



## **Rampion Offshore Wind Farm**



### **ES Section 12 – SLVIA - Appendix 12.1 & 12.2**

**RSK Environment Ltd**

**Document 6.3.12**

**December 2012**

**APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)**

**Revision A**

**E.ON Climate & Renewables UK Rampion Offshore Wind Limited**

## ***Appendix 12.1: Seascape and Landscape Character Areas***



### Seascape Character Area 1: South Coast Plain Coastal Waters

#### Published reference source components

A12.1.1 At a **national** level, the 'South Coast Plain Coastal Waters' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) lies immediately adjacent to the land based extents of the South Coast Plain (NCA 126) (refer to Figure 12.3a). The key characteristics identified therein with an influence on the context of the adjacent seascape character area include:

- Coastal inlets and 'harbours' contain a diverse landscape of narrow tidal creeks, mudflats, shingle beaches, grazing marshes and paddocks; and,
- The complex series of creeks, mudflats and shingle beaches along the coastal edge becomes less apparent to the east with the intensively-farmed plain increasingly dominated by disordered seaside towns and leisure developments.

A12.1.2 The West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3a) provides a further level of detail at the **local** scale, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. SC 1 'South Coast Shoreline' lies immediately adjacent to the South Coast Plain Coastal Waters character area defined in this assessment, with specific detail relating:

- To the east of Selsey Bill, mainly shingle banks with bands of sand and mud exposed at low tide;
- Influence of extensive linear urban coastal resort development. To the east, almost continuous conurbation of Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Worthing and Shoreham;
- Low sweeping coastline. Open, exposed foreshore;
- Dominance of the sea. Noise of waves, wind and birds;
- Dynamic seascape of constantly changing weather, light and tidal conditions;
- Movement of shingle and sand along the coast, linked to coastal evolution and geomorphology;
- Relatively narrow undeveloped sections of coastline behind beaches. Often providing separation of urban areas;
- Shingle habitats of national importance, notably at Shoreham;
- Frequent wooden and rock groynes and breakwaters;
- Distinctive historic piers at Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Worthing;

- Fleets of small fishing boats beached along the shoreline; and,
- Yachting, surfing, windsurfing and commercial boat traffic are frequent in seaward views.

A12.1.3 In addition to character related reference sources there are also a number of other publications with information relevant to an understanding of seascape character. At a **regional** level the Coastal Directory Region 8 'Sussex' identifies:

- Seabed sediments adjacent to the coastline are predominantly defined by sand, grading into sandy gravel and gravelly sand towards the southern limits of the area. Shingle beaches define the immediate coastline character;
- The extent of character area is generally coincident with a consistent 0 to 10m BOD north to south orientating bathymetric gradient;
- The predominant wind direction is from the south-west and west, though with shelter to wave exposure afforded by Selsey Bill;
- The predominant south-westerly waves cause moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle, which is interrupted by a number of harbours. There is variable shingle movement onshore from banks off Selsey Bill. There is localised accretion wherever drift is interrupted by harbour arms, with significant accretion at Pagham Harbour entrance. Elsewhere, erosion of shingle beaches is very widespread. There is a proliferation of coastal defences, restricting the supply of shingle to beaches; and,
- Recreational sailing and boating activity is popular, with a focus on Littlehampton, Shoreham and Brighton.

A12.1.4 Further detail relating to oceanographic processes, bathymetry and broad biogeographic processes with capacity to inform the identity of the character area at a **regional** level is provided by 'The Eastern Channel Marine Natural Area'. Within this document the South Coast Plain Coastal Waters character area coincides with the Folkestone to Selsey Bill Coastal Natural Area:

- Commercial shipping routes run through the area, with one originating in Littlehampton and one in Shoreham;
- Fishing ports are scattered along the coast line with the main port at Shoreham; and,
- The area is characterised by gravelly sand and shallow sandy seabed marine habitats and is a concentrated area of sole spawning.

A12.1.5 The South Downs Shoreline Management Plan provides more targeted **local** information, which highlights the nature of coastal processes and man-made interventions:

- The majority of the coastline would be subject to 'hold the line' principles of coastal management involving installation or modification of existing coastal defences.

A12.1.6 Admiralty Maps offer additional **local** area information on below water features and distinctive land navigational associations:

- Wrecks are common, with a concentration occurring approximately 2km south east of Selsey Bill; and,
- Notable navigational landmark associations with land include a high rise residential tower in Bognor, gasholders at Littlehampton and Worthing, a dockside chimney at Shoreham, a high rise building at Brighton marina and the general elevation of land associated with the South Downs to the east of Littlehampton.

