

# LLŶR FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

**Llŷr 1 Floating Offshore Wind Farm**

**Environmental Statement**

**Volume 6: Appendix 23C – Seascape, Landscape and Visual  
Impact Assessment (SLVIA) Detailed Assessment**

**August 2024**

Document Status

Version	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date
FINAL	AECOM	AECOM	AECOM	August 2024

Approval for Issue

Prepared by	AECOM
Prepared for	Llŷr Floating Wind Limited
Approved by	Jay Hilton-Miller

This report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Llŷr Floating Wind Ltd. Llŷr Floating Wind Ltd has made reasonable efforts to ensure that the content is accurate, up to date and complete for the purpose of the Environmental Statement. Llŷr Floating Wind Ltd shall have no liability for any loss, damage, injury, claim, expense, cost or other consequence arising as a result of use or reliance upon any information contained in or omitted from this document.

## Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition	Acronym or abbreviation	Definition
km	Kilometre	SCA	Seascape Character Area
LCA	Landscape Character Area	SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MLT	Marine Licensing Team	TJB	Transition Joint Bays
NRW	Natural Resources Wales	WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
PCNP	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility
PRoW	Public Right of Way		

## Glossary of project terms

Term	Definition
The Applicant	The developer of the Project, Llŷr Floating Wind Limited
Array	All wind turbine generators, inter array cables, mooring lines, floating sub-structures and supporting subsea infrastructure within the Array Area, as defined, when considered collectively, excluding the offshore export cable(s).
Array Area	The area within which the wind turbine generators, inter array cables, mooring lines, floating sub-structures and supporting subsea infrastructure will be located
Floventis Energy	A joint venture company between Cierco Ltd and SBM Offshore Ltd of which Llŷr Floating Wind Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary.
Landfall	The location where the offshore export cable(s) from the Array Area, as defined, are brought onshore and connected to the onshore export cables (as defined) via the transition joint bays (TJB).
Llŷr 1	The proposed Project, for which the Applicant is applying for Section 36 and Marine Licence consents. Including all offshore and onshore infrastructure and activities, and all project phases.
Marine Licence	A licence required under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for marine works which is administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Marine Licensing Team (MLT) on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.
Offshore Development Area	The footprint of the offshore infrastructure and associated temporary works, comprised of the Array Area and the Offshore Export Cable Corridor, as defined, that forms the offshore boundary for the S36 Consent and Marine Licence application
Offshore Export Cable	The cable(s) that transmit electricity produced by the WTGs to landfall.
Offshore Export Cable Corridor (OfECC)	The area within which the offshore export cable circuit(s) will be located, from the Array Area to the Landfall.
Onshore Development Area	The footprint of the onshore infrastructure and associated temporary works, comprised of the Onshore Export Cable Corridor and the Onshore

Term	Definition
	Substation, as defined, and including new access routes and visibility splays, that forms the onshore boundary for the planning application.
Onshore Export Cable(s)	The cable(s) that transmit electricity from the landfall to the onshore substation
Onshore Export Cable Corridor (OnECC)	The area within which the onshore export cable circuit(s) will be located.
proposed Project	All aspects of the Llŷr 1 development (i.e. the onshore and offshore components).
Onshore Substation	Located within the Onshore Development Area, converts high voltage generated electricity into low voltage electricity that can be used for the grid and domestic consumption.
Section 36 consent	Consent to construct and operate an offshore generating station, under Section 36 (S.36) of the Electricity Act 1989. This includes deemed planning permission for onshore works.

## Contents

23-C-	SLVIA Assessment tables.....	6
23.1	Introduction .....	6
23.2	Landscape Designations.....	6
23.3	Seascape Character .....	15
23.4	Landscape Character .....	21
23.5	Visual Amenity - Viewpoints .....	28
23.6	Visual Amenity - Pembrokeshire Coast Path.....	43
23.7	References .....	46

## List of Tables

Table 23C-1.	Special quality: coastal splendour .....	8
Table 23C-2.	Special quality: diversity of landscape .....	9
Table 23C-3.	Special quality: islands .....	10
Table 23C-4.	Special quality: space to breathe .....	11
Table 23C-5.	Special quality: remoteness, tranquillity and wildness .....	12
Table 23C-6.	Special quality: diversity and combination of special qualities .....	13

## 23-C- SLVIA ASSESSMENT TABLES

### 23.1 Introduction

1. Llŷr Floating Wind Limited (hereafter the Applicant) is proposing to develop the Llŷr 1 Floating Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the proposed Project), located approximately 35 km off the coast of Pembrokeshire in the Celtic Sea.
2. The proposed Project is a test and demonstration wind farm development, comprising up to 10 wind turbine generators (WTGs) and associated infrastructure. The proposed Project will make landfall at Freshwater West before connecting into the national grid network at Pembroke Dock power station.
3. This appendix provides an assessment of potential effects of operation and maintenance of the proposed Project on each of the seascape, landscape and visual receptors identified for inclusion in the detailed assessment and should be read in conjunction with **Chapter 23 – Seascape, Landscape and Visual, Appendices 23A – SLVIA Methodology and 23B – SLVIA Preliminary Assessment** and **Volume 5: Figures 23.1 to 23.10**.
4. Details of the assessment methodology, including criteria for value, susceptibility, sensitivity, magnitude and significance of effect and application of professional judgement, are set out in **Appendix 23A – SLVIA Methodology**. A Study Area of 45 km has been defined for the assessment and agreed with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council.

### 23.2 Landscape Designations

#### 23.2.1. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP)

##### Baseline Description

5. The Pembrokeshire coast was formally designated as a National Park in 1952 and is one of the smallest National Parks in Wales and the only one designated for its coastal landscapes. The PCNP covers over 615 km<sup>2</sup> spilt over four areas which include most of the Pembrokeshire coast, a number of offshore islands, the Daugleddau estuary and large parts of the Gwaun Valley and Preseli Hills. It includes a range of coastal landscapes, from enclosed bays and sandy beaches to open exposed sea cliffs and offshore islands, to rolling coastal farmland and inland hills and valleys.
6. The following landscape characteristics and sensitivities of the PCNP are identified within the PCNP Management Plan (2020-2024) Background Paper: The State of the Park:
  - The intricate, complex, rugged, indented natural coasts with dramatic headlands and islands e.g. St Davids Head, Skomer, Ramsey Island, Strumble Head, Stackpole Head.
  - Important focal points along the coast and out to sea including islands, islets, headlands and distinctive sweeping beaches such as Whitesands Bay, Freshwater West and Newport Bay.
  - Unspoilt hills and backdrops which contribute to seascape character e.g. Carn Llidi, Mynydd Carningli and the Preselis.
  - Views from key places such as headlands, coastal hills and the Coast Path.
  - Tranquil seascapes where there is little disturbance and signs of development; dark skies.
  - Remote undeveloped seascapes with wild, highly natural, elemental character such as the islands, north coast south west of Strumble Head and Castlemartin peninsula.

- Secluded and tranquil, well-treed character of the Daugleddau estuary.
  - Small scale, traditional historic coastal settlements such as Solva, Abercastle, Porthgain and Newport, and harbours such as Porthclais and Stackpole Quay.
  - Other coastal conservation areas with dramatic settlement features, such as the skyline and harbour of Georgian Tenby.
  - Presence of coastal and island historic features such as peninsula forts, castles, chapels, other buildings and structures and other heritage features which have a strong relationship with the coast and sea visually, physically and culturally.
  - Presence of coastal edge and island habitats with high biodiversity e.g. Skomer Marine Conservation Zone, National Nature Reserves including Ramsey Island, Special Areas of Conservation covering the majority of the coast and inshore waters, Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
7. In addition, the PCNP Management Plan Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP identifies a series of 12 special qualities that contribute to the PCNP sense of place. Those of most relevance to landscape, seascape and visual considerations include the following:
- Coastal splendour;
  - Diversity of landscape;
  - Islands;
  - Space to breathe;
  - Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness; and
  - Diversity and combination of special qualities.
8. The remaining special qualities identified in the PCNP Management Plan relate specifically to geology, settlement, archaeology and cultural heritage, and ecology and as such are not considered in detail as part of the SLVIA.
9. The PCNP is a nationally designated landscape and as such the landscape value is considered to be **very high**.

#### **Assessment of effects**

10. The majority of the PCNP is outside the SLVIA Study Area. The assessment therefore focuses on the areas within the Study Area, approximately from Tower Point/St Brides in the northwest to Stackpole in the southeast.
11. The following tables provide an assessment of potential effects resulting from the proposed Project on each of the relevant special qualities of the PCNP. Although variable, for the purposes of this assessment the overall susceptibility to change is considered to be **high**. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified very high value with those that indicate a high susceptibility, the sensitivity of the special qualities of the PCNP are considered to be **high**.

