

Addendum to the  
Environmental Impact  
Assessment Report

**NISA**  
*North Irish Sea Array*

Volume 5 - Wider Schemes Chapters

# Chapter 33

## Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation





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## 33. Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd (NISA, hereafter referred to as ‘the Developer’) has been considering the Request for Further Information (RFI) issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) as well as the third-party submissions received following public consultation. At An Coimisiún Pleanála’s behest, the Developer has also continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the 2024 planning application throughout 2024-2026. The Developer has refined elements of the design to respond to the third-party submissions, the continued public and stakeholder consultation and the RFI (further details on the design refinements are provided in Appendix A5.1: Design Refinements). Amendments are therefore required to Chapter 33: Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation of the 2024 Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2 in the Addendum to the EIAR.

For the purposes of clarity, this document shall be read in conjunction with the Chapter 33 submitted as part of the 2024 EIAR.

Any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the EIAR unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 EIAR will be clearly labelled as such.

Text in bold is only used throughout this document to indicate where changes are required, and why they are required. Text in italics illustrates section(s) of the 2024 EIAR which are deleted, or quotations from other documents (as explicitly stated). Replacement text is in normal font.

Tables which have been updated from the 2024 EIAR, or entirely new tables, have been included in the Addendum to the EIAR. These tables can be identified by the “A” prefix in the table caption. Any changes within the updated table, in comparison to tables within the 2024 EIAR, are indicated by grey shading in the relevant cell, column or row, as necessary. The exception here is where a table has been replaced in its entirety.

The sections relevant to Chapter 33 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
1 (b)	The scientific information provided as part of the planning application documentation should be based on up-to-date survey reports and data. Accordingly, the applicant is requested to confirm/provide justification/verification that the information submitted in support of the planning application remains relevant and appropriate at the point of submitting further information or to update same as required.	The timeframes associated with the RFI have necessitated a review of the datasets previously used in the 2024 EIAR to ensure any necessary updates to the baseline environment are captured. Therefore, a review of the baseline environment has been undertaken to comply with RFI 1 (b).  The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Sections 33.2, 33.3, 33.5 and 33.10.
2 (a)	The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG), through the Department of Transport, has raised concerns in relation to the layout of the proposed development with respect to search-and-rescue (SAR) access. The applicant is requested to consult with the IRCG, in addressing these concerns, and provide further information and clarification on such matters.	The Developer has prepared an updated layout in consultation with the IRCG and other stakeholders for both Project Options. The updated layouts have been assessed in Chapter 29 from a seascape, landscape and visual perspective. The changes to the array layouts have necessitated revisions to the SLVIA supported by updated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps and verifiable photomontages. The effects of the updated layouts have been considered in this chapter as they relate to tourism and a sense of place and are presented in Section 33.5.3.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
5	<p>The Marine Institute in their observation raises concerns in relation to the methodology applied in the submitted cumulative effects assessment and the manner in which the information is presented, noting the lack of a standard Irish methodology in relation to CEA. The applicant is advised that guidance exists in the UK, namely Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment - GOV.UK, September 2024 (NSIP, 2024).</p> <p>The applicant is requested to revise the submitted cumulative assessment in line with NSIP (2024) and submit a standalone document to clearly demonstrate the CEA conclusions. In the interests of consistency and transparency, the applicant is requested to complete the assessment in accordance with the templates provided in the NSIP (2024), namely “Appendix 1: Matrix 1 – Identification of ‘other development’ for CEA” and “Appendix 2: Matrix 1 – Assessment matrix”</p>	<p>A revised CEA, which considers the methodology and template provided in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment – GOV.UK, September 2024 (NSIP, 2024), has been prepared.</p> <p>The revised CEA is provided in Chapter 38 Cumulative and Inter-Related Effects, Appendix 38.1 – Onshore Long List and Appendix A38.2 Offshore Long List. The update to this chapter in relation to this, is provided in Section 33.9.</p>
10 (a)	<p>Having regard to information submitted in the EIAR, the NPWS underwater noise guidelines (NPWS, 2014), the strict protections afforded to marine mammals under the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, in addition to observations from prescribed bodies and observers, the Board requires a comprehensive suite of noise abatement measures to be proposed and assessed in addition to the existing mitigation measures referenced in the planning application documentation.</p>	<p>As a result of RFI Section 10 (a), the design of the wind turbine generator (WTG) and Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) foundations have changed from monopiles or jackets to suction bucket jacket (SBJ) foundations for the WTGs, and SBJ or jacket foundations with drilled pin piles for the OSP (which are detailed in Appendix A5.1 Design Refinements). This change has allowed for the refinement to the WTG layout. The assessment of the refined layouts as they relate to socioeconomic, tourism and recreation is presented in section 33.5.</p>
13 (a)	<p>The Board notes the concerns raised by Fáilte Ireland in respect of the subject application. The applicant is requested to provide further detail and justification in relation to the effects on tourism, having regard to the Failte Ireland observation.</p>	<p>The Developer engaged with Fáilte Ireland in April 2026 to discuss the concerns raised (see Appendix A1.2). The concerns raised by Fáilte Ireland have been addressed in Sections 33.2, 33.3, 33.5, 33.7, 33.9 and 33.10 This includes the update of a baseline description of places within the study area that evoke a sense of place.</p> <p>The assessment has also been updated to include impacts on the experiential nature of places that evoke a sense of place across the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. Following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, the cumulative effects assessment has been updated to incorporate Arklow Bank II into the overall assessment of the Phase One projects on tourism receptors.</p>
13 (b)	<p>Meath County Council raises concerns in relation to the submitted assessment of the visual impact of the proposal on views from historic sites within Meath, in particular from Brú na Bóinne (located circa 30km inland and west of the array area). Having regard to the sites UNESCO World Heritage designation, the applicant is requested to assess the proposed development having regard to the World Heritage Convention UNESCO Guidance Notes as they relate to visual impact assessment and wind energy projects, including the documents ‘Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context’ (UNESCO, 2022), ‘Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context (UNESCO, 2023), and available UNESCO case studies relating to the assessment of offshore projects on World Heritage sites.</p>	<p>The assessment of potential impacts (Section 33.5) has been updated to account for impacts on the experiential nature of places that evoke a sense of place across the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. This assessment incorporates potential impacts on receptors within Ireland’s Ancient East including Brú na Bóinne and the Hill of Tara.</p>

