

Volume 11 - Wider Scheme Appendices

# Appendix A29.1

## Visual Impact Assessment at Representative Viewpoint Locations



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## Appendix 29.1 Visual Impact Assessment at Representative Viewpoint Locations

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 Appendix 29.1 Visual Impact Assessment at Representative Viewpoint Locations 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 Appendix 29.1 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 what is subsequently driving them. Text in italics is text from a section of the 2024 EIAR which is deleted, or quotations from other documents (as explicitly stated). Replacement text is in normal font.

Only 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 sections relevant to Appendix 29.1 in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
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 updated layouts in consultation with the IRCG for both Project Options (see Section 6.2.3 Chapter 6 –Description of the Proposed Development for further details). These updated layouts have been assessed in this document. The refinements to the wind turbine (WTG) layouts have necessitated revisions to the SLVIA supported by updated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps (Chapter 29, Section 29.3) and verifiable photomontages (Chapter 29, Section 29.5 and Volume 7C1 SLVIA Photomontages). These refinements are reflected in the updated assessment contained within this appendix.
10 (a)	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.	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).

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
13 (b)	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.	Additional viewpoints have been included in the seascape impact assessment to address the concerns raised by Meath County Council.
13 (e)	The applicant is requested to review the draft [Flemington] LAP (or adopted LAP, where updated at time of this observation) and update the submitted application documentation accordingly, having regard in particular to potential for visual impacts from the substation on the draft LAP lands, potential traffic implications given the proposed access to the LAP lands directly adjoins the proposed access to the substation, and potential noise implications from the substation on the adjoining residential zoned lands.	Subsequent to the submission of the Planning Application, the draft Flemingington Local Area Plan (LAP) was issued for consultation in September 2024 and was adopted by Fingal County Council in December 2024. This LAP, which consists of maps and a written statement, relates to currently rural lands adjacent to the southern boundary of the Grid Facility. The LAP also includes a proposed development layout as well as indicative building height. RFI Section 13 (e) notes that potential visual impacts from the Flemingington LAP lands should be considered. Therefore, new sections specific to the Flemingington LAP are incorporated throughout this appendix. In addition, the Developer has prepared an updated Landscape Mitigation Plan (planning drawing ref. 281240_MCR_ONS_GF_DR_YE_1010) which includes additional screening to mitigate impacts on the Flemingington Local Area Plan (LAP).

## 29.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

## 29.2 Magnitude of visual Impacts at Representative Viewpoint Locations

### 29.2.1 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Whilst a 2024 clarifications document has been adopted to supplement the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013), there are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.1.1 of Appendix 29.1 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 29.2.2 Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to change

Whilst a 2024 clarifications document has been adopted to supplement the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013), there are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.1.2 of Appendix 29.1 of the 2024 EIAR.

### 29.2.3 Value attached to Views

Whilst a 2024 clarifications document has been adopted to supplement the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013), there are no changes to this section. Refer to Section 1.1.3 of Appendix 29.1 of the 2024 EIAR.

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

**Due to RFI stage changes in the WTG layouts for both Project Option 1 and Project Option 2, the visual impacts have been reassessed and five new viewpoints included (VP18a, VP18b, VP56, VP57 and VP58). Revised ZTV maps and photomontage sets have also been generated to support the assessment. In addition, in accordance with RFI Section 13 (e), the Flemington LAP (now adopted) lands have been considered as a likely future urban edge scenario abutting the southern boundary of the Grid Facility. Consequently, the originally submitted rural-industrial colour scheme / finish has been altered to reflect the future urban edge context.**

**Though not all viewpoints are subject of a change in visual impact or even visual impact description, Table 2 and Table 3 from Appendix 29.1 of the 2024 EIAR are deleted and replaced with Table A1 and Table A2 below. The changes are highlighted in grey.**

**Table A1 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

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
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 Mountains. A low sec cliff backs the beach and the bay wraps to the south to form a minor headland.</p> <p>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.</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 around 35km and the furthest nearly 50km away.</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>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance.</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>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
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.</p> <p>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.</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>	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
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> <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>	High-medium	<p>Only six 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>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>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> <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>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
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 Slievenagloagh. 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. In terms of layout this array is slightly less intense and has fewer instances of turbine overlap.</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

