



Technical Appendix 10-1 Viewpoint Assessment

EIAR – Volume 3

Muingmore Wind Farm

SLR Project No.: 501.065301.00001

April 2026

APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP1	L5285 at Belmullet: This view is afforded from the eastern extent of the settlement of Belmullet, north of Blacksod Bay, and is representative of the population centre. The depicted view extends southeast along the alignment of the L5285, which is surrounded by pastoral lands and rough grazing. Blacksod Bay and its surrounding coastal environs are visible to the south, while areas of industrial development and existing wind farm developments are seen along the low, rolling, sloping lands to the northeast. In the distance to the east, the background of the view is contained by broad, sweeping upland hills and ridges	High-medium	<p>All of the proposed turbines will be visible in the background of the view at a distance of just under 9 km. The proposed turbines are seen against the upland terrain to the west and present a more notable degree of contrast against the more muted tones of these upland areas. The proposed turbines have a relatively broad lateral extent here, although the vertical profile of the turbines remains consistent, and the proposed array is well-spaced in the distance. In the context of this open view, the proposed turbines are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the turbines appear here in a relatively legible manner, with few instances of turbine overlap. Indeed, the scale and extent of the Proposed Development do not appear excessive across this broad, sweeping landscape, which is influenced by broad underlying land uses and landscape features. Whilst the turbines will slightly obstruct the view of the distant uplands, their slender form allows for a notable degree of visual permeability towards the distant sweeping ridges. While the turbines will increase the intensity of development here, they will not appear out of place in the context of the other visible turbines. On balance, for the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP2	R314 at Atticonau: This view is afforded from the R314 at Atticonau, east of the settlement of Belmullet. The view is representative of a scenic route designation, the WAW, and local community receptors, extending to the southeast across open areas of coastal	High-medium	The proposed turbines are viewed here at a distance of 6.7 km and will be a noticeable feature of the view to the southeast. The turbines are seen partially against the sky and partially against the elevated terrain in the distance. In terms of their scale, the proposed turbines do not appear excessively large, especially in the context of the surrounding broad land uses and landscape features.	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	bog, pastoral lands, and rural dwellings. Cloncastle Hill, which encompasses a small wind farm development, forms the view directly to the east, while distant views are afforded of the Nephin Mountains and surrounding elevated ridges and hills. It should be noted that views from this scenic route receptor are principally oriented towards the coastal areas to the north and south, which are well offset from the depicted view.		<p>Overall, the Proposed Development is deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence from this local landscape context.</p> <p>Whilst the majority of the proposed turbines are viewed in isolation here, with some instances of overlapping blade sets, three of the turbines in the eastern extent of the array present visually stacked, which will generate a sense of visual clutter. Nonetheless, the clearer and more legible views of the other surrounding visible turbines will dilute these negative aesthetic effects. In terms of the scenic route receptor, the proposed turbines tend to be viewed well offset from the main aspect of visual amenity here, which is typically to the south and north across the coastal areas of Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven Bay. Nonetheless, there will be a clear increase in the intensity of built development in this landscape context. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed Medium-low</p>	
VP3	Glencastle Cemetery: This is a partially contained aspect of the south-facing view afforded from Glencastle Cemetery along the R313 at Carrowkeel, which is representative of the surrounding local community receptors and major route receptors. In the foreground, an open view is afforded across the nearby sloping lands, which are cloaked in a mix of pastoral fields, intervening hedgerow vegetation, and industrial land uses. The view is contained in the distance by a broad, elongated ridge, while more open	Medium	The Proposed Development is heavily screened from this locally elevated context by the broad nearby ridge. Up to six of the proposed turbine blade tips have the potential to be viewed here, rotating along the broad nearby ridge at a distance of approximately 4.3 km. The rotating turbine blade tips will likely draw the eye as one of the only moving built features in the view, although they will have a sub-dominant to minimal visual presence here, as they are largely screened. Indeed, the partial views of the rotating blade tips are not ideal aesthetically, as they can generate a sense of visual ambiguity regarding the turbines' actual location and will also create a degree of visual tension. Overall, the partially	Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	views are afforded to the east towards Blacksod Bay.		visible turbines will generate a marginal increase in the intensity of built development in this view, which is influenced by other working rural land uses and local industry. Thus, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed low .	