Table 23C-1. Special quality: coastal splendour

Special quality: coastal splendour
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>'The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is widely recognised as Britain's only predominantly coastal National Park. The splendour of its coastline, its spectacular scenery, and rugged, unspoilt beauty, provide a scenic quality which was recognised in its designation as a National Park.</i></p> <p><i>To the north of the National Park, the pattern of tall cliff faces, headlands, and small sandy / shingle beaches, caves and stacks, provide strong sense of place and an outstanding rugged coast. Dinas Head, with cliffs at 140 metres, provides spectacular, panoramic views across Fishguard Bay to the south and Newport Bay to the North. Here, sea birds, choughs, peregrine falcons and ravens find nest sites at platforms and crevices of the cliff face.</i></p> <p><i>The western stretches of the National Park are permeated by the constant presence of the sea, in sight and sound. There is a constant awareness of the wind and sea, sharpened by the sound of crashing waves along the beaches of St Brides Bay, when the prevailing south westerlies reach sufficient strength.</i></p> <p><i>The southern coast continues with the Angle peninsula, and further along to the sandy beach and dunes of Freshwater West. From this point, the sheer cliffs are punctuated by sheltered coves, stacks, arches, swallow holes and blow holes, etched out of the cliff face. The Green Bridge of Wales, near Castlemartin, is a spectacular natural limestone arch, carved by the actions of the sea, and provides just one example of the breathtaking landscape along this coast.'</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>The northern and parts of the western areas (north of Tower Point/St Brides) described above are located outside the SLVIA Study Area and are therefore not considered further within the assessment. The southern areas described above are within the Study Area and are assessed below.</p> <p>The proposed WTG would be located outside of, and at a distance of approximately 36 km from, the PCNP boundary at its closest point and as such would not result in any change to the physical characteristics which contribute to the coastal splendour special quality, including the constant presence of the sea, wind and waves, and the sheer cliffs and natural rock features which define the southern coast.</p> <p>Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the coastal splendour. Expansive sea views provide context and contribute towards the scenic quality of the coast. In periods of clear atmospheric conditions the proposed Project would be visible as a new man-made element within the open seascape. However, its influence on the perceptual aspects of this special quality would be limited by the considerable intervening distance and clear separation from the coast provided by expansive areas of open seascape.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the indirect and limited nature of change to the identified characteristics which define this special quality, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as <b>small</b>.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>minor adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.</p>



Table 23C-2. Special quality: diversity of landscape

Special quality: diversity of landscape
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>‘Despite the density of population, and the coastal nature of much of the National Park, it still manages to intrigue and interest with its diversity. The varied landforms of the National Park are overlaid by millennia of activity by man, in many places the traditional hedgebanks provide a tangible link to the past, as well as defining the field pattern in ways which impart a rich texture to the open landscape where small areas of woodland and scrub serve as punctuation points. Much of the rural National Park is dominated by a farmland landscape and traditional built forms predominant in the villages and agricultural buildings, contributing strongly to the sense of place, and in the north of the National Park, contrasting strongly with the open moorland of the Preseli Hills.’</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>The northern area of the PCNP, including the Preseli Hills, are located outside the SLVIA Study Area and are therefore not considered further within the assessment. Southwestern parts of the PCNP are within the Study Area and therefore included in the assessment.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs would be located outside of, and at a distance of approximately 36 km from, the PCNP boundary at its closest point and as such would not result in any change to the physical characteristics which contribute to the diversity of landscape special quality, including the variety of landform, land use, land cover and landscape pattern and link to the past.</p> <p>Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the diversity of landscape. Perceptual aspects of this special quality are largely related to the sense of contrast and variety of landscapes along the coast with those inland within the PCNP. The proposed Project would have little or no influence on this sense of contrast and may add slightly to the variety of features apparent within the landscapes and seascapes outside the PCNP boundary, which include existing wind turbines. The potential influence of the proposed Project on the perceptual aspects of this special quality would be limited by the considerable intervening distance and clear separation from the coast provided by expansive areas of open seascape.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the indirect and limited nature of change to the identified characteristics which define this special quality, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as <b>small</b>.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>minor adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.</p>

Table 23C-3. Special quality: islands

Special quality: islands
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>'The spectacle of the islands off the Pembrokeshire Coast contributes greatly to the sense of place, and feeling of remoteness, with their outstanding visual and landscape scenery. They are highly attractive coastal wilderness areas, virtually undisturbed and rich in wildlife.</i></p> <p><i>The islands are variously home to chough, peregrine and sea birds including Manx shearwaters, guillemots, storm petrels, razorbills and gannets as well as supporting in most cases, breeding colonies of grey seals, with pups being born each year amongst the caves and small beaches. The success of the island breeding colonies is celebrated. And recognised in their international designations. Skomer is also home to the unique Skomer vole.</i></p> <p><i>It is not only the wonder of the wildlife which makes these islands special, their historical and archaeological significance can be dated back to some 5,000 years. Bronze Age cairns and Iron Age field systems make Ramsey and Skomer exceptional places.</i></p> <p><i>Caldey – the most cultivated of the islands - is home to a Cistercian abbey and local population. The Christian presence continues a tradition of over 1,000 years. A sense of quiet and tranquillity pervades the island, despite the large number of day visitors through the season.'</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>Caldey Island is located outside the SLVIA Study Area and is therefore not considered further in relation to this special quality of the PCNP. However, assessment of visual effects on receptors at Caldey Island is provided in section 23.5.14, below. The following assessment focuses on the Islands of Skomer and Skokholm, located within the Study Area.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs would be located outside of, and at a distance of approximately 36 km from, the PCNP boundary at its closest point and as such would not result in any change to the physical characteristics of the islands, including the sea cliffs and rocky shores, wildlife habitats, land use and land cover, heritage assets, and the physical relationship with the mainland.</p> <p>Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the Islands special quality. From the majority of location the visual connection and spectacle of the islands would be unaffected by the proposed Project. There is potential for the proposed Project to be seen in the backdrop of views towards Skokholm from the westernmost part of Marloes peninsula on the mainland and the easternmost part of the Neck on Skomer Island. This may locally influence the perceived remoteness of Skokholm, although this would be limited by the considerable intervening distance and separation provided by the intervening expanse of open seascape. Overall, the sense of place, visual and landscape scenery and sense of remoteness of the islands would remain.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the indirect and limited nature of change to the identified characteristics which define this special quality, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as <b>small</b>.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>minor adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.</p>

Table 23C-4. Special quality: space to breathe

Special quality: space to breathe
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>‘The sometimes blistering westerly winds, which bring clean and fresh air, the clean coastal water, and the clean environment are highly valued by residents and visitors alike and are a special quality of the National Park. The relatively undeveloped areas of the Park, and the opportunity to access many areas provides a sense of exhilaration and liberty, or moments for quiet reflection or enjoyment of the stunning views. All this is possible, even though the nearest settlement is never far away.</i></p> <p><i>“I’m sure it has all been listed before but I found the peace, beauty, clean air, exhilaration of the wind and waves while in a small boat to be paramount. To observe nature away from the crowds yet be near enough to friendly people when company was required went very well on my holiday”</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>The proposed WTGs would be located outside of, and at a distance of approximately 36 km from, the PCNP boundary at its closest point and as such would not result in any change to the physical characteristics which contribute to the <i>space to breathe</i> special quality, including the winds and clean environment and accessibility.</p> <p>Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of this special quality. Expansive sea views provide a context and contribute towards the scenic quality of the coast. In periods of clear atmospheric conditions the proposed Project would be visible as a new man-made element within the open seascape. However, its influence on the perceptual aspects of this special quality would be limited by the considerable intervening distance and clear separation from the coast provided by expansive areas of open seascape.</p> <p>On balance, taking account of the indirect and limited nature of change to the identified characteristics which define this special quality, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as <b>negligible</b>.</p>
Significance of Effect
<p>Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a negligible magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>negligible adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.</p>

Table 23C-5. Special quality: remoteness, tranquillity and wildness

Special quality: remoteness, tranquillity and wildness
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>'The relatively open character of the Preseli Hills, and the lack of cover and shelter provides a strong sense of exposure among the summits and upper slopes of these hills. They provide a sense of space and isolation, providing for moments of reflection and calm away from the bustle of everyday life. Whilst the feeling of upland exposure of the Preseli Hills is not much replicated elsewhere within the National Park, it can be found at Strumble Head and Cemaes Head. There are also however, areas within the National Park where the sense of tranquillity and peace are engendered from the intimacy and closeness of the landscape. Cwm Gwaun valley, with its pervading sense of shelter, provided by the enclosed landform, woodland and dense hedgerow network, provide a sense of tranquillity and solitude in a relatively small area, as does the Solva valley. And yet still a sense of remoteness and tranquillity can be found at the exposed and relatively isolated stretches of Freshwater West, evoked by the wind swept undulating sand dunes. And finally the upper stretches of the Daugleddau, provide a great sense of tranquillity, a sense of quiet backwater, magnified by the surrounding landform, dense woodland and strands of trees.</i></p> <p><i>"The silence has a magical quality all too rare these days".</i></p> <p><i>Part of the special appreciation of the National Park is the ability to absorb not only the tranquillity and sense of calm during the day, but the big skies of the evening and the radiance of the stars on a clear night. Areas with substantial night time light pollution within the National Park, are centred upon the main settlements of Tenby and Saundersfoot and St Davids, although moderate night time light pollution is identified for the southern slopes of the Preseli Hills and the hinterland for Tenby and Saundersfoot.</i></p> <p><i>"One particularly unique aspect is the lack of light pollution of the night sky. It is wonderful to get such a clear view of the "greatest show on earth", this may be another aspect of the Park which is worth promoting"</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>Many of the areas specifically referred to in the description of the special quality (Preseli Hills, Strumble Head, Cemaes Head, Cwm Gwaun and Solva valleys and upper stretches of the Daugleddau) are located outside the SLVIA Study Area and are therefore not considered further within this assessment. The following provides an assessment based on those areas of the PCNP found within the Study Area.</p> <p>The proposed WTGs would be located outside of, and at a distance of approximately 36 km from, the PCNP boundary at its closest point and as such would not result in any change to the physical characteristics which contribute to this special quality, including isolation, remoteness, exposure and/or enclosure.</p> <p>Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of this special quality. The sense of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness within the areas of the PCNP in the SLVIA Study Area are often influenced by a range of existing development, infrastructure and night-time light sources. However, there are localised areas with a stronger sense of remoteness, tranquillity and/or dark skies, such as at Freshwater West and small enclosed bays, more isolated parts of the coast path and on Skomer and Skokholm islands. In periods of clear atmospheric conditions the proposed Project would be visible as a new man-made element within the open seascape from these areas. However, the influence on a sense of remoteness, tranquillity and dark skies would be limited by the considerable intervening distance and clear separation provided by expansive areas of open seascape.</p>

Special quality: remoteness, tranquillity and wildness
On balance, taking account of the indirect and limited nature of change to the identified characteristics which define this special quality, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as <b>small</b> .
Significance of Effect
Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>minor adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.