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
13 (c)	Having regard to the Regional Seascape Character Assessment for Ireland 2020 and to observer observations, the applicant is requested to provide an analysis of the proposed development's potential impact on the coastal area's sense of place and cultural identity for local communities.	The assessment has been updated to account for impacts on the experiential nature of places that evoke a sense of place across the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. This is provided in Sections 33.2, 33.3, 33.5 and 33.7.

### 33.1 Introduction

There are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 33.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.2 Methodology

There are no changes required to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 33.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.2.1 Study Area

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.2.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.2.2 Relevant Guidelines, Policy, and Legislation

**In response to RFI Section 13 (a) and Section 13 (c), this section requires an update to identify the potential effects on tourism in respect of the concept of a “sense of place” following consultation with Fáilte Ireland which has now been included in Section 33.5. Therefore, Table 33.1 has been replaced with Table A33.1.**

**Table A33.1 Key NMPF policy points relevant to the assessment of socioeconomic, tourism and recreation (replaces Table 33.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

NMPF Policy Point	Policy Description	Where addressed
Co-existence Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference: a) minimise significant adverse impacts, b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.	Potential effects on the co-existence of marine tourism and recreational users are described in Section 33.5. The assessment concluded that there are no significant residual effects on the co-existence of the proposed development and marine tourism or recreational users. Further information on the impact of the proposed development on other marine users is provided in Volume 3.
Infrastructure Policy 1	Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.	The construction of the proposed development will create direct employment opportunities for approximately 740 individuals. Approximately 1,530 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs will be supported to facilitate the operation of the proposed development. Further information on the benefits the proposed development will bring to Irish marine industries is provided in Sections 33.5.2 and 33.5.3.
Access Policy 1	Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreation, should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, or	Potential effects to tourism, recreation and a sense of place are described in Section 33.5 and any mitigation measures required are described in Section 33.6.

NMPF Policy Point	Policy Description	Where addressed
	c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on public access.	Section 33.7 concludes that there are no significant residual effects from a tourism and recreation perspective on public access.
Access Policy 2	Proposals demonstrating appropriate enhanced and inclusive public access to and within the maritime area, and that consider the future provision of services for tourism and recreation activities, should be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of this NMPF.	Potential effects from the proposed development on public access to and within the maritime area are described in Sections 33.5.2 and Sections 33.5.3.
Employment Policy 1	Proposals should demonstrate contribution to a net increase in marine related employment in Ireland, particularly where the proposals are in line with the skills available in Irish coastal communities adjacent to the maritime area, improve the sustainable use of natural resources, diversify skills to enable employment in emerging industries.	The construction of the proposed development will create direct employment opportunities for approximately 740 individuals. Approximately 1,530 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs will be supported to facilitate the operation of the proposed development.  Further information on the benefits the proposed development will bring to Irish marine industries is provided in Sections 33.5.2 and 33.5.3.
Social Benefits Policy 1	Proposals that enhance or promote social benefits should be supported. Proposals unable to enhance or promote social benefits should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) minimise, or b) mitigate significant adverse impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits.	A Community Benefit Fund will be put in place once the construction phase has commenced. It is estimated that the funding will reach approximately €80 million, approximately €4 million per annum for 20 years.  Further information on the social benefits resulting from the proposed development is provided in Section 33.5.
Sport and Recreation Policy 2	Proposals should demonstrate the following in relation to potential impact on recreation and tourism:  The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact sports clubs and other recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with facilities or other physical infrastructure.  The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety.  The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely impact on the natural environment.	The potential effects on sports clubs and other recreational users, access to coastal resources and any impacts on the natural environment are described in Section 33.5 with mitigation measures proposed in Section 33.6.  Section 33.7 concludes that there are no significant residual effects to any of the above receptors.
Tourism Policy 2	Proposals must identify possible impacts on tourism. Where a potential significant impact upon tourism is identified it should be demonstrated how the potential negative consequences to tourism in communities will be minimised. This must include assessment of how the benefits of proposals are not outweighed by potential negative impacts.	A detailed assessment on the possible effects on tourism and the concept of a sense of place is provided in Section 33.5. Section 33.7 concludes that there are no significant effects on tourism or the experiential concept of a sense of place as a result of the proposed development.  Sea-based tourism is assessed separately within Volume 3, Chapter 20: Infrastructure and Other Users.

### 33.2.3 Data Collection and Collation

**In response to RFI Section 1 (b), this section accounts for updated statistics released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) since the publication of the 2024 EIAR. Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.2.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

- “*Census 2016 and Census 2022 produced by the Central Statistics Office (CSO)*”

And replaced with the following text:

- Census 2016 and Census 2022 produced by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and any subsequent corrections to data issued by the CSO in respect of Census 2022.

**In addition to the datasets described in Section 33.2.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR, Fáilte Ireland conducted research on visitor attitudes to renewable energy infrastructure in Ireland in 2025. Therefore, the following text shall also be included in the list of datasets:**

- Fáilte Ireland’s study on Visitor Awareness and Perceptions of Renewable Infrastructure in the Irish Landscape (currently being drafted - findings of which were shared with the Developer).

