codling wind park

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Volume 3

Chapter 15 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment


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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term in full
ABP	An Bord Pleanála
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
cd	Candela
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CMLI	Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute
CWP	Codling Wind Park
CWPL	Codling Wind Park Limited
CWP Project	Codling Wind Park Project
DART	Dublin Area Rapid Transit
DCC	Dublin City Council
DLRCC	Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
ELC	European Landscape Convention
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FCC	Fingal County Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition
HAT	High Astronomical Tide
HWM	High Water Mark
IAA	Irish Aviation Authority
IACs	Inter-array cables
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
ILI	Irish Landscape Institute
ILP	Institute of Lighting Professionals
IPS	Intermediate Peripheral Structure
ITM	Irish Transverse Mercator
km	Kilometre

Abbreviation	Term in full
LA	Landscape Area
LAP	Local Area Plan
LAT	Low Astronomical Tide
LC	Landscape Categories
LCAs	Landscape Character Areas
LCAss	Landscape Character Assessment
LCT	Landscape Character Types
LCU	Landscape Character Unit
LoD	Limits of Deviation
LPA	Local Planning Authorities
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MCA	Marine Character Areas
M&CA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Met Office	Metrological Office
MGN	Marine Guidance Notes
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
nm	Nautical miles
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NMPF	National Marine Planning Framework
NRW	Natural Resource Wales
NSIP	National Significant Infrastructure Projects
OEC	Offshore export cables
OECC	Offshore Export Cable Corridor
OfTI	Offshore Transmission Infrastructure
OERI	Offshore Renewable Energy Installations
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSS	Offshore substation structure
OTI	Onshore transmission infrastructure
OWF	Offshore wind farm
PINs	Planning Inspectorate
RSCA	Regional Seascape Character Area
RSCT	Regional Seascape Character Type
SAA	Special Amenity Area

Abbreviation	Term in full
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAAO	Special Amenity Area Order
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPS	Significant Peripheral Structure
TCA	Townscape Character Area
TJB	Transition joint bay
UK	United Kingdom
EVMP	Ecological Vessel Management Plan
WCC	Wicklow County Council
WexCC	Wexford County Council
WTG	Wind turbine generator
ZTV	Zone of theoretical visibility
ZVI	Zone of visual influence

Definitions

Glossary	Meaning
the Applicant	The developer, Codling Wind Park Limited (CWPL).
array site	The area within which the wind turbine generators (WTGs), inter-array cables (IACs) and the offshore substation structures (OSSs) are proposed.
balanced	A positive relationship with coastal topography and the horizon with turbines in proportion, of an appropriate scale when viewed from the coastline and sitting comfortably within the coastal geometry of embayments formed by headlands.
baseline studies	Work performed to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed.
characteristics	Elements or combinations of elements that make a contribution to a distinctive landscape character.
clustering	A concentration of turbines with overlapping towers and blades resulting in visual stacking of turbines and overlapping blades disrupting the balance of the array site as a whole.
cluttered	An unbalanced layout with unevenly spaced or distributed turbines of notably differing heights (or perceived heights) with different elements breaking the horizon and visible against the skyline.
Codling Wind Park (CWP) Project	The proposed development as a whole is referred to as the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Project, comprising of the offshore infrastructure, the onshore infrastructure, and any associated temporary works (construction / decommissioning).
cumulative effects assessment (CEA)	To identify, predict and evaluate potential seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptor effects arising from the addition of the proposed development to a theoretical baseline, which includes the existing baseline situation of operational wind farms, those under construction and additionally wind farms currently being considered within the planning system that may or may not be present in the landscape in the future.
direct effect	An effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A systematic means of assessing the likely significant effects of a proposed project, undertaken in accordance with the EIA Directive and the relevant Irish legislation.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA and produced in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
foreshortened	Height of turbines and location combine to create the perception of the array site being closer to the viewer, typically in the absence of scalable reference points on the skyline.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	A system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data linked to location. It links spatial information to a digital database.

Glossary	Meaning
indirect effects	Indirect effects that result indirectly from the proposed project as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or time from the source of the effects.
interconnector cables	The subsea electricity cables between offshore substation structures (OSSs).
key characteristics	Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.
landcover	The surface cover of the land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. Related to but not the same as land use.
landfall	The point at which the offshore export cables (OEC) are brought onshore and connected to the onshore export cables via the transition joint bays (TJB). For the CWP Project, the landfall works include the installation of the offshore export cables within Dublin Bay out to approximately 4 km offshore, where water depths are too shallow for conventional cable lay vessels to operate.
landform	The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
landscape	An area perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
landscape areas	See Landscape Character Areas
landscape categories	See Landscape Character Types
Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse (Natural England, 2014).
Landscape Character Assessment (LCAss)	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape Character Types (LCTs)	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns,

Glossary	Meaning
	vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Landscape Character Units	Landscape Character Units represent distinctive areas of character based upon patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural heritage, historical and ecological features.
land use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.
landscape effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal. (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)
landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different seascape and / or landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons. (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)
limit of deviation (LoD)	Limit of deviation is the locational flexibility of permanent and temporary infrastructure from a specific point or alignment.
magnitude (of change)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term, in duration. (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)
main compound	The main compound is required to support the landfall works, the installation of the onshore export cables and the construction of the substation. It will operate as a hub for the onshore construction works as well as acting as a staging post and secure storage for equipment and component deliveries.
mitigation	Measures which are proposed to prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset any significant adverse effects (or to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy identified effects). (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)
offshore development area	The total footprint of the offshore infrastructure and associated temporary works, including the array site and the OECC.
offshore export cables	The cables which transport electricity generated by the wind turbine generators (WTGs) from the offshore substation structures (OSSs) to the TJBs at the landfall.
offshore infrastructure	The permanent offshore infrastructure, comprising the WTGs, inter-array cables (IACs), OSSs, interconnector cables, OEC and other associated infrastructure such as cable and scour protection.
offshore substation structure (OSS)	A fixed structure located within the array site, containing electrical equipment to aggregate the power from the wind turbine generators and convert it into a more suitable form for export to shore.

Glossary	Meaning
OSS topside	The offshore substation topside structure resting on the OSS monopile foundation and housing all electrical and ancillary equipment. This includes all systems such as electrical, SCADA, safety and mechanical equipment.
OSS monopile foundation	The bottom fixed structure piled into the seabed supporting the OSS topside. It consists of a monopile and a transition piece. It can include systems such as electrical, SCADA, cathodic protection, safety and mechanical equipment.
offshore transmission infrastructure (OfTI)	The offshore transmission assets comprising the OSSs and offshore export cables. The EIAR considers both permanent and temporary works associated with the OfTI.
onshore transmission infrastructure (OTI)	The onshore transmission assets comprising the TJBs, onshore export cables and the onshore substation. The EIAR considers both permanent and temporary works associated with the OTI.
onshore substation	Site containing electrical equipment to enable connection to the national grid.
organised	A visually balanced and legible layout with an evenly spaced and well-ordered arrangement of turbines of similar heights when viewed against the skyline.
outliers	Isolated turbines presenting a fractured view of the array site as a whole.
parameters	Set of parameters by which the CWP Project is defined, and which are used to form the basis of assessments.
perception	Combines the sensory (that we receive through our senses) with the cognitive (our knowledge and understanding gained from many sources an experiences).
Phase 1 Projects	Under the special transition provisions in the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, as amended (the MAP Act), the Minister for the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) has responsibility for assessing and granting a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) for a first phase of offshore wind projects in Ireland. The Phase 1 Projects include Oriel Wind Park, Arklow Bank II, Dublin Array, North Irish Sea Array, Codling Wind Park and Skerd Rocks. A MAC has since been granted by DECC for each of the Phase 1 Projects.
photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of a proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs.
Regional Seascape Character Area (RSCA)	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas comprising one or more component Seascape Character Types. Each has its own individual character and identity, even though it can share the same generic characteristics with other SCAs that are formed of the same SCT(s). Whilst sharing the same generic characteristics, each SCA has its own identity.
Regional Seascape Character Type (RSCT)	These are distinct types of seascape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different locations but wherever they occur they share broadly similar

Glossary	Meaning
	combinations of geology, bathymetry, ecology, human influences and perceptual and aesthetic attributes. For example, large bays, sea lough or broad estuarine bays are examples of seascape character types.
receptors	See Landscape Receptors and Visual receptors.
scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an EIA. It is a method of ensuring that an EIA focuses on the important issues and avoids those that are considered to be less significant.
seascape	*An area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors'* (Regional SCA 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute)
seascape character	Seascape character is a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements in the seascape that makes one seascape different from another, rather than better or worse. (Natural England, 2012 and Marine Management Organisation, 2019a)
Seascape Character Area	*Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) provide a good framework within which to draw out patterns of local distinctiveness and those factors influencing sense of place. They can be used to develop more tailored policies or strategies, reflecting the things that make a particular area of the seascape different, distinctive or special. SCAs may also be more recognisable and identifiable for non-specialists (e.g. local communities).* (Regional SCA 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute).
seascape character type	*These are distinct types of seascape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different locations but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, bathymetry, ecology, human influences and perceptual and aesthetic attributes. For example, sheltered bays, rocky coves, sandy beaches or harbours are recognisable and distinct seascape character types* (Regional SCA 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute).
sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
significance	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to environmental topic.
study area	SLVIA study area is a 50 km buffer from the outermost WTG
susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
tipping	Partial view of the turbines (notably blade tips) extending above intervening landform in views where the array site is largely screened from view.
tranquillity	A state of calm and quiet associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of the landscape.
townscape character	The character and composition of the built environment, including the buildings and the relationships between them, different types of urban

Glossary	Meaning
	open space, including green spaces, and the relationship between buildings and open space (GLVIA 3).
Townscape Character Area	Townscape Character Areas (TCAs) are unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular townscape type (GLVIA 3)
visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities by the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
visual effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
visual receptors	Individuals and / or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a development.
zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV)	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible.

15 SEASCAPE, LANDCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

15.1 Introduction

1. Codling Wind Park Limited (hereafter 'the Applicant') is proposing to develop the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Project, located in the Irish Sea approximately 13–22 km off the east coast of Ireland, at County Wicklow.

2. This chapter forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the CWP Project. The purpose of the EIAR is to provide the decision-maker, stakeholders and all interested parties with the environmental information required to develop an informed view of any likely significant effects resulting from the CWP Project, as required by the European Union (EU) Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) (the EIA Directive).

3. This EIAR chapter describes the potential impacts of the offshore components of the CWP Project on Seascape, Landscape and Visual Amenity during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases, referred to as a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA).

4. Specifically, the SLVIA focuses on the potential effects of the offshore components of the CWP Project seaward of the low water mark (LWM) associated with seascape, landscape and townscape character and nationally designated landscapes. These components comprise:

   - The generating station, which comprises the wind turbine generators (WTGs) and inter-array cables (IACs); and
   - The offshore transmission infrastructure (OfTI), which comprises the offshore substation structures (OSSs), interconnector cables and offshore export cables (OEC).

5. Visual effects arising from vessel movements seaward by approximately 4 km off the shoreline (including a mid support pontoon) were also assessed in the SLVIA.

6. **Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** assessed the effects of the onshore components of the CWP Project on the landward side of the LWM (which includes the littoral / intertidal zone) associated with landscape and townscape character. These components included:

   - The landfall, which describes the point at which the OEC are brought onshore; and
   - The onshore transmission infrastructure (OTI), which comprises the onshore export cables, the onshore substation and associated infrastructure.

7. Visual impacts arising from infrastructure and activities within the full extent of the landfall works (i.e., up to approximately 4 km from the shoreline) were assessed in the LVIA.

8. The SLVIA was undertaken by Chartered Members of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) from LDA Design[1].

9. In summary, this EIAR chapter:

   - Details the EIA scoping and consultation process undertaken and sets out the scope of the impact assessment for the SLVIA;
   - Identifies the key legislation, policy and guidance relevant to the SLVIA, with reference to the latest updates in guidance and approaches;

[1] The preliminary fieldwork and assessment was undertaken by Natural Power, with additional fieldwork and assessments undertaken in December 2023 by LDA Design.

- Confirms the study area for the assessment and presents the impact assessment methodology for the SLVIA;
- Describes and characterises the baseline environment for the SLVIA, established from desk studies and project survey data, including field surveys and consultation;
- Defines the project design parameters for the impact assessment and describes any embedded mitigation measures relevant to the SLVIA;
- Presents the assessment of potential impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, and identifies any assumptions and limitations encountered in compiling the impact assessment;
- Details any additional mitigation and / or monitoring necessary to prevent, minimise, reduce, or offset potentially significant effects identified in the SLVIA; and
- Considers cumulative effects as set out below.

10. The assessment should be read in conjunction with **Appendix 15.1 Cumulative Effects Assessment** (CEA), which considered other plans, projects and activities that may act cumulatively with the CWP Project and provided an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.

11. A summary of the CEA for SLVIA is presented in **Section 15.1115.11**.

12. The SLVIA is supported by and should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 4 Project Description**, **Chapter 21 Biodiversity**, **Chapter 22 Onshore Archaeology** and **Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.**

13. Additional information to support the assessment includes:

- **Appendix 15.1 Cumulative Effects Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.2 Representative scenario and LoD Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**;
- **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.6 Viewpoint Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.7 Settlement Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.8 Sequential Route Assessment**;
- **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscapes**;
- **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**;
- **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**;
- **Appendix 15.12 Bare earth ZTVs at A1**;
- **Appendix 15.13 Obstructed ZTVs at A1**; and
- **Appendix 15.14 Cumulative ZTVs at A1**.

15.2 Consultation

14. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory organisations is a key part of the EIA process. Consultation regarding the SLVIA has been undertaken to inform the approach to and scope of the assessment.

15. The key elements of this consultation to date have included EIA scoping, consultation events and ongoing topic-specific meetings with key stakeholders. The feedback received throughout this process has been considered in preparing the EIAR. EIA consultation is described further in **Chapter 5 EIA Methodology,** the **Planning Documents** and in the **Public and Stakeholder Consultation Report**, which has been submitted as part of the development consent application. **Table 15-1** summarises the key issues raised during the consultation process relevant to the SLVIA and details how these issues have been considered in the production of this EIAR chapter.

Table 15-1 Consultation responses relevant to the SLVIA

Consultee	Comment	How issues have been addressed
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Email – 26 August 2022)	*"I would consider that the viewpoint locations, currently indicated as 4, 5, and 6 on the map, should be further expanded to the centre, west and southern coastline of the county" (from email dated 26 August 2022)*	Additional viewpoints within Dun Laoghaire County Council (DLRCC) have been considered as part of the assessment to reflect the southern coastline of the county and views to the west of the County. Viewpoint 6 Hill at Carrickgollogan provides a view in the centre of the county, see figures: • **Figure 15.17.21**: Shankill Beach; and • **Figure 15.11.22**: Three Rock Mountain Refer to **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**.
Fingal County Council (Email – 07/10/2022)	The approach to visual impact assessment.	No response received to date
Wicklow County Council Emails – 17/11/2021–01/08/2023 Meeting – 07/12/2021	Email exchanges to share presentation slides and photomontages for EIA scoping meeting. Presentation on SLVIA Offshore Scoping sent and a meeting was held to discuss the approach to EIA scoping.	See post-scoping report below
Wicklow County Council (Email – 29 August 2022)	*"Note the methodology and would concur with same. In relation to viewpoints it is noted that no viewpoints are proposed to the south of Wicklow Town. Whilst the topography, orientation and existing vegetation are likely to result in lack of direct views or it is assumed oblique views, this should be confirmed in any application. A view from Wicklow Head would, it is considered, be an important coast view to add, given walkers along this coastal route. In addition, any views possible from Magheramore should be included."* (from email dated 29 August 2023)	Several viewpoints have been assessed to the south of Wicklow town, see figures below referred to in **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations:** • **Figure 15.17.18**: Brittas Bay; • **Figure 15.17.19**: Arklow Pier (south side); • **Figure 15.17.20**: Kilmichael Point; and • **Figure 15.17.23**: Maheramore Beach. A view from Wicklow Head was considered (viewpoint 16) but as indicated in **Section 15.4** this was not a publicly accessible viewpoint and therefore omitted from the figure pack. Alternative

Consultee	Comment	How issues have been addressed
		viewpoints were explored near Wicklow Head and it was considered that Viewpoint 7 was the best option providing the same angle of view to the offshore infrastructure and experienced by a wider variety of receptors.
Wicklow County Council (Meeting – 23/8/2023)	An overview of viewpoints and example photomontages (taken from the project website) were provided to reach formal agreement on the viewpoints.	The feedback received from Wicklow County Council noted that the Council does not have specific expertise to confirm the adequacy of the viewpoints in full. The Council noted the updates made to the viewpoints following previous feedback.
Dublin City Council (CWP sent email – 7/10/2022) (Meeting – 15/12/2022)	A joint SLVIA / LVIA meeting covering consultation on approach to visual impact assessment. Dublin City Council (DCC) suggested some viewpoints from periphery areas to demonstrate the limit of effect. DCC noted that the WTGs at Viewpoint 3 Great South Wall, Poolbeg were not very apparent.	Figures have been provided as agreed with DCC as follows: • **Figure 15.17.2: North Bull Island**; and • **Figure 15.17.3: Great South Wall**. Refer to **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations.** An updated version of Viewpoint 3 has been provided.
Dublin Array (Meeting – 27/07/2023)	Discussion on SLVIA methodology, viewpoints, stakeholder consultation, cumulative assessment and night-time assessment for the CWP Project and Dublin Array projects.	Both projects proposed a 50 km study area for the site boundary, which is 50 km from the outermost WTG for SLVIA. Eleven viewpoints from the CWP Project were in similar locations to Dublin Array. It was agreed that both projects would share design information when available to mitigate cumulative impacts. Four night-time viewpoints were selected from key locations based on likely significant effects.
Greystones Public Exhibition (Public exhibition – 24/1/2023)	A suite of additional viewpoints was suggested at Greystones Public Exhibition. These included:	These viewpoints were considered with Viewpoint 26 Greystones Beach Bear included

Consultee	Comment	How issues have been addressed
	• Viewpoint 25 Greystones Football Club; • Viewpoint 26 Greystones Beach Bear; • Viewpoint 27 Greystones, The Cove; • Viewpoint 28 Greystones, The Marine Village Park; • Viewpoint 29 Greystones, Redford Cemetery; • Viewpoint 30 Greystones Golf Club; and • Viewpoint 31 Charlesand.	in the final viewpoint set. The remaining "Greystones" viewpoints were not presented on the basis that the views were either not publicly accessible and / or reflected a similar angle of view and visual receptor group to the viewpoints already selected.
Community and recreational coastline users Various forms of consultation with the community were undertaken by CWP Limited. The approach is presented in the Public and Stakeholder Consultation Report and supporting appendices, including Phase 1 and Phase 2 Feedback and Response Reports.	Key concerns raised during the consultation process related to visual impact, including the seascape view from Greystones, cumulative visual impact with Dublin Array and potential light pollution of the turbines if they were lit up at night and how visible they would be from shore. Mention was made of compensation for the perceived negative visual impact and that sea views a short distance from a major European capital city should be protected.	The visual impact of the CWP Project has been assessed as part of the SLVIA alongside the cumulative visual impact with other potential Phase 1 Projects. The SLVIA considered the impact of lighting associated with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure on visual receptors, and night-time photomontages were prepared from key locations, including Viewpoints 7, 10, 11 and 13, refer to: • **Figure 15.17.7**: Bray Promenade • **Figure 15.17.10**: Greystones • **Figure 15.17.11**: Kilcoole • **Figure 15.17.13**: Wicklow Town Harbour Refer to **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**.

15.3 Legislation, policy, and guidance

15.3.1 Legislation

16. The legislation that is applicable to the assessment of SLVIA is summarised below. Further detail is provided in EIAR **Chapter 2 Policy and Legislative Context**.

- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (EIA Directive) and transposed into Irish law in the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2023 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2023 as amended by S.I. No. 296 of 2018 (among others);

- Article 3(1) of the amended EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) specifies that material assets should be identified, described and assessed in an EIAR.

- Planning and Development Act 2000 (Special Amenity Orders)
  - Part XIII – Amenities
    - Section 202. (i) Area of Special Amenity - gives the power to planning authorities and the Minister for Housing to designate areas of special amenity for reason of:
      (a) Its outstanding natural beauty, or
      (b) its specific recreational value
    - Section 203 requires the planning authority to submit for confirmation to An Bord Pleanála (ABP).

- European Landscape Convention 2000:
  - Ireland is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Council of Europe, 2000) which was ratified in 2002.
  - The ELC acknowledges that '*the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere, in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas*".
  - Article 5 (General Measures) of the ELC requires signing parties to:
    "(a) to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity."
    "(b) to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures."
    "(d) to integrate landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape".
  - Article 6 (E) (Implementation) requires signing parties "*to put landscape policies into effect, each party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape*".
  - There is no legislation within the ELC specifically covering landscape character or visual amenity but the spirit of the ELC is carried through in national, regional and local planning policy and government guidance within Ireland.
  - The National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015–2025 aims to implement the ELC by providing specific measures to "*promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape*."

- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (Development Plans); and
  - Section 10 Content of Development Plans stipulates that a development plan should include objectives for:
    "(e) the preservation of the character of the landscape where, and to the extent that, in the opinion of the planning authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the presentation of the views and prospects, and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest."
  - Section 23 Content and Objectives of Regional Planning Guidelines stipulates that regional "*guidelines shall address:*
    (i) the preservation and protection of the environment and it's amenities, including the archaeological, architectural, and natural heritage."

- Section 172 *"(1) Where a planning application is made in respect of a development or class of development referred to in regulations under section 176, that application shall, in addition to meeting the requirements of the permission regulations, be accompanied by an environment impact assessment."*
- Section 202 *"(1) Where, in the opinion of the planning authority, by reason of -*
  (a) its outstanding natural beauty, or
  (b) its special recreational value, and having regard to any benefits for nature conservation, an area should be declared under this section to be an area of special amenity, it may, by resolution, make an order to do so and the order may state the objective of the planning authority in relation to the preservation or enhancement of the character or special features of the area, including objectives for the prevention or limitation of development in the area.
  (2) Where it appears to the Minister that an area should be declared under this section to be an area of special amenity by reason of—
  (a) its outstanding natural beauty, or
  (b) its special recreational value,"
- Section 204: *"A planning authority may, by order, for the purposes of the preservation of the landscape, designate any area or place within the functional area of the authority as a landscape conservation area."*
- First Schedule Purposes for which objectives may be indicated in Development Plans Part IV outlines that objectives may be set for:
  - *"6. Preserving the character of the landscape. Including views and prospects, and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest."*
  - *"7. Preserving any existing public rights of way, including, rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility."*
- Fourth Schedule Reasons for Refusal of Permission which Exclude Compensation:
  - "*8. The proposed development would interfere with the character of the landscape or with a view or prospect of special amenity value or natural interest or beauty, any of which it is necessary to preserve."*
  - *"17. The proposed development would adversely affect a landscape conservation area."*

[(Note that several of the below orders were made under the prior provisions of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963. Section 268 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 deems those orders to have been made under Section 203.)

- S.I. No. 59/1990 – Dublin County Council (Lucan Bridge to Palmerston) Special Amenity Area Order (Confirmation) Order, 1990.
  - This confirmation order confirmed the making of the Lucan Bridge to Palmerston (Liffey Valley) SAA, by the Council of the County of Dublin, being the planning authority for the County of Dublin under the provisions of section 42 of the Local Government (planning and Development) Act, 1963.
- S.I. No. 70/1995 – North Bull Island Special Amenity Area Order, 1994 Confirmation Order, 1995.
  - This confirmation order confirmed the making of the North Bull Island as a SAA, by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of Dublin, being the Planning Authority for the County Borough of Dublin.
- S.I. No. 133/2000 – Fingal County Council (Howth) Special Amenity Area Order (Confirmation) Order, 2000:

- This confirmation order confirmed the making of the Fingal County Council (Howth) SAA by the Council of the County of Fingal, being the planning authority for the County of Fingal.

15.3.2 Policy

17. The overarching planning policy relevant to the CWP Project is described in EIR Chapter 2 Policy and Legislative Context.

18. The assessment of the CWP Project against relevant planning policy is provided in the Planning Report. This includes policy relevant to SLVIA.

15.3.3 Guidance

19. The principal guidance and best practice documents used to inform the assessment of potential impacts on SLVIA is summarised below. This SLVIA has been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2013).

20. GLVIA3 sets out good practice for undertaking LVIA and provides a framework for identifying likely significant effects of proposed developments. It should be noted that GLVIA3 is guidance and is not prescriptive in setting out a methodology, and it is acknowledged that professional judgement is a key factor in the assessment of landscape and visual effects.

21. The guidance has been written to provide a clear and consistent approach to LVIA across the four devolved nations of the United Kingdom (UK), where legislation differs. GLVIA3 has been adopted by the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) and is acknowledged in guidance and policy as the leading reference for LVIA in Ireland.

22. GLVIA3 recognises seascape as a sub-set of landscape assessment and advises that, where a LVIA is undertaken in coastal or marine environments, baseline studies should take a similar approach to terrestrial landscapes and consider seascape.

23. The assessment refers to relevant Irish and UK guidance as appropriate. In addition to GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), several guidance documents are applicable to the assessment of potential effects on seascape, landscape / townscape, national landscape designations and visual amenity. These have been referred to where applicable in this chapter and supporting appendices, and are listed below for reference.

- Advice Note 17: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to national significant infrastructure projects – Version 2 (Planning Inspectorate, 2019);
- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2003);
- An Approach to Seascape Sensitivity Assessment, (Marine Management Organisation, 2019a). (MMO1204a);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014);
- An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2012);
- Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments (NatureScot, 2021);
- Draft Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA, July 2023);
- Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Government of Ireland, 2019);

- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Commission 2017);
- GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13 10-06-13 (Landscape Institute, 2013);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, August 2018);
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (hereafter referred to as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines) (EPA, 2022);
- Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of Specified Infrastructure Projects – Overarching Technical Document (Transport Infrastructure Ireland, 2020);
- Seascapes sensitivity assessment: Technical Report, (Marine Management Organisation, 2019b) (MMO1204b);
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, February 2021);
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Technical Information Note 01/2017 (Revised), Tranquillity – An overview (Landscape Institute, 2017);
- Townscape Character Assessment, TIN 05/2017, (Landscape Institute, 2017); and
- Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2, (SNH, February 2017).

15.4 Impact Assessment Methodology

24. **Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** provides a summary of the general impact assessment methodology applied to the CWP Project, which includes the approach to the assessment of transboundary and inter-related effects. The approach to the assessment of cumulative impacts is provided in **Chapter 5, Appendix 5.1 CEA Methodology**.

25. The following sections describe the methodology used for this SLVIA. Further supporting information in relation to the methodology is provided in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**, which should be read alongside this section.

26. For each effect, the assessment identified receptors sensitive to that effect and implemented a systematic approach to understanding the impact pathways and the level of impacts on given receptors. The definitions of sensitivity and magnitude of change for the purpose of this SLVIA are provided in this section.

27. GLVIA is the key guidance document for SLVIA. It sets out in paragraph 1.1 that *"Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and people's views and visual amenity."* GLVIA3 explains how to assess the landscape and visual baseline, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, and the magnitude of change and significance of effect that would be caused by a development. Full details of the assessment process are covered in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

28. GLVIA3 is clear that the assessments of landscape and visual effects are related but very different considerations and that the guidance contained within GLVIA3 applies not only to effects on landscape, but also townscape and seascape. Therefore, the methodology applied within this SLVIA provides separate methods for assessing the sensitivity of seascape character (i.e., areas of sea) and landscape character (i.e., areas of land) and magnitude of change and significance of effect, and is structured as follows:

- Method for assessing the sensitivity of seascape character.

- Method for assessing the sensitivity of landscape character, visual receptors (applying to both land and sea-based visual receptors) and national designated landscapes.
- Method for assessing magnitude of change and significance of effect.

29. To summarise, the SLVIA methodology followed industry best-practice guidelines based on GLVIA3. Where appropriate, reference was made to NMPF, MMO and NatureScot guidance in terms of seascape and landscape significance, seascape sensitivity and visualisations respectively.

15.4.1 Study area

30. An initial study area of 45 km (measured from the outermost WTGs) was proposed for the SLVIA based on NatureScot guidance 'Visual Representation of Wind Farms', Version 2.2 (SNH, 2017)[2], as presented within the Offshore Scoping Report. Following submission of the Offshore Scoping Report, the SLVIA study area was increased to 50 km (measured from the outermost WTGs) to achieve a consistent approach with Dublin Array and following discussions between the projects. A 50 km study area was presented to the relevant consultees as being appropriate to cover all potentially significant seascape, landscape and visual impacts. The extent of the study area for the CWP Project is shown in **Figure 15.1, Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures.**

31. Using the 50 km study area, the ZTV study for the CWP Project (shown in **Figures 15.12 a to f and Figures 15.13 a to f,** for both bare earth and obstructed ZTVs (**Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) indicated that a degree of theoretical visibility of WTGs blade tip and hub height would be available up to approximately 50 km from the outermost WTG for CWP Project.

32. In reality, the visibility of the CWP Project would be influenced substantially by the prevailing weather and visibility conditions in the area. Fieldwork has shown that the visibility of the array site would also reduce considerably inland to that illustrated on the ZTV study where the screening effects of landform, vegetation, buildings and other features would obscure and filter views.

33. Beyond 50 km, the CWP Project would be visible. However, at the distances involved and due to intervening landform, vegetation, buildings and other features, it was not considered that significant seascape, landscape, and visual effects would occur. A 50 km study area was therefore considered appropriate to this SLVIA and provides a robust assessment of potential effects.

34. In addition to the construction and operation of the WTGs and OSSs, the assessment also considered temporary impacts on views and seascape, landscape and townscape character from the movement of vessels within and along the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (OECC) including the transport of offshore infrastructure during construction and decommissioning phases.

35. As shown in **Figure 15.1 SLVIA Study Area** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**), and **Figure 23.1 Onshore Site Location and LVIA Study Area** (see EIAR **Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**), the full extent of the OECC was captured within the 50 km SLVIA study area and the 5 km LVIA Study Area.

36. 'Landfall works' would occur in the intertidal and offshore area up to 4 km from the shoreline. Within this area, the offshore export cables would be installed separately to the sections of cable in deeper waters (i.e., seaward of the 4 km line) due to vessel access limitations.

37. Between the shoreline and the LWM, installation infrastructure would include up to three tensioner platforms and a raised equipment storage platform. Between the LWM and up to approximately 4 km

[2] NatureScot guidance Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2 (SNH, 2017) recommends an initial distance for zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) mapping to aid the defining of study areas for onshore wind farm projects, based on blade tip height. For onshore wind turbines exceeding 150 m tip height, a 45 km study area is recommended. The guidance recognises that for offshore wind farms where sizes of WTGs are greater, a larger study may be required but no further guidance is provided.

from the shoreline, a mid support pontoon would be installed. Beyond 4 km no permanent or temporary infrastructure would be associated with installation of the offshore expert cables, and all impacts would arise from vessel movements.

38. To avoid duplication between the SLVIA and the LVIA (see EIAR **Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**), the LVIA assessed the impacts of the landfall works on landscape and townscape character landward of the LWM (which includes the littoral / intertidal zone). The SLVIA assessed the impacts of the landfall works seaward of the LWM on seascape, landscape and townscape character and nationally designated landscapes.

39. Visual impacts arising from infrastructure and activities within the full extent of the landfall works (i.e., up to approximately 4 km from the shoreline) were assessed in the LVIA. Visual effects arising from vessel movements seaward of approximately 4 km of the shoreline were assessed in the SLVIA.

Rationale:

- Visual effects arising from the landfall works (including the mid support pontoon, tensioner platforms and raised equipment storage platform) assessed for visual receptors located onshore would view these works as part of other construction activity within the onshore development area.
- Landscape, townscape and seascape effects arising from the landfall works would include changes to character in the intertidal zone.

15.4.2 Data and information sources

Site-specific surveys

40. Field surveys were undertaken in December 2022, May 2023 and November 2023 by qualified landscape professionals[3] with experience in SLVIA. The fieldwork was undertaken to verify the desk-based assessment of landscape and townscape character and national designated landscapes, and to assess the potential visibility of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure illustrated by the ZTV modelling and preliminary wireframe models.

41. The field surveys confirmed that a combination of vegetation, buildings and local variations in topography within the study area would reduce the extent of visibility experienced to that presented on the obstructed ZTVs. Obstructed ZTVs were prepared based on a 25 m resolution and, as such, localised features such as small copses, hedgerows and individual trees were not considered as part of the ZTV model.

42. The final assessment field survey undertaken in November 2023 targeted publicly accessible locations of the onshore study area which would experience intervisibility with the CWP Project and locations that could potentially experience potentially significant effects. This informed the detailed assessment of effects on representative viewpoints, sequential routes, specific viewpoints and areas of landscape and seascape character.

43. Inevitably, the viewpoints referenced in the SLVIA do not cover all of the locations visited while undertaking the field surveys. Notes and photographs were taken from other locations that have informed the SLVIA but are not presented in the assessment.

44. Photographs from representative viewpoints that are presented in the SLVIA were taken by a professional photographer at the instruction of the SLVIA authors.

[3] The preliminary fieldwork and assessment was undertaken by Natural Power in December 2022 and May 2023, with additional fieldwork and assessment work undertaken in November 2023 by LDA Design.

Desk study

45. In addition to the field surveys, a comprehensive desk-based review was undertaken to inform the baseline for the SLVIA. Key data sources used are covered by references in this document and supporting appendices.

15.4.3 Impact Assessment

46. The significance of potential effects has been evaluated using a systematic approach, based upon the identification of the value and susceptibility of receptors to inform their sensitivity to CWP Project impacts, together with the predicted magnitude of change.

47. The SLVIA relates to an assessment of the impacts of the CWP Project on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors. In terms of landscape, the SLVIA assessed both rural and urban areas. GLVIA3 defines townscape as *"…the landscape within the built-up area, including the buildings, the relationship between them, the different types of urban open spaces, including green spaces and the relationship between buildings and open spaces".* GLVIA3 does not differentiate between approaches to assessment for areas of landscape and townscape and, in this SLVIA, the word 'landscape' should be taken to also include 'townscape'.

48. The impact assessment was undertaken for the following phases of development. The list of likely effects experienced during each phase covered "seascape", which referred to regional seascape character types and character areas, "landscape", which referred to landscape character areas and townscape character areas defined by the assessors, and national designated landscapes. "Visual amenity" included an assessment of likely significant effects on visual receptor groups main (named) settlements and key routes supported by representative viewpoints.