VP4	Local Pier at Curraghboy: This is a broad, sweeping view afforded across Blacksod Bay from a local pier and beach at Curraghboy on the Belmullet Peninsula. The view is representative of the nearby scenic route receptors and the WAW. The view to the southeast extends across the surrounding coastline, which is characterised by coastal promontories, rocky shorelines, and small beaches. Views towards the mainland to the east are afforded in the distance, while in the distant background, the rolling, elevated uplands, cloaked in extensive areas of upland bog, contain the view.	High	All 13 of the proposed turbines are viewed in the background to the east at a distance of approximately 10.2 km. The proposed array is dispersed here, with the turbines in the southern extent of the array viewed with looser spacing characteristics. While the turbines will be a noticeable feature of the view to the southeast, they do not appear over-scaled in the context of this broad coastal setting, backdropped by elevated uplands. Although the turbines will partially interrupt the view of the distant uplands, they do not block the view. In fact, the loose spacing characteristics and slender forms of the built turbine structures allow for a strong degree of visual permeability through the proposed scheme. Overall, there will be a clear increase in the intensity of development in this view, with the turbine structures presenting as one of the larger built features in this coastal context. Nonetheless, the turbines are viewed at a considerable distance from here and will not heavily detract from the sensitive coastal character or scenic amenity afforded from this location. Thus, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed low .	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP5	R313 at Muings: This is a partially contained aspect of a view afforded from the R313 in the townland of Muings, which is representative of the surrounding local community receptors and the major route corridor. The depicted view extends south	Medium	All 13 of the proposed turbines are visible, with their nacelles rising just above the ridgeline. The turbines will be a notable feature at this viewing distance of approximately 3.5 km; however, they do not present in a spatially prominent manner. The proposed turbines appear in a relatively condensed cluster, particularly	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	across an area of nearby scrubby vegetation and sloping coastal bog. The view is contained at a short distance by a low ridge located to the south of the regional road. A glimpse of the elevated upland terrain on Achill Island rises above the near low ridge in the distance to the south.		towards the western extent of the array, where visual stacking occurs. This results in a degree of visual clutter. Additionally, there is some degree of visual ambiguity in regards to the actual landscape context of the turbines, as the turbine bases are screened from view here. Overall, the proposed turbines will result in a notable increase in both the quantum and scale of built development in this aspect of the view, which is otherwise characterised by minimal built form. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be medium-low .	
VP6	Claggan Island Causeway: This is a view afforded across a visually sensitive coastal context from Claggan Island Causeway, which is representative of the WAW, the adjacent beach as a tourism and amenity feature, and surrounding local community receptors. The depicted view extends across the coastal dune system, cloaked in coastal grasses, which separates the immediate coastline from the pastoral lands inland to the east. The view extends further inland and across the coast to the south/southeast, where the elevated mountainous areas in the distance contain the background of the view. It should be noted that the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to the views across the coastline and Blacksod Bay, and towards the Belmullet Peninsula to the southwest.	High-medium	All 13 of the proposed turbines are viewed inland, offset from the coastline to the southeast. The proposed turbines will present a notable scale from this distance of approximately 4.4 km. The proposed turbine array present with a relatively broad lateral extent, with the turbines viewed partially rotating against the distant mountains and partially against the sky. In terms of scale, the turbines will be one of the more prominent built features in the local context and are considered to have a co-dominant visual presence with regard to the inland views to the east/southeast. However, it should be noted that the turbines are clearly presented within the more robust inland context here and not along the immediate coastline. Indeed, they are anchored into the more robust inland context by the perimeter of conifer forestry from which they rise. Aesthetically, the turbines present in a relatively legible manner here, with loose spacing characteristics allowing for a degree of visual permeability towards the elevated uplands in the distance. While the proposed turbines will result in partial obstruction of the view to the mountains,	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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			they do not block or enclose the view. There will be some localised instances of turbine overlap, generating a slight sense of visual clutter; however, overall, the turbines present in a comprehensible manner here, with the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines highlighting the depth and dispersion of the array across the inland landscape. Overall, the proposed turbines will generate a marked increase in the intensity of built development here, although they are offset from the immediate coastline and viewed in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity here, which is to the west/southwest across Blacksod Bay. The magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium .	
VP7	Local road at An tSraith: This is a locally elevated view afforded from a local road (L-5251) in the townland of An tSraith, which is representative of the surrounding local community receptors situated between the coastline and to the west of the L1205 local road. An open view is afforded here to the east across a patchwork of farmland and rough grazing, followed by more extensive areas of coastal bog and blocks of commercial conifer forestry. The fore-to-middle-distance context encompasses a very modest rural population, with few varying forms of development visible throughout the view. In the distance, the upland terrain within the Nephin range and its surrounding elevated landscape form the distant background.	High-medium	<p>The Proposed Development is clearly visible here, rising from a block of commercial conifer forestry inland to the east, from this view at a distance of approximately 2.9 km. The full extent of all turbines is revealed here, where they are viewed rotating, partially backed by the sky and partially backed by the upland terrain. In terms of scale, the Proposed Development will present as the most prominent built development in this aspect of the view, although the turbines do not appear over-scaled here, nor do they present with any sense of overbearing. Indeed, the scale of the Proposed Development is well assimilated into this landscape context, where it is contained within an extensive area of commercial conifer forestry. While sizeable in scale, the Proposed Development is deemed to have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant.</p> <p>This is a highly legible view of a wind farm development that presents with loose spacing characteristics, while the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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			highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array across the intervening landscape. While there will be some degree of visual clutter generated by the stacked views of some turbines, this is strongly diluted by the clearer views of others. Overall, the Proposed Development will result in a marked increase in the scale and intensity of development in this landscape context, which is currently influenced by a more limited scale of built development. Indeed, the Proposed Development will be perceived as one of the more prominent land uses, albeit the broad nature of this landscape context can well accommodate a development of this scale and nature. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium .	