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.2.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

### 33.2.4 Methodology for Assessment of Effects

There are no changes required to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 33.2.4 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.2.4.1 Employment and GVA

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.2.4.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.2.4.2 Tourism, and Recreation

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.2.4.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.2.4.3 Sense of Place

**Following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, this Chapter has been updated to include the concept of a sense of place and to include an assessment of the potential effects on tourism in respect of this sense of place. This section has therefore been added to provide the methodology for assessment of effects on the concept of sense of place.**

The concept of a sense of place is defined by Fáilte Ireland as a function of the interaction between physical setting, cultural associations, patterns of activity and experiential qualities that together underpin destination identity.

In this context, sense of place is treated as an experiential, place-based receptor, informed by both tangible factors (including seascape and landscape character, recreational resources, accessibility and cultural assets) and intangible attributes (such as character, identity and experiential meaning).

The assessment establishes the sensitivity of areas where sense of place contributes to tourism or community value, having regard to their role in destination experience and everyday use, and evaluates the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development with reference to duration, geographic extent, reversibility and perceptibility. The overall significance of effects on sense of place is determined in accordance with the EPA Guidelines through consideration of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of effect and is reported distinctly from other tourism effects while acknowledging the interrelationship between destination experience, recreation and place identity.

## 33.3 Baseline Environment

There are no changes required to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 33.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.3.1 Context

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.3.2 Fingal County Council

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.3.3 Dublin City Council

**Minor amendments are required to this section in response to RFI Section 1 (b). The CSO has provided minor amendments and corrections to its statistics for the population profile of Dublin City. Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.3.3. of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

*“At the 2016 census Dublin County as a whole had a population of 1,345,402, while the results of the 2022 census recorded that the population increased by 8.4% to 1,458,154 as shown in Table 33.3.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

At the 2016 census Dublin County as a whole had a population of 1,345,359, while the results of the 2022 census recorded that the population increased by 8.2% to 1,458,154 as shown in Table 33.4.

**No further changes are required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

### 33.3.4 Meath County Council

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.4 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.3.5 Louth County Council

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.5 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.3.6 Socioeconomic Baseline

**Minor amendments are required to this section in response to RFI Section 1 (b). The CSO has provided minor amendments and corrections to its statistics for the population profile of Dublin, as well as minor updates to the socioeconomic statistics provided in Table 33.6 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

**Therefore, Table 33.4 and Table 33.6 are the only tables that require an update. These tables are replaced with Table A33.2 and Table A33.3 respectively. No textual changes are required as a result of these updates.**

**Table A33.2 Population Statistics by County and Nationally (Source: CSO 2022, 2016) (replaces Table 33.4 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

County/Country	2022 population	2016 population	% change 2016 to 2022
Dublin	1,458,154	1,345,359	8.2%
Meath	220,826	195,044	13.2%
Louth	139,703	128,884	8.4%
Ireland	5,149,139	4,761,865	8.1%

**Table A33.3 Socio-economic Statistics (Source: CSO, 2022) (replaces Table 33.6 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

ED / Local Authority	Professional workers	Managerial & technical	Non-manual	Skilled manual	Semi-skilled	Unskilled	Others gainfully occupied and unknown	Total
Balbriggan Rural	5.4%	27.5%	18.7%	14.1%	13.6%	3.4%	17.3%	19,347
Balbriggan Urban	5.1%	25.7%	19.0%	14.9%	14.2%	3.7%	17.4%	8,102
Lusk	7.4%	35.4%	18.2%	13.8%	9.7%	2.8%	12.7%	10,774
Holmpatrick	13.8%	43.3%	16.5%	9.3%	7.0%	1.7%	8.4%	4,147
Donabate	11.9%	43.6%	16.6%	9.3%	8.0%	1.6%	9.0%	11,783
Swords - Lissenhall	7.6%	35.9%	19.2%	12.8%	9.9%	2.5%	12.2%	12,065
Swords - Seatown	10.8%	42.1%	19.2%	9.6%	7.6%	1.9%	8.7%	7,465
Swords Village	6.3%	30.2%	18.3%	15.0%	10.1%	2.8%	17.3%	2,786
Malahide West	16.6%	46.1%	18.1%	6.9%	5.2%	1.2%	5.9%	6,014
Kinsaley	10.2%	35.9%	17.1%	12.2%	7.9%	2.1%	14.5%	11,470
Grange A	7.1%	33.1%	19.6%	13.6%	9.8%	2.7%	14.2%	12,598
Grange B	7.7%	32.2%	19.8%	11.2%	10.5%	2.7%	16.0%	7,438
Priorswood A	3.7%	17.9%	20.5%	19.1%	16.9%	3.7%	18.2%	1,574
Priorswood B	1.3%	10.7%	14.0%	13.4%	17.6%	7.2%	35.8%	2,794
Priorswood C	2.1%	14.0%	15.9%	12.9%	17.0%	5.9%	32.2%	4,883
Balgriffin	10.3%	32.3%	11.6%	7.1%	6.3%	1.3%	31.2%	5,544
FCC	9.7%	34.7%	17.4%	11.7%	9.4%	2.7%	14.4%	330,506
DCC	10.5%	27.7%	14.7%	9.5%	9.8%	3.3%	24.4%	592,713
MCC	8.6%	33.6%	17.5%	15.3%	10.5%	3%	11.5%	220,826
LCC	6.9%	28%	17%	14.1%	12.7%	3.6%	17.7%	139,703

### 33.3.7 Employment

**In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the results from the Live Register and the Labour Force Survey have been updated to align with the most recent publications from the CSO. Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.3.7 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

*“The seasonally adjusted Live Register total for January 2024, for the whole of Ireland was 176,700 people, up by 1,400 or 0.8% from December 2023. The unadjusted Live Register total stood at 177,264 persons for January 2024. Of the 177,264 persons on the Live Register in January 2024, 55.0% were male and 68.7% were Irish. The 35-44 age group made up the largest number of those on the Live Register in January 2024 at 41,833 persons or 23.6% of the total.*

*The CSO published the most recent Labour Force Survey<sup>1</sup> for Quarter Three (Q3) of 2023 and looked at national employment. The employment rate for persons aged 15-64 years was up from 74.1% compared to 73.2% in Q3 2022 and 72.2% in Q3 2021.*

*Unemployment was recorded at 128,600 persons aged 15-74 in Q3 2023 with an associated unemployment rate of 4.6%. This represents an increase of 9,500 unemployed over the year to Q3 2023. 74.6% of those unemployed in Q3 2023 were in short-term unemployment of less than a year.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey1fs/>

The seasonally adjusted Live Register total for February 2026 was 170,700 people from January 2026. The unadjusted Live Register total stood at 169,507 people for February 2026, of which 56.6% were male and 71.1% were Irish. This is an increase of 4,200 people or 2.5% when compared with February 2025. The 25-34 years age group made up the largest number of those on the Live Register in February 2026 at 40,351 people or 23.8% of the total.