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
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 sea view.</p> <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>	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>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. Option 2 is slightly less dense but is also less evenly spaced. However, these factors have little consequence for visual amenity at this distance.</p> <p>Overall, 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
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 (Ballinlen). 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.</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>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. The fewer turbines of Option 2 make for a slightly less dense and overlapping 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>	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
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> <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>	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>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.</p>	<p>There is no discernible difference in the proposed height of the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines from this considerable distance. The fewer turbines of Option 2 make for a slightly less dense and overlapping 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>	Slight-imperceptible/ Neutral-Negative/ Long-term
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. The fewer turbines of Option 2 make for a slightly less dense and overlapping 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>	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
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> <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 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>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>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height. The difference in the density of the Option 1 and Options 2 arrays is subtle, but the Option 2 array appears slightly looser and divided into more distinct clusters through the central portion.</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
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. 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.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height. The difference in the density of the Option 1 and Options 2 arrays is subtle, but the Option 2 array appears slightly looser and divided into more distinct clusters through the central portion.</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
			<p>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 clustered 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>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>		
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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>There is very little distinction between the Option 1 and Option 2 turbines in terms of height. The difference in the density of the Option 1 and Options 2 arrays is subtle, but the Option 2 array appears slightly looser with a marginally increased sense of permeability through the central portion.</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>		
VP13 Night View	<p>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.</p> <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>	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 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.</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>	<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
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.</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.</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 northern portion of the array. The lateral extent is similar for both arrays</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 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>		<p>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 relatively evenly spaced through the northern section with a legible with a sense of order and few notable instances of turbine overlap. The southern array consists of small discrete WTG clusters, 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 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>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>	
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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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 Option 2 array is has a looser arrangement of turbines through the central and northern portions, allowing for improved visual permeability through the array, but at the expense of even spacing / 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

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 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. Turbine density dissipates to the south with series of small discrete clusters. 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>		
VP16	<p>Bettystown Beach, Co. Meath</p> <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. 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>	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>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. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of the array.</p> <p>There is a reasonable sense of permeability through the short axis of the layout, 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 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 Option 2 array has a marginally 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>	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
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> <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 a distance 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 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. 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, 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 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 Option 2 array 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>	Moderate / Negative / Long-term
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 above 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 one that still affords public access to its top and therefore has increased 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>	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>	<p>There will be no visibility of the Option 2 turbines and thus, the visual impact remains the same as for Option 1.</p>	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>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> <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 Bru n Boinne complex further to the west.</p> <p>The view value is strongly associated with the sense of ancient heritage at this location.</p>				
VP18a	<p>Newgrange Passage Tomb (Eastern side)</p> <p>Newgrange Passage Tomb is the most iconic and visited feature of the Bru na Boinne UNESCO World Heritage complex on the slopes above the River Boyne in County Meath. It is the central of three passage tombs. The easterly view looks over rolling farmland and defines by an undulating skyline where the sun rising at the Autumn equinox illuminated the back of the chamber inside this tomb.</p> <p>This view is afforded to a high numbers of tourists / visitors to the Bru na Boinne complex.</p> <p>It specifically represents designated scenic view 87d from the Meath County Development Plan.</p> <p>The view value is strongly associated with the sense of ancient heritage at this location.</p>	Very High	The wireframe image indicates no potential to see any of the proposed turbines. The magnitude of visual impact is therefore Negligible by default. This view has been included as an illustrative view – to illustrate the absence of visual impact at an important and highly sensitive receptor.	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
VP18b	<p>Knowth Passage Tomb</p> <p>Knowth Passage Tomb is part of the Bru na Boinne UNESCO World Heritage complex on the slopes above the River Boyne in County Meath. It is the westernmost of three passage tombs.</p>	Very High	Although the wireframe image indicates potential to see the blade tips of 6 of the proposed turbines at distances of beyond 35km. However, visibility is precluded by intervening vegetation. The magnitude of visual impact is therefore Negligible by default.	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>Although it is the furthest of the tombs to the site, it affords public access to its top and therefore has potential to afford views of the proposed development. The easterly view looks over rolling farmland and the undulating skyline host the distinctive profile of the Lagan Cement factory.</p> <p>This view is afforded to a high numbers of tourists / visitors to the Bru na Boinne passage tombs which include this and Newgrange tomb on a compulsory organised tour of the complex.</p> <p>It specifically represents designated scenic view 59 from the Meath County Development Plan.</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 distance 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.</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 relatively evenly spaced – looser towards the southern end and 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.</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
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
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 relatively evenly spaced with few notable instances of turbine overlap and slightly looser spacing towards the southern end. The OSP is visible just above the skyline near the centre of 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 Option 2 array has a marginally 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 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.</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 Option 2 array has a slightly 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

