlement and most rural dwellings that line these south facing slopes, take advantage of broad down valley views in the opposite direction to the proposed wind farm. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Medium.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-Low	Medium	**Moderate**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP27	Local road at Bawnmore	4.3km (T4)	N

Representative of:	• Local community views
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**
Existing View	This is a pleasant, but partially enclosed view from a local road in the townland of Bawnmore. The depicted view is oriented to the north where it extends across an area of rolling farmland and dense mixed vegetation in the near foreground, which partially truncates the view of the landscape context beyond. In the distance, Musheramore Mountain and the rolling foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains further to the east rise above the nearer vegetation and contain the background of the view. A number of existing wind turbines are faintly visible along the rolling distant ridge to the east.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines are visible from here rotating along the distant undulating ridge line, some of which are partially screened by a nearer mature tree line. The visible turbines will be a noticeable feature of the view and are viewed against a backdrop of sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Whilst some of the turbines rotate well above the skyline ridge, only a partial view of the remaining turbines is afforded where their blade sets are seen to rotate against the vegetated skyline ridge. Overall, the proposed turbines are considered to have a visual presence in the order of sub-dominant to co-dominant. The proposed turbines present in a relatively legible manner albeit the partial view of blade sets rotating along the distant ridge is likely to generate a sense of visual irritation. A sense of visual clutter is also generated by the stacked view of a number of the turbines, however, this is diluted by the clear views of the other turbines along the ridge. Whilst the turbines will notably increase the intensity of wind energy development along this visible section of the distant ridgeline, they are not considered to appear out of place in terms of their scale or function. Furthermore, the proposed turbines do not intrude on the most visually sensitive feature of the view, Musheramore Mountain. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be **Medium-low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	Medium-low	**Moderate-slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		Viewing distance	Direction of View
VP28	Local road at Aghabullogue	9.6km (T5)	NW

Representative of:	• Centre of population

Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium-low**		
Existing View	This is a pleasantly contained rural vista afforded from a local road in the settlement of Aghabullogue. The view extends along the local road corridor in the near foreground and is enclosed by grassed embankments and areas of mature vegetation. A number of residential dwellings also line the corridor of the local road in the foreground. Glimpses of pastoral fields and filtered views of more distant residential dwellings are also afforded in the middle ground through the dense mature vegetation in the foreground. The view is contained at a middle distance by numerous layers of intervening vegetation throughout the view.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	As a consequence of the dense layers of intervening vegetation throughout the view, the proposed turbines will be entirely screened from here, and therefore, the magnitude of visual impact is **Negligible** by default.		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium-low	Negligible	**Imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP29	Sleaveen Road, Macroom	10.3km (T5)	N
Representative of:	• Centre of Population		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is an elevated vista afforded from the north-facing slopes of the River Sullane valley on the outskirts of the settlement of Macroom. The locally elevated view looks across a local playground in the foreground and is partially contained by a number of mature trees just beyond. The view extends across the river valley where glimpses of the settlement of Macroom are afforded through the near dense mature trees. The terrain rises up from the river valley to a low ridge in the distant middle ground and this is contained in pastoral fields and dense mature tree lines. Musheramore Mountain rises further in the distance to the north and is primarily cloaked in extensive areas of moorland with its surrounding foothills carpeted in blocks of conifer forest.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The nacelles of up to 14 of the proposed turbines will be visible from this elevated vantage point, where the turbines will be seen to rotate beyond the broad middle distance ridgeline. Some of the most westerly located turbines will be viewed partially backed by the terrain and partially backed by the sky, whilst the remaining visible turbines will be viewed against the sky with a low degree of contrast. The proposed turbines present as modest scale features in this view that comprises of broad landscape features such as Musheramore mountain and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence.		