Table 23C-6. Special quality: diversity and combination of special qualities

Special quality: diversity and combination of special qualities
Published Baseline Description (Background Paper: Special Qualities of PCNP)
<p><i>'It is not only the individual special qualities which make the National Park special, it is the combination of special qualities, with the variety and distribution within a relatively small area which helps to create its uniqueness. The sound and sights of the sea, nestled alongside the rolling landscapes, wooded valleys and upland plateaus of the National Park create a distinctive combination of colour, contrast and change within just a few miles, and provides a range of landscapes and intangible experiences, which is rarely found.</i></p> <p><i>It is not only the existence of these qualities, but the perception of their permanence, of the protection that a National Park affords which in itself provides reassurance.</i></p> <p><i>"The blend of sea, beautiful landscapes, rivers, cliffs and stunning views make this a unique environment in Britain".'</i></p>
Magnitude of Impact
<p>This is not a distinct special quality but rather relates to the ability to experience the combination of each of the other identified special qualities within a relatively small area. The assessment has found that the proposed Project would not result in any direct (physical) change to the components of the landscape and seascape that underpin each of the special qualities. It has also found that although there is potential for indirect change on certain perceptual characteristics of the special qualities, this would be limited and of a small magnitude.</p> <p>The ability to experience the diversity and combination of special qualities of the PCNP would be largely unaffected by the proposed Project, resulting in an overall <b>small</b> magnitude of impact.</p>
Significance of Effect
Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be <b>minor adverse (not significant)</b> during operation.

12. Many of the features or areas of the PCNP specifically highlighted as demonstrating the defined special qualities are outside the Study Area and/or Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), where significant effects would not occur. The following focuses on the parts of the PCNP found within the Study Area. Potential change would be indirect in nature, with no influence on the physical attributes which contribute to the character of the PCNP and Heritage Coasts. Potential change would therefore be limited to perceptual qualities, such as the sense of remoteness, tranquillity, wildness and dark skies experienced in parts of the PCNP. The impression of change on these perceptual attributes would generally be limited by the considerable intervening distance and clear separation provided by expansive areas of open

seascape, and the small part of the broad seascape setting of the PCNP occupied by the proposed Project. On balance, the magnitude of impact on the parts of the PCNP and Heritage Coasts within the Study Area and ZTV extent would be **small**.

13. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the PCNP arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.
14. The majority of the PCNP is outside the ZTV extent and/or beyond the Study Area. Potential effects on these areas and the PCNP overall would be lower than those set out above.

### 23.3 Seascape Character

- 23.3.1. The following section provide an assessment of potential effects on each of the Seascape Character Areas (SCA) included in the detailed assessment. Locations of the SCAs are shown on **Volume 5: Figure 23.3**. The baseline descriptions provided have been informed by review of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Assessment (2013) and LANDMAP data, in addition to site survey. Skomer Island and Marloes Peninsula SCA (PCNP SCA 25).

#### Baseline Description

15. This SCA covers much of the Marloes peninsula, Skomer Island and the surrounding coastal waters. It is generally characterised by an exposed rocky shoreline with high cliffs and dramatic rock formations, stacks and arches, with the inland area defined by plateau grassland and rolling agricultural land.
16. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Skomer island, associated islets, stacks and rock formations, and the mainland Marloes peninsula;
  - Exposed rocky shoreline and high, jagged sea cliffs with numerous small, enclosed coves and bays and the broad, open beach of Marloes Sands;
  - Highly disturbed seas with a range of islands, small islets, stacks and rock formations;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use on Marloes peninsula, defined by an undulating landform and a network of medium to large scale fields, occasional natural grassland and mere land cover, with settlement largely limited to Marloes and a few scattered farms;
  - Inland plateau of grassland, bracken and scrub on Skomer Island and larger islets, with remnants of historic wall enclosures and settlement apparent; and
  - Open panoramic views of the mainland coast, islands and out to sea, often with large ships passing or at anchor, from many areas including the Marloes coast and Skomer Island.
17. This SCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation both on land and at sea, including a section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Deer Park, Marloes Sands and on Skomer Island, and strong historic and cultural associations. Widespread sense of exposure, naturalness, tranquillity and dark skies along isolated coasts and on the islands. The seascape value of this SCA is considered to be **very high**.

#### Sensitivity

18. The impression of scale of this SCA is variable, with expansive outward views from elevated locations, and a greater sense of enclosure and of a smaller scale landscape at lower elevations and at sea level, particularly between the islands and the mainland. This SCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, or which would influence the relationship between Skomer and the mainland. While there is a context of development, including tall structures and wind turbines on the mainland there is limited man-made influence within the seascape, beyond movement of ships.
19. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **high**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

### **Magnitude of Impact**

20. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 39 km south/southwest of this SCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the seascape character.
21. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the seascape. Introduction of the proposed Project into the broad undeveloped seascape context of this SCA has the potential to influence the sense of naturalness and tranquillity experienced along isolated coasts and on Skomer. There is also potential to influence dark sky characteristics through introduction of aviation lighting on the turbines. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this SCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on the perceptual attributes. The position of the lights low on the distant horizon and use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility (>5 km) would also limit influence on appreciation of the night sky.
22. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

### **Significance of Effect**

23. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Skomer Island and Marloes Peninsula SCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.3.2. Skokholm and Gateholm Coastal Waters SCA (PCNP SCA 27)**

### **Baseline Description**

24. This SCA covers a short section of the east coast of the Dale peninsula, the remote island of Skokholm, coastal island of Gateholm and the associated coastal and offshore waters. It is broadly characterised by high, rocky indented sea cliffs backed by grassland and agricultural plateau.
25. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
  - Relatively wild and remote Skokholm Island, coastal island of Gateholm south of the Marloes peninsula, and the western part of the Dales peninsula, north of St Ann's Head;
  - Exposed rocky shoreline and high, indented jagged red sandstone sea cliffs with numerous small, enclosed coves and bays, with Westdale being the largest and most accessible;
  - Disturbed seas with a range of shoreline rock formations, strong tidal streams and races and exposure to large sea swells;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use on Dales peninsula, defined by an undulating landform and a network of medium to large scale fields, occasional woodland and scrub and limited settlement;
  - Inland plateau of grassland and bracken on Skokholm Island, with remnants of historic wall enclosures and settlement apparent and a working lighthouse in the south; and
  - Open panoramic views of the mainland coast, islands and out to sea, often with large ships passing, from many areas including the mainland coast and islands.
26. This SCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good



opportunities for recreation both on land and at sea, including a section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and on Skokholm Island, and strong historic and cultural associations. There is a widespread sense of exposure, naturalness, tranquillity and along much of the coast and on the islands and local sense of dark skies away from the influence of settlement and lighthouses. The seascape value of this SCA is considered to be **very high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

27. This SCA is relatively large scale, with expansive outward views particularly from elevated locations on the coast. There is a local sense of enclosure and of a smaller scale seascape within occasional enclosed bays. This SCA is susceptible to development within its boundary, or which would influence the relationship between Skokholm and the mainland and nearby Skomer Island. While there is a context of development, including tall structures and wind turbines on the mainland there is limited man-made influence within the seascape, beyond movement of ships and the lighthouse on Skokholm.
28. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **high**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

29. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 34 km south of this SCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the seascape character.
30. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the seascape. Introduction of the proposed Project into the broad undeveloped seascape context of this SCA has the potential to influence the sense of naturalness and tranquillity experienced along isolated coasts and on Skokholm. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this SCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on the perceptual attributes. There is also potential to influence dark sky characteristics through introduction of aviation lighting on the turbines. Any change would be experienced in the context of the lighthouses on Skokholm and St Ann's Head and other inland light sources. The position of the proposed lights low on the distant horizon and use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility would also limit influence on appreciation of the night sky.
31. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

32. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Skokholm and Gateholm Coastal Waters SCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.3.3. Outer Milford Haven SCA (PCNP SCA 31)**

##### **Baseline Description**

33. This SCA covers a large area primarily encompassing the outer part of Milford Haven and the adjacent coastal farmland. It is of a transitional character, varying from the enclosed and sheltered area of Dale Bay to the more exposed and open-sea character of the mouth of the inlet.
34. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:

- Large and generally sheltered inlet with a series of enclosed bays and more open exposed character towards the south;
  - Variable coastal margin, including sections of rocky coastline, sea cliffs and steep slopes, and lower lying sand and gravel beaches and tidal wetlands;
  - Well used sea area with large commercial shipping, ferries and recreational watercraft a constant presence, and a strong influence from surrounding land and development, including oil refineries and associated infrastructure within the adjacent SCA;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use inland from the coastal edge, defined by an undulating landform and a network of medium to large scale fields, occasional woodland and scrub and small settlements and scattered farms; and
  - A range of views experienced from different parts of this SCA, with open panoramic views across the inlet or out to sea from elevated sections of coast, and more enclosed and framed views from lower lying areas and sheltered bays. Most views contain features relating to navigation, shipping and/or nearby industrial development.
35. This SCA is within the PCNP and largely within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation both on land and at sea, including a section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Dales Bay and other beaches, and strong historic and cultural associations particularly related to maritime navigation and defence. Variable sense of naturalness, tranquillity, dark skies and remoteness, often influenced by nearby settlement, development and commercial shipping. The seascape value of this SCA is considered to be **very high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

36. There is a variable impression of scale within this SCA, ranging from a sense of enclosure and smaller scale seascape at sea level within enclosed bays, to a more open exposed character on elevated and southern areas. A range of onshore and offshore development and commercial shipping has a strong influence on the SCA providing a context to potential change.
37. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

38. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 36 km southwest of this SCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the seascape character.
39. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the seascape. The ZTV indicates the proposed WTGs would be screened from much of the coastal margin within this SCA, limiting the extent of change. Many of the parts of this SCA found within the ZTV are influenced by a range of nearby developments, including onshore wind turbines and oil and gas terminals, and by commercial shipping. These developments, and particularly the oil and gas terminals and refinery represent notable light sources at night. Introduction of the proposed Project would add to the context of existing development, and although located within the open seas rather than on land, the intervening distance would limit the impression of change. At night, the position of the lights on the proposed WTGs would be low on the distant horizon and as such would have little influence on appreciation of dark skies, particularly given the context of other notable light sources within the baseline. The use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility would further limit potential change.

40. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **negligible**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

41. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a negligible magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Outer Milford Haven SCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.3.4. Freshwater West SCA (PCNP SCA 34)**

##### **Baseline Description**

42. Located to the south of the Angle peninsula this SCA covers a short section of south and west facing coast and the north part of a broad open bay. It is broadly characterised by low jagged cliffs backed by steep grassland slopes along the south of the Angle peninsula and a broad west facing beach backed by dunes at Freshwater West.
43. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Broad, open and exposed south and west facing bay with sandstone cliffs and platforms along the north and a broad sandy beach with rocky outcrops to the east;
  - Strong sense of exposure to the elements with a constant awareness of wind and sea and the sound of crashing waves, particularly in strong south-westerly winds;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use inland, with an irregular pattern of small to medium and occasionally large-scale fields divided by hedgerows, and areas of seminatural grassland on the dunes;
  - Historic connections with evidence of old military installations and ancient burial mounds, and strong local cultural associations and identity linked to the beaches;
  - Variable sense of enclosure, with a limited impression of infrastructure and development in lower lying areas and dunes, resulting in a locally strong sense of remoteness and wilderness particularly when the nearby military firing range is not active; and
  - Open and expansive views including to St Ann's Head and Skokholm Island in the distance to the west, particularly from elevated sections of the coast.
44. This SCA is within the PCNP and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation, primarily through the beaches and Pembrokeshire Coast Path, and strong cultural associations linked to the local sense of identity. Widespread sense of exposure, and localised sense of remoteness, wildness and dark sky characteristics, particularly away from the road and in periods when the nearby military range is not active. The landscape value of this SCA is considered to be **very high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

45. This is a relatively large-scale SCA, consisting of a wide bay and extensive beach, although with a local sense of enclosure and smaller scale within smaller bays and low lying parts of the dunes. This SCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, and slightly less so to development within the wider context. While there is generally a limited context of development from many areas, the nearby firing range, tops of the oil refinery stacks, commercial shipping and navigation markers, and car parking, food trucks and facilities link to high visitor numbers have a local influence.

46. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

47. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 35 km southwest of this SCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the seascape character.
48. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the seascape. Introduction of the proposed Project into the broad undeveloped seascape has the potential to influence the sense of naturalness and dark sky characteristics experienced from parts of the coast. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape would limit the impression of change on these attributes. Many of the other perceptual attributes which contribute to the character of this SCA, such as the sense of exposure and localised sense of wildness within the dunes, would be unaffected.
49. At night, the position of the lights on the proposed WTGs would be low on the distant horizon, often experienced in the context of other existing light sources such as those on navigational buoys, light houses and more broadly lighting on the tops of the oil refinery stacks often visible inland. The use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility would further limit potential change.
50. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

51. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Freshwater West SCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.3.5. Castlemartin Coastal Waters SCA (PCNP SCA 35)**

##### **Baseline Description**

52. This SCA is located along the southwest Pembrokeshire coast between Frainslake Sands in the west and St Govan's Head in the east. It is broadly characterised by a relatively remote, rugged and exposed coast of sea cliffs, stacks and rock formations.
53. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Rugged rocky shoreline below high, vertical limestone cliffs and notable stacks and rock formations, fringed by relatively shallow waters;
  - Sea cliffs backed by an undulating coastal plateau of grassland and scrub, largely occupied by a military range with occasional low buildings, but no settlement;
  - Strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and dark skies when military range is not in use; and
  - Open and expansive views along the sea cliffs to the east and west and out to sea to the south.
54. This SCA is within the PCNP and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. Opportunities for recreation both on land and at sea are somewhat limited with restrictions related to the military range, with greater access possible when the range is inactive. There are strong historic and cultural associations with parts of this seascape

and a variable sense of tranquillity, remoteness and exposure depending on the level of activity on the military range. The landscape value of this SCA is considered to be **high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

55. This is a large scale and relatively simple and uniform SCA with expansive seaward views from elevated locations. The majority of the SCA is within a military range which limits public access and has a strong influence on the character. Beyond the military use, there is limited context of man-made influence offshore, beyond navigational buoys and movement of commercial ships. A range of developments, including wind turbines and an oil refinery are apparent inland from elevated areas.
56. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

57. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 32 km southwest of this SCA and 36 km from this part of the coast, and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the seascape character.
58. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the seascape. Introduction of the proposed Project into the broad undeveloped seascape context of this SCA has the potential to influence the sense of remoteness, tranquillity and dark skies experienced in parts of this SCA when the firing ranges are not active. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this SCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on each of these perceptual attributes. The presence of these perceptual attributes is considerably limited when the firing range is active, reducing the impression of change.
59. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

60. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Castlemartin Coastal Waters SCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

### **23.4 Landscape Character**

61. The following section provide an assessment of potential effects on each of the Landscape Character Areas (LCA) included in the detailed assessment. Locations of the LCAs are shown in **Volume 5: Figure 23.5**. The baseline descriptions provided have been informed by review of the following documents and data sources in addition to site survey:

- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Landscape Character Assessment;
- Pembrokeshire County Council Landscape Character Assessment; and
- LANDMAP aspect area data.

#### **23.4.1. Castlemartin/Merrion Ranges LCA (PCNP LCA 6)**

##### **Baseline Description**

62. This LCA covers an area of coastline and hinterland between Linney Head and Rhoscrowther in the west and St Govan's Head in the east. The landscape consists largely of undulating grassland on an open coastal plateau, fringed by sea cliffs and occasional sheltered coves.

63. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Exposed open coastal grassland and scrub in the south, with extensive views out to sea and a strong coastal character;
  - Agricultural character in the north consisting of small to medium sized fields defined by hedgerows, overlaid on a rolling topography;
  - Inland edge largely defined by a ridgeline, on which are located a number of small settlements with prominent church towers, and more recent military observation towers;
  - Locally strong sense of exposure, remoteness, tranquillity and dark skies, during periods when the military range is not being used; and
  - Scenic coastal views, including sea cliffs with notable rock formations and stacks.
64. This LCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation, including the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and Public Right of Way (PRoW), with greater restrictions in place when the military range is active. There are strong historic and cultural associations with parts of this landscape and a variable sense of tranquillity, remoteness and exposure. The landscape value is considered to be **high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

65. The impression of scale of this LCA is variable, with a simple large scale and relatively consistent character along the coastal margin and within the firing range, and a more variable agricultural landscape of small to medium fields elsewhere. There is a relatively high susceptibility to change occurring within the LCA, reduced locally by the firing range. A variety of developments, including wind turbines, oil refinery and power station to the north provide a context to potential indirect change.
66. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

67. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 35 km southwest of this LCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the landscape character.
68. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the landscape. Introduction of the proposed Project into outward views has the potential to influence the sense of remoteness, tranquillity and dark skies experienced in parts of this LCA when the firing ranges are not active. However, the separation distance between the WTGs and the LCA, the expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this LCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on each of these perceptual attributes. When the firing range is active the impression of change would be further reduced.
69. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

70. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the

Castlemartin/Merrion Ranges LCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### 23.4.2. *Angle Peninsula LCA (PCNP LCA 7)*

##### **Baseline Description**

71. This LCA covers much of the Angle peninsula west of Rhoscrowther and Freshwater West and largely comprises a rolling lowland agricultural landscape, sea cliffs and the low estuarine mudflats of Angle Bay.
72. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
  - Relatively low-lying rolling landform ranging from the broad estuarine bay in the north to more elevated ground in the centre and south of the peninsula;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use with an irregular pattern of small to medium and occasionally large-scale fields divided by hedgerows and small woodlands;
  - Settlement largely limited to the small linear village of Angle and nearby caravan park towards the north and scattered or cluster farms elsewhere;
  - Strong coastal character with sea cliffs and enclosed bays to the south and west, and more sloping or low-lying coastal margin to the north;
  - Strong historic connections, enhanced by the traditional buildings and smaller scale field pattern in and around Angle and the notable forts at Thorne island and Chapel Bay;
  - Attractive views along parts of the coastline, particularly over West Angle Bay and to St Ann's Head to the west; and
  - Strong influence of adjacent large scale industrial development during both daytime and at night, particularly in the north and east.
73. This LCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation, including the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and local PRoW. There are strong historic and cultural associations with parts of this landscape and a variable sense of tranquillity, dark skies, remoteness and exposure. On balance, the landscape value is considered to be **very high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

74. There is a variable sense of scale within this LCA, defined by a relatively simple landform and irregular field pattern. This LCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, and less susceptible to external change as a result of an existing context of development, including wind turbines, oil refinery, power station and gas terminal.
75. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

76. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 37 km southwest of this LCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the landscape character.
77. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the landscape. The ZTV indicates that potential visibility of the proposed WTGs would be limited to the south part of the LCA and isolated high

points further north, with the majority of the area unaffected. Introduction of the proposed Project into seaward facing views from parts of this LCA has the potential to influence the local sense of tranquillity, dark skies and remoteness. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this LCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on each of these perceptual attributes. The position of the aviation lighting low on the distant horizon would also limit influence on appreciation of the night sky, particularly given the existing context of other closer and more notable light sources. The use of a reduced intensity mode for the aviation lighting on the WTGs in periods of good visibility would further limit potential change.

78. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

79. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Angle Peninsula LCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.4.3. Freshwater West/Brownsdale Burrows LCA (PCNP LCA 8)**

##### **Baseline Description**

80. This LCA covers a small area to the south of the Angle peninsula and largely encompasses broad sandy beaches, dunes systems and adjacent marsh. This low-lying landscape has a strong sense of place defined by the exposed nature of the coast, beaches and rocky foreshore.
81. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents listed previously and observations made during site survey, include:
- Long stretch of sandy beaches backed by an extensive system of fixed sand dunes and low-lying agricultural land and marsh;
  - Strong sense of exposure with a constant awareness of wind and sea and the sound of crashing waves, particularly in strong south-westerly winds;
  - Relatively limited impression of infrastructure and development resulting in a strong sense of remoteness and wilderness despite the proximity to the military firing range and oil refineries. Lighting on taller buildings and out to sea at night have some local influence on the impression of dark skies;
  - Strong landscape function, with sense of natural processes and important habitats; and
  - Historic connections with evidence of old military installations and ancient burial mounds, and strong local cultural associations and identity linked to the beaches.
82. This LCA is within the PCNP and includes a number of designated heritage assets and is largely covered by ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation, primarily through the beaches and Pembrokeshire Coast Path, and strong cultural associations linked to the local sense of identity. Widespread sense of exposure and local sense of remoteness and wildness, particularly away from the road and in periods when the military range is not active. The landscape value of this LCA is considered to be **very high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

83. This is a relatively large-scale LCA consisting of extensive open beaches, although with a local sense of enclosure and smaller scale character within low lying parts of the dunes. This LCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, and slightly less so to development



within the wider context. While there is generally a limited context of development from many areas, the nearby firing range, tops of the oil refinery stacks, commercial shipping and navigation markers, and car parking, food trucks and facilities linked to high visitor numbers have a local influence.

84. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **medium**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

85. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 37 km southwest of this LCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the landscape character.
86. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the landscape. Introduction of the proposed Project into outward views has the potential to influence the local sense of remoteness and dark skies experienced in parts of this LCA when the firing ranges are not active. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape would limit the impression of change on these attributes. Many of the other perceptual attributes which contribute to the character of this LCA, such as the sense of exposure and localised sense of wildness within the dunes, would be unaffected.
87. At night, the position of the lights on the proposed WTGs would be low on the distant horizon, often experienced in the context of other existing light sources such as those on navigational buoys, light houses and more broadly lighting on the tops of the oil refinery stacks often visible inland. The use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility would further limit potential change.
88. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

89. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Freshwater West/Brownsdale Burrows LCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.4.4. Marloes Peninsula LCA (PCNP LCA 9)**

##### **Baseline Description**

90. This LCA is located in the southwest of Pembrokeshire, occupying the broad headland south of St Brides Bay and west of Little Haven in the north and Sand Haven in the south. It is a largely agricultural landscape defined by an undulating landform and a network of medium to large scale fields divided by hedgerows, occasional woodlands and small settlements.
91. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Exposed rocky shoreline and high, jagged sea cliffs with numerous small, enclosed coves and bays and the broad, open beach of Marloes Sands;
  - Predominantly agricultural land use, defined by an undulating landform and a network of medium to large scale fields, occasional natural grassland and mere land cover;
  - Settlement largely comprising Marloes, St Ishmael's and Dale and a few smaller clusters of properties and scattered farms, with greater influence of nearby development in the southeast; and

- Open panoramic views, including towards the islands of Skokholm and Skomer, from the coast and elevated inland locations, often with large ships passing or at anchor.

92. This LCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation, primarily through the beaches and Pembrokeshire Coast Path, and strong historic and cultural associations. Local sense of exposure, naturalness, tranquillity and dark skies, particularly along isolated coasts. The landscape value of this LCA is considered to be **very high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

93. There is a variable sense of scale within this LCA, defined by a relatively simple landform and irregular field pattern. This LCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, and somewhat less so to external change; particularly in the southeast as a result of an existing context of development, including wind turbines, oil refinery, power station and gas terminal. There is more limited man-made influence within the seascape, beyond the movement of commercial shipping, to the south and west of this LCA.

94. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **high**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

95. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 37 km southwest of this LCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the landscape character.

96. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the landscape. The ZTV indicates that potential visibility of the proposed WTGs would be limited to the southern coastal edge and elevated ground towards the north of the LCA, with the majority of the area unaffected. Introduction of the proposed Project into seaward facing views from parts of this LCA has the potential to influence the local sense of naturalness, tranquillity and dark skies. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this LCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on each of these perceptual attributes. The position of the lights low on the distant horizon and the use of a reduced intensity mode during periods of good visibility would also limit influence on appreciation of the night sky.

97. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

98. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Marloes Peninsula LCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.4.5. Skomer and Skokholm LCA (PCNP LCA 10)**

##### **Baseline Description**

99. This LCA covers the two offshore islands of Skomer and Skokholm, located west of Marloes peninsula in southwest Pembrokeshire. The landscape is defined by a strong connection with the sea and coast, with the islands consisting of dramatic sea cliffs and rocky shores and an inland plateau of grassland, bracken and scrub with occasional distinct rocky outcrops.

100. Key characteristics, identified through review of published documents and observations made during site survey, include:
- Exposed rocky shoreline and high, jagged sea cliffs with numerous small, enclosed coves and bays and a range of islands, small islets, stacks and rock formations;
  - Inland plateau of grassland, bracken and scrub, with remnants of historic wall enclosures and settlement apparent, with limited modern development or structures;
  - Open panoramic views of the mainland coast, islands and out to sea, often with large ships passing or at anchor.
101. This LCA is within the PCNP and partially within a registered historic landscape and includes a number of designated heritage assets and ecological designations. There are good opportunities for recreation on both islands, although access is seasonal and somewhat restricted, particularly for Skokholm. Widespread sense of exposure, remoteness, wildness and dark sky characteristics, locally influenced by the lighthouse on Skokholm. The landscape value of this LCA is considered to be **very high**.

#### **Sensitivity**

102. The largely open elevated nature of views across both islands gives an impression of a large scale context within which the two small areas of this LCA sit. The islands themselves appear of small scale relative to the broad seascape and nearby mainland. This LCA is highly susceptible to development within its boundary, or between the islands and the mainland. While there is a context of development, including tall structures and wind turbines on the mainland there is limited man-made influence within the seascape to the south and west, beyond movement of ships.
103. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **high**, and when combined with the very high value, the overall sensitivity to change is assessed as **high**.

#### **Magnitude of Impact**

104. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 36 km south/southwest of this LCA and as such there would be no direct change to the physical attributes which contribute to the landscape character.
105. Potential change would therefore be indirect in nature, relating to the influence of visibility of the proposed Project on perceptual aspects of the landscape. Introduction of the proposed Project into the broad undeveloped seascape context of this LCA has the potential to influence the sense of remoteness, wildness and dark skies experienced in many parts of both islands. However, the separation distance and expansive intervening seascape and the very small part of the outlook from this LCA potentially affected would limit the impression of change on the perceptual attributes. The position of the lights low on the distant horizon and use of a reduced intensity mode in periods of good visibility would also limit influence on appreciation of the night sky.
106. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

107. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect on the Skomer and Skokholm LCA arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

### 23.5 Visual Amenity - Viewpoints

108. The following section provides an assessment of potential effects on representative viewpoint locations and associated visual receptors. Visualisations from each of the viewpoint locations are provided in **Volume 5: Figures VP 01.2 – VP 15.3**.

109. The assessment is undertaken based on perfectly clear atmospheric conditions to present a worst case approach. A review of average visibility data for the Milford Haven weather station suggests that frequency of visibility >35 km would be less than 33%, frequency of excellent visibility (>40 km) would be less than 24%, and frequency of visibility >50 km less than 10.5%. It is therefore likely that visibility of the proposed WTGs would be more limited, and the resulting magnitude of impact would be lower than stated below, for the majority of the time.

#### 23.5.1. Viewpoint 01: Skomer Island

##### Baseline Description

110. This viewpoint is located towards the centre of Skomer Island close to the education and interpretation centre and is representative of visitors to the island and users of the local path network. Views are open and expansive, offering a 360° panorama from a local highpoint on the island. These views comprise the undulating grassland of Skomer in the foreground and across the open sea beyond, with Marloes peninsula and the wider Pembrokeshire coast to the east and more distant to the north, Skokholm Island to the south and expansive open seas to the west. Views east include a range of development, with the oil refineries alongside Milford Haven the most notable, although distant structures. Views to the sea to the north, west and south often including large commercial ships and ferries.