The CSO published the most recent Labour Force Survey<sup>2</sup> for Quarter Four (Q4) of 2025 and looked at national employment. The employment rate for persons aged 15-64 years was up from 74.5% compared to 74.3% in Q4 2024 and 74.0% in Q4 2023.

Unemployment was recorded at 128,200 persons aged 15-74 in Q4 2025 with an associated unemployment rate of 4.4%. There were 36,00 people in long-term unemployment in Q4 2025, 8,000 more people than in Q4 2024. The corresponding rate of long-term unemployment was 1.2%, up from 1.0% a year earlier.

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.7 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

### 33.3.8 Development and Future Growth

**The Developer notes a minor error in transcribing the figures presented in the Fingal County Council Development Plan (FCCDP) 2023-2029 in Section 33.3.8 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR. To correct this, therefore, the following text shall be deleted:**

*“The FCCDP 2023-2029 also states there were 104,851 dwellings in the local authority as of 2016, with an expected 9,960 new units to be constructed to Q1 2023 for a total of 7,171 new dwellings completed to bring the total to 114,811. Of this figure, 5,233 units were vacant representing c. 5%. The projected target for 2022 was for 142,144 dwellings to be delivered. Census 2022 findings and the figures presented in the FCCDP 2023-2029 indicate that Fingal has not met this target, with the number of dwellings in the area amounting to 114,811 which indicates a shortfall of 27,333 dwellings.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

The FCCDP 2023-2029 also states there were 104,851 dwellings in the local authority as of 2016, with an expected 9,960 new units to be constructed to Q1 2023 for a total of 7,171 new dwellings completed to bring the total to 112,022. Of this figure, 5,233 units were vacant representing c. 5%.

The projected target for 2022 was for 142,144 dwellings to be delivered. Census 2022 findings and the figures presented in the FCCDP 2023-2029 indicate that Fingal has not met this target, with the number of dwellings in the area amounting to 112,022 which indicates a shortfall of 30,122 dwellings.

### 33.3.9 Tourism and Recreation

#### 33.3.9.1 Fingal County Council Administrative Area - Tourism

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.9.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.3.9.2 Dublin City Council Administrative Area - Tourism

**The only change to this section is to correct the previous administrative error which labelled this Section as 33.10.2 instead of Section 33.3.9.2.**

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.10.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

#### 33.3.9.3 Meath Tourism

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.9.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey1fs/>

#### 33.3.9.4 *Louth Tourism*

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.9.4 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### 33.3.9.5 *A Sense of Place*

**In response to ongoing stakeholder consultation, the Developer engaged with Fáilte Ireland in April 2026 (further details are provided in Appendix A1.2).**

**Following this engagement, the Developer has included this section to describe the existing sense of place that the coastal environment provides for residents and visitors alike.**

The Fáilte Ireland Guidelines refers to the sense of place as a principle of Irish tourism development that focuses on protecting and expressing what makes a place distinctive, authentic and meaningful to visitors and local communities alike.

The coastal sense of place within the study area is shaped by the relationship between land and sea, extensive coastal views, historic settlements, cultural heritage assets and long-established recreational use. Across Fingal, Meath, Louth and Dublin City, coastal character contributes meaningfully to local identity and to the experience of residents and visitors. Further information on areas within each jurisdiction that evoke a sense of place is provided below.

#### ***Fingal***

Key areas in Fingal that are considered to evoke a sense of place include (but are not limited to):

- Howth Peninsula: characterised by dramatic coastal cliffs, historic harbour, fishing village identity and extensive walking routes form one of Fingal's strongest landscape-character areas
- Malahide Demesne and Estuary: a combination of castle estate, parkland, estuarine landscape and village centre creates a layered cultural and natural identity.
- Skerries: a coastal town with working harbour, historic mills, islands offshore and strong maritime character.
- Balbriggan Coastline: sandy beaches and refurbished harbour contribute to Fingal's north-coast identity and recreational tourism offering.
- Naul and Rural Fingal Heartland: characterised by rolling farmland, historic villages and views towards the Dublin Mountains; and
- Swords and Swords Castle: a medieval core, castle complex and evolving town centre reflecting Fingal's historic seat and urban identity

#### ***Meath***

Key areas in Meath that are considered to evoke a sense of place include (but are not limited to):

- Brú na Bóinne: the UNESCO World Heritage site consists of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth and is characterised by a rolling landscape, combining archaeology, mythology and a river valley setting.
- The Boyne Valley Corridor: characterised by river landscapes, farmed lowlands and historic estates forming a continuous cultural landscape.
- Hill of Tara: a symbolic and ceremonial landscape associated with Irish kingship and national identity.
- Slane Village and Demesne: characterised by estate landscapes, river crossings and village form linked to cultural events and heritage tourism.

#### ***Louth***

Key areas in Louth that are considered to evoke a sense of place include (but are not limited to):

- Cooley Peninsula: a mythological landscape of the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, combining mountain scenery, farming traditions and cultural trails.