Construction phase

- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors owing to the presence and activity of the construction vessels (including Jack Up or Dynamic Positioning Vessels and cranes) for the preparation of the seabed, foundation piling and construction, including the laying of the offshore cables within the OECC and towing of offshore infrastructure.
- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors owing to the presence of the emerging offshore infrastructure, including the offshore WTGs and offshore substation structures (OSSs).
- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual amenity /receptors owing to use of artificial lighting to enable construction works during the hours of darkness.

Operational / maintenance phase

- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors owing to the presence of the WTGs and the movement of their blades and the presence of the offshore substation platforms.
- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual amenity /receptors owing to use of aviation / navigation lighting on the WTGs during the hours of darkness.

- The effect on seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors owing to use of maintenance vessels to service the offshore infrastructure.

Decommissioning phase

- Presence and activity of decommissioning vessels with onboard plant for dismantling the offshore infrastructure including the WTGs and OSSs;
- Dismantling and removal from site of all offshore infrastructure, including the WTGs and OSSs
- Removal of offshore cables from under the seabed and retention of ducts in situ to minimise seabed disturbance; and
- Use of artificial lighting to enable decommissioning during the hours of darkness.

Assessment terminology and judgements

49. The terms used to define receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change were based on GLVIA3. These criteria have been adopted in order to implement a specific methodology for SLVIA.

50. The key terms used within this assessment are:

- Susceptibility and value – which contribute to the sensitivity of the receptor;
- Scale (or size); duration and reversibility; and geographical extent – all of which contribute to the magnitude of change; and
- Significance.

51. These terms and their relation to seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors are described in more detail in the following sections.

Assessing the sensitivity of seascape character

52. As set out in **Appendix 15.3, SLVIA Methodology**, there is no Irish equivalent to the guidance provided in 'An approach to seascape sensitivity assessment' (MMO1204) (Marine Management Organisation, 2019a), which defines seascape character sensitivity as a *"...term applied to marine character and seascape and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to a specific type of development/development scenario or other change being considered, and the value(s) related to that seascape, marine character and visual resource."* (Page 11, Glossary.)

53. Seascape character sensitivity was therefore defined by assessing the susceptibility of the seascape character and visual resource to a defined type of change, and the value(s) of the seascape character and visual resource.

Susceptibility

54. Seascape character susceptibility is *"the degree to which a defined seascape character area and its associated visual qualities and attributes might respond to the specified types of development or change without undue negative effects on character and the visual resource..."* (Marine Management Organisation, 2019a, page 11, Glossary.)

Table 15-2 Seascape character susceptibility

Susceptibility	Definition
High	Undue negative effects on character and the visual resource are likely to arise from the proposed development.
Medium	Undue negative effects on character and the visual resource may arise from the proposed development.
Low	Undue negative effects on character and the visual resource are unlikely to arise from the proposed development.

55. The susceptibility of seascape character areas is influenced by their characteristics; key characteristics might be within documented seascape character assessments and sensitivity or capacity studies. Criteria affecting the susceptibility of seascape character to offshore wind farm development are listed in **Appendix 15.3, SLVIA Methodology** and referred to in **Table 15-2**.

Seascape value

56. Seascape character value is *"the relative value or importance attached to a seascape character area, which may express national or local consensus, because of its quality, its qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity and wildness, its natural or historic attributes or features, cultural associations, or its relationship with designated or valued landscapes and coasts and their defined special qualities."* (Marine Management Organisation, 2019a, page 12, Glossary).

Table 15-3 Seascape character value

Value	Definition
National / international	Seascape character areas that form an important part of the setting or contribute strongly to the special qualities or reasons for designation of national or international designated landscapes which are designated for their landscape value or quality.
Local / county	Seascape character areas that form part of the setting or contribute to a lesser degree to the special qualities or reasons for designation of national or international designated landscapes which are designated for their landscape value or quality. Seascape character areas that form an important part of and contribute strongly to the setting of regionally designated landscapes which are designated for their landscape value or quality. Also, seascape character areas which documentary evidence and / or site observation indicates as being valued for other attributes, and by large numbers of people who travel from beyond the local community to experience the seascape.
Community	'Everyday' seascape which is appreciated by the local community and small numbers of visitors but has little or no wider recognition of its value.
Limited	Despoiled or degraded seascape with little or no evidence of being valued by the community or visitors.

57. The degree of influence of a seascape character area on a designated landscape *"is likely to be determined by a number of factors including the defined special qualities of the designation, distance from the designation, intervisibility and the relationship between the designation and character area."* (Marine Management Organisation, 2019b, section 5.3.)

58. Criteria affecting the value of seascape character, relevant to offshore wind farm development, are listed in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology** and summarised in **Table 15-3**.

Sensitivity of seascape character

59. Seascape character sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above.

60. Criteria affecting the sensitivity of seascape character to offshore wind farm development generally are listed in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology** and referred to in **Table 15-4**.

Table 15-4 Seascape character sensitivity

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National / international	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local / county	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low
	Community	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
	Limited	Low	Low-Negligible	Negligible

Assessing the sensitivity of landscape / townscape character, visual receptors and national designated landscapes

61. This section applies to landscape / townscape character (i.e., areas of land), visual receptors (onshore and offshore) and national designated landscapes which only occur onshore.

Landscape / townscape and visual amenity susceptibility

62. Susceptibility indicates the ability of a landscape receptor (onshore) or visual receptor (onshore and offshore) to accommodate the proposed development *"without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies."* (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), para. 5.40).

Table 15-5 Landscape / townscape and visual receptor susceptibility

Susceptibility	Definition
High	Undue consequences are likely to arise from the proposed development.
Medium	Undue consequences may arise from the proposed development.
Low	Undue consequences are unlikely to arise from the proposed development.

63. Susceptibility of landscape character areas is influenced by their characteristics and is frequently considered (though often recorded as 'sensitivity' rather than susceptibility) within documented LCCs and capacity studies.

64. Susceptibility of designated landscapes is influenced by the nature of the special qualities and purposes of designation and / or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics, indicating the degree to which these may be unduly affected by the development proposed.

65. Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptors (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), para 6.32).

66. Criteria affecting the susceptibility of seascape, landscape / townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual receptors to offshore wind farm development are listed in **Appendix 15.3, SLVIA Methodology**; and are summarised in **Table 15-5**.

Landscape / townscape and visual amenity value

67. Landscape value is *"the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society"* (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), page 157). The value of landscape / townscape is defined in **Table 15-6** with further detail in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

Table 15-6 Landscape / townscape value

Value	Definition
National / international	Designated landscapes which are nationally or internationally designated for their landscape value.
Local / county	Local / county designated landscapes; also areas which documentary evidence and / or site observation indicates as being more valued than the surrounding area.
Community	'Everyday' landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value.
Limited	Despoiled or degraded landscape with little or no evidence of being valued by the community.

68. The value attached to views experienced should take account the *"recognition of the value attached to particularly views, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; indicators of the value attached to views by receptors….. and references to them in literature or art…"* (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), page 114). The value of views is defined in **Table 15-7** with further detail in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

Table 15-7 Visual receptor value and susceptibility table to inform sensitivity (typical examples)

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National / International	1 High	4 High-Medium	8 Medium
	Local / District	2 High-Medium	5 High-Medium	8 Medium
	Community	3 High-Medium	6 Medium	9 Medium-Low
	Limited		7 Medium-Low	10 Low
1	Visitors to valued viewpoints or routes which people might visit purely to experience the view, e.g., promoted or well-known viewpoints, routes from which views that form part of the special qualities of a designated landscape can be well appreciated; key designed views; panoramic viewpoints marked on maps.			
2	People in locations where they are likely to pause to appreciate the view, such as from local waypoints, such as benches, or at key views to / from local landmarks. Visitors to local attractions, including specific beaches, heritage assets or public parks where views are an important contributor to the experience, or key views into / out of conservation areas. Recreational sailors who have travelled (in large numbers) from further than the local community and whose appreciation of the view is likely to be an important part of their recreational experience.			
3	People in the streets around their home or using public rights of way, navigable waterways or accessible open space (public parks, open access land). Areas where recreational sailing is mostly undertaken by the local community.			
4	Users of promoted scenic rail routes.			
5	Users of promoted scenic local road routes.			
6	Users of cycle routes, local roads and railways.			
7	Outdoor workers, including commercial offshore fishermen. Ferry passengers.			
8	Users of A-roads which are national or locally promoted scenic routes.			
9	Users of sports facilities such as cricket grounds and golf courses.			
10	Users of motorways and A-roads; shoppers at retail parks, people at their (indoor) places of work. Offshore workers constructing, maintaining or operating OWFs, gas and oil rigs.			

Sensitivity of landscape / townscape or visual receptors

69. Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above. The differences in the tables below reflect a slightly greater emphasis on value in considering landscape / townscape receptors, given that in general the planning policy context in relation to landscapes / townscapes emphasises the value attributed to landscapes / townscapes and their designation, and a greater emphasis on susceptibility in considering visual receptors, where the reason

for experiencing the view and therefore the susceptibility of people experiencing the view is of greater importance. **Table 15-8** defines how landscape / townscape value and landscapes / townscape susceptibility combines in relation to landscape / townscape sensitivity.

70. For visual receptors, susceptibility and value are closely linked – the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer's expectations will be highest. The value attributed relates to the value of the view, e.g., a National Waymarked Trail is of national value for access, not necessarily for the available views. Typical examples of visual receptor sensitivity are presented in **Table 15-7**.

71. **Table** 15-9 defines how visual value and visual susceptibility combine in relation to visual sensitivity.

Table 15-8 Landscape / townscape sensitivity

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National / international	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local / county	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low
	Community	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
	Limited	Low	Low-Negligible	Negligible

Table 15-9 Visual receptor sensitivity

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National / international	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local / county	High-Medium	High-Medium	Medium
	Community	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low
	Limited	Medium	Medium-Low	Low

Magnitude of change

72. The scale or magnitude of change to potential impacts (both beneficial and adverse) depends on the degree and extent to which the CWP Project activities may change the environment, which varies according to project phase (i.e., construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning).

73. Factors that have been considered to determine the magnitude of change are:

- Size or scale;
- Duration and reversibility; and
- Geographical extent.

Scale (or size) of effect

74. The scale of effect (or size of change) was assessed for all seascape, landscape / townscape, national landscape designations and visual receptors and identified the degree of change which would arise from the development as defined in **Table 15-10**.

Table 15-10 Definition of scale of effect

Scale of effect	Definition
Large	Total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post-development, the baseline will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that-post development, the baseline will be noticeably changed.
Small	Minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post-development, the baseline will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post-development, the baseline will be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

Duration and reversibility

75. Duration of effect was assessed for all seascape, landscape / townscape, national landscape designations and visual receptors. and the time period was identified over which the change to the receptor as a result of the development would arise and to what extent the development would be removed, during the decommissioning period, and the effects reversed at the end of that period. Aspects of guidance covering permanent, long-term, medium-term, short-term and temporary visual effects pertinent to the SLVIA and defined in the EPA Guidelines (2022) are summarised in **Table 15-11**:

Table 15-11 Definition of duration of effect

Duration	Definition
Permanent	The change is expected to be permanent and there is no intention for it to be reversed; or where it is expected to be in place for more than 60 years and will be reversed.
Long term	The change is expected to be in place for 15–60 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Medium term	The change is expected to be in place for 7–15 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Short term	The change is expected to be in place for 1–7 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Temporary	The change is expected to be in place for less than 1 year and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.

76. Effects arising from operational wind farm sites are defined as 'long-term' for the purpose of the impact assessment, given that the CWP Project is likely to be removed after 25 years in operation, in accordance with the binding rehabilitation schedule. Effects arising from the construction of the CWP Project would be short-term, lasting up to two years.

Geographical extent

77. The geographical extent of effects was assessed for all receptors and indicates the geographical area over which the effects would be experienced. In general, effects may have an influence on the following scales, referred to in **Table 15-12**. For linear features or receptors, such as users of roads, the geographical extent relates to the distance from the site from which the effect would be experienced. For receptors that cover a defined geographic area, such as seascape, landscape and townscape character areas or visual receptor groups, the geographic extent relates to the proportion of that area in which the effect would be experienced.

Table 15-12 Geographical extent of effect

Geographical extent	Definition
Wide	Beyond 4 km, or more than half of the receptor area.
Intermediate	Up to approx. 2–4 km, or around half of the receptor area.
Localised	Site and surroundings up to 2 km, or part of receptor area (up to approx. 25%).
Limited	Site, or part of site, or small part of a receptor area (< approx. 10%).

78. The magnitude of change was informed by combining the scale, duration and extent of effect (see **Plate 15-1**).

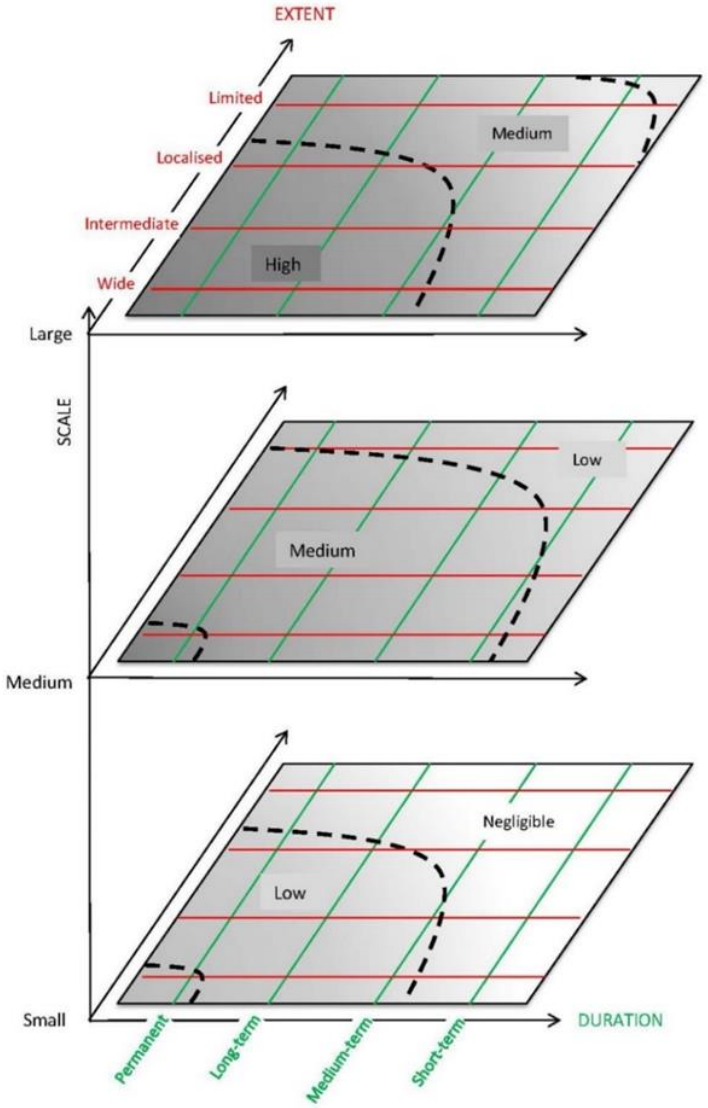

Plate 15-1 Magnitude of Change

79. As can be seen from the illustration shown in **Plate 15-1**, scale (shown as the layers of the diagram) is the primary factor in determining magnitude; most of each layer indicates that magnitude will typically be judged to be the same as scale but may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent or timescale. Where the scale of effect is judged to be negligible, the magnitude is also assumed to be negligible, and no further judgement is required.

80. Examples of criteria that tend towards higher or lower magnitude of change that can occur on views and visual receptors are set out in **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

Impact significance

81. As set out in **Chapter 5 EIA Methodology**, an impact assessment matrix (IAM) was used to determine the significance of an effect. In basic terms, the potential significance of an effect is a function of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change to the potential impact, as shown in **Table 15-13.**

82. The matrix provides a framework for the consistent and transparent assessment of predicted effects across all technical chapters; however, it is important to note that individual assessments are based on relevant guidance and the application of expert judgement.

83. Significance indicates the importance or gravity of the effect. The process of forming a judgement as to the degree of significance of the effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of change and sensitivity of the receptor.

Describing the significance

84. The significance ratings indicate a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of the effect, with Profound being the most important and Imperceptible being the least. This judgement is illustrated in **Plate 15-2**.

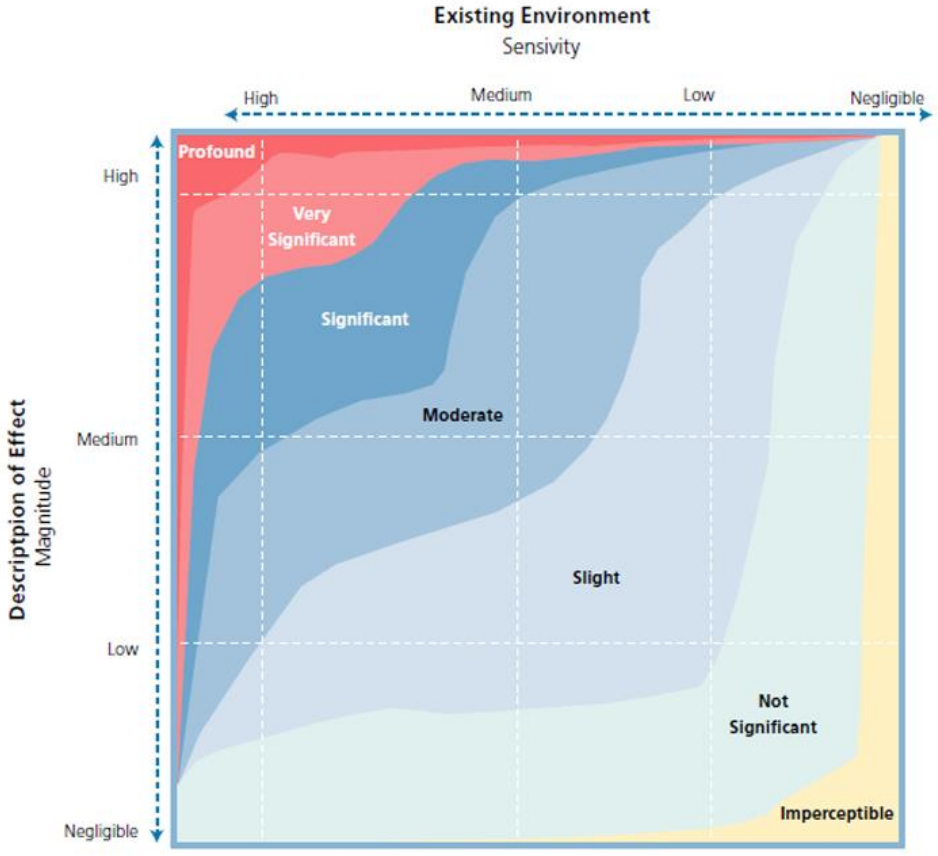

Plate 15-2 Definition of impact significance (edited from EIAR Guidelines, 2022)

85. Profound, Very Significant or Significant are considered to be significant in EIAR terms. Effects Effects that are of moderate significance or less are *"of lesser concern"* (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013), para 3.35). **Table 15-13** describes each of the seven levels of effect that were used in this SLVIA, taken from the EIAR Guidelines, 2022. However, it is likely that neither Profound nor Imperceptible effects will be identified within the SLVIA as receptors likely to experience Imperceptible effects would not be included within the assessment and it is unlikely that any receptor would be of such high sensitivity or effects of such high magnitude to result in a Profound effect since an offshore wind farm would never obliterate seascape character or views entirely.

Table 15-13 Describing the significance of effects

Level	Definition
Profound effects	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
Very significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Significant effects	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity, alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
Moderate effects	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Slight effects	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Not significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.

86. The illustrative matrix presented in **Plate 15-2** formed the basis of the assessment for this SLVIA and was informed by professional judgement. In line with GLVIA3 and its emphasis upon the application of professional judgement, reliance solely upon a matrix was avoided through the presentation of a clear and accessible narrative, which describes the rational assessment made for each landscape and visual receptor. Such narrative assessments provide a level of detail over and above the outline assessment provided by use of the matrix alone.

87. SLVIA unavoidably involves a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessment and, wherever possible, cross references are made to objective evidence, baseline figures and photomontage visualisations to support the assessment conclusions. Often a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach. Importantly, each effect results from its own unique set of circumstances and each has been assessed on a case-by-case basis. The matrix, as presented in **Table 15-14** should therefore be considered as a guide, and any deviation from this guide is clearly explained in the assessment.

Table 15-14 Illustrative matrix of significant effects

		Sensitivity			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Magnitude of change	High	Very Significant (Significant)	Significant (Significant)	Moderate (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)
	Medium	Significant (Significant)	Moderate (Not Significant)	Slight (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)
	Low	Moderate (Not significant)	Slight (Not significant)	Slight (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)
	Negligible	Not significant (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)	Not significant (Not significant)

88. presents five significance criteria; however, the assessment also used intermediate ratings to determine effects, e.g., "moderate-slight", which indicates an effect that is both less than moderate and more than slight, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating will always be given first; this does not mean that the impact is closer to that higher rating but is used to facilitate the identification of the more significant impacts within tables. Intermediate judgements may also be used for judgements of magnitude.

89. It should also be noted that whilst an effect may be significant, that does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an "undue consequence" (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) para 5.40).

Beneficial / neutral / adverse

90. Effects were defined, for the purposes of this SLVIA, as 'beneficial', 'neutral' or 'adverse'.

91. Table 3.4 Descriptions of Effects in the EPA's 'EIAR Guidelines' defines these as 'Quality of Effect', describing them as follows:

> ***Beneficial / Positive Effects:*** *A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity, or improving the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).*
>
> ***Neutral Effects:*** *No change or changes that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.*
>
> ***Adverse / Negative Effects:*** *A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance)(Section 3, page 50, EIAR Guidelines, May 2022).*

92. In addition, an effect can be neutral when the predicted residual change would, on balance, result in neither an improvement nor a deterioration of the seascape, landscape and visual resource compared with the existing baseline.

93. The decision regarding the significance of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate. For example, a rating of major and beneficial would indicate

an effect that was of great significance and, on balance, positive, but not necessarily that the proposals would be extremely beneficial.

94. Whether an effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse is identified based on professional judgement. GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) indicates in paragraph 2.15 that this is a *"particularly challenging"* aspect of assessment, particularly in the context of a changing landscape.

15.4.4 Night-time assessment

Introduction

Guidance

95. GLVIA3 (para 6.12, page 103) provides the following guidance on the assessment of lighting effects:

> *'For some types of development the visual effects of lighting may be an issue. In these cases it may be important to carry out nighttime darkness surveys of the existing conditions in order to assess the potential effects of lighting and these effects need to be taken into account in generating the 3D model of the scheme. Quantitative assessment of illumination levels, and incorporation into models relevant to visual effects assessment, will require input from lighting engineers, but the visual effects assessment will also need to include qualitative assessments of the effects of the predicted light levels on night-time visibility.'*

96. Guidance published by the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) has also been considered in this assessment, in particular, two documents:

- Guidance on Undertaking Environmental Lighting Impact Assessments (Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2013); and
- Guidance Note 01/21 The Reduction of Obtrusive Light (Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2021).

97. These documents provide useful guidance in the undertaking of night-time assessment as well as providing some context of the different types of light pollution encountered as follows:

*'**Obtrusive light**, whether it keeps you awake through a bedroom window, impedes your view of the night sky or adversely affects the performance of an adjacent lighting installation, is a form of pollution. It may also be a nuisance in law and can be substantially mitigated without detriment to the requirements of the task.*

98. *'**Skyglow**, the brightening of the sky, **Glare**, the uncomfortable brightness of a light source when viewed against a darker background, **Light spill** the spilling of light beyond the boundary of the area being lit and Light intrusion ('**Nuisance**') are all forms of obtrusive light which may cause nuisance to others, or adversely affect fauna & flora as well as waste money and energy.' (ILI, 2021).* The following documents were used as current guidance on lighting:

- IAA ASAM No.18, Guidance Material on Off-Shore Wind Farms, Issue 2 (IAA, 2015);
- Civil Aviation Policy (CAP) 764 (CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines);
- IALA G1162 (The Marking of Offshore Man-made Structures);
- Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 372 (Safety of Navigation: Guidance to Mariners Operating in the Vicinity of UK Offshore Renewable Energy Installations);
- MGN 654 (Safety of Navigation: Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs)); and
- OREI SAR Requirements v3 (Offshore Renewable Energy Installations: Requirements, guidance and operational considerations for SAR and Emergency Response).

99. Specifications drawn from the above documents were used for illustrating the CWP Project in the night-time photomontages, as described in the sections below.

Aviation lighting

100. CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) requirements are for a medium intensity (2,000 candela) steady red light mounted on the top of each nacelle spaced at longitudinal intervals not exceeding 900 m. Lighting intensity can be reduced when visibility in all directions is more than 5 km. There is also the option to use a flashing red light of the same intensity to distinguish the aviation lighting from maritime lighting.

101. Based on presenting a worst-case scenario for each WTG Option, photomontages were produced to illustrate a 2,000-candela (cd) red light and additionally, to allow for the possible adoption of IAA recommendations, a 2,000-cd white light (IAA guidance specifies a flashing light, thus numbered G to H, which follows night-time Viewpoints 7, 10, 11 and 13 in **Appendix 15.12 Visualisations.**

102. Agreement was reached with other Phase 1 Projects that 2,000 candela was the correct intensity to be illustrated. This was based on options within current IAA guidance as listed below:

- 200,000 cd only when background luminescence is >500 cd/m^2
- 20,000 cd for background luminescence of between 50 and 500 cd/m^2
- 2,000 cd when background luminescence is <50 cd/m^2

103. With the exception of the variation for aviation lighting, guidance on wind turbine lighting within IAA ASAM 18 (Guidance Material on Off-Shore Wind Farms) is aligned to the documents listed above.

Maritime lighting

104. IALA G1162 (The Marking of Offshore Man-made Structures) requirements for significant peripheral structure (SPS) lighting (described as a corner structure, or other significant point on the boundary of the wind farm) are that the lights should be:

- Visible from all directions in the horizontal plane.
- Synchronized flashing yellow.
- Have a range of not less than 5 nautical miles (nm).
- Be placed below the arc of the rotor blades, typically at the top of the yellow transition section and ideally lights are located not less than 6 m and not more than 30 m above HAT.
- In the case of a large or extended wind farm, the distance between each SPS should not normally exceed 3 nm.

105. Based on these requirements, single lights were modelled at the required height (approximately 25 m LAT) on the transition section facing the viewpoint, with the assumption that the WTG would have four lights equally spaced around the mast and the other lights would not be visible due to positioning. The layout was designed based on three nautical miles maximum spacing, recommended for large wind farms

106. IALA G1162 (The Marking of Offshore Man-made Structures) requirements for intermediate peripheral structure (IPS) lighting are that the lights should be:

- Visible from all directions in the horizontal plane.
- Synchronized flashing yellow.
- Have a range of not less than 2 nm.
- Be placed below the arc of the rotor blades, typically at the top of the yellow transition section and ideally lights are located not less than 6 m and not more than 30 metres above HAT.
- The distance between an IPS and the nearest IPS or SPS should not exceed 2 nm.

107. Based on these requirements, single lights were modelled at the required height (approximately 25 mLAT) on the transition section facing the viewpoint, with the assumption that the WTG would have four lights equally spaced around the mast and the other lights would not be visible due to positioning.

SAR lighting

108. As Seach and Rescue (SAR) lighting is temporary, this was not illustrated in the photomontages, which focus on the longer term, operational impacts of the CWP Project; however, a sample is illustrated in **Figure 15.18.16 Illustration of SAR Markings**, see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**.

WTG identifier markings

109. MCA requirements are that individual WTGs will be marked with a unique alphanumeric identifier which should be clearly visible at a range of not less than 150 m. At night, the identifier will be lit discretely, (e.g., with down lighters), enabling it to be seen at the same range.

110. Each ID number plate shall be illuminated by a low intensity light visible from a vessel, thus enabling the structure to be detected at a suitable distance to avoid a collision. Lighting for this purpose must be hooded or baffled to avoid unnecessary light pollution or confusion with navigation marks. The following parameters should be considered when selecting a suitable light:

- Mean luminance – 5 cd/m^2 Lmean 10 cd/m^2
  Colour temperature 2500K–3500K.

111. The night-time photomontages present a marker light on each WTG with the light facing the viewpoint with a luminance of 10 cd and colour temperature of 3,000K (warm white). The lights would be hooded to limit horizontal and vertical light pollution.

Offshore substation structures

112. Operational lighting within the top structure of the OSS was considered temporary and is not illustrated on the photomontages. As the OSSs are within the perimeter of the array site, none of the structures would fall into the requirements for SPS or IPS lighting. Identifier marker lighting was included on the OSSs in the photomontages.

Study area for the night-time assessment

113. To inform the night-time assessment of aviation lights, dark skies and night-time light pollution conditions have been informed by the New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness (2016) and fieldwork from a number of seascape, landscape / townscape and visual receptor locations during twilight and hours of darkness. Additionally, viewpoint photography has been taken from four viewpoints approximately 30 minutes after sunset, in accordance with NatureScot visualisation guidance (NatureScot, 2017).

114. Site visits were undertaken during night-time to some seascape, landscape / townscape, and viewpoints throughout the study area to verify dark-sky mapping.

Effects on landscape / townscape character at night

115. For landscape / townscape character areas, susceptibility to lighting was judged based on the degree to which they are currently characterised by darkness and / or an absence of development. Value is judged based on the same factors as for the daytime assessment unless particular factors suggest otherwise. For example, identification of a Dark Sky Park, which would increase value, or where factors that contribute to value in the daytime are irrelevant at night, which may reduce value at night.

Effects on visual receptors at night (onshore and offshore)

116. For visual receptors, the assessment took account of the different importance attached to views in the night-time environment. Generally, the value attached to night-time views is low unless there is a particular feature that can be best appreciated in the hours of darkness. This may include views of stars and the night sky that are only possible in particularly dark areas or views of well-known landmarks that are lit up at night.

117. The susceptibility of receptors also differs at night, reflecting the different activities people undertake in the hours of darkness. For example, drivers using roads at night tend to be more focused on the road and the area illuminated by their headlights than during the day and may have oncoming headlights, cat's eyes or other reflective signage drawing their attention, resulting in lower susceptibility. This is particularly the case on unlit rural roads that may be narrow and winding. On the other hand, people taking part in activities requiring darkness, such as stargazing, would be of higher susceptibility. **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology** provides further detail on the approach taken to visual receptor sensitivity at night.

118. Four night-time viewpoints were selected from coastal locations where likely significant effects may be experienced by visual receptors of settlements, people using coastal promenades or users of the Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) Line and Greystones to Wicklow (Dublin to Rosslare) Main Line (Viewpoints 7 Bray Promenade, 10 Greystones, 11 Kilcoole and 13 Wicklow Town Harbour, see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**). To determine the baseline, all viewpoints were visited at dusk when lights were on but when receptors could still appreciate the surrounding context. Night-time lighting included transient ships, fishing vessels and lighthouses as well as lighting from coastal settlements.

15.4.5 Cumulative effects assessment methodology

119. A fundamental component of the EIA is to consider and assess the potential for cumulative effects of the project with other projects, plans and activities.

120. The EIAR Guidelines defines cumulative effects as: "*The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.*

While a single activity may itself result in a minor impact, it may, when combined with other impacts (minor or insignificant), result in a cumulative impact that is collectively significant. For example, effects on traffic due to an individual industrial project may be acceptable; however, it may be necessary to assess the cumulative effects taking account of traffic generated by other permitted or planned projects."

121. In addition to the relevant Irish guidance, the approach to the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) for the CWP Project took into account the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for England 'Advice Note 17: Cumulative Effects Assessment' (PINS, 2019), which provides guidance on a staged process that can be used for CEAs for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), as defined by the UK Planning Act 2008.

122. Further details of how the approach has been applied is set out in **Appendix 5.1 Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology**. In summary, this document:

- Identified the key legislation, policy and guidance relevant to the assessment, with reference to the latest updates in guidance and approaches;
- Detailed relevant consultation that informed the scope of and approach to the CEA; and
- Explained the stages of the CEA process, including the approach to compiling the long and short list of other development that have been considered within the CEA.

123. The CEA for SLVIA considered other plans, projects and activities that may impact cumulatively with the CWP Project. As part of this process, the CEA considered which of the residual impacts assessed for the CWP Project on their own have the potential to contribute to a cumulative impact, the data and information available to inform the CEA and the resulting confidence in any assessment that was undertaken, drawing from the long and short list of other developments that have been considered within the CEA more broadly.

124. For this SLVIA, all the Phase 1 Projects have been identified within the short list of other developments and included within the CEA (**Figure 15.15 Cumulative Sites**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). The CEA examined the same seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors as the assessment for the CWP Project in isolation. The CEA was informed by cumulative ZTVs, which showed the extent of visual effects of the OWFs in different colours to illustrate where visibility of more than one development was likely to arise (**Figures 15.16 a to** l, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures** and **Appendix 15.14 Cumulative ZTVs at A1**). Cumulative wireframes have also been prepared which show each of the OWFs in different colours so that they are each readily identifiable (see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**).

125. In addition, the effects on users of routes through the area, from which offshore wind farms may be sequentially visible as one passes through the seascape / landscape / townscape were also considered. This assessment was based on the desk study of ZTVs and aerial photography, and site visits travelling along the routes being assessed.

126. For each assessed receptor, incremental effects might be the same as for the CWP Project in isolation or reduced (where the influence of other schemes in planning would be such that were they consented and considered to be part of the baseline, the incremental change arising from the addition of the CWP Project would be less).

Viewpoint selection

127. The selection of viewpoints for this SLVIA was informed by ZTVs, desk-based and field work, responses to consultations, where received, and based on the methodology detailed in **Section 15.4**, and **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

128. An initial list of 24 viewpoints was prepared for the assessment. This was based on a review of bare earth ZTVs and baseline data, which identified the key landmark features along the coastline and inland, popular walking routes and settlements, from which views of the array site was likely. The initial list was verified through field surveys.

129. The initial viewpoint list was refined further following a site visit in November 2023. For the purposes of the SLVIA, the following viewpoints were scoped out of the assessment as they were not publicly accessible and therefore do not accord with good practice guidance in GLVIA3 (paragraph 6.16):

- Viewpoint 16 Wicklow Lighthouses; and
- Viewpoint 17 Blainroe Golf Club.