VP8	R313 at Gortmore west of Munhin River: This is a view afforded from the intersection of the R313 and a local road (L-5284) scenic route, southwest of Carrowmore Lough and west of the Munhin River. The view is representative of the scenic route receptor and major route receptor. The depicted view extends to the southwest, where a nearby linear corridor of vegetation denotes the transition between the wider Munhin River corridor and the extensive areas of bogland beyond. Several blocks of commercial conifer forestry are visible in the distance along the sloping terrain, while the low, rolling ridge contains the view in the distance.	Medium	Views of up to 12 of the proposed turbines will be intermittently visible from here, where they present along the ridge in the background of the view at a distance of over 6.3 km. While the scale of the rotating turbine blade sets is not considered excessive here, the partial views of turbine blade sets rotating along a distant ridge with limited visual context of their actual location is not ideal aesthetically. In terms of visual presence, the moving turbine components are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence in this aspect of the view. It should be noted that the partial visibility of the proposed turbine blade sets will have little effect on the local road scenic route, as they are viewed in the opposite direction to the main aspect of visual amenity. However, the turbines will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this low-intensity setting, although they will not appear incongruous in terms of their scale or	Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	It should be noted that the scenic route receptor along the adjacent local road is related to views across Carrowmore Lough in the opposite direction to the depicted view.		function with respect to the broad surrounding landscape features and working rural land uses. Overall, the magnitude of the effect is deemed Low .	
VP9	L1205 at Muingmore: This is a partially contained view afforded from the L1205 local road, which is representative of surrounding local community receptors and the WAW route. The depicted view extends inland to the east, in the opposite direction of the coastline, where a pastoral field is contained in the near foreground. Areas of scrubby vegetation define the boundary of the field further inland to the east, after which the middle ground landscape context is well contained by the nearer scrubby vegetation. In the distance, the sweeping, rolling uplands within the Nephin Range contain the background of the view.	Medium	<p>All 13 of the proposed turbines will be visible here at a prominent but not overbearing scale. Indeed, whilst the turbines will be one of the defining built features in this landscape context, they are well set back from the local road corridor by a distance of approximately 1.3 km and are set within a perimeter of established conifer forestry, providing a strong sense of separation from the local road corridor and the surrounding landscape context. Whilst the Proposed Development presents here at a notable scale and with a relatively broad lateral extent, it does not appear oversized in the context of this broad landscape setting. Overall, the visual presence of the Proposed Development from this nearby landscape context is deemed dominant.</p> <p>The proposed turbines present here in a clear and legible manner. Whilst some minor instances of turbine overlap have the potential to generate localised negative aesthetic effects, such as visual clutter and visual tension, the proposed turbines present here with a loose turbine layout, where the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines—from further to nearer—generates a strong sense of perspective and highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array across this landscape context. Indeed, whilst the turbines partially obstruct the view of the mountains in the distance to the east, their slender forms allow a strong sense of visual</p>	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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			<p>permeability through the proposed array. Nonetheless, the moving turbine components will become one of the principal built features here and result in a considerable increase in the scale and intensity of development in the near surroundings. However, it should be noted that one of the principal aspects of amenity here relates to the views of the coastline to the west, in the opposite direction of the Proposed Development. As a result of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed high-medium.</p>	
VP10	<p>R313 at Bangor Erris: This is a view afforded from the R313 regional road, northwest of the centre of Bangor Erris, and is representative of this centre of population. The depicted view extends across an area of bogland and scrub in the near foreground, which continues into the distance, where blocks of commercial conifer forestry become more apparent in the middle-to-background of the view. The view is contained in the distance to the west by a saddle ridge between two locally-rolling hills, whilst more distant views are afforded towards the upland terrain along Achill Island to the southwest.</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed turbines are visible to varying degrees, rotating along the elongated ridgeline in the distance to the west. Whilst the blade sets of some of the central turbines will be almost fully revealed, the other peripheral turbines to the north and south will be partially and intermittently screened by the intervening terrain, with only the blade tips of some turbines visible. The visible turbines will be viewed here, backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast, and whilst the moving turbine components have the potential to draw the eye here, they are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence in this open view from this viewing distance of around 8 km.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the more clearly visible turbines appear slightly stunted here, with their towers partially screened by the intervening terrain, while some turbines appear stacked, rotating along the ridge, which will generate some degree of visual clutter. Furthermore, the actual landscape context of the turbines is not readily visible, which can lead to a sense of visual ambiguity. However, the turbines are viewed as modest-scale, distant features</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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			and do not block or obstruct any sensitive viewing aspect, albeit they will generate an increase in the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low .	