	In terms of aesthetics, there will be some degree of visual clutter and visual irritation generated by the overlapping of the turbine blade sets in this relatively condensed view of the wind energy development. However, these effects are somewhat offset by the clearer views of the turbines further to the west in the array and due to the viewing distances of upwards of 10km from the nearest turbine. Whilst the proposed turbines appear to mimic the profile of the underlying terrain and are notably offset from the more visually sensitive upland areas of Musheramore mountain, the proposed turbines will lead to a notable increase in the intensity of built development along the vegetated skyline ridge. Nevertheless, the proposed development does not appear over-scaled, nor does it appear out of place in this broad productive rural context, where glimpses of existing turbines are currently afforded. It is also important to note that this view was chosen to represent the settlement of Macroom, much of which is contained at a much lower elevation or along the south-facing slopes of the River Sullane valley, and will be afforded no visibility of the proposed turbines. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP30	Local road at Kilnamartyra	13.9km (T2)	NE
Representative of:	• Centre of population		
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**		
Existing View	This is a broad view afforded from a local road northeast of the small village of Kilnamartyra. The view takes in an area of sloping farmland that descends northwards away from the road corridor in the near foreground. The eastern aspect of the view is contained at a short distance by the rolling terrain and areas of mature vegetation, whilst the view to the north/northeast opens across a broad valley contained in pastoral fields and dense areas of mature vegetation. In the distance, the view is contained by the rolling uplands of the Boggeragh Mountains, which are cloaked in extensive blocks of conifer forest and mountain moorland. A number of existing turbines are visible along the western foothills of the Boggeragh mountains in the distance.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	Up to 19 of the proposed turbines will be visible in the distance from this broad elevated view. The proposed turbines will be visible from here descending with the southern foothills of the Boggeragh Mountains and are primarily viewed in silhouette against the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. Whilst the turbines have the potential to be noticed from here, they will be viewed as small-scale background features and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence at most.		

	The proposed turbines are viewed here in the distance in a relatively clear and legible manner, although some of the turbines within the southern cluster present stacked with a notable degree of turbine overlap. Nevertheless, these negative aesthetic issues will be heavily offset by the viewing distances involved in addition to the broad sweeping nature of this view. Whilst the turbines will lead to an increased intensity of built development within the distant Boggeragh range, they are buffered from the more sensitive upland ridges such as Musheramore, which occur further to the north of the turbines. Overall, the turbines will not appear out of place in this broad panorama where existing turbines already contribute to the character of this working landscape. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

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

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP31	L2202 local road south of the River Lee	15.9km (T5)	NW
Representative of:	• Scenic route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**		
Existing View	This is a pleasant vista afforded from a local road scenic route immediately south of the River Lee. The depicted view looks across an area of sloping terrain that descends towards the banks of the River Lee and is contained in pastoral fields. A number of residential dwellings also line the local road and are oriented in a general northerly direction to take advantage of views across the river corridor. The terrain rises from the banks of the River Lee corridor in the middle ground where it is similarly contained in a mix of pastoral farmland, rural residential dwellings, and dense mature vegetation. The broad rolling upland terrain of the Boggeragh Mountains rises in the distant background and is contained in a mix of moorland, blocks of conifer forest plantations, and existing wind energy developments.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines will be visible from here in three groups. The southern cluster of turbines will be partially and intermittently visible rotating against a distant low rolling ridge, whilst the northern cluster will appear as a group of 5 turbines with the remaining three turbines presenting as outliers further to the east. The northern cluster is the most noticeable with almost all of its turbines standing in silhouette backed by the sky with a very low degree of visual contrast. The southern turbine cluster is viewed partially backed by the sky and partially backed by Musheramore Mountain located further to the west. While the moving turbine components are likely to be noticed from here, it is considered that the proposed project will have a sub-dominant visual presence in this broad visual context.		

	There is some degree of visual ambiguity associated with the southern turbine cluster as the proposed turbines are only partially revealed and there is some visual clutter generated by the overlapping of the turbine blade sets. However, the turbines in the northern cluster present in a highly legible manner where they appear to mimic the underlying profile of the ridge and encompass very few instances of turbine overlap. In terms of the cumulative effect, the turbines in the northern cluster generate a slight degree of scale conflict with the existing Boggeragh II turbines, however, the proposed turbines appear at a similar scale to the Bawnmore turbines to the south. Nevertheless, any negative aesthetic effects will be heavily diluted by the considerable viewing distances involved, as the proposed turbines will only appear as small scale background features. Whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this view, they will have little effect on the visual amenity afforded from this river corridor view. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP32	N22 at Dunisky	13.8km (T5)	N

