

Appendix 2: Review of Viewpoints and Baseline Conditions

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update to 2016 of the visual baseline of the Study Area recorded in the Consolidated Environmental Statement and its Addendum. The assessment of the visual baseline included 34 viewpoint locations representative of visual receptors who experience visual amenity.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to record any obvious visual change to the baseline at each of the 34 representative viewpoint locations, and to consider whether any observed change may consequently affect the sensitivity of the identified receptors to the type of development proposed.
- 1.3 The 34 viewpoints were shown in Volume 4 of the Consolidated ES. The location of the viewpoints is shown in Figure 13.6 and the viewpoints are shown in Figure 13.8.
- 1.4 In the Consolidated ES Addendum, Viewpoints 30, 32, 33 and 34 were updated and the revised photomontages were shown in Volume 4. The location of the viewpoints was shown on Figure 1.3a to e. The location and number of viewpoints was agreed with the (then) Department of the Environment as part of the EIA scoping process.
- 1.5 The site survey was undertaken between 24th and 28th of October 2016 by Chartered Landscape Architects.
- 1.6 This document should be read in conjunction with previously Landscape and Visual Chapters from previously published reports.

2. Assessment Methodology

- 2.1 New panoramic photographs showing a 90° horizontal field of view were taken between 24th and 28th of October 2016. The photographs were captured using the same full frame Canon EOS 5D MkII digital SLR camera and 50mm lens combination, taken on a tripod fitted with a levelled panoramic head as used in the 2012 baseline photography.
- 2.2 The location of the updated photographs was matched as closely as possible in the field to that of the 2013 ES and ES Addendum using a Garmin 'eTrex H' GPS unit and through visual comparison of the photographs contained in these documents.
- 2.3 An assessment of the change at each representative viewpoint location was recorded within the 90° horizontal field of view as shown in the original viewpoint figures. Where there was evidence of obvious visual change outside of the 90° i.e. seen beyond the viewpoint this was also recorded.

Limitations

- 2.4 The updated baseline photography was taken between 24th and 28th of October 2016. While some leaf-loss was evident, the photography does not reflect the full winter conditions of the 2012 viewpoint photography submitted in the 2013 Consolidated ES. Weather conditions during the survey were variable, but with periods of relatively good visibility.
- 2.5 At Viewpoint 14, and 25 the growth of intervening vegetation since the 2012 baseline photography has obscured the view from these representative viewpoint locations. In these instances the viewpoint condition was recorded as evidence of this change, and a nearby location representative of the same receptor was selected to assess and record baseline change.
- 2.6 While every effort was made to relocate the camera in the same viewpoint locations used previously, the limitations of the GPS unit accuracy (the manufacturers stated GPS accuracy

is <10m (33ft) Root Mean Square¹ (RMS); the value of one standard deviation (68%) of the error in one, two or three dimensions², and physical resiting of the tripod and camera, there may be slight variations between the exact location of the previous photography and 2016 updated baseline photography, which is unavoidable.

3. Updated Baseline Conditions

- 3.1 The site survey was undertaken between 24th and 28th of October by Landscape Architects from AECOM. Weather conditions during the survey were variable, but with periods of relatively good visibility.
- 3.2 Table 1.1 below, is used to consolidate the findings of the site survey, and to summarise whether obvious visible change apparent, or not, at each the 34 representative viewpoint locations.
- 3.3 14 of the 34 representative viewpoint locations visited were recorded as having an obvious visible change to the baseline conditions and information was recorded for a further 6 viewpoints where the change is out-with the 90 degree horizontal field of view.
- 3.4 A description of the baseline change observed, and potential change to receptor sensitivity, if any, are considered in Table 1.1, below.