VP11	Local Cemetery at Kiltaney: This is a view from an old graveyard in the townland of Kiltaney, adjacent to a bend in the Oweninny River. The view is representative of the local heritage receptor, local community receptors, and the adjacent sections of the WAW. The depicted view extends to the west across pastoral fields, hedgerows, and blocks of conifer forestry, which partially contain the view. The view is contained in the background by a low rolling ridge, cloaked in a patchwork of pastoral fields	High-medium	The proposed turbines are partially screened here, with visibility ranging from fully revealed blade sets to partial views of turbine blade tips. Indeed, the intervening terrain in the distance provides a notable degree of screening in this aspect of the view, with the overall perceived scale and extent of the proposed turbines being heavily diminished. The partial views of the turbines will have a sub-dominant visual presence here. Aesthetically, it is not ideal to have partially visible turbine blade sets and blade tips rotating along a distant ridge, as this can generate negative visual effects, such as visual clutter and tension. Furthermore, there is some ambiguity associated with the actual landscape context of the turbines and whether they rise immediately beyond the ridge or further in the distance. Nevertheless, while the visible turbines will increase the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view, they do not appear incongruous here in the context of the surrounding working rural land uses. Moreover, the turbines are viewed well offset from the main aspect of visual amenity here, which is to the south and southwest across the River Oweninny corridor and estuary, and towards the distant uplands within Achill Island. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed medium-low .	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP12	Local road at Tristia (1): This is a contained view afforded from a local road	Medium	The proposed turbines will be clearly visible here, presenting a broad lateral extent and a prominent scale	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	<p>in the townland of Trista, which is representative of some of the nearest surrounding local community receptors. The depicted view extends west across an area of open coastal bog, which is contained further to the west by an extensive block of commercial conifer forestry. It should be noted that, while the depicted view is afforded some degree of containment, some of the visual receptors to the east of this local context, in the townlands of Trista and Mount Jubilee, will have a more elevated view to the east across the forestry and towards the coastline.</p>		<p>from this near distance of approximately 1 km. Although the scale and extent of the Proposed Development will bring about a marked degree of visual change in this local landscape context, the turbines rise from beyond the perimeter of conifer forest, resulting in a strong sense of separation from the nearest surrounding receptors. Nevertheless, the proposed turbines will be a defining built feature in this landscape context; however, they do not generate any sense of being overbearing and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the perceived scale of the turbines, the proposed array is presented here in a legible manner and benefits from loose spacing characteristics, allowing for a degree of visual permeability throughout the proposed scheme. Indeed, this sense of visual permeability reduces the Proposed Development's potential to generate any strong sense of enclosure here, while the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines generates a strong sense of perspective and highlights the dispersed nature of the array across the surrounding landscape. Overall, the proposed turbines will result in a marked increase in the intensity and scale of development in this local landscape context.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the proposed turbines do not appear out of place here in terms of their scale and function, as they are viewed rising from broad areas of commercial-scale forestry.</p> <p>On balance, for the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed high.</p>	Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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VP13	Local road at Doolough (1): This is an open view afforded from a local road in the townland of Doolough that is representative of surrounding local community receptors. The depicted view extends inland to the east across fields of grassland, surrounded by low scrubby vegetation, and is backed by further areas of coastal bog and blocks of conifer forest. Low rolling hills and ridges contain the background of the view to the northeast, whilst to the southeast, the more distinctive uplands within the Nephin range provide a backdrop to views in this direction.	Medium	<p>The full extent of the Proposed Development is visible here, rising in the distant middle ground of the view. The proposed turbines are primarily viewed backed by the sky, with several of the turbines in the southern extent of the Proposed Development partially viewed against the distant upland terrain. The proposed turbine array presents here with a broad lateral extent and will be a notable built feature in this inland view. Indeed, it will likely present as one of the principal built features from here, although the loose spacing characteristics result in a marginal reduction in its overall visual presence, which in this instance is deemed co-dominant.</p> <p>From this viewing context, the proposed turbines present in clusters of twos and threes, often with some degree of turbine overlap, which generates a sense of visual clutter. Nonetheless, the loose spacing characteristics also allow for a degree of visual permeability through the Proposed Development towards the more distant uplands located inland to the east. Despite the broad scale and extent of the proposed turbine array, it is well assimilated into this landscape context, which is comprised of broad underlying land uses and large-scale landscape features in the distance. Furthermore, the Proposed Development is located inland from the coastline, which is often the principal aspect of scenic amenity in this landscape context. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed medium.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP14	Doolough Beach: This is a view afforded from Doolough Beach and is oriented inland to the east across more typical rural lands, predominantly contained in extensive areas of coastal grasses and	High-medium	All of the turbines will be visible in this inland view to the west, where they present a broad lateral extent and are primarily viewed against the sky. The visible rotating turbine components will be a prominent feature of this inland view, although the scale of the Proposed	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	<p>isolated rural dwellings, many of which are oriented to the west towards the coastline, the principal aspect of visual amenity in this instance. Further inland, the land use transitions to more working land uses of commercial-scale forestry, surrounded by a mix of coastal bog and pastoral lands. The view is contained in the background to the west by low rolling hills and ridges, and more elevated upland hills and ridges in the Nephin Range, which are principally viewed to the east/southeast.</p> <p>It is important to reiterate here that the main aspect of amenity from this coastal context is across the coastline and towards the distant uplands on Achill Island, located in the distance to the south and west.</p>		<p>Development can be visually accommodated within this broad landscape context. Indeed, the Proposed Development is contextually separated from the more rural coastal parts of this landscape and is viewed rising primarily from an area of coniferous forestry. Overall, the visual presence of the Proposed Development is deemed co-dominant from this viewing distance of some 3.4 km.</p> <p>Whilst there are some instances of stacked views of turbines which have the potential to generate a sense of visual clutter and tension, the loose arrangement of the turbines allows for a degree of visual permeability and tends to marginally diminish the perceived visual intensity of the Proposed Development. Nonetheless, the turbines will be a prominent feature of this inland view and will result in a clear increase in the intensity and scale of development in this inland view. It should be noted that the main aspect of visual amenity in this instance is along the coastline and the nearby broad sandy beach to the south and west, which is well offset from the Proposed Development. Overall, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium.</p>	