- Carlingford Village and Lough: characterised by a medieval townscape, narrow streets, coastal setting and cross-border mountain backdrop.
- Drogheda and the River Boyne: a historic port town with medieval walls, river landscape and strong cultural identity.
- Monasterboice: an early Christian monastic landscape with high crosses and round tower.
- Dundalk Bay Coastline: consists of mudflats, beaches and mountain views which contribute to the east-coast maritime character.

### **Dublin**

Key areas in Dublin City that are considered to evoke a sense of place include (but are not limited to):

- The Medieval Core (including Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, Wood Quay): Viking and medieval origins, historic buildings and archaeological heritage.
- Georgian Dublin (including Merrion Square, Fitzwilliam Square, Mountjoy Square): internationally distinctive planned streetscapes, formal squares and architectural coherence that strongly define Dublin's identity.
- River Liffey and Quays: central east–west corridor shaping the city's historic development, civic spaces and visual character.
- O'Connell Street and Parnell Square: monumental civic centre associated with nationalism, commemoration and modern city identity.
- Trinity College and College Green: academic, cultural and symbolic heart of the city with strong international recognition.
- Phoenix Park: a large historic urban park combining civic use, biodiversity and recreational value within the city.
- Canals and Docklands: industrial and maritime heritage landscapes reflecting Dublin's evolution as a port and modern capital.

#### **33.3.10 Recreation (onshore)**

There are no changes required to the introductory text of this section. Refer to Section 33.3.10 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

##### **33.3.10.1 Parks and Open Spaces**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.10.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

##### **33.3.10.2 Beaches and Coastal trails**

**The only change to this section is to include the proposed Fingal Coastal Way in response to RFI Section 1 (b). Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.3.10.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

*“According to [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie), one can walk northwards along the coast from Balbriggan beach, past the Martello tower (Bremore castle on the left) and further northwards along “Kings Strand” as far as “The Sailors Grave”. According to [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie), one can continue walking northwards along the coast (tide dependant) as far as Gormanston beaches in Co. Meath. The coastal stretch at the landfall site forms part of “Kings Strand” and appears to be also locally known as “Bremore Beach”. Access to the beach is from the south via Bells Lane, Balbriggan, underneath the railway, adjacent to Bremore Castle. Bremore beach is not an identified beach under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008). Water quality is not monitored at Bremore beach.”*

**And is replaced with the following text:**

According to [www.fingal.ie](http://www.fingal.ie), it is possible to walk northwards along the coast from Balbriggan Beach, passing the Martello Tower (with Bremore Castle located inland to the west) and continuing along King's Strand as far as the Sailors' Grave.

Subject to tidal conditions, the route can be extended northwards to the Gormanston beaches in County Meath. This coastal stretch, including the landfall site, forms part of King's Strand and is also locally referred to as Bremore Beach. This section of coastline is included within the alignment of the proposed Fingal Coastal Way, a long-distance coastal walking and cycling route intended to enhance access, connectivity and recreational use along Fingal's shoreline. Access to Bremore Beach is currently available from the south via Bells Lane, Balbriggan, beneath the railway line adjacent to Bremore Castle. Bremore Beach is not designated under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79 of 2008) and bathing water quality is not monitored at this location.

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.10.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

### **33.3.10.3 Sports facilities and marine recreational activities**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.10.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.3.11 Recreation (offshore)**

**The only change to this section is to amend an incorrect reference to the Infrastructure and Other Users chapter (Chapter 20) in Section 33.3.11 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

**Therefore, the following text shall be deleted:**

*“Section 20.3.7 of the Infrastructure and Other Users chapter provides an overview of marine recreational activities in the vicinity of the study area and should be read in conjunction with this chapter.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

Section 20.3.2.7 of the Infrastructure and Other Users chapter provides an overview of marine recreational activities in the vicinity of the study area and should be read in conjunction with this chapter.

**There are no further changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.3.11 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

## **33.4 Characteristics of the Proposed Development**

### **33.4.1 Offshore Construction phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.4.2 Offshore Operational phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.4.3 Offshore Decommissioning Phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.4.4 Onshore Construction phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.4.5 Onshore Operational phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.5 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### **33.4.6 Onshore Decommissioning Phase**

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.6 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.4.7 Community Benefit Fund

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.4.7 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

## 33.5 Potential Effects

There are no changes required to the introductory text in this section. Refer to Section 33.4.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.5.1 Do-Nothing Scenario

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.5.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.5.2 Construction Phase

#### 33.5.2.1 Employment and GVA

**In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the CSO data for GVA by sector has been updated to include 2024 data (the most recent at time of writing). Therefore, the GVA generated during the construction phase has been updated to reflect this change. In this respect, it is important to note that the GVA statistics used in the 2024 EIAR were modelled on the results of data taken from 2020 (during the COVID-19 period where economic activity was reduced).**

**The following text shall therefore be deleted from Section 33.5.2.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

*“It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €59,495,675 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €97,048,431 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.5.2.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR. The conclusions of the 2024 EIAR remain unchanged and the overall impact on GVA generation during the construction phase is considered to be positive, short-term and significant.**

#### 33.5.2.2 Tourism and a Sense of Place

**There are no changes required to this section in respect to the assessment on tourism. However, the Developer would note that following consultation with Fingal County Council, an indicative phasing plan has been prepared and will be agreed with all relevant stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction. The indicative phasing plan considers impacts on tourism receptors including Malahide Castle and will endeavour as far as practicable to avoid construction works around concerts at Malahide Castle and Christmas markets within the area. Notwithstanding, the significance of effect assessed in the 2024 EIAR remains unchanged and there are no significant effects on tourism from either the offshore or onshore development area construction.**

**Following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, the Developer has provided an assessment of the potential construction phase effects from both offshore and onshore development on the sense of place. Therefore, the following text shall be added at the end of Section 33.5.2.2:**

#### ***Impact of Offshore Development Area Construction on Sense of Place***

Offshore construction activities have the potential to influence coastal sense of place where this is derived from perceptions of open seascape character, panoramic coastal views and the perceived naturalness of the marine environment. These qualities are recognised as contributors to coastal character and identity within the Seascape, Landscape and Visual chapter (Chapter 29).

