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Tyrone - Cavan Interconnector

Appendix 9.1: Landscape and Visual Technical Appendix

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9. Landscape and Visual

9.1 Introduction

9.1 The LVIA addendum has been prepared by Karen Clifford CMLI[1]. Karen was the principal author of the LVIA submitted with the 2013 Consolidated Environmental Statement (ES) Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and provided evidence at the 2017 Public Inquiry.

9.2 The purpose of this LVIA addendum is twofold; to provide an update, where necessary, of the landscape and visual effects of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector considered against the baseline current at the time of writing (May 2019); and to verify the findings of the 2013 Consolidated Environmental Statement (ES) LVIA (hereafter the '2013 Consolidated ES'), its Addendum (2015) and Public Inquiry Technical report (2017).

9.3 At this point it is important to consider that the landscape is a dynamic environment and will undergo change over time. To that end, this LVIA addendum does not seek to identify all changes to the baseline but focuses on material changes that are likely to alter the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4 This LVIA addendum adopts the same 5km study area used in the 2013 Consolidated ES. In the case of the assessment of effects on the visual amenity of individual residential receptors, a study area of 500m from the red line boundary is referred to as the 'detailed study area'.

9.2 Previous Surveys and Assessment

9.5 The 2013 Consolidated ES presented an assessment of the 400kV overhead line in Counties Tyrone and Armagh comprising 102 towers for a distance of 34.1km, an associated 275/400kV substation at Turleenan townland north-east of Moy, and associated works. The overhead line will continue on in the Republic of Ireland [refer to planning permission granted by An Bord Pleanála – Board Order 02.VA0017].

9.6 The 2013 Consolidated ES was informed by the planning policy context, landscape and visual baseline information prior to its submission in 2013. The LVIA was based on the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment (2002) 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' 2nd Edition (GLVIA2). The decision to use GLVIA2 followed Landscape Institute guidance on transition to GLVIA3 that reads '*an assessment started using GLVIA2 should be completed using that edition*'.

9.7 The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) reviewed the planning applications and carried out a Public Inquiry into the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector held in Armagh in February 2017. In respect of the assessment of landscape and visual effects, the PAC report noted:

"The EI [Environmental Information] *is robust in its approach to the assessment of the visual impact the proposed development would have on visual amenity and landscape character (para 10.7)."*

"The proposed OHL structure would meet the requirements of the SPPS and Policies PSU 8 and PSU 11 of PSRNI in so far as it has been demonstrated that all attempts have been made to minimise its visual impact on the environment and protect amenity (para 10.13)".

[1] Karen is a qualified Landscape Architect and Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) with over 20 years of experience in the landscape profession. Ms. Clifford has practised both in the private and public sectors, with over 10 years' service in local authorities. She has undertaken LVIAs and landscape mitigation design for a number of major infrastructure projects, power generation and transmission and renewable energy developments in the UK, Ireland and overseas.

9.3 Update to the LVIA Methodology

9.8 This LVIA addendum adopts current best practice guidance – the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment (2013) 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition' (GLVIA3).

9.9 The Landscape Institute released the following guidance ahead of the publication of the third edition of the GLVIA3 in April 2013:

"GLVIA3 will replace the current [2002] *second edition (GLVIA2; the Blue Book).* ***In general terms the approach and methodologies in the new edition are the same. The main difference is that GLVIA3 places greater emphasis on professional judgement and less emphasis on a formulaic approach*** [AECOM emphasis]*."*[2]

9.10 In the professional opinion of this assessment's author, GLVIA3 does not significantly change the approach to landscape and visual assessment from the previous edition - GLVIA2. The revised guidelines do present changes to the previous guidelines but it is considered that these changes are points of detail rather than a dramatically different approach to landscape and visual assessment. (The key differences are set out in the following text). The methodology used for this LVIA Addendum, including a summary of the pertinent changes in approach and principles of landscape and visual impact assessment contained in GLVIA3, is provided at Appendix 9.1. Further details on the changes contained in GLVIA3 are presented in that appendix.

9.4 Changes in the Existing Environment

9.4.1 Site Visit

9.11 Fieldwork was undertaken in May 2019 by chartered and qualified AECOM landscape architects to review the existing baseline landscape and visual environment and assess the extent of any change since the 2013 Consolidated ES. Site verification visits were also undertaken in the lead up to the 2017 Public Inquiry.

9.12 The site work included walking and driving (as appropriate) paths, publicly accessible areas and roads within the study area. Fieldwork was undertaken in good weather conditions with good visibility.

9.13 Baseline photography from each of the 34 no. viewpoint locations included in the 2013 Consolidated ES was retaken. The updated viewpoint photography is presented in Figures 9.2.1 –9.2.34 - Appendix 9.4 of this 2019 Addendum.

9.4.2 Landscape Planning Policy Context

9.14 The Planning Policy and Guidance Context are presented in section 13.2.7 of the 2013 Consolidated ES. A review of the key policy changes since this report was produced has been undertaken and is summarised below. Reference should also be made to Chapter 3 – Planning and Development Context of the 2013 Consolidated ES which provides a detailed analysis of planning policy in relation to the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector.

9.15 Regional Policy Review

9.16 The **Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland RDS 2035: Building a Better Future** (DRD 2010) remains current and provides the spatial strategy for Northern Ireland. Policies relevant to landscape and visual impact assessment include:

- RG11 - Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment. Page 52 states the aims to *'Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character*' and '*Conserve, protect and where possible enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality*'.