#### Summary of Key Seascape Characteristics

A12.1.7 In summary of the above, the South Coast Plains Coastal Waters is described in terms of key seascape characteristics (including overlap with land influences where relevant):

A12.1.8 **Scale and enclosure** - Context or scale references at sea are limited to the physical presence of larger sea faring vessels travelling out of Shoreham and along the English Channel shipping routes. Buildings along the coastline offer a fine grain to landward views close to shore, within an environment otherwise defined by large scale and open seaward views.

A12.1.9 **Landform** - The coastline is a relatively simple, low lying, broad sweep of shingle beach. Below sea level the extent of character area is generally coincident with a relatively constant 0 to 10m BOD, north to south orientating bathymetric gradient.

A12.1.10 **Landcover and pattern** - The area is subject to an eastward drift of sand and shingle with notable accretion east of Selsey Bill and beach erosion east of Bognor Regis. The intertidal zone is characterised by shingle beaches with bands of sand and mud exposed at low tide. Sediments adjacent to the coastline are predominantly defined by shallow, sandy seabeds, grading into sandy gravel and gravelly sand towards the southern limits of the area. The below water resource is largely uniform with localised feature in the form of ship wrecks.

A12.1.11 **Manmade influence** - Man-made influence is prominent in the built character of the coastline and density of boating activity, becoming less apparent with

distance from shore. Recreational sailing and boating activity is concentrated on Littlehampton, Shoreham and Brighton. Commercial freight shipping routes associate with the harbours at Littlehampton and Shoreham. Fishing ports are scattered along the coast, with the main port at Shoreham. Natural coastline features and processes include both apparent man-made and non-intrusive measures.

- A12.1.12 **Skyline** - Landmarks relate to prominent vertical man made features within urban areas and to the more remote inland massing of the South Downs landform backdrop. Within 3-5km of the shore, the influence of land diminishes to focus on notable navigational landmark associations including a high rise residential tower in Bognor, gasholders at Littlehampton and Worthing, a dockside chimney at Shoreham, a high rise building at Brighton marina and the general elevation of land associated with the South Downs to the east of Littlehampton. Seaward views extend across the sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.
- A12.1.13 **Remoteness and tranquillity** - The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is limited close to shore in proximity to the density of development and activity, becoming more remote with distance from land. A similar effect will be experienced at night associated with the relative extent of influence of illumination.
- A12.1.14 **Visual interruption and views** - The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. The landward view is limited to the immediate coastal edge when viewed close to shore but inclusive of the remote inland extents of the South Downs backdrop when viewed further out to sea. Views along the coast are limited in feature but extensive in distance as a result of the long concave curve of the coastline, ultimately contained by the headland at Selsey Bill.
- A12.1.15 **Settlement and key views** - The urban character of the coastline is perceptible, with the potential to distinguish individual buildings within the general massing, and the location of urban centres accentuated by piers. Coastal edge seaward views are typically outward looking to the horizon with limited views along the coast due to the broad sweep of the coastline, though becoming more concave towards the headland of Selsey Bill in the west. Seaward views are generally without particular focus with a consequent lack of depth and perspective. Sea to land inter visibility relates to the immediate urban frontage and to the remote South Downs backdrop.

#### Seascape Value

- A12.1.16 The seascape is undesignated with no distinct scenic value. Sailing and beach recreation along with the context that the seascape environment contributes to many of the towns is however locally and nationally valued for tourism.

- A12.1.17 The value judgment does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **medium**.

*Seascape Character Area 2: South Downs Coastal Waters*

Published reference source components

- A12.1.18 At a **national** level, the 'South Downs Coastal Waters' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) lies immediately adjacent to the land based extents of the South Downs (NCA 125) (refer to Figures 12.3a and 12.3b). The key characteristics identified therein with an influence on the context of the adjacent seascape character area include:

- Prominent Chalk outcrop rising gently from the South Coast Plain with a dramatic north-facing scarp and distinctive chalk cliffs formed where the Downs end abruptly at the sea.

- A12.1.19 The East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3b) provides a further level of detail at the **local** scale, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. Several character areas lie immediately adjacent to the South Downs Coastal Waters character area defined in this assessment, with specific detail relating:

- A12.1.20 East Sussex Character Area 18 – Falmer Telscombe Downs:

- Noted for its coastal views.

- A12.1.21 East Sussex Character Area 19 – Lower Ouse Valley:

- No specific coastal references.

- A12.1.22 East Sussex Character Area 21 – Firle & Bishopstone Downs:

- Seaford Head, its cliffs, nature reserve and views of Seven Sisters are special features.

- A12.1.23 East Sussex Character Area 22 – Lower Cuckmere Valley:

- The River Cuckmere leads downs to Cuckmere Haven, an isolated shingle beach that marks the western end of the Seven Sisters.

- A12.1.24 East Sussex Character Area 23 – Wilmington Heritage Coast:

- Contains the iconic coastal cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head;
- East Sussex's only large area of undeveloped cliff coastline; and,
- Dramatic erosion of coastline, especially at Birling Gap where coastguard cottages are falling into the sea.



A12.1.25 In addition to character related reference sources there are also a number of other publications with information relevant to an understanding of seascape character. At a **regional** level the Coastal Directory Region 8 'Sussex' identifies:

- Seabed sediments are diverse, blending from the sand that characterises much of the area to the west into a mix of muddy sand, gravel and sandy gravel in the east. A notable outcrop of bedrock also occurs on the seabed at Beachy Head;
- The Chalk which forms the cliffs at Beachy Head dips south-westwards beneath the English Channel as the northern rim of a broad, gently-dipping syncline known as the Hampshire - Dieppe Basin;
- The extent of character area coincides with a seabed steepening towards its eastern extents around Beachy Head. At its western end the seabed falls on a north to south gradient from 0 to 20m BOD, deepening to around 40m BOD in the east;
- The predominant wind direction is from the south-west and west;
- The predominant south-westerly waves cause moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle, which is interrupted by accretion at harbour arms along with significant accretion at river mouths such as the Cuckmere and Ouse. There is a proliferation of coastal defences, restricting the supply of shingle to beaches. Beachy Head defines a break point in adjacent coastal cells;
- The tidal currents in the English Channel flood eastwards and ebb westwards. Overall, there is a residual flow of water entering the North Sea from the eastern end of the English Channel. Close to Beachy Head, tidal speeds are increased; and,
- The area includes the harbour at Newhaven with a prominent shipping role as the embarkation point for cross channel traffic to Dieppe.

A12.1.26 Further detail relating to oceanographic processes, bathymetry and broad biogeographic processes with capacity to inform the identity of the character area at a **regional** level is provided by 'The Eastern Channel Marine Natural Area'. Within this document the South Downs Coastal Waters character area coincides with the Folkestone to Selsey Bill Coastal Natural Area:

- Commercial shipping routes run through the area, originating in Newhaven; and,
- The area is characterised by sand, gravel and shallow sandy seabed marine habitats and is a concentrated area of sole spawning.

A12.1.27 The South Downs Shoreline Management Plan provides more targeted local information, which highlights the nature of coastal processes and man-made interventions:

- Large sections of the coastline, primarily those associated with the higher cliff extents, would be subjected to 'no active intervention' to allow cliff erosion to continue; and,
- Settlement areas including Seaford, Newhaven and Rottingdean would however be subject to 'hold the line' principles of coastal management involving installation or modification of existing coastal defences to protect against erosion.

A12.1.28 Admiralty Maps offer additional **local** area information on below water features and distinctive land navigational associations:

- Wrecks are common, with concentrations occurring offshore of Newhaven and Beachy Head;
- Two lighthouses are located at Beachy Head, one disused;
- Tide rips occur in the waters immediately surrounding Beachy Head; and,
- Notable navigational landmark associations with land include a memorial landmark at Peacehaven, telecommunications tower at Newhaven, Martello Tower at Seaford, lighthouses at Beachy Head and the general elevation of cliffs and backdrop hills associated with the South Downs to the east of Littlehampton.

#### Summary of Key Seascape Characteristics

A12.1.29 In summary of the above, the South Downs Coastal Waters is described in terms of key seascape characteristics (including overlap with land influences where relevant):

A12.1.30 **Scale and enclosure** - Context or scale references at sea are limited to the physical presence of larger sea faring vessels travelling out of Newhaven and along the English Channel shipping routes. Buildings along the coastline offer a fine grain to landward views close to shore, within an environment otherwise defined by large scale and open seaward views. The cliffs present a dominant large scale land association within approximately 1km of the coast, becoming less prominent with distance from shore.

A12.1.31 **Landform** – The coastline includes the distinctive cliffs between Beachy Head and Seaford Head and the lesser cliff range between Seaford and Brighton. Cliff heights range from approximately 40m AOD at Saltdean through to 160m AOD at Beachy Head. An intermittent shingle beach occurs along the foot of the

cliffs, with greater accumulations at Seaford and Cuckmere. Below sea level, the extent of character area is coincident with a variable 0 to 40m BOD, north to south orientating bathymetric gradient.

- A12.1.32 **Landcover and pattern** - Seabed sediments are diverse, blending from the sand that characterises much of the area to the west into a mix of muddy sand, gravel and sandy gravel in the east. A notable outcrop of bedrock occurs on the seabed at Beachy Head. The predominant south-westerly waves cause moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle, which is interrupted by accretion at harbour arms along with significant accretion at river mouths such as the Cuckmere and Ouse. Wrecks are common, with concentrations occurring offshore of Newhaven and Beachy Head.
- A12.1.33 **Manmade influence** - Man-made influence is apparent from the built character of the western extents of coastline and density of boating activity, becoming less apparent with distance from shore. Recreational sailing and boating activity, along with commercial passenger and freight shipping, is concentrated on Newhaven. There is a general absence of manmade intervention associated with cliff coastline processes, however some artificial beach containment is apparent at Seaford.
- A12.1.34 **Skyline** - Landmarks relate to prominent vertical man made features within urban areas, lighthouses at Beachy Head, cliffs east of Brighton and the more general massing of the South Downs landform backdrop. Within 3-5km of the shore, the influence of land diminishes to notable navigational landmark associations including a clifftop memorial at Peacehaven, telecommunications tower at Newhaven, Martello Tower at Seaford, lighthouses at Beachy Head as well as the more substantial cliff extents east of Brighton and the more general massing of the South Downs landform backdrop. Seaward views extend across the sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.
- A12.1.35 **Remoteness and tranquility** - The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is limited close to shore in proximity to areas of settlement and activity, becoming more remote with distance from the settled extents of coastline and with increasing distance from shore. A similar effect will be experienced at night associated with the relative extent of influence of illumination.
- A12.1.36 **Visual interruption and views** - The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. Landward views are limited by the cliffs in close proximity to the coastline, but inclusive of the South Downs slopes when viewed from further out to sea. Views along the coastline are ultimately limited by the break in coastal orientation afforded by the headland at Beachy Head.
- A12.1.37 **Settlement and key views** - The most distinctive feature of the coastline is its white cliffs, which provide a strong sense of locational identity in key views. The urban component of the coastline is apparent along the cliff tops west of Newhaven and along the shoreline between Newhaven and Seaford. Coastal

edge seaward views are typically outward looking to the horizon with limited views along the coastline due to the indentations of the cliffs. Seaward views are generally without particular focus with a consequent lack of depth and perspective. Sea to land inter-visibility is limited and focussed by the immediate cliff line but inclusive of the elevated South Downs backdrop beyond.

#### Seascape Value

- A12.1.38 The landward coastal extents between Beachy Head and Seaford Head fall within the extents of the South Downs National Park. The landward and seaward extents of the same coastal stretch also coincide with the Sussex Heritage Coast. These designations are reflective of the inherent scenic and visual qualities of the area, which are anyway apparent landscape characteristics. The seascape demonstrates a strong associative relationship with the land where it provides the outlook setting for views from the coast and elevated inland areas and thereby contributes to the inherent value of the landscape defined designations.
- A12.1.39 The value judgment does not however modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **high**.

#### Seascape Character Area 3: The Pevensey Levels Coastal Waters

##### Published reference source components

- A12.1.40 At a **national** level, the 'Pevensey Levels Coastal Waters' (refer to Figure 12.4) character area lies immediately adjacent to the land based extents of the Pevensey Levels (NCA 124) (refer to Figure 12.3b). The key characteristics identified therein with an influence on the context of the adjacent seascape character area include:
- Pevensey Levels are the largest tract of wetland in East Sussex, marking the transition between the Low Weald and the English Channel, with the steep scarp of the South Downs dominating the view to the south west.
- A12.1.41 The East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3b) provides a further level of detail at the **local** scale, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. The following character areas lie immediately adjacent to the Pevensey Levels Coastal Waters character area defined in this assessment, with specific detail relating:
- A12.1.42 East Sussex Character Area 24 – Eastbourne Levels:
- Developed shingle coast at Eastbourne known as Sovereign Harbour.
- A12.1.43 East Sussex Character Area 25 – Pevensey Levels:

- Coastline with shingle banks and groynes; and,
- Coastal development.

A12.1.44 In addition to the limited extent of character reference sources there are also a number of other publications with information relevant to an understanding of seascape character. At a **regional** level the Coastal Directory Region 8 'Sussex' identifies:

- East of Beachy Head there is a more-or-less continuous cover of mobile sediments, generally in the form of tidal sand ridges. Between the sand ridges, 'lag' deposits form a discontinuous cover less than 0.5 m thick, interspersed with areas of bare rock. These lag deposits comprise gravels, sandy gravels and gravelly sands. Muddy sands occur nearer the coastline, derived from the underlying clay and soft clayey sandstone strata;
- This is a large sub-cell where there is continuity in shingle drift. There is moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle by the predominant south-westerly waves;
- The predominant wind direction is from the south-west and west, partly sheltered by Beachy Head;
- There is a moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle by the predominantly south-westerly waves with natural accretionary features between Eastbourne and Pevensey;
- The extent of character area coincides with a seabed steepening towards its western extents around Beachy Head. At its eastern end the seabed falls on a north to south gradient from 0 to 20m BOD, deepening to around 30m BOD in the east; and,
- The tidal currents in the English Channel flood eastwards and ebb westwards. Overall, there is a residual flow of water entering the North Sea from the eastern end of the English Channel. Close to Beachy Head, tidal speeds are increased.

A12.1.45 Further detail relating to oceanographic processes, bathymetry and broad biogeographic processes with capacity to inform the identity of the character area at a **regional** level is provided by 'The Eastern Channel Marine Natural Area'. Within this document the Pevensey Levels Coastal Waters character area coincides with the Folkestone to Selsey Bill Coastal Natural Area:

- The area is characterised by sand, gravel and shallow sandy seabed marine habitats and is a concentrated area of sole spawning.

A12.1.46 Admiralty Maps offer additional **local** area information on below water features and distinctive land navigational associations:

- Wrecks concentrate in the vicinity of Beachy Head; and,
- Notable navigational landmark associations with land include the cliffs and headland of Beachy Head, the Beachy Head lighthouse, tall buildings within the Eastbourne built up area, towers along the coastline between Eastbourne and Pevensey and church spires at Pevensey Bay.

#### Summary of Key Seascape Characteristics

A12.1.47 In summary of the above, the Pevensey Levels Coastal Waters is described in terms of key seascape characteristics (including overlap with land influences where relevant):

A12.1.48 **Scale and enclosure** - Context or scale references at sea are limited to the physical presence of larger sea faring vessels travelling along the English Channel shipping routes and to smaller boats associated with the harbour at Eastbourne. Buildings along the coastline offer a fine grain to landward views close to shore, within an environment otherwise defined by large scale and open seaward views. The cliffs of Beachy Head present a large scale land association within approximately 1km of the shoreline, becoming less prominent with distance.

A12.1.49 **Landform** – The coastline ranges from a low lying shingle beach in the east through to the lower cliff formations of Beachy Head at around 50m high. Below sea level the seabed falls on a north to south gradient from 0 to 20m BOD at its western end, deepening to around 30m BOD in the east.

A12.1.50 **Landcover and pattern** – Seabed sediments comprise of tidal sand ridges, interspersed with gravels, sandy gravels, gravel and bare rock with muddy sands nearer the coastline. There is a moderate eastward transport of sand and shingle by the predominantly south-westerly waves with natural accretionary features between Eastbourne and Pevensey. Wrecks concentrate in the vicinity of Beachy Head.

A12.1.51 **Manmade influence** - Man-made influence is apparent from the generally built character of the coastline and density of boating activity, becoming less apparent with distance from shore. Recreational sailing and boating activity is concentrated on Eastbourne. Manmade intervention in coastal processes is apparent from the extensive use of beach groynes.

A12.1.52 **Skyline** - Landmarks relate to prominent vertical man made features within Eastbourne, Beachy Head lighthouse, the cliffs and more general massing of Beachy Head and the South Downs landform backdrop. Seaward views extend across the sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.

- A12.1.53 **Remoteness and tranquillity** - The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is limited close to shore in proximity to areas of settlement and activity, becoming more remote with distance from shore. A similar effect will be experienced at night associated with the relative extent of influence of illumination.
- A12.1.54 **Visual interruption and views** - The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. The landward view is limited adjacent to the low lying Pevensey Levels, but more inclusive of the influence of the South Downs landform in the west. Eastward coastal views are extensive along the concave curve of the coastline though limited by the break in coastal orientation afforded by the headland at Beachy Head to the west.
- A12.1.55 **Settlement and key views** - The urban character of the coastline is perceptible, with the potential to distinguish individual buildings within the general massing, and the location of the main urban centre of Eastbourne accentuated by its pier and harbour. Within 3-5km of the shore, the influence of land diminishes to notable navigational landmark associations including the cliffs and headland of Beachy Head, the Beachy Head lighthouse, tall buildings within the Eastbourne built up area, towers along the coastline between Eastbourne and Pevensey and church spires at Pevensey Bay. Coastal edge seaward views are typically outward looking to the horizon. Views west along the coastline are limited by the headland of Beachy Head, though more extensive towards Bexhill and Hastings in the east. Seaward views are generally without particular focus with a consequent lack of depth and perspective. Sea to land inter-visibility is limited, relating primarily to the prominent urban frontage and the elevated Beachy Head and South Downs backdrop.

#### Seascape Value

- A12.1.56 The seascape is undesignated with no distinct scenic value. Sailing and beach recreation along with the context that the seascape environment contributes to the coastal towns is however locally and nationally valued for tourism.
- A12.1.57 The value judgement does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **medium**.

#### Seascape Character Area 4: Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Offshore Waters

- A12.1.58 The extents of the Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Offshore Waters character area are referred to in Figure 12.4 .

#### Published reference source components

- A12.1.59 In the absence of distinct character reference sources, reference is made to publications with information relevant to an understanding of the offshore

seascape character. At a **regional** level the Coastal Directory Region 8 'Sussex' identifies:

- The geological sequence offshore is similar to that onshore, although there are also deposits from river systems present during periods of lower sea level. Sediments overlying the solid geology include sand and gravel deposits, which form sand waves with gravel or rock surfaces in between;
- The land shelves gently southwards from the UK coastline to a depth of 40m BOD. At around 20km from shore the depth increases suddenly to around 60m BOD, marking the line of a submerged cliff;
- The Sussex coast has more 'modern' wrecks lying off it than almost any other part of Britain's coastline;
- Gravel extraction and fishing are the main commercial uses associated with the area;
- Prevailing winds are from the south west and west;
- In the central part of the English Channel the maximum speed of tidal currents is between 0.75 m/s and 1.25 m/s (in the Atlantic Ocean, tidal streams are very weak, but as the tidal wave reaches the shallower areas of the UK continental shelf the speed of the tidal streams increases greatly);
- The tidal currents in the English Channel flood eastwards and ebb westwards. Overall, there is a residual flow of water entering the North Sea from the eastern end of the English Channel; and,
- The Dover Strait is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Many different types of vessel operate in this area, including shuttle tanker, oil tanker, gas carrier, ferry, cargo, and bulk vessels. The majority is composed of ferries that transport cars and passengers across the English Channel to the adjacent mainland Europe

A12.1.60 Further detail relating to oceanographic processes, bathymetry and broad biogeographic processes with capacity to inform the identity of the character area at a **regional** level is provided by 'The Eastern Channel Marine Natural Area'. Within this document the Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Offshore Waters character area coincides with the Folkestone to Selsey Bill Coastal Natural Area:

- The area is characterised by gravelly sand, and sandy mud across its northern extents becoming sandy gravel and gravel in the south; and,
- Commercial shipping routes run through the area, originating in Newhaven, Littlehampton and Shoreham.



A12.1.61 Admiralty Maps offer additional **regional** area information on below water features and distinctive navigational associations:

- Buoys and beacons are the only fixed above water level features; and,
- The main east to west English Channel shipping lane passes through the southern extents of the area, whilst the west to east lane touches on the southernmost extents of the area.

#### Summary of Key Seascape Characteristics

A12.1.62 In summary of the above, the Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Offshore Waters is described in terms of key seascape characteristics (including overlap with land influences where relevant):

A12.1.63 **Scale and enclosure** - This is a large scale, visually unified and expansive area of open water, with few surface features. Context or scale references at sea are limited to the physical presence of larger sea faring vessels, typically travelling along the English Channel shipping routes, but inclusive of smaller scale fishing and recreational craft. Land influences are remote and primarily associated with those of the white cliffs in the vicinity of Beachy Head which are perceptible at up to 30km from shore (an experience noted from the Newhaven to Dieppe Ferry).

A12.1.64 **Landform** – The area has limited associations with land but includes remote reference to the cliffs at Beachy Head (cliff tops up to 160m AOD) and the backdrop of the South Downs (hill peaks up to 240m AOD). Below sea level the land shelves gently southwards from the UK coastline to a depth of 40m BOD up to 20km from shore, whereupon the depth increases suddenly to around 60m BOD.

A12.1.65 **Landcover and pattern** - Sediments overlying the solid geology include sand and gravel deposits, which form sand waves with gravel or rock surfaces in between. The Sussex coast has more ‘modern’ wrecks lying off it than almost any other part of Britain’s coastline. The surface water seascape is uniform, though subject to the temporal influence of weather.

A12.1.66 **Manmade influence** - The English Channel is one of the world’s busiest shipping lanes. Locally to the extent of the study area, the ports at Shoreham, Newhaven and Littlehampton generate cross channel traffic. Gravel extraction and fishing are the main commercial uses associated with the area. Buoys and beacons are the only fixed features above water level. As an overall consideration of the seascape context, surface users have a more prominent role in defining character than those on land, as they are indicative of underlying features which are not otherwise perceived, typically associated with natural resources such as fish habitats or aggregate accumulations. The density and nature of activity also has a coincident bearing on the perception of character in terms of appearance and sense of remoteness in particular.

- A12.1.67 **Skyline** – Landmarks notably relate to prominent, but remote, vertical man made features within urban areas, cliffs east of Brighton and the more general massing of the South Downs landform backdrop. With increasing distance from shore, views more typically extend across the sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth. Transitory boat activity serves to create temporary variation within the appearance of the skyline context.
- A12.1.68 **Remoteness and tranquility** – There is a remote and isolated quality to the seascape where sight of other marine vessels, birds and other wildlife become heightened within the sense of perception. Concentrations of shipping activity within the English Channel reduce the sense of remoteness. Unlike the shallower coastal waters where tidal dynamics and land based orientating landmarks are perceptible, there is a sense of disorientation due to a lack of visual cues. Views of the seascape become more searching in nature as a consequence and the presence of offshore activity and wildlife add a sense of familiarity to an otherwise remote environment.
- A12.1.69 **Visual interruption and views** - The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. The landward view associations relate remotely to the cliffs east of Brighton and to the South Downs backdrop. With fewer visual associations views generally become much more panoramic in nature and the seascape becomes monochrome and monotonous in character.
- A12.1.70 **Settlement and key views** – Between 5 and 10km from shore the visibility of land diminishes such that only key features such as the white cliffs between Brighton and Beachy Head and the general massing of the South Downs remain prominent. The general massing of the urban extents of Brighton and other coastline fronting urban areas are perceptible towards the northern extent of character area, but diminish in influence with distance from shore.

#### Seascape Value

- A12.1.71 The seascape is undesignated with no distinct scenic value, however its associative relationship with land in providing the outlook setting for views from the coast and elevated inland areas contributes to the inherent value of landscape defined designations. At a secondary level, recreational sailing is locally and nationally valued for tourism, whilst commercial fishing is valued locally for its cultural settlement working associations with the sea.
- A12.1.72 Whilst the general character area sensitivity has been assessed as **medium**, the value judgment placed on the seascape's associative relationship in providing the setting for views from the National Park and Heritage Coast increases its sensitivity to **high**.

#### Landscape Character Area 1: South Coast Plain

#### Published reference source components

A12.1.73 At a **national** level, the 'South Coast Plain' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) has been defined by the extents of the corresponding NCA of the same name (NCA 126) (refer to Figure 12.3a). The key characteristics identified therein include:

- Coastal inlets and 'harbours' contain a diverse landscape of narrow tidal creeks, mudflats, shingle beaches, grazing marshes and paddocks. From the Downs and coastal plain edge there are long views towards the sea;
- Characteristically intensively-farmed plain dominated by disordered seaside towns and leisure developments;
- The area exhibits one of the longest and most concentrated stretches of shoreline ribbon development in Britain and each coastal town or village has developed almost to the high water mark;
- The Plain is broadly divided into the coastal margins which are heavily influenced by the sea, the expansive lower coastal plain which occupies most of the area, and the upper coastal plain;
- The exposed shoreline is an exhilarating, open, linear landscape of shingle and sand with the great expanse of the sea itself as a backdrop;
- Inlets such as Pagham Harbour retain an overriding sense of remoteness. This is due in no small way to the extensive tidal mudflats fringed by marsh vegetation and populated by large numbers of migratory birds; and,
- Views north are contained by the rising dip slope of the Downs, but views seaward are without definition and tend to lack depth and perspective.

A12.1.74 The West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3a) provides a further level of detail at the **local** scale, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. The following character areas have been considered as those with potential to be affected by the proposals.

A12.1.75 West Sussex Landscape Character Area SC1 – South Coast Shoreline:

- Comprises the majority of the West Sussex coastline;
- It is a distinctive low, open and exposed landscape which has an overriding visual and physical association with the sea;
- Its wide and gently curved bays are further defined by the protruding shingle headland of Selsey Bill;
- To the east of Selsey Bill, mainly shingle banks with bands of sand and mud exposed at low tide;

- Influence of extensive linear urban coastal resort development;
- Low sweeping coastline. Open exposed foreshore;
- Dominance of the sea. Noise of waves, wind and birds;
- Dynamic seascape of constantly changing weather, light and tidal conditions;
- Movement of shingle and sand along the coast, linked to coastal evolution and geomorphology;
- Relatively narrow undeveloped sections of coastline behind beaches. Bounded by low growing scant vegetation and small areas of wind-sculpted shrubs and trees. Often providing separation of urban areas. Areas of both high ecological and landscape importance;
- Frequent wooden and rock groynes and breakwaters;
- Distinctive historic piers at Littlehampton, Bognor Regis and Worthing;
- Fleets of small fishing boats beached along the shoreline; and,
- Yachting, surfing, windsurfing and commercial boat traffic are frequent in seaward views.

A12.1.76 West Sussex Landscape Character Area SC4 – Pagham Harbour:

- Distinctive for its enclosed expanses of marine water, tidal mudflat, shingle, marsh, wetland scrub and small creeks;
- Enclosed natural harbours of marine water, tidal mudflats and saltmarsh with small inlets and creeks; and,
- Large parts of these areas have been reclaimed by the sea and remain below the current high spring tide level.

A12.1.77 West Sussex Landscape Character Area SC12 – Angmering Upper Coastal Plain

- Very gently undulating landform more intricate in the east, encompassing the distinctive landscape of Highdown Hill (an isolated chalk hill);
- Mainly gently undulating farmland enclosed by woods with frequent hedgerows;
- Pattern of small to medium-sized pastures and arable fields;

- Wealth of historic landscape features including historic parklands, many ancient woodlands and earthworks; and,
- A scattering of historic nucleated flint villages, hamlets and farmsteads dot the area.

#### Urban Character Associations

- A12.1.78 Worthing includes a notably 'gentrified' sea front character, which includes a component of large scale and ornate buildings laid out in a distinctive regular grid formation. Built up areas such as Portslade, Southwick and Shoreham are more industrial, with a predominance of modern housing and diverse, sprawling characters. Seaside recreational influences are also apparent within the character of built up areas, including the Butlins complex at Bognor and the extensive caravan park at Pagham. Transport infrastructure is prominent, including the airport west of Shoreham and the main east to west road and rail networks.
- A12.1.79 The low lying plains landform limits the extent of inter visibility associations from urban areas, with seaward views typically limited to sea front locations.

#### Summary of Key Landscape Characteristics

- A12.1.80 Landscape has been considered and described as comprising the physical land environment as far as the high water mark and the related inter-visibility associations with the sea. In summary of the above, the South Coast Plain is described in terms of key landscape characteristics (including overlap with sea influences where relevant):
- A12.1.81 **Scale and enclosure** – A medium to large scale field mosaic extends from the coast, inland towards the South Downs foothills. Smaller scale agricultural landscapes associate with historic estates and villages. The inland extents of the plain exhibit a sense of containment afforded by vegetation and buildings. The exposed coastline contrasts with the containment of inland areas, with its open and expansive outward aspect.
- A12.1.82 **Landform** – The low lying, gently graded south orientating plain extends up to 15km from the coast through to the lower slopes of the South Downs. Levels typically range between 0 to 10m AOD, but reach up to 30m AOD where the area extends into the South Downs foothills. The coastline is a relatively simple, low lying, broad sweep of shingle beach, terminated by the headland of Selsey Bill in the west.
- A12.1.83 **Landcover and pattern** – A diverse pattern of arable and pastoral farmland makes up the majority of inland cover beyond the urban extents. A subtle drainage network extends across the plain, most apparent in the form of the Rivers Arun and Adur and the wetland landscape of Pagham Harbour. A shingle beach forms an extensive linear feature along the coastal margin.

- A12.1.84 **Manmade influence** – Urban areas combine to form an extensive coastal ribbon development, though inclusive of distinct ‘gaps’ between adjacent urban centres in the east. Attractive seaside resort towns contrast with the more industrialised character of working port or fishing towns. Transport infrastructure including Shoreham airport and the east-west road and rail routes are apparent features.
- A12.1.85 **Skyline** – The skyline of inland areas is typically defined by the immediate proximity of vegetation cover and buildings. Views from the northern edge of the plain include the rolling skyline profile of the South Downs. Views from the coastal edge extend across the open sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.
- A12.1.86 **Remoteness and tranquillity** – The developed coastline offers limited capacity to experience remoteness, however the expansive and exposed shoreline character creates a sense of contrasting release from the containment of inland areas. The inlet and mudflats around Pagham Harbour more distinctly exhibit a sense of remoteness.
- A12.1.87 **Visual interruption and views** – The inland extents of the plain associate with a sense of containment afforded by vegetation and buildings. More extensive views across the plain, and inclusive of the sea backdrop, are afforded from the foothill slopes of the South Downs. Views of features along the coast are typically limited as a result of the long, concave curve of the coastline, and ultimately contained by the headland at Selsey Bill. The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. Seaward view lighting conditions typically associate with back-lit orientation into the sun or overhead illumination but with accentuated scope for sunrise views from the western extents of the area.
- A12.1.88 **Settlement and key views** – The relative proximity of population concentrated along the immediate coastal edge accentuates the prominence of experience of the seaward aspect. The main focus of key views relates to those experienced from the main urban centre promenades and piers. Coastal edge seaward views are typically outward looking to the horizon with limited views along the coast due to the broad sweep of the coastline, though becoming more concave towards the headland in the west. Seaward views are generally without particular focus with a consequent lack of depth and perspective.

#### Landscape Value

- A12.1.89 The majority of the landscape is undesignated with no distinct scenic value. The character area does overlap a localised extent of the South Downs National Park on its northern boundary; however this sensitivity relates more fundamentally to the adjacent South Downs character area. Resort and beach recreation is locally and nationally valued for tourism. Local value is afforded to the relationship between land and sea views by the Conservation Area designation of large areas of the Worthing sea front.

- A12.1.90 The value judgement does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **medium**.

Landscape Character Area 2: South Downs

Published reference source components

- A12.1.91 At a **national** level, the 'South Downs' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) has been defined by the extents of the corresponding NCA of the same name (NCA 125) (refer to Figures 12.3a and 12.3b). The key characteristics identified therein include:

- Prominent Chalk outcrop rising gently from the South Coast Plain with a dramatic north-facing scarp and distinctive chalk cliffs formed where the Downs end abruptly at the sea. A chalk landscape of rolling arable fields and close-cropped grassland on the bold scarps, rounded open ridges and sculpted dