

Volume 11: Appendices (Wider Scheme)

# Appendix 29.1

## Visual Impact Assessment at Representative Viewpoint Locations

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# Appendix 29.1 Visual Impact Assessment at Representative Viewpoint Locations

## 29.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

## 29.2 Magnitude of visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoint Locations

### 29.2.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Visual sensitivity is a two-sided analysis of receptor susceptibility (people or groups of people) versus the value of the view on offer at a particular location. As with landscape sensitivity, the sensitivity of a visual receptor is categorised as Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Negligible. Unlike landscape sensitivity however, the sensitivity of visual receptors has an anthropocentric (human) basis. It considers factors such as the perceived quality and values associated with the view, the landscape context of the viewer, the likely activity the viewer is engaged in and whether this heightens their awareness of the surrounding environment.

A list of the factors considered by the assessor in estimating the level of sensitivity for a particular visual receptor is outlined below to establish visual receptor sensitivity at each viewpoint location.

### 29.2.2 Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to change

In accordance with GLVIA<sup>1</sup>3, visual receptors most susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity are:

- “Residents at home
- People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape and on particular views.
- Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.
- Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.
- Travellers on road rail or other transport routes where such travel involves recognised scenic routes and awareness of views is likely to be heightened”.
- Visual receptors that are less susceptible to changes in views and visual amenity include.
- “People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape.
- People at their place of work whose attention may be focussed on their work or activity, not their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life”.

### 29.2.3 Value attached to Views

The value attached to a view is determined by considering the following:

- Recognised scenic value of the view (Development Plan designations, guidebooks, touring maps, postcards etc). These represent a consensus in terms of which scenic views and routes within an area are strongly valued by the population because in the case of County Developments Plans, for example, a public consultation process is required.
- Views from within highly sensitive landscape areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Guidelines of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (2013) (GLVIA3)

These are likely to be in the form of Architectural Conservation Areas, which are incorporated within the Development Plan and therefore subject to the public consultation process. Viewers within such areas are likely to be highly attuned to the landscape around them.

- Primary views from residential receptors. Even within a dynamic city context, views from residential properties are an important consideration in respect of residential amenity.
- Intensity of use, popularity. This relates to the number of viewers likely to experience a view on a regular basis and whether this is significant at a national or regional scale.
- Viewer connection with the landscape. This considers whether or not receptors are likely to be highly attuned to views of the landscape i.e. commuters hurriedly driving on busy roads versus tourists focussed on the character and detail of the landscape.
- Provision of vast, elevated panoramic views. This relates to the extent of the view on offer and the tendency for receptors to become more attuned to the surrounding landscape at locations that afford broad vistas.
- Sense of remoteness and/or tranquillity. Receptors taking in a remote and tranquil scene, which is likely to be fairly static, are likely to be more receptive to changes in the view than those taking in the view of a busy street scene, for example.
- Degree of perceived naturalness. Where a view is valued for the sense of naturalness of the surrounding landscape it is likely to be highly sensitive to visual intrusion by distinctly manmade features.
- Presence of striking or noteworthy features. A view might be strongly valued because it contains a distinctive and memorable landscape / townscape feature such as a cathedral or castle.
- Historical, cultural and / or spiritual significance. Such attributes may be evident or sensed by receptors at certain viewing locations, which may attract visitors for the purposes of contemplation or reflection heightening the sense of their surroundings.
- Rarity or uniqueness of the view. This might include the noteworthy representativeness of a certain landscape type and considers whether the receptor could take in similar views anywhere in the broader region or the country.
- Integrity of the landscape character. This looks at the condition and intactness of the landscape in view and whether the landscape pattern is a regular one of few strongly related components or an irregular one containing a variety of disparate components.
- Sense of place. This considers whether there is special sense of wholeness and harmony at the viewing location.
- Sense of awe. This considers whether the view inspires an overwhelming sense of scale or the power of nature.

Those locations which are deemed to satisfy many of the above criteria are likely to be of higher sensitivity, and no relative importance is inferred by the order of listing.

It is recognised that a viewer's interpretation and experience of the landscape can have preferential and subjective components. Where relevant, judgements are made on those elements of the landscape that are considered to contribute more prominently and positively to the visual landscape resource as well as those elements that contribute negatively. Overall sensitivity may be a result of a number of these factors or, alternatively, a strong association with one or two in particular. An indication of higher and lower degrees of receptor susceptibility and view value, which combine to determine overall receptor sensitivity, are provided in Table 29.1.

**Table 1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity**

Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Viewer Susceptibility	View Value
Very High	Viewers who have sought out a particular view due to its remarkable scenic qualities and who are likely engaged in active or passive recreation. Minimal tolerance for change.	Unique views of remarkable scenic quality involving distinct, naturalistic or historic features that are designated for protection and/or obtained from landscapes / seascapes protected by policy at a national or international level. Minimal tolerance for change.
High	Viewers travelling on designated scenic routes or engaged on active or passive recreation where views of the surrounding landscape / seascape are important to the experience and residents of areas where views contribute to the landscape / seascape setting. Low tolerance for change.	Views of considerable scenic quality involving distinct, naturalistic or historic features that are designated for protection and/or obtained from landscapes / seascapes protected by policy at a Regional / County level. Low tolerance for change.
Medium	Viewers travelling on routes that have some scenic quality or sense of tranquillity. Recreationalists engaged in activities where scenic amenity is appreciated, but not key to the experience and residents of areas where views do not contribute strongly to the landscape / seascape setting. Medium tolerance for change.	Views with some scenic quality that might involve notable, naturalistic or historic features that are not designated for protection and are not obtained from landscapes / seascapes identified for protection. Medium tolerance for change.
Low	Viewers engaged in recreation that does not involve an appreciation of scenic amenity, those travelling on busy roads with little scenic quality within the surrounding landscape / seascape setting. People at their place of work where visual setting is not key to the working experience. High tolerance for change.	Views without recognised scenic quality that are typical in nature and without naturalistic and historic features present, but likely with utilitarian features present. High tolerance for change.
Negligible	Viewers engaged in activities or present at locations where visual amenity is not a consideration or where the visual setting is a detraction. High tolerance for change.	Views without any amenity value where the visual setting may be degraded. High tolerance for change.

### 29.3 Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points

The assessment of visual impacts at each of the selected viewpoints is aided by spatially accurate wireframe images and photomontages that have been produced in accordance with Scottish Natural Heritage (NatureScot)<sup>2</sup> Visual representation of wind farms: Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017). The presented images for each viewpoint (Volume 7B of the EIAR) include.

1. Existing View (Contextual 90° included angle)
2. Wireframe view - proposed and cumulative turbines (Contextual 90° included angle)
3. Wireframe view (53.5° included angle)
4. Montage View (53.5° included angle)

NatureScot guidance is used for the production of verifiable photomontages because it is specifically developed for Wind Energy developments and has become the industry standard for onshore and offshore wind farms in the UK and Ireland.

<sup>2</sup> SNH (NatureScot), Visual Representation of Wind Farms Guidance, Version 2.2 (SNH, 2017a)

**Table 2 Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points (Offshore Infrastructure)**

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP1	<p>Knockree Summit Co. Down (NI)</p> <p>This is a vast panoramic view of the sweeping moorland slopes of the Mourne Mountains that soon give way to patchwork farmland. Beyond is the mouth of Carlingford Lough and the arcing coastline on County Down and County Louth. The Cooley Mountains provide further visual drama across Carlingford Lough (Not depicted)</p> <p>This view is afforded to recreationalists (hill walkers) in physical condition sufficient to reach the summit and for whom vast views of the landscape / seascape is a key component of the experience. This view is also from within the Mourne area AONB.</p> <p>The view value relates to the elevation and vast panoramic from a tranquil and naturalistic location.</p>	Very High	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible to the south at a distance of nearly 40km and the furthest over 50km away. The turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as very small and faint features in the context of this vast and engaging vista. They have a low degree of tonal contrast against a backdrop of sky. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance and elevation. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP2	<p>Ballymartin, Co. Down (NI)</p> <p>This broad sea view is obtained atop a short but steep sea cliff / escarpment at the seaside settlement of Ballymartin. A rocky beach lies below the scrubby escarpment and meanders towards a small headland occupied by Leeston Caravan Park. It is afforded to residents Ballymartin generally, but specifically those who occupy dwellings that are designed and oriented to take advantage of coastal views. This view is also from within the Mourne area AONB</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including rugged and naturalistic qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible to the south at a distance of nearly 40km and the furthest over 50km away. The turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as very small and faint features in the context of this broad sea vista. They have a low degree of tonal contrast against a backdrop of sky. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP3	<p>Kilkeel, Co. Down (NI)</p> <p>This broad sea view obtained from the head of a broad, sweeping, sandy beach at the seaside settlement of Kilkeel at the base of the Mourne</p>	High-medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible at a distance of around 35km and the furthest nearly 50km away.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>Mountains. A low sec cliff backs the beach and the bay wraps to the south to form a minor headland. It is afforded to residents of Kilkeel generally, but specifically recreational visitors to the beach and those who occupy dwellings that are designed and oriented to take advantage of coastal views. This view is also from within the Mourne area AONB. The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including rugged and naturalistic qualities.</p>		<p>The turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as very small and faint features in the context of this broad sea vista.</p> <p>Given the low elevation of this beach view the lower sections of the turbine towers are screened by earth curvature leaving mainly blade sets above the distance sea horizon where they also have a low degree of tonal contrast. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	
VP4	<p>Greencastle Ferry Terminal, Co. Down, (NI)</p> <p>This view is from the low beach head at Greencastle, which is a small seaside settlement at the mouth of Carlingford Lough that hosts the northern ferry terminal for the Greenore – Greencastle ferry across Carlingford Lough. The beach is a varied one of stones, sand and rock outcrops and settlements can be seen backing the beach to the east. Navigation features line the view of the mouth of the lough and the Cooley Peninsula on the opposite side consists of low farmland in the context of this partially enclosed sea view. The view is afforded to tourists and regular users of the ferry as well as local residents in the vicinity. This view is also from within the Mourne area AONB. The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity.</p>	Medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible at a distance of just under 35km and the furthest nearly 50km away. The turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as very small and faint features in the context of this sea vista. Given the low elevation of this beach view the lower sections of the turbine towers are screened by earth curvature leaving mainly blade sets above the distance sea horizon where they also have a low degree of tonal contrast. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP5	<p>Greenore Ferry Terminal, Co. Louth</p> <p>This open sea view is from the pebbly beach at Greenore, which is a small industrial port at the mouth of Carlingford Lough that hosts the southern ferry terminal for the Greenore – Greencastle ferry across Carlingford Lough. The beach weaves in and out to the south and is backed by a low intensity of coastal housing.</p>	High-medium	<p>Only two of the proposed turbines are potentially visible from here on the seaward side of the low intervening headland, which is otherwise sufficient to substantially screen the remaining turbines from view within the exception of around 10 partial blade sets.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This view generally represents the dense network of scenic routes and views associated with the Cooley Peninsula (Louth CDP), many of which are associated with coastal scenic amenity.</p> <p>It is afforded to tourists and regular users of the ferry as well as local residents in the vicinity.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by a notable degree of utilitarian built development.</p>		<p>It will be a barely discernible feature of the view at a distance of 35km and with a low degree of contrast against the sky. Its location within the view is peripheral to the open sea views, but there is very minor ambiguity due to overlapping with the headland in perspective. The proposed WTGs will have little material influence on visual amenity and the magnitude of visual change is deemed to be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	
VP6	<p>Aghameen, Co. Louth</p> <p>This is a pleasantly enclosed vista towards the sea from an inland setting at the head of a valley within the Cooley Mountains. The view is framed to the left by sweeping pastoral farmland and the steep slopes of Slieve Foy and to the right by Slievenaglogh. There is a scattering of rural dwellings and farmsteads throughout the valley. The Irish Sea is a distant focus for the view beyond the mouth of the valley. This view generally represents the dense network of scenic routes and views associated with the Cooley Peninsula (Louth CDP), many of which are associated with coastal scenic amenity.</p> <p>The view value relates to the elevation and framed panorama from a tranquil rural location.</p>	High	<p>The proposed turbines will occupy the left-central third of the visible section of sea beyond the mouth of the valley. They are in the central focus of this vista but compete for attention with the nearer mountainscapes either side. Furthermore, the nearest turbine are almost 40km away and will be faintly visible with low tonal contrast against a backdrop of sky in only the very clearest of viewing conditions. They will not have a material influence of the visual amenity of this valley setting so the magnitude of visual impact is deemed Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance and elevation. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline making the array slightly more central within the framed valley view. In terms of layout this array is slightly less orderly than the condensed rows of the Option 1 WTGs. Thus, there is a lesser sense of visual permeability through the Option 2 array, albeit the WTG spacing is evenly distributed.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP7	<p>Barnevave Summit, Coolea Mountains, Co. Louth</p> <p>This is a vast panoramic vista afforded from the eastern end of the Coolea Mountains. The rugged moorland slopes of the Barnevave descend towards the mosaic farmland that occupies the lowland coastal reaches of the Coolea Peninsula. The Curve of Dundalk Bay and Dunany Point and Clogher Head can be seen further to the south framing the broad se view.</p>	Very High	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible to the south at a distance of nearly 40km and the furthest over 50km away. The turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as very small and faint features in the context of this vast and engaging vista. They have a low degree of tonal contrast against a backdrop of sky.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance and elevation. However, the lateral extent of the Option 1 array is fractionally broader across the distant skyline, albeit without nearby headland references. Option 2 is more evenly distributed with distinct rows. However, this has little consequence for visual amenity at this distance.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This view generally represents the dense network of scenic routes and views associated with the Cooley Peninsula (Louth CDP), many of which are associated with coastal scenic amenity. It is also contained within the Cooley AONB.</p> <p>This view is afforded to recreationalists (hill walkers) in physical condition sufficient to reach the summit and for whom vast views of the landscape / seascape is a key component of the experience.</p> <p>The view value relates to the elevation and vast panoramic from a tranquil and naturalistic location.</p>		<p>Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>Overall, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	
VP8	<p>Coolea Point, Co. Louth</p> <p>This is a broad and simple sea view from the stony shores at the seaward end of the Coolea Peninsula (Ballinglen). The low-lying coastline of County Louth and County Meath can be seen running away from the viewer to the south. This view generally represents the dense network of scenic routes and views associated with the Cooley Peninsula (Louth CDP), many of which are associated with coastal scenic amenity.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including rugged and naturalistic qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible at a distance of just over 30km and the furthest nearly 45km away. Thus, the turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as small and faint features in the context of this broad sea vista. Given the low elevation of this beach view the lower sections of the turbine towers are screened by earth curvature leaving mainly blade sets above the distance sea horizon where they also have a low degree of tonal contrast. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP9	<p>Gyles Quay, Co. Louth</p> <p>This broad sea view is slightly elevated above the beach at Gyles Quay, which is home to a scattering of dwellings, but also a substantial caravan park. There is a terrace of dwellings at the base of the pier and the pier and associated protection wall wrap around the southeast enclosing a small harbour. The low-lying Louth / Meath coastline is visible in the distance to the south.</p>	High-medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible above and beyond the pier at a distance of just over 33km and the furthest nearly 47km away. Thus, the turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as small and faint features in the context of this harbour and broad sea vista.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This view generally represents the dense network of scenic routes and views associated with the Cooley Peninsula (Louth CDP), many of which are associated with coastal scenic amenity.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by a notable degree of utilitarian built development.</p>		They will also be seen with a low degree of tonal contrast and consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.	Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.	
VP10	<p>Blackrock Promenade, Co. Louth</p> <p>Blackrock is a small coastal settlement just south of Dundalk around Dundalk Bay. It has a popular promenade and the view from here takes in broad coastal vistas across the Irish Sea framed by the Cooley Mountains to the north and Dunany Point to the south. The wide beach is formed of silt and sand with a large tidal range.</p> <p>It represents designated scenic route 18 from the Louth CDP and is afforded to residents and recreationalists within Blackrock Village.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by a notable degree of built development.</p>	High-medium	<p>The nearest of the proposed turbines will be visible just to the left of Dunany Point at a distance of just over 36km and the furthest over 50km away. Thus, the turbines will only be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions as small and faint features in the context of this broad sea vista. Given the low elevation of this beach view the lower sections of the turbine towers are screened by earth curvature leaving mainly blade sets above the distance sea horizon where they also have a low degree of tonal contrast. Consequently, they will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. However, the lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally reduced across the distant skyline. Because the fewer turbines of Option 2 are contained within a tighter visual envelope the perceived density is similar.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
VP11	<p>Dunany Bay Beach, Co. Louth</p> <p>Dunany Bay is located just on the southern side of the low coastal outcrop of Dunany Point at the northern end of a small sweep of coastline that connects to Clogher Head. Broad and uninterrupted views across the Irish Sea are afforded from here.</p> <p>This view represents a modest number of coastal residents within the vicinity as well recreational users of Dunany Bay Beach. It is broadly representative of Scenic views 18,19, 20 and 21 from the Louth CDP but affords more open visibility to the southeast (towards the array area) than these south Dundalk Bay designations.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distance ranging between 21km and 35km away. At this distance they will have a low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the much greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height and even the difference in the density of the arrays is difficult to read other than the Option 2 array being slightly looser through the central portion. The comparable density is also a function of the Option 2 array having a marginally reduced lateral extent and without nearby headlands to serve as a gauge.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.		<p>The layout is evenly spaced and legible with a sense of order and few instances of turbine overlap. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array, but is barely noticeable at this distance and in the context of the surrounding turbines.</p> <p>There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the narrow axis of the layout.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>		
VP12	<p>Lurganboy Beach, Co. Louth</p> <p>This viewpoint lies midway between Dunany Point and Clogherhead at the back of a depth tidal beach of silty sand. Clogherhead is a distinct feature of the coastline to the south with gorse covered slopes and dwellings lining its base.</p> <p>This view represents a modest number of coastal residents within the vicinity as well recreational users of Lurganboy Beach. It is representative of designated Scenic view 22 and scenic route 18 from the Louth CDP.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 21km and 34km away. At this distance they will have a low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the much greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon.</p> <p>The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The array is laterally offset from Clogherhead by a comfortable distance to prevent overlap or a sense of ambiguity. The layout is evenly spaced and legible with a sense of order and few instances of turbine overlap. There is something of a visual distinction between the nearer cluster of northern turbines and the tail of southerly turbines, but this adds more to a sense of diminishing perspective than a lack of cohesion. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array but is barely noticeable at this distance and in the context of the surrounding turbines. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the northern half of the layout.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height and even the difference in the density of the arrays is difficult to read other than the Option 2 array being slightly looser through the central portion. The comparable density is also a function of the Option 2 array having a marginally reduced lateral extent and without nearby headlands to serve as a gauge.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
VP13	<p>Clogherhead Beach, Co. Louth</p> <p>Clogherhead Beach is just on the southern side of the modest coastal promontory headland of Clogherhead and this frames the northern aspect of this otherwise open sea view. The low sweeping coastline and offshore islands of County Meath and North County Dublin can be seen further to the south.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Clogherhead that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Clogherhead Beach. It is within the Clogherhead / Port Oriel AONB and is representative of designated scenic view 66 and scenic route 18 from the Louth CDP.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.</p>	High	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 18km and 30km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.</p> <p>The consolidated layout is evenly spaced and legible with a sense of order and few instances of turbine overlap. The Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array where it generates the only noticeable gap in the array. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout and rows of turbines.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height and even the difference in the density of the arrays is difficult to read other than the Option 2 array being slightly looser. The comparable density is also a function of the Option 2 array having a marginally reduced lateral extent and without nearby headlands to serve as a gauge.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP13 Night View	The nighttime view from Clogherhead Beach consists of lighting in the immediate context to the landward side of the viewer around the car park and lifeboat shed and in summer months there is likely to be some lighting from the caravan park that lies immediately to the west. The settlement of Clogherhead is largely screened from here so it does not contribute noticeably to light spill.	Medium	The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTG will be visible from here in clear night time viewing conditions, but not overtly so. They read as small pinpricks of light in the far distance, albeit of varying intensities and apparent heights due to relative distances to each.	There is no apparent difference in the height of the lighting for the marginally taller hubs of the Option 2 array. Nor is there any noticeable difference in the extent or intensity of the lighting. Consequently, the magnitude and quality of impact is deemed to be the same for array option 2 as it is for array option 1.	Slight / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>On Clogherhead to the east can be seen the lighting associate with a small water treatment plant. Further along the coast to the south can be seen an arc of lighting associated with modest coastal settlement. The red navigation light at Rockabill Lighthouse is just discernible at a distance of 26km. Otherwise, the open sea to the southeast is relatively dark unless ships are passing.</p> <p>This view is afforded to those taking night time strolls along the beach or resident at the caravan park or surrounding dwellings. This is not a view that is likely to be sought out for its dark sky characteristics, but there is some sense of openness, darkness and distance represented by the seaward view to the southeast.</p>		<p>The yellow nautical navigation lights, not more than 30m above the water level may also be just discernible on some of the nearest WTGs (c. 5 no.), but thereafter will be screened by earth curvature. The WTG lights will indicate the sea horizon line in a portion of the view heretofore not occupied by fixed light sources other than the barely discernible Rockabill Lighthouse. This serves to enclose the night time view to a minor degree giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance. However, the intensity of the lighting is so minor this is not a readily discernible effect and the impact is considered to be of a Low-negligible magnitude, albeit Negative in terms of quality</p>		
VP14	<p>Local Road at Castlecoe Hill, Co. Louth</p> <p>This is a slightly elevated view from a small hill just inland from the coastal settlement and promontory headland of Clogherhead, which can be seen in the foreground to the northeast. There is a caravan park on the coastline to the southeast. The elevation of this viewpoint affords open sea views beyond the descending coastal farmland in the foreground.</p> <p>This view represents a modest number of rural residents, but in close proximity to Clogherhead Village. It also represents designated Scenic view 24 from the Louth CDP.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping farmland / coastal scenic amenity from a tranquil rural area.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 19km and 31km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.</p> <p>The consolidated layout is evenly spaced and legible with a sense of order and few instances of turbine overlap. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array where it generates a noticeable gap in the array.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height. The difference in the density is discernible with Option 2 appearing slightly looser across the full array. Whilst the Option 2 array is fractionally reduced in lateral extent compared to Option 1, this is less discernible than from some of the more northerly viewpoints – hence the variation in turbine density is more apparent.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			<p>There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout and rows of turbines.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>		
VP15	<p>Termonfeckin Beach, Co. Louth</p> <p>This is an open coastal vista towards the Irish Sea across a deep sandy beach with a large tidal range. There are a small number of dwellings at this location which lies just north of the Seapoint Golf Links. This gently arching section of coastline is not framed by any notable headlands.</p> <p>This view represents a modest number of coastal residents within the vicinity as well recreational users of Termonfeckin Beach. Seapoint Golf Links is also a short distance to the south. It is also representative of designated Scenic view 75 and scenic route 18 from the Louth CDP.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between approximately 18km and 30km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The consolidated layout is relatively evenly spaced and orderly with a slight swelling in relative scale of turbines and opening of gaps between turbines in the nearest central section of the array and tighter spacing between more distant turbines to the north and south. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array where it generates a noticeable gap in the array. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser arrangement of turbines, which are less evenly spread than Option 1 allowing for improved visual permeability through the array, but at the expense of order.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP16	Bettystown Beach, Co. Meath	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between approximately 17km and 30km away.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>This is a broad beach view towards the Irish Sea at the popular coastal holiday settlement of Bettystown. This gently arching section of coastline is not framed by any notable headlands.</p> <p>This view represents the full time residents of Bettystown as well as summer holiday makers to the coastal caravan parks hosted here. Laytown &amp; Bettystown Golf Links is also a short distance to the north. It is also representative of designated Scenic view 75 and scenic route 19 from the Meath CDP.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.</p>		<p>At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn.</p> <p>The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a reasonable lateral extent of the sea view, but are still considerably subordinate to the extent of undeveloped sea horizon visible from here. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is relatively evenly spaced and orderly, but with several notable gaps. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array where it generates one of the noticeable gaps in the array. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout which is aided by the gaps, however, the layout still appears consolidated.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, which is most noticeable at the northern (left) end of the array.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options</p>	
VP17	<p>Amenity Area, Laytown, Co. Meath</p> <p>This view is obtained from the small coastal settlement of Laytown which lies only a short distance south along the coastline from Bettystown (VP16). The broad Irish Sea views are therefore, very similar. This is a silty / sandy beach with a large tidal range, which is not framed by any promontory headlands.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of the small coastal village of Laytown at the mouth of the River Nanny. It is representative of designated Scenic view 65 from the Meath CDP.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between approximately 18km and 30km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn.</p> <p>The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a reasonable lateral extent of the sea view, but are still considerably subordinate to the extent of undeveloped sea horizon visible from here.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts.</p> <p>The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, which is most noticeable at the northern (left) end of the array.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.		<p>The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is relatively evenly spaced and orderly, but with several notable gaps. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array where it generates one of the noticeable gaps in the array. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout which is aided by the gaps, however, the layout still appears consolidated.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options	
VP18	<p>Dowth Passage Tomb, Co. Meath</p> <p>Dowth Passage Tomb is part of the Bru na Boinne UNESCO World Heritage complex on the slopes of the River Boyne in County Meath. It is the easternmost of three passage tombs with the most famous being Newgrange tomb. Aside from being the closest of the tombs to the site it is the only one that still affords public access to its top and therefore has the most potential to have views of the proposed development. The easterly view looks over rolling farmland and woodland with Dowth Hall and its attendant estate in the foreground.</p> <p>This view is afforded to the relatively modest numbers of tourists / visitors choosing to investigate this lesser visited of the three Bru na Boinne passage tombs and climb to the top of it.</p>	Very High	<p>Although the wireframe image indicates potential to see the partial blade sets of around 16 of the proposed turbines at the northern end of the array this would be at distances of beyond 30km. However, visibility is precluded by mature broadleaf trees and likely other intervening vegetation beyond. The magnitude of visual impact is therefore Negligible by default.</p>	There will be no visibility of the Option 2 turbines and thus, the visual impact remains the same as for Option 1.	Imperceptible/ Neutral/ Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	<p>It specifically represents designated scenic view 88 from the Meath County Development Plan, but also generally represents a worst-case (in terms of viewing distance / potential visual exposure) for the dense cluster of scenic views that surround the Brun Boinne complex further to the west.</p> <p>The view value is strongly associated with the sense of ancient heritage at this location.</p>				
VP19	<p>Kennetstown, Co. Meath</p> <p>This is a vast elevated view from the townland of Kennetstown, near the small village of Bellewstown in County Meath. The fore-to-middle ground consists of rolling pastoral farmland out to the coastline. Beyond is the narrow horizontal band of the Irish Sea.</p> <p>This view represents the modest number of residents within and around the dispersed rural settlement of Kennetstown. It also specifically represents Scenic View 69 and more generally the nearby scenic views 66, 67, and 68 from the Meath County Development Plan.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping farmland / coastal scenic amenity from a tranquil rural area.</p>	High	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 25km and 31km away. At this distance they will have a low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They have a reasonable lateral extent, but are still subordinate to the greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon and they have a low vertical profile. The array is slightly offset from the main aspect of visual amenity to the northeast as it lies along the easterly alignment of the ridge that affords those views. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The array is relatively evenly spaced – looser towards the centre and tighter to the extents, but without undue clutter from turbine overlap. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array, but is barely noticeable at this distance and in the context of the surrounding turbines. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the central portion of the layout.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height from this distance and elevation and even the difference in the density of the arrays is difficult to read other than the Option 2 array being slightly looser at its northern (left) end.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP20	<p>Gormanston Beach, Co. Meath</p> <p>This is a broad beach view towards the Irish Sea at Gormanston where there are few dwellings in the vicinity, but a beach-head carpark in close proximity to the Dublin-Belfast railway line. This gently arching section of coastline is framed to the south by Bremore Head, but is open to the north as far as Clogherhead and then the Cooley Peninsula in the far distance.</p> <p>This view represents the small number of coastal residents in the vicinity as well as the recreational users of Gormanston Beach.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between approximately 18km and 25km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a reasonable lateral extent of the sea view, but are still considerably subordinate to the extent of undeveloped sea horizon visible from here. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is loosely spaced through the central section, presents in short, but orderly rows for the northern section and a tight linear cluster for the southern section. Notwithstanding, there is a sense of cohesion and good visual permeability through the central and northern sections. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array where it is located within one of the more noticeable gaps in the array.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP21	<p>Balbriggan Beach, Co, Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>Balbriggan Beach is a pleasantly enclosed setting framed by Bremore Head to the north and Balbriggan Harbour and pier to the south. It is backed by the substantial sized coastal settlement of Balbriggan.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Balbriggan that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Balbriggan Beach. It is generally representative of a designated scenic coastal route along the R127 identified in the Fingal CDP.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between nearly 17km and 24km away. At this distance they will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope but occupy around half of the undeveloped sea horizon visible from here.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines.</p>	Moderate Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.		The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping and within the context of a working harbour and settlement in the immediate setting. The layout is loosely spaced through the central section and is slightly tighter towards its extremities, but with a legible sense of space and order that does not appear cluttered. The southern section of the array is visible just above the pier wall, but the narrow sliver of sea between the wall and turbines, as well as the open sea view of the remaining turbines, reduces any sense of ambiguity that might be associated with the turbines rising beyond the wall. There is a minor degree of visual clutter generated with vertical elements within the pier context including the lighthouse, light poles and masts. The OSP is visible just above the skyline adjacent to one of the turbines in the centre of the array, but is not a conspicuous feature.  Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.	On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options	
VP22	R108 at Snowtown Co, Meath  This is an expansive eastward vista encompassing a fore-to-middle ground of rolling pastoral farmland descending from this elevated hill that lies inland from Balbriggan. In the distance is a clear view of the Irish Sea as a narrow horizontal band above the intervening landscape.  This view represents the modest number of residents within surrounding rural area. It specifically represents Scenic View 70 and more generally the nearby scenic view 71 from the Fingal CDP.	High	In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 24km and 31km away. At this distance they will have a low degree of contrast against the sky except when briefly backlit by the brightening sky at dawn. They will present just above the skyline and occupy a reasonable lateral extent, but in the context of such broad sea views this is still subordinate to the greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.	There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height from this distance and elevation and even the difference in the density of the arrays is difficult to read other than the Option 2 array appearing slightly looser.  Notwithstanding the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with sweeping farmland / coastal scenic amenity from a tranquil rural area.		The layout is looser towards its centre and more concentrated at the extremities. However, it is legible with a sense of order and few instances of turbine overlap, other than where they form clear rows with generous gaps between the rows. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array, but is adjacent to one of the turbines and is less noticeable than in other views as a consequence. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the central portion of the layout.  Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
VP23	Ardgillen Castle Grounds, Co. Dublin (Fingal) This view is afforded to visitors of Ardgillen Castle demesne, which occupies a substantial area of coastal land to the northwest of Skerries. It is a northeasterly view down a broad lawn to the east of the Castle framed by mature woodland. There is also a mature treeline at the bottom of the field that give way to a clear view of the Irish Sea. It should be noted that the axial views from the Castle are closer to north / south in orientation.  The view is afforded to the tourists / visitors to this popular heritage and recreational feature. It generally represents a series of scenic route designations in the immediate vicinity, but its value differs from those as it is strongly associated with the sense of heritage and tranquility at this location and the traditional pastoral / parkland character of the framed coastal view.	High	In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between just over 16km and 24km away. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky in most viewing conditions. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope but occupy the majority of the framed sea horizon that is visible from here. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is loosely spaced through the south-central section and is slightly tighter towards its extremities, but with a legible sense of space and order that does not appear cluttered. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array, but is not a conspicuous feature.  Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.	The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower meaning it occupies slightly less of the visible open sea horizon. It also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 in the more distance northeast corner of the array.  On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options	Major-moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP24	<p>Amenity Area Skerries, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is obtained from the end of the spit of land between Skerries Beach and Skerries Harbour, which is a popular coastal amenity area. It also represents the clearest and closest views towards the site from the settlement of Skerries and any other portion of the coastline. There is a rocky shore in the foreground and within the otherwise broad open view of the Irish sea can be seen Skerries Islands with Rockabill lighthouse further beyond.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Skerries that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of the Skerries coastal amenity area. It is also generally representative of two designated scenic routes associated with Harbour Road and Strand Street in Skerries.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between approximately 13km and 22km away. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky in most viewing conditions. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a considerable lateral extent, but in the context of such broad sea views this is still subordinate to the much greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is orderly and coherent being scattered linear at the northern end and a series of tight rows at the southern end. Even though there is a degree of clutter from the rows of overlapping turbines at the southern end, there is a clear pattern, which leaves generous gaps and a sense of visual permeability through the array. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array, but is not a conspicuous feature.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 in the more distance northeast corner of the array.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options</p>	Major-moderate / Negative / Long-term
VP24 Night View	<p>This location is quite discrete from the settlement of Skerries being out on the tip of the peninsula with higher ground in between. Thus, the landward baseline lighting associated with the settlement is relatively modest and there is no lighting associated with this public area – a sign that night time use is not necessarily encouraged. A band of mixed low-intensity lighting wraps around the southern side of the peninsula. The red navigation light at Rockabill Lighthouse is visible at a distance of 6.5km. Otherwise, the open sea to the northeast is relatively dark unless ships are passing.</p>	Medium	<p>The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTG will be visible from here in clear night time viewing conditions, but they are a subtle feature of the night sky and are pinned to the sea horizon. They read as small and distant pinpricks of light with varying intensities and apparent heights due to relative distances to each. The yellow nautical navigation lights near the base of the WTGs may also be just discernible on some of the nearest units, but these are of a lesser intensity than the red aviation lights.</p>	<p>There is no apparent difference in the height of the lighting for the marginally taller hubs of the Option 2 array. Nor is there any noticeable difference in the extent or intensity of the lighting. Consequently, the magnitude and quality of impact is deemed to be the same for array option 2 as it is for array option 1.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	This view is afforded to those visiting this coastal public space at night, coastal road users or residents of Skerries with sea views to the northeast. This is not a view that is likely to be sought out for its dark sky characteristics, but there is some sense of openness, darkness and distance represented by the seaward view to the east.		The WTG lights will be present on the sea horizon line in a portion of the view not previously occupied by fixed light sources other than the Rockabill Lighthouse. This serves to enclose the night time view to a minor degree giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance. However, the intensity of the lighting is such that the lighting will only be a subtle feature of the night time views to sea. The magnitude of impact is considered to be Low and the quality of effect, Negative.		
VP25	<p>Loughshinny, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>Loughshinny is a small enclosed harbour with its own fishing fleet. Whilst the harbour and the dwellings that line it are generally oriented to the south, the view in question is captured from the base of the pier looking north and east across a rocky shoreline to the open Irish Sea. Rockabill Lighthouse can be seen in the centre of that vista.</p> <p>This view represents the modest number of residents in the vicinity of Loughshinny that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users and fisherfolk who use the harbour. It is also generally representative of two designated scenic routes associated with the harbour.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic and tranquil qualities.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between just over 14km and 25km away. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky in most viewing conditions. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a reasonable lateral extent, but in the context of such broad sea views this is still subordinate to the much greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon.</p> <p>The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is evenly spaced with few instances of turbine overlap. The nearer southwestern turbines of the array appear marginally larger than those further north, but this sets up a good sense of distance perspective. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array, but is not a conspicuous feature, particularly in relation to Rockabill lighthouse which also occurs within the lateral extent of the array, but at a closer distance.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 being in the more distance northeast corner of the array.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options</p>	Major-moderate Negative / Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.		
VP25 Night View	<p>In this night time view the immediate context is dominated by the lighting associated with Loughshinny Pier, which hosts fishing vessels that often come and go in darkness. Nearby dwellings also generate some light spill, but otherwise there is little lighting, particularly across the headland to the north and out to sea (east). The red navigation light at Rockabill Lighthouse is a noticeable feature 7.5km to the northeast. Otherwise, the open sea to the is relatively dark unless ships are passing.</p> <p>This view is afforded to those visiting the pier at night or for local residents with sea views. This is not a view that is likely to be sought out for its dark sky characteristics, but there is some sense of openness, darkness and distance represented by the seaward view to the east.</p>	Medium	<p>The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTGs will be visible from here in clear night time viewing conditions, but not overtly so. They read as specks of light in the distance, albeit of varying intensities and apparent heights due to relative distances to each. The yellow nautical navigation lights near the base of the structures may also be visible, but with a lesser intensity. The WTG lights will highlight the sea horizon in a section of the view previously only occupied by the single flashing light from Rockabill Lighthouse. The WTG lighting serves to enclose the night time view to a minor degree giving a reduced sense of open sea and associated darkness and distance to the northeast. However, the intensity of the lighting is so minor this is not a readily discernible effect and the impact is considered to be of a Low magnitude, albeit Negative in terms of quality.</p>	<p>There is no apparent difference in the height of the lighting for the marginally taller hubs of the Option 2 array. Nor is there any noticeable difference in the extent or intensity of the lighting. Consequently, the magnitude and quality of impact is deemed to be the same for array option 2 as it is for array option 1.</p>	Slight / Negative / Long-term
VP26	<p>Coast Road Rush, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is from the settlement of Rush and more specifically the coast road that wraps around the peninsula at the southern end of the town beach and small harbour. The views takes in a rocky and sandy shoreline that arcs to the north, backed by houses, to where a Martello Tower can be seen on a low terrace of coastal farmland that juts out between Rush and Loughshinny.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Rush that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Rush harbour area. It is also representative of a designated scenic route associated with the R128 between Rush and Skerries.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a distinct feature of the sea view from here at distances ranging between approximately 16km and 27km away. They will have a relatively low degree of contrast against the sky in most viewing conditions. The turbines have a modest vertical envelope and occupy a reasonable lateral extent and proportion of undeveloped sea horizon that is visible from here, albeit . The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout is evenly spaced with few instances of turbine overlap and where this occurs it is coherent pairs.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible with scrutiny and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 being in the more distance northeast corner of the array.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.		<p>The nearer southwestern turbines of the array appear marginally larger than those further north, but this sets up a good sense of distance perspective.</p> <p>There is a very minor sense of scale distance confusion near the middle of the array where one of the more distant turbines overlaps with the nearer Rockabill Lighthouse. The OSP is visible in the centre-left of the array at the base of one of the turbines where it appears as an inconspicuous component of that turbine.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>		
VP27	<p>Portrane Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This is a view from the southern end of the Portrane Beach at the heart of the small North Dublin coastal settlement of the same name. It is at a point where the sandy/pebbly coastline transitions from a northerly orientation to a brief easterly one encompassing a small headland. To the north can be seen the settlement of Rush and its associated headland. Offshore to the east is Lambay Island.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Portrane that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Portrane Beach. It is also representative of a designated scenic route associated with the R126 at Portrane Head.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear viewing conditions, the 12 nearest southernmost turbines can be clearly seen above the sea horizon just to the right of the Rush Headland at distances extending from 20km away. The remaining turbines are screened to varying degrees, relating to their diminishing scale, beyond the flat and populated headland. The most exposed of these are closest to the end of the landform, whereas those further to the left reveal only blade tips. There will be a degree of visual ambiguity and clutter associated with the blade sets of most of the turbines rotating against the headland in perspective. However, this is offset by the clearer view of the southern turbines and the visual comprehension they provide for their partially screened counterparts, which will also be less frequently visible depending on viewing conditions as they extend between distances of 20 and 30km away. The array reads as an offshore wind farm which happens to overlap with a headland feature but there is no confusion as to whether it is a shore-based development.</p>	<p>Only 8 of the Option 2 turbines are visible in open sea to the right of the headland and at a fractionally greater height which makes them appear slightly closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The array also extends slightly less beyond the headland. Otherwise the view of partial blade sets across the headland is similar.</p> <p>Whilst it is considered that the Option 2 array has a fractionally lesser impact than Option 1 due to its smaller number of openly visible turbines spanning a slightly reduced lateral extent of open sea vista, it is not considered that this translates to a reduced assessment category.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.		
VP28	<p>Donabate Beach Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This is a northward view along the broad and sandy Donabate Beach. At the end of the beach is a small headland graced by a Martello Tower. A series of houses peek above the back of the beach. Offshore to the northeast is Lambay Island and otherwise open views across the Irish Sea.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Donabate that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Donabate Beach.</p> <p>The view value is associated with sweeping coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>Only the three southernmost turbines will be clearly visible from here just to the right of the Portrane Headland and only in clear conditions as they are over 23km away. There will also be the blades of two others rotating against the headland itself. The remainder are screened by the intervening landform. It is a slightly confusing view of an offshore wind farm as the two most exposed turbines appear almost as if they are smaller scale features located on the headland itself.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, it is a very limited view of the array, which occupies only a fraction of the seaward vista at its periphery. On balance of these reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low.</p>	<p>Only two of the Option 2 turbines are visible in open sea to the right of the headland and at a fractionally greater height which makes them appear slightly closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The array also extends slightly less beyond the headland.</p> <p>Whilst it is considered that the Option 2 array has a fractionally lesser impact than Option 1 due to its smaller number of openly visible turbines spanning a slightly reduced lateral extent of open sea vista, it is not considered that this translates to a reduced assessment category.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term
VP29	<p>Malahide Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is from the North Dublin coastal settlement of Malahide looking across its marina, which is nestled into the mouth of the Malahide Estuary. Across the channel to the north is a low sand spit that hosts the Island Golf Course and the settlement of Portrane can be seen in the middle distance. Lambay Island rises above the sand spit to the northeast.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Malahide that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Malahide Marina. It is also representative of a designated scenic route associated with the R106 road between Portmarnock and Malahide.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>The blades and blade tips of around 6 of the proposed turbines are potentially visible from here rotating just above the vegetated sand spit and settlement of Portrane, but only in clear viewing conditions as the nearest turbines are 25 km away and the furthest approximately 36km away. The nearest turbines are those visible above the golf clubhouse, which reveal their hubs. Despite being substantially screened from view, when noticed, the turbines generate some scale / distance confusion as well as contextual confusion as they could be mistaken for an onshore development. On balance of these reasons, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low.</p>	<p>The number of Option 2 turbines that will be partially visible and their degree of visual exposure is very similar to Option 1. Thus, there is not considered to be a material difference in visual impact magnitude.</p>	Slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP30	<p>Portmarnock Beach Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This is a broad coastal vista from the back of the wide sandy beach at Portmarnock. This long spit of sand dunes hosts the renowned Portmarnock Links Golf Course. Looking north the coastline is defined by a series of low headlands at Portrane and then Rush. Lambay Island can be seen to the northeast and Ireland’s Eye lies to the southeast.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Portmarnock that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Portmarnock Beach. It is also representative of a designated scenic route associated with the R106 road between Portmarnock and Malahide.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distance ranging between 28km and 38km away. At this distance they will have a low degree of contrast against the sky in most viewing scenarios. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views, however, they completely fill the sea horizon between Lambay island and the low headland at Rush, overlapping with both. The broader easterly Irish Sea view to the right of Lambay Island remains unaffected. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The layout consists of short distinct rows of turbines at the northern end and a more scattered linear layout further south. Overall it is a legible layout with a good sense of order. Notwithstanding that the array fills the space between Lambay island and the mainland, there is not a sense of enclosing the seascape due to the turbines being clearly located well beyond these land forms and the amount of open sea view that remains to the east. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array, but is barely noticeable at this distance and in the context of the surrounding turbines.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is difficult to discern at this considerable distance. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower meaning it overlaps fractionally less with the low headland and Lambay Island. It also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 in the more distant northeast corner of the array.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
VP31	<p>Sutton Promenade Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is on a similar alignment to VP30, but from the settlement of Sutton on the opposite side of the Baldoyle Estuary looking across at the landward side of the sand spit occupied by Portmarnock Golf Course. The Golf Clubhouse at the left hand side of the depicted view. There is sparse woody vegetation on the sand spit other than a sprinkling of conifers. Lambay Island rise beyond, but the open sea is not visible to the northeast.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Sutton that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Sutton Promenade. It is also representative of a designated scenic route associated with the R106 at Baldoyle Estuary.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the built development of the surrounding settlement.</p>	High-medium	<p>The proposed array reveals partial blade sets of the southernmost turbines and blade tips of those further north rising in faint silhouette above the Portmarnock sand spit at distances ranging from approximately 30km to 41 km away. Thus, they will only be noticeable in very clear viewing conditions and as a distant background feature of the foreground estuary scene. There will be some degree of contextual confusion as to where the turbines are located in relation to land and sea as the open sea, in which they will reside, is not visible from here. There is little sense of order to the layout of the array and blades rotating against intervening landform can be visually irritating. However, all of these factors are strongly diluted by the viewing distance and degree of screening.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>The number of Option 2 turbines that will be partially visible and their degree of visual exposure is very similar to Option 1. Thus, there is not considered to be a material difference in visual impact magnitude.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term
VP32	<p>Howth Harbour, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is obtained from the base of the eastern pier of Howth Harbour. This is a popular location for tourists and visitors as well as a source of amenity of the residents of the North Dublin coastal village of Howth. The view along the pier aligns with the small islet of Ireland’s Eye with Lambay Island beyond. The enclosed harbour lies to the left of the viewer with open sea to the right.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of Howth that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Howth Pier. It is also representative of the dense network of scenic routes associated with Howth Head generally.</p>	High-Medium	<p>Approximately 10 of the proposed turbines at the southern end of the scheme are most noticeable overlapping with and to the right of Lambay Island at distances of between approximately 29 and 31 km away. Around 7 more turbines from the central portion of the array can be seen within the low area between the overlapping Lambay Island and Ireland’s Eye, but at distances of c. 31km to 34km away. The remainder are screened from view. At such viewing distances and given the relatively low degree of contrast against the backdrop of sky, the turbines will only be visible in the clearest of viewing conditions, especially those more distant turbines to the left of Lambay Island.</p>	<p>Around 7 of the Option 2 turbines are visible overlapping with and to the right of Lambay Island. The difference in height is difficult to discern at this distance. The Option 2 array also extends slightly less beyond the island. The Option 2 array is less evenly spaced than Option 1 an while it lacks the same order, there is a stronger sense of visual permeability through the array. The view of more distant turbines between Ireland’s Eye and Lambay Island is similar for both Options.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities, yet balanced by the built development of the surrounding harbour and settlement.		The turbines to the right of it are presented in an orderly manner with the main detractor being the two that will rotate against the profile of the island. The turbines will contribute to a higher intensity of built development within the sea view, but in the context of a busy stretch of commercial shipping water and a bustling harbour. The majority of the open sea view to the east remains that way.  Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
VP32 Night View	This urban setting near the base of Howth Pier is reasonably well lit, particularly along the coast road to the southwest and along the other harbour pier to the west. This consists of street lighting as well as façade lighting. There is subtle residential lighting along Howth Head to the east and several navigation lights around the Harbour entrance to the north. Rockabill Lighthouse is not visible from here due to screening by Ireland's Eye. The open sea to the northeast is relatively dark unless boats are entering the harbour.  This view is afforded to those walking the pier at night or for residents of Howth with sea views of the northeast. This is not a view that is likely to be sought out for its dark sky characteristics, but there is some sense of openness, darkness and distance represented by the seaward view to the northeast.	Medium	The red flashing aviation lights at the hub of the WTG will only be visible from here in the clearest of night time viewing conditions and will be barely discernible at this distance of nearly 30km. At most, they will read as tiny pinpricks of light in the very far distance. The yellow nautical navigation lights are not visible at this distance due to their lesser intensity and/or earth curvature screening. The WTG lights will indicate the sea horizon line in a portion of the view heretofore not occupied by fixed light sources other than in the foreground. There will be little sense of enclosure, only the merest hint that the open sea horizon is not completely open. Even so, the magnitude of effect is barely measurable to the magnitude of effect is deemed Negligible and neutral.	There is no apparent difference in the lighting of the Option 2 array and the magnitude and quality of impact is deemed to be the same for array option 2 as it is for array option 1.	Imperceptible / Neutral / Long-term
VP33	Howth Head, Co. Dublin (Fingal)  This is a vast and slightly elevated view across the Irish sea and along the settled North Dublin coastline that is afforded to walkers on the very popular Howth Head walk. Howth Harbour and Ireland's Eye can be seen to the northwest with Lambay Island further distant to the north.	High	In clear conditions the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature of the sea view from here at a distances ranging between 29km and 40km away. The majority of the proposed turbines reveal themselves above and to the right of Lambay Island with four visible to the left of the descending slopes of the island.	The difference in turbine height is difficult to discern at this considerable distance. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower but the intensity of turbines appears similar because the densest aspect of the Option1 array is screened behind Lambay Island.	Moderate-slight/ Negative / Long-term

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	<p>Open sea occupies all of the view to the east where on clear days the coastline of Wales is visible.</p> <p>This view represents coastal walkers on the very popular Howth Head walking route. It is also representative of the dense network of scenic routes associated with Howth Head generally.</p> <p>The view value is associated with vast and elevated coastal vistas as well as a sense of the tranquility and the naturalistic.</p>		<p>These four turbines are all beyond 36km away and are seen at a smaller scale than those to the right. At these distance the turbines will all have a low degree of contrast against the sky. They occupy a modest lateral / vertical visual envelope particularly in the context of such broad sea views and the much greater proportion of undeveloped sea horizon. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping. The turbines that overlap with the right hand slopes of Lambay Island and extend above the adjacent sea horizon are stacked and cluttered with little sense of order. They will also rotate against the profile of the island. However, the layout becomes more orderly pairs as it extends further east.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	
VP34	<p>Great South Wall at Poolbeg Lighthouse, Co. Dublin (Dublin City Council)</p> <p>This a view across the northern extents of Dublin Bay from the popular stroll along the Pigeonhouse Pier. North Bull Island, which is a low sand spit occupies the northerly view in the middle distance immediately across the mouth of the River Liffey. It is backed by only slightly higher, densely developed landform from the North Dublin suburbs of Kibarrack and Sutton. Dublin Port is a complex and busy feature to the west and Howth Head is a prominent feature to the northeast. Ireland’s Eye and Lambay Island peep above the low lying land to the left of Howth Head.</p> <p>This view represents recreational walkers on the Pigeonhouse Pier as well as those that live and</p>	Medium	<p>Due to a combination of earth curvature and the narrow horizontal landform of Bull island and Sutton, only the partial blade sets of the proposed turbines are even potentially visible from here. They will range in distance between 37km and 47km away and as such they will be barely discernible even in clear viewing conditions. Furthermore, this is a broad and complex vista afforded around Dublin Bay and in this context the turbines will only be noticed with scrutiny. Aesthetically, the blades sets rotating together and against the complex skyline of tree and houses could give rise to visual clutter and contextual confusion, but such effects are strongly diluted by the degree of screening and distance.</p>	<p>The number of Option 2 turbines that will be partially visible and their degree of visual exposure is very similar to Option 1. Thus, there is not considered to be a material difference in visual impact magnitude.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative / Long-term