Representative of:	• Major route
Receptor Sensitivity	**Medium**
Existing View	This is a brief but pleasant view afforded from the N22 national primary route in the townland of Dunisky south of the River Lee. This area is identified as a 'High Value Landscape' in the current Cork CDP. The view extends across the N22 route corridor in the foreground towards a small pastoral field situated on the banks of the River Lee. The River Lee itself occupies much of the middle ground context of the view and is enclosed on the opposite side by dense areas of riparian vegetation and low rolling hills contained in pasture. The view is contained in the background by Musheramore Mountain.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines will be partially and intermittently visible rotating against a distant low rolling ridge and are primarily viewed against the sky, with up to 2 of the proposed turbines partially backed by the foothills of Musheramore. The turbines are viewed as modest scale background features from here and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence. In terms of aesthetics, this is a slightly ambiguous view of distant turbines where their blade sets are only partially revealed rotating along a distant ridgeline. Whilst the nacelles of a number of the turbines are visible from here, only a partial view of the majority of the turbine blades sets is afforded. Some of the turbines present with a notable degree of overlap and generate a sense of visual clutter and irritation.

	Nevertheless, this is a brief view afforded from a busy road setting from a distance of over 13km. Whilst the turbines will marginally increase the intensity of built development in this view, they are not considered to appear out of place in this working rural context. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low**.		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		
	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	Medium	Low	**Slight**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP33	Local road at Carrignaneelagh	17.8km (T4)	NE
Representative of:	• Scenic route		
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**		
Existing View	This is a broad panoramic view afforded from a local road scenic route in the townland of Carrignaneelagh. The view looks over a scrubby roadside hedgerow in the near foreground which partially screens the immediate and descending landscape context beyond. However, the view thereafter opens up across a broad landscape of rolling farmland and dense areas of mature vegetation. The view is contained in the distance by the rolling ridgelines and peaks of the Boggeragh Mountains, which are contained in a mix of conifer forest plantations, moorland, and existing wind energy developments.		
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	The proposed turbines are faintly visible in the distant background and appear as small-scale features in the context of this broad panorama. Whilst some of the turbines in the southern cluster are viewed partially against terrain, the vast majority of the turbines are viewed in silhouette against the sky and present with a very low degree of visual contrast. In the context of this broad sweeping landscape, the proposed turbines are considered to have a minimal visual presence. Whilst the turbines present as a relatively dense cluster with some notable areas of turbine overlap, any negative aesthetic effects are heavily diluted by the considerable viewing distances of just under 18km. Whilst the turbines will contribute to a notable intensification of wind energy development within the Boggeragh range, they will not appear out of place or over-scaled in this broad landscape setting where existing wind energy developments are a familiar feature. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low-negligible.**		
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.		

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	Low-negligible	**Slight-imperceptible**

Viewshed Reference Point		**Viewing distance**	**Direction of View**
VP34	Tirelton	17.7km (T5)	N

Representative of:	• Scenic route • Centre of population
Receptor Sensitivity	**High-medium**
Existing View	his is an elevated broad vista afforded from a local road at the small settlement of Tirelton. The view looks through a gateway in the roadside hedgerow towards a small field contained in rough grassland which swiftly descends away from the viewer. Beyond the foreground context, the elevated view extends towards a low rolling ridge contained in pastoral farmland and areas of dense vegetation. In the distance, the Boggeragh Mountains rise above the middle ground ridge and contain the background of the view.
Visual Impact of proposed wind farm	All of the turbines are theoretically visible in the distant background from upwards of 17.7km. The turbines present as small-scale background features and will be faintly visible from this elevated viewpoint. Nevertheless, as a result of the considerable viewing distance here, the turbines will be barely discernible due to atmospheric perspective (fading of distant objects) and will have little effect on the visual amenity afforded from this scenic route. Whilst there will be some degree of visual clutter associated with the proposed turbines, this is considerably diluted by the fact that the proposed turbines will only be faintly discernible from here. As a result, the magnitude of visual impact is considered to be **Low-negligible.**
Summary	Based on the assessment criteria and matrices outlined at **Section 15.2** the significance of residual visual impact is summarised below.

	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	**Significance of Visual Impact**
	High-medium	Low-negligible	**Slight-imperceptible**

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