VP15	<p>Mullaghroe Beach: This is a broad, sweeping panorama afforded from Mullaghroe Beach across Feorinyees Bay and Blacksod Bay to the east. The view is representative of the amenity feature and the WAW, extending across the broad body of water throughout the middle ground of the view towards a background of sweeping hills, ridges, and mountains in the distant Nephin Range.</p>	High	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed in the distance to the east in this expansive view, where they still present a modest but notable scale in the background of the view. The proposed turbines will be viewed partially backed by the sky and partially backed by the distant terrain, with those sections backed by the distant terrain presenting a higher degree of visual contrast. Although the scale of the Proposed Development is still notable from here, it can be well assimilated into this broad context, which</p>	<p>Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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			<p>comprises large-scale landscape features and broad underlying land uses. Nonetheless, in this sweeping panorama and from this distance of over 11.5 km, the Proposed Development is deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>The turbines are generally well-spaced, with some localised instances of turbine overlap. Indeed, due to the loose spacing characteristics, the Proposed Development will generate little sense of enclosure in this aspect of the view, albeit the rotating turbine components have the potential to draw the eye and will slightly detract from the low-intensity character of this coastal view. Overall, the proposed turbines are deemed to contribute to a low visual effect.</p>	
VP16	<p>L1205 at Doolough: This is a contained eastern aspect of a view afforded from the L1205 local road at Doolough, which is representative of the surrounding local community and the WAW. The depicted view is oriented to the east towards several residential land holdings and dwellings. A nearby coniferous forest plantation contains the view to the east, whilst to the south, a more open view is afforded, with the distant background contained by the elevated uplands within the Nephin Range. It should be noted that the principal aspect of visual amenity here</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed turbines are viewed here at a near distance to the east, rising from the nearby coniferous forestry. Only the nearest turbines in the western and southern extents of the Proposed Development Site will be clearly visible here, with partial views of the other turbine blade sets rotating against the vegetated skyline. In terms of scale, the proposed turbines will present a prominent feature here and will be one of the defining built features in the eastern aspect of this view, with the nearest turbine (turbine T8) visible at a distance of just over 800m. Indeed, whilst the turbines will present a considerable scale here, they are contextually separated from this cluster of dwellings by the dense areas of coniferous forestry. Overall, the visual presence of the Proposed Development is deemed dominant.</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

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	is to the west, across towards the coastline.		There is some degree of visual ambiguity generated by this view of the turbines, where their actual landscape context is not readily visible. Furthermore, the partial views of turbine blade sets rotating along the skyline ridge will generate a sense of visual ambiguity and irritation. However, the dense conifer forest located to the east will screen many of the more distant turbines, thus somewhat diminishing the scale and intensity of the Proposed Development. Overall, the proposed turbines will result in a marked degree of visual change and will considerably increase the scale and intensity of development in this local landscape context. However, it should be noted that the turbines will have little notable effect on the views afforded across the coastline to the east, which is the main aspect of visual amenity in this instance. On balance of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed high-medium .	
VP17	Local road at Tristia (2): This is a locally elevated view from a stretch of road in the townland of Tristia, representative of some of the nearest local community receptors to the east of the Proposed Development Site. The depicted view is oriented to the west and overlooks a large expanse of coniferous forest, with a nearby dwelling heavily contained in the near foreground. The view is contained in the distance to the west, whilst to the south, a broad and open view is afforded across the surrounding coastal bog and coastline. To the south, distant views are afforded	Medium	The proposed turbines are clearly visible here, with the nearest turbines viewed at a distance of approximately 900m. Although the turbines are viewed at a notable scale, they are set back from the foreground and nearby residential dwellings, rising from the dense coniferous forest with loose spacing characteristics, which marginally diminish the visual intensity of the development from this near distance. Nevertheless, the turbines will be viewed as one of the defining built features in this landscape context and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence. This is a highly legible view of the Proposed Development that presents loose spacing characteristics,	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	towards the distinctive upland terrain of Achill Island		while the variation in the perceived scale of the turbines highlights the depth and dispersion of the proposed turbine array across the intervening landscape. While there will be some minor local instances of visual clutter generated by the stacked views of some turbines, this is strongly diluted by the clearer views of others. Overall, the Proposed Development will result in a marked increase in the scale and intensity of development in this landscape context. Indeed, the Proposed Development will be perceived as one of the more prominent land uses, albeit the broad nature of this landscape context can well accommodate a development of this scale and nature. On balance, considering the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed high .	
VP18	N59 at Bangor Erris Cemetery: This is a locally elevated, broad, expansive view from a cemetery near the settlement of Bangor Erris. The depicted view is oriented to the west and offers a clear, unobstructed vista across the adjacent low-lying boglands. Elevated mountainous terrain within Achill Island contains the view to the southwest, while a scattering of residential dwellings can be seen on the distant, lower rolling hills in the background to the west. Plantations of coniferous forestry are visible throughout the distant landscape. The view is representative of the amenity/heritage receptor of the graveyard, as well as the	Medium	From this viewpoint, located approximately 7.9 km from the Proposed Development, all 13 of the proposed turbines are visible to varying extents. Visibility ranges from fully revealed turbines at the southern extent of the array to partial views of turbine blade tips, where the intervening terrain rises to a low hillock. The visible turbines will be backed by the sky with a low degree of visual contrast. Whilst the moving turbine components have the potential to draw the eye here, they are deemed to have a sub-dominant visual presence in this open view. While there will be some degree of visual clutter generated by the stacked views of some turbines, this is strongly diluted by the clearer views of others and the viewing distances involved. Whilst the Proposed Development will result in some increase in the intensity of built development in this aspect of the view, the broad nature of this landscape	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	major route receptor of the national road N59 and the WAW driving route.		context can well accommodate a development of this scale and extent. On balance, considering the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium-low .	