111. There are broad attractive views from this location over the island and surrounding seascape and coasts. Although this specific viewpoint location is not recognised through maps or publications, views from the island are more broadly recognised. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### Sensitivity

112. This viewpoint is representative of visitors to the island and the wardens who work there. Observation of wildlife (sea birds and sea mammals) is the primary reason for visiting the island, with the focus therefore being on the burrows, cliffs and near shore waters. Although views out to the more distant open sea are slightly less important, they contribute to the overall visitor experience which is defined by an appreciation of the surroundings. Taking a precautionary approach, susceptibility is considered to be **very high**, and when combined with the high value, indicate an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### Magnitude of Impact

113. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 40.5 km south of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The turbines would not appear out of scale with other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines, already present in views from this location. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 10°) of the 360° horizontal field of view experienced from this location, with the majority of the expansive views unaffected.

114. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the coast, sea cliffs and near shore waters contribute

to a reduced magnitude of impact, with little change to the impression and nature of views from Skomer.

115. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

116. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.2. Viewpoint 02: Skokholm Island**

##### **Baseline Description**

117. This viewpoint is located towards the south of Skokholm Island and is representative of views experienced by visitors to the island and users of the local path network. There are open and expansive 360° panoramic views from the small island across the sea to Skomer Island and the mainland coast to the north, east and southeast and across the open sea to the south and west. This is a largely natural view with structures generally limited to the lighthouse at the western end of the island in the foreground and taller distant development on the mainland apparent in the round.
118. There are broad attractive views over the island and surrounding seascape and coasts. Although this specific viewpoint location is not recognised through maps or publications, views from the island are more broadly recognised. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

119. This viewpoint is representative of visitors to the island and the wardens who work there. Visitor numbers to the island are restricted, with no day trips and limited accommodation available. The primary reason for visiting the island is observation of wildlife (sea birds and sea mammals), with the focus therefore being on the burrows, sea cliffs and near shore waters. Views out to the more distant open sea are slightly less important. However, they contribute to the overall visitor experience which is defined by an appreciation of the unique surroundings. Taking a precautionary approach, susceptibility is considered to be **very high**, and when combined with the high value, indicate an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

120. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 36 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 12°) of the broad panorama experienced from this location and the wider island, with the majority of the expansive views unaffected.
121. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the coast, sea cliffs, near shore waters and towards Skomer and the mainland coast, contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact, with little change to the impression and nature of views from Skokholm.

122. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

123. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.3. Viewpoint 03: Pembroke to Rosslare Ferry**

##### **Baseline Description**

124. This viewpoint is located at a point on the Pembroke to Rosslare Ferry route to the southeast of Skokholm and is representative of passengers on the ferry and more broadly users of recreational watercraft along this section of the Pembrokeshire coast. Views are open and expansive, offering a 360° panorama across the open sea to the south, towards Skokholm and the Marloes and Dale peninsulas to the north and the Angle peninsula and southern Pembrokeshire coast to the east. Large commercial ships and a range of other vessels are regularly visible in the surrounding waters.
125. There are broad attractive views of the surrounding seascape and coasts from this location and although not specifically recognised, views from the coastal waters are important to the experience of users of recreational watercraft. On balance, taking a worst case approach, the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

126. This viewpoint is representative of ferry passengers and users of recreational watercraft. Although outward views are part of the experience of travel on the ferry, they generally would not be the primary focus or purpose of travelling. Views and appreciation of the surroundings are likely to be of greater importance to recreational watercraft. Although the focus of views is likely to be towards the adjacent sea cliffs and bays and nearby islands, views out to sea contribute to the overall experience. Based on users of recreational watercraft and taking a precautionary approach, susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

127. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 34.5 km south of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. A greater proportion of the turbine towers would be screened by the horizon from this low elevation viewpoint, reducing the apparent height of the turbines. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the broad panorama experienced from this location, with the majority of the expansive views unaffected.
128. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the coast and near shore waters, contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
129. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

### Significance of Effect

130. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### 23.5.4. Viewpoint 04: Marloes Beacon

### Baseline Description

131. This viewpoint is located on a local high point on the Marloes peninsula and is representative of visitors to Marloes Beacon and nearby residential receptors. There are 360° panoramic views from this slightly elevated position, across the surrounding undulating farmland landscape and to the coast, sea and offshore islands to the south, west and north. A range of developments, including the oil refineries and onshore wind turbines around Milford Haven, are visible spread along the skyline to the east, representing distant detracting features. Views from nearby residential properties, and particularly those in Marloes, tend to be more restricted although often include rolling farmland and glimpses of the coast and sea.
132. There are broad attractive views over the surrounding farmland and to the coast and offshore islands from this location which is recognised as a scenic viewpoint on Ordnance Survey mapping and is a short walk from available roadside parking. The value of the view is considered to be **very high**.

### Sensitivity

133. This viewpoint is representative of visitors to Marloes Beacon, a relatively easily accessible local high point recognised as a 360° viewpoint on OS mapping. The availability of roadside parking and short walk give visitors the opportunity to stop and take in the view which would be the primary reason for being at this location. Susceptibility is therefore considered to be **very high** and when combined with the very high value indicates an overall **very high** sensitivity to change.

### Magnitude of Impact

134. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 41.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The turbines would not appear out of scale with other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines, already present in views from this location. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 10°) of the 360° horizontal field of view experienced from this location, with the majority of the expansive views unaffected.
135. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on views of the surrounding farmland, coast and offshore islands contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
136. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

### Significance of Effect

137. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified very high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### 23.5.5. Viewpoint 05: Hooper's Point

##### Baseline Description

138. This viewpoint is located along the coast between the Marloes and Dale peninsulas and is representative of recreational receptors on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. There are open expansive views from this elevated location, including the sea cliffs and beach along Marloes peninsula, Skokholm and Skomer islands to the west, along the Dale peninsula to the south and across the open sea beyond. Views inland to the north and east tend to be more restricted due to rising topography, although distant industrial development is seen along the horizon. Large commercial ships and ferries are often apparent off the coast, travelling to/from Milford Haven and the north.
139. There are broad attractive views from this location, with few detracting features. It is not recognised through maps or publications as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path along a relatively undeveloped section of coastline. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### Sensitivity

140. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an open and elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. People are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path, from which views are important and potentially the primary focus. The main attention and focus of views are likely to be along the coastline to Marloes Sands and Skomer Island to the northwest and Skokholm Island to the west. However, the open and expansive sea views to the west and south provide a context and contribute to the overall experience. On balance and taking a precautionary approach susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### Magnitude of Impact

141. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 39.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 10°) of the expansive 360° view experienced from this section of the coast path, with the majority of the view unaffected.
142. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the sea cliffs and near shore waters and offshore islands contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
143. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

##### Significance of Effect

144. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.



#### 23.5.6. Viewpoint 06: St Ann's Head

##### Baseline Description

145. This viewpoint is located near St Ann's Head at the southern end of the Dale peninsula and is representative of users of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and nearby residential receptors. There are expansive, open views from this elevated coastal location over the foreground rocky coast and out to sea. The wide panorama includes views across the sea to Skokholm and Skomer islands to the west and northwest, expansive open sea to the south, the Angle peninsula and Linney Head to the east and southeast, the Milford Haven waterway to the northeast and inland along the Dale peninsula to the north. Small settlements and a lighthouse are present in the foreground along with a range of more distant development, most notable around Milford Haven waterway to the northeast and east. Large commercial ships and ferries are also often visible from this location travelling to/from the oil and gas facilities in Milford Haven.
146. There are broad attractive views from this location, although with some notable detracting structures and more distant development. It is not recognised through maps or publications as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path within PCNP, towards the southernmost point of the peninsula and a short walk from the Kete National Trust car park. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### Sensitivity

147. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Most people are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path, from which views are important. This viewpoint is also representative of views from nearby residential properties from which views are generally considered to be of primary importance. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### Magnitude of Impact

148. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 37.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. They would also not appear out of scale relative to other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines already present in views from this location. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the 360° horizontal field of view experienced from this location, with the majority of views unaffected.
149. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the sea cliffs, near shore waters and offshore contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
150. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

### Significance of Effect

151. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### 23.5.7. Viewpoint 07: Lindsway Bay

### Baseline Description

152. This viewpoint is located along the coast on the north side of Milford Haven and is representative of recreational receptors on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Views from this elevated location are open and expansive, including the sea cliffs and small beach along Lindsway Bay in the foreground, the Dale and Angle peninsulas further south and along Milford Haven to the east. Notable development to the east on both sides of Milford Haven and large commercial ships and ferries are also often present in Milford Haven and in the sea further south.
153. There are broad and relatively attractive views from this location, although a number of detracting features are notable, particularly to the east. It is not recognised through maps or publications as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path within PCNP and is relatively accessible from the nearby village of St Ishmael's. On balance and taking a precautionary approach the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

### Sensitivity

154. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. People are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path, from which views are important and potentially the primary focus. The main attention and focus of views are likely to be to the sandy beach and sea cliffs in the foreground, the coast of the Angle and Dale peninsulas and southwards to the open sea beyond. Movement of large ships within Milford Haven is likely to also provide a dynamic focus to views. On balance and taking a precautionary approach susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

### Magnitude of Impact

155. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 42.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. They would also not appear out of scale relative to other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines already present in views from this section of the coast path. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 10°) of the broad panorama experienced from this section of the coast path, with the majority of the expansive views unaffected.
156. The proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views southwest and broadly framed by Angle and Dale peninsulas. However, the impression of change and the magnitude of impact would be reduced by the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and the limited influence on views of the foreground coast and inshore waters of Milford Haven.

157. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

158. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.8. Viewpoint 08: Castles Bay/Sheep Island**

##### **Baseline Description**

159. This viewpoint is located along the southwest facing coast of the Angle peninsula and is representative of recreational receptors on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. There are open expansive views from this elevated location, including the sea cliffs along Angle peninsula to the west and east, with St Ann's Head across the sea to the west, Freshwater West and Linney Head to the southeast, and the open sea to the south. Views inland to the north are more restricted due to screening by rising landform. There is relatively limited development apparent in the view, with the whitewashed lighthouse and small settlement at St Ann's Head the most notable.
160. There are broad attractive views from this location, with no notable detracting features. It is not recognised through maps or publications as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path along an undeveloped section of coastline. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

161. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an open and elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. People are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path, from which views are important and potentially the primary focus. The main attention and focus of views are likely to be to the coastline semi enclosed Castles Bay and Sheep Island in the foreground to the south and the Dale Peninsula and St Ann's Head lighthouse across outer Milford Haven to the west. However, the open and expansive sea views to the south and southwest also provide a context and contribute to the overall experience. On balance and taking a precautionary approach susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

162. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 39 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the expansive views experienced from this location and section of the coast path, with the majority of the view unaffected.
163. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and little or no influence on important views of the coast, sheep island, near shore waters and towards St Ann's Head, contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.

164. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

165. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.9. Viewpoint 09: Freshwater West Beach**

##### **Baseline Description**

166. This viewpoint is located at the edge of the beach at Freshwater West and is representative of visitors and recreational receptors on the beach and the adjacent Pembrokeshire Coast Path. There are open low level views across and along the beach and out to the open sea to the west and south, broadly framed by Linney Head to the south and the Angle peninsula to the north. In good conditions St Ann's Head and Skokholm Island, and associated lighthouses, are visible beyond the Angle peninsula to the northwest, particularly from the southern end of the beach. There is relatively limited development apparent in the view, although large commercial ships and ferries are often visible travelling to/from Milford Haven. At night a series of navigational lights are visible within the nearshore waters, and lights on the oil refinery stacks are visible inland.
167. There are attractive coastal views from this location with relatively limited influence from development. Although not specifically recognised as a viewpoint on mapping the beach is part of the local cultural identity and is recognised for its scenic quality and has featured in a number of films. The value of the view is considered to be **very high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

168. This viewpoint is representative of visitors and recreational receptors on the beach and the adjacent Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Coastal and sea views are likely to be important and potentially amongst the primary focus of many visitors to the beach and users of the coast path. Views are generally likely to be somewhat less important to those engaged in more active recreation, such as surfing. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the very high value indicates an overall **very high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

169. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 39.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The low elevation of the viewpoint results in partial screening (approximately 50% or more) of the turbine towers beyond the horizon, reducing the apparent height of the turbines. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the broad views available from the beach.
170. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance and partial screening by the horizon, very small part of the view affected, limited influence on views along the coast and the clear separation from the nearshore waters contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
171. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

### Significance of Effect

172. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified very high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### 23.5.10. Viewpoint 10: Castlemartin Range Trail

### Baseline Description

173. This viewpoint is located on the minor road between Castlemartin and Warren and is representative of recreational receptors along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and other inland routes, visitors to the military range spectator area and more broadly from nearby residential receptors. There are slightly elevated panoramic views over the surrounding rolling countryside and towards the coast. In most directions the view consists of irregular agricultural fields divided by hedgerows, with occasional small woodlands and settlements and appears rural and scenic. To the south the pattern of land use is different with an expansive area of rough grassland and scrub used as a military training area and including a range of buildings such as the observation tower in the foreground of the view. In the distance to the north a number of notable developments are present in the view, including an oil refinery, wind turbines and other vertical structures.
174. There are a range of attractive rural views from this location, although with some influence by military activity and buildings and more distant development to the north. This location is along an inland section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and although a nearby location is recognised as a viewpoint on mapping it is a military firing observation tower used to view military training and testing of weapons and artillery. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **medium**.

### Sensitivity

175. This viewpoint is representative of recreational receptors along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, visitors to the range spectator area and more broadly approximates to the view from nearby residential receptors. Views from this inland section of the coast path are likely to be somewhat less important than those from coastal locations. Views experienced by visitors to the range spectator area are likely to be focused on military training and firing, with more distant views to the sea beyond generally less important or incidental. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **high** and when combined with the medium value indicates an overall **medium** sensitivity to change.

### Magnitude of Impact

176. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 40.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. They would also not appear out of scale relative to other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines already present in views from this section of the coast path. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the expansive views experienced from this location, with the majority of the view unaffected.

177. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and lack of influence on views of the firing range contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
178. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

179. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified medium sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.11. Viewpoint 11: Elegug Stacks**

##### **Baseline Description**

180. This viewpoint is located on an elevated section of coastline close to the Stack Rocks car park and is representative of recreational receptors along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and visitors to the Elegug Stacks. There are open expansive views from this elevated location, including to the sea cliffs, stacks and rock formations in the foreground and along the coast to the east and west, and the open sea stretching to the distant horizon in the south. In very clear conditions it may be possible to make out the very distant outline of Lundy Island to the southeast. Views inland to the north are slightly more restrictive but relatively expansive encompassing the undulating rough grassland and scrub of the Castlemartin Range in the fore and mid ground, with settlement and industrial development breaking the distant skyline.
181. There are broad attractive coastal views from this location, focused on the sea cliffs and rock formations of the foreground coast. It is not recognised through maps or publications as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and adjacent to the Elegug stacks which are recognised as a tourist destination. This location is within the Castlemartin Range and as such access is restricted when the range is active. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

182. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an open and elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, and visitors to Elegug Stacks. Users of the coast path are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path, from which views are important and potentially the primary focus. Visitors to Elegug Stacks are likely to be at this location as part of a shorter walk in which views are likely to be the primary focus. The main attention of views is likely to be the sea cliffs and rock formations in the foreground and along the coast towards St Govan's Head to the southeast. However, the open and expansive sea views to the south provide a broad context and contribute to the overall experience. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

183. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 38.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. They would also not appear out of scale relative to other structures, such as oil refinery stacks and onshore wind turbines already

present in views from this section of the coast path. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 12°) of the expansive views experienced from this location, with the majority of views unaffected.

184. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and little or no influence on important views of the sea cliffs, stacks and wider coastline contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.

185. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

186. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.12. Viewpoint 12: St Govan's Head**

##### **Baseline Description**

187. This viewpoint is located on an elevated section of coastline at St Govan's Head and is representative of recreational receptors along the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. There are open expansive views from this elevated location, with the short length of sea cliffs and coast to the west and more expansive coast to the northeast, including the distant Caldey Island, the main focus. Views south and west are across the open and expansive sea, extending to the distant horizon. In very clear conditions it may be possible to make out the very distant outline of Lundy Island and the North Devon coast to the southeast. Views inland to the north are also relatively expansive and include scattered settlement and industrial development on the distant horizon.

188. There are broad attractive coastal views from this location, focused on the sea cliffs and coast and extending out to sea. It is not recognised through maps as a specific viewpoint, although is located on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and close to St Govan's Chapel which is recognised as a tourist destination. This location is within the Castlemartin Range and as such access is restricted when the range is active. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

189. This viewpoint is representative of dynamic views experienced from an open and elevated section of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. People are likely to be at this location as part of a longer route along the coast path or shorter walk, from which views are important and potentially the primary focus. The main attention of views is likely to the adjacent sea cliffs and along the coastline to the northeast and west. However, the open and expansive sea views to the south provide a context and contribute to the overall experience. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

190. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 41.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. They would also not appear out of scale

relative to other structures, such as oil refinery stacks already present in views from this section of the coast path. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 11°) of the expansive views experienced from this location, with the majority of views unaffected.

191. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and little or no influence on important views of the sea cliffs, nearby St Govan's Chapel and wider coastline contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
192. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

193. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.13. Viewpoint 13: Manorbier Beach**

##### **Baseline Description**

194. This viewpoint is located close to the beach at Manorbier Bay and is representative of visitors and recreational receptors on the beach and the adjacent Pembrokeshire Coast Path and nearby residential receptors on the edge of Manorbier. There are low level views across the beach and out to the open sea to the southwest, framed by a promontory immediately south and the more distant coastline up to St Govan's Head to the west. Inland views are short range and restricted by rising topography, although include the notable Manorbier Castle and the village beyond.
195. There are attractive coastal views from this location with relatively limited influence from development. Although not specifically recognised as a viewpoint on mapping, this location is on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and the nearby beach is recognised as a visitor destination. The value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

196. This viewpoint is representative of visitors and recreational receptors to the beach and the adjacent Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Coastal and sea views are likely to be important and potentially the primary focus of many visitors to the beach and users of the coast path. Views are generally likely to be somewhat less important to those engaged in more active recreation, such as surfing. On balance, susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

197. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 51 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a very strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a very small element on the broad seascape horizon in the very far background of the view. Four of the proposed WTGs would be predominantly screened by the landform of St Govan's Head, with the remaining towers of the remaining turbines largely screened by the horizon, somewhat reducing the impression of change. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 9°) of the expansive views experienced from this location, with the majority of the view unaffected.



198. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the considerable intervening distance, partial screening and very small part of the view affected contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact. The considerable separation distance and nature of the turbines would also limit potential for influence on the impression of the coastline and landform of St Govan's Head within the view from this location.

199. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **negligible**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

200. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a negligible magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **negligible adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.14. Viewpoint 14: Caldey Island**

##### **Baseline Description**

201. This viewpoint is located towards the south of Caldey Island close to the lighthouse and is representative of visitors to the island and users of the local path network. Views are open and expansive, offering a broad panorama from a local highpoint on the island. These views comprise the island's coast in the foreground and the open sea beyond, with the Gower peninsula in the distance to the east and the Pembrokeshire coast stretching to the west. In very clear conditions Lundy Island and the North Devon Coast are visible to the south as very distant features. There are also views across the island and the Caldey Sound to Penally and Tenby on the mainland coast to the north.