130. A suite of viewpoints suggested at Greystones Public Exhibition on 24 January 2023 was also reviewed as part of the November 2023 site visit:

- Viewpoint 25 Greystones Football Club;
- Viewpoint 26 Greystones Beach Bear;
- Viewpoint 27 Greystones, The Cove;
- Viewpoint 28 Greystones, The Marine Village Park;
- Viewpoint 29 Greystones, Redford Cemetery;
- Viewpoint 30 Greystones Golf Club; and
- Viewpoint 31 Charlesand.

131. One additional viewpoint from the above list was added to the final viewpoint list to cover a different angle of view and range of receptors:

- Viewpoint 26 Greystones Beach Bear.

132. The remaining "Greystones" viewpoints were omitted on the basis that views were either not publicly accessible and / or reflected a similar angle of view and visual receptor group to the viewpoints already selected.

133. The final list of representative viewpoints is detailed in **Table 15-15.** These viewpoints form the representative viewpoints for the purposes of the assessment, as defined by GLVIA3. They form a complete sequence, 1–26, except for the omission of Viewpoints 16, 17 and 25, as explained above. For each viewpoint, the type of visual receptor was identified, and this is referred to in **Appendix 15.6 Visual Assessment** and summarised in **Table 15-15**.

134. For all viewpoints, a combination of the following visualisations, A to N, was prepared based on the list below, see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations.** Daytime visualisations (A to G) were prepared for all viewpoints, including a cumulative photomontage for Option B, with four viewpoints (Viewpoints 7, 10, 11 and 13), demonstrating both daytime and night-time views (H to N), including cumulative photomontages for Option B.

- A Existing Day Time + Option A Cumulative Wireframe (90°)
- B Wireframe Option A (53.5°)
- C Day Time Photomontage Option A (53.5°)
- D Existing Day Time + Option B Cumulative Wireframe (90°)
- E Wireframe Option B (53.5°)
- F Day Time Photomontage Option B (53.5°)
- G Day Time Cumulative Photomontage Option B (53.5°)
- H Existing Nighttime (53.5°)
- I Night Photomontage Option A (53.5°) red lights
- J Night Photomontage Option A (53.5°) white lights
- K Night Photomontage Option B (53.5°) red lights
- L Night Photomontage Option B (53.5°) white lights
- M Night Cumulative Photomontage Option B (53.5°) red lights
- N Night Cumulative Photomontage Option B (53.5°) white lights

Table 15-15 Viewpoints scoped into the assessment (details of coordinates and distance to the nearest WTG for both WTG Option A and B)

Viewpoint no. and location	Coordinates (ITM)		WTG Option A	WTG Option B
	Eastings	Northings	Distance to the nearest WTG (km)	Distance to the nearest WTG (km
1 Howth Summit	729610	737465	29.2	29.2
2 North Bull Island	724727	737876	32.3	32.3
3 Greater South Wall, Poolbeg	721443	733850	31.5	31.5
4 Dun Laoghaire, East Pier	724988	729513	26	26
5 Killiney Hill, Obelisk	725965	725584	22.8	22.7
6 Carrickgollogan Hill	723052	720097	22.8	22.8
7 Bray Promenade (daytime)	727140	718537	18.4	18.4
7 Bray Promenade (night-time)	727139	718534	18.4	18.4
8 Bray Head	728062	717274	17.1	17.1
9 Great Sugar Loaf	723705	713112	20.8	20.7
10 Greystone (daytime)	729466	713041	15	15
10 Greystone (night-time)	729471	713041	15	15
11Kilcoole (daytime)	731178	707983	13.4	13.4
11Kilcoole (night-time)	731178	707983	13.4	13.4
12 Six Mile Point	731686	703934	13.2	13.2
13 Wicklow Town Harbour (daytime)	732103	694172	13.1	13.1
13 Wicklow Town Harbour (night-time)	732103	694172	13.1	13.1

Viewpoint no. and location	Coordinates (ITM)		WTG Option A	WTG Option B
	Eastings	Northings	Distance to the nearest WTG (km)	Distance to the nearest WTG (km
14 Djouce Mountain	717891	710377	26.7	26.6
15 Brockagh Mountain	710672	699717	34.2	34.2
18 Brittas Bay	730430	682357	11.6	11.6
19 Arlow Pier south side	725471	672901	30.8	30.8
20 Kilmichael Point	725460	666636	35.9	35.9
21 Shankill Beach	726307	721673	20.4	20.4
22 Three Rock Mountain	717831	723235	28.8	28.8
23 Maheramore Beach	732932	688420	14.6	14.6
24 Kilcoole Rock	729683	708217	14.9	14.9
26 Greystones Beach Bear	729732	712569	14.7	14.7

15.4.6 ZTV and ZVI studies

135. Bare earth and obstructed ZTV studies were prepared using the ESRI ArcGIS Viewshed routine. This creates a raster image that indicates the visibility (or not) of the points modelled. LDA Design undertook a ZTV study that was designed to include visual barriers from settlements and woodlands (with heights derived from NEXTMap25 surface mapping data). If significant deviations from these assumed heights were noted during site visits, for example, young or felled areas of woodland, or recent changes to the built form, the features concerned were adjusted within the model or a digital surface model was adopted to obtain actual heights for these barriers.

136. The model was also designed to consider both the curvature of the earth and light refraction, informed by the SNH guidance. LDA Design undertook all ZTV studies with observer heights of 2 m.

137. The ZTV analysis began at 1 m from the observation feature and worked outwards in a grid of the set resolution until it reached the end of the terrain map for the project.

138. For all plan production, LDA Design produced ZTVs that had a base and overlay of OpenStreetMap Raster mapping. The ZTVs have been reproduced at a suitable scale on an A3 template to encompass the study area: refer to **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures, Figures 15.12 and 15.13 a to f)** and also presented at A1 in **Appendix 15.12, 15.13 and 15.14** covering bare earth, obstructed and cumulative ZTVs.

139. The zone of visual influence (ZVI) was described rather than presented and aligns with the obstructed ZTV. The ZVI extended seaward and encompassed, at a low elevation onshore, a 6 km corridor running north to south along the coastline. It also included all elevated ground rising up to 900 m and forming part of the Wicklow Mountain National Park, the Dublin Hills and associated outliers, such as Great and Little Sugar Loaf.

15.5 Assumptions and limitations

15.5.1 ZTVs used to inform desk-study and field surveys

140. The ZTV studies (see **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** Bare earth and **Figures 15.13 a** to **f** Obstructed for both blade tip and hub height; see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) have been produced and used as a tool to inform the professional judgements made in this SLVIA, including desk studies and field visits and during the iterative design process. The ZTV studies have been modelled on the maximum parameters available for the CWP Project but do not consider small-scale, local screening features, such as hedgerows, individual trees or micro topography.

Distances and coordinates

141. Where distances were given in the assessment, these were approximate distances between the nearest WTG for each option (WTG Option A and WTG Option B) and the nearest part of the receptor in question, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

142. All coordinates presented were based on the Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM) Coordinate System jointly created by Ordnance Survey of Ireland and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland.

Offshore visibility

143. GLVIA3 (para. 8.15) and NatureScot guidance (NatureScot, 2017b, para 39) refer to use of Met Office visibility data to assess typical visibility conditions within an area.

144. Furthermore, guidance on the assessment of the impact of offshore wind farms: seascape and visual impact report (Department for Trade and Industry 2005, now archived) as quoted in 'Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment: Review and Update of Seascape and Visual Buffer study for Offshore Wind farms document' (White Consultants, 2020) (OESEA), recommends the use of Met Office weather data for SLVIAs to assess trends in conditions over a 10-year period for stations located landward of proposed wind farm sites.

145. The Met Office defines the different ranges of visibility, stating *"visibility measures the distance at which an object can be clearly seen"* (Met Office, 2021). The Met Office defines the visibility index as follows:

- Very poor visibility – <1 km;
- Poor visibility – 1–4 km;
- Moderate visibility – 4–10 km;
- Good visibility – 10–20 km;
- Very good visibility – 20–40 km; and
- Excellent visibility – >40 km.

146. In the case of Ireland, no data are available to determine the number of days on which atmospheric conditions would permit visibility above a certain distance. As such, no assumptions could be made to determine the visibility of the WTGs.

147. This chapter therefore assumed that atmospheric conditions would be clear, and there would be good to excellent visibility from the coast and out to sea (as defined by the Met Office). The photographs used in the preparation of visualisations were taken in conditions that reflect good to excellent visibility.[4] However, general experience suggests that, at times, visibility of the WTGs would be reduced or be fully obscured, including at night, subject to prevailing conditions which are prone to sea haze / sea fog. The assessment can therefore be considered precautionary with respect to visibility.

148. With regards panoramic visualisations, panoramic images are comprised of multiple overlapping frames that are stitched using specialist software. Overlapping frames minimises edge distortion and reduce the instances where moving objects (for example cars and boats) are split and appear distorted in the final panorama. In some instances, complex moving elements in a view, for example waves breaking on a beach, or tree branches being blown by the wind, can be difficult to align and stitch without distortion. This results in a visible break at the point where adjacent images are stitched together. In some instances this can be addressed by using software and professional judgement to blend the edges. However, this can result in the images appearing manipulated. Where there are visible breaks in these moving elements of the photographic panoramas presented, the key areas of the image where the proposals are located, are unaffected and this does not affect the accuracy of the wireframe or photomontage[5].

Availability of information

149. Data to inform the SLVIA have been drawn from county development plans and supporting maps / documents where available. The level of detail provided in some of the LCAss is variable and, as such, this has been supplemented where feasible with data from other sources, including Local Action Plans, Historic LCAss and Ordnance Survey (OS) Ireland Discovery Series Maps, as referred to in supporting Appendices. Given that, in some cases, feedback from LPA consultations was incomplete, the SLVIA relied, where necessary, on guidance, good practice and professional judgements in determining the extent of the study area, location of representative viewpoints, additional townscape character assessments and the selection and presentation of visualisations, including the selection of locations for the night-time and cumulative photomontages.

Blade tip markings

150. Based on the Marine & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Offshore Renewable Energy Installations: Requirements, guidance and operational considerations for SAR and Emergency Response (OREI SAR Requirements v3) November 2023, all photomontages are presented with a minimum 2% of blade tips and three circular marks on each blade, one each at the 10, 20 and 30 meter interval, a minimum of 600 mm in diameter (starting from the hub end of the blade), red (RAL 3020), a contrasting colour.

[4] The only exception was for Viewpoint 14 and 15 (Djouce and Brockagh mountains), where moderate visibility was experienced.

[5] The panoramic image at Viewpoint 2 and 11 (North Bull Island and Kilcoole) have kinetic waves visible in the immediate nearfield but this does not affect the accuracy of the photomontage.

15.6 Existing environment

151. This section of the SLVIA summarises the overall context of the existing environment and describes the seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors within the study area. This section should be read alongside **Appendix 15.4** to **Appendix 15.9**, which includes references to data sources and is supported by **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures** and **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**. This section also explains which receptors were scoped out of the assessment, with further detail provided in relevant supporting appendices.

15.6.1 Overall context

152. The study area is characterised by a range of natural, cultural and visual factors that have an influence on the baseline conditions and the sensitivity and susceptibility of seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors: refer to **Figure 15.1 SLVIA Study Area (Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). Whilst the SLVIA addressed these matters in detail as part of the assessment in **Section 15.10** and supporting appendices, this section provides an overview of the existing environment; its findings drawn from a desk-based review of key policy, guidance and other references, and observations made in the field during a site visit undertaken in November 2023.

Topography

153. Dublin Hills and Wicklow Mountains create a strong backdrop to the coastal edge with landform either grading sharply or gently to the coastline and ranging from 900 m to 0 m AOD (see **Figure 15.3 Onshore Topographic Model, Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). Dublin Hills and Wicklow Mountains National Park lie to the south of Dublin with the latter extending southwards for approximately 35 km. Summits form dominant features, including Three Rock Mountain (447 m AOD) and Djouce Mountain (725 m AOD). Occasional outliers, including the prominent Great Sugar Loaf (501 m AOD) and Little Sugar Loaf (342 m AOD), between Bray and Greystones, are also strong features and aid legibility for visual receptors.

154. Intermediate ground is generally rolling before reaching the coastal plain, which is relatively flat and open, ranging from roughly 1 to 2 km inland and widening further around and to the south of Arklow. The coastline is a mix of prominent points and headlands (e.g., Howth, Bray Head, Wicklow Head Mizen Head, Arklow Head and Kilmichael Point), rocky outcrops, arches and stacks, islands of contrasting size and scale, including Dalkey Island and North Bull Island, prominent cliffs to small intimate coves (Blainroe Beach and Maheramore Beach) and extensive sandy (Brittas Bay) or pebble beaches, either framed by headland or forming part of an open bay, some edged by sand dunes. The headlands and bays form an important element in providing structure, framing views and aiding orientation.

155. Key rivers run west east towards the coast: the River Liffy through the centre of Dublin, Dargle River through Graystones, the River Varty connecting with Varty Reservoir further west and running into Broad Lough north of Wicklow and Aughrim River, which joins Avoca River cutting through Arklow.

Land use and vegetation

156. Land use is a mix of urban form, extensive areas of woodland and forestry, and agriculture ranging from pastoral with sheep grazing to small pockets of arable land on lower slopes. Golf courses are prevalent along sections of the coastline between Wicklow and Bray, sitting alongside areas of

wetland, including peatland, some of which are designated as nature reserves, such as at Six Mile Point.

157. Broadleaved, coniferous and mixed forests flank the lower slopes of the Wicklow Mountains National Park and outlying hills with areas of commercial forestry prevalent further south. Higher ground consists of heather, gorse and acid grassland, with agricultural fields on intermediate slopes, and the lowland is bounded by native hedgerows and hedgerow trees, medium to large in size and regular in pattern.

Settlement pattern

158. Settlements range from Dublin in the north to Arklow in the south. Dublin's core is centred on the River Liffey with its industrial areas wrapping around Dublin Port and Poolbeg Peninsula to the east. Particularly discernible are the stacks associated with the decommissioned Poolbeg Power Station and the Dublin Waste to Energy Plant sitting alongside Irishtown Nature Park. Dublin's suburbs, formerly coastal resorts ranging from Regency, Georgian and Victorian properties to the modern day, extend south along the coastline to Shankill.

159. Further along the coastline, settlements ranging in character include Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow with Howth to the north of Dublin. Wicklow is a historic town built around the harbour, with an industrial edge facing seaward. The centre of the town and residential housing is set back slightly from the harbour, rising on higher ground to the west and northwest. Arklow faces inwards, away from the coastline but with an industrial edge influenced by its harbour and the presence of an extensive rockstone quarry further south. Others, such as Greystones and Bray, have a stronger relationship with the coastline with promenades, outward-facing properties lining the coastline and a greater focus on tourism.

160. Man-made structures define the edge of coastal settlements in the form or piers, harbours, promontories and / or navigational walls; some are public access with small car parks, with specific features notable at Poolbeg Peninsula, Dun Laoghaire, Greystone, Bray, Wicklow and Arklow. Inland settlements are small and either linear in pattern and inward looking. Some are heavily influenced by transport corridors, such as Rathnew and Ashford, or clustered (Enniskerry), heavily treed and nestled into the surrounding topography with little relationship with the coastline. Built form varies from Regency and Georgian with white and coloured wash renders a feature and buildings ranging from one to two storeys. Elsewhere, properties and farmsteads are dispersed with a prevalence for estates and gardens north and west of Bray.

Transportation links

161. Strong north–south corridors run along the coastline. These include the DART line from Dublin to Greystones (forming part of a route between Malahide to Greystones) and Greystones to Wicklow (Dublin to Rosslare) main line with access opportunities to the beach using adjacent station parking; the M11 / N11 road corridor, which runs further inland; and the R750 south of Wicklow, which provides an alternative route to the rail line, hugging the coastline and running through Arklow. Interconnecting roads run either parallel with these main routes or crisscross the study area.

162. Key walking routes include Wicklow Way, the Greystones to Wicklow Trail, as well as more local routes such as the Bray–Greystone Cliff Walk (currently closed), Dublin Mountain Way, Lead Mines Way, Howth Head Loop, Bull Wall and Great South Wall. Alongside more specialist routes, such as Ticknock Mountain Bike Trail in the Dublin Hills, there are several local nature reserves, which include distinct trails. Overall access to the coast is good with pedestrian rail crossing points for visitors / residents to access beaches and parking at stations. Beaches are well used by visitors and residents although

some between Wicklow and Wicklow Head are more inaccessible, with beaches temporarily closed for seal breeding. Numerous locations throughout the study area are valued locally and are used for active and passive recreation, such as mountain biking, walking, and wild swimming to nature conservation. A few examples which are well used by the local community as well as visitors include Killiney Obelisk, with a wide network of paths, playground and café leading to a 360-degree viewpoint, Howth Summit, North Bull Island and Bray Head Cross which, although less accessible, is still a key viewpoint.

163. In terms of marine activities, these range from users of the intertidal zone, including swimmers, wind surfers and beach users, to offshore users (ferry passengers and crew, users of recreational vessels, workers on commercial ships, fishing boats and other craft, and those working on existing wind farm sites and offshore lighthouses). There are two key routes running north and south into Dublin port, with more local routes to smaller harbours apparent although the level of seaward activity diminishes southwards.

Aesthetic and perceptual

164. The study area presents a strong sense of legibility characterised by its topography, ranging from a varied coastal line (embayments and headlands), coastal margins, intermediate slopes to mountains. It is an area of contrasting features both physical and perceptually.

165. Eye-catching landmarks in the form of mountains and hills define specific parts of the landscape, interlinked by smaller scale features, including a chain of Martello towers along the coastline as well as light houses on harbour walls, piers, headlands, islands and rocky outcrops. Other man-made features which aid legibility throughout the study area include the stacks of the decommissioned Poolbeg Power Station, Dublin Waste to Energy Plant, Arlow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) and a visually prominent terrace of whitewashed three-storey Georgian properties at Sorrento Point.

166. Intervisibility from higher and intermediate ground and outlying hills as well as intervening headlands is extensive, with varied views from busy and active to more settled tranquil locations. Seaward views vary from active shipping routes with numerous features, including navigational buoys and lighthouses, to undisturbed tranquil locations where night-time lighting is less apparent. In some locations further along the coastline, the coastline of Wales is just perceptible. Views seawards vary from enclosed bays framed by largely naturalistic headlands to large open beaches with panoramic views across the horizon.

Value

167. Landscape designations range from SAAs which are a national designation to designations defined through the development plan process at a county level. The latter varies across the study area and, depending on the LPA, ranges from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Areas of High Amenity Value and Highly Sensitive Landscapes to Prospects and Views experienced along key routes and at key destinations: refer to **Figure 15.7** and **15.8 Landscape Planning Designations** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). At a community level, open spaces, including headlands, points, beaches, parks and arboretums, promenades, harbours and piers, all make an important contribution to determining landscape / townscape value.

168. Aside from landscape designations, the study area also has a wealth of nature conservation and heritage / archaeological designations which have informed the SLVIA's judgements on value. The study area includes the Wicklow National Park, an ecological designation, as well as several natural heritage areas-along the coastline, including Howth and North Bull Island, designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA) and / or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Dublin is designated a Ramsar

site and World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, Ramsar being at a national level an official bird sanctuary, a National Nature Reserve.

169. Heritage / archaeology assets are wide ranging, covering sites on the Sites and Monuments Record / Historic Graveyards / Conservation Areas as well as cultural heritage in the form of literature and art, including strong links with James Joyce.

15.6.2 Seascape

Seascape context

170. Within the study area, seascape character ranges from broad estuaries and bays, complex coastlines, low-lying plains and narrow beaches to shallow offshore waters with sand banks. The value of the coastline is varied, with headlands and promontories of national importance (SAAs), coastal AONBs, key vistas, and views and prospects to locations of importance for visitors and local residents all represented. The seascape is of mixed character, from large expansive open seas where development onshore and offshore is less influential, to more complex busy and active seascapes, influenced by commercial shipping routes and recreational craft. The whole coastline has strong cultural links with navigation and human settlement, evident by castles, Martello towers and lighthouses. Intervisibility is strong from landward and seaward views, across to headlands, points and bays as well as the Welsh coastline on clear days.

171. The study area extends across both Irish and Welsh inshore waters. Character areas of relevance are summarised below with further detail presented in **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment** and **Figure 15.4 Regional Seascape Character Types and Areas** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**).

Seascape character for Ireland

172. Seascape character is defined in the Regional Seascape Character Assessment 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute. Regional seascape character types (RSCTs) and regional seascape character areas (RSCAs) are identified on a regional scale covering the coastline of Ireland, with a seaward boundary of 12 nautical miles (nm).

'an area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with sea, by natural and/or human factors'. The Regional Seascape Character Assessment has identified thirteen RSCTs covering the coastline of Ireland, which are defined in the assessment as follows:

'These are distinct types of seascape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different locations but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, bathymetry, ecology, human influences and perceptual and aesthetic attributes. For example, sheltered bays, rocky coves, sandy beaches or harbours are recognisable and distinct seascape character types.'

173. The thirteen RSCTs have been refined further to RSCAs, which are defined as follows:

'*Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) provide a good framework within which to draw out patterns of local distinctiveness and those factors influencing sense of place. They can be used to develop more tailored policies or strategies, reflecting the things that make a particular area of the seascape different, distinctive or special. SCAs may also be more recognisable and identifiable for non-specialists (e.g. local communities).'*

174. ZTV mapping was analysed to identify RSCAs that would potentially be affected by the CWP Project and takes cognisance of the methodology detailed in **Section 15.4** and **Appendix 15.3 SLVIA Methodology**.

175. Within 50 km of the CWP Project, four RSCAs are identified, which are all predicted to receive widespread theoretical visibility of the proposed WTGs as follows (numbered south to north) and summarised below:

1. RSCA 13 - South East Irish Sea;
2. RSCA 14 - Irish Sea, Sandbanks and Broad Bays;
3. RSCA 15 - Dublin Bay; and
4. RSCA 16 - North Eastern Irish Sea Islands.

176. As the extent of the CWP Project's effects on aesthetic and perceptual seascape qualities would extend seaward beyond the 12 nm boundary, defined in the Regional Seascape Character Assessment 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute, the descriptions in the above RSCAs have been reviewed and revised to cover a wider eastward extent reaching the western edge of the 12 nm boundary of Welsh waters and marine character areas (MCAs), defined by National Resource Wales (NRW) and outlined in further detail below.

Seascape character areas – Wales

177. Whilst the project is located wholly in Irish territorial waters, the study area overlaps into Welsh waters, with the nearest WTGs 46 km from the western extent of Welsh SCAs. NRW defined 29 MCAs, and these were used to inform the Wales National Marine Plan, prepared by the Welsh Government, November 2019. As referred to in the National Seascape Assessment for Wales, LUC, NRW Evidence Report No. 80, November 2015, the MCAs were prepared for use in developing the draft Marine Plan and provide an opportunity for public discussion and identification. The MCAs covered Welsh inshore waters (between the high water mark and 12 nm out to sea).

178. The study area's eastern extents include the seaward boundary of two MCAs, as shown in **Figure 15.4 Regional Seascape Character Types and Areas** in **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures.**

- MCA 08 West Anglesey Open Water; and
- MCA 12 Llyn and South West Anglesey Open Water.

179. Given that the seaward boundaries of MCA 8 and 12 are approximately 49 km and 46 km, respectively, from the nearest WTG, and that the CWP Project would be largely perceived from the Irish coast, they have been scoped out of the assessment following baseline and site visits and on the basis that the effects, which would be aesthetic and perception, would diminish with distance.

15.6.3 Landscape / townscape

Landscape / townscape context

180. Several of the LPAs within the study area have published LCAss (covering their administrative boundaries) as follows:

- Fingal County Council: Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029, Chapter 9 Green Infrastructure and Natural Heritage (Fingal County Council, April 2023);
- South Dublin County Council: Appendix 9 Landscape Character Assessment (South Dublin County Council, 2022);

- Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council: Appendix 8 Landscape Assessment Study and Landscape/Seascape Character Areas (Dún Laoghaire and Rathdown County Council, 2022);
- Wicklow County Council: Wicklow County Development Plan 2016–2022, Appendix 5 Landscape Assessment (Wicklow County Council, 2016) and Wicklow County Development Plan 2022– 2028, (Wicklow County Council, 2022); and
- Wexford County Council: Draft Wexford County Development Plan 2022–2028, Volume 7: Landscape Character Assessment (Wexford County Council, 2022).

181. At the time of writing, DCC does not have a LCAss; additionally, the Dún Laoghaire and Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) LCAss focusses on the countryside to the west of the main urban area, and a similar approach is applied to WCC and WexCC LCAss where the urban character is not classified. As a result, the urban areas were divided and characterised into distinctive townscape character areas (TCA) where appropriate for the purposes of assessment. DLRCC, WCC and WexCC were contacted for comment during the assessment process; however, no response was received regarding these LPAs Consultations did take place with DCC for the CWP Project and the comments received were considered within this SLVIA.

182. Following discussions with DCC during consultation, it was agreed that, in the absence of a LCAss, townscape character would be identified by the landscape and visual assessors of the CWP Project and taken forward for assessment[6].

183. The following paragraphs provide a summary of the landscape character baseline for each LPA, the character types, categories and areas scoped in and out of the assessment. A detailed description of each landscape / townscape character identified as receiving visibility is provided in **Appendix 15.5: Landscape Character Assessment** and shown in **Figure 15.5** and **15.6 Landscape and townscape character** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**).

Fingal County Council

184. Fingal covers an area of land to the north of Dublin that includes a series of diverse landscapes, comprising high and low rolling hills inland of the coastline that predominantly comprise farmland, river valleys, estuaries, and coastal landscapes. Interspersed are small to medium-sized settlements, and Dublin Airport occupies an area of Fingal to the north of Dublin. The development of roads and the airport has led to ribbon effect development inland, with coastal areas protected by both national and regional designations.

185. Chapter 9 of the FCC Development Plan 2023–2029 LCAss, classifies the Fingal landscape into six LCTs, representing areas of distinctive landscape character. For the benefit of this assessment, where appropriate, the LCTs were split further into more localised LCAs. All LCAs listed below, and LCTs where subdivisions were not made, were considered as part of the assessment, based on the extent of visibility between each LCA / LCT and array site (refer to **Table 15-12** geographical extent):

(1) Coastal LCT:

(a) Rush LCA;

(b) Portane LCA;

(c) Portmarnock LCA;

(d) Howth LCA;

[6] LDA Design worked closely with the onshore LVIA consultants to agree the extent of each townscape character area for Dublin. LDA Design defined townscape character areas beyond Dublin given the study area for the SLVIA was much wider than the onshore LVIA.

(e) Ireland's Eye LCA;

(f) Lambay Island LCA; and

(g) Skerries LCA.

(2) Estuary LCT:

(a) Rogerstown LCA;

(b) Swords / Malahide LCA; and

(c) Balydole LCA.

(3) High-lying agricultural land LCT

(4) Low-lying agricultural land LCT:

(a) Lusk LCA; and

(b) Dublin airport LCA.

(5) Rolling hills with tree belts LCT

(6) River Valleys / Canals LCT

Dublin City Council

186. The City of Dublin comprises predominantly urban landscape of suburbs surrounding the city centre located on the River Liffey. Extending east are the industrial areas of Dublin Port and Poolbeg Peninsula, home to many of the main utilities servicing Dublin. Towards the coastline are several suburbs which were previous coastal seaside resorts and which, over time, have become suburbs of Dublin as the city has expanded; however, despite this, they still retain the character of Regency, Georgian and Victorian times through architecture and promenades.

187. No townscape character assessment has been undertaken for DCC. As such the following TCAs have been identified during field visits and were consistent with the areas assessed in **Chapter 23 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** for the onshore components of the CWP Project:

- 1 Clontarf TCA;
- 2 Dublin Docklands TCA;
- 3 East Wall TCA;
- 4 South Docklands, Irishtown and Ringsend TCA;
- 5 Merrion TCA;
- 6 North Bull Island TCA;
- 7 Poolbeg Peninsula TCA;
- 8 Sandymount TCA;
- 9 Kilbarrack and Baldoyle TCA;
- 10 St Anne's Park TCA;
- 11 River Liffey TCA; and
- 12 Phoenix Park TCA.

188. Based on proximity to the array site and the limited extent of visibility throughout (refer to **Table 15-12** geographical extent), the following TCAs were scoped out of the assessment since these TCAs would not give rise to significant effects.

- 1 Clontarf TCA;
- 3 East Wall TCA;
- 4 Irishtown and Ringsend TCA;

- 5 Merrion TCA;
- 9 Kilbarrack and Baldoyle TCA;
- 11 River Liffey TCA; and
- 12 Phoenix Park TCA.

189. The TCAs scoped out were informed by an analysis of ZTVs and supported by field visits, which determined the presence of intervening vegetation and built form below a resolution of 25 m, based on NEXTMap 25 data. Effects during construction / decommissioning were not considered significant based either on distance and intervening vegetation / built form or on the basis that the TCAs adjacent to the coastline would already be affected aesthetically and perceptually by an active port with regular movements of vessels and craft.

190. Remaining TCAs scoped into the assessment were as follows and were reviewed in more detail in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment**.

- 2 Dublin Docklands TCA;
- 6 North Bull Island TCA;
- 7 Poolbeg Peninsula TCA;
- 8 Sandymount TCA; and
- 10 St Anne's Park TCA.

South Dublin County Council

191. South Dublin comprises the southern suburbs of Dublin, which gradually merge with surrounding agricultural land, rising to the Dublin Hills, which form a backdrop to the city. Within the hill range are a series of small, enclosed valleys.

192. The South Dublin LCAss (2022) was prepared to meet SDCC compliance with the ELC and updates the original assessment published in 2015, following updates in land zoning and the development of the County Green Infrastructure Strategy.

193. The following LCAs in South Dublin lie within the study area of the CWP Project:

- Athgoe and Saggart Hills LCA;
- Dodder and Glensamole LCA;
- Liffey Valley LCA;
- Newcastle Lowlands LCA; and
- Urban LCA.

194. Based on distance and limited visibility between the LAs and the array site (see **Table 15-12** geographical extent), the following LCAs were scoped out of the assessment since these LCAs would not give rise to significant effects.

- Athgoe and Saggart Hills LCA;
- Liffey Valley LCA;
- Newcastle Lowlands LCA; and
- Urban LCA.

195. LCAs scoped out were informed by a review of ZTVs and supported by field visits, which determined the presence of intervening vegetation and built form below a resolution of 25 m based on NEXTMap 25 data. Effects during construction / decommissioning were not significant based on distance and intervening vegetation / built form.

196. The assessment therefore focused on one LCA; Dodder and Glenasmole, which would experience visibility with the array site.

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council

197. Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown county comprises an urban eastern side where development has merged a series of coastal settlements into a continuation of Dublin southwards. To the west, the landscape is predominantly agricultural and rises westwards towards the Dublin hills and Wicklow mountains.

198. DLRCC prepared a LCAss for just the rural parts of the County. An additional assessment was undertaken to cover all areas which fell within the extent of theoretical visibility of the CWP Project and which were confirmed through field visits.

199. The LCAss for DLRCC area divides the rural parts of the County into fourteen LCAs, all of which are located within the study area of the CWP Project:

- 1. Kilmashogue Valley LCA;
- 2. Western Half of Kellystown Road LCA;
- 3. Ticknock Road LCA;
- 4. Marlay Park LCA;
- 5. Kiltiernan Plain LCA;
- 6. Ballycorus LCA;
- 7. Glencullen Valley LCA;
- 8. Glendoo Valley LCA;
- 9. Barnacullia LCA;
- 10. Rathmichael LCA;
- 11. Ballyman LCA;
- 12. Shanganagh LCA;
- 13. Carrickmines LCA; and
- 14. Cherrywood/Rathmichael LCA.

200. Based on distance and limited visibility the following LCAs were scoped out of the assessment since they would not give rise to significant effects.

- 1. Kilmashogue Valley LCA;
- 2. Western Half of Kellystown Road LCA;
- 3. Ticknock Road LCA;
- 4. Marlay Park LCA.

201. As set out in **paragraph 181** above, the DLRCC LCAss does not include an assessment of urban areas. TCAs have therefore been identified by the assessor as follows:

- 1 Booterstown / Blackrock TCA;
- 2 Dun Laoghaire TCA / Monkstown TCA;
- 3 Sandycove TCA;
- 4 Dalkey TCA;
- 5 Dalkey Island TCA;
- 6 Killiney Bay TCA;
- 7 Shankill TCA;
- 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA;
- 9 Carrick Mines Wood TCA; and
- 10 Woodside / Ballyogan TCA.

202. The following TCAs were scoped out of the assessment on the basis that extent of visibility would be limited between the TCAs and the array site (refer to **Table 15-13** geographical extent) and not give rise to significant effects:

- 1 Booterstown / Blackrock TCA;

- 3 Sandycove TCA;
- 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA;
- 9 Carrick Mines Wood TCA; and
- 10 Woodside / Ballyogan TCA.

203. The review of the above LCAs and TCAs which were scoped out was informed by a review of ZTVs and supported by field visits, which determined the presence of intervening vegetation and built form below a resolution of 25 m based on NEXTMap 25 data. Effects during construction / decommissioning were not significant based on distance and intervening vegetation / built form.

204. The following LCAs and TCAs were scoped into the assessment on the basis that the array site and associated offshore infrastructure would be visible and therefore considered as part of the assessment:

- 5. Kiltiernan Plain LCA;
- 6. Ballycorus LCA;
- 7. Glencullen Valley LCA;
- 8. Glendoo Valley LCA;
- 9. Barnacullia LCA;
- 10. Rathmichael LCA;
- 11. Ballyman LCA;
- 12. Shanganagh LCA;
- 13. Carrickmines LCA; and
- 14. Cherrywood/Rathmichael LCA.
- TCA 2 Dun Laoghaire TCA / Monkstown TCA;
- TCA 4 Dalkey TCA;
- TCA 5 Dalkey Island TCA;
- TCA 6 Killiney Bay TCA; and
- TCA 7 Shankill TCA;

Wicklow County Council

205. The Wicklow landscape is less developed than areas to the north. Coastal settlements provide the main man-made influences and form distinct areas along the coastline, separated by farmland and wetlands, linked by the DART Line / Dublin to Rosslare Main Line and coastal roads. Westwards, the landscape is predominantly agricultural with fields bounded by hedgerows and woodland, gradually rising towards the Wicklow Mountains where large areas of commercial forestry are the predominant land use. The upper slopes and summits comprise heather and acidic grassland and include extensive views over the surrounding coastline and Irish Sea to the east. The Wicklow Mountains National Park covers this area although the designation is ecological rather than landscape specific. Much of the coastline and mountains landscape is also covered by a series of AONBs.

206. Appendix 5 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016–2022 sets out the landscape assessment for WCC[7]. The landscape assessment divides the WCC Area into six distinct landscape categories (LC), which are then subdivided into 15 landscape areas (LA). Each LC and LA is detailed below alongside a vulnerability range between one and six, one having high vulnerability and six having low vulnerability:

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1. [7] Whilst the 2016–2022 County Development Plan has been superseded by the latest County Development Plan 2022–2028, section 17.3 states that *"The landscape assessment that was undertaken for the previous County Development Plan in 2016 has not been updated for the purposes on this plan, and is considered to remain a robust and up to date reflection of the landscape character zones of the County".*

1. Mountain and Lakeshore AONB LC:
    (a) The Mountain Uplands LA;
    (b) The Blessington Lakes Area LA;
    (c) The Bray Mountain Group LA; and
    (d) The North Eastern Valley / Glencree LA.
2. Coastal Areas AONB LC:
    (a) The Northern Coastal Area LA; and
    (b) Southern Coastal Area LA.
3. Areas of High Amenity LC:
    (a) North East Mountain Lowlands LA;
    (b) South East Mountain Lowlands LA;
    (c) Southern Hills LA;
    (d) Baltinglass Hills LA; and
    (e) Transitional Lands LA,
4. Corridor Area LC:
    (a) NR11 LA; and
    (b) N81 LA.
5. Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6 LC
6. Urban Areas LC (based on towns ranging from Levels 1–6 of the Wicklow Settlement Hierarchy and outlined in further detail below)

207. The following LAs were scoped out of the assessment either due to the LAs lying beyond the study area, or the array site's limited extent of visibility and distance (refer to **Table 15-12** Geographical extent of effectgeographical extent) from the relevant LA, resulting in insignificant effects:

- 1b The Blessington Lakes Area LA;
- 3d The Baltinglass Hills LA;
- 3e Transitional Lands LA; and
- 4b N81 Corridor Area West LA.

208. LAs scoped out were informed by a review of ZTVs and supported by field visits, which determined the presence of intervening vegetation and built form below a resolution of 25 m based on NEXTMap 25 data. Effects during construction / decommissioning were not significant based on distance and intervening vegetation / built form.

209. The following LAs would experience intervisibility with the array site and were therefore considered as part of the assessment:

1. Mountain and Lakeshore AONB LC:
    (a) The Mountain Uplands LA;
    (c) The Bray Mountain Group LA; and
    (d) The North Eastern Valley / Glencree LA.
2. Coastal Areas AONB LC:

(a) The Northern Coastal Area LA; and

(b) Southern Coastal Area LA.

3. Areas of High Amenity LC:

(a) North East Mountain Lowlands LA; and

(b) South East Mountain Lowlands LA.

(c) Southern Hills LA

4. Corridor Area LC:

(a) NR11 LA.

5. Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6 LC

210. Whilst the WCC LCs refers to urban areas (Urban Area 6 in the above hierarchy), no assessment of urban areas has been undertaken. As such, TCAs have been identified and mapped by the assessor and are presented in further detail in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment** and in **Figure 15.5** and **15.6 Landscape and townscape character** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). A number of settlements throughout the study area were scoped out on the basis that the TCAs had no or limited theoretical visibility, resulting in insignificant effects. Settlements on the coastal margins, such as Newton Mount Kennedy, were verified on site and omitted based on intervening vegetation. TCAs scoped out are as follows:

- 6e Blessington TCA;
- 6f Roundwood TCA;
- 6g Newton Mount Kennedy TCA;
- 6h Carnew TCA;
- 6i Shillelagh TCA;
- 6j Tinahely TCA;
- 6k Aughrim TCA;
- 6m Avoca TCA;
- 6n Rathdrum TCA;
- 6o Baltinglass TCA;
- 6p Donard TCA;
- 6q Dunlavin TCA;
- 6r Ashford TCA;
- 6s Laragh TCA;
- 6t Killmanogue TCA; and
- 6u Enniskerry TCA.

211. All the following TCAs would be visible and were therefore considered as part of the assessment:

- 6a Greystones TCA;
- 6b Kilcoole TCA;
- 6c Newcastle TCA;
- 6d Wicklow TCA;
- 6l Arklow TCA; and
- 6v Bray TCA.

Wexford County Council

212. A small part of the Wexford landscape is situated in the south of the study area, comprising coastline which gradually rises into an upland landscape that is predominantly agricultural. Kilmichael Point forms an important headland and marks the northernmost point of the county.

213. Volume 7 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2021–2027 LCAss classifies the Wexford landscape into four landscape character units (LCUs), representing distinctive areas of character based upon patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural heritage, historical and ecological features.

214. Within these LCUs are also distinctive landscapes which, for policy purposes, are treated as a separate LCU.

215. The following LCUs are located within the 50 km study area and all of the LCUs were considered as part of the assessment based on intervisibility:

- 1. Uplands LCU
- 2. Lowlands LCU
- 4. Coastal LCU
- 5. Distinctive LCU:
    - 5a Kilmichael Point;
    - 5b Ask Hill;
    - 5c Tara Hill; and
    - 5d Ballyminaun Hill.

15.6.4 National designated landscapes

216. Four national level designations, referred to as SAAs, lie within the 50 km study area (from the outermost WTG) covering:

- Howth Head;
- North Bull Island;
- River Liffey (Lucan Bridge to Palmerston); and
- Bray Head.

217. An SAAO is an environmental designation made under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts and applies to an area of:

- Outstanding landscapes;
- Of special recreational value; and / or
- Where there is a need for nature conservation nature and amenities.

218. The River Liffey SAA was scoped out of the assessment based on the distance of the SAA from the CWP Project and the limited extent of intervisibility. The three remaining SAAs: Howth Head, North Bull Island and Bray Head were considered as part of the assessment; refer to **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscapes** and **Figure 15.7** and **15.8** Landscape planning designations (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures** for further details).

219. At a county level, landscape designations vary across LPA boundaries. While there are references by LPAs to a landscape hierarchy of sensitivity in LCAss, or specific policies covering key landscape features, characteristics, sense of place, visibility and prominence and effects on character or key development considerations, the level of detail behind such designations appears to be limited. As such, these local / county level designations were considered as part of the LCAss, altering where

appropriate the value of the relevant landscape character type, area or category accordingly; refer **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment**.

15.6.5 Visual amenity

Overall context

220. Field surveys confirmed that a combination of vegetation, buildings and local variations in topography within the study area would reduce the extent of visibility to that presented on the ZTVs presented in **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **Figures 15.13 a** to **f** covering both bare earth and obstructed Hub height and Blade tip ZTVs, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**.

221. Onshore, the extent of vegetation cover is more prevalent than presented on the bare earth and obstructed ZTVs, particularly along roads, lanes, tracks, field boundaries, around farmsteads, dwellings and settlements as well coastal features ranging from sand dunes to rocky outcrops.

222. The expected main area of visibility, referred to as the zone of visual influence (ZVI), has been established based on field observations, a desk-based review of aerial photography and topographic data, as described below. Areas outside of the ZVI would have extremely limited visibility, or no visibility of either of the WTG Options A or B.

223. Visibility of CWP WTG Options A and B offshore would be available from ships, ferries and recreational craft; with the perceptibility of the Options decreasing with distance, alongside their potential effects on receptors.

224. At a low elevation onshore, visibility of CWP WTG Options A and B would decrease with distance. Field observations in combination with desk-based studies of aerial photography, and topographic data indicate that visibility of CWP WTG Options would be experienced mainly within a corridor with a maximum width of 6 km, running north–south along the coastline. Beyond this, visibility of the WTG Options would be screened by intervening vegetation, built form and / or topography. Variations would exist where local topography (referred to below) and natural features have a strong influence on visibility, for instance, both the Vale of Avoca to the west of Arklow (confluence of Avoca and Aughrim River) and extensive areas of sand dunes south of Mizen Head restrict visibility of the CWP Project closer to the coastline.

225. From elevated ground rising to 900 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) forming part of the Wicklow Mountain National Park, the Dublin Hills and associated outliers, such as Great and Little Sugar Loaf, views would be available of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. These views would be seen in the wider context and would often be panoramic. Visibility extends beyond direct views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure across the wider coastline.

226. Based on field observations, it was judged that the scale of effects on visual receptors outside of the ZVI described above would be, at greatest, negligible and not significant as views would be screened by intervening vegetation, built form and / or topography.

Visual receptors

Visual receptor groups

227. Drawing on the representative viewpoints and range of visual receptors outlined in the supporting appendices, receptors within the study area have been grouped into discrete geographic areas based on the settlement hierarchy and broadly similar characteristics (e.g., topography, land cover,

orientation and distance) and predicted visibility of the proposed development (weather / atmospheric conditions permitting). They are referred to in the assessment as visual receptor groups.

228. Based on the results of the ZTV models, which were refined by field survey visits, the visual receptors have been separated into the following groups:

- Visual receptor groups with either no visibility or extremely limited visibility and which, due to distance, would not experience effects above negligible.
- Visual receptor groups which may have views of the proposed development but, due to a combination of distance, intervening screening and topography, would experience visual effects below the threshold of significant.
- Visual receptor groups that are predicted to potentially experience significant visual effects.

229. Visual receptor groups within the study area predicted to experience significant effects are detailed in **Table 15-16** and the extent of different types of receptors is presented in **Figures 15.9** and **Figure 15.10 Visual receptors.** Visual receptor groups include offshore marine receptor groups, ranging from users of recreational craft, workers on fishing vessels and shipping/ferry passengers/crew to onshore visual receptors. Onshore receptors range from users of footpaths / trails, users of accessible and recreational landscapes, including coastal margins, beaches and golf courses, local residents of or visitors to the smaller coastal settlements to users of local roads and railways.

230. In addition to the visual receptor groups detailed below, the visual assessment focused on Main (Named) Settlements and Key Routes. The baseline, coverage and extent scoped in and out of the SLVIA are described in the following section. The assessment of visual effects in **Appendix 15.6 Visual Assessment, Appendix 15.7 Settlement Assessment** and **Appendix 15.8 Sequential Route Assessment** drew on representative viewpoints, referred to in **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations.**

Table 15-16 Visual receptor groups likely to experience significant effects

Visual receptor group	Visual receptor groups and location	Supported by representative viewpoints detailed below and referred to in Appendix 15.11 Visualisations
1	**Howth Head to North Bull Island:** Location: Extends across the northern edge of Dublin Bay from North Bull Wall to Howth and inland where there is visibility. Landscape designations: Within Howth Head or North Bull Island SAA with a key viewpoint on OS Ireland Discovery Maps and footpaths / roads with objectives to preserve views. Principle visual receptors include: Local residents of smaller settlements, including Howth, Censure and Sutton, walkers of the North Bull Wall, Howth Head Loop, North Bull Island and beach, visitors to specific landmark viewpoints, heritage assets, North Bull Island Visitor and Interpretation Centre, recreational users of two golf courses on North Bull Island and recreational users in the coastal margins (including swimmers and surfers)	Figure 15.17.1 Figure 15.17.2 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**

Visual receptor group	Visual receptor groups and location	Supported by representative viewpoints detailed below and referred to in Appendix 15.11 Visualisations
2	**Killiney to Bray:** Location: Extends across from Sorrento Point to Bray at relatively low elevations and inland where there is visibility. Landscape designations: Includes protected views from Killiney / Dalkey Hill, which is also identified as a key viewpoint on OS Ireland Discovery Maps. Principal visual receptors include: Local residents, visitors and walkers of Dalkey / Killiney Hill Park and Killiney Obelisk, DART Line, users of golf courses, users of Shankill Beach and the coastal margins (including swimmers and surfers).	Figure 15.17.5 Figure 15.17.7 Figure 15.17.21 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**
3	**Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Location: Extends from Bray Head to northern edge of Cliff Manor inland where there is visibility. Landscape designation: Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. Principal visual receptors include: Users of the Bray to Cliff Walk, DART Line, visitors to various sections accessible coastline and users of golf courses and residents of smaller settlements, including Cliff Manor and Ballynamuddagh.	Figure 15.17.8 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**
4	**Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point:** Location: This area extends from Cliff Manor (north) to Five Mile Point and inland where there is visibility. Landscape designations: Outside of the main settlement of Greystones the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB and a small part of the northern section also falls within Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. Principal receptors include: Users of the Bray to Cliff Walk, Greystones to Wicklow Walk, DART Line / Dublin to Rosslare Main Line, visitors to various sections of beach along this coastal stretch, including Greystones, Kilcoole, Six and Five Mile Points with users of the coastal margins (including swimmers and surfers), residents of smaller settlements, users	Figu1e 15.17.12 Figure 15.17.24 Figure 15.17.26 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**

Visual receptor group	Visual receptor groups and location	Supported by representative viewpoints detailed below and referred to in Appendix 15.11 Visualisations
	of golf courses, Newcastle Aerodrome, and visitors to Birdwatch Ireland's East Coast Nature Reserve.	
5	**Wicklow to Wicklow Head:** Location: This area extends from Five Mile Point to Wicklow Head and inland where there is visibility. Landscape designations: Outside of the main settlement of Wicklow, the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB and most of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. Principal receptors include: Users of the Greystones to Wicklow Walk, Dublin to Rosslare Main Line, residents of smaller settlements, visitors to sections of beach along this coastal stretch including Five Mile Point and the coastal margins (including swimmers and surfers).	Figure 15.17.13 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**
6	**Dublin Mountains** Location: This area extends in a northwest–southeast direction south of Dublin, covering elevated ground and including Three Rock Mountain, Carrickgollogan Hill and Great and Little Sugar Loaf. Landscape designations: This receptor group lies either within the Bray Mountain Group AONB or the Dublin Mountains, which are covered by the North Eastern Valley / Glencree AONB or High Amenity Zone at a County Council level with specific viewpoints identified. Principal receptors include: Walkers of the Wicklow Way, the Dublin Mountain Way and Lead Mines Way	Figure 15.17.6 Figure 15.17.9 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**
7	**Mountain Uplands:** Location: This receptor extends in a north–south direction on elevated ground at least 15 km away from the outer edge of the closest WTG for the array site. Landscape designations: All of this receptor group lies within The Mountain Uplands (AONB), for instance Djouce and Brockagh Mountain. This area is also referred to as The Wicklow Mountains National Park (an ecological designation). Principal receptors include: Walkers, including walkers of the Wicklow Way	Figure 15.17.14 Figure 15.17.15 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**

Visual receptor group	Visual receptor groups and location	Supported by representative viewpoints detailed below and referred to in Appendix 15.11 Visualisations
8	**Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay:** Location: This area extends from Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay and inland where there is visibility. Landscape designations: Outside of the main settlement of Wicklow, the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB with prospects of special amenity value or special interest. Principal receptors include: Visitors to sections of beach along this coastal stretch, including Maheramore Beach and Brittas Bay and the coastal margins (i.e., swimmers and surfers), residents of smaller settlements and caravan parks and users of golf courses.	Figure 15.17.18 Figure 15.17.23 See **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**
9	**Marine recreational receptors:** Location: Within 15 km of the nearest WTG for either Option A or B close to the shoreline between Greystones and Wicklow. Landscape designations: None identified. Principal receptors include: Recreational boaters, workers on fishing vessels and shipping / ferry passengers/crew.	

Main (named) settlements

231. The SLVIA study area included several settlements of various sizes, the majority of which are located along the coastline and linked to Dublin and its suburbs by the DART Line / Dublin to Rosslare Main and the network of roads leading to the M11 / N11, the main east coast motorway. Inland, the size of settlements reduces due to the nature of the topography, influenced also by the principal land uses of agricultural and forestry.

232. The following main (named) settlements were considered as part of the baseline, focusing on settlements within a corridor with a maximum width of 6 km, running north–south along the coastline.

- Howth;
- Dublin and its coastal suburbs, including Merrion in the south and Baldoyle in the north.
- Dun Laoghaire and adjacent settlements, including Booterstown, Blackrock, Monkstown to the north of the Harbour and Sandycove and Dalkey to the south of the harbour;
- Killiney (covering Shankill to the south);
- Bray;
- Enniskerry;
- Kilmancanogue;
- Greystones;
- Kilcoole;

- Newcastle;
- Newton Mount Kennedy;
- Ashford;
- Ballyhara;
- Kilpedder;
- Redcross;
- Rathnew;
- Wicklow; and
- Arklow.

233. The following main (named) settlements were scoped out of the assessment on the basis that receptors of these settlements were unlikely to experience potential significant views of the CWP Project due to the nature of the topography, intervening landform and / or built form:

- Ashford;
- Ballyhara;
- Enniskerry;
- Kilmcanagoe;
- Kilpedder;
- Howth;
- Redcross; and
- Rathnew.

234. Settlements scoped into the assessment were similarly informed by a review of aerial photography, field visits, bare earth and obstructed blade tip and hub height ZTVs (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **Figures 15.13 a** to **f**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) and included:

- Dublin and its suburbs;
- Dun Laoghaire and adjacent settlements;
- Killiney.
- Shankill;
- Bray;
- Greystones;
- Kilcoole;
- Newton Mount Stewart;
- Newcastle;
- Wicklow; and
- Arklow.

235. From such locations, receptors might experience potential significant visual effects associated with the CWP Project.

236. Views of the CWP Project experienced by visual receptors within other unnamed smaller settlements and individual dwellings/ farmsteads throughout the study area would vary, sometimes being filtered through intervening vegetation and / or built form. Such unnamed settlements which were considered “in the round” in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment** were unlikely to receive significant effects.

Key routes

237. The study area includes a range of routes from key roads, rail routes, shipping / ferry routes to key walking routes. Information used to identify such routes was drawn from OS Ireland Discovery Maps 8th Edition and supported by Google Earth and Bing Maps with reference to promoted tourist literature

and walking trails where appropriate. Routes where necessary were split and assessed in sections based on obstructed theoretical visibility with a conclusion as to the overall effect experienced by receptors along the route.

Road network

238. The following key roads were reviewed as part of the baseline:

- R750 Road;
- R752 Road;
- R761 Road;
- R762 Road;
- R772 Road;
- R773 Road;
- L1031 Road;
- R105 Road;
- R807 Road;
- R131 Road;
- R118 Road;
- R119 Road;
- R761 Road;
- M11 / N11 Road; and
- N31 Road

239. The majority of road routes within the study area are located within the coastal plain between Dublin and Arklow. Both the bare earth and obstructed blade tip and hub height ZTVs suggest theoretical visibility for most routes (**Figures 15.12 a to f and Figure 15.13 a to f in Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). Further to site visits, it was identified that road routes that obtain views of the sea are located within 6 km of the coastline. Therefore, this assessment concentrates on roads from which the sea and the CWP Project would be theoretically visible and within a 6 km of the coastline as follows:

- R105 Road;
- R807 Road;
- R131 Road;
- R119 Road;
- R761 Road;
- M11 / N11 Road; and
- R750 Road.

Railway lines

240. The following railway lines were reviewed as part of the baseline:

- Dublin to Belfast railway line (to the north of the study area) with a spur to Howth;
- The DART line from Dublin to Greystones (which runs on the Belfast–Dublin Main Line) and a commuter service link from Greystones to Wicklow forming part of the Dublin to Rosslare Main Line;
- Dublin–Cork railway line (to the southwest of the study area); and
- Dublin to Sligo railway line (to the northwest of the study area).

241. Based on a review of aerial photography, field visits, bare earth ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f**) and obstructed ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.13 a** to **f**) see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**, visual receptors utilising the DART line / Dublin to Rosslare north-

and southbound would be likely to experience views of the CWP Project and potential significant visual effects.

242. Visual receptors utilising the remaining routes would not experience any likely theoretical visibility due to a combination of distance, intervening vegetation, built form and topography. The route therefore scoped into this assessment was the DART line / Dublin to Rosslare Greystones to Wexford Main Line.

Shipping / ferry / recreational routes

243. The following northern and southern approaches to Dublin Port have been considered due to the types of vessels that regularly use these routes, including ferries to the UK and Europe, cruise liners and recreational craft:

- Northern Sea approaches to Dublin Port (Liverpool to Dublin and Holyhead to Dublin); and
- Southern Sea approach to Dublin Port (Dublin to Cherbourg).

244. Based on aerial photography, field visits, bare earth ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f**) and obstructed ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.13 a** to **f**), see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**, all visual receptors utilising the above routes would be likely to experience views and potentially significant effects associated with the CWP Project.

245. The effects were assessed based on two different types of receptor groups: visual receptors utilising ferries and commercial shipping vessels, and visual receptors using recreational craft and cruise liners. Users of cruise liners and recreational craft were considered to have higher sensitivity than users of passenger ferries and commercial shipping where there is less appreciation of the views and where movements are more transient and continuous.

Key walking routes:

246. The following key walking routes were reviewed as part of the baseline:

- Howth Head Loop;
- North Bull Wall;
- Great South Wall;
- Bray – Greystone Cliff Walk;
- Greystone to Wicklow Trail; and
- The Wicklow Way.

247. Three promoted paths have been identified; Howth Head Loop to the northeast of Dublin, the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones and the Greystone to Wicklow Trail, the latter two covering the coastline of Wicklow

248. Two local walks on North Bull Wall and the Great South Wall have also been included, due to their panoramic sea views and proximity to the OfTI works during the construction phase of the CWP Project.

249. The Wicklow Way traverses the Wicklow Mountains further to the west and in a roughly north–south direction. The Dublin Mountain Way is a 43 km walking route running east–west. It has similar views to representative viewpoints and has therefore not been considered in detail as part of this assessment.

250. Based on a review of aerial photography, field visits, bare earth ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f**, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) and obstructed ZTVs for Blade and Hub Height (**Figures 15.13 a** to **f)**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**, all visual receptors utilising the above

routes would be likely to experience views and potential significant visual effects associated with the CWP Project.

15.6.6 Climate change and natural trends

251. The existing environment of the landscape in the study area of the CWP Project is likely to change in the future because of the effects of climate change, land use policy, environmental improvements and development pressures, regardless of whether the CWP Project progresses to construction.

252. A range of policies will impact the management of the landscape from the European Directive, national policy and regulation through to county development and local area plans. Landscape planning policies covering coastal and inland landscapes and settlements within the study area seek to protect and enhance the quality of the landscape. The coastline will, however, need to adapt to inevitable change over time shaped by coastal processes, and the need to respond to development pressures that reflect the changing needs of society.

253. There is overwhelming evidence of global climate change, influenced by the human use of fossil fuels, raw materials and intensive agriculture. Any notable change in climate is likely to present potential changes to the coastal environment of the study area in a variety of ways, including the climate (e.g., hotter, drier summers and wetter winters, and more extreme weather events), sea level rise and greater coastal erosion.

254. Although potential changes to the seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual amenity as a result of climate change and natural trends are likely to occur, the nature of change would be insufficient to alter the assessment of impacts presented in this chapter.

15.6.7 Predicted future baseline

255. The future baseline within the 50 km study area will see the further development of offshore wind farms off the east coast of Ireland. Initially, this will result in the development of offshore wind farms in shallow waters, and as technology advances, sites in deeper water and further away from the coastline will be developed. Several of these developments are currently being prepared ready for the submission of a planning application. This will result in an increase in WTGs off the east coast of the Irish Sea at varying distances from land.

256. These developments will also have a direct impact onshore where infrastructure will be required to export the energy generated by the WTGs. This will lead to further landfall locations, cable routes and substations within the coastal landscape, and will likely impact on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors

257. Other types of development will also result in changes to the coastal landscape, townscape and visual amenity, principally in the form of the enlargement of settlements to meet Ireland's housing shortage. This is likely to lead to an increase in coastal communities, such as Wicklow, Greystones, and Bray.

258. Other changes within the landscape would be more gradual and result from changing agricultural practices because of changing market conditions and opportunities for diversification. The effects of climate change discussed above could place pressure on the types of agricultural practices viable in this landscape, the need for different forms of agricultural infrastructure (i.e., large structures to house overwintering cattle) and response mechanisms to deal with climate-related factors. This may relate to the survival and long-term health of trees affected by invasive species, pathogens and viruses. The lack of long-term management / stocking of commercial forestry and native woodlands and copses may also influence the survival of these landscape features, including tree loss to wind throw during

storms. Conversely, new areas of commercial forestry or woodland could be planted in areas of former farmland.

259. Along the coast, changes may result from sea level rise and modification through coastal erosion and deposition, impacting the seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual amenity / receptors. Coastal defensive structures may also be modified or installed.

260. Whilst the potential exists to alter the character of the local landscape / townscape, such changes are likely to be localised and, therefore, would not affect the findings of the assessment of effects on the landscape / townscape, but could alter outcomes in some locations.

15.7 Scope of the assessment

261. An EIA Scoping Report for the Offshore Infrastructure was published on 6 January 2021. The Scoping Report was uploaded to the CWP Project website and shared with regulators, prescribed bodies and other relevant consultees, inviting them to provide relevant information and to comment on the proposed approach being adopted by the Applicant in relation to the offshore elements of the EIA.

262. Based on responses to the Scoping Report, further consultation and refinement of the CWP Project design, potential impacts to SLVIA scoped into the assessment are listed in **Table 15-17.**

Table 15-17 Potential impacts scoped into the assessment

Impact No.	Description of impact	Notes
Construction		
Impact 1	Direct / indirect temporary impacts on / seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore associated with the presence of construction and survey vessels (including Jack Up or Dynamic Positioning Vessels) for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction of WTGs / OSSs (topside) and the OfTI as the OECs are installed towards the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula. Impacts include the laying of the OECs and the towing of WTGs and OSSs topside alongside the use of vessel cranes for the erection of the offshore infrastructure.
Impact 2	Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore resulting from the introduction of temporary construction / safety nighttime lighting for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction of WTGs / OSSs (topside) and the OfTI as the offshore export cables are installed towards the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula.

Impact No.	Description of impact	Notes
Operation and maintenance		
Impact 1	Direct / indirect long-term although reversible impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore resulting from the presence of the WTGs / OSSs.
Impact 2	Direct / indirect long-term although reversible nighttime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore resulting from the presence of navigational / maritime and aviation lighting
Decommissioning		
Impact 1	Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore resulting from the presence of vessels for the dismantling of WTGs / OSSs (topside) and OECs towards the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula with the progressive removal of infrastructure. Impacts include the towing of WTGs and OSSs topside alongside the use of vessel cranes for the dismantling of offshore infrastructure. This stage is considered analogous with impacts assessed for the construction phase.
Impact 2	Impact 2: (Offshore) Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	The CWP Project may generate impacts from the high water mark 4 km offshore resulting from the presence of temporary safety nighttime lighting for decommissioning. This stage is considered analogous with impacts assessed for the construction phase.

263. Based on responses to the Scoping Report, further consultation and refinement of the CWP Project design, potential impacts to SLVIA scoped out of the assessment are listed in **Table 15-18.**

Table 15-18 Potential impacts scoped out of the assessment

Description of impact	Justification for scoping out
Temporary presence of maintenance vessels to OSSs / WTGs – day and night during operation	The frequency of maintenance trips by marine vessels would be over a limited duration, and the extent of impact minimal. Impacts have been scoped out on the basis that these would be temporary and the number of trips and duration insufficient to generate significant effects. As referred to in **Chapter 4 Project Description**, scheduled maintenance activities of WTGs would include a full service each year, taking approximately six days to complete, and inspections of internal lifts taking a day to complete; timescales of unscheduled visits would vary. Scheduled maintenance trips for OSSs would include approximately four visits per OSS per year plus once each year to perform more complex testing and inspections of the OSSs. Maintenance would be completed in parallel on the WTGs reducing downtime to a minimum. This work would be performed by technicians and take approximately three days to complete.
Temporary lighting associated with the OSSs during operation.	Operational lighting within the top structure of the OSSs was considered temporary as it would only be used for SAR or maintenance purposes. Impacts have been scoped out on the basis that the presence of lighting would be temporary and the frequency of use insufficient to generate significant effects. Reference to scheduled maintenance visits is detailed above with further information provided in **Chapter 4 Project Description**.
The presence of ETG blades' hover reference and tip marks	The presence of hover reference points on WTG blade tips was considered and tested as part of the photomontage suite (see **Figure 15.18.6 Illustration of SAR Markings**, **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**). An assessment of the "test" photomontages concluded that the presence of red (RAL 3020) markings measuring 2% of the blade tip would be insufficient to alter the magnitude of change. While the markings are presented on the images, their impact was scoped out.

15.8 Assessment parameters

15.8.1 Background

264. Complex, large-scale infrastructure projects with a terrestrial and marine interface, such as the CWP Project, are consented and constructed over extended timeframes. The ability to adapt to changing supply chain, policy or environmental conditions and to make use of the best available information to feed into project design, promotes environmentally sound and sustainable development. This ultimately reduces project development costs and therefore electricity costs for consumers and reduces CO_2 emissions.

265. In this regard, the approach to the design development of the CWP Project has sought to introduce flexibility where required, among other things, to enable the best available technology to be constructed and to respond to dynamic maritime conditions, while at the same time to specify project

boundaries, project components and project parameters wherever possible, with regard to known environmental constraints.

266. **Chapter 4 Project Description** describes the design approach that has been taken for each component of the CWP Project. Wherever possible, the location and detailed parameters of the CWP Project components were identified and described in full within the EIAR. However, for the reasons outlined above, certain design decisions and installation methods will be confirmed post-consent, requiring a degree of flexibility in the planning consent.

267. Where necessary, flexibility is sought in terms of:

- Up to two options for certain permanent infrastructure details and layouts, such as the WTG layouts.
- Dimensional flexibility; described as a limited parameter range, i.e., upper and lower values for a given detail, such as cable length.
- Locational flexibility of permanent infrastructure, described as the limit of deviation (LoD) from a specific point or alignment.

268. The CWP Project had to procure an opinion from ABP to confirm that it was appropriate that this application be made and determined before certain details of the development were confirmed. ABP issued that opinion on 25 March 2024 (amended in May 2024), and it confirmed that the CWP Project could make an application for permission before the details of certain permanent infrastructure, described in **Section 4.3** of **Chapter 4 Project Description**, is confirmed.

269. In addition, the application for permission relies on the standard flexibility for the final choice of installation methods and O&M activities.

270. Notwithstanding the flexibility in design and methods, the EIAR identified, described and assessed all of the likely significant impacts of the CWP Project on the environment.

15.8.2 Options and dimensional flexibility

271. Where the application for permission seeks options or dimensional flexibility for infrastructure or installation methods, the impacts on the environment have been assessed using a representative scenario approach. A “representative scenario” is a combination of options and dimensional flexibility that has been selected for the SLVIA using expert judgement to represent all of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment. In a number of cases, several representative scenarios have been considered to ensure that all impacts were identified, described and assessed.

272. For the SLVIA, this analysis is presented in **Appendix 15.2**, **Representative Scenario and LoD Assessment**, which identifies one or more representative scenarios for each impact with supporting text to demonstrate that no other scenarios would give rise to new or materially different effects, taking into consideration the potential impact of other scenarios on the magnitude of change of the impact or the sensitivity of the receptor(s) being considered.

273. **Table 15-19** presents a summarised version of **Appendix 15.2** and describes the representative scenarios on which the construction and operation and maintenance phase SLVIA has been based. No alternative WTG and OSS layout options other than the ones presented below have been identified and assessed as part of the SLVIA.

15.8.3 Representative scenarios

274. To enable flexibility in developing the Generating Station for the CWP Project, the Applicant is seeking consent for two different WTG layout options, only one of which will be progressed to construction. This includes:

- **WTG Layout Option A**: A smaller WTG option which comprises 75 WTGs with a rotor diameter of 250 m and blade tip height of 288 m; and
- **WTG Layout Option B**: A larger WTG option which comprises 60 WTGs with a rotor diameter of 276 m and blade tip height of 314 m.

275. Both WTG layout options and associated components are described in detail in **Chapter 4 Project Description** of this EIAR. The WTG numbers and locations are confirmed for each option, and the parameters for each option are clearly presented.

276. Both WTG Option A and B were assessed against potential SLVIA impacts associated with the different representative scenarios discussed in this chapter and **Appendix 15.2**. None of the other elements of flexibility for the design would have the potential to influence the assessment (see **Table 15-19**).

15.8.4 Limit of deviation

277. Where the application for permission seeks locational flexibility for infrastructure, the impacts on the environment were assessed using an LoD, which is the furthest distance at which a specified element of the CWP Project can be constructed from its preferred location.

278. This chapter assessed the specific preferred location for permanent infrastructure. However, **Appendix 15.2** provides further analysis to determine if the proposed LoD for permanent infrastructure may give rise to any new or materially different effects, taking into consideration the potential impact of the proposed LoD on the magnitude of change of the impact.

279. For SLVIA, this analysis was summarised in **Table 15-20**.

280. The SLVIA determined that the potential for an LoD to cause a new or materially different effect would not arise, as presented in the suite of supporting **Appendices 15.4** to **15.9**. The LoD assessment presented in **Appendix 15.2** concluded that the LoD would be insufficient to alter the magnitude of change between WTG Option A and B for all phases. This is because the scale of potential variation defined by the relevant LoD to the SLVIA would be small in comparison to the context and scale of the infrastructure within which it was assessed; thus, a variation in the effects on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscape and visual receptors would not be discernible, as summarised in **Table 15-20.**

Table 15-19 Representative scenario table

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
Construction				
Impact 1 (Construction): Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	Generating station			Option A and Option B have both been assessed.
	Permanent infrastructure (emerging)			
	No. WTG monopile foundations	75	60	
	No. Transition pieces	75	60	
	Height of monopile above LAT prior to TP installation (m)	6.5		
	Dimension: Height of transition piece above LAT (m)	31.1		
	No. WTG comprising tower structure, nacelle, and rotor with associated access arrangements.	75	60	
	No. WTG lighting and marking	75	60	
	No. IACs and interconnector cable strings per OSS	6		
	Offshore substation structures (emerging)			
	Permanent infrastructure			
	No. OSS monopile foundations	3		
	No. Transition pieces	3		
	No. OSS Topsides	3		

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
	Height of Topside above LAT (m)	55		
	Offshore export cables			
	No and length of offshore export cables to be laid (km)	3 cables at a total length 126.0–146km.		
	Installation methods and effects			
	Vessel movements within the array site and along the offshore export cable corridor (OECC), including Jack Up and / or Dynamic Positioning vessels supporting underwater activities, such as pre-construction surveys, UXO and boulder clearance, PLGR, scour protection and installation of monopiles, foundations, transition pieces, inter-array and interconnector cables using vessels to tow WTGs and OSSs topside alongside the use of vessel cranes for the construction of offshore infrastructure.			
Impact 2 (Construction): Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape. national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	Generating station			
	Permanent infrastructure (emerging)			
	No. WTG monopile foundations	75	60	Both Option A and Option B have been assessed as part of the SLVIA.
	No. Transition pieces	75	60	
	Height of monopile above LAT prior to TP installation (m)	6.5		
	Dimension: Height of transition piece above LAT (m)	31.1		

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
	No. WTG comprising tower structure, nacelle, and rotor with associated access arrangements.	75	60	
	No. WTG lighting and marking	75	60	
	No. IACs and interconnector cable strings per OSS	6		
	Offshore substation structures (emerging)			
	Permanent infrastructure			
	No. OSS monopile foundation	3		
	No. Transition piece	3		
	No. OSS Topside	3		
	Height of Topside above LAT (m)	55		
	Offshore export cables			
	No and length of offshore export cable to be laid (km)	3 cables at an average length of 48.6 km each (total length 126.0–145.8 km)		
	Installation methods and effects			
	Presence of nighttime marine / navigational lighting as well as temporary lighting associated with vessel movements within the array site and along the OECC, including vessels supporting underwater activities, such as pre-construction surveys, UXO and boulder clearance, PLGR, scour protection and installation of monopile, foundations, transmission piece, inter-array and interconnector			

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
	cables using vessels to tow WTGs and OSSs topside alongside the use of vessel cranes for the construction of offshore infrastructure and heli hoist lighting. This also included for seascape, landscape / townscape and nationally designated landscapes, the mid support platform.			
Operations and maintenance				
Impact 1 (Operation and Maintenance): Direct / indirect long term though reversible impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	Generating station			Both Option A and Option B have been assessed as part of the SLVIA.
	Permanent infrastructure			
	Number of WTGs	75	60	
	WTGs rotor diameter (m)	250	276	
	Hub height above LAT (m)	163	176	
	Tip height above LAT (m)	288	314	
	Blade tip clearance above LAT (m)	37.72		
	WTG tower diameter (m)	8	9	
	Total rotor swept area of project (m^2)	49,087	59,829	
	Rotor swept area of per turbine (m^2)	3,681,554	3,589,710	
	Area of array site (km^2)	125		
	Offshore substation structures			
	Permanent infrastructure			
	No. OSS monopile foundations	3		
	No. Transition pieces	3		
	No. OSS Topsides	3		

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
	Height of Topside above LAT (m)	55		
	Length of topside (m)	45		
	Width of topside (m)	35		
Impact 2 (Operation and Maintenance): Direct / indirect long-term although reversible nighttime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.	Permanent infrastructure			Both Option A and Option B have been assessed as part of the SLVIA.
	No. Navigational / maritime and aviation lighting associated with WTGs and WTG identifier markings	75		
	Offshore substation structures			
	Permanent infrastructure			
	Identifier markings	3		
Decommissioning				
Impact 1 (Decommissioning): Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	It is recognised that legislation and industry best practice change over time. However, for the purposes of the EIA, at the end of the operational lifetime of the CWP Project, it is assumed that all offshore infrastructure will be removed where practical to do so. This is consistent with the Rehabilitation Schedule submitted as part of the planning application and prepared in accordance with the MAP Act (as amended by the Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022), to provide preliminary information on the approaches to decommissioning the offshore and onshore components of the CWP Project. A final Rehabilitation Schedule will require approval from the statutory consultees prior to the undertaking of decommissioning works. This will reflect discussions held with stakeholders and regulators to determine the exact methodology for decommissioning, taking into account available methods, best practice and likely environmental effects.			
Impact 2 (Decommissioning)	In this regard, for the purposes of a representative scenario for decommissioning impacts, the following assumptions have been made: • The WTGs and OSSs topsides shall be completely removed.			

Impact	Representative scenario details	WTG Option A	WTG Option B	Notes / assumptions
Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	• Following WTGs and OSSs topside decommissioning and removal, the monopile foundations will be cut below the seabed level, to a depth that will ensure the remaining foundation is unlikely to become exposed. This is likely to be approximately one metre below the seabed, although the exact depth will depend upon the seabed conditions and site characteristics at the time of decommissioning. • All cables and associated cable protection in the offshore environment shall be wholly removed. It is likely that equipment similar to that which is used to install the cables may be used to reverse the burial process and expose them. Therefore, the area of seabed impacted during the removal of the cables is anticipated to be the same as the area impacted during the installation of the cables. • Generally, decommissioning is anticipated to be a reverse of the construction and installation process for the CWP Project, and the assumptions around the number of vessel on site, and vessel round trips is therefore the same as described for the construction phase of the offshore components. • Given the above, it is anticipated that for the purposes of a representative scenario, the impacts will be no greater than those identified for the construction phase.			

Table 15-20 LoD Table

Project component	Limit of deviation	Conclusion from Appendix 15.2	
		Option A	Option B
WTGs / OSSs	100 m from the centre point of each WTG and OSS location is proposed to allow for small adjustments to be made to the structure locations.	No potential for new or materially different effects	
WTGs / OSSs monopiles and scour protection	Same as WTGs	No potential for new or materially different effects	
IACs / interconnector cables	100m on either side of the preferred alignments, and 250m around the WTGs and OSSs.	No potential for new or materially different effects	
Offshore export cables	250 m either side of the preferred alignment within the array site. The offshore export cable corridor (OECC) outside of the array site.	No potential for new or materially different effects	

15.9 Primary mitigation measures

281. Throughout the development of the CWP Project, measures have been adopted as part of the evolution of the project design and approach to construction, to avoid or otherwise reduce adverse impacts on the environment. These mitigation measures are referred to as 'primary mitigation'. They are an inherent part of the CWP Project and are effectively 'built in' to the impact assessment.

282. In terms of the SLVIA, an analysis was undertaken as part of the iterative design process to determine whether the magnitude of change and consequential effects could be reduced for some visual receptors. The analysis, which was supported by a set of preliminary wireframes, concluded that whilst a reduction in the number of WTGs could be achieved to the north, this reduction would be insufficient to alter the magnitude of change and nature of visual effects experienced. However, a number of primary mitigation measures were identified in relation to SLVIA, which included consideration of the location and orientation of the array site and consistency and coherency of the layout design, the number and positioning of WTGs and OSSs and requirements for WTG and OSS lighting.

283. Primary mitigation measures relevant to the assessment of SLVIA are set out in **Table 15-21.** Where additional mitigation measures are proposed, these are detailed in the impact assessment (**Section 15.10**). Additional mitigation includes measures that are not incorporated into the design of the CWP Project and require further activity to secure the required outcome of avoiding or reducing impact significance.

Table 15-21 Primary mitigation measures

Project Element	Description
Array site	As set out in **Chapter 3 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives**, to reduce the potential effects on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, a minimum distance of 5 km from the high-water mark (HWM) was defined for the initial identification of potential array sites. Multiple banks on the east coast of Ireland were identified as being potentially viable array sites; however, it was considered that the Codling Bank demonstrated considerable advantages over the other areas identified. The key advantages in relation to potential impacts on seascape, landscape and visual receptors are listed below: • Firstly, the distance of the array site from the coastline (13–22 km) has the advantage of reducing the magnitude of change to visual impact when viewed from the shoreline when compared to other potential sites areas located closer to the shoreline; and • Secondly, as the Codling Bank is significantly larger than the other banks in the area, it allows the design of the array site to be in a layout extending away from the coastline, rather than confined to a long strip of WTGs running parallel to the coastline.
WTGs	Regarding the potential effects upon seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, the Applicant has sought to reduce the number of WTGs as far as possible. This is evident in the proposed reduction in the number of WTGs from up to 140 (at EIA Scoping) to 75 (Option A) or 60 (Option B).
WTGs	Regarding the potential effects upon seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, whilst technical, economic and safety requirements take precedence, the Applicant has sought to produce a visually

Project Element	Description
	balanced and coherent layout of WTGs when seen from key viewpoints, demonstrating a consistent rhythm and spacing. For both Option A and Option B, a grid layout is proposed with Search and Rescue (SAR) lanes in two lines of orientation. Furthermore, for both options, whilst outliers are present, no outlying WTGs appear significantly detached from the rest of the offshore infrastructure. Variations in WTG spacing arising from optimising output and foundation requirements have introduced a degree of irregularity, creating a more organic appearance that helps to reduce the clustering and stacking of WTGs, albeit from some locations the offshore infrastructure would appear less coherent. It is inevitable, given the effect of perspective, the balance and coherence of the WTGs in views would vary from one viewpoint to another, these differences are considered in the assessment.
OSSs	Regarding the potential effects upon seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, the Applicant has sought to reduce the number of OSSs as far as possible. This is evident in the proposed reduction in the total number of OSSs from up to five (at EIA Scoping) to three (for Option A and B).
OSSs	To ensure compliance with SAR requirements and to reduce the potential effects on seascape, landscape and visual receptors, the Applicant has sought to align the OSSs as closely as possible with the rows of WTGs, with a consistent spacing.
Lighting and marking	The Applicant has sought to reduce the extent of lighting associated with the array to reduce night-time effects. Aviation lighting was initially proposed for all WTGs; however, it was agreed with stakeholders that such lighting would only be introduced on each WTG around the edge of the array site. Lighting associated with WTG numbers would be hooded to reduce light spill. To minimise light pollution further, OSSs would be unlit unless in the case of an emergency.
Ecological Vessel Management Plan	An Ecological Vessel Management Plan (EVMP) has been prepared to determine vessel routing to and from construction sites and ports and to include a code of conduct for vessel operators. The EVMP includes details of: The types and specifications of vessels for the CWP Project; how vessels will be monitored and coordinated; and The use of defined transit routes to site from key construction and operation ports, where practicable to do so. The EVMP will be implemented by the Applicant and its appointed contractor(s) and will be secured through the conditions of the development consent. It will be a live document which will be updated and submitted to the relevant authority, prior to the start of construction.
Rehabilitation schedule	A Rehabilitation Schedule is provided as part of the planning application. This has been prepared in accordance with the MAP Act (as amended by the Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022) to provide preliminary information on the approaches to decommissioning the offshore and onshore components of the CWP Project. A final Rehabilitation Schedule will require approval from the statutory consultees prior to undertaking decommissioning works. This will reflect discussions held with stakeholders and regulators to determine the exact methodology for

Project Element	Description
	decommissioning, taking into account available methods, best practice and likely environmental effects.

15.10 Impact assessment

284. This section of the SLVIA presents the impact assessment undertaken. For ease, this section focuses on seascape, landscape / townscape and national designated landscapes and visual effects which have been assessed as either **Moderate** adverse (not significant) or **Significant** adverse (significant or very significant).

285. Remaining effects on receptors are presented in **Table 15-23** to **Table 15-29**, Summary of residual effects, and in relevant supporting appendices, **Appendix 15.5** to **15.9.** Impacts experienced during construction and decommissioning (Impact 1 and 2; construction, and Impact 1 and 6, decommissioning) were combined for both daytime and night-time, due to the similar nature of effects.

286. Effects presented below largely focus on Impact 1 operation / maintenance (daytime) although there are some **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effects experienced by receptors during Impact 1 / 5 and 2 / 6 (construction / decommissioning day and night-time).

287. To avoid repetition, a detailed analysis of the layout and height of the WTGs for both Option A and Option B and the subtle variations between the two was presented in **Appendix 15.6 Visual Assessment**, with the remaining Appendices referring to this Appendix where appropriate. As discussed previously, while there were LoD between the two WTG Options in terms of variations in layout and height, these were insufficient to alter the level of magnitude and therefore the nature of the effect.

288. This section should be read alongside **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures** and **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**. Reference to the array site and / or CWP Project's offshore infrastructure is used interchangeably for both Option A and B).

15.10.1 Construction / decommissioning phase

Impact 1 and Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors

Visual amenity

Visual receptor groups

289. The visual receptor group assessment was supported by **Appendix 15.6 Visual Assessment** and **Figures 15.9**, **Visual Receptors (Context) and Figures 15.10**, **Visual Receptors**, see **Appendix SLVIA Figures**. This section focused on Visual Receptor Group 3, Bray Head to Cliff Manor, Group 4: Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point, Group 5: Wicklow to Wicklow Head and Group 9: Marine Recreational Receptors as these visual receptor groups were likely to experience significant effects due to their proximity to the array site and the likely visual extent of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure experienced.

Receptor sensitivity

290. Receptor sensitivity based on the following visual receptor groups has been assessed as follows:

291. **Visual Receptor Group 3 Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB falls within this visual receptor group. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. As such, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High** (national value and high susceptibility).

292. **Visual Receptor Group 4 Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point**: Outside of the main settlement of Greystones, the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB, and a small part of the northern section also falls within Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (**Local / County** value and **High** susceptibility).

293. **Visual Receptor Group 5 Wicklow to Wicklow Head**: Aside from Wicklow, all of the receptor group lies within the Coastal Areas AONB, and most of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (**Local / County** value and **High** susceptibility).

Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors: While the Irish Sea and intertidal zone within 15 km of the array site is not covered by any landscape- or seascape-related designation, the overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** based on a high susceptibility to change (**Community** value and **High** susceptibility), due to the nature and experience of visual receptors, which includes users of the inter tidal zone (e.g., beach users, swimmer and surfers) and recreational sailors.

Magnitude of impact

294. **Visual Receptor Group 3, Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Receptors along most of this stretch of coastline would experience full, direct uninterrupted views of construction and decommissioning activities along the coastal margins and the southern edge of this area where there is a lack of intervening vegetation and built form (see **Figure 15.12 a** to **f and 15.13 a** to **f** bare earth and obstructed ZTVs, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**).

295. Views would be of an increase in the concentration of construction / decommissioning vessels (including Jack Up Vessel or Dynamic Positioning Vessels) for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction or removal of WTGs / OSSs (topside) around the proposed location of the array site, including the presence of cranes and extending along the OfTI as the offshore export cables are installed towards the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula and offshore infrastructure towed. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and limited to construction and decommissioning.

296. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium in scale, short-term and intermediate / localised in terms of geographical extent).

297. **Visual Receptor Group 4 Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point:** Receptors along most of this stretch of coastline would experience full, direct uninterrupted views of construction and decommissioning activities due to the low-lying topography, lack of intervening vegetation, and built form. Visibility would extend inland where views are not obscured by vegetation or built form (see **Figure 15.12 a** to **f and 15.13 a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**).

298. Views would be of an increase in the concentration of vessels (including Jack Up Vessel or Dynamic Positioning Vessels, including cranes) for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction or dismantling of the WTGs / OSSs (topside) around the proposed location of the array site and extending

along the OfTI as the offshore export cables are installed or dismantled towards the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula and offshore infrastructure towed. Views of the landfall itself would not be experienced by this group due to intervening headlands. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and limited to construction and decommissioning.

299. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (large in scale, short-term and wide in terms of geographical extent, given the wider presence of construction / decommissioning vessels alongside and within the array site).

300. **Visual Receptor Group 5 Wicklow to Wicklow Head:** Receptors would experience either low-lying or slightly elevated wide, open views of construction / decommissioning activities. Intervening vegetation and the nature of the topography would have a screening function inland.

301. Like Visual Receptor Group 4, Group 5 would experience a similar view, although slightly oblique, of an increase in the concentration of vessels (including Jack Up Vessel or Dynamic Positioning Vessels and cranes) for sea bed preparation, foundation piling and construction / dismantling of WTGs / OSSs (topside) around the proposed location of the array site alongside movements to and from the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula resulting from the installation / dismantling of offshore export cables and towing of offshore infrastructure, although views of the landfall itself would not be apparent from this location. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and limited to construction and decommissioning.

302. The resultant magnitude of change would be **Medium** (medium in scale, short-term and wide / intermediate in terms of geographical extent given the wider presence of construction / decommissioning vessels alongside and within the array site).

303. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** Receptors within 15 km of the outer WTGs would experience extensive immediate full and open views of construction / decommissioning works as described above, although seen from a variety of different angles and locations.

304. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (large–medium, short-term (up to 2 years), and wide in terms of geographical extent) but diminishing with distance.

Significance of the effect

305. **Visual Receptor Group 3** would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during construction / decommissioning (daytime) due to a **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

306. **Visual Receptor Group 4, 5 and 9** would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during construction / decommissioning (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

307. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

308. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Main (named) settlements)

309. The Main (Named) Settlement Assessment character is detailed in **Appendix 15.8 Settlement Assessment** and supported by **Figure 15.9, Visual Receptors (Context)** and **Figures 15.10**, Visual Receptors (see **Appendix 15.11 SLVIA Figures**). Based on the level of effects assessed: **Moderate adverse** (not significant) or **Significant adverse** (significant or very significant), this section focused on three urban areas:

- Greystones, located 14.3 km to the northwest of the CWP Project and abuts the coastline with a harbour, beaches, promenades and a focus on tourism;
- Kilcoole, which is located 13.7 km to the west of the array site, is elevated and largely residential, and is nestled around Kilcoole Rock with views across to the sea; and
- Wicklow, which is located 12.2 km to the southwest of the array site and has a more industrial presence.

Receptor sensitivity

310. The settlements are not covered by any landscape-related designations but do have, views for visitors / residents and are of community value. Greystones and Wicklow also fall within Coastal Cells referred to in the Wicklow County Development Plan. Cell 4 Greystones Town refers to providing a high-quality integrated development with links to the coastline, while Cell 7 Wicklow Town and Environs seeks to facilitate and enhance visitor and recreational facilities along the coastal area. The susceptibility to the CWP Project has been assessed as **High** since the change in view would be experienced by visitors / residents of the settlement. Therefore, the overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–-Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

311. For all three settlements (Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow), there would be an increase in the concentration of vessels (including Jack Up Vessel or Dynamic Positioning Vessels and cranes) for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction / dismantling of the WTGs / OSSs (topside) around the proposed location of the array site, alongside movements to and from the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsular, including the towing of offshore infrastructure, although views across the landfall would not be apparent. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and limited to construction and decommissioning. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short-term and wide / intermediate in terms of geographical extent, given the wider presence of vessels alongside the array site.

Significance of the effect

312. Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

313. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

314. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Key routes

315. The Sequential Route Assessment is detailed in **Appendix 15.8** and supported by **Figure 15.9 Visual Receptors (Context)** and **Figure 15.10 Visual Receptors**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**. This section focused on two key walking routes: Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk and Greystones–Wicklow Trail based on the level of effects assessed.

316. The overall visual impact and effect experienced by receptors utilising the routes is summarised below, with a more detailed assessment provided in **Appendix 15.8 Sequential Route Assessment**, for each section of the route which may vary in terms of visibility.

Key walking routes

Receptor sensitivity

317. **Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk**: The Cliff Walk is popular with walkers and visitors (and promoted in tourist literature, although closed during field visits). The northern part of the route falls within the Bray Head SAAO, a national level designation. The northern and central part of the route also falls under either The Bray Mountain Group AONB or the Coastal AONB, and the entire route is covered by Prospect 6 Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk. Overall, the route has been assessed as of **Local / County** value. Susceptibility would be **High** as walkers' and visitors' attention would be focussed on seaward views. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

318. **Greystones–Wicklow Trail:** The Greystone to Wicklow Trail is promoted on the All Trails website and is popular with walkers and visitors. All of the route outside of Greystones or Wicklow falls within the Coastal AONB at a Country Development level, and the entire route is covered by Prospect 7 Railway from Greystone to Wicklow town. The entire route has been assessed as of **Local / County** value, based on the prospects, in addition to running though the Coastal AONB between settlements. Susceptibility would be **High** as walkers' and visitors' attention would be focussed on seaward views. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

319. **Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk:** Based on the ZTVs (see **Figure 15.12 a** to **f and 15.13 a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) and field visits near the route, the array site would be visible for much of the route during the construction and decommissioning phases with the OfTI works also visible. Views would be direct and open during construction / decommissioning and in the foreground, middle and distance, with views ranging from partial and oblique to direct and open.

320. **Greystones–Wicklow Trail:** Based on the ZTVs (see **Figure 15.12 a** to **f and 15.13 a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs, **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) and field visits, works associated with the array site would be visible along the entire trail during the construction / decommissioning phases with the OfTI works visible during construction. Views would be direct and open.

321. For both routes, the magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short-term (up to 2 years) and Wide / Intermediate in terms of geographical extent, given the wider presence of construction / decommissioning vessels alongside the array site.

Significance of the effect

322. Visual receptors using both the Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk and Greystones–Wicklow Trail would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High–**M**edium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

323. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

324. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Seascape character

325. The full effects associated with seascape character within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment**, and supported by **Figure 15.4**, **Regional Seascape Character Types and Areas** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). This section focuses on RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea and RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above:

- **RSC 13 South East Irish Sea**: The array site would be located 2.3 km to the north of the RSCA. The RSCA covers a wide area and as distances increase from the works associated with the CWP Project, the size and scale of the change would reduce, and the underlying experience of the open sea would be the dominant feature. From this RSCA, construction / decommissioning works associated with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be seen in combination with the operational Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) from the sea to the south and east, and from the coastline to the west. The presence of Arklow Wind Farm would already have a localised effect on the existing seascape character, creating broad zones in which "being at a wind farm" or "being near a wind farm" are experienced.
- **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay**: The entire array site, covering approximately 125 km², including the WTGs and inter array cables and 24.9 km of the OfTI, would be located within this RSCA. Impacts on character and features would be directly associated with intervisibility and aesthetic and perceptual influences.

Receptor sensitivity

326. Both **RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea** and **RSCA** 14 **Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay** have been assessed as having **Medium** sensitivity to change, based on a **Local / County** value and a **Medium** susceptibility to change resulting from the CWP Project. Full details of the value and susceptibility of change which have informed sensitivity are presented in **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment**, Tables 1 and 2.

327. Both RSCAs lie within seascapes, which, on the landward side, are designated at a **Local / County** level as AONB in the Wicklow LCAss and Wicklow County Development Plan. Part of the coastline edging RSCA 14 also includes Bray Head SAA; a national designation[8]. Both seascapes include other nature conservation designations, are popular recreational locations either along the coastline or intertidal zone and include the presence of navigational and trade activity. As referred to above, RSCA 13 is also influenced by the presence of Arlow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004).

Magnitude of impact

328. **RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea** and **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay**: For both RSCAs there would be a noticeable increase in the concentration of construction vessels (including Jack Up Vessel or Dynamic Positioning Vessels and cranes) for seabed preparation, foundation piling and construction of WTGs / OSSs (topside) around the proposed location of the array site, including vessels for the inter array cables and OfTI and vessels transporting structures. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and limited to construction and decommissioning. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (large in scale, short term and localised in terms of geographical extent) reducing with distance to the south, west and east. Effects generated would relate to a change to the seascape character introducing new

[8] Given the limited extent of Bray Head SAA forming part of the coastline relative to RSCA 14 with the remaining coastline designated as AONB, the value of RSCA 14 was judged to be of **Local / County** importance.

development (RSCA14) or further development (RSCA13) into a largely undeveloped seascape, and altering the perceived character of the wider seascape through visibility of the construction / decommissioning activities.

Significance of the effect

329. **RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea** and **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay** would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change. Effects would reduce with distance away from the array site.

330. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

331. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Landscape character

332. The full effects associated with landscape character within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment** with specific tables on sensitivity for each LPA. This is supported by **Figure 15.5 Landscape and townscape character context** and **15.6 Landscape and townscape character (**see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures)**. This section focused on two character areas within DLRCC and WCC: TCA 5, Dalkey Island and 2a, the Northern Coastal Area, based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above:

Receptor sensitivity

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

333. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island:** Dalkey Island sits on the southern edge of Dublin Bay and is characterised by a rocky coastline from which there are panoramic views. While this TCA is not designated from a landscape perspective, it does include important heritage features and is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity would be **High–**M**edium.**

Wicklow LCAss

334. **LC2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA 2a the Northern Coastal Area)**: LA2a is designated as an AONB through the Wicklow Landscape Hierarchy and includes some distinctive attributes, including a number of environmental designations, aesthetic and perceptual qualities which contribute to landscape value. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County importance**. Landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity would be **High–Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

335. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island**: There would be high levels of intervisibility between the Island and the offshore development area. Construction / decommissioning works would create a sense of disturbance both around the array site, as well as in views of the landfall at Poolbeg Peninsula, resulting from the

installation of the OfTI as well as the movement of vessels to and from the array site, including the towing of offshore infrastructure. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and wide. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term and wide terms of geographical extent).

Wicklow LCAss

336. **LC 2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA2a the Northern Coastal Area)**: Construction / decommissioning works would create a sense of disturbance around the array site, with high levels of intervisibility between the LA2a and the array site. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and intermediate. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term and intermediate terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

337. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island**: TCA 5 would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

Wicklow LCAss

338. **LC2 Coastal Areas AONB (LC2a the Northern Coastal Area)**: LA2a would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

339. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

340. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

National designated landscapes

341. The full effects associated with national designated landscapes within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscape**. This is supported by **Figure 15.7** and **Figure 15.8 Landscape planning designations** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). This section focused on Bray Head SAA based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above.

Receptor sensitivity

342. **Bray Head:** Bray Head has been assessed as having a **High** sensitivity to change, based on a **National / International** value and a **High** susceptibility to change resulting from CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. The SAA has been designated at a national level for its outstanding landscapes, special recreational value and /or where there is a need for nature conservation. Whilst the SAA does not have any specific special qualities it has extensive seaward views and large skies overlooking the Irish Sea.

Magnitude of impact

343. **Bray Head**: Construction / decommissioning works would create a sense of activity / disturbance around the array site generating both a change in the aesthetic and perceptual elements of the SAA's landscape (although not impacting on vegetation or topography) and impacting on views through the increased presence of construction / decommissioning vessels around the array site and extending along the OfTI. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and intermediate. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium in scale, short-term and intermediate terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

344. **Bray Head**: Bray Head would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) landscape and visual effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

345. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

346. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be is required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Impact 2 and 5: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.

Visual amenity

Visual receptor groups

347. The visual receptor group assessment was supported by **Appendix 15.6**, **Visual Assessment** and **Figures 15.9**, **Visual Receptors (Context) and Figures 15.10 Visual Receptors**. This section focused on Visual Receptor Group 3: Bray Head to Cliff Manor, Visual Receptor Group 4: Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point and Group 5: Wicklow to Wicklow Head and Group 9: Marine recreational receptors based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate** adverse (not significant) and above.

Receptor sensitivity

348. Receptor sensitivity based on the following visual receptor groups has been assessed as follows:

349. **Visual Receptor Group 3**, **Bray Head to Cliff Manor**: Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB falls within this visual receptor group. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. As such, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High** (national value and high susceptibility).

350. **Visual Receptor Group 4**, **Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point**: Outside of the main settlement of Greystone, the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB, and a small part of the northern section also falls within Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (**National–Local / County** value and **High** susceptibility).

351. **Visual Receptor Group 5**, **Wicklow to Wicklow Head**: Aside from Wicklow, all of the receptor group lies within the Coastal Areas AONB, and most of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (**Local / County** value and **High** susceptibility).

352. **Visual Receptor Group 9**, **Marine Recreational Receptors**: While the Irish Sea and intertidal zone within 15 km of the array site is not covered by any landscape- or seascape-related designation, the overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** based on a **High** susceptibility to change (**Community** value and **High** susceptibility).

Magnitude of impact

353. **Visual Receptor Group 3, 4, 5 and 9:** Receptor groups along most of this coastline or at sea would experience, to varying degrees, an increase in lighting levels resulting from the presence of intermittent static or transient **t**emporary construction / decommissioning safety lighting associated with the WTGs and OSS, and deployment of vessels extending the extent of light pollution in seaward views. There would be no views of vessels entering and exiting the landfall due to restricting headlands.

354. **Visual Receptor Group 3:** The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and intermediate / localised in terms of geographical extent.

355. **Visual Receptor Group 4:** The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (large in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and wide in terms of geographical extent.

356. **Visual Receptor Group 5:** The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and wide / intermediate in terms of geographical extent given the wider presence of vessels alongside the array site).

357. **Visual Receptor Group 9:** The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (large–medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and wide in terms of geographical extent given the wider presence of vessels alongside the array site).

Significance of the effect

358. **Visual Receptor Group 3** would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during construction / decommissioning (night-time) due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

359. **Visual Receptor Group 4, 5 and 9** would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during construction / decommissioning (night-time) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

360. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

361. Based on the predicted level of effect it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Main (named) settlements)

362. The Main (Named) Settlement Assessment is detailed **in Appendix 15.7** and supported by **Figure 15.9**, **Visual Receptors (Context)** and **Figures 15.1-0**, **Visual Receptors** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). This section focuses on three urban areas, Greystones, Kilcoole, and Wicklow, based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above.

Receptor sensitivity

363. The settlements are not covered by any landscape-related designations but do represent views of visitors / residents and are of **Community** value. Greystone and Wicklow also fall within Coastal Cells referred to in the Wicklow County Development Plan. The susceptibility to the CWP Project has been assessed as **High** since the change in view would be experienced by visitors / residents of the settlement. The overall sensitivity would be **High–Medium.**

Magnitude of impact

364. For all three settlements (Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow), temporary static or transient construction / decommissioning, safety lighting would be visible intermittently, associated with the offshore development area and deployment of construction / decommissioning vessels extending light pollution in seaward views. Night-time views would be experienced from the settlements, although there would be no views of vessels entering and exiting the landfall due to restricting headlands. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and Wide / Intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

365. Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase (night-time) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

366. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

367. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Landscape character

368. The full effects associated with landscape character within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment** with specific tables on sensitivity for each LPA. This is supported **by Figure 15.5 Landscape and townscape character context and Figure 15.6 Landscape and townscape character** (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). For Impacts 2 and 5, this section focused on two character areas within DLRCC and WCC: TCA 5 Dalkey Island and LA 2a the Northern Coastal Area, based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above.

Receptor sensitivity

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown

369. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island:** Dalkey Island sits on the southern edge of Dublin Bay and is characterised by a rocky coastline from which there are panoramic views. Whilst this TCA is not designated from a landscape perspective it does include important heritage features and is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity would be **High–Medium.**

Wicklow LCAss

370. **LC2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA 2a the Northern Coastal Area):** LA2a is designated as an AONB through the Wicklow Landscape Hierarchy and includes some distinctive attributes, including a number of environmental designations, aesthetic and perceptual qualities which contribute to landscape value. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity would be **High-Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown

371. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island:** There would be a change to the character of TCA5 through the introduction of additional / new temporary static or transient lighting in panoramic views, although seen in context with an already lit and active seascape, particularly to the north and northeast as ships / ferries approach Dublin Bay from either the north or south. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and wide in terms of geographical extent).

Wicklow LCAss

372. **LC 2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA 2a the Northern Coastal Area):** There would be a change to LA 2a's character through an introduction of additional / new temporary static or transient lighting in panoramic views, although restricted by intervening headlands. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, short term (up to 2 years) and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCA

373. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island**: TCA 5 would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

Wicklow LCAss

374. **LC2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA2a the Northern Coastal Area):** LA2a would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

375. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

376. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

National designated landscapes

377. The full effects associated with the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscape**. This is supported by **Figure 15.7** and **Figure 15.8 Landscape planning designations (see Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). This section focused on Bray Head SAA based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above:

Receptor sensitivity

378. **Bray Head:** Bray Head has been assessed as having a **High** sensitivity to change, based on a National / International value and a **High** susceptibility to change resulting from CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. The SAA has been designated at a national level for its outstanding landscapes, special recreational value and / or where there is a need for nature conservation. While the SAA does not have any specific special qualities, it has extensive seaward views and large skies overlooking the Irish Sea.

Magnitude of impact

379. **Bray Head:** Construction / decommissioning night-time works would result in a change to the SAA's character because of the introduction of additional / new temporary lighting in panoramic views. Construction / decommissioning safety lighting would be visible intermittently associated with the entire array site and deployment of construction / decommissioning vessels to and from the landfall, alongside the night-time presence of vessels and intermittent lighting from lighthouses on peninsulas, islands and rocks. Works would be temporary in nature, short term in duration (up to 2 years) and intermediate. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium in scale, short term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

380. **Bray Head:** Bray Head would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) landscape and visual effect during the construction and decommissioning phase due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

381. Effects would be short term during the construction and decommissioning phases.

382. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

15.10.2 Operation and maintenance

Impact 1: Direct / indirect long-term although reversible impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors (daytime)

Visual amenity

383. There would be views of the array site and CWP Project's offshore infrastructure across the 50 km study area; however, the nature of the view would change along the coastline depending on proximity, angle of view and elevation. There would be wide-open middle-distance views directly opposite the array site of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure between Greystones and Five Mile Point, gradually altering to oblique views north and south of the CWP Project. Views would diminish based on distance, intervening vegetation and built form, and would alter depending on the surrounding context within which the view is experienced, be this headlands, points, embayments and open bays.

384. In low-level views, the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would "sit" on the skyline, whereas in elevated views, the offshore infrastructure would "sit" below the skyline. Foreshortening would be experienced for WTG Option B compared to WTG Option A, due the comparative difference in scale of the WTGs, although not enough to alter the magnitude of change and nature of effect.

Visual receptor groups

385. The Visual Receptor Group assessment was supported by **Appendix 15.6 Visual Assessment** and **Figures 15.9 Visual Receptors (Context)** and **Figures 15.10 Visual Receptors**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures.** This section should be read alongside **Figures 15.12a** to **f and Figures 15.13a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to hub and blade tip height, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures** and **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**. This section focused on Visual Receptor Groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, which have the potential to experience significant effects during operation / maintenance associated with either WTG Option A or B.

Receptor sensitivity

386. Receptor sensitivity based on the following visual receptor groups was as follows:

387. **Visual Receptor Group 1, Howth Head to North Bull Island:** Most of this receptor group lies either within Howth Head or North Bull Island SAA and has been assessed as **High** sensitivity (National / International value and High susceptibility).

388. **Visual Receptor Group 2, Killiney to Bray:** Some of this receptor group included views and prospects of local / county importance. As such the sensitivity has been assessed as **High**–**Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility).

389. **Visual Receptor Group 3, Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB falls within this visual receptor group. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. As such, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High** (National value and High susceptibility).

390. **Visual Receptor Group 4, Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point**: Outside of the main settlement of Greystones, the area falls under Coastal Areas AONB and a small part of the northern section also falls within Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High**–**Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility).

391. **Visual Receptor Group 5, Wicklow to Wicklow Head:** Aside from Wicklow, all of the receptor group lies within the Coastal Areas AONB, and most of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. On this basis, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility).

392. **Visual Receptor Group 6 Dublin and Bray Mountains:** This receptor group lies either within the Bray Mountain Group AONB or the Dublin Mountains, which is covered by the North Eastern Valley / Glencree AONB or High Amenity Zone at a County Council level, with specific viewpoints identified. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility)

393. **Visual Receptor Group 7 Mountain Uplands:** All of this receptor group lies either within the Wicklow Mountains National Park (an ecological designation) and The Mountain Uplands (AONB); for instance, Djouce and Brockagh Mountain, or within the Bray Mountain Group AONB. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High**–**Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility).

394. **Visual Receptor Group 8 Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay**: This receptor group lies entirely within the Coastal Areas AONB with prospects of special amenity value or special interest. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (Local / County value and High susceptibility).

395. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** The Irish Sea and intertidal zone within 15 km of the array site is not covered by any landscape- or seascape-related designation. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High**–**Medium** (Community value and High susceptibility).

Magnitude of impact

396. **Visual Receptor Group 1 Howth Head to North Bull Island:** Extensive panoramic coastal views would be experienced from the edge of Howth Head and higher ground or at a lower level from all of North Bull Island. There would be views from dwellings, roads, footpaths and accessible locations, including cliff tops, specific viewpoints, beaches and golf courses. Views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure to the southeast would be oblique and beyond 30 km, with WTGs and OSSs lying remotely away from visible headlands and seen above the skyline. Views along the coastline would vary slightly in that from North Bull Island, the offshore infrastructure would appear to be "framed" by headlands by comparison with a slightly more open view to the north from Howth Head.

397. The extent of visibility would reduce inland as intervening landscape features, such as vegetation, built form and topography, filter or screen seaward views. There would be subtle variations in the view for each option.

398. The operational wireframes and photomontages from representative viewpoints **Figure 15.17.1** and **Figure 15.17.2** (see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**) illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the southeast, occupying approximately 17–20 degrees horizontal field view, at between approximately 30–35 km and sitting below the skyline. Depending on the angle of the view and location, there would be slight variations between Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with outliers. There would be no issues with foreshortening or tipping. Overall, the offshore infrastructure would be a noticeable change in the view with the addition of some features and would be of medium to low size and scale though spanning over a narrow horizontal field of view of the overall view and seen in the middle distance on the skyline.

399. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium–small in scale, long-term and localised in terms of geographical extent).

400. **Visual Receptor Group 2 Killiney to Bray:** Wide coastal views would be experienced from the coastline and low-lying locations, such as Shankill Beach, with panoramic views from elevated locations such as Killiney Hill. There would be views from dwellings, roads, footpaths and accessible locations to the coastline. Views would be oblique to the southeast, with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure sitting between headlands to the north and Bray Head to the south.

401. The extent of visibility would reduce inland as intervening landscape features, such as vegetation, built form and topography filter or screen seaward views. There would be subtle variations in the view for each option:

402. The operational wireframes and photomontages from representative viewpoints **Figure 15.17.5** and **Figure 15.17.21 (**see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations)** illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the east, occupying approximately 25–30 degrees horizontal field view, at between approximately 20–25 km and sitting below the skyline. Depending on the angle of the view and location, there would be slight variations between Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with some outliers. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be offset from Arlow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004), which would lie to the right of the view, partially screened by Bray Head. In some locations from this visual receptor group, views of Option B would appear slightly foreshortened given the relative size of the WTGs compared to Option A, although there would be no tipping. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure, seen in context with both headlands, would lie closer to Bray Head and introduce built form which would contrast with the naturalistic headland.

403. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate / localised in terms of geographic extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a noticeable change in the view with the addition of features appearing in the middle distance, although spanning over a moderate to narrow horizontal field of view of the overall view and would be seen sitting below the horizon.

404. **Visual Receptor Group 3 Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Principal visual receptors would experience elevated wide open though slightly oblique views, which are discernible inland roughly 2 km, beyond which intervening vegetation and the nature of the topography would have a screening function.

405. The operational photomontages from representative viewpoints **Figure 15.17.8 (see Appendix 15.11 Visualisations)** illustrate that all of CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the southeast / east, in the middle of the view between headlands, occupying approximately 40˚ of the view at approximately 17 km and sitting on the horizon.

406. Depending on the angle of the view and location, there would be slight variations between WTG Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with some outliers. Option A would appear slightly less balanced and organised than Option B, although both options would exhibit clustering and include outliers to the right of the view.

407. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long-term and intermediate in terms of geographic extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features appearing in the middle distance, although spanning over a moderate horizontal field of view of the overall view and would be seen sitting above the horizon.

408. **Visual Receptor 4 Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point:** Receptors along most of this stretch of coastline would experience full, direct uninterrupted views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure due to the low-lying topography and lack of intervening vegetation, built form or topography. Visibility would extend inland where views are not obscured by vegetation or built form.

409. The operational photomontages from representative viewpoints **Figure 15.17.10, Figure 15.17,12 Figure 15.17.12, Figure 15.17.24** and **Figure 15.17.26 (**see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations)** illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the east, in the middle of the view between headlands, occupying between approximately 44–63˚ of the view at approximately 13–15 km.

410. The WTGs and OSSs would be most visible with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure appearing as two distinct parts split by a central row of towers, which are clustered. There would be slight variations in the nature of the layout in terms of balance and organisation, with some cluttering and groups of outliers is visible from some locations slightly to the north of the array site. WTG Option B would appear foreshortened given the relative height of WTGs from views directly opposite the array site.

411. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High** (large in scale, long-term and wide in terms of geographical extent). The array site would be a prominent to very large dominant change in the view with the addition of several features, would be of large size and scale, spanning over a wide horizontal field of view of the overall view and would be seen in the middle distance sitting on the horizon.

412. **Visual Receptor Group 5 Wicklow to Wicklow Head:** Principal visual receptors along the coastline would experience either low-lying or slightly elevated wide-open although slightly oblique views across to the array site, and views would be ascertained inland from small sections of the R760. Intervening vegetation and the nature of the topography would have a screening function beyond.

413. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the east, in the middle of the view occupying appropriately 47˚ of the view, at approximately 13 km and sitting on the horizon. Operational photomontages from representative viewpoints in **Figure 15.17.12** (see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**) illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the southeast / east, in the middle of the view between headlands, occupying approximately 40˚ of the view at approximately 17 km and sitting on the horizon.

414. Depending on the angle of the view and location, there would be slight variations between WTG Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with some outliers. Option A would appear slightly less organised and unbalanced scheme than Option B, although both options would exhibit clustering and include outliers to the right of the view. The southwestern edge of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be more prominent due to distance and the angle of the view. No tipping would occur.

415. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, would be large–medium in size and scale spanning over a wide horizontal field of view and would be seen in the middle distance sitting on the horizon.

416. **Visual Receptor Group 6 Dublin and Bray Mountains**: Receptors from elevated ground, including Three Rock Mountain, Carrickgollogan Hill, Great and Little Sugar Loaf, would experience far-reaching panoramic views with seaward views towards the Irish Sea, forming an important part of the overall view. Seaward views are of headlands and points in the foreground and middle distance with discernible presence of Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) in the distance on clear days.

417. Seaward views would be limited from lower slopes due to the nature of the topography and intervening vegetation. Equally, receptors of views further away from the array site would experience diminishing effects; the scale of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure appearing smaller in context with panoramic views.

418. The operational wireframes and photomontages from representative viewpoints in **Figure 15.17.6, 15.17.9** and **Figure 15.17.23** (see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**) illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the southeast, occupying approximately 25–40 degrees horizontal field view, at between approximately 20–30 km. There would be some variation in the relationship of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure to the horizon. From Viewpoint 23, Three Rock Mountain, over half of the offshore infrastructure appears to "sit" above the headlands. Similarly, from Viewpoint 6, Carrickgollogan Hill, roughly a third of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure appears to sit above the headland, with tipping introducing an uncharacteristic feature into what appears on higher ground to be naturalistic. By contrast, from Viewpoint 9, Great Sugar Loaf, the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would sit on the horizon. WTG Option A and B would present subtle variations in the view regarding balance, organisation and clustering, with foreshortening evident with Option B.

419. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of distance). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a notable to prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, would be large–medium in size and scale, although spanning over a moderate horizontal field of view, and would be seen in the middle distance. The magnitude of change would diminish with distance to the north, the scale of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure appearing smaller in context with panoramic views.

420. **Visual Receptor Group 7 Mountain Uplands:** Receptors from elevated summits of mountains and hills forming part of the Mountains Uplands (i.e., Djouce and Brackagh Mountains) would experience wide panoramic views with seaward views towards the Irish Sea forming an important part of the overall view. Seaward views are framed by headlands and points in the middle distance with discernible presence of Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) on clear days.

421. Limited seaward views would be available from lower slopes due to the nature of the topography and intervening vegetation in the form of extensive coniferous plantations and woodland.

422. The operational wireframes and photomontages from representative viewpoints in **Figures 15.17.14** and **15.17.15,** (see **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations**) illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the east occupying, approximately 20–30 degrees horizontal field

view, at between approximately 30–35 km and sitting below the skyline. Depending on slight variations in orientation, there would be full or partial views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure in what is perceived to be a largely naturalistic landscape, alongside slight variations between WTG Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with some tipping of headlands.

423. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate / localised in terms of geographic extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a noticeable change in the view with the addition of features appearing in the middle distance, although spanning over a moderate to narrow horizontal field of view of the overall view, and would be seen sitting below the horizon.

424. **Visual Receptor Group 8 Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay:** Receptors from low elevations would experience extensive panoramic views across the Irish Sea framed by headlands, including Wicklow Head and intervening points to the north with Ardmore Point to the south. Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) is discernible in the middle distance to the southeast.

425. Inland visibility extends along ridgelines towards the coast running in a roughly northwest–southeast direction with coniferous plantations and woodland largely obscuring visibility on lower slopes.

426. The operational wireframes and photomontages from viewpoints **Figures 15.17.18** and **15.17.23** illustrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible to the northeast occupying between approximately 40–30 degrees horizontal field view, at between approximately 15–20 km and sitting below the skyline. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be partially visible, appearing as an extension to headlands to the north with the remaining extent screened. Given the height of the headland relative to the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure, no tipping would be discernible.

427. Depending on slight variations in orientation, there would be full or partial views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure in what is perceived to be a largely naturalistic landscape. In addition, there would be slight variations between WTG Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with no distinct outliers and seen in context with Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004).

428. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, would be of large–medium size and scale, spanning over a moderate horizontal field of view of the overall view, and would be seen in the middle distance and sit above the horizon. The magnitude of change would reduce with distance further south, the scale of the array site appearing smaller in context with panoramic views.

429. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** Receptors within 15 km of the array site would experience extensive views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure from a variety of different orientations. For recreational boaters launching from harbours, marinas and quays, as well as sailing on the Irish Sea as well as users of the intertidal zone, views would be an important part of their experience and effects more continuous, compared to workers on boats working outdoors, including commercial fisherman and people on ships and ferries where views are more transient.

430. Depending on the angle of the view and location, there would be slight variations between WTG Option A and B in terms of balance, organisation, and clustering with the sense of foreshortening associated with Option B based on their scale, although insufficient to alter the magnitude of change and therefore the nature of the effects.

431. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High** (large, long term, and wide in terms of geographical extent) but diminishing with distance.

Significance of the effect

432. Significant adverse effects would be experienced by Visual Receptor Group 3: Bray Head to Cliff Manor, Group 4: Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point, Group 5: Wicklow to Wicklow Head, Group 6: Dublin and Bray Mountains and Group 8: Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay and Group 9: Marine recreational receptors described in detailed below:

433. **Visual Receptor Group 1 Howth Head to Bull Island** would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a High sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

434. **Visual Receptor Group 2 Killiney to Bray** would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

435. **Visual Receptor Group 3 Bray Head to Cliff Manor would** experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

436. **Visual Receptor Group 4 Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point** would experience a V**ery Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of change.

437. **Visual Receptor Group 5 Wicklow to Wicklow Head** would experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

438. **Visual Receptor Group 6 Dublin and Bray Mountains** would experience a **Significant** adverse significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

439. **Visual Receptor Group 7 Mountain Uplands** would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

440. **Visual Receptor Group 8 Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay** would experience a **Significant adverse** (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High**–**Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

441. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors** would experience a **Very Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High** magnitude of change.

442. Effects would be long term and reversible on the basis that the CWP Project has an operational life of 25 years and repowering would require a new consent application.

443. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Main (named) settlements

444. The assessment of effects associated with Main (Named) Settlements within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.8** and supported by **Figure 15.9 Visual Receptors (Context)**, **Figure 15.10 Visual Receptors** and **Figures 15.12 a** to **f and 15.13 a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to hub and blade tip height, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**. **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations** includes specific visualisations which present a representative viewpoint either close to or within each settlement. Impacts during operation / maintenance (daytime) relate to five urban areas: Killiney, Bray,

Greystones, Kilcoole and Wicklow based on the level of likely effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above:

Receptor sensitivity

445. The settlements are not covered by any landscape-related designations but do represent views of visitors / residents and are of Community value. Bray, Greystones and Wicklow also fall within Coastal Cells referred to in the Wicklow County Development Plan. The susceptibility to the CWP Project has been assessed as **High** since the change in view would be experienced by visitors / residents of the settlement. The overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

446. While the magnitude of change would be the same for both WTG Option A and WTG Option B, there would be subtle differences in the view. These are described below alongside the overall nature of the change.

447. **Killiney:** The entire array site would be visible to the southeast, from properties fronting the coast and from elevated locations where intervening vegetation, built form and the topography do not screen views. The extent of the elevated view affected would run from the section of coastline between Sorrento Point and Shankill to Bray Head. Views of the WTGs and OSSs would not feature in views towards Killiney Hill, noted in the county development plan for protection, due to being in the opposite direction.

448. For WTG Option A, the array site would appear as two distinct developments offset from a central row of WTGs, which are clustered. WTGs would be relatively balanced and organised to the right of the centre of the array site, while to the left of centre, the array site would appear cluttered, disorganised and unbalanced with one group of WTGs clustered to the immediate right of centre. One outlier would be apparent to the right of the view but there would be no tipping. The offshore infrastructure would be offset from Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004) which lies to the right of the view and is partially screened by Bray Head.

449. As for WTG Option A, the offshore infrastructure for WTG Option B would also appear as two distinct developments, offset from a central row of WTGs, which are clustered. WTGs would be relatively balanced and organised to the right of the centre of the array site, while to the left of centre, the array site appearing slightly cluttered and unbalanced. One outlier would be apparent to the right of the view. The view would appear slightly foreshortened given the relative size of the WTGs compared to Option A, although there would be no tipping. The array site would be offset from Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004), which lies to the right of the view and is partially screened by Bray Head.

450. The resultant magnitude of change for both WTG Option A and B has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographic extent). The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features appearing in the middle distance, although spanning over a narrow horizontal field of view of the overall view and would be seen above the horizon.

451. **Bray:** The array site would be visible to the southeastern edge of the settlement, with the WTGs and OSSs most visible in the view.

452. For WTG Option A, the array site would appear slightly more unbalanced and disorganised than Option B with clustering occurring throughout the layout. The array site for WTG Option B would appear slightly more balanced and organised than Option A, although clustering would still be evident and views slightly foreshortened.

453. For both options, while approximately 25% of the array site would be screened by Bray Head, there would be some tipping to the right of the view with blades visible above the lower elevations of the

headland. No outliers would be discernible from this view. The WTGs would also introduce an uncharacteristic feature into what appears, on higher ground, to be a naturalistic setting.

454. The resultant magnitude of change for both WTG Option A and B has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long-term and localised / intermediate in terms of geographic extent). The array site would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features appearing in the middle ground and seen on the skyline, although spanning over a narrow horizontal field of view of the overall view.

455. **Greystones:** Views of the array site would be visible to the east, in the middle of the view between headlands.

456. For WTG Option A, the WTGs and OSSs would be most visible within the array site, appearing as two distinct parts split by a central row of towers, which are clustered. The array site would be perceived from this view as relatively organised and balanced, although there would be outliers to the far left and right of the view.

457. By contrast with WTG Option A, WTG Option B would appear slightly less organised or balanced visually, with the clustering of WTGs to the left of centre in the view and to the far right of the view. Outliers would be visible to the far left and right.

458. For both options, there would be no perception of foreshortening or tipping.

459. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High** (large in scale, long term and wide in terms of distance). The array site would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, and would be large in size and scale, spanning over a wide to intermediate horizontal field of view of the overall view and seen in the middle ground on the skyline.

460. **Kilcoole:** The entire array site would be visible to the east, in the middle of the view between headlands.

461. For WTG Option A, the WTGs would appear in distinct groups offset from a clustered group of WTGs and OSSs just left of centre of the array site with further clustering throughout the array site. Within the distinct groups, the WTGs would appear relatively balanced and organised, although there are outliers to the left and right of the array site.

462. In terms of WTG Option B, the WTGs would appear in distinct groups offset from a clustered group of WTGs and OSSs just left of centre of the array site. Less clustering would be apparent compared to Option A. Within the distinct groups, the WTGs would appear relatively balanced and organised, although there would be outliers to the left and right of the array site. OSSs would appear as distinct features.

463. For both options, foreshortening would not be apparent given the context of the surrounding residential development.

464. The resultant magnitude of change for both WTG Option A and B has been assessed as **High** (large in scale, long term and wide in terms of geographical extent). The array site would be a prominent to large dominant change in the view with the addition of several features, would be of medium to large size and scale, spanning over a wide horizontal field of view of the overall view and would be seen in the middle ground on the skyline.

465. **Wicklow:** The array site would be visible to the east in the middle of the view, which would be slightly oblique and framed by headlands and the rocky outcrop of Black Castle.

466. Visually, WTG Option A presents a slight disorganised and unbalanced scheme compared to WTG Option B. Rows of towers to the left and right of the view would appear cluttered, with clustering evident. Four groups of outliers to the left of the view would be discernible. The southwestern edge of the array site would be more prominent due to distance and the angle of the view. No tipping would occur in this view.

467. Whilst WTG Option B presents a more organised and balanced scheme than WTG Option A with towers more evenly spaced, clustering would be discernible, particularly to the right of the view. Some outliers would be notable to the left of the view. The southwestern edge of the array site is more prominent due to distance and the angle of the view. No tipping would occur in this view.

468. The resultant magnitude of change both WTG Option A and B has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent). The array site would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, would be large–medium in size and scale spanning over a wide horizontal field of view and would be seen in the middle distance sitting on the horizon. Views would be affected from Wicklow, Wicklow Harbour and Harbour / Wall subject to the location, orientation and presence of intervening vegetation / built form.

Significance of the effect

469. Both Killieny and Bray would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

470. Greystones and Kilcoole would experience a **Very Significant adverse** (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High** magnitude of change.

471. Wicklow would experience a **Significant adverse** (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

472. Effects experienced by all settlements would be long term and reversible on the basis that the operational life of the CWP Project would be 25 years, and any repowering would require a new consent application.

473. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Key routes

474. The full effects associated with key routes within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.8 Sequential Route Assessment** and are supported by **Figure 15.9 Visual Receptors (Context), Figure 15.7 Visual Receptors** and **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **15.13 a** to **f** Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to hub and blade tip height (see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**). **Appendix 15.12 Visualisations** also includes visualisations which present a representative viewpoint either close to or along some of the routes. Likely significant effects during operation / maintenance (daytime) relate to key roads (R119 and R750), DART Line / Greystone to Wicklow Main Line (Dublin to Rosslare), the Southern Approach to Dublin and the following key walking routes:

- Howth Head Loop;
- North Bull Wall;
- Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk;
- Greystones to Wicklow Trail; and
- The Wicklow Way.

Receptor sensitivity

Key roads

475. **R119:** The R119 is not a promoted route or covered by any landscape-related designation and, as such, its value would be of Community importance. Receptors travelling along this road would have some appreciation of the seaward view, in particular, the elevated section between Sorrento Point and Killiney. Susceptibility to the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure has been assessed as **Medium** with an overall sensitivity of **Medium**.

476. **R750:** The R750 passes through the Coastal AONB and is covered by a View of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest No 48 (panoramic view towards Wicklow Golf Course, Brides Head, Wicklow Head and the coastline) and Prospect 31 (Prospect towards sea from Coastal Road) in the Wicklow County Development Plan. Its value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Receptors travelling along this road have some appreciation of the seaward view and susceptibility to the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure has been assessed as **Medium**. Overall sensitivity would be **High–Medium**.

Railway line

477. **DART line (Dublin to Greystones) and Dublin to Rosslare (between Greystones and Wicklow):** The route passes through three counties. The sensitivity of receptors would vary along the route, ranging from Community importance where there are no landscape / visual designations to Local / County importance, due to the extensive presence of the Wicklow Coastal AONB, Prospects of Special Amenity Value or Special Interest and Bray Head, an SAA. Susceptibility to the CWP Project has been assessed as **Medium** since the development would be experienced in transient and moving seaward views by users of the local railway. Overall, the level of sensitivity would vary along the route. For the first three sections of the route (section a to c), sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium–Low**, while for the last section of the route running between Bray Head and Wicklow (section d), the sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium**. Overall, the sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium**.

Shipping / ferry / recreational routes

478. **Southern approach:** The sea route is not covered by any landscape- or seascape-related designation or promoted route, and the route would be of Community value. The susceptibility of receptors utilising this route has been assessed as **Medium** (for ferry passengers and commercial fisherman) or **High–Medium** (for recreational craft). Overall sensitivity has therefore been assessed as either **Medium–Low** (for ferry passengers and commercial fisherman) or **Medium** (for users of recreational craft).

Key walking routes

479. **Howth Head Loop:** This walking route lies in an SAA for Howth Head, is recognised for its exceptional character and covers the uplands, eastern and southern coastlines of Howth. The route is also located within a Proposed Open Space and falls within a Zone of High Amenity, identified "To Preserve Views", as referred to in FCC's Development Plan. Its value would be of National / International importance. Susceptibility has been assessed as **High** as walkers' and visitors' attention is likely to be focussed on the views of Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea beyond. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High** due to the importance of the area, recognised at a national level, and the level of use.

480. **North Bull Wall:** This walking route lies in an SAA for North Bull Island, and its value would be of national / international importance. Susceptibility has been assessed as **High** as walkers' and visitors' attention is likely to be focussed on the views of Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea beyond. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High** due to the importance of the area, recognised at a national level, and the level of use.

481. **Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk:** The Cliff Walk falls within the Bray Head SAA, with the northern and central part of the route also falling under either The Bray Mountain Group AONB or the Coastal AONB, and the entire route covered by Prospect 6 Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk. Overall, the viewpoint has been assessed as of Local / County value. Susceptibility has been assessed as **HIgh** as walkers' and visitors' attention would be focussed on seaward views. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (subject to it being opened again).

482. **Greystones–Wicklow Trail:** All of the route outside of Greystone or Wicklow falls within the Coastal AONB at a Country Development level, and the entire route is covered by Prospect 7 Railway from Greystone to Wicklow town. The entire route has been assessed as of Local / County value based on the prospects in addition to running though the Coastal AONB between settlements. Susceptibility has been assessed as **High** as walkers' and visitors' attention would be focussed on seaward views. Overall, visual sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

483. **The Wicklow Way:** This walking route is promoted at a national level and passes through the Wicklow Mountains National Park (an ecological designation), Dublin Mountains, which are of high amenity and Wicklow Mountains, an AONB. The value has been assessed as of Local / County importance. Receptors walking along this route would appreciate the seaward view and susceptibility to the CWP Project offshore infrastructure has been assessed as **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium.**

Magnitude of impact:

Key roads

484. **R119:** Based on the ZTVs and field visits, the visibility of the array site would be appreciated from a section of the route between Dalkey / Sorrento Point to Shankill / Ballybrack (Seafield Road). Visual receptors would experience full or partial and oblique views screened by intervening vegetation where present. The presence of CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would represent a change in seaward views with the addition of features, be medium in size and scale spanning over an intermediate extent and seen in the middle distance on the skyline from elevated and lower-level locations along the road. The overall proportion of the entire route affected by theoretical visibility would be localised, resulting in a **Medium** magnitude of change (medium scale, long-term, localised geographic extent).

485. **R750:** ZTVs and field visits indicate that the majority of the route would be visible apart from a small section to the southwest of Brides Head and very small sections further south. Views would either be partial, obscured / filtered by intervening built form and vegetation or obliquely of some or the whole array site. Views would of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be seen in context with Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2024). Overall, the proportion of the entire route visible would be intermediate, resulting in a **Medium** magnitude of change (medium scale, long-term, intermediate geographic extent).

Railway line

486. **DART railway line (Dublin to Greystones) and Dublin to Rosslare (between Greystone and Wicklow):** ZTVs and field visits confirm that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible for much of the route in side-on views eastwards. Views, however, would vary from obscured, oblique to direct and open, depending on the relative orientation and proximity of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure to the route and intervening built form, vegetation and topography in the form of headlands and points. The WTGs and OSSs would be most visible in direct views between Bray Head and Wicklow (section d) where the array site would be a prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, large in size and scale spanning over a wide to intermediate extent of seaward views and seen in the middle ground on the skyline from the train. Overall, the proportion of the route affected by the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would cover a wide extent during operation /

maintenance. The overall magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium scale, long-term, wide geographic extent).

Shipping / ferry / recreational routes

487. **Southern approach:** Based on ZTV and field visits, the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible from the southern approaches to Dublin Port in face-on open views and side-on inland views, and would be seen at a close distance, backdropped by the Irish coastline. The magnitude of change would diminish with distance and range from **High** to **Negligible** over the study area. Overall, the proportion of the entire route within the study area affected by the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be Intermediate. The resulting magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium**.

Key walking routes

488. **Howth Head Loop:** The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure based on the ZTVs and field visits would be visible to the southeast from sections of the route, which either runs along the eastern, southern and southwestern edge of the Head or from elevated points inland. From these locations, views would be distant, full but oblique during operation / maintenance. For the remainder of the route, the array site would not be visible. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium**–**Low** (medium–small in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographic extent). The array site would be a noticeable change in the view with the addition of several features, would be **Medium–Small** in size and scale, although spanning over a narrow horizontal field of view, and be seen in the distance on the skyline.

489. **North Bull Wall**: Based on the ZTVs and field visits, the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible from the entire route. There would be oblique distant and partial views to the southeast framed by headlands associated with Howth and Daley / Dalkey Island and partially screened by Dalkey Head and Dun Laoghaire Harbour. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium**–**Low** (medium–small in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographic extent). The array site would be a noticeable to prominent change in the view with the addition of several features, would be medium–small in size and scale, although spanning over a narrow horizontal field of view and seen in the distance on the skyline.

490. **Bray- Greystones Cliff Walk:** Based on the ZTVs and field visits, the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible for much of the route, with views ranging from partial and oblique (partially screened by the local topography) to direct and open. Views of the array site would span across an intermediate to wide field of view and would be seen in the middle distance on the skyline. Overall, the magnitude of change has been assessed as **High (**large, long term and wide/intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

491. **Greystones – Wicklow Trail:** The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible along the entire route to the southeast / east with direct and open views of the entire array site. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High** (large in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of extent). The array site would be a prominent to very large dominant change in the view with the addition of several features, would be large in size and scale, spanning over a wide to horizontal field of view of the overall view and seen in the middle distance on the skyline.

492. **The Wicklow Way:** The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible from short sections of elevated ground where extensive views over the coastal plain towards the Irish Sea can be experienced and include views in the vicinity of Three Rock Mountain and the lower slopes of Djouce Hill. Other elevated sections pass through coniferous forestry, which would reduce views. Views would range from partial, oblique to full direct and open. Overall, the magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium, long term, intermediate / localised). The array site would be a noticeable change in the view with the addition of several features appearing in the middle distance.

Significance of the effect

Key roads

493. **R119:** Users of the R119 would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime). R119 receptors would be of **Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

494. **R750:** Users of the R750 would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

495. Effects experienced by receptors using these routes would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

496. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Railway line

497. **DART line (Dublin to Greystones) and Dublin to Rosslare Main Line (between Greystones and Wicklow):** Users of the DART railway line and Dublin to Rosslare line (Greystones to Wicklow) would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) or **Moderate–Slight** (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to either a **Medium** or **Medium–Low** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

498. Effects experienced by receptors using the DART line and Dublin to Rosslare Main Line (Greystones to Wicklow) would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

499. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Shipping / ferry / recreational routes

500. **Southern approach:** Users of the ferry route would experience either a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) or **Moderate–Slight** (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to either a **Medium** or **Medium–Low** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

501. Effects experienced by receptors using these routes would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

502. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

Key walking routes

503. **Howth Head Loop:** Users of the Howth Head Loop would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

504. **North Bull Wall:** Users of North Bull Wall would experience a **Moderate adverse** (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

505. **Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk:** Users of the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk would experience a **Very Significant adverse** (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High** magnitude of change.

506. **Greystones–Wicklow Trail:** Users of the Greystones to Wicklow Trail would experience a **Very Significant adverse** (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High** magnitude of change.

507. **The Wicklow Way:** Users of the Wicklow Way would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

508. Effects experienced by all settlements would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

509. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

510. Significant adverse effects would therefore be experienced by recreational users of both the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk and Greystones to Wicklow Trail with a change in views seaward.

Seascape character

511. The full effects associated with seascape character within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment** and supported by **Figure 15.4**, **Regional Seascape Character Types and Areas**, **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **15.13 a** to **f, Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures.** Likely moderate adverse (not significant) to significant effects would be experienced during operation / maintenance (daytime) in relation to RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea and RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay:

- **RSC 13 South East Irish Sea:** Both the bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to blade tip and hub height for WTG Option A and B (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **15.13 a** to **f**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) demonstrate that the offshore infrastructure associated with the CWP Project's theoretical visibility would cover the entire extent of the RSCA seaward. Onshore, the extent of theoretical visibility would be partially obstructed by intervening topography, landform and woodland. Impacts on the character and features would be direct associated with intervisibility, aesthetic and perceptual influences.
- **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay:** Both the bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to blade tip and hub height for WTG Option A and B (**Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **15.13 a** to **f**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**) demonstrate that the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure's theoretical visibility would cover the entire extent of the RSCA seaward. Onshore, the extent of theoretical visibility would be partially obstructed by intervening topography, landform and woodland, including to the west and south of Bray, due to Bray Head, north of Wicklow and west of Dunbur Head. Impacts on the character and features would be direct associated with intervisibility and aesthetic and perceptual influences.

Receptor sensitivity

512. Both RSCA 13 and 14 have been assessed as having **Medium** sensitivity to change, based on a **Local / County** value and a **Medium** susceptibility to change, resulting from CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. Full details of the value and susceptibility of change which have informed sensitivity are covered in **Appendix 15.4 Seascape Character Assessment**, **Tables 1** and **2**.

513. Both RSCAs lie within seascapes which on the landward side are designated at a Local / County level as AONB in the Wicklow LCAss and Wicklow County Development Plan. Part of the coastline edging RSCA 14 also includes Bray Head SAA, a national designation. Both seascapes include other nature conservation designations, are popular recreational locations, either along the coastline or intertidal zone, and include the presence of navigational and trade activity. As referred to above, RSCA 13 would also be influenced by the presence of Arlow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004).

Magnitude of impact

514. **RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea:** For both WTG Option A and B, the character of the seascape would alter particularly in the north of the RSCA, reducing the large and open scale nature of the seascape and creating a stronger degree of visual enclosure on the skyline in northeasterly views. The addition of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would consolidate and extend the wind farm influence alongside Arlow Bank Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004), introducing further manmade features.

515. Intervisibility across the wide, open sea would be interrupted by the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. There would be a perceived change by people at sea and from onshore coastal edges, coastal settlements and the coastal AONB in seaward panoramic views which extend northwards along the coastline. Inland views typically experience the sea within a partially developed context beyond intervening landscape influences. Coastal views and views from sea would offer a direct visual outlook towards the array site set within an expansive seascape context.

516. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographic extent), reducing with distance to the south, west and east. Effects generated would relate to a change to the seascape character, introducing further development into a largely undeveloped seascape and altering the perceived character of the wider seascape through visibility of further manmade structures.

517. **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay:** For both WTG Option A and B, the character of the seascape would alter across most of the RSCA, reducing the large and open scale of the seascape and creating a strong sense of visual enclosure on the skyline in easterly views.

518. Intervisibility across the wide, open sea would be interrupted by the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure as well as intervisibility across headlands and points further north and south along the coastline and across to the Welsh coastline on a very clear day.

519. There would be a perceived change by people at sea and from onshore coastal edges, coastal settlements and the coastal AONB and Bray Head SAA in seaward panoramic views eastwards along the coastline. Inland views typically experience the sea within a largely developed context beyond intervening landscape influences. Coastal views and views from sea would offer a direct visual outlook towards the array site set within an expansive seascape context with views.

520. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High** (large in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographic extent). Effects generated would relate to a change to the seascape character, introducing development into a largely undeveloped seascape and altering the perceived character of the wider seascape through the introduction of static man-made features.

Significance of the effect

521. **RSCA 13 South East Irish Sea** has been assessed as experiencing a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change. Effects would reduce with distance away from the array site.

522. **RSCA 14 Irish Sea, Sandbank and Broad Bay** has been assessed as experiencing a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High** magnitude of change.

523. Effects would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

524. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

525. The assessment identified that significant adverse effects would arise for regional seascape character area, RSCA14 Irish Sea, Seabank and Broad Bays in which the CWP Project would be located.

Landscape character

526. The full effects during operation / maintenance associated with landscape character within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.5 Landscape Character Assessment**, which includes specific tables on value and susceptibility to inform sensitivity judgements. This section should be read alongside **Figures 15.5** and **15.6 Landscape and townscape character**, **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **Figures 15.13a** to **f Bare earth and obstructed ZTVs to hub and blade tip height**, see **Appendix SLVIA Figures** and **Appendix 15.11 Visualisations.** This section focused on character areas within SDCC, DLRCC and WCC, which might be likely to experience effects assessed as **Moderate adverse** (not significant) and above:

Receptor sensitivity

South Dublin LCAss

527. **LCA 10 Rathmichael:** LCA 10 covers a largely residential area. The LCA is not covered by a landscape designation; however, the County Development Plan does refer to specific landscape features, including virtually intact hedgerows and the area's natural ambience. Landscape value has been assessed as **Local / County–Community** importance. Landscape susceptibility to change would be **Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium**.

528. **LCA 11 Ballyman**: LCA 11 covers an area between the Great Sugar Loaf and the Little Sugar Loaf. The LCA is not covered by a landscape designation, although there are proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Ballyman Glen is a Natura 2000 site. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County–Community** importance. Landscape susceptibility to change would be **Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium.**

529. **LCA 12 Shanganagh:** LCA 12 covers an area between Shankill and Bray. LCA 12 is not covered by a landscape designation, although it has some defining features and recreational facilities. Landscape value has been assessed as **Local / County–Community** importance and landscape susceptibility to change would be **Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **Medium.**

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

530. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island:** Dalkey Island sits on the southern edge of Dublin Bay and is characterised by a rocky coastline from which there are panoramic views. While this TCA is not designated from a landscape perspective, it does include important heritage features and is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

531. **TCA 6 Killiney Bay:** TCA6 is located to the northwest of the array site and has a strong relationship with the wider coastline. The TCA is not designated from a landscape perspective but does include several important features related to architecture and history, and greenspace that is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High–Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

532. **TCA 7 Shankill:** TCA7 is located to the northwest of the array site and has a strong relationship with the coastline. The TCA is not designated from a landscape perspective but does include several important features related to architecture and history, and greenspace that is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **High–Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

Wicklow LCAss

533. **LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group):** This LA form a "gateway" to Wicklow and includes Great and Little Sugar Loaf and Bray Head, it lies to the northwest of the array site. LA1c is designated as an AONB with Bray Head designated as a SAA. Landscape value has been assessed as of **National–Local / County** importance) and landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** on the basis that less of than a third of the LA is covered by a SAA.

534. **LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA 1d The Northen Eastern Valley):** LA 1d is based around the drainage pattern of Glencree / Dargle Rivers. It lies to the northwest of the array site and is designated as an AONB. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and the landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

535. **LC2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA2a the Northern Coastal Area):** LA2a covers extensive beaches between Greystones and Wicklow and is situated to the west of the array site. It is designated as an AONB through the Wicklow Landscape Hierarchy and includes some distinctive attributes, including environmental designations, aesthetic and perceptual qualities which contribute to landscape value. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed **High–Medium**.

536. **LC 2 Coastal Areas AONB (LA 2b the southern Coastal Area):** LA2b lies to the southwest of the array site and includes extensive sandy beaches, such as Brittas Bay. It is designated as an AONB. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and landscape susceptibility would be **High**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

537. **LC 3 Areas of High Amenity (LA 3a North East Mountain Lowlands):** LA3a forms a transitional landscape between 1a and 2a with varying hill formations and forestry plantations. It is designated in the County Development Plan as an Area of High Amenity. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and landscape susceptibility would be **Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

538. **LC 3 Areas of High Amenity (LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands):** LA3b is an enclosed landscape created by the South Eastern Mountains. It is designated in the Development Plan as an Area of High Amenity. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance. Landscape susceptibility would be **Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

539. **LC 6 Urban Areas (TCA 6a Greystones):** TCA 6a is not designated from a landscape perspective but does include several important features related to architecture and history, and greenspace that is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and landscape susceptibility would be **High–Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

540. **LC 6 Urban Areas (TCA 6d Wicklow):** TCA 6d is not designated from a landscape perspective but does include several important features related to architecture and history, and greenspace that is popular recreationally. Landscape value has been assessed as of **Local / County** importance and landscape susceptibility would be **High–Medium**. Overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium**.

Magnitude of impact

South Dublin LCAss

541. **LCA 10 Rathmichael:** The ZTVs demonstrate widespread theoretical visibility covering Rathmichael, although as verified on site, field margins and hedgerow trees would provide further screening. Impacts due to proximity are associated with the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCA, particularly inter visibility. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and wide / intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

542. **LCA 11 Ballyman:** The ZTVs demonstrate widespread theoretical visibility across Carrickgollogan Hill and Wood, Old Conna Golf Course, Dun Laoghaire Golf Club and Old Connaught. Based on site visits, field margins and hedgerow trees would provide further screening. Impacts due to proximity were associated with the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCA, namely intervisibility. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

543. **LCA 12 Shanganagh:** LCA 12 would receive visibility of both the WTGs and OSSs along the coastal edge of the settlement, based on the obstructed ZTV and confirmed through site visits. New vertical features would be introduced into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and wide in terms of geographical extent).

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

544. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island:** The obstructed ZTVs indicated that the TCA would receive visibility of both the WTGs and OSSs across the island. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and wide in terms of geographical extent).

545. **TCA 6 Killiney Bay:** Both the WTGs and OSSs along the coastal edge of the TCA would be visible based on the ZTVs and based on site visits. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium (**medium in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographical extent).

546. **TCA 7 Shankill:** This area would receive visibility of both the WTGs and OSSs along the coastal edge of the settlement based on the obstructed ZTV and site visits. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change

would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium (**medium in scale, long term and localised in terms of geographical extent).

Wicklow LCAss

547. **LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group):** ZTVs indicate that the eastern side of all three areas covering LA1c would receive have theoretical visibility of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure, with impacts on the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LA due to proximity. The area affected is open, comprising moorland with some small areas of forestry, and this was verified on site. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Large–Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long-term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

548. **LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA 1D The Northen Eastern Valley):** The ZTVs predict visibility from summits, and east- and south-facing slopes to the west of Enniskerry, covering roughly half of the receptor area, which comprises moorland, forestry, and upland farmland. Based on site visits, the extent of visibility would be less due to low-level intervening vegetation. Impacts are associated with the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LA, associated with intervisibility. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

549. **LC 2 Coastal Areas (LA 2a the Northern Coastal Area:** The obstructed ZTV indicates widespread theoretical visibility of the WTGs and OSSs with impacts on the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LA due to proximity and confirmed through site visits. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Large–Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

550. **LC 2 Coastal Areas (LA2b the Southern Coastal Area:** The obstructed ZTV, which was verified on site, indicates widespread theoretical visibility of the WTGs and OSSs, although partially screened by headlands to the north with impacts on the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LA due to proximity. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Large–Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

551. **LC 3 Areas of High Amenity (LA 3a North East Mountain Lowlands):** Based on the ZTVs, roughly half of the LA has predicted theoretical visibility. Visibility would extend along the eastern side of the LA between Downs Hill in the north and Ballinacooley in the south. Thereafter, theoretical visibility is predicted on scattered summits and their upper east-facing slopes of hills. Intervening vegetation at a lower level would reduce the visual extent to intermediate. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce at a distance new vertical features and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

552. **LC 3 Areas of High Amenity (LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands):** The obstructed ZTV predicts theoretical visibility along the eastern side of the LA, extending between Downs Hill in the north and Ballinacooley in the south. Thereafter, theoretical visibility is predicted on scattered summits and their upper east facing slopes of hills. Overall, a small part of the overall LA would be affected and verified

in the field. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce at a distance new vertical features and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The scale of the change would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

553. **LC 6 Urban (TCA 6a Greystones TCA):** Widespread theoretical visibility is predicted and confirmed on site. This would mainly affect the character of Greystones Promenade and seafront buildings as well as development to the western and southern edge of the settlement, covering roughly half of the TCA. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features and contrast with the developed edge of the TCA. The scale of the change would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

554. **LC 6 Urban (TCA 6d Wicklow TCA):** Widespread obstructed theoretical visibility is predicted. This would mainly affect the character of the harbour and seafront buildings as well as development to the western and southern edge of the settlement, covering roughly half of the TCA and confirmed on site. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would introduce new vertical features and contrast with the developed edge of the TCA. The scale of the change would be **Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

South Dublin LCAss

555. LCA 10 Rathmichael, LCA 11 Ballyman: and LCA 12 Shanganagh would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown TCAs

556. **TCA 5 Dalkey Island** TCA**, TCA 6 Killiney Bay and TCA 7 Shankill**: TCA 5 Dalkey Island, TCA 6 Killeny Bay and TCA 7 Shankill would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to a **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

Wicklow LCAss

557. **LC1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA1c The Bray Mountain Group):** LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group would experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

558. **LC1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB (LA1d The Northen Eastern Valley):** LA 1d The Northen Eastern Valley would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

559. **LA2a The Northern Coastal Area:** LA2a would experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

560. **LA2b The Southern Coastal Area** would experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

561. **LC3 Areas of High Amenity (LA3a North East Mountain Lowlands):** LA3a would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

562. **LC3 Areas of High Amenity (LA3b South East Mountain Lowlands):** LA3b would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

563. **6 Urban (6A Greystones and 6D Wicklow): TCA** 6a Greystones and TCA 6d Wicklow would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime) due to **High–Medium** sensitivity combined with a **Medium** magnitude of change.

564. Effects would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

565. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

566. The assessment identified that there would be significant adverse effects on specific LAs within Wicklow County Council's administrative area (**LA1c The Bray Mountain Group, LA2a The Northern Coastal Area** and **LA2b The Southern Coastal Area**).

National designated landscapes

567. The full effects associated with national designated landscapes within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscapes** and are supported by **Figures 15.7** and **15.8, Landscape planning designations** and **Figures 15.12 a** to **f** and **15.13 a** to **f** covering bare earth and obstructed ZTVs **(see Appendix SLVIA Figures).** Bray Head SAA has been assessed as likely to experience a **Significant** adverse landscape and visual effect during operation / maintenance (daytime), while both Howth Head and North Bull Island SAA were assessed as likely to experience **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effects on their visual amenity during operation / maintenance (daytime).

- **Bray Head:** Bray Head SAA is located 15.6 km to the east of the array site. The SAA is a plateau of high ground with cliffs extensive seaward views. The Head is colonised by a variety of flora and fauna, and is designated as a cSAC, pNHA and SPA. Views and prospects referred to in the County Development Plan are across to or from the Head.
- **Howth Head:** Howth Head SAA is located 27.8 km to the northwest of the array site. The SAA is a coastal landscape of great importance and human settlement dominated by natural features and processes. The landscape forms a distinctive rocky promontory that defines the north of Dublin Bay with elevated summits including Ben of Howth. The landscape is one of heathland, wood, cliffs and wooded residential areas. There are strong coastal links between Howth Head, Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea with a sense of openness and connectivity to the wider landscape. Howth Head's elevated summit and coastline affords extensive seaward views with large skies across Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea with two defining landmarks.
- **North Bull Island:** North Bull Island SAA is located 33.0 km to the northwest of the array site. The coastal sand spit is colonised by natural vegetation and affords extensive seaward views with large skies across Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea with the defining landmark of North Bull Wall. There are wide open panoramic views from the island across Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea with Howth Head and Dalkey / Dalkey Island framing views.

Receptor sensitivity

568. Howth Head, North Bull Island and Bray Head have been assessed as having **High** sensitivity to change, based on a **National / International** value and a **High** susceptibility to change resulting from CWP Project's offshore infrastructure. Full details of the value and susceptibility of change which have informed sensitivity are covered in **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscapes.**

569. The SAAs have been designated at a national level for their outstanding landscapes, special recreational value and / or where there is a need for nature conservation. While none of the SAAs have specific special qualities, all have extensive seaward views and large skies overlooking Dublin Bay and / or the Irish Sea beyond.

Magnitude of impact

570. **Howth Head:** While open views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure for both WTG Option A and WTG B would be possible, with most views along the southern and southwestern coastal cliff edges with eastward views and elevated views inland, the relative distance from the array site would limit the prominence of proposals within existing views and therefore have minimal effect on the SAA. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium–small in scale, long term and intermediate / localised in terms of geographic extent). The array site would be a noticeable change in the view, although seen in the distance on the skyline.

571. **North Bull Island:** Similarly for North Bull Island, while open views of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be possible, particularly along the eastern coastline / intertidal zone impacting slightly on the expansive large skies, the relative distance from the array site would limit the prominence of proposals within existing views and therefore have minimal effect on the SAA. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium–small in scale, long term and intermediate / localised in terms of geographic extent). The array site would be a noticeable change in the view, although seen in the distance on the skyline.

572. **Bray Head:** There would be open views from the eastern edge of the SAA of the entire array site and its associated offshore infrastructure, impacting on both landscape character and visual amenity in terms of the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the SAA and seaward views. The array site would introduce new vertical features into an undeveloped seascape and appear discordant with the naturalistic series of headlands / points and hills inland. The offshore infrastructure would appear as a prominent change in the view, appearing in the middle distance, although spanning over a moderate horizontal field of view of the overall view and sitting just below the horizon. The scale of change for both landscape and visual amenity has been assessed as **Large–Medium**. The resultant magnitude of change for both landscape and visual amenity has been assessed as **High–Medium** (large–medium in scale, long term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent).

Significance of the effect

573. Bray Head would experience a **Significant** adverse (significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime), due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **High–Medium** magnitude of change.

574. Both Howth Head and North Bull Island would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) effect during operation / maintenance (daytime), due to **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

575. Effects would be long term and reversible on the basis that any repowering would require a new consent application.

576. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

577. Bray Head would experience **Significant** adverse landscape and visual effects as a consequence of CWP Project's offshore infrastructure, while both Howth and North Bull Island SAAs would experience no significant landscape and visual effects.

15.10.3 Operation and maintenance (night-time)

Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term although reversible impacts on seascape, landscape and townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors (nighttime)

578. Only Visual Receptor Groups and Nationally Designated Landscapes would be likely to experience either **Moderate** adverse (not significant) or **Significant** adverse (significant or very significant) effects during Impact 2, and these are outlined in further detailed below.

Visual receptor groups

579. The Visual Receptors Group assessment was supported by **Appendix 15.6, Visual Assessment** and **Figures 15.9**, **Visual Receptors (Context)** and **Figures 15.10**, **Visual Receptors**, see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures**. This section focused on Visual Receptor Group 3, which has the potential to experience significant effects, and Visual Receptor Group 9: Marine recreational receptors, which has the potential to experience **Moderate** (not significant) effects during operation / maintenance (night-time) associated with either WTG Option A or B.

Receptor sensitivity

580. **Visual Receptor Group 3, Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Bray Head SAA and part of the Bray Mountain Group AONB falls within this visual receptor group. All of the coastline is defined as a prospect of special amenity value or special interest. As such, the sensitivity has been assessed as **High** (national value and high susceptibility).

581. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** While the Irish Sea and intertidal zone within 15 km of the array site is not covered by any landscape- or seascape-related designation, the overall sensitivity has been assessed as **High–Medium** based on a high susceptibility to change (**Community** value and **High** susceptibility) due to the nature and experience of visual receptors, which includes users of the inter tidal zone (e.g., beach users, swimmer and surfers) and recreational sailors.

Magnitude of impact

582. **Visual Receptor Group 3 Bray Head to Cliff Manor:** Permanent navigational markings and aviation lighting associated with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be visible at dusk, during the night and at dawn, and seen in context with some existing lighting offshore, including transient marine vessels and Muglins lighthouse, alongside onshore lighting associated with Bray. Lighting would appear to flicker because of being viewed beyond rotating blades and due to the intervening atmospheric conditions and distance.

583. Works would be permanent in nature, long term in duration and intermediate in terms of geographical extent. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium–small in scale, long term and intermediate terms of geographical extent).

584. **Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** Receptors within 15 km of the array site would experience extensive views of lighting associated with the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure from a variety of different orientations. For recreational boaters launching from harbours, marinas and quays, and sailing on the Irish Sea, as well as users of the intertidal zone, views of lighting associated with CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be an important part of their experience, with effects more continuous compared to workers on boats working outdoors, including commercial fisherman, and people on ships and ferries where views are more transient.

585. Works would be permanent in nature, long term in duration and wide in terms of geographical extent. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium** (medium, long term, and wide in terms of geographical extent) but diminishing with distance.

Significance of the effect

586. **Visual Receptor Group 3 Bray Head to Cliff Manor and Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors:** Visual Receptor Group 3 and 9 would experience **Moderate** adverse (not significant) visual effects during the operation / maintenance (night-time). Visual Receptor Group 3 would have **High** sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change, whereas Visual Receptor Group 9 would experience **High–Medium** sensitivity and a **Medium** magnitude of change.

587. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

National designated landscapes

588. The full effects associated with within the study area are detailed in **Appendix 15.9 National Designated Landscape**. This is supported by **Figure 15.7** and **Figure 15.8 Landscape planning designations (**see **Appendix 15.10 SLVIA Figures)**. This section focused on Bray Head SAA based on the level of effects assessed as **Moderate** adverse (not significant) and above:

Receptor sensitivity

589. **Bray Head:** Bray Head has been assessed as having **High** sensitivity (based on a **National / International** value and a **High** susceptibility to change resulting from CWP Project's offshore infrastructure). The SAA has been designated at a national level for its outstanding landscapes, special recreational value and / or where there is a need for nature conservation. While the SAA does not have any specific special qualities, it has extensive seaward views and large skies overlooking the Irish Sea.

Magnitude of impact

590. **Bray Head:** Operation / maintenance night-time works would result in a change to the SAA's character due to the introduction of additional / new lighting in panoramic views, adding lighting into a relatively dark sky. Permanent navigational markings and aviation lighting associated with the offshore infrastructure would be visible at dusk, during the night and at dawn, and seen in context with some existing lighting offshore, including transient marine vessels and Muglins lighthouse, alongside

onshore lighting associated with Bray. Lighting would appear to flicker because of being viewed beyond rotating blades and due to the intervening atmospheric conditions and distance.

591. Works would be permanent in nature, long term in duration and intermediate in terms of geographical extent. The resultant magnitude of change has been assessed as **Medium–Low** (medium–small in scale, long-term and intermediate in terms of geographical extent) for both landscape character and visual amenity.

Significance of the effect

592. **Bray Head:** Bray Head would experience a **Moderate** adverse (not significant) landscape and visual effect during the operation / maintenance (night-time) due to **High** Sensitivity combined with a **Medium–Low** magnitude of change.

593. Based on the predicted level of effect, it was concluded that no additional mitigation would be is required beyond the embedded mitigation described in **Section 15.9**.

15.11 Cumulative impacts

594. A fundamental component of the EIA was to consider and assess the potential for cumulative effects of the CWP Project with other projects, plans and activities (hereafter referred to as 'other development').

595. **Appendix 15.1** presents the findings of the cumulative effects assessment (CEA) for the SLVIA, which considered the potential cumulative seascape, landscape and townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptor effects from the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the CWP Project alongside other development.

596. The CEA considered additive cumulative effects. Additive cumulative effects are assessed where the seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the marine environment, which includes all of the other Phase 1 Projects as well as the existing Phase 1 Arklow Bank OWF.

597. The CEA considered impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the CWP Project (Impacts 1, 2, 3 and 4). It was anticipated that decommissioning impacts (Impact 1 and 6) would be no greater than those identified for the construction phase, as decommissioning would essentially be a reversal of the installation process. Therefore, no separate assessment of cumulative impacts during the decommissioning phase was presented within this CEA.

598. A summary of the CEA for SLVIA is presented below.

15.11.1 Seascape, landscape / townscape and national designated landscapes

599. **Seascape:** There would be no significant cumulative effects on RSCA associated with Impacts 1 to 6 in the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs.

600. **Landscape / Townscape Character:** During operation (daytime) **LA 2a. Northern Coastal Area** as identified in the Wicklow County Council Landscape Assessment would experience **Significant** (significant) effects. No significant cumulative effects would be experienced during the remaining phases of construction / decommissioning (daytime and night-time) and operation (night-time) (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6) in the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs.

601. **National designated landscapes**: During operation (daytime) **Bray Head SAA** would experience **Significant** (significant) effects. Bray Head SAA would not experience significant cumulative adverse effects for Impact 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs. There would be no significant cumulative effects on other nationally designated landscapes associated with Impacts 1 to 6 in the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs.

15.11.2 Visual amenity (visual receptor groups / main (named) settlements and key routes)

Visual receptor groups:

602. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs:

- During operation (daytime) Visual Receptor Group 4: Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point; Visual Receptor Group 5: Wicklow to Wicklow Head and Visual Receptor Group 6: Dublin and Bray Mountains would experience **Significant** (significant) cumulative effects**.**
- During operation (daytime) Visual Receptor Group 9: Marine Recreational Receptors would experience **Very Significant** (significant) cumulative effects.
- No significant cumulative effects would be experienced during the remaining phases of construction / decommissioning (daytime and night-time) and operation (night-time) (Impacts 1, 2 and 4).

Main (named) settlements:

603. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs:

- During operation (daytime), Greystones and Wicklow would experience a **Significant** (significant) effect.
- During operation (daytime), Kilcoole would experience a **Very Significant** (significant) effect.
- For all remaining phases of development (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6), no significant cumulative effects would be experienced.

Key routes:

604. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs:

- During operation (daytime) **DART Line** (Dublin to Greystones) / Dublin to Rosslare Main Line (Greystones to Wicklow): Receptors would experience a **Significant–Moderate** (significant) cumulative effect for section d (Bray Head to Wicklow) of the route, while for remaining sections of the route, receptors would experience no significant effects.
- During operation (daytime) **Southern Approach to approach to Dublin Port** (Dublin to Cherbourg): Receptors would experience **Moderate** or **Significant–Moderate** (significant) cumulative effects for section a (0–10 km). The overall cumulative effect would be **Slight** (not significant).
- During operation (daytime) **Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk:** Receptors utilising the route would experience a **Significant** (significant) **cumulative effect.**
- During operation (daytime) **Greystones to Wicklow Trail:** Receptors using the route would experience a **Very Significant** (significant) cumulative effect.

605. For all remaining phases of development (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6), no significant cumulative effects would be experienced.

15.12 Transboundary impacts

606. There would be no transboundary impacts in relation to the SLVIA associated with seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors

607. Informed by desk studies and field surveys, the SLVIA scoped out transboundary impacts associated with seascape character on the basis that the seaward boundary of MCAs 8 and MCAs 12 are approximately 49 and 46 km, respectively, from the nearest WTG. The CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would be largely perceived from the Irish coast, and the effects which would be aesthetic and perceptual would diminish with distance.

15.13 Inter-relationships

608. The inter-related effects assessment considered the potential for all relevant effects across multiple topics to interact, spatially and temporally, to create inter-related effects on a receptor group. This included incorporating the findings of the individual assessment chapters to describe potential additional effects that may be of greater significance when compared to individual effects acting on a receptor group.

609. The term 'receptor group' was used to highlight the fact that the proposed approach to the inter-relationships assessment has not assessed every individual receptor considered in this chapter, but instead focused on groups of receptors that may be sensitive to inter-related effects.

610. **Chapter 5 EIA Methodology** provides a matrix to show at a broad level where across the EIAR interactions between effects on different receptor groups have been identified.

611. The potential inter-related effects that could arise in relation to the SLVIA are presented in **Table 15-22.**

Table 15-22 Inter-related effects assessment for the SLVIA

Impact / receptor	Related chapter	Phase assessment
Impact 1 (Construction): Direct / indirect temporary daytime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	None identified	None identified
Impact 2 (Construction): Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	**Chapter 16 Shipping and Navigation**	Effects associated with temporary safety lighting would impact on both visual amenity and on landscape character in terms of aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The effects of lighting on shipping / navigation are covered within **Chapter 16** in this **Volume.** The greatest level of effects would occur during the construction phase.

Impact / receptor	Related chapter	Phase assessment
Impact 1 (Operation / Maintenance): Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible daytime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	**Chapter 22 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage; Chapter 29 Population**	While the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure may generate significant effects on seaward views for some settlements, overall, the character of such settlements will still prevail. Settlements, however, with a focus on tourism may experience some socio-economic effects, which are considered in detail in **Chapter 29 Population of this Volume**. Some of the landscape character areas are located at or adjacent to cultural heritage assets. Cultural and historic designations / attributes have been considered as one of the contributory factors towards overall landscape value and susceptibility. The effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure on the historic / cultural receptors themselves are covered in **Chapter 22 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage** of this volume. The greatest level of effects would be experienced during operation / maintenance.
Impact 2 (Operation / Maintenance): Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors .	**Chapter 16 Shipping and Navigation**	Effects associated with permanent aviation and navigational lighting would impact on both visual amenity and on landscape character in terms of aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The effects of lighting on shipping / navigation is covered within **Chapter 16** of this **Volume.** The greatest level of effects would be experienced during operation / maintenance.
Impact 1 (Decommissioning): Direct / indirect temporary daytime impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	None identified	None identified
Impact 2 (Decommissioning): Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors	**Chapter 16 Shipping and Navigation**	Effects associated with temporary safety lighting would impact on both visual amenity and on landscape character in terms of aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The effects of lighting on shipping / navigation is covered within **Chapter 16** of this **Volume.**

15.14 Potential monitoring requirements

612. Monitoring requirements for the CWP Project have been described in the Environmental Monitoring Plan, submitted alongside the EIAR, and further developed and agreed with stakeholders prior to construction.

613. The assessment of impacts on SLVIA as a result of the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the CWP Project have been predicted to be not significant in EIA terms for construction and decommissioning with significant adverse effects experienced during operation / maintenance. It was concluded that no specific monitoring would be required on the basis that no mitigation measures could be proposed which would alter the nature of effects experienced by seascape, landscape / townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.

15.15 Impact assessment summary

614. This chapter of the EIAR has assessed the potential environmental impacts on seascape, landscape and townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual receptors from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the CWP Project.

615. This section, including **Table 15-23** to **Table 15-29**, summarises the impact assessment undertaken and confirms the significance of residual effects (i.e., following the application of primary mitigation measures).

616. The SLVIA primarily focused on the potential effects of the offshore components of the CWP Project seaward of the LWM associated with seascape, landscape and townscape character and national designated landscapes. These components comprised:

- The Generating Station, which comprises the WTGs and IACs; and
- The OfTI, which comprises the OSSs, interconnector cables and OEC.

617. Visual effects arising from vessel movements seaward by approximately 4 km of the shoreline (including a mid support pontoon) were assessed in the SLVIA.

618. The SLVIA assessed impacts on receptors within a study area measured as a 50 km buffer from the outermost WTG within the array site. Receptors assessed as part of the SLVIA included seascape, landscape and townscape, national designated landscapes, visual receptor groups, main (named) settlements and key routes.

619. Impacts were assessed during the day and at night for all phases of development (referred to as Impacts 1 to 6) for both WTG Option A and B. No alternative options were assessed other than WTG Option A and B. The SLVIA determined that the potential for an LoD to cause a new or materially different effect would not arise. This was because the scale of potential variation defined by the relevant LoD to the SLVIA was small in comparison to the context and scale of the infrastructure within which it is assessed; thus, a variation in the effects on seascape, landscape and townscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors would not be discernible.

620. The SLVIA was prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2013). GLVIA3 has been adopted by the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) and is acknowledged in guidance and policy as the leading reference for LVIA in Ireland. Where appropriate, reference was made to NMPF, MMO and NatureScot guidance in terms of seascape and landscape significance, seascape sensitivity and visualisations, respectively.

621. Reference was also made in the SLVIA to several guidance documents applicable to the assessment of potential effects on seascape / landscape and townscape character, national designated landscapes and visual receptors.

622. In accordance with GLVIA3 the SLVIA:

- Identified the key legislation, policy and guidance relevant to the SLVIA, with reference to the latest updates in guidance and approaches;
- Confirmed the study area for the assessment and presented the impact assessment methodology for the SLVIA;
- Described and characterised the baseline environment for the SLVIA, established from desk studies and project survey data, including field surveys and consultation;
- Defined the project design parameters for the impact assessment and described any primary mitigation measures relevant to the SLVIA;
- Presented the assessment of potential impacts on seascape, landscape, national designated landscapes and visual receptors, and any assumptions and limitations encountered in compiling the impact assessment;
- Assessed the cumulative effects of the proposal in combination with other wind farm developments as well as other relevant onshore proposals; and
- Detailed additional mitigation and / or monitoring necessary to prevent, minimise, reduce or offset potentially significant effects identified in the SLVIA.

623. The SLVIA was supported by figures that included bare earth and obstructed ZTVs as well as visualisations in the form of wireframes and photomontages.

624. Where indicated, consultation with LPAs to inform the SLVIA took place and discussions occurred with Phase 1 Projects in terms of cumulative effects. In addition to consultation with LPAs and Phase 1 Projects guidance, good practice and professional judgements were used in determining the extent of the study area, location of representative viewpoints, additional townscape character assessments and the selection and presentation of visualisations, including the selection of locations for the night-time and cumulative photomontages.

625. The assessment concluded that effects would be generated on the following receptors as follows.

15.15.1 Seascape receptors:

626. Four RSCAs (Ireland) were assessed, informed by RSCAs mapped and described in the Regional Seascape Character Assessment 2020 Final Report prepared for the Marine Institute. The SLVIA determined that the CWP Project would generate **Significant** (significant) adverse seascape effects on seascape within Regional Seascape Character Area (RSCA) 14 Irish Sea, Seabank and Broad Bays, in which the CWP Project would be located during operation and maintenance (daytime), associated with Impact 1.

627. There would be no significant adverse effects during construction / decommissioning on any RSCAs, and remaining RSCAs would experience no significant adverse effects for all phases of the development (Impact 1–6) ranging from **Slight** to **Not Significant** (no significant) with no material changes arising from the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure and any effects would relate to intervisibility. In terms of cumulative effects, no significant cumulative effects on RSCAs would be associated with impacts 1 to 6 in the cumulative scenario, where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs.

15.15.2 Landscape / townscape character receptors:

628. The assessment considered the effects of the CWP Project on landscape and townscape character, mapped and described in County Council Landscape Character Assessments. The assessors undertook, where necessary, additional baseline townscape character assessments to provide comprehensive coverage across the study area of the SLVIA. The assessment concluded that the following landscape character areas would experience significant adverse effects during the daytime operation / maintenance phase of the proposed development (Impact 1).

Wicklow County Council:

Landscape Category (LC) 1 Mountains and Lakeshore AONB:

- Landscape Area (LA) 1c The Bray Mountain Group AONB would experience a significant adverse effect.

Landscape Category 2 Coastal Area AONB:

- LA 2a The Northern Area would experience significant adverse effects; and
- LA 2b The Southern Coastal Area would experience significant adverse effects.

629. There would be no significant effects during construction / decommissioning on any landscape or townscape character categories / areas / types / units, and remaining adverse effects on landscape / townscape character would vary from **Imperceptible** to **Moderate** (**not significant**) due to limited visibility and distance from the array site. Regarding cumulative effects during operation (daytime), **LA 2a. Northern Coastal Area** would experience **Significant** (significant) effects. No significant cumulative effects would be experienced during the remaining phases of construction / decommissioning (daytime and night-time) and operation (night-time) (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6) in the cumulative scenario, where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs.

15.15.3 National designated landscape receptors:

630. The assessment concluded that Bray Head SAA would experience **Significant** (significant) adverse landscape and visual effects as a consequence of CWP Project's offshore infrastructure during operation / maintenance (daytime), while both Howth and North Bull Island SAAs would experience no significant adverse landscape and visual effects. No significant adverse landscape and visual adverse effects would be experienced on any of the SAAs during construction / decommissioning associated with Impacts 1, 2, 5 and 6, and such effects would range from **Slight–Not Significant** to **Moderate** (**not significant**).

631. In the cumulative scenario, where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs, Bray Head SAA would experience **Significant** (significant) effects during operation (daytime). No significant cumulative effects would be experienced during the remaining phases of construction / decommissioning (daytime and night-time) and operation (night-time) (Impacts 1, 2 and 4).

15.15.4 Visual amenity

Visual receptor groups:

632. With reference to the representative viewpoints assessed and the range of visual receptors outlined in the supporting appendices, receptors within the study area were grouped into discrete geographic areas, based on the settlement hierarchy and broadly similar characteristics (e.g., topography, land cover, orientation and distance). The SLVIA focused on nine visual receptor groups likely to experience significant effects.

633. The assessment concluded that Visual Receptor Group 4: Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point and Group 9: Marine Recreational Receptors would experience a **Very Significant** (significant) adverse visual effect during operation / maintenance (daytime Impact 1). Visual Receptor Group 3: Bray Head to Cliff Manor, Group 5: Wicklow to Wicklow Head, Group 6: Dublin and Bray Mountains and Group 8: Wicklow Head to Brittas Bay would experience a **Significant** (significant) adverse visual effect during operation / maintenance (daytime Impact 1).

634. There would be no significant adverse effects during construction / decommissioning on any visual receptor group, and the remaining effects would vary from **Slight–Not Significant** to **Moderate** (not significant)) due to limited visibility and distance from the array site.

635. Whilst the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would appear prominent to large in some views with new features and span a wide horizontal view visual significant adverse effects would be along a localised stretch of coastline and from elevated locations adjacent to the coast; often seen in connection with operational Arklow Wind Farm (commissioned June 2004).

636. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs: the following effects would be experienced:

- During operation (daytime) Visual Receptor Group 4 Cliff Manor, Greystones, Kilcoole to Five Mile Point; Visual Receptor Group 5 Wicklow to Wicklow Head and Visual Receptor Group 6 Dublin and Bray Mountains would experience **Significant** (significant) cumulative effects.
- During operation (daytime) Visual Receptor Group 9 Marine Recreational Receptors would experience **Very Significant** (significant) cumulative effects.

637. No significant cumulative effects would be experienced during the remaining phases of construction / decommissioning (daytime and night-time) and operation (night-time) (Impacts 1, 2 and 4).

Main (named) settlements:

638. Three main settlements would experience significant effects during operation / maintenance (daytime Impact 1). The settlements of Greystones and Kilcoole would experience **Very Significant** (significant) adverse visual effects, while Wicklow would experience **Significant** (significant) adverse visual effects on operation / maintenance (daytime Impact 1).

639. There would be no significant effects during construction / decommissioning (Impacts 1, 2, 5 and 6) on any of the main (named) settlements, and the remaining effects would vary from **Not Significant** to **Moderate** (not significant) adverse due to limited visibility and distance from the array site.

640. Whilst the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure would appear as a prominent feature in some seaward views, the extent of overall change would be confined to the margins of coastal settlements at the closest point to the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure.

641. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs, the following effects would be experienced:

- During operation (daytime), Greystones and Wicklow would experience **Significant** (significant) effects.
- During operation (daytime), Kilcoole would experience a **Very Significant** (significant) effect.

642. For all remaining phases of development (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6), no significant cumulative effects would be experienced.

Key routes:

643. The SLVIA reviewed the impacts (Impacts 1–6) of the CWP Project on key roads, railway lines, shipping / ferry / recreational routes and key walking routes. It concluded that **Very Significant** adverse (significant) adverse visual effects would be experienced by visual receptors using the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk and Greystones to Wicklow Trail during operation / maintenance (daytime Impact 1).

644. The remaining visual receptors would not experience significant effects during any phases of the development relating to Impacts 1–6. Effects would range from **Imperceptible** to **Moderate** (not significant) adverse.

645. For recreational users of both the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk and Greystones to Wicklow Trail, there would be a change in views seaward.

646. In the cumulative scenario where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure are added to the other proposed OWFs, the following effects would be experienced:

- During operation (daytime) **DART Line** (Dublin to Greystones) / Dublin to Rosslare Main Line (Greystones to Wicklow): Receptors would experience a **Significant–Moderate** (significant) cumulative effect for section d (Bray Head to Wicklow) of the route, while for the remaining sections of the route, receptors would experience no significant effects.
- During operation (daytime) **Southern Approach to approach to Dublin Port** (Dublin to Cherbourg): Receptors would experience **Moderate** or **Significant–Moderate** (significant) cumulative effects for section a (0–10 km). The overall cumulative effect would be **Slight** (not significant).
- During operation (daytime) **Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk:** Receptors utilising the route would experience a **Significant** (significant) cumulative effect.
- During operation (daytime) **Greystones to Wicklow Trail:** Receptors using the route would experience a **Very Significant** (significant) cumulative effect.

647. For all remaining phases of development (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6), no significant cumulative effects would be experienced.

- During operation (daytime) **Greystones to Wicklow Trail**: Receptors would experience **Very Significant** (significant) cumulative effects.
- During operation (daytime) **The Wicklow Way**: Receptors would experience **Significant** (significant) cumulative effects.

648. For all remaining phases of development (Impacts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6), no significant cumulative effects would be experienced.

649. The assessment concluded that there would be no transboundary effects in relation to SLVIA.

650. There was no requirement for topic-specific monitoring in relation to effects identified within this chapter and no additional mitigation measures were proposed on the basis that all primary mitigation measures have been considered as part of an iterative design process.

651. The SLVIA concluded that significant effects would be experienced on landscape character areas and visual receptors, and such effects were focused directly from points opposite or close to the CWP

Project's offshore infrastructure. The level of effects would diminish with proximity and angle of view alongside intervening vegetation, built form and surrounding context, within which views and the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of landscape character would be experienced. The professional judgment of the assessors of the SLVIA concluded that the CWP Project could be accommodated in SLVIA terms.

652. With regards to cumulative effects, the CEA assessors of the SLVIA concluded that cumulative significant effects would be experienced where the effects of the CWP Project's offshore infrastructure were added to other proposed OWF. Such effects would be in relation to specific landscape / townscape receptors (during daytime operation), visual receptor groups, main named settlements and key routes (during daytime operation).

Table 15-23 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (Seascape)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Seascape								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors v during construction. **Impact 1:** Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during	RSCA 13	Medium	Medium Large Short term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	RSCA 14	Medium	Medium Large Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	RSCA 15	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	RSCA 16	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
decommissioning								
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 2:** Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning .	RSCA 13	Medium	Low Medium Short term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	RSCA 14	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	RSCA 15	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	RSCA 16	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct/ indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	RSCA 13	Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	RSCA 14	Medium	High Large Long term Intermediate	Significant (significant)	High	Significant (significant)	Embedded	Significant (significant)
	RSCA 15	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	RSCA 16	Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on	RSCA 13	Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	RSCA 14	Medium	Medium–Low Medium-Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	RSCA 15	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	RSCA 16	Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

653. In **Table 15-24**, where the baseline and environmental effects are the same, LCAs / TCAs have been grouped for ease of presentation.

Table 15-24 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (landscape and townscape character)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Visual amenity – sequential routes								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction.	**Fingal County Council Landscape Character Types and Areas**							
	LCT 1 Coastal							
	LCA 1a Rush LCA 1b Portrane LCA 1c Porthmarnock	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA1d Howth LCA1e Ireland's Eye	High	Low-Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight-Not Significant (**not significant**)
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary	LCA1f Lambay Island	High–Medium	Negligible Small Short term	Not Significant (**not**	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not**

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning			Intermediate or Wide	**significant**)				**significant**)
	LCT 2 Estuary							
	LCA 2a Rogerstown LCA 2b Swords / Mlahide LCA 2c Balydole	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 3 High-lying agricultural land							
	LCT 3 High lying agricultural land	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 4 Low-lying agricultural land							
	LCA 4a Dublin airport LCA 4b Lusk	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	LCT 5 Rolling hills with tree belts							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 5 Rolling hills with tree belts	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate/ localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 6 River Valleys / Canals							
	LCA4a Tolka and Liffey Valleys	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dublin Townscape Character Assessment							
	TCA 2 Dublin Docklands	Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 North Bull Island	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight–Not significant (**not significant**)	Low - Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 7 Poolbeg Peninsula	Low	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Not significant (**not significant**)	Low - Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Sandymount	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 12 St Anne's Park	High–medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	South Dublin Landscape Character Assessment							
	LCA Dodder and Glensamole	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Localised / Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Landscape Character Areas							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 5. Kiltiernan Plain LCA	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 6. Ballycorus	Medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 7. Glencullen Valley	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 8 Glendoo Valley	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 9 Barnacullia	Medium	Negligible Small Short term	Not Significant	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate	(**not significant**)				(**not significant**)
	LCA 10 Rathmichael	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Wide/ Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 11 Ballyman	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 12 Shanganagh	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 13 Carrickmines	Medium-Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 14 Cherrywood / Rathmichael	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dun Laoghaire / Monkstown	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 4 Dalkey	High–medium	Low Medium Short term Limited	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 5 Dalkey Island	High–medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 Killiney Bay TCA 7 Shankill	High–medium	Low Medium Short term	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	TCA 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA 10 Woodside / Ballyogan	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Localised	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 9 Carrick Mines Wood	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wicklow Landscape Categories and Landscape Areas							
	LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB							
	LA 1a The Mountain Uplands	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group	High–Medium	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Medium–Small Short term Intermediate					
	LA 1d The North Eastern Valley	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 2 Coastal Area AONB							
	LA 2a The Northern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	LA 2b Southern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 3 Areas of High Amenity							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LA 3a North Eastern Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3C Southern Hills	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LC 4 Corridor Area							
	LA 4a NR11	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	LC 5 Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6							
	LC 5 Lowlands–Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LC 6 Urban Areas							
	TCA 6a Greystones 6d Wicklow	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 6b Kilcoole TCA 6c Newcastle	Medium–Low	Medium–Low Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 6l Arklow TCA 6v Bray	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium-small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low - Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wexford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Units							
	LCU 1 Uplands	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 2 Lowlands	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 4 Coastal	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Short term Localised					
	LCU 5 Distinctive LCU							
	LCU 5a Kilmichael Point	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 5b Ask Hill LCU 5c Tara Hill LCU 5d Ballyminaun Hill	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape /	**Fingal County Council Landscape Character Types and Areas**							
	LCT 1 Coastal							
	LCA 1a Rush LCA 1b Portrane LCA 1c Porthmarnock	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction **Impact 2**: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning	LCA 1d Howth LCA 1e Ireland's Eye	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight-Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight-Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 1f Lambay Island	High–Medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate or Wide	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 2 Estuary							
	LCT 2a Rogerstown LCT 2b Swords / Mlahide LCT 2c Balydole	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 3 High lying agricultural land							
	LCT 3 High lying agricultural land	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate					
	LCT 4 Low lying agricultural land							
	LCA 4a Dublin airport LCA 4b Lusk	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	LCT 5 Rolling hills with tree belts							
	LCT 5 Rolling hills with tree belts	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate/ localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	6 River Valleys / Canals LCT							
	LCA 6a Tolka and Liffey Valleys	High-–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dublin Townscape Character Assessment							
	TCA 2 Dublin Docklands	Low	Negligible Small Short term	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Limited					
	TCA 6 North Bull Island	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight–Not significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 7 Poolbeg Peninsula	Low	Low–Negligible Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Sandymount	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 12 St Anne Park	High–medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	South Dublin Landscape Character Assessment							
	Dodder and Glensamole LCA	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Localised / limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Landscape Character Areas							
	LCA 5. Kiltiernan Plain	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 6. Ballycorus	Medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 7. Glencullen Valley	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 8. Glendoo Valley	High–medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 9. Barnacullia	Medium	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 10. Rathmichael	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Wide/ Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 11. Ballyman	Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 12. Shanganagh	Medium	Medium–Low Medium	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Short term Intermediate					
	LCA 13 Carrickmines	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	CA 14 Cherrywood / Rathmichael	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dun Laoghaire / Monkstown	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 4 Dalkey	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Limited	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 5 Dalkey Island	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 Killiney Bay TCA 7 Shankill	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA 10 Woodside / Ballyogan	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Localised	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 9 Carrick Mines Wood	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	Wicklow Landscape Categories and Landscape Areas							
	LC 1 Mountain and Lakeshore AONB							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LA1a The Mountain Uplands	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA1d The North Eastern Valley	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 2 Coastal Area AONB							
	LA 2a The Northern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LA 2b Southern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium-small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 3 Areas of High Amenity							
	LA 3a North Eastern Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3c Southern Hills	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	Corridor Area							
	LA 4a NR11	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Medium–mall Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LC 5 Lowlands–Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6							
	LC 5 Lowlands–Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	6 Urban Areas							
	TCA 6a Greystones TCA 6d Wicklow TCA	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 6b Kilcoole TCA 6c Newcastle	Medium–Low	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 6l Arklow TCA 6v Bray	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wexford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Units							
	LCU 1 Uplands LCU	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 2 Lowlands	High–Medium	Negligible Small Short term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate / Localised					
	LCU 4 Coastal	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 5 Distinctive							
	LCU 5a Kilmichael Point	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 5b Ask Hill LCU 5c Tara Hill LCU 5d Ballyminaun Hill	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct/ indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	**Fingal County Council Landscape Character Types and Areas**							
	LCT 1 Coastal							
	LCA 1a Rush LCA1b Portrane LCA1c Porthmarnock	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA1d Howth LCA 1e Ireland's Eye	High	Low Small Long term Intermediate or Wide	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA1f Lambay Island	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate or Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCT 2 Estuary							
	LCA 2a Rogerstown LCA2 b	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term	Not Significant	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Swords / Malahide LCA 2c Balydole		Intermediate	(**not significant**)				(**not significant**)
	LCT 3 High-lying agricultural land							
	LCT 3 High lying agricultural land	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 4 Low-lying agricultural land							
	LCA 4a Dublin airport LCA 4b Lusk	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	LCT 5 Rolling hills with tree belts							
	LCT 5 Rolling hills with tree belts	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 6 River Valleys / Canals							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCT 6a Tolka and Liffey Valleys	High-Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dublin Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dublin Docklands	Low	Negligible Small Long term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 North Bull Island	High	Low Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 7 Poolbeg Peninsula	Low	Low Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Sandymount	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 10 St Anne's Park	High–medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	South Dublin Landscape Character Assessment							
	LCA Dodder and Glensamole	High–medium	Negligible Small Long term Localised / Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Landscape Character Areas and Townscape Character Areas							
	LCA 5. Kiltiernan Plain	High–medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 6. Ballycorus	Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 7. Glencullen Valley	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 8. Glendoo Valley	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 9. Barnacullia	Medium	Low - Negligible Small-negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 10. Rathmichael	Medium	Medium Medium Long term Wide / intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCA 11. Ballyman	Medium	Medium Medium Long term intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	LCA 12. Shanganagh	Medium	Medium Medium Long term wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	LCA 13 Carrickmines	Medium–Low	Negligible Small negligible Long term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	LCA 14 Cherrywood / Rathmichael	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Small-negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dun Laoghaire / Monkstown	High–medium	Low Medium	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Long term Limited					
	TCA 4 Dalkey	High–medium	Low Medium- Long term Limited	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 5 Dalkey Island	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 Killiney Bay TCA 7 Shankill	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA 10 Woodside / Ballyogan	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 9 Carrick Mines Wood	Medium–Low	Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wicklow Landscape Categories and Landscape Areas							
	LC 1. Mountain and Lakeshore AONB							
	LA 1a The Mountain Uplands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA1c The Bray Mountain Group	High–Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	LA 1d The North Eastern Valley	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LC 2 Coastal Area AONB							
	LA 2a The Northern Coastal Area	High–Medium	High–Medium Large medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	LA 2b Southern Coastal Area	High–Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	LC 3 Areas of High Amenity							
	LA 3a North Eastern Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium Medium– Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LA 3c Southern Hills	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 4 Corridor Area							
	LA 4a NR11	Medium–Low	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 5 Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6							
	LC 5 Lowlands–Rolling Lowland Areas 1-6	Medium–Low	Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 6 Urban Areas							
	TCA 6a Greystones	High–Medium	Medium Medium–	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 6d Wicklow		Long term Intermediate					
	TCA 6b Kilcoole TCA 6c Newcastle	Medium–Low	Medium Medium–Long term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 6l Arklow TCA 6v Bray	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wexford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Units							
	LCU 1 Uplands	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCU 2 Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCU 4 Coastal	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	5 Distinctive LCU							
	LCU 5a Kilmichael Point	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCU 5b Ask Hill LCU 5c Tara Hill LCU 5d Ballyminaun Hill	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/	**Fingal County Council Landscape Character Types and Areas**							
	LCT 1 Coastal							
	LCA1a Rush LCA1b Portrane LCA1c Porthmarnock	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance								
	LCA1d Howth LCA1e Ireland's Eye	High	Low-Negligible small Long term Intermediate / Wide	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA1f Lambay Island	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small – Negligible Long term Intermediate or Wide	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	2 Estuary LCT							
	LCA 2a Rogerstown LCA 2b Swords / Mlahide LCA 2c Balydole	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LCT 3 High-lying agricultural land LCT							
	LCT 3 High-lying agricultural land	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCT 4 Low-lying agricultural land LCT							
	LCA 4a Dublin airport LCA4b Lusk	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	5 Rolling hills with tree belts LCT							
	5 Rolling hills with tree belts	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate/ localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	6 River Valleys / Canals LCT							
	LCA 6a Tolka and Liffey Valleys	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Dublin Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dublin Docklands	Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 North Bull Island	High	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Intermediate	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight-Not significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 7 Poolbeg Peninsula	Low	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised / Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Sandymount	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised / Limited					
	TCA 10 St Anne's Park	High–medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	South Dublin Landscape Character Assessment							
	LCA Dodder and Glensamole	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Landscape Character Areas and Townscape Character Areas							
	LCA 5. Kiltiernan Plain	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Localised/ Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 6. Ballycorus	Medium	Negligible Small Long term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate / Localised					
	LCA 7. Glencullen Valley	High–Medium	Negligible Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 8. Glendoo Valley	High–Medium	Negligible Small Long term Intermediate / localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 9. Barnacullia	Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCA 10. Rathmichael	Medium	Low Small Long term Wide / intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 11. Ballyman	Medium	Low Small	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Long term intermediate					
	LCA 12. Shanganagh	Medium	Low Small Long term wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCA 13 Carrickmines	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	LCA 14 Cherrywood / Rathmichael	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Intermediate	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire Townscape Character Areas							
	TCA 2 Dun Laoghaire / Monkstown	High–Medium	Negligible Small Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	TCA 4 Dalkey	High–Medium	Negligible Small Long term	Not Significant	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Limited	(**not significant**)				(**not significant**)
	TCA 5 Dalkey Island	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 6 Kiliney Bay TCA 7 Shankill	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 8 Loughlinstown Commons / Ballybrack TCA 10 Woodside / Ballyogan	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Localised	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	TCA 9 Carrick Mines Wood	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wicklow Landscape Categories and Landscape Areas							
	LC 1.Mountain and Lakeshore AONB							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	LA 1a The Mountain Uplands	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LA 1c The Bray Mountain Group	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA1d The North Eastern Valley	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 2 Coastal Area AONB							
	LA 2a The Northern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate					
	LA 2b Southern Coastal Area	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LC 3 Areas of High Amenity							
	LA 3a North Eastern Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3b South East Mountain Lowlands	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	LA 3c Southern Hills	High–Medium	Low Small Long term	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	LC Corridor Area							
	LA 4a NR11	Medium–Low	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (Not significant)	Low	Slight (Not significant)	Embedded	Slight (Not significant)
	LC Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6							
	LC Lowlands–Rolling Lowland Areas 1–6	Medium–Low	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LC 6 Urban Areas							
	TCA 6a Greystones TCA 6d Wicklow	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	TCA 6b Kilcoole	Medium–Low	Medium–Low	Slight (Not significant)	Medium–Low	Slight (Not significant)	Embedded	Slight (Not significant)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	TCA 6c Newcastle		Medium–Small Long term Localised					
	TCA 6l Arklow TCA 6v Bray	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wexford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Units							
	LCU 1 Uplands	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 2 Lowlands	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	LCU 4 Coastal	High–Medium	Low–Negligible	Not Significant	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Small–Negligible Long term Localised	(**not significant**)				(**not significant**)
	LCU 5 Distinctive							
	LCU 5a Kilmichael Point	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised / Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	LCU 5b Ask Hill LCU 5c Tara Hill LCU 5d Ballyminaun Hill	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised / Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Table 15-25 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (National Designated Landscape)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
National Designated Landscapes								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction.	Howth SAA (Landscape)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Howth SAA (Visual)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during	North Bull Island (Landscape)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	North Bull Island (Visual)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
construction	Bray Head (Landscape)	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Visual)	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/	Howth SAA (Landscape)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Howth SAA (Visual)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	North Bull Island (Landscape)	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	North Bull Island	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small	Slight–Not Significant	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning.	(Visual)		Short term Intermediate / Localised	(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Landscape)	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Visual)	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and	Howth SAA (Landscape)	High	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight Significant (**not significant**)	Low	Moderate–Slight Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Howth SAA (Visual)	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
visual receptors during operation / maintenance	North Bull Island (Landscape)	High	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight Significant (**not significant**)	Low	Moderate–Slight Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	North Bull Island (Visual)	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Landscape)	High	High–Medium Large–medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Bray Head (Visual)	High	High–Medium Large–medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/	Howth SAA	High	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Howth SAA (Visual)	High	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance			Long term Localised	(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)
	North Bull Island (Landscape)	High	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	North Bull Island (Visual)	High	Low–Negligible Small–Negligible Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Landscape)	High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Bray Head (Visual)	High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Table 15-26 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (Viewpoint Assessment)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Visual Amenity - Viewpoints								
Construction decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 1**: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during	Viewpoint 1: Howth AV 17–18 degrees Distance 29.2 km Sit above the horizon	High V - National S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 2: North Bull Island AV 18 degrees Distance 32 km Sit above the horizon	High V - National S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 3: Great South Wall, Poolbeg AV 14 degrees Distance 31 km Sit above the	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term intermediate/localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
decommissioning.	horizon							
	Viewpoint 4: Dun Laoghaire AV 14–16 degrees Distance 31.5 km Sit above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 5: Killiney AV 25–26 degrees Distance 22 km Sit above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 6: Hill at Carrickgollogan AV 24–25 degrees Distance 23 km Sit above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 7: Bray Promenade AV approx. 27 degrees Distance 18 km Sit above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 8: Bray Head AV approx. 38 degrees Distance 17 km Sits above the horizon	High V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 9: Great Sugar Loaf AV approx. 25–28 degrees Distance 18 km Sits below the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 10: Greystones	High–Medium	Medium Large	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 44 degrees Distance 15 km Sits above the horizon	V - County S - High	Short term Wide / Intermediate					
	Viewpoint 11: Kilcoole (Railway Station) AV approx. 57 degrees Distance 14 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Large Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 12: Six Mile Point, Newcastle AV approx. 63 degrees Distance 13 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Large Short-term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 13: Wicklow Town Av approx. 48 degrees	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Short term	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Distance 13 km Sits above the horizon		Wide / Intermediate					
	Viewpoint 14: Djouce Mountain Av approx. 31 degrees Distance 26 km Sits below the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / LLocalised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 15: Brockagh Mountain Av approx. 23 degrees Distance 34 km Sits below the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 18: Brittas Bay Av approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Medium–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 19: Arklow Pier (south side) Av approx. 21 degrees Distance 30 km Seen in context with Arklow OWF Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 20: Kilmichael Point Av approx. 18 degrees Distance 36 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Negligible Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 21: Shankill Beach Av approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 22: Three Rock Mountain Av approx. 25 degrees Distance 29 km Sitting above landform Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Medium Short term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 23: Maheramore Beach Av approx. 34 degrees Distance 14 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**
	Viewpoint 24: Kilcoole Rock Av approx. 52 degrees Distance 15 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 26: Greystones Beach Bear AV 15 degrees Distance 14.7 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Short term Wide/ Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance during construction. **Impact 2**: Direct / indirect temporary nighttime impacts on seascape /	Viewpoint 1: Howth AV 17–18 degrees Distance 29.2 km	High V -- National S High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 2: North Bull Island AV 18 degrees Distance 32 km	High V - National S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 3: Great South Wall, Poolbeg AV 14 degrees Distance 31 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 4:	High–	Low–Negligible	Not	Low–	Not	Embedded	Not

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
landscape/ towns cape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance during decommissioning.	Dun Laoghaire AV 14–16 degrees Distance 31.5 km	Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/localised	Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Significant (**not significant**)		Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 5: Killiney AV 25–26 degrees Distance 22 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Medium Short term Intermediate/localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 6: Hill at Carrickgollogan AV 24–25 degrees Distance 23 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Medium Short term Intermediate/localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 7: Bray Promenade AV approx. 27 degrees Distance 18 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 8: Bray Head	High V - local / county	Medium–Low Medium Short term	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 38 degrees Distance 17 km	S - High	Intermediate					
	Viewpoint 9: Great Sugar Loaf AV approx 25–28 degrees Distance 18 km	High-Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 10: Greystones AV approx 44 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide/ Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 11: Kilcoole (Railway Station) AV approx. 57 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Large Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 12: Six Mile Point, Newcastle	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Large Short-term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 63 degrees Distance 13 km							
	Viewpoint 13: Wicklow Town AV approx. 48 degrees Distance 13 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 14: Djouce Mountain AV approx. 31 degrees Distance 26 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate/ Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 15: Brockagh Mountain AV approx. 23 degrees Distance 34 km (further away compared to Great Sugar Loaf and Djouce)	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 18: Brittas Bay AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km (further away compared to Great Sugar Loaf and Djouce)	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 19: Arklow Pier (south side) AV approx. 21 degrees Distance 30 km Seen in context with Arklow	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Medium-Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low-Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 20: Kilmichael Point AV approx. 18 degrees Distance 36 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Negligible Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 21: Shankill Beach	High–Medium	Low Medium–	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km	V - County S - High	Short term Intermediate / Localised					
	Viewpoint 22: Three Rock Mountain AV approx. 25 degrees Distance 29 km Sitting above landform	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Medium Short term Intermediate /localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 23: Maheramore Beach AV approx. 34 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 24: Kilcoole Rock AV approx. 52 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 26: Greystones Beach Bear AV 15 degrees Distance 14.7 km Sits above the horizon	High-Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide/ intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	Viewpoint 1: Howth AV 17–18 degrees Distance 29.2 km	High V - National S - High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 2: North Bull Island AV 18 degrees Distance 32 km	High V - National S - High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 3: Great South Wall, Poolbeg AV 14 degrees Distance 31 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 4: Dun Laoghaire AV 14–16 degrees Distance 31.5 km	High-Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–small Long term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 5: Killiney AV 25–26 degrees Distance 22 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 6: Hill at Carrickgollogan AV 24–25 Distance 2 3km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 7: Bray Promenade AV approx. 27 degrees Distance 18 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term intermediate Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 8: Bray Head	High V - Local /	High–Medium Large–medium	Significant (**significant**)	High	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 38 degrees Distance 17 km Tipping point - distance	County S - High	Long term Intermediate					
	Viewpoint 9: Great Sugar Loaf AV approx. 25–28 degrees Distance 18 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High–Medium Large-medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Viewpoint 10: Greystones AV approx. 44 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High Large Long term Intermediate	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
	Viewpoint 11: Kilcoole (Railway Station) AV approx. 57 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High Large Long term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
	Viewpoint 12: Six Mile Point, Newcastle	High–Medium	High Large	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	AV approx. 63 degrees Distance 13 km		Long term Wide					
	Viewpoint 13: Wicklow Town AV approx. 48 degrees Distance 13 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High–Medium Large–medium Long term intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High-Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Viewpoint 14: Djouce Mountain AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 27 km (further away compared to Great Sugar Loaf)	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 15: Brockagh Mountain AV approx. 23 degrees Distance 34 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Skyline interrupt horizon							
	Viewpoint 18: Brittas Bay AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km Seen in context with Arklow WF	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Intermittent / Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 19: Arklow Pier (south side) AV approx. 21 degrees Distance 30 km Seen in context with Arklow WF	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**
	Viewpoint 20: Kilmichael Point AV approx. 18 degrees Distance 36 km See in context with Arklow WF	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 21: Shankill Beach AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term intermediate Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate- (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 22: Three Rock Mountain AV approx. 25 degrees Distance 29 km Sitting above landform	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 23: Maheramore Beach AV approx. 34 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Intermittent/ Localised	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Viewpoint 24: Kilcoole Rock AV approx. 52 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	High Large Long term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 26: Greystones Beach Bear AV 15 degrees Distance 14.7 km Sits above the horizon	High–Medium V - County S - High	High Large Long term Intermediate	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance .	Viewpoint 1: Howth AV 17–18 degrees Distance 29.2 km	High V - National S - High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 2: North Bull Island AV 18 degrees Distance 32 km	High V - National S - High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 3: Great South Wall, Poolbeg Av 14 degrees Distance 31 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 4:	High–	Low–Negligible	Not	Low–	Not	Embedded	Not

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Dun Laoghaire AV 14–16 degrees Distance 31.5 km	Medium V - County S - High	Small Long term Localised	Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Significant (**not significant**)		Significant (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 5: Killiney AV 26 degrees Distance 22 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 6: Hill at Carrickgollogan AV 24–25 Distance 23km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 7: Bray Promenade AV approx. 27 degrees Distance 18 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 8: Bray Head AV approx. 38 degrees	High V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Distance 17 km							
	Viewpoint 9: Great Sugar Loaf AV approx. 25–28 degrees Distance 18 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 10: Greystones AV approx. 44 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 11: Kilcoole (Railway Station) AV approx. 57 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**
	Viewpoint 12: Six Mile Point, Newcastle AV approx. 63 degrees Distance 13 km	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 13: Wicklow Town AV approx. 48 degrees Distance 13 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**
	Viewpoint 14: Djouce Mountain AV approx. 31 degrees Distance 26 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 15: Brockagh Mountain AV approx. 23 degrees Distance 34 km (further away compared to Great Sugar Loaf)	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long-term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 18: Brittas Bay AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 19: Arklow Pier (south side) AV approx. 21 degrees Distance 30 km Seen in context with Arklow	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 20: Kilmichael Point AV approx. 18 degrees Distance 36 km Lower than viewpoints given distance Seen in context with Arlow WF	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 21: Shankill Beach AV approx. 30 degrees Distance 20 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Viewpoint 22: Three Rock Mountain AV approx. 25 degrees Distance 29 km Sitting above landform	High–Medium V - County S - High	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 23: Maheramore Beach AV approx. 34 degrees Distance 14 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Viewpoint 24: Kilcoole Rock AV approx. 52 degrees Distance 15 km	High–Medium V - County S - High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight **not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight **not significant**
	Viewpoint 26: Greystones Beach Bear AV 15 degrees Distance 14.7 km	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Sits above the horizon							

Table 15-27 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (Main (Named Settlements))

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Visual Amenity - Settlements								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 1**: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated	Dublin	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Killiney	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Bray	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning.	Greystones	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide / intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Kilcoole	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Newtown Mount Kennedy	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Wide	Not significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not significant (**not significant**)
	Newcastle	High–Medium	Negligible Small Short term Wide	Not significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not significant (**not significant**)
	Wicklow	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Intermediate / Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Arklow	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term	Not significant	Low–Negligible	Not significant	Embedded	Not significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised	(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 2**: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during	Dublin	HighMedium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short-term Intermediate/localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short-term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Killiney	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Bray	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Greystones	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
decommissioning			Wide / Intermediate					
	Kilcoole	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Newtown Mount Kennedy	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Short term Intermediate	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Newcastle	High–Medium	Negligible Small Short term Wide	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Wicklow	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Intermediate / Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Arklow	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negilgible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
Operation / Maintenance								

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Impact 1: Direct/ indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	Dublin	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long-term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long-term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Killiney	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Bray	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Greystones	High–Medium	High Large Long-term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Kilcoole	High–Medium	High Large Long term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
	Newtown Mount Kennedy	High–Medium	Low Small–Negligible Long term Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Newcastle	High–Medium	Low Small–Negligible Long term Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Wicklow	High–Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Arklow	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate-Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long term though reversible	Dublin	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small Long-term	Not Significant	Low–Negligible	Not Significant	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
night-time impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance			Localised	(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)		(**not significant**)
	Dun Laoghaire	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Killiney	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Bray	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Greystones	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Wide	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Kilcoole	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Wide	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Newtown Mount Kennedy	High–Medium	Negligible Negligible Long term Wide	Not significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not significant (**not significant**)
	Newcastle	High–Medium	Low Small–Negligible Long term Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Wicklow	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Arklow	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Table 15-28 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (Sequential Key Routes)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Visual Amenity – Sequential Routes								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 1**: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on views / seascape / landscape /	Key roads							
	R105	High–medium (Medium as well)	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R807	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**Not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (**Not significant**)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**Not significant**)
	R131	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R119	Medium	Medium–Low Medium	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
townscape and national designated landscapes during decommissioning.			Short term Intermediate					
	R761	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**
	M11/N11	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R750	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Railway Lines							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	DART / Dublin to Rosslare	Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Shipping / ferry/ recreational routes							
	Northern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Southern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Key walking routes							
	Howth Head Loop	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate /localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	North Bull Wall	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**
	Great South Wall	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk	High–medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Greystones to Wicklow Trail	High–medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	The Wicklow Way	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 2**: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on	Key Roads							
	R105	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R807	Medium–Low	Negligible Small Short term Limited	Imperceptible (**not significant**)	Negligible	Imperceptible (Not significant)	Embedded	Imperceptible (**not significant**)
	R131	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R119	Medium	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
seascape / landscape / townscapes / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during decommissioning			Medium Short term Intermediate					
	R761	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	M11/N11	Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R750	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Railway Lines							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	DART / Dublin to Rosslare	Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Shipping / ferry / recreational routes							
	Northern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Southern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Key Walking Routes							
	Howth Head Loop	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate / Localised					
	North Bull Wall	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**
	Great South Wall	High–medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk	High–medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Greystones to	High–medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Wicklow Trail		Short term Wide / Intermediate					
	The Wicklow Way	High–medium	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance	Key roads							
	R105	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Limited	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**
	R807	Medium–Low	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	R131	Medium	Low Small Long term	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	R119	Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	R761	Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	M11/N11	Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	R750	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Railway Lines							

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	DART / Dublin to Rosslare	Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	High–Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Shipping / ferry / recreational routes							
	Northern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Southern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Medium Medium Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Key walking routes							
	Howth Head Loop	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	North Bull Wall	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Great South Wall	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Limited	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Bray-Greystones Cliff Walk	High–Medium	High Large Long term Wide/ intermediate	Very significant (significant)	High	Very Significant (significant)	Embedded	Very Significant (significant)
	Greystones to Wicklow Trail	High–Medium	High Large Long term Wide/ intermediate	Very significant (significant)	High	Very Significant (significant)	Embedded	Very Significant (significant)
	The Wicklow Way	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Intermediate / Localised					
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible night-time impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance.	Key roads							
	R105	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Long term Limited	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R807	Medium–Low	Negligible Negligible Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	R131	Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	R119	Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	R761	Medium	Low Small Long term Intermediate Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	M11/N11	Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	R750	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium-–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Railway Lines							
	DART / Dublin to Rosslare	Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Wide	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Shipping / ferry/ recreational routes							
	Northern approach	Medium	Low–Negligible	Not Significant	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
		(also Medium–Low)	Small Long term Localised	(**not significant**)				(**not significant**)
	Southern approach	Medium (also Medium–Low)	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Key walking routes							
	Howth Head Loop	High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	North Bull Wall	High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Great South Wall	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Small Long term	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)

Potential impact	Receptor	Receptor sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Localised					
	Bray–Greystones Cliff Walk	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Greystones–Wicklow Trail	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	The Wicklow Way	High–Medium	Low Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)

Table 15-29 Summary of potential impacts and residual effects (Visual Receptor Groups)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
Visual Receptor Groups								
Construction / decommissioning								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape/ national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 1**: Direct / indirect temporary impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and	Visual Receptor Group 1	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 2	High–Medium	Medium-Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 3	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor	High–Medium	Medium	Moderate (**not**	Medium	Moderate (**not**	Embedded	Moderate (**not**

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
visual receptors during decommissioning	Group 4		Large Short term Wide	**significant**)		**significant**)		**significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 5	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 6	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 7	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 8	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Visual Receptor Group 9	High–Medium	Medium Large–Medium Short term Wide	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts on seascape / landscape / townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during construction. **Impact 2**: Direct / indirect temporary night-time impacts seascape landscape / townscape/ national	Visual Receptor Group 1	High	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight–Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight–Not significant (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 2	High–Medium	Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 3	High	Medium–Low Medium Short term Intermediate / Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
designated landscapes during decommissioning.	Visual Receptor Group 4	High–Medium	Medium Large Short term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 5	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Wide / Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 6	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium Short ter Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 7	High–Medium	Low–Negligible Medium–Small Short term Intermediate / Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 8	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Short term Intermediate					
	Visual Receptor Group 9	High–Medium	Medium Medium Short term Intermediate	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate adverse (**not significant**)
Operation / Maintenance								
Impact 1: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance.	Visual Receptor Group 1	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 2	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 3	High	High–Medium Large-medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
	Visual Receptor Group 4	High–Medium	High Large Long term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 5	High–Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 6	High–Medium	High–Medium Large-medium Long term Intermediate	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 7	High–Medium	Medium Medium Long term Localised	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 8	High–Medium	High–Medium Large–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	High–Medium	Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Significant (**significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Long term Intermediate					
	Visual Receptor Group 9	High-Medium	High Large Long term Wide	Very Significant (**significant**)	High	Very Significant (**significant**)	Embedded	Very Significant (**significant**)
Impact 2: Direct / indirect long-term, although reversible nighttime impacts on seascape / landscape/ townscape / national designated landscapes and visual receptors during operation / maintenance.	Visual Receptor Group 1	High	Low–Negligible Small Long term Localised	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Low–Negligible	Not Significant (**not significant**)	Embedded	Not Significant (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 2	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**
	Visual Receptor Group 3	High	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 4	High–Medium	Medium–Low	Moderate-Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Medium–Small Long term Intermediate					
	Visual Receptor Group 5	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 6	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small Long term Intermediate	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)
	Visual Receptor Group 7	High–Medium	Low Small Long term Localised	Slight (**not significant**)	Low	Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Slight (**not significant**
	Visual Receptor Group 8	High–Medium	Medium–Low Medium–Small	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Medium–Low	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate–Slight (**not significant**)

Potential Impact	Receptor	Receptor Sensitivity	WTG Option A		WTG Option B		Additional Mitigation	Residual effect
			Magnitude of Impact	Significance of effect	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect		
			Long term Intermediate					
	Visual Receptor Group 9	High-Medium	Medium Medium Long term Wide	Moderate (**not significant**)	Medium	Moderate (**not significant**)	Embedded	Moderate (**not significant**)

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