VP19	L1206 at Tristia: This is a view from the L1206 local road in the townland of Tristia, adjacent to a linear cluster of residential dwellings, and is representative of the surrounding local community receptors and the WAW driving route. Whilst the main aspect of scenic amenity from this location is across the open expanse of bogland to the south and towards the Oweninny River Estuary, the depicted view extends along the alignment of the local road to the west and is partially contained by a nearby mature tree-line and the sloping terrain located to the north of the local road.	Medium	From this viewpoint, seven of the proposed turbines are potentially visible to varying degrees, with nearby mature vegetation and sloping terrain partially obscuring the view of some turbines and fully screening others, as highlighted in the wireframe view. The nearest visible turbines are located at a distance of 2.1 km and will be viewed at a notable scale, just off the alignment of the local road, backed by the sky. Whilst the full scale and extent of the Proposed Development is heavily diminished here, the visible turbines are still considered to have a visual presence in the order of co-dominant. Aesthetically, the turbines appear slightly stacked and are viewed rising beyond nearby residential dwellings, in a slightly ambiguous manner. However, the Proposed Development is viewed well offset from the main aspect of visual amenity here, which is to the south. Overall, the Proposed Development will increase the intensity of built development in this landscape context but does not block or obstruct any sensitive viewing aspects. Thus, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed medium .	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP20	L1205 at Doolough (2): This is a contained view from the roadside of the L1205 adjacent to a nearby residential dwelling and is representative of the surrounding local community and a section of the	Medium	The Proposed Development will be prominently visible to the northeast, rising from the nearby conifer forest plantation at a distance of approximately 700m. This is one of the nearest potential views of the turbines from	Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	<p>WAW driving route. The depicted view extends northeast across a nearby area of coastal bog and scrubby vegetation, which is backed by a dense conifer plantation that contains this aspect of the view. A brief view of Mount Jubilee is afforded to the east, whilst the main aspect of visual amenity here relates to the views across the coastline and out towards Blacksod Bay to the west, in the opposite direction to the depicted view.</p>		<p>this section of the local road, where turbine T10 appears at a considerable scale. Its perceived scale is notably greater than all other visible turbines, which are viewed below the hub of turbine T10. While the turbines will be the principal built feature along this stretch of the local road, they are contextually separated from the foreground, rising beyond the conifer forest. Despite this, the development is deemed to have a dominant visual presence, largely influenced by the scale of turbine T10.</p> <p>Although the turbines present with a dominant visual presence, they are viewed here in a relatively legible manner. The variation in their perceived scale highlights the depth and dispersion of the array across the wider landscape. Given the broad surrounding land uses and large-scale landscape features, the Proposed Development will not appear out of place in terms of its scale or function. However, it will result in a significant increase in built development and a reduction in the area's low-intensity rural character.</p> <p>Overall, the Proposed Development will become a defining feature along this section of the local road. However, it will not affect the principal aspect of scenic amenity, which is to the west, towards the surrounding coastal environs. On balance, considering the factors outlined above, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed high</p>	
VP21	<p>L1206 at Gweesalia: This is a relatively homogenous view across coastal bog, afforded from the L1206, northeast of the</p>	Medium	<p>All of the turbines are visible here, rising beyond the conifer forest, where they present at a prominent scale. The proposed turbines are well offset from the local road</p>	<p>Substantial-moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	settlement of Gweesalia. The depicted view extends north from the local road and is representative of the surrounding local community receptors and the WAW route. To the north, the view is contained beyond the coastal bog that stretches across the fore-to-middle ground, with brief visibility of a low rolling ridge in the distant background where several of the Bunnahowen turbine blade tips are faintly visible rotating along the vegetated skyline.		<p>corridor offset upwards of 1.2 km, with the southernmost turbines in the array viewed here at the most notable scale. While the nearest visible turbines will be prominent built features in this aspect of the view, they do not appear over-scaled in the context of the surrounding large-scale land uses, nor do they create a sense of overbearing. Nevertheless, the turbines will be one of the most prominent built features here and are deemed to have a dominant visual presence.</p> <p>In terms of the turbine arrangement, the proposed turbines benefit from loose spacing, which allows for a degree of visual permeability through the array and prevents any strong sense of enclosure in this part of the view. The turbines are viewed in one of the least visually susceptible aspects along this local road corridor and will not appear incongruous in terms of their scale and function within this broad area of coastal bog and extensive conifer plantations. However, the turbines will significantly increase the intensity of built development here, and as such, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed high-medium.</p>	
VP22	Local road at Gweesalia: This view is afforded from a local road in the settlement of Gweesalia and is representative of the centre of the population and the scenic route designation. The view extends north towards the central part of the village, where the terrain gradually descends away from the viewer. Beyond the nearby settlement, views of expansive conifer	Medium	All 13 proposed turbines are visible from this location, with the nearest visible turbine located approximately 1.9 km to the north. Although the turbines rise from the coniferous forestry to the north, the sense of separation from the settlement is not immediately apparent, as some of the middle-ground context is screened from view by the built development within the settlement itself. While the turbines do not create a sense of overbearing here, they will be among the most prominent built features in this local landscape, presenting a relatively	