202. There are broad attractive views from this location over the island and surrounding seascape and coasts. Although this specific viewpoint location is not recognised through maps or publications, views from the island are more broadly recognised and picnic tables and interpretation are provided. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **very high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

203. This viewpoint is representative of visitors to the island and users of the local path network. Observation of wildlife (sea birds and sea mammals) and coastal views are likely to be amongst the primary reasons for visiting the island, and although the focus is likely to be the island landscape, sea cliffs and near shore waters, views out to sea and towards the Pembrokeshire coast are important to the overall visitor experience. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high**, and when combined with the very high value, indicate an overall **very high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

204. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 57.5 km southwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a very strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a very small element on the broad seascape horizon in the very far background of the view. A large proportion of the turbine towers would be screened below the distant horizon, reducing the apparent height of the turbines and their presence within the view. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 9°) of the expansive panoramic views experienced from this location, with the majority of the view unaffected.

205. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the considerable intervening distance, partial screening by the horizon, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the

island and towards the Pembrokeshire and Gower coasts contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.

206. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **negligible**.

#### **Significance of Effect**

207. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a negligible magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **negligible adverse (not significant)** during operation.

#### **23.5.15. Viewpoint 15: Beacon Hill, Lundy Island**

##### **Baseline Description**

208. This viewpoint is located at a local high point on Lundy Island and is representative of views experienced by visitors to the island and users of the local path network. There are open and expansive panoramic views across the undulating plateau of the island and across the sea to the distant North Devon coast to the south and east and across the open sea to the north and west. In very clear conditions the South Wales coast is also visible as a very distant feature. The foreground of the view includes enclosed fields and scattered structures, including the adjacent former lighthouse tower.
209. There are expansive attractive views from this location over the island, surrounding seascape and in good conditions towards the mainland coast. Although this specific viewpoint location is not recognised through maps or publications, views from the island are more broadly recognised. On balance the value of the view is considered to be **high**.

##### **Sensitivity**

210. This viewpoint is representative of residents and visitors to the island. Views experienced by residents in their home are generally considered to be of primary importance, indicating an elevated susceptibility to change. Observation of wildlife (sea birds and sea mammals) and coastal views are likely to be amongst the primary reasons for visiting the island, and although the focus is likely to be the island landscape, sea cliffs and near shore waters, views out to sea and back towards the Devon coast are important to the overall visitor experience. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high**, and when combined with the high value, indicate an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

##### **Magnitude of Impact**

211. The nearest of the proposed WTGs would be located approximately 56.5 km northwest of the viewpoint location. At this distance atmospheric conditions are likely to have a very strong influence on potential visibility of the proposed WTGs. When visible, the turbines would appear as a very small element on the broad seascape horizon in the very far background of the view. The proposed WTGs would relate well to the large scale and simple composition of open seas and as such would not appear out of scale. The proposed Project would occupy a very small part (approximately 10°) of the expansive panoramic views experienced from this location, with the majority of the view unaffected.
212. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new man-made element into views from this location, the considerable intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the island, nearshore waters and distant Devon coast contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact.
213. On balance, taking a worst case approach based on perfectly clear climatic conditions, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **negligible**.

### Significance of Effect

214. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a negligible magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **negligible adverse (not significant)** during operation.

### 23.6 Visual Amenity - Pembrokeshire Coast Path

215. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path is a long distance (approximately 300 km) walking route stretching from St Dogmaels in the north to Amroth in the south. The route predominantly follows the coast, except at Castlemartin where it goes inland to avoid the military firing range. Within the Study Area views from the route vary considerably, from elevated open coast and sea views from more isolated sections to more limited and enclosed views from bays and settlements, and close range views of wind turbines, oil and gas and other industrial development around Milford Haven. Although the scenic quality varies along the length of the route, taking a precautionary approach, overall value of the view is considered to be high.

#### 23.6.1. Sensitivity

216. Views from the Pembrokeshire Coast Path are an important part of the experience and would potentially be the primary focus of users. The main attention of views tends to be towards and along the scenic coastline, sea cliffs and offshore islands. However, the open and expansive sea views provide an important context and contribute to the overall experience and scenic quality. Susceptibility is considered to be **very high** and when combined with the high value indicates an overall **high** sensitivity to change.

#### 23.6.2. Magnitude of Impact

217. The following provides an evaluation of potential visibility of the proposed WTGs from the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, informed by ZTV analysis and observations in the field. For ease of evaluation the length of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path found within the Study Area has been divided into seven sections, as described below.

##### Section 1: Mill Haven to Martin's Haven

218. There would be no potential visibility of the proposed Project from this section of the route due to screening from intervening landform, as indicated by the ZTV (**Volume 5: Figure 23.8**).

##### Section 2: Martin's Haven to West Blockhouse Point

219. This section follows the tops of the sea cliffs along the south of the Marloes peninsula and west side of the Dale peninsula. There would be open views towards the proposed WTGs from much of this section of the route, similar to those identified and described for **Viewpoint 5: Hooper's Point (Figure VP 05.4)** and **Viewpoint 6: St Ann's Head (Volume 5: Figure VP 06.4)**.
220. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view, approximately 37 km from the nearest point on this section of the route. Views along the coastal cliffs and towards the beaches, nearshore waters and Skokholm and Skomer islands would be largely unaffected.

##### Section 3: West Blockhouse Point to Cleddau Bridge

221. As indicated by the ZTV and site survey, there would be no or very limited visibility of the proposed WTGs from the majority of this section of the route. The limited nature of visibility is largely as a result of screening from intervening landform of the Dale and Angle peninsulas and also localised trees and vegetation.

222. There would be more open visibility from short sections of the route, principally between Watch House Point to Little Castle Head (as represented by **Viewpoint 7: Lindsway Bay (Volume 5: Figure VP 07.4)**) and Sandy Haven to near South Hook Point. From these locations the proposed WTGs would be seen as a relatively small element on the distant horizon beyond the mouth of Milford Haven, and often within the context of closer range industrial and energy development and commercial shipping.

#### **Section 4: Cleddau Bridge to West Angle**

223. There would be no potential visibility of the proposed Project from this section of the route due to screening from intervening landform, as indicated by the ZTV (**Volume 5: Figure 23.8**).

#### **Section 5: West Angle to Castlemartin**

224. This section follows the tops of the sea cliffs along the south of the Angle peninsula before descending to cross the beach at Freshwater West and turning inland to climb towards Castlemartin. There would be open views towards the proposed WTGs from much of this section of the route, similar to those identified and described for **Viewpoint 8: Castles Bay/Sheep Island (Volume 5: Figure VP 08.4)** and **Viewpoint 9: Freshwater West Beach (Volume 5: Figure VP 09.4)**. Visibility would be more restricted from parts of the route between Freshwater West and Castlemartin as a result of screening by intervening landform and vegetation.
225. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view, approximately 38 km from the nearest point on this section of the route. The proposed WTGs would not be seen within views along the coastal cliffs and towards the beaches, nearshore waters, St Ann's Head and the Dale peninsula and Skokholm island.

#### **Section 6: Castlemartin to St Govan's Head**

226. There are two alternative routes for this section of the coast path, depending on access restrictions related to the military firing range. There would be variable visibility of the proposed Project from the initial section of both routes between Castlemartin and the south of Warren. **Viewpoint 10: Castlemartin Range Trail (Volume 5: Figure VP 10.4)**, provides an indication of potential visibility from the most elevated part of this section and in reality, views from other locations would often be more restricted.
227. East of Warren there would be no potential visibility of the proposed Project along the route used when the military firing range is active. There would be greater visibility from the route which passes through the firing range and along the tops of the sea cliffs from **Viewpoint 11: Elegug Stacks (Volume 5: Figure VP 11.4)** to **Viewpoint 12: St Govan's Head (Volume 5: Figure VP 12.4)**.
228. When visible, the turbines would appear as a relatively small element on the broad seascape horizon in the far background of the view, approximately 38 km from the nearest point on this section of the route. Important views of the sea cliffs, nearby St Govan's Chapel the wider coastline and majority of the expansive seascape would be unaffected by the proposed Project.

#### **Section 7: St Govan's Head to Stackpole Quay**

229. This section follows the tops of the sea cliffs and crosses the beaches at Broad Haven South and Barafundle Bay to the northeast of St Govan's Head. There would be very little or no visibility of the proposed Project from the majority of this part of the route, with the exception of Stackpole Head where there may be partial visibility of the tops of turbines.

230. Overall, although the proposed Project would introduce a new offshore element into views from parts of this route, the intervening distance, very small part of the view affected and general lack of influence on important views of the coastline, sea cliffs and near shore waters and offshore islands contribute to a reduced magnitude of impact. The proposed Project would have a limited influence on the range and type of views available from this route, which often include existing wind farms and other onshore development and commercial shipping offshore. On balance, magnitude of impact during operation is assessed as **small**.

23.6.3. *Significance of Effect*

231. Considering the factors which contribute to the identified high sensitivity with those that indicate a small magnitude of impact, the overall significance of effect arising from the proposed Project would be **minor adverse (not significant)** during operation.

## **23.7 References**

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2019. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Management Plan (2020-2024) Background Paper: The State of the Park

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2018. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan, Background Paper: Special Qualities of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2013. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Assessment

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 2011. Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Guidance

Pembrokeshire County Council, 2019. Landscape Character Assessment