¹ http://static.garmin.com/pumac/eTrexH_OwnersManual.pdf (accessed 31/10/16)

² <http://www.colorado.edu/geography/gcraft/notes/gps/gps.html> (accessed 31/10/16)

Table 1.1: Summary of baseline change

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 1 | Clonteevy Bridge over River Rhone on Trewmount Road (B106) - View towards substation | Yes | The upper portions of a new residential property to the south of Trewmount Road (B106) are visible beyond the intervening ridgeline to the south-west of this location. | The addition of a single, relatively small scale, residential built feature into the baseline view would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |
| Viewpoint 2 | Derrygally Way to east of Turleenan Substation - View towards substation | Yes | Within the 90° horizontal field of view a new residential property to the south of Trewmount Road (B106) is visible on higher ground to the north-west of this location. Outside of the 90° horizontal field of view a new poultry shed is visible to the south-west, although largely screened by intervening vegetation | The addition of a single residential built feature into the baseline 90° horizontal field of view, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. More recent development seen beyond the viewpoint is largely screened by vegetation and would not affect the Medium sensitivity of receptors at this location. |
| Viewpoint 3 | Derrygally Way to south of Turleenan Substation – View towards substation | Yes | Within the 90° horizontal field of view a new residential property to the south of Trewmount Road (B106) is visible on higher ground to the north-west of this location. Outside of the 90° horizontal field of view a new poultry shed is visible to the south-west, although largely screened by intervening vegetation | The addition of a single residential built feature into the baseline 90° horizontal field of view, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. More recent development seen beyond the viewpoint is largely screened by vegetation and would not affect the Medium sensitivity of receptors at this location. |
| Viewpoint 4 | Trewmount Road (B106) near site access road | None | | |
| Viewpoint 5 | Bonds Bridge over River Blackwater near the Argory | Yes | A two-bladed single wind turbine is now visible in the far distance to the west of this view. | The addition of a single small scale wind turbine in the background of the baseline view, which contains an existing overhead line, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 6 | Moy Road (A29) crossing | Yes | A two-bladed single wind turbine is now visible on the horizon to the south within the 90° horizontal field of view. Outside of the 90° horizontal field of view the upper portions of a new single wind turbine (M/2014/0596/F) are visible beyond an intervening ridgeline to the south-west of the A29. | Within the 90° horizontal field of view a new single small scale wind turbine has added a vertical structure into the background of the baseline view. This feature adds to the vertical structures of the wood pole line that was visible in the 2013 Consolidated ES baseline. The addition of another single wind turbine development outside of the 90° horizontal field would extend the influence of tall vertical structures, which would tend to reduce the sensitivity of the receptor to development of a similar type. However, the relatively small scale and extent of the baseline change would not alter the Medium sensitivity of receptors at this location. |
| Viewpoint 7 | Culkeeran Road | None | No obvious visual change was recorded within the 90° horizontal field of view. From this viewpoint a two-bladed single wind turbine is now visible to the south, albeit heavily screened by intervening vegetation. Another single wind turbine is visible to the north-west in views from Culkeeran Road in close proximity to the viewpoint; however, intervening trees entirely screen this turbine in views from the specific viewpoint location. | The addition of two wind turbines into the baseline has increased the influence of tall vertical structures in the view, and would tend to reduce the sensitivity of receptors to change of a similar type. The 2013 Consolidated ES baseline noted that medium-scale wood pole lines in close proximity to this location already affect the sensitivity of the receptor, such that the addition of these relatively distant wind turbine developments is unlikely to further change the Medium sensitivity. |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Viewpoint 8 | Gorestown Road | Yes | A two-bladed single wind turbine is now visible, although partially screened by intervening vegetation, on the horizon to the east of this view. The upper portions of another single wind turbine are visible, although partially screened by intervening vegetation, on the horizon to the north of this location. | The addition of two wind turbines into the baseline has increased the influence of tall vertical structures in the view, and would tend to reduce the sensitivity of receptors to change of a similar type. However, the 2013 Consolidated ES baseline noted medium-scale wood pole lines in close proximity to this location already affect the sensitivity of the receptor, such that the addition of these relatively distant wind turbine developments is unlikely to further change the Medium sensitivity. |
| Viewpoint 9 | Benburb Road | Yes | No obvious visual change was recorded within the 90° horizontal field of view. A single turbine is visible in the far distance. | The visual change recorded would not affect the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |
| Viewpoint 10 (A/B) | Benburb Road south of Ninewell Bridge | None | | |