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	forestry cloak the middle ground, while in the distance, the view is contained by low rolling hills and ridges over open bogland. It should be noted that the main aspect of scenic amenity along this looped scenic route is primarily related to views across the coastal environs. The existing Bunnahowen turbines are faintly visible along the vegetated skyline in the distance to the north.		<p>broad lateral extent. Although the scale of the turbines is not overwhelming in this aspect of the view, the Proposed Development will result in a marked degree of visual change. In the context of this broad, open setting, the Proposed Development is deemed to have a co-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aesthetically, the view of turbines rising above the nearby settlement can contribute to a sense of visual ambiguity. However, the turbines are viewed within the context of the coniferous forestry, which helps the viewer perceive them as contextually separated from the settlement. Some visual clutter will be generated from the overlapping turbine blades, though this is somewhat diluted by clearer views of the other turbines. Overall, the Proposed Development will significantly increase the scale and extent of development visible from this rural village. However, in terms of the scenic route designation, this section of the route is considered to be less visually susceptible to development than other parts, which offer broader views across the coastline and out to sea.</p> <p>On balance, the magnitude of the visual effect is deemed High-medium.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP23	Local road at Roy: This is a pleasant view from the coastal local road that loops around the Doohoma Peninsula, in the townland of Roy. It is representative of both the scenic route receptor and sections of WAW scenic driving route. The depicted view is oriented back inland to the east, across fields of pasture and	High-medium	The full extent of the Proposed Development will be visible from this location, at a distance of just under 6 km to the east, where it presents with a broad visual envelope and is partially backed by distant terrain and the sky. Whilst the proposed turbines will not be spatially prominent features from this viewpoint, their rotating blade sets have the potential to draw the eye. Nevertheless, when viewed within this broad setting,	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	coastal grasses, where scrubby vegetation lines the local road corridor. Indeed, the main aspect of amenity here lies to the west, across the coastline and towards the surroundings of Blacksod Bay. The view is contained in the distance by the Nephin Range, along with its surrounding lower rolling hills and distant ridges.		<p>they do not appear excessive in terms of scale or extent and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence from this viewing context.</p> <p>Although there will be some visual stacking of turbines when seen from this location, the Proposed Development exhibits relatively loose spacing characteristics. This reduces the perceived visual intensity of the Proposed Development and allows for a degree of visual permeability through the proposed turbine array. Nonetheless, the presence of turbines will result in a notable increase in the intensity of built infrastructure in this part of the view, which is currently characterised by limited other forms of development. Overall, the turbines will be a legible built feature in this view. And although they will increase the intensity of built development, they do not appear excessively scaled or incongruous in the context of the underlying forestry areas.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be medium-low</p>	
VP24	<p>Standing Stones at An Fál Mór: This is a broad, sweeping panorama afforded from the standing stones located along the summit of An Fál Mór, and it is representative of the heritage and amenity features, as well as the surrounding scenic designations.</p> <p>The depicted view is oriented back inland across Blacksod Bay, where the near foreground—containing rocky outcrops</p>	High	<p>The proposed turbines will be visible rising from a distant area of coniferous forest in the background of the view, approximately 13 km to the east. The turbines are seen as modestly scaled features in the distance, but they have the potential to draw the eye as the tallest form of built development in this aspect of the view.</p> <p>Whilst visible, the turbines will be experienced within the context of this broad, sweeping 360-degree panorama and are considered to have a sub-dominant visual presence at this notable distance.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	and grassy dips—drops out of view a short distance to the east. The view extends across Blacksod Bay, with the mainland and the surrounding mountainous areas forming the backdrop. This is a highly scenic panorama, offering pleasant views in all directions.		The turbines appear in a legible manner from this considerable distance and are loosely spaced, allowing for a strong degree of visual permeability through the Proposed Development towards the more distant, elongated ridgelines. Although the turbines will result in an increase in the amount of built development in this aspect of the view, they are viewed well offset from some of the more sensitive landscape features —such as the elevated, remote uplands to the southeast and the higher ground on Achill Island to the southwest. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be low within this broad, sweeping panoramic view	
VP25	Local road (L5287) at Tullaghanduff: This is a view from a meandering local road adjacent to the coastline along the Doohoma Peninsula, representative of both the looped scenic route and the WAW driving route. The depicted view is oriented to the north and northeast, towards the Oweninny River Estuary. Whilst the sand spits surrounding the estuary contain much of the fore- to middle-ground context to the northeast, the view to the north is partially enclosed by a nearby residential landholding, surrounded by dense vegetation and agricultural farmsheds. In contrast, the more open view to the northeast and east extends towards the distant landscape and is contained by low, rolling hills and ridgelines cloaked in a mix	High-medium	The Proposed Development is only partially visible from this location, with the western turbines in the proposed array screened by nearby vegetation. Nonetheless, there is potential for clearer views of the turbines along intermittent sections of this part of the scenic route, as illustrated in the wireframe view. Indeed, where fully visible, the Proposed Development presents as a noticeable built feature to the north, at a distance of just over 5 km. The turbines will appear in a slightly more condensed arrangement than in other views throughout the study area, although the slender form of the turbines still allows for a degree of visual permeability through the array. Overall, the Proposed Development is considered to have a visual presence ranging between sub-dominant and co-dominant along sections of this local road scenic route. Whilst more condensed than in other views afforded from across the study area, the Proposed Development generates only limited instances of turbines visually	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	<p>of coastal bog, pastoral fields, and blocks of coniferous forestry.</p> <p>It should be noted that one of the principal aspects of visual amenity in this location relates to the views afforded to the east and southeast, across the estuary towards the more mountainous inland terrain surrounding the Nephin Range.</p>		<p>stacking, which may result in some degree of visual clutter. However, the Proposed Development presents in a legible manner and is offset from the immediate context of the river estuary and surrounding coastal environs, which are more susceptible to visual change. Although it will result in a noticeable increase in the intensity of built development along this scenic route, it does not significantly alter the prevailing landscape character in this part of the view, where the turbines are seen rising from a broad expanse of coniferous forestry. On balance, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be medium-low.</p>	
VP26	<p>Doohoma Head: This view is afforded from Doohoma Head, located at the south-westernmost point of the Doohoma Peninsula, and is representative of the surrounding scenic route designations and the WAW driving route. Whilst the main aspect of visual amenity from Doohoma Head lies across the surrounding coastal environs to the west and south, the depicted view is oriented inland across the peninsula to the northeast. This part of the view is characterised by more typical pastoral fields and dispersed rural settlement. The north-eastern aspect of the view is visually contained in the central parts of the peninsula by low, rolling terrain.</p>	High-medium	<p>The blade tips of all thirteen turbines have the potential to be visible from this location, with the hubs of two of the westernmost turbines also partially visible. This brief visibility is afforded from a distance of over 8.5 km, where the turbines are primarily seen backed by the sky, with a very low degree of visual contrast. Indeed, from this distance, the partial visibility of the turbines along the ridge to the northeast will have a limited visual presence within this coastal setting, where the main aspect of visibility is oriented to the south and west. Overall, the visual presence of the Proposed Development ranges from sub-dominant to minimal within this landscape context.</p> <p>From an aesthetic perspective, partially visible rotating turbine blade sets along a distant ridge can contribute to a sense of visual clutter. There may also be some ambiguity regarding the actual location of the turbines, and whether they rise directly beyond the ridge or further in the distant landscape. Nevertheless, the limited extent of visibility will have little influence on the visual amenity</p>	<p>Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant</p>



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			afforded from this location. As such, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be low–negligible	
VP27	N59 at Knockmoyleen: This is a locally elevated view afforded from the N59 National Secondary Route, representative of the major route corridor, the WAW, and the wider surroundings of Wild Nephin National Park. The depicted view extends north, offering a broad panorama across the coastal plains. The transition from the elevated uplands to the east to the broad, flat coastal plains to the west is clearly evident, with aspects of the Oweninny River Estuary also visible to the northwest. The northern aspect of the view is contained by lower, transitional rolling hills, cloaked in extensive areas of coastal bog and heath.	High-medium	<p>All thirteen of the proposed turbines will be visible here, in the surrounds of the flat coastal plains to the northwest of this section of the N59, at a distance of approximately 8.8 km. The turbines will be viewed rising clearly in silhouette against the sky, with a low degree of visual contrast. Whilst the turbines are a notable feature here, being the largest built structures in this aspect of the view, they do not appear oversized and respond well to the surrounding landscape context in terms of scale and function. Overall, within the broad panorama afforded from this location, the proposed turbines will have a sub-dominant visual presence.</p> <p>Aesthetically, there are some instances of turbine overlap and stacked views, which have the potential to generate a degree of visual clutter. However, these effects will be offset by the clearer views of the peripheral and more legible turbines. Whilst the proposed turbines will result in an increase in the scale and quantum of built development in this view, they can be well assimilated into this broad landscape context, which is influenced by large-scale landscape features and broad underlying land uses.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed to be medium–low.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant
VP28	Golden Strand Doogort East: This is a highly pleasing, open coastal view afforded from a local parking area above Golden Strand on Achill Island. It is	High	The proposed turbines are visible in the distance, rising just above the Doohoma Peninsula, and are viewed primarily against the more distant terrain. The turbines will be perceived as modest-scale features in this view,	Slight / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	representative of a scenic designation and the beach as an amenity feature. The depicted view is oriented across Golden Strand to the northeast and extends across the wider Blacksod Bay in the middle ground. The view stretches further northeast towards the mainland, where the Doohoma Peninsula and more distant elevated terrain form the background of the scene.		located approximately 14.5 km to the northeast. At this distance, the turbines will not have a notable visual presence, as they are viewed with a low degree of contrast, even against the distant terrain, due to 'atmospheric perspective' (the fading of distant objects). As such, they are deemed to have a minimal visual presence within this broad scenic view. Some degree of visual clutter may be generated by the stacked and overlapping turbine blade sets; however, these aesthetic effects will be notably offset by the considerable viewing distances involved. While potentially visible from this location, the distant turbines have limited potential to alter the character of the view, though they will result in a marginal increase in the perceived intensity of built development within the broad landscape. Overall, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low–negligible	
VP29	The Great Western Greenway at Tonreege West: This is a broad, open view afforded from a section of the Great Western Greenway. The depicted view extends across sloping terrain cloaked in scrubby vegetation that descends towards the nearby shoreline. Beyond this, the view stretches across the coastal environs to the north, interspersed with small islands, including Inishbiggle, which is visible directly to the north. Beyond Inishbiggle, the low, rolling coastal plains further to the north are visible, while glimpses of the wider Blacksod Bay can	High-medium	The Proposed Development is faintly visible in the distance to the north, where a block of coniferous forestry partially along Inishbiggle obscures visibility of the western extent of the turbine array. Overall, the turbines will be primarily viewed against the sky, with a very low degree of visual contrast. Some of the eastern extent of the array will be visible against low rolling hills and ridges in the far distance. The turbines will have a minimal visual presence from this considerable distance of over 19.5 km in this broad sweeping view. Indeed, the limited visibility of the turbines will have no notable effect on the coastal character or the visual amenity afforded from this location. Thus, the magnitude of visual effect is deemed low–negligible .	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Long-term Not Significant



APPENDIX 10-1 LVIA VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	also be seen to the northwest. To the east, views of the uplands surrounding the Nephin Range are visible in the distance.			