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 array is relatively evenly spaced – looser towards the southern end and without undue clutter from turbine overlap. The southern trio of turbines are visible with a broad and even spacing 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 little confusion or clutter generated with vertical elements within the pier context including the lighthouse, light poles and masts. The OSP is visible just above the skyline in 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>		
VP22	<p>R108 at Snowtown Co, Meath</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</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 distance 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.</p> <p>The array is relatively evenly spaced – looser towards the southern end and without undue clutter from turbine overlap. It is legible with a sense of order and few notable instances of turbine overlap.</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 appearing slightly looser.</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
			<p>The OSP is visible just above the skyline in the centre right of the array. There is a reasonable sense of permeability through particularly the southern 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>		
VP23	<p>Ardgillen Castle Grounds, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 tranquillity at this location and the traditional pastoral / parkland character of the framed coastal view.</p>	High	<p>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, albeit with distinct offsets from land / vegetation to either side of the framed view.</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 loosely spaced through the southern section and is slightly tighter through the middle. There is a legible sense of space and order that does not appear cluttered as there are few notable instances of turbine overlap. 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 Option 2 array has a slightly looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines that appears more permeable.</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	<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.</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.</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 Option 2 array has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines that appears more permeable.</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
	<p>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>		<p>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 concentrated in terms of density though the middle section and dissipating towards either end. 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>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>	
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> <p>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.</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>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.</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
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 and offset from Rockabill lighthouse.</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. There is a very minor sense of scale distance confusion near the middle of the array where two of the more distant turbines overlap in perspective with the nearer Rockabill Lighthouse. 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>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 Option 2 array has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines but is also less orderly in terms of clear turbine rows.</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
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).</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.</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
	<p>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>		<p>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>		
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> <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 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 in small coherent clusters. 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 two of the more distant turbines overlap in perspective 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>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 Option 2 array has a slightly looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines but is also less orderly in terms of clear turbine rows.</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
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium and the quality of effect is Negative.		
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 5 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.</p> <p>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>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>Only 3 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. Otherwise, the view of partial blade sets across the headland is similar.</p>	Moderate-slight / Negative / Long-term
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>	High-medium	<p>None of the proposed turbines is visible from here beyond or to the seaward side of the headland that contains this scene to the north. Hence, the magnitude of visual impact is Negligible by default.</p>	Also Negligible as no turbines can be seen.	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>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>				
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 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. One blade set will rotate on alignment with the round town on the intervening skyline. Despite being substantially screened from view, when noticed, the turbines could 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-negligible.</p>	<p>The number of Option 2 turbines that will be partially visible and their degree of visual exposure is marginally greater than Option 1. However, there is not considered to be a material difference in visual impact magnitude.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative / Long-term
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.</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 26km and 40km 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 substantially occupy the sea horizon between Lambay island and the low headland at Rush, but without overlapping with either.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is difficult to discern at this considerable distance. The Option 2 array has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines and a greater sense of permeability between turbines and also in gaps between groups 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-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>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>		<p>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.</p> <p>Overall, it is a legible layout with a good sense of order. Notwithstanding that the array fills much of 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>		
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>	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 28km 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>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

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 settlement.		Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
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> <p>The view value is associated with coastal scenic amenity including naturalistic qualities yet balanced by the built development of the surrounding harbour and settlement.</p>	High-Medium	<p>Approximately 8 of the proposed turbines at the southern end of the scheme will penetrate above the undulating form of Lambay Island at distances of between approximately 29 and 31 km away. Around 10 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>The turbines overlapping with the right of Lambay Island will generate a minor degree of distance confusion and visual clutter. 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 open sea view to the east of Lambay Island remains unimpeded.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low and the quality of effect is Negative.</p>	<p>Around 5 of the Option 2 turbines are visible overlapping with the right-hand side of Lambay Island and one lies just to the right of it. That particular turbine is over 38km away. The difference in height is difficult to discern at this distance. 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>	Slight/ Negative / Long-term
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.	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.	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

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 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.</p> <p>The open sea to the northeast is relatively dark unless boats are entering the harbour.</p> <p>This view is afforded to those walking the pier at night or for residents of Howth 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 northeast.</p>		<p>The yellow nautical navigation lights are not visible at this distance due to their lesser intensity and/or earth curvature screening.</p> <p>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.</p>		
VP33	<p>Howth Head, Co. Dublin (Fingal)</p> <p>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. 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 tranquillity and the naturalistic.</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 28km 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.</p> <p>These four turbines are all beyond 36km away and are seen at a smaller scale than those to the right. At this 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.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is difficult to discern at this considerable distance. The Option 2 array is marginally less cluttered and dissipates in intensity more noticeably towards open sea.</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
			Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Medium-low and the quality of effect is Negative.		
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 Kilbarrack 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 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>	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>Overall, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible.</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.	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative / Long-term
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. Further to the northeast can be seen Howth Head with Dublin Bay open to the east.</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

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 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>				
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> <p>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>	High-medium	<p>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.</p> <p>A considerably greater open sea horizon will remain undeveloped to the west.</p> <p>The eastern portion of the array is the densest with the intensity of turbines dissipating to the west and with distance from the viewer. 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>	<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 Option 2 array has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines with more orderly rows and a slightly greater sense of permeability.</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
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.</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</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 Option 2 array has a looser and less cluttered arrangement of turbines with more orderly rows and a slightly greater sense of permeability.</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 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.</p> <p>The northern pier is the key element of the foreground with the island rising beyond towards 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>		<p>Mourne Mountains (often not be visible), will be clearly apparent.</p> <p>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. 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 south-eastern 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>	<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>	
VP56	<p>Gormanston Castle (road outside)</p> <p>This is a fleeting view from the tree lined local road that separates Gormanston Castle from the coastline. It appears as though this was once part of an axial view from the privately owned castle, but it has long since been truncated by treelines and the road which now contain views around the castle. The easterly view from this road takes in a long narrow field flanked and contained by mature treelines with a glimpse of the sea beyond</p>	High-medium	<p>The partial blade sets of 5 of the proposed turbines will be fleetingly visible from here to passers-by above and between mature skyline trees at the eastern end of the foreground field. There is little sense of the view being of an offshore wind energy development, which may generate a minor degree of scale / distance and contextual ambiguity. However, in the context of such substantially screened and fleeting views, there is little influence of visual amenity. Consequently, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be Low-negligible and of a Negative Quality.</p>	<p>Whilst only 4 of the proposed Option 2 turbines are visible in the same brief window of visibility. The context and visual presence is very similar to Option 1 and thus, the magnitude of effect is the same.</p>	Slight-imperceptible/ 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
VP57	<p>Hill of Skryne</p> <p>Vast panoramic views are afforded from the top of the Hill of Skryne which is also occupied by several dwellings, a pub and farm sheds. The view is afforded to local residents as well as a modest number of tourists and visitors, particularly in the context of the heavily visited Hill of Tara just to the west of here.</p> <p>The easterly view in question contains a farmstead on the foreground slopes and then rolling agricultural farmland contained by a gently undulating skyline ridge in the distance,</p>	High	<p>The partial blade sets and blade tips of around half of the proposed WTGs are potentially visible from here rising above and well beyond the distant skyline. Indeed, at distances in excess of 41.6km they would only be discernible in the clearest of viewing conditions at a small scale and faintly with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. They also form a distant background feature of a vast and complex vista.</p> <p>Consequently, the WTGs will have a minimal bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Low-negligible.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is difficult to discern at this considerable distance. The Option 2 array is marginally less cluttered.</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>	Slight-imperceptible/ Negative / Long-term
VP58	<p>Hill of Tara</p> <p>This is one of the most visited and iconic landscape heritage features in Ireland attracting around 200,000 visitors annually. There are a range of heritage features encountered from the car park and gift shop on the climb to the top of hill including a church and various barrows and tombs. The reward is 360-degree views across a vast and varied landscape of predominantly rolling agricultural farmland and settlements.</p> <p>The easterly views takes in a foreground of ancient landform features on the slopes of the hill and across the valley can be seen the church on the top of the Hill of Skryne (see VP57). Beyond is a more distant skyline ridge of farmland and the substantial Lagan cement factory profile can be seen on the skyline to the northeast.</p>	Very High	<p>The blades and blade tips of around half of the proposed WTGs are potentially visible from here rising above and well beyond the distant skyline on either side of the Hill of Skryne. Indeed, at distances in excess of 45.km they may be discernible with scrutiny in the clearest of viewing conditions at a small scale and faintly with a low degree of contrast against a backdrop of sky. All of this in the context of a vast and complex vista.</p> <p>Consequently, the WTGs will have no material bearing on visual amenity from here and the magnitude of visual impact will be Negligible.</p>	<p>The difference in turbine height is not possible to discern at this vast distance and any nuances of layout between the Option 1 and Option 2 layouts are diluted by the very limited potential for visibility.</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>	Imperceptible/ Neutral / Long-term

Note: VP38 to VP45 are all contained between 40km and 60km away from the Array Area (were not specifically requested as part of an RFI) and their assessment only relates to potential cumulative impacts. See Appendix 29.2 for the cumulative visual assessment of these views.

**Table A2 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.</p> <p>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>Prior to the introduction of the geometric dark, light and mid-tone 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>	<p>Pre-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent Post-mitigation Slight / 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.</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 Post-mitigation</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
	This is a typical residential view, but rural hinterland amenity is afforded to the rear of the foreground dwellings.		Note that should the Flemington LAP lands be developed as planned, the visual effect is likely to reduce to Negligible due to screening by the intervening future residential development.	Slight-imperceptible / Negative / Permanent
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 in combination with the geometric dark, light and mid-tone colour scheme.</p> <p>Prior to the establishment of mitigation in the form of screen planting, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium / Negative / Medium term.</p> <p>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 geometric colour scheme to break up the massing of the buildings and anchor them within both the current rural hinterland and likely future peri-urban setting. The structures will appear similar industrial business park structures especially with ground based electrical components more comprehensively screened from view. The magnitude of effect is considered to reduce to Medium / Negative / Permanent.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation</p> <p>Major-moderate / Negative / Permanent</p> <p>Post-mitigation</p> <p>Moderate / Negative / Permanent</p>
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	<p>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.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation</p> <p>Slight / Negative / Medium term</p> <p>Post-mitigation</p> <p>Slight / Negative / Permanent</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			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.	
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	<p>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.</p>	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. This is a typical rural view where the view value relates to rural amenity and the tranquillity of the cemetery.</p>	Medium-low	<p>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.</p> <p>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 a peri-urban business park, albeit without the visible context of the nearby settlement edge. However, the settlement edge is likely to draw into view in close association with the proposed grid facility once the adopted Flemington LAP is realised.</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, 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 proposed perimeter planting has 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.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Moderate-slight / Negative / Medium-term Post-mitigation Slight / Negative / Permanent</p>

VP No.	Existing View	VP Sensitivity	Visual Impact Magnitude – Grid Facility	Significance / Quality / Duration of Impact
			The light upper-level colour recedes against the sky and the dark and mid-tones reduce the bulk and massing of the substations structures. Overall, the magnitude of effect is considered to reduce to Low.	
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 but will not 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.</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 geometric light, dark and mid-tone colour scheme serves to break up the massing of the two substation buildings, but the lighter tone is not as recessive against the backdrop of sea as it is against the sky when seen from most other VPs.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Pre-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Medium-term</p> <p>Post-mitigation Moderate / Negative / Permanent</p>
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. The bulk and massing of the building is perceptually reduced by the geometric light, dark and mid-tone colour scheme.</p> <p>Prior to the introduction of mitigation planting, the magnitude of visual impact is deemed to be High-medium / Negative.</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
			<p>Once the perimeter planting has established the GIS substation building will be partially screened and appear more anchored within the rural hinterland setting.</p> <p>The planting will also provide 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 subject to the recently adopted Flemington LAP for urban residential use. 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 LAP lands are developed.</p>	