9.17 The **Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development** (DoE, 2015) is a new document that aims to simplify planning

[2] https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/news/landscape-institute-issues-guidance-on-transition-to-glvia3/ [accessed 29/04/19]

policy by providing '*the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development*' (page 3).

9.18 Two of the Core Principles are of relevance to landscape and visual impact assessment including '*Supporting Good Design and Positive Place-Making'* and '*Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment*'.

9.19 Paragraph 6.250 is of particular relevance to the landscape and visual matter for the Proposed Scheme;

'*… Furthermore, such proposals will be considered having regard to potential impact on amenity and should avoid areas of landscape sensitivity, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).*'

9.20 **A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland** (Planning Service, DOE 1993) remains in force for topics that are not covered by a PPS or other policy publication.

9.21 **Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Environment** (DOE, 1999), remains in place with an amendment to Annex C: Criteria for Listing (DOE, 2011) added in 2011 which supersedes the original Annex C.

9.22 **PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside** (DOE June 2010) remains in place.

9.23 Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (August 2002), has been replaced by **A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020** (July 2015).

9.24 Sections of relevance include '*Biodiversity and Landscape'*, which addresses the connection between biodiversity and landscape character. The policy advocates the use of the new Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment to help '*deliver greater integration with other regional themes and issues, such as habitat creation, woodland planting and management, informing green infrastructure strategies, the location of development, and identifying the role of landscape in the delivery of ecosystem services'* (page 28).

9.25 Local Policy Review

9.26 The Armagh Area Plan 2004 (DOE, 1995), Armagh Area Plan 2004: Alterations No 1 – Armagh Countryside Proposals (DOE, 2001) and the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 (The Planning Service, DOE, 2005), remain the relevant development plans for the study area.

9.4.3 Baseline Landscape Situation

9.4.3.1 Overview of the Study Area

9.27 As reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES, the context of the study area remains open, rural countryside, primarily under agricultural use, consisting of low rolling hills, shallow valleys and structured fields bounded by hedgerows and mature trees. Orchards tend to be a feature in the north of the study area. The rural hinterland around settlements within the study area tends to be populated with scattered farms, dwellings and small commercial buildings. The landscape is bisected by a disused railways route. The Rivers Blackwater and Callan flow across the study area.

9.28 The reassessment of the landscape baseline through fieldwork survey conducted in May 2019 identified that individual wind turbines have an increasing influence on the landscape and visual resource of the study area, particularly to the north-east; directly, where turbines are now elements of the landscape character within the study area; and indirectly, where the influence of wind turbines is perceptible in views outwards from the study area to the wider landscape, as is the case from certain open and elevated locations (for example, Figures 9.2.12, 9.2.18 and 9.2.19).

9.4.3.2 Landscape Character

9.29 The following landscape character assessments provided the baseline context for the 2013 Consolidated ES. These assessments remain the definitive landscape character assessments for the study area.

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) (2000) 'Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment';
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) (2006); Regional Landscape Character Assessment; and
- Monaghan County Council (2008) 'County Monaghan Landscape Character Assessment' prepared by ERM Environmental Resources Management Ireland Limited

9.30 The landscape character receptors therefore remain the same as described in the 2013 Consolidated ES (Section 13.3.1.3), namely:

- LCA 47 Loughgall Orchard Belt;
- LCA 66 Armagh Drumlins;
- LCA 45 Dungannon Drumlins and Hills;
- LCA 64 Lough Neagh Peatlands; and
- LCA 68 Carrigatuke Hills.

9.31 The reassessment of the landscape baseline through desktop and fieldwork survey conducted in May 2019 has confirmed that there has been no material change to the landscape character receptors identified above. This conclusion is supported by Figures 9.2.1-34 (Baseline Photography (2019) and the findings presented in Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints

9.32 The descriptions of these landscape character areas, and their sensitivity, reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES therefore remains an accurate baseline.

9.4.3.3 Designated Landscapes

9.33 The 2013 Consolidated ES identified the following designated landscapes:

- Armagh City Former Green Belt; and
- Dungannon Former Green Belt.

9.34 The Former Green Belt policy areas are enacted through the Armagh Area Plan 2004 and Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010, which remain the adopted development plans for the study area.

9.35 As reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES, the sensitivity to change of the Former Green Belts is guided by the sensitivity of the underlying Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and urban fringe landscapes that they occupy. As a result of the negligible change to the baseline landscape character within the study area the sensitivity of these designated landscapes remains as reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4.3.4 Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

9.36 The 2013 Consolidated ES considers the potential effects the development would have on the landscape character of the Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes within the study area, including:

- The Argory;
- Benburb Historic Park and Garden; and
- Tynan Abbey.

9.37 No change to the landscape or visual resource within the study area was recorded that would suggest that there has been any material alteration to the baseline for these designated

landscapes, or their sensitivity to change, which therefore remains as stated in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4.4 Visual Baseline Situation

9.38 The landscape of the study areas remains primarily agricultural, consisting of low rolling hills, shallow valleys and structured fields, which often have overgrown hedgerows and many mature trees. Drumlins are a prominent feature of the study area.

9.39 The visual amenity and characteristics of the study area are largely unchanged: views are often dependent on the amount of openness or enclosure that the drumlin landscape affords, but also vary locally with vegetation cover and built form. There remain numerous small-scale telephone and electrical distribution lines that connect to the many scattered dwellings and settlements.

9.40 Since the submission of the 2013 Consolidated ES the presence of individual wind turbines is notable to the north of the study area.