However, Chapter 29 confirms that there will be no significant construction phase seascape or visual effects associated with offshore construction activities (Sections 29.5.3 and 29.5.4).

Any perceptual change to sense of place would therefore be limited to the short-term presence of construction vessels within the offshore development area and would be temporary and reversible in nature.

The magnitude of effect on sense of place is considered low, as the quality of effect is neutral and the duration is short-term. The sensitivity of the existing environment is considered medium. Accordingly, the overall level of significance is assessed as negative, slight and short-term which is not significant in EIA terms.

### ***Impact of Onshore Development Area Construction on Sense of Place***

Onshore construction activities have the potential to affect sense of place throughout the onshore development area where place value is informed by coastal character, amenity use, accessibility, tranquillity and locally valued features such as beaches, coastal paths and nearby heritage assets.

During HDD operations at the landfall site, access to a section of Bremore Beach within the proposed development boundary will be temporarily restricted for up to four months to ensure public safety. While no works will take place on the beach itself, this temporary restriction, along with increased construction traffic and activity along walking and cycling routes, coastal paths and local road corridors, may result in short-term disruption to the way the coastal environment is experienced by residents and visitors. Notwithstanding this, Chapter 29 confirms that there will be no significant construction phase landscape or visual effects onshore. The physical character, visual identity and key experiential attributes of the coastal and onshore landscape will therefore remain intact. Water quality and bathing amenity will not be affected, ensuring that core coastal place values are maintained. The magnitude of effect on sense of place is considered low, as the quality of effect is neutral and the duration is short-term. The sensitivity of the existing environment is considered medium, reflecting the role of the coastline, walking routes and recreational areas in contributing to local identity and everyday use. Taking these factors into account, the overall level of significance is assessed as negative, slight and short-term which is not significant in EIA terms.

#### ***33.5.2.3 Recreational, Community and social facilities***

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.5.2.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

Therefore, the conclusions of the 2024 EIAR remain unchanged and the effects on recreational, community and social facilities are assessed to be neutral, short-term and imperceptible.

#### ***33.5.2.4 Summary of construction related effects***

**The only change required to this section is to include the updated construction related effects assessed in Section 33.5.2.4. Therefore, Table 33.12 shall be deleted and replaced with Table A33.4**

**Table A33.4 Summary of Construction Phase Effects (replaces Table 33.12 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

Receptor	Description of effect	Magnitude (quality and duration of effect)	Significance of effect
Regional economy	Employment generation during the construction phase	Positive, short-term	Significant
Regional economy	GVA generation during the construction phase	Positive, short-term	Significant
Tourism	Tourism related effect of offshore construction	Neutral, short-term	Imperceptible
	Tourism related effect of onshore construction	Neutral, short-term	Moderate
Sense of place	Impact on the experiential sense of place arising from the offshore construction of the proposed development.	Negative, short-term	Slight
	Impact on the experiential sense of place arising from the onshore construction of the proposed development.	Negative, short-term	Slight
Recreational, Community and social facilities	Impact on use of recreational facilities related impact during offshore construction phase	Neutral, short-term	Imperceptible
	Impact on use of recreational facilities related impact during onshore construction phase	Negative, short term	Moderate

### 33.5.3 Operational Phase

#### 33.5.3.1 Employment and GVA

In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the CSO data for GVA by sector has been updated to include 2024 data (the most recent at time of writing). Therefore, the GVA generated during the construction phase has been updated to reflect this change. In this respect, it is important to note that the GVA statistics used in the 2024 EIAR were modelled on the results of data taken from 2020 (during the COVID-19 period where economic activity was reduced).

Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.5.3.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:

*“It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €107,564,781 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.”*

And replaced with the following text:

It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €152,963,786 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.5.3.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR. The conclusions of the 2024 EIAR remain unchanged and the overall impact on GVA generation during the operational phase is considered to be positive, long-term and significant.**

#### 33.5.3.2 Community Benefit Fund

There are no changes required to this section. Therefore, the conclusion from the 2024 EIAR remains unchanged and the overall significance of effect is estimated to be positive, significant and long-term.

#### 33.5.3.3 Tourism and a Sense of Place

**Following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, this section has been updated to provide further detail on the potential operational phase effects the proposed development may have on tourism and the concept of a sense of place within the study area. This section also incorporates the findings from Fáilte Ireland’s report on Visitor Awareness and Perceptions of Renewable Infrastructure in the Irish Landscape (currently being drafted - findings of which were shared with the Developer).**

**In addition, this update reflects the revised assessment of the Seascape, Landscape and Visual assessment of the revised WTG presented in Chapter 29: Seascape Landscape and Visual layouts (see Appendix A5.1 for further details on the design refinements). Therefore, Section 33.5.3.3 of Chapter 33 shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the text herein.**

During the operational phase, the proposed development has the potential to give rise to indirect effects on tourism and coastal sense of place through its presence within the offshore seascape and its visibility from parts of the coastline within the study area. Tourism and sense of place are closely related but distinct receptors: tourism relates to the use, enjoyment and economic function of coastal destinations, while sense of place refers to the experiential and perceptual qualities that contribute to the character, identity and distinctiveness of the coastal environment for residents and visitors. Further information on tourism and recreation and sense of place is provided in Section 33.3.9.

#### **Tourism**

The operation and maintenance of the proposed development will not physically affect tourism assets, visitor facilities, recreational infrastructure or public access routes within the study area. Tourism destinations identified along the coastline of Fingal, Meath, Louth and Dublin City would continue to function as intended, and no restrictions on access or use would arise during the operational phase.