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	<p>work in this generally industrial enclave of Dublin City.</p> <p>The view value is associated with distinctive coastal views across Dublin Bay, but balanced by the intensive industrial character of this setting.</p>		Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.		
VP35	<p>Sandymount Strand, Co. Dublin (Dublin City Council)</p> <p>This is a popular inner-city beach and promenade at the coastal suburb of Sandymount. The sandy beach has a vast tidal range and contains dilapidated sea baths in the nearshore. Poolbeg peninsula is a focus of the northerly view principally because of the large scale industry it hosts, including the iconic Poolbeg Chimneys and the large incinerator. Forther to the northeast can be seen Howth Head with Dublin Bay open to th east.</p> <p>This view represents the residents of the coastal suburb of Sandymount that are afforded coastal views as well recreational users of Sandymount Strand and Promenade.</p> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by the intensive built development of the surrounding city.</p>	Medium	The proposed turbines will not be visible from here due to intervening screening by built development on the Poolbeg peninsula. The magnitude of visual impact is Negligible by default.	The same assessment applies for Option 2.	Imperceptible/ Neutral / Long-term
VP36	<p>Lambay Island – Summit, County Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is obtained from the highest point on Lambay Island by those that have travelled to the island by boat and then trekked to the top of it, where taking in the 360 views along the coastline and out to sea is the reward. Although it is not identified as a designated scenic view in the Fingal CDP, the Islands are identified as High Amenity Areas. Most cultural features of interest on the island, including the pier, dwellings, chapel and the castle are on the south-western side, where views to the north are precluded by the island’s steep landform.</p>	High-medium	The proposed WTGs are visible from here in a relatively consolidated cluster as this is more of an end-on view of the array than is afforded from similar distances on the mainland. At distances beyond 16.7km, the WTGs are seen at a modest, but prominent scale extending from the seaward extent of the distant Mourne Mountains into an open sea vista. Notwithstanding the minor overlap with distant landform the actual separation distance between them (nearly 50km) will be clearly apparent in terms of distance perspective.	The difference in turbine height is discernible from here and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 being in the more distant northeast corner of the array.	Moderate / Negative / Long-term



VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
	The island is farmed and the immediate viewing context is grazed slopes descending towards the sea to the north, south and west, but to the east is a small plateau that limits seaward views in that direction. Further to the north can be seen the small Rockabill Lighthouse and on clear days the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne Mountains will be visible in the far distance.		<p>A considerably greater open sea horizon will remain undeveloped to the west.</p> <p>The central portion of the array is the densest with a number of instances of turbine stacking and without a sense of order. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.</p> <p>Overall, the Magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative Quality.</p>	On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.	
VP37	<p>Lambay Island – Pier, County Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>This view is obtained from the end of the southern pier of the small enclosed harbour that affords access onto the island via boat. The island hosts a permanent resident family and during summer months views from the island might be enjoyed by those attending writers and painters retreats or using the limited accommodation available on the island. The northern pier is the key element of the foreground with the island rising beyond towards the its summit (Knockbane) to the east. Most cultural features of interest on the island, including the pier, dwellings, chapel and the castle are on the south-western side and can be seen on the ascending slopes. The island is predominantly contained in grazing land. On the mainland to the northwest can be seen the coastal outcrop that host the settlement of Rush and on clear days the Cooley Peninsula and Mourne Mountains will be visible in the far distance to the north.</p>	High-medium	<p>The proposed WTGs are substantially visible from here bridging the open sea gap between the foreground northerly slopes of Lambay Island and the seaward extents of the Mourne mountains nearly 50km away to the north. In this respect the turbines will not be perceived as containing open sea views as the distance to the Mourne Mountains (often not be visible), will be clearly apparent. At distances beyond 17.2km, the WTGs are seen at a modest, but prominent scale. The WTGs in the south-eastern corner of the array will be partially obscured by the intervening slopes of the island and although they are all visible to some degree, there is a visual suggestion that they array might continue behind the island as a more extensive development.</p> <p>However, the main point of interest at the pier is the arrival setting of the island upslope to the west where all of the key cultural features are not afforded views of the proposed WTGs and only those that venture on to the top of the island will regain views of them. In this regard, the proposed WTGs are peripheral to the main vista.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is discernible from here and makes the nearest of the Option 2 turbines appear fractionally closer than their Option 1 counterparts. The lateral extent of the Option 2 array is marginally narrower and it also has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines, albeit with the highest density of turbines from Option 1 being in the more distant northeast corner of the array.</p> <p>On balance of the nuanced differences described above, it is considered that there will not be a material difference in visual impact between the two project options.</p>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term

VP No.	Nature of Visual Receptor / Characteristics of Existing View	Visual Receptor Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 1 (49 WTGs / 290m TH)	Visual Impact Magnitude – Project Option 2 (35 WTGs / 316m TH)	Significance / Quality / Duration of Effect
			<p>The central portion of the array is the densest with a number of instances of turbine stacking and without a sense of order. The turbines will introduce built development into an undeveloped area of the Irish Sea, but one that is traversed by commercial shipping.</p> <p>Overall, the Magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and of a Negative Quality.</p>		

Note: VP36 to VP45 are all contained between 40km and 60km away from the Array Area and their assessment only relates to potential cumulative impacts. See Appendix 29.2 for the cumulative visual assessment of these views.

**Table 3 Magnitude of Visual Effects at Viewshed Reference Points (Onshore Infrastructure)**

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
VP48	<p>Flemington Lane (L1135) Southwest of Grid Facility</p> <p>This is a gateway view in the direction of the proposed grid facility site (consisting of Bremore substation and compensation substation) across a large foreground field that is contained by dense hedgerow field boundaries. Brief glimpses of the sea are afforded above the descending landscape to the northeast.</p> <p>This view is representative of road users and a small number of rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The northernmost of the proposed GIS substation buildings (Bremore Substation) rises into view in the middle ground (700m away) above the intervening hedgerows along with partial views of the upper section some of the lower structures within the site. The southernmost GIS building is screened in this particular view. Around three of the proposed WTGs can be seen within the array area in the far distance (20km away) just to the right of Bremore substation. They will present at a modest scale that reflects the profile of the much nearer substation and they have a low degree of contrast against the sky. The visible GIS building rises against a backdrop consisting of a narrow horizontal sliver of sea and then sky. Its blocky built form sits in contrast to the softer forms and textures of this countryside scene and it will add to the scale and intensity of built development within the view. Although it obstructs a section of sea view, this is not a scene for which sea views would be a key amenity consideration, and if so, it will be the more open view's further north. There may be some thematic connection between the grid facility and the WTGs. Otherwise the effect is a minor degree of visual clutter and some ambiguity in relation to the scale, distance and function of the two aspects of the development, particularly because the separating element of the sea is not readily visible.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent</p> <p>Post-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent</p>



VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			<p>Prior to the introduction of the recessive colour scheme and establishment of mitigation screen planting the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low / Negative / Medium Term.</p> <p>Once mitigation is introduced, it will help to soften and anchor the proposed structures into the rural scene to a marginally greater degree than the pre-mitigation scenario, but at this distance it is the blocky form that contributes most to the impact so the residual impact will not reduce below Low / Negative / Permanent.</p>	
VP49	<p>Bremore Cottages Southeast of Site</p> <p>This is a short range view along the northern side of Flemington Lane, where it is lined by a series of detached and terraced bungalows.</p> <p>This view is representative residents of road users and residents of a line of similar bungalow dwellings at the northern edge of Balbriggan. This is a typical residential view, but rural hinterland amenity is afforded to the rear of the foreground dwellings.</p>	Medium-low	<p>Whilst the proposed development is not visible from here due to screening by foreground dwellings, these same dwellings have rear yards that back onto rural farmland and there may be some potential for partial visibility of the development above any intervening vegetation. Consequently, a cautious Low-negligible visual impact assessment is assigned.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Permanent</p> <p>Post-mitigation Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Permanent</p>
VP50	<p>R132 Northeast of Grid Facility</p> <p>This is a designated scenic route, presumably for seaward views in the opposite direction of the grid facility site. However, the inland view to the west is a less remarkable one that takes in a plateau of farmland and treelined hedgerows. Glass houses can be seen to the northwest and the roofs of dwellings within the northern outskirts of Balbriggan can be seen to the southwest.</p> <p>In addition to the scenic route, this view is representative of road users and three rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity.</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed Grid Facility substations will both be prominently visible (200m away) in silhouette above the near skyline from here as a distinct industrial development within a rural hinterland scene. It adds considerably to the scale and intensity of built development within the view, but it does not appear completely at odds with its setting adjacent to a sizeable settlement and will not obstruct any key aspects of visual amenity.</p> <p>There is no view of the WTGs from this location, but there may be brief and fleeting potential to obtain views of them from other sections of this road through gappy parts of the roadside hedgerow to the east. However, such views would be in the opposite direction to the proposed grid facility and may not involve such open views of the grid facility.</p> <p>The GIS structures are relatively tall and bulky but separated and oriented in differing directions which helps to break up the overall massing and intensity.</p> <p>Prior to the establishment of mitigation in the form of screen planting and a recessive colour scheme to blend with both vegetation and sky, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Highmedium / Negative / Medium term.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Major-moderate / Negative / Permanent</p> <p>Post-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Permanent</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			Following mitigation establishment, the lower sections of the proposed development will be screened to a greater degree and this new vegetation will combine with the colour scheme to break up the massing of the buildings and anchor them within the rural setting. The structures will appear similar in nature and scale to rural sheds especially with ground based electrical components more comprehensively screened from view. The magnitude of effect is considered to reduce to Medium / Negative / Permanent	
VP51	<p>Knocknagin Road North of Grid Facility</p> <p>This is a substantially contained and slightly uphill view at the entrance to a dwelling, which affords filtered views towards a near skyline lined by vegetation.</p> <p>This view is representative of road users and a small number of rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity.</p>	Medium-low	Only a partial glimpse of the upper profile of the two GIS substation buildings will be afforded from here through winter branches of foreground trees and above the tops of more distant hedgerow vegetation. The proposed WTGs will not be visible within the array area from here. The substation structures are seen at a small scale from this distance of nearly 1km and will not be readily noticeable to casual observers from here. Slightly clearer views may be afforded from the foreground dwelling. The proposed substation will not have a notable bearing on visual amenity at this locality and so the pre-mitigation magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible. This is not likely to reduce with mitigation because visibility relates to the upper sections of the buildings and mitigation is more beneficial for the lower sections.	<p>Pre-mitigation Slight / Negative / Medium term</p> <p>Post-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent</p>
VP52	<p>Bridgefoot Road L1130 Northwest of Grid Facility</p> <p>This is an open uphill view from a gateway looking across farmed fields that are contained by a near skyline ridge / plateau.</p> <p>This view is representative of road users and a small number of rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity.</p>	Medium-low	Only a fraction of the roofline of one of the GIS buildings is potentially visible from here and only with scrutiny as it will sit right on the skyline to the east. Slightly further to the north (left) can be seen the blades of around 8 of the proposed WTGs rotating between sections of skyline vegetation, albeit 20km beyond. They will have a low degree of contrast against the sky, particularly at this distance but their movement may draw the eye and generate a minor degree of visual clutter. Overall, the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible / Negative- Neutral both pre-mitigation and post-mitigation.	Slight-imperceptible / Negative-Neutral / Permanent
VP53	<p>Flemington Cemetery</p> <p>This is a slightly uphill view across the plateau farmland that surrounds the grid facility site. The foreground is partially contained by scrubby hedgerows surrounding marginal grazing. The middle ground is a more managed matrix of pastoral fields and hedgerows.</p> <p>This view is representative of visitors to the cemetery and a small number of rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity.</p>	Medium-low	The two GIS substation buildings are clearly visible from here rising in silhouette above the middle distance ridge with a blocky form that is inconsistent with the softer tones and textures of the baseline view. The lower elements of the site are also partially visible but are much less noticeable than the GIS substations and tend to blend the skyline vegetation. The proposed grid facility gives rise to an increased scale and intensity of built development within the middle ground of this scene but one that could pass for large agricultural sheds.	<p>Pre-mitigation Moderate-slight / Negative / Medium-term</p> <p>Post-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity and the tranquility of the cemetery.		<p>Around half of the proposed WTGs are also visible with a low degree of contrast against the sky, beyond and to the left of the grid facility at distances of over 20km. There may be some thematic connection between the grid facility and the WTGs. Otherwise the effect is a minor degree of visual clutter and some ambiguity in relation to the scale, distance and function of the two aspects of the development, particularly because the separating element of the sea is not readily visible.</p> <p>On the basis of the reasons outlined above, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low prior to mitigation.</p> <p>Once the recessive colour scheme and proposed perimeter planting have been incorporated / established, there will be a noticeable improvement to the view of the proposed substation ground based infrastructure will be screened from view and the GIS building appear more nested and lower on the skyline. The upper level colour recedes more readily against the sky and overall, the magnitude of effect is considered to reduce to Low.</p>	
VP54	<p>Bridgefoot Road Southwest of Grid Facility</p> <p>This is a slightly downhill view from a gateway on an otherwise fairly enclosed scenic route. It takes in a series of farmed fields delineated by tree-lined hedgerows that provide a partial veil to the narrow sea view beyond.</p> <p>This view is representative of road users and a small number of rural residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity.</p>	Medium	<p>The proposed GIS substation buildings are the most noticeable aspect of the onshore development from here. The substation buildings will rise against a backdrop of sea and will also slightly break the distant sea horizon. In this respect they are a minor obstruction of the sea view, but it is a partial one in any event. The proposed grid facility gives rise to an increased scale and intensity of built development within the middle ground of this scene but one that could pass for large agricultural sheds in this hinterland setting.</p> <p>Around half of the proposed WTGs are also visible with a low degree of contrast against the sky, beyond and to the left of the grid facility at distances of over 20km. There may be some thematic connection between the grid facility and the WTGs. Otherwise the effect is a minor degree of visual clutter and some ambiguity in relation to the scale, distance and function of the two aspects of the development. In this instance, the elevation of the viewpoint allows for the sea to serve as a separating element that provides scale / distance legibility to the relationship between the grid facility and the WTGs.</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of mitigation measures the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium / Negative.</p> <p>The proposed mitigation colour scheme is not as recessive in this instance because there is a darker backdrop of sea rather than sky as it seen in most instances.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Medium-term</p> <p>Post-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Permanent</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			The planting will also have only a minor ameliorating effect at this distance as the lower aspects of the substation are not prominently visible. Thus, the post-mitigation impact remains the same.	
VP55	<p>Flemington Lane (Bremore Cottages) south of Grid Facility</p> <p>This represents one of the closest views towards the grid facility site afforded by the northernmost road (Flemington Lane) of Balbriggan settlement. It is afforded through a gap between the bungalows that otherwise tightly line this street.</p> <p>This view is representative residents of road users and residents of a line of similar bungalow dwellings at the northern edge of Balbriggan. This is a typical residential view, but rural hinterland amenity is afforded to the rear of the foreground dwellings.</p>	Medium-low	<p>The nearest of the proposed GIS substation buildings will rise prominently (230m away) to the rear of these dwellings and although the depicted view from the road is partially obscured by the intervening dwelling, the backyard views from the dwellings themselves is likely to be clearer where rear garden planting allows. The GIS building rises with a narrow, but tall end-on profile against the sky and will increase the scale and intensity of industrial built development within a currently rural aspect.</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of mitigation measures, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium / Negative.</p> <p>Once the recessive colour scheme and perimeter planting have been introduced the GIS substation building will appear less bulky and more anchored within the rural setting. The planting will provide partial screening and a separating element between the rear of the dwellings and the site. Nonetheless, the proposed development still represents a notable visual intrusion in previously open views so the magnitude of impact is not considered to decrease by a full assessment category.</p> <p>It should be noted that the intervening land between the rear of the foreground bungalows and the Grid Facility is zoned for residential development in the current iteration of the Fingal County Development Plan. Consequently, any rural outlook afforded to these dwellings is not likely to persist beyond the short to medium term, but the grid facility is also likely to be substantially screened from view once the zoning objective is achieved.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Medium-term</p> <p>Post-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Permanent</p>