| Viewpoint 11 | Clonfeacle Road (B128) crossing | Yes | No obvious visual change was recorded within the 90° horizontal field of view. Poultry sheds are visible in the view towards Benburb. | The visual change recorded would not affect the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|----------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Viewpoint 12 | Benburb Priory | Yes | Several new single wind turbine developments are visible across the 90° horizontal field of view; generally concentrated to the east and south-east within the channelled view. | Despite the introduction of a number of single wind turbine developments in the view, these are sufficiently distant that they would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location. The sensitivity of this Viewpoint remains unchanged. |
| Viewpoint 13 | Artasooly Road looking towards Blackwater River Crossing | Yes | A new residential property is visible, adjacent to the existing farm buildings, on higher ground to the north-west of this location. | The addition of a single residential built feature into the baseline, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |
| Viewpoint 14* | Artasooly Road at Tullymore Bridge | None | | |
| Viewpoint 15 | Artasooly Road and Maydown Road junction at Artasooly | Yes | A new residential property has been completed within the residential development visible to the north of this view. At the time of the site survey (24 th to 28 th of October 2016) a further two plots were under construction. | The addition of a single residential built feature into the view, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. Once complete, the two plots currently under construction would increase the presence of residential built form within the view, and obscure some distant views to the north-east from this location. However, the extent of built form within the view would change the character or importance of the baseline view such that it would change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed. |
| Viewpoint 16 | Battleford Road (B115) crossing | None | | |
| Viewpoint 17 | Killylea Road (A28) crossing | None | | |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 18 | Killylea settlement (Fellows Grange Court) | Yes | Several new single wind turbine developments are visible across the 90° horizontal field of view; generally concentrated to the east and south-east. | Despite the introduction of a number of single wind turbine developments in the view, these are sufficiently distant such that they would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location. The sensitivity of this Viewpoint remains unchanged. |
| Viewpoint 19 | Navan Fort | None | No obvious visual change was recorded within the 90° horizontal field of view; however, a new wind turbine and mast was noted due east of the viewpoint, and a telecoms tower on a distant hill to the south. | The addition of the tall structures would tend to reduce the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed. There was no obvious change within the 90° horizontal field of view. Structures seen beyond the viewpoint were sufficiently distant such that they would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location. |
| Viewpoint 20 (A/B) | Monaghan Road (A3) east of Norton's Cross Roads | None | | |
| Viewpoint 21 (A/B) | Monaghan Road (A3) crossing | None | | |
| Viewpoint 22 | Maddan Road south of Norton's Cross Roads | Yes | Young trees to the left of the view (across Dernalea Road) have grown. No other obvious visual change. | The visual change recorded would not affect the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 23 (A/B) | Cavanagarvan Road and Sheetrim Road Junction | None | | |
| Viewpoint 24* | Drumhillery Road crossing | None | | |
| Viewpoint 25 | Lagan Road west of Keady | Yes | A single wind turbine development is visible within the 90° horizontal field of view in the far distance to the west of this location. | The addition of a single small scale vertical structure in the background of the view would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location to the type of development proposed. |
| Viewpoint 26 (A/B) | Fergort Road (B3) crossing | None | | |
| Viewpoint 27 | East of Derrynoose | Yes | A small wind turbine is visible on the periphery of the 90° horizontal field of view, beyond a ridgeline to the south-west of the viewpoint. | The addition of this small scale vertical structure in the background of the view would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location to the type of development proposed. |
| Viewpoint 28 | Derrynoose Road at Curragh Lane looking north | None | No obvious visual change was evident across the 90° horizontal field of view; however, a single wind turbine is visible to the north-east on a local ridgeline. A new residential property is also visible to the north-east of this location, north of Curragh Lane. | When seen beyond the viewpoint the addition of a single residential built feature into the baseline view, and small scale vertical structure in the background of the view, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 29 | Derrynoose Road at Curragh Lane looking south | None | No obvious visual change was evident across the 90° horizontal field of view; however, a single wind turbine is visible to the north-east on a local ridgeline. A new residential property is also visible to the north-east of this location, north of Curragh Lane. | When seen 'beyond the viewpoint' the addition of a single residential built feature into the baseline view, and small scale vertical structure in the background of the view, albeit noticeable, would not change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed. |
| Viewpoint 30 (Consolidated ES Addendum) | Crossbane Road | None | | |
| Viewpoint 31 | Crossaghy Road | None | | |
| Viewpoint 32 (Consolidated ES Addendum) | Minor road north-east of Castleshane | None | | |
| Viewpoint 33 (Consolidated ES Addendum) | Scenic view from Tullybuck (Clontibret) | None | | |

| Viewpoint Reference | Viewpoint Description | Visible baseline change within 90° horizontal field of view since 2013 Consolidated ES / Consolidated ES Addendum | Description of baseline change | Assessment of Change to Receptor Sensitivity |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Viewpoint 34 (Consolidated ES Addendum): | Mullyash Mountain | None | No obvious visual change was evident across the 90° horizontal field of view; however, a large wind farm is visible on a distant ridge, with further turbines on a more distant ridge beyond. | The addition of the tall structures would tend to reduce the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed. There was no obvious change within the 90° horizontal field of view. Structures seen beyond the viewpoint were sufficiently distant such that they would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location. |

4. Summary of Baseline Change

- 4.1 There was no obvious visual change within the 90° horizontal field of view observed from 20 of the 34 representative viewpoints assessed in the 2013 Consolidated ES and 2013 Consolidated ES Addendum.
- 4.2 In close range views from viewpoints 1, 2, 3 and 4, a residential property (south of Trewmount Road (B106)) is visible in the updated baseline 90° horizontal field of view. Within the undulating landscape, and as a result of the varying direction to and distance from the site, the building is visible to different extents from each of these locations. However, all of these baseline views already contain residential or agricultural built form, and the addition of this built feature would not change the baseline sensitivity to the type of development proposed.
- 4.3 From viewpoints 5, 6 and 8 single wind turbines are visible in the updated baseline view at a range of distances. These developments introduce a new type of feature within the updated baseline view. The 2013 Consolidated ES baseline views contained vertical features in the form of wood pole lines, or overhead lines; while these more recent changes add to the extent of vertical development within the view, they would not alter the character or importance of the baseline view such that it would change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed.
- 4.4 In viewpoints 13 and 15 there is the addition of a small number of residential built developments into the updated baseline view would add to features already existing in the 2013 Consolidated ES baseline. However, there would be no change the sensitivity of the receptor to the type of development proposed.
- 4.5 There would be views of new development seen 'beyond the viewpoint' (i.e. outside of the 90° horizontal field of view of the viewpoint photography) from viewpoints 9, 19, 27 and 28. However, as a result of screening by intervening vegetation, or a combination of distance and / or extent within the view, none of these developments would affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at these locations.
- 4.6 From viewpoints 12 and 18 a number of single wind turbine developments are now present within the view, spanning the distant drumlin landscape. Despite the introduction of a number of single wind turbine developments in the view, these are sufficiently distant such that they would not affect the sensitivity of the visual receptors at this location. The sensitivity of this Viewpoint remains unchanged.
- 4.7 This review of the viewpoints has determined that the viewpoints as being representative of the study area have not changed in terms of sensitivity and therefore the assessment within the Consolidated ES and addendum remains valid.