The potential interaction between the proposed development and tourism activity is therefore limited to indirect visual and perceptual considerations. As confirmed by the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Chapter 29), there are no significant operational phase seascape or visual effects arising from the proposed offshore infrastructure.

Chapter 29 concludes that the offshore wind farm would be experienced as a distant and legible element within the seascape, and that key characteristics of coastal views, including openness, horizon extent and maritime context, will be retained.

It is anticipated that there may be opportunities for marine tourism which will allow tourists to visit the offshore development area.

This is further reflected in Fáilte Ireland's report on Visitor Awareness and Perceptions of Renewable Infrastructure in the Irish Landscape currently being drafted (findings of which were shared with the Developer). This confirms that for those who noticed Renewable Energy Infrastructure at their location, six in ten claim it had no impact on their enjoyment, with more positivity than negativity evident, and that for two in three visitors, Renewable Energy Infrastructure did not factor into their decision making when choosing their destination. For those aware of Renewable Energy Infrastructure, 61% report no impact on enjoyment of landscape.

In this context, the operation of the offshore wind farm is not predicted to alter the attractiveness, use or viability of tourism destinations, including those within Ireland's Ancient East, nor to affect patterns of recreational or visitor behaviour. The magnitude of the impact is considered to be low as the impact will be imperceptible and long-term in nature. The sensitivity of the existing environment is considered to be low. Therefore, the significance of effect on the receptors from operation and routine maintenance operations can be classified as not significant.

### ***Sense of Place***

Coastal sense of place is influenced by the relationship between land and sea, expansive seaward views, cultural and maritime associations, and patterns of recreation and use. The operation of the proposed development has the potential to influence these qualities through changes in distant offshore views.

Operational seascape effects are assessed on seascape character and visual receptors in Chapter 29.

The SLVIA concluded that the proposed development would not give rise to significant operational phase seascape effects, and that visual effects from the majority of assessed viewpoints range from imperceptible to slight or moderate-slight, with no significant effects identified in EIA terms.

Despite the introduction of offshore wind turbines, the fundamental structure, scale and openness of the receiving seascape will be maintained, and the proposed development will not alter the seascape character in a manner inconsistent with existing conditions. As a result, the experiential qualities that underpin coastal sense of place would remain intact during the operational phase.

Any effect on sense of place would therefore be indirect and perceptual only, arising from the presence of a distant offshore feature within seaward views. Considering that the East Coast of Ireland is an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike due to the meditative nature of the coastal spaces, the sensitivity of the receiving environment from a sense of place perspective is considered to be medium. However, as noted above, the proposed development will not alter the seascape character, and the coastal sense of place will remain intact. Therefore, the magnitude of impact is considered to be low and the overall significance of effect on sense of place will be slight, negative and long term, which is not significant in EIA terms.

#### ***33.5.3.4 Recreational, Community and social facilities***

There are no changes required to this section. Therefore, conclusions of the 2024 EIAR remain unchanged and the significance effect of the operational phase of the proposed development on the onshore and offshore recreational amenities within the study area is not significant.

Refer to Section 33.5.3.4 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

#### ***33.5.3.5 Summary of operation related effects***

**The only change required to this section is to include the updated operational related effects assessed in Section 33.5.3.3. Therefore, Table 33.16 shall be deleted and replaced with Table A33.5**

**Table A33.5 Summary of Operational Effects (replaces Table 33.16 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

Receptor	Description of Impact	Magnitude (quality and duration of effect)	Significance of effect
Regional economy	Employment generation during the operation and maintenance phase	Positive, long-term	Significant
Regional economy	GVA generation during the operation and maintenance phase	Positive, long-term	Significant
Community Benefit Fund	Fund of €4 million per annum for 20 years help transform local communities	Positive, long-term	Significant
Tourism	Tourism related impact during operation and maintenance of both onshore and Offshore development area	Neutral, long-term	Not significant
Sense of place	Impact on the experiential sense of place arising from the operation of the proposed development.	Negative, long-term	Slight
Recreational, Community and social facilities	Impact on use of recreational facilities related from operation and maintenance of offshore and Onshore development area	Neutral, long-term	Not significant

### 33.5.4 Decommissioning

#### 33.5.4.1 Employment and GVA

**In response to RFI Section 1 (b), the CSO data for GVA by sector has been updated to include 2024 data (the most recent at time of writing). Therefore, the GVA generated during the construction phase has been updated to reflect this change. In this respect, it is important to note that the GVA statistics used in the 2024 EIAR were modelled on the results of data taken from 2020 (during the COVID-19 period where economic activity was reduced).**

**Therefore, the following text shall be deleted from Section 33.5.3.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR:**

*“It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €3,630,745 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.”*

**And replaced with the following text:**

It is estimated that the total amount of GVA generated will be approximately €6,721,374 which includes direct and indirect jobs. The GVA has been calculated by multiplying newly created jobs in the construction phase with the GVA per worker in the construction sector which has been calculated using data from CSO.

**There are no other changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.5.4.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR. The conclusions of the 2024 EIAR remain unchanged and the overall impact on GVA generation during the decommissioning phase is considered to be positive, short-term and moderate. There is also a negative, permanent and significant impact on employment and GVA as a result of the loss of jobs associated with the conclusion of the operational phase.**

#### 33.5.4.2 Tourism and a Sense of Place

**Following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, this section has been updated to provide further detail on the potential decommissioning phase effects the proposed development may have on tourism and the concept of a sense of place within the study area. Therefore, Section 33.5.4.2 of Chapter 33 shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the text herein.**

#### **Tourism**

The decommissioning works associated with the proposed development may cause some minimal onshore disruption in relation to tourists’ footfall, but this will be temporary and localised in nature.

Following decommissioning, any associated marine tourism generated by the offshore wind farm from trips to the array area will also cease.

The magnitude of this effect will be medium given the negative and permanent nature of the impact. The sensitivity of the existing environment is considered low; therefore, the overall significance effect is considered to be negative, permanent and slight.

### ***Sense of Place***

The decommissioning of the proposed development will give rise to a gradual reversal of any perceptual changes associated with the presence of offshore infrastructure within the seascape. As offshore components are removed and reinstatement works are completed, the seascape will be returned to its baseline condition. Any temporary effects on the experiential qualities that contribute to coastal sense of place would be short-term and localised, arising only during decommissioning activities.

Following completion of decommissioning, there will be no residual offshore structures influencing coastal views or perceptions of place. The magnitude of effect is therefore considered to be negligible, with a low sensitivity of the receiving environment in this context. Accordingly, the overall significance of effect on sense of place during the decommissioning phase is assessed as not significant.

#### ***33.5.4.3 Recreational, Community and social facilities***

There are no changes required to this section. Therefore, the significance of effect remains unchanged from the 2024 EIAR and the overall significance of effect from the decommissioning of the proposed development on recreational, community and social facilities is considered to be not significant.

#### ***33.5.4.4 Summary of decommissioning related Effects***

**The only change required to this section is to include the updated decommissioning related effects assessed in Section 33.5.4.2. Therefore, Table 33.20 shall be deleted and replaced with Table A33.6.**

**Table A33.6 Summary of Decommissioning Impacts (replaces Table 33.20 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

Receptor	Description of Impact	Magnitude (quality and duration of effect)	Significance of effect
Regional economy	Employment generation during the decommissioning phase	Positive, short-term	Moderate
Regional economy	Employment loss after decommissioning phase	Negative, Permanent	Significant
Tourism	Tourism related impact during the decommissioning phase	Negative, Permanent	Slight
Sense of place	Impact on the experiential sense of place arising from the decommissioning of the proposed development.	Neutral, Permanent	Not significant
Recreational, Community and social facilities	Impact on use of recreational facilities during the decommissioning phase	Negative, Temporary	Not significant

## **33.6 Mitigation Measures**

### ***33.6.1 Construction Phase***

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.6.1 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### ***33.6.2 Operational Phase***

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.6.2 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### ***33.6.3 Decommissioning***

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.6.3 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

## **33.7 Residual Effects**

There are no changes required to the introductory text in this section. Refer to Section 33.7 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 33.7.1 Construction Phase

The only change required to this section is to include the updated construction residual effects assessed on the experiential sense of place. Therefore, Table 33.21 shall be deleted and replaced with Table A33.7

**Table A33.7 Summary of residual effects during construction phase (replaces Table 33.21 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR)**

Assessment Topic/Receptor	Potential Effect (Pre-Mitigation)	Predicted Effect (Post-Mitigation)
Employment impact on regional economy	Positive, short-term and significant	Positive, short-term and significant
GVA impact on regional economy	Positive, short-term and significant	Positive, short-term and significant
Sense of Place	Negative, short-term and slight	Negative, short-term and slight
	Negative, short-term and slight	Negative, short-term and slight
Impact on tourism	Negative, short-term and not significant	Negative, short-term and not significant
Impact on users of recreational, community and social facilities	Negative, short-term and moderate	Negative, short-term and not significant

### 33.7.2 Operational Phase

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.7.2 of Chapter 33.

### 33.7.3 Decommissioning

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.7.3 of Chapter 33.

## 33.8 Transboundary Effects

There are no changes required to this section. Refer to Section 33.8 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.

## 33.9 Cumulative Effects

The Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) is presented in Volume 6, Chapter 38: Cumulative and Inter-Related Effects. In response to RFI Section 5, the CEA has been updated to align with the UK Guidance document *Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment*. However, it should be noted that the overall conclusions of the CEA from a socioeconomics, tourism and recreation perspective remain unchanged from the 2024 EIAR (as stated below). In addition, the Developer notes that Arklow Bank II was initially screened out for CEA in the 2024 EIAR due to the distance of the project from the proposed development. However, following consultation with Fáilte Ireland, Arklow Bank II has now been incorporated into the CEA in response to RFI Section 13 (a) and is included as Project ID #4 (see Chapter 38 for further details).

Therefore, the entirety of Section 33.9 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR shall be deleted and replaced with the text herein:

A long list of “other existing and/or approved projects” which were deemed to be potentially relevant for inclusion in the cumulative impact assessment was compiled (refer to Volume 6, Chapter 38: Cumulative and Inter-related Effects (hereafter referred to as ‘Chapter 38’)). A screening exercise of the “long list” was carried out in order to determine whether each of those “other projects” has the potential to give rise to likely significant cumulative effects with the proposed development from a socio-economic, tourism and recreation perspective. Many of the “other existing and/or approved projects” were screened out for a number of reasons including their location, scale and nature of the project. Those projects which were “screened in” were carried forward for assessment. The results of the assessment are presented in Section 38.2.3.24 of Chapter 38.

The CEA undertaken in Section 38.2.3.24 presents an outcome of a cumulative positive, significant and long-term effect given that the Phase One Projects (Projects 2-5) will also each be providing a Community Benefit Fund and employment.

The CEA also concluded that there will be no significant residual effect arising from the Phase One Projects (Projects 2-5) in combination with the proposed development on tourism and recreation.

As noted in Section 33.7, potential effects from the proposed development on tourism and recreation and the experiential sense of place will range from not significant to slight, which are not significant in EIA terms. The assessment concluded there are no likely significant direct or indirect cumulative effects on employment and GVA, tourism and recreation, or the experiential sense of place.

### **33.10 References**

**The following references shall be included in Section 33.10 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**

Central Statistics Office (CSO) (2026) Labour Force Survey (LFS). Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurveylfs/> [Accessed April 2026]

CSO (2023) Census of Population 2022. Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/population/censusofpopulation2022/> [Accessed April 2026]

CSO (2016) Census 2016 Reports. Available at: <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/> [Accessed April 2026]

**There are no further updates required for this section. Refer to Section 33.10 of Chapter 33 of the 2024 EIAR.**