9.41 The study area continues to be populated with many scattered farms, dwellings and small commercial buildings. A few small villages are located along secondary and minor roads and around local educational or commercial centres.

9.42 The range of receptors within the study is represented by the 34 viewpoint locations included in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4.4.2 Settlements

9.43 The 2013 Consolidated ES baseline identified a small number of key settlements within the study area with the potential to be affected by the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector (para 13.3.2.3). It is to be expected that infill and small scale increases in development within, and adjacent to, these settlements will have taken place since the 2013 Consolidated ES. The change to settlements within the study area is not of sufficient extent that it would merit revision to the baseline description or sensitivity of these receptors.

9.4.4.3 Individual Properties

9.44 The 2013 Consolidated ES considered residential properties within 500m either side of the line route, which is referred to as the 'detailed study area'. In total 427 individual properties were assessed. No change to the landscape or visual resource within the study area was recorded that would suggest a material alteration to the baseline for these visual receptors, or their sensitivity to change, which therefore remains as stated in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.45 A desktop review of planning applications within the 500m detailed study area submitted between February 22nd 2017 and March 30th 2019 was undertaken. In total, 20 new individual residential receptors have been identified, see Table 9-1: Updated Individual Property Baseline and Figure 9.1 – Individual Property Assessment Sheets (2019 Update):

Table 9-1: Updated Individual Property Baseline

Individual Property Reference	Nature of Receptor
H45-2019	Dwelling and detached garage
H46-2019	Two storey dwelling (constructed)
H44-2019	Farm dwelling and garage
G43-2019	Dwelling house and detached garage
G44-2019	Single storey dwelling house (constructed)
E63-2019	Dwelling and garage
E62-2019	Dwelling with detached garage
E61-2019	Farm dwelling and garage

Individual Property Reference	Nature of Receptor
D37-2019	Dwelling and garage
D36-2019	Dwelling and detached garage (note: D11+ demolished and replaced with cabin dwelling)
C67-2019	Replacement dwelling (constructed)
C68-2019	Dwelling and detached garage (constructed)
C69-2019	Farm dwelling
C70-2019	Dwelling (constructed)
C71-2019	Conversion of forge building to single story dwelling
A28-2019	Dwelling and detached garage
A27-2019	Dwelling
A26-2019	Infill dwelling and garage
J64-2019	Dwelling and garage
J63-2019	Dwelling and garage

9.46 Of the 20 new residential properties within the detailed study area, 3 have been constructed. During fieldwork survey in May 2019, a further 2 new residential properties – H46-2019, and G44-2019 (see Figure 9.1, sheets 15 and 17) – were identified and had been constructed but did not appear in the planning application search.

9.47 This LVIA addendum adopts the same methodology as the 2013 Consolidated ES chapter (13.6.2.2, para. 431), whereby the 'worst case' scenario is considered; this assumes that these proposed dwellings would have ground floor views which face the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector with no intervening screening from planting within curtilage.

9.48 The 2013 Consolidated ES methodology generally considers the sensitivity of views experienced by residential receptors to be 'High' (13.2.6.8, and Table 13.2). GLVIA3 considers the sensitivity of receptors as the result of a combined judgement of the susceptibility to change and value of a receptor; since these are closely linked (see Appendix 9.1). This is broadly consistent with GLVIA2 and the 2013 Consolidated ES methodology which states:

"The sensitivity of visual receptors depends upon:

- *The location and character of the viewpoint;*
- *The activity of the receptor; and,*
- *The importance of the view (which may be inferred by its inclusion as a viewpoint on an Ordnance Survey map or Guidebook)"*

9.49 Taking the above into account, the value of visual receptors and their susceptibility to the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector (and therefore the visual sensitivity) remains the same as reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4.4.4 Transport Corridors and Paths

9.50 On the basis of the desktop and fieldwork survey conducted in May 2019, and supported by Figures 9.2.1-34 (Baseline Photography (2019) and the findings presented in Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints

9.51 No change to the landscape or visual resource within the study area was recorded that would indicate a material alteration to the baseline for these visual receptors, or their sensitivity to change, which therefore remains as stated in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.4.4.5 Viewpoint Locations

9.52 Fieldwork surveys were undertaken in May 2019 to verify the visual resource of the study area. Baseline panoramic photography was re-taken from each of the 34 viewpoints. Through

a combination of desktop assessment and fieldwork survey the following changes were identified.

9.53 From 6 viewpoints, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 18, a material change to the baseline was recorded which was considered likely to result in an alteration to the findings of the assessment in relation to effects on the visual amenity of receptors at these locations.

9.54 From 10 viewpoints, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20 and 34, the alteration to the visual baseline was judged to be limited (taking into account viewpoints with both an 'A' and 'B' panorama[3]), often as a result of the introduction of a small scale, or distant features, such that there would be no change to the 2013 Consolidated ES in relation to likely effects on the visual amenity of receptors at these locations.

9.55 For the remaining 18 viewpoints the change to the baseline was judged to be negligible, for example the continued growth and / or management of vegetation and would not affect the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.56 The 6 viewpoints identified as having a material change to the baseline are summarised in Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints.

9.57 GLVIA3 requires that sensitivity considers both the receptor value (baseline) and its susceptibility to change of the type proposed (assessment) are considered when forming judgements on sensitivity. For clarity, and ease of comparison, Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints presents the sensitivity judgement from the 2013 Consolidated ES for each of the 6 viewpoints alongside the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgements as part of this 2019 LVIA addendum.

[3] For viewpoints 10, 20, 21, 23 and 26 both an 'A' and 'B' panorama are presented

Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Location	2019 Addendum Update - Material Changes to Baseline Visual Environment	2013 2013 Consolidated ES Sensitivity (GLVIA2)	2019 LVIA Addendum (GLVIA3) Value	Susceptibility to Change*	Visual Sensitivity
6	Moy Road (A29) crossing	Notable change to the view – a single, domestic-scale, wind turbine is visible on the skyline to the right of the view. Further to the right of this view, albeit out with the horizontal extent of the photograph, is a second single wind turbine on the skyline, situated slightly closer to this location.	**Medium**	**Medium –** Typical but pleasing view from the major road network in the study area, within an undesignated landscape. The introduction of a single wind turbine on the near skyline in the 2019 baseline, together with the A29 in the foreground, are detracting elements within this short-range rural view.	**High –** This view is representative of residential receptors, for whom the view is considered of primary importance. Users of major 'A' roads would generally have lower susceptibility to change.	**Medium –** On balance, this is a pleasing view that includes some detracting features but is considered tolerant to a degree of change.
8	Gorestown Road	Notable change to the view – a new domestic scale wind turbine is visible in the background of the view, seen above the vegetated skyline. In close proximity to this location it is possible to perceive a second single wind turbine along the skyline further to the right of the view; however, within this specific view it appears heavily filtered by intervening roadside vegetation.	**Medium**	**Medium –** This is a typical but pleasing view from the minor road network in the study area, within an undesignated landscape. The introduction of two single wind turbines on the vegetated skyline in the 2019 baseline, together with the foreground wood pole line are detracting elements within this short-range rural view.	**High –** This view is representative of residential receptors, for whom the view is considered of primary importance. Users of the local road network would generally have lower susceptibility to change.	**Medium –** On balance, this is a pleasing view that includes some detracting features but is considered tolerant to a degree of change.
12	Benburb Priory	Notable change to the view – a number of single wind turbines appear in the background of this view across approximately 1/3rd of the panorama. Some wind turbines appear back-clothed against the distant hills, while others break the distant skyline.	**High**	**Medium –** The view is gained from a Registered Historic Park and Garden and is therefore considered to be nationally important. However, within the framed long view to the south east a number of individual wind turbines identified in the 2019 baseline now span approximately 1/3 of the horizontal field of view. These distant elements are detractors to the view.	**High –** This elevated and framed long view is situated within a nationally important designated landscape and is therefore likely to be of primary important to receptors at this location. Residential receptors would have a similar susceptibility to change.	**Medium** – Overall, receptors at this location experience a well composed view, albeit the 2019 baseline now includes a number of distant wind turbines which establishes that the view is tolerant of a degree of change.
13	Artasooly Road looking towards Blackwater River Crossing	Notable change to the view – a new detached residential property, garage and entrance layout are visible to the left of the view. A wood pole line has been moved further to the south, such that it is now out of the horizontal field of view of the panorama. A new single wind turbine appears as a minor feature to the north-west of this location, along the wooded skyline.	**Medium**	**Medium –** This is a typical but pleasing view from the minor road network in the study area, within an undesignated landscape. The 2019 baseline change has introduced further built form into the view, but on balance has also improved the condition of pre-existing structures and also removed some detracting elements.	**High –** This view is representative of residential receptors, for whom the view is considered of primary importance. Users of the local road network would generally have lower susceptibility to change.	**Medium –** On balance, this is a pleasing view that includes some detracting features but is considered tolerant to a degree of change.
15	Artasooly Road and Maydown Road junction at Artasooly	Notable change to the view – subsequent phases of the Edenderry Drive residential development are under construction to the east of this location. Several new residential dwellings partially restrict views to the north-east. An intervening earth mound in the centre of the view has been reduced in height which opens views to a hillside and residential dwelling in the mid-ground of the view. Along the line of Artasooly Road a cluster of mature trees has been removed, opening views to a dwelling in the mid-ground.	**High**	**Low-** The 2019 baseline view is typical of many urban / urban fringe locations within the study area. Residential development, including associated infrastructure such as roads, lighting and utilities, has a strong influence on the view.	**High –** This view is representative of residential receptors at Artasooly, for whom the view is considered of primary importance. Users of the local road network would generally have lower susceptibility to change.	**Medium** – Primarily as a result of the high susceptibility to change of receptors, and the introduction of further built form into the view in the 2019 baseline.
18	Killylea settlement (Fellows Grange Court)	Notable change to the view – a number of single wind turbines appear in the background of this view across approximately 1/3rd of the panorama. Some wind turbines appear back-clothed against the distant hills, while others break the skyline.	**High**	**Medium –** Typical but pleasing elevated long range view from the edge of Killylea, within an undesignated landscape. The introduction of a number of single wind turbines across the background hills and skyline in the 2019 baseline, are detracting elements within this varied view.	**High –** This view is representative of residential receptors at Killylea, for whom the view is considered of primary importance. Users of the long distance recreational routes (the Ulster Way) would generally have a similar susceptibility to change.	**Medium** – Overall, receptors at this location experience a well composed view, albeit the 2019 baseline now includes a number of distant wind turbines which establishes that the view is tolerant of a degree of change.

** This LVIA Addendum reports on the most sensitive receptor group represented by each of the viewpoint locations in accordance with GLVIA3 (paragraph 4.3, page 50), which states '…It may be appropriate to consider a range of possibilities, including a reasonable scenario of maximum effects, sometimes referred to as the 'worst case' situation."*

9.5 Summary of 2019 Updated Baseline

9.58 The reassessment of the landscape baseline through desktop and fieldwork survey conducted in May 2019 has confirmed that there has been no material change to the baseline for the following landscape and visual receptors, their sensitivity, and consequently any potential effects arising as a result of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector, which remain as reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES, 2015 Addendum and submissions to the 2017 Public Inquiry:

- **Landscape character**: LCA 47 Loughgall Orchard Belt; LCA 66 Armagh Drumlins; LCA 45 Dungannon Drumlins and Hills; LCA 64 Lough Neagh Peatlands; and LCA 68 Carrigatuke Hills;
- **Designated landscapes**: Armagh City Former Green Belt; and Dungannon Former Green Belt;
- **Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes**: The Argory; Benburb Historic Park and Garden; and Tynan Abbey.
- **Settlements:** Armagh, Dungannon, Moy, Blackwatertown, Benburb, Killylea, Milford, Middletown, Keady, and Derrynoose;
- **427 Individual properties within the 500m detailed study area;**
- **Transport corridors:** A and B class roads, recreational paths, cycle ways and local walks**; and**
- **28 of the 34 Representative Viewpoint Locations**

9.59 This LVIA Addendum has identified the following new visual receptors and / or material changes to the visual baseline:

- **20 new residential properties (in planning and / or constructed);** and
- **A material change to the baseline view at 6 of the 34 Representative Viewpoint Locations**.

9.60 The potential visual effects on new receptors, and reassessment of representative viewpoint locations, are provided in Section9.6

9.6 Mitigation Measures

9.61 The proposed mitigation measures remain unchanged from the 2013 Consolidated ES (p. 448-452, paras. 13.5.1.214 to 13.5.6.2.247).

9.7 Potential Effects

9.62 This section focusses on the likely effects of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector submitted in the 2013 Consolidated ES against the current baseline situation where new receptors have been identified. It also considers instances where there has been a material change to the baseline conditions as reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES.

9.7.2 Individual Residential Properties

9.63 This 2019 LVIA Addendum identifies 20 new individual residential properties within the 500m detailed study area which are either in planning or constructed.

9.64 The location of these receptors is shown on Figure 9.1 (Sheets 1-21). For clarity, these receptors follow the naming conventions of the 2013 Consolidated ES, whereby the 500m detailed study area has been divided into ten sections; each section related to a group of receptors labelled alphabetically A-J. The new individual properties continue in ascending numerical order from the previous assessment and are given the suffix '-2019'.

9.65 A summary of the predicted effects is provided in Table 9-3 **Updated** Assessment of Individual Residential Properties.

Table 9-3 Updated Assessment of Individual Residential Properties

Note: Where proposals are still at the planning stage / not constructed this LVIA addendum adopts the same methodology as the 2013 Consolidated ES (13.6.2.2, para. 431), whereby the 'worst case' scenario is considered; this assumes that the main focus / frontage of proposed dwellings would have ground floor views which are orientated directly towards the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector, with no intervening screening from planting within curtilage.

	Individual Property Reference	Sensitivity*	Construction Effects		Operational Effect Winter Year 1 and Summer Year 15)	
			Magnitude of Visual Effect	Residual Significance of Visual Effect	Magnitude of Visual Effect	Residual Significance of Visual Effect
	A26-2019	High	**Low -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in a change to the views primarily to the east of this proposed dwelling. Views of construction activity would be at medium range within the 500m detailed study area, screened in part by adjacent built form and intervening vegetation. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Minor Adverse** – There would be noticeable change to views facing east; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium** – Parts of the substation site, Towers 1 and 2 and the overhead lines are likely to result in an immediately noticeable change in views east from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range within the 500m detailed study area. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – there would be a noticeable change to the composition of views primarily as a result of the introduction of the substation, Towers 1 and 2 and the overhead line in views east from the proposed dwelling. In other views experienced in the round the characteristic components of views would remain unaffected.
	A27-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in extensive change in views south and east from this proposed dwelling. Views of construction activity would be seen at close to medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – There would be a very noticeable change to views; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**High** – Towers 5-8 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views to the south and east from this proposed dwelling, seen from close to medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – there would be a very noticeable change in the composition of views, primarily those to the south and east from this proposed dwelling.
	A28-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in extensive change in views south and west from this proposed dwelling. Views of construction activity would be seen at close range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – There would be a very noticeable change to views to views from this proposed dwelling, seen at close range, which would become a dominant feature in the landscape.	**High** – Towers 6-8 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views to the south and west from this property, seen from close to medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – there would be a very noticeable change to the composition of views, primarily those to the south and east from this property.
	C67-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views west from this property, seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium** – Tower 29 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views west from this property, seen at medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – there would be a noticeable change to the composition of views primarily as a result of the introduction of Tower 29 and the overhead line in views west from the property. In the round the characteristic components of other views from this dwelling would remain unaffected.
	C68-2019	High	**High** – It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in a noticeable change primarily in views east and north-east from this property, seen from gable ends and the rear elevations at close range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views from this property seen at close range; however, from the main frontage / focus of the dwelling - which faces south-west - the characteristic components of views would remain unaffected.	**High** – Towers 25-23 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views primarily to the east and north-east from this property, seen from close to medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – there would be a very noticeable change to the composition of views, primarily those to the east and north-east from this property; however, from the main frontage / focus of the dwelling - which faces south-west - the characteristic components of views would remain.
	C69-2019	High	**Low -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in change to views to the north and east from this proposed dwelling, albeit partially screened by a combination of intervening vegetation and / or topography in the wider landscape. Views of construction activity would be seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Minor Adverse** – There would be a small but noticeable change in views to the north and east; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium –** Tower 21 and the overhead line would appear as new features in views to the north and east, seen at medium range, and partially screened. These components would be immediately noticeable but considered in the round would not be the key feature of views from this proposed dwelling. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant) –** Change would be noticeable in views north and east from this proposed dwelling primarily as a result of Tower 21 and the overhead line; however, in the round, the characteristic components of views from this dwelling would remain unaffected.
	D37-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views east from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium** – Tower 40 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views east from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – there would be a noticeable change to the composition of views primarily as a result of the introduction of Tower 40 and the overhead line in views east from the proposed dwelling. In other views experienced in the round the characteristic components would remain unaffected.
	E61-2019	High	**High -** It is likely that construction activity would result in extensive change in views to the south, west and north of this proposed dwelling. Change would be seen from close to medium range and is likely to become the dominant feature within the landscape. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Major Adverse (Significant)** - There would be substantial alteration to views from this proposed dwelling, experienced in several directions from close to medium range. There would be a very noticeable change to existing views.	**High –** Towers 42, 41 and 40 and the overhead line would result in extensive change to views from this proposed dwelling, seen from close to medium range to the south, west and north. The Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would become the dominant landscape feature within the view in these directions. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Major Adverse (significant)** – there would be substantial change to the composition of views, primarily those to the south, west and north of this proposed dwelling.
	E62-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views west from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium** – Tower 40 and the overhead lines would result in an immediately noticeable change in views west from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – there would be a noticeable change to the composition of views from this proposed dwelling as a result of the introduction of Tower 40 and the overhead line. In other views experienced in the round the characteristic components would remain unaffected.

	G43-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views west and north from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views west and north; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium –** Tower 70 and the overhead line would appear closest in views to the west, Tower 69 might appear more oblique to the north. Views of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would be experienced at medium range within the detailed study area. These components would be immediately visible but considered in the round would not become the key feature of views from this proposed dwelling. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant) –** There would be a noticeable change in the overall composition of views from this dwelling, primarily those facing west and north. However, overall the characteristic components of views seen in the round would remain unaffected.
	G44-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views west and north from this proposed dwelling, seen at medium range. Change would be short term and reversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views west and north; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this proposed dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium –** Tower 69 and the overhead line would appear closest in views to the north, Tower 70 might appear more oblique to the west. Views of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would be seen at medium range within the detailed study area. These components would be immediately visible but considered in the round would not become the key feature of views from this proposed dwelling. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant) –** There would be a noticeable change in the overall composition of views from this dwelling, primarily those facing west and north. However, overall the characteristic components of views seen in the round would remain unaffected.
	H45-2019	High	**Medium -** It is likely that construction activity associated with the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in noticeable change in views east and north-east from this proposed dwelling, seen at close to medium range. Change would be short term and reversible	**Moderate Adverse (significant)** – There would be a noticeable change to views primarily to the east and north-east, seen in close to medium range; however, in the round the characteristic components of views from this dwelling would remain unaffected.	**Medium –** Tower 75 would appear closest in views to the east, Tower 74 might appear more oblique. Views of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would be seen at close to medium range within the detailed study area. These components would be immediately visible but considered in the round would not become the key feature of views from this proposed dwelling. Changes would be permanent and irreversible.	**Moderate Adverse (significant) –** There would be a noticeable change in the overall composition of views from this proposed dwelling, primarily those facing west and north. However, overall the characteristic components of views seen in the round would remain unaffected.

** see Section 9.4.4.3, para 9.48*

9.7.3 Representative Viewpoint Locations

9.66 The review of the visual baseline confirms that there has been a material change to the baseline within 6 of the 34 representative viewpoint locations: Viewpoints 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 18.

9.67 There is no change to the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector or the mitigation measures as assessed in the 2013 Consolidated ES. All mitigation is embedded in the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector and there is no additional mitigation. Therefore (having regard to GLVIA, para 6.45) the following assessments describe the residual effects predicted to arise as a result of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector.

9.68 The following tables present the detailed assessment of visual effects at construction, operation year 1 and year 15. The baseline description and value judgment of each viewpoint is considered in Table 9-2 Updated Baseline Assessment of Representative Viewpoints.

9.69 The assessment is set out below in the following tables:

- Table 9-4 Viewpoint 6: Moy Road (A29) crossing
- Table 9-5 Viewpoint 8: Gorestown Road
- Table 9-6 Viewpoint 12: Benburb Priory
- Table 9-7 Viewpoint 13: Artasooly Road looking towards Blackwater River Crossing
- Table 9-8 Viewpoint 15: Artasooly Road and Maydown Road junction at Artasooly
- Table 9-9 Viewpoint 18: Killylea settlement (Fellows Grange Court)

Table 9-4 Viewpoint 6: Moy Road (A29) crossing (Figure 9.2.6)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Residential – Local farmsteads Sequential routes – A29 Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be clearly viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Medium - High** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction The description of change during the construction period would remain as reported previously.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): Single wind turbines are now part of the baseline, increasing the influence of tall vertical structures within this view and seen in successive views from this location. The movement of traffic in the foreground, together with the movement of turbines on the skyline in the background of the view, would tend to reduce the degree of contrast arising from the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector. The towers would now appear broadly at scale with other man-made vertical elements within the view. There would be no change to the geographic extent of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector within the view, which would still be seen within the main focus (i.e. the along direction of travel) would result in a notable change to the overall composition. Change would be long term and irreversible. Overall, the magnitude of visual change would remain **Medium**, resulting in a **Moderate Adverse (significant)** level of visual effect.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter the magnitude of visual change would remain **Medium**, resulting in a **Moderate Adverse (significant)** level of visual effect.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No

Table 9-5 Viewpoint 8: Gorestown Road (Figure 9.2.8)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA 2Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Residential – Local farmsteads Sequential routes – Gorestown Road Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be clearly viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Medium - High** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction The description of change during the construction period would remain as reported by the 2013 Consolidated ES.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): Single wind turbines are now part of the baseline, increasing the influence of medium scale vertical structures within the view. The foreground tower would continue to appear noticeably greater in height than both the turbines and wood pole lines within the view, while more distant towers would now appear more comfortably at scale with these vertical elements. There would be no change to the geographic extent of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector within the view, which continues to be seen within the main focus (i.e. the along direction of travel). Change would be long term and irreversible. Overall, this would result in a notable change to the composition of the view; the magnitude of visual change would remain **Medium**, resulting in a **Moderate Adverse (significant)** level of visual effect.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter the magnitude of visual change would remain **Medium**, resulting in a **Moderate Adverse (significant)** level of visual effect.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No

Table 9-6 Viewpoint 12: Benburb Priory (Figure 9.2.12)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Registered Historic Parks and Gardens – Benburb Valley Park Settlements – Benburb, Local Farmsteads Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be clearly viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Medium** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction The description of change during the construction period would remain as reported by the 2013 Consolidated ES.	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): A number of individual wind turbines now form part of the visual baseline, increasing the influence of tall vertical structures across the background of the view; appearing both back clothed against the far hills and breaking the distant skyline. The rotating movement and appearance of the wind turbines, as opposed to the static, lattice structure of the towers, would tend to reduce the degree of contrast of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector. The towers of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would now appear at scale with other tall, man-made structures within the view, and within a similar horizontal extent now occupied overall by the individual turbines. Change would be long term and irreversible. On balance the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in a small change to the composition of the background of the view; the magnitude of visual change would be **Low**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Medium** resulting in **Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter the magnitude of visual change would remain **Low**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**

Table 9-7 Viewpoint 13: Artasooly Road looking towards Blackwater River Crossing (Figure 9.2.13)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment 2019 Addendum Update - Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Settlements –Local Farmsteads Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be clearly viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Medium** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction The description of change during the construction period would remain as reported by the 2013 Consolidated ES	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Low - Medium** resulting in impacts of **Minor - Moderate Adverse** in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): The addition of the new residential building and wind turbine into the view has resulted in a slight increase in the influence of built form in the mid-ground; however, the removal of a wood pole line leaves a more balanced overall composition. Tower 32 would still appear broadly at-scale with other built form in the view. Tower 33 and sections of the overhead line would be partially screened by the new residential development when seen from this general location, resulting in a slight reduction in the geographic extent of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector within the view. Change would be long term and irreversible. On balance the magnitude of visual change would remain **Low-Medium** as stated in the 2013 Consolidated ES resulting in a **Minor-Moderate Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor-Moderate Adverse**	No
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Low - Medium** resulting in **Minor - Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter the magnitude of visual change would remain **Low - Medium** resulting in **Minor - Moderate Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor-Moderate Adverse**	No

Table 9-8 Viewpoint 15: Artasooly Road and Maydown Road junction at Artasooly (Figure 9.2.15)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Sequential routes – Maydown Road, Artasooly Road Settlements –Artasooly, Local Farmsteads Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Low** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction Construction activities would be short term and reversible. The addition of further residential built form and infrastructure into the baseline would now partially screen construction activity in the background of the view, in particular that related to Towers 33, 35 and 36. Accordingly, both the scale of the change and its extent within the view would be reduced. Overall, construction activity would result in a small change to the composition of the view. The magnitude of visual change would be **Low**; the significance of effect would be **Minor**.	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Low - Negligible** resulting in impacts of **Minor - Moderate Adverse** in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): The addition of the new residential buildings and associated infrastructure has increased the influence of built form in the fore-to-mid-ground. Tower 33, 35 and 36 and sections of the overhead line would be partially screened by the new residential development and / or infrastructure in the fore-to-mid ground when seen from this general location, resulting in a reduction in the geographic extent of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector within the view. Further, the increase in built form within the view would reduce the scale of the change arising from the introduction of the towers and overhead line into the background of the view. Change would be long term and irreversible. The Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in a small change to the composition of the view, seen across a small extent, and would introduce features that would be partially screened by built form in the fore-to-mid ground. The magnitude of visual change would be **Low**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Low - Negligible** resulting in **Minor - Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter it is assumed that the final phases of the residential development would be complete. The magnitude of visual change would remain **Low** resulting in **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor- Adverse**	**Yes**

Table 9-9 Viewpoint 18: Killylea settlement (Fellows Grange Court) (Figure 9.2.18)

Sensitivity of Visual receptor	2013 Consolidated ES LVIA Assessment of Impact	2019 LVIA Addendum – Visual Assessment Magnitude of Visual Change	Significance of Effect	Change to the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES (Yes / No)?
Receptor Group: Settlements –Local Farmsteads Value: **Medium** Susceptibility: **High** Visual Sensitivity: **Medium**	Construction The construction activities for the overhead line would be viewed from this location and the magnitude of change is assessed as **Low-Medium** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** during construction.	Construction The description of change during the construction period would remain as reported by the 2013 Consolidated ES	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	No
	Operation (Year 1): Once construction activities cease the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would reduce to **Low - Moderate** resulting in impacts of **Moderate Adverse** in Year 1 after commissioning.	Operation (Year 1): A number of individual wind turbines now form part of the visual baseline, increasing the influence of tall vertical structures across approximately 1/3 of the background of the view; appearing both back clothed against the far hills and breaking the distant skyline. The rotating movement and appearance of the wind turbines, as opposed to the static, fine lattice structure of the towers, would tend to reduce the degree of contrast of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector. The towers of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would now appear largely at scale with other tall, man-made structures within the view. There would be no change to the geographic extent of the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector seen from this location. Change would be long term and irreversible. The Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would result in a small change to the composition of the view, seen at long range, and would introduce features that would be partially screened intervening vegetation and topography in the fore-to-mid ground. On balance, the magnitude of visual change would be **Low**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect.	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**
	Operation (Year 15): In Year 15 the magnitude of change relating to the overhead line and towers would remain **Low - Negligible** resulting in **Minor - Moderate Adverse** impact for the overhead line and towers in summer 15 years after commissioning.	Operation (Year 15): At Year 15 of operation and thereafter the magnitude of visual change would remain **Low**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** level of visual effect	**Minor Adverse**	**Yes**

9.8 Summary of Updated Visual Effects

9.70 Of the 20 new individual residential receptors identified in the 2019 baseline update, 12 are predicted to have residual visual effects that are **Moderate Adverse** or greater. Details of the impacts are shown in Table 9-3 above.

9.71 For the remaining 8 new individual residential receptors, the residual level of effect would be **Minor Adverse** or lower. It is considered that the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector would be visible in the view from the receptors but would form a small component and the majority of the view would be unaffected.

9.72 A material change to the baseline conditions was recorded at 6 of the 34 representative viewpoint locations assessed as part of the 2013 Consolidated ES. The reassessment of these viewpoints has identified that there would be a change to the assessment findings reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES at 3 locations: Viewpoints 12, 15 and 18.

9.73 At Viewpoints 15 and 18, the changes to the baseline conditions would result in a reduction in the residual level of visual effect to **Minor Adverse** during both construction and operation years 1 and 15. Details of the impacts are shown in Tables 9-8 and 9-9 above.

9.74 At Viewpoint 12 receptors would not experience a change in the residual level of effect during construction, which would remain **Moderate Adverse**, as reported in the 2013 Consolidated ES; however, during operation years 1 and 15 the residual level of effect would be reduced to **Minor Adverse**. Details of the impacts are shown in Table 9-6 above.

9.9 Conclusions

9.75 Since the 2017 Public Inquiry, there have been changes to the landscape of the study area. For example, wind turbines and new buildings have been constructed and there have been changes to the vegetation.

9.76 AECOM landscape architects undertook field surveys of the study area in order to assess the extent of the changes. For the majority of the LVIA study area there has been negligible change to the baseline conditions reported in the previous assessment. Consequently, this LVIA Addendum finds that there has been no change to the sensitivity or significance of effects in respect to landscape character and landscape designations

9.77 The field surveys and review of planning applications identified the newly proposed or constructed residential properties. A small number of new individual residential properties have been identified within the 500m study area. Of these, only 12 would experience significant effects. This is to be expected given their proximity to the Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector, and / or nature of the visual amenity and views in these locations. This is consistent with the pattern of significant effects identified for individual residential properties in the previous assessment.

9.78 In the previous landscape and visual assessment, 34 viewpoints were identified and agreed with what are now DFI and DAERA. These 34 viewpoints were chosen as being representative of the experience of different types of receptor within the study area. In 2019, the viewpoint photography was retaken and along with the field surveys, the extent of changes in the landscape was determined.

9.79 Material changes to baseline conditions in 6 of the 34 representative viewpoint locations were identified. A reassessment of these viewpoint locations identified that in only 3 of these cases - Viewpoints 12, 15 and 18 - would the baseline change be sufficient to alter the findings of the 2013 Consolidated ES. Because of the changes in the study area, it has been determined that receptors at these locations would experience reduced visual effects from what was previously assessed.

9.80 It has been assessed that there are no significant changes in the landscape resource of the study area. In terms of visual effects, there are newly proposed or built receptors that will

experience a significant visual effect. Additionally, there are existing receptors that would experience a reduced visual effect because of changes in the study area.

9.81 It has been concluded there are no significant changes that would alter the conclusions of the previous landscape and visual assessment. As stated in the 2013 Consolidated ES:

"The landscape assessment indicates that there would be significant adverse impacts upon the landscape of some parts of the study area. There would also be significant adverse effects on the visual amenity afforded from many locations from within the immediate area following the line route. However, it is considered that the landscape and visual resource of the wider study area would not deteriorate to a significant degree and the overall impact upon landscape and visual amenity in general is therefore restricted to those receptors/areas within close proximity to the towers and overhead line."

9.82 The PAC's Conclusion on Landscape and Visual states:

"*The EI* [Environmental Information] *is robust in its approach to the assessment of the visual impact the proposed development would have on visual amenity and landscape character*" (para 10.7).

"*The proposed OHL structure would meet the requirements of the SPPS and Policies PSU 8 and PSU 11 of PSRNI in so far as it has been demonstrated that all attempts have been made to minimise its visual impact on the environment and protect amenity*" (para 10.13).

9.10 References

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