

# Appendix 12.3

## Landscape Character Sensitivity

### Cashelnavern Border & Uplands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development	Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development	The Site and local study area	Assessment
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
<b>Designated scenic quality</b>	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The western edge of the area comprises part of EHSA around the Barnesmore Gap and a protected view and prospects towards the Barnesmore Gap. The site is not located within the AEHSA or protected view.	Medium/High
<b>Landscape condition/ quality</b>	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The condition of the landscape is moderate	Medium
<b>Perception of Change</b>	Dynamic or modern landscapes	Ancient landscapes, designed landscapes or with obvious historical continuity	Little obvious historical continuity, extensive forestry plantation cover	Medium/Low
<b>Rarity and / or representativeness</b>	Commonplace elements, features, or the landscape itself. Not a good example of the landscape type.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Very representative landscape.	Comprises relative commonplace features	Low
<b>Conservation Interests</b>	Low presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	High presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	Contains the Croaghonagh Bog Special Area of conservation	Medium/High

<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>The Site and local study area</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Cultural associations</b>	No specific cultural associations.	Strong cultural associations which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	No specific cultural associations.	Low
<b>Amenity and recreation</b>	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	Amenity/recreational function limited to some footpaths for walkers	Low
<b>Overall Assessment of Value attached to landscape</b>				<b>Medium</b>
<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Scale</b>	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	Very large scale	Low
<b>Openness</b>	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Very large scale exposed landscape, open and exposed where not forested	Low
<b>Landform</b>	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Undulating topography, typically between 100m – 300m AOD	Medium/ Low
<b>Land cover</b>	Extensive areas of simple or regular land cover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Primary land cover is peat and upland bog with extensive large blocks of coniferous forestry	Low

<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>The Site and local study area</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Complexity and patterns</b>	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Simple landscape patterns	Low
<b>Built Environment</b>	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Very little built character	Medium
<b>Views intervisibility</b>	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Views are expansive and long distance where not contained by plantation woodland	High
<b>Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points</b>	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	High ground which forms a horizon to the lower land Finn Valley to the north. Protected view of the Barnesmore Gap to the west of the area	High
<b>Wildness/ Sense of Remoteness / Tranquility</b>	Busy evidence of human activity	Remote, peaceful or sense and tranquility, solitude and emptiness	A quiet and very sparsely settled landscape with a sense of emptiness and tranquility	Medium/ High
<b>Overall Assessment of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>
<b>Overall Assessment of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>

### West Tyrone Hills and Valleys

<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>The Site and local study area</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Value attached to Landscapes</b>				
<b>Designated scenic quality</b>	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No specific designation	Low
<b>Landscape condition/ quality</b>	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The landscape is generally in moderate condition	Medium
<b>Perception of Change</b>	Dynamic or modern landscapes	Ancient landscapes, designed landscapes or with obvious historical continuity	Traditional and natural landscape	Medium
<b>Rarity and / or representativeness</b>	Commonplace elements, features, or the landscape itself. Not a good example of the landscape type.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Very representative landscape.	Comprises relatively commonplace features	Low
<b>Conservation Interests</b>	Low presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	High presence of wildlife, earth, archaeology or historical interests	Some ecological and historical interest	Medium
<b>Cultural associations</b>	No specific cultural associations.	Strong cultural associations which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	Some cultural associations	Medium
<b>Amenity and recreation</b>	Limited amenity/ recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	Limited recreational function due to its relative inaccessibility	Low
<b>Overall Assessment of Value attached to landscape</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>

<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>The Site and local study area</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Scale</b>	Large scale landscapes where the turbines may be in proportion with the landscape are generally less sensitive.	Small scale intimate landscapes are generally more sensitive to large scale structures.	Large scale landscape	Low
<b>Openness</b>	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed where not forested	Low
<b>Landform</b>	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Gentle summits ranging from 250m – 350m	Low
<b>Land cover</b>	Extensive areas of simple or regular land cover (including intensive farming and forestry)	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover	Primary land cover is peat and upland bog with extensive large blocks of coniferous forestry	Low
<b>Complexity and patterns</b>	Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex or irregular patterns	Simple landscape patterns	Low
<b>Built Environment</b>	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Windfarms and power lines are common	Medium/ Low
<b>Views intervisibility</b>	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Views are expansive and long distance where not contained by plantation woodland	High

<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Lower Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>Higher Sensitivity to Proposed Development</b>	<b>The Site and local study area</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<b>Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points</b>	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	High ground which forms a horizon to the lower land surrounding valleys.	Medium/High
<b>Wildness/ Sense of Remoteness / Tranquility</b>	Busy evidence of human activity	Remote, peaceful or sense and tranquility, solitude and emptiness	A sparse, unsettled landscape, away from the main through roads, with a sense of remote timelessness	High
<b>Overall Assessment of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>
<b>Overall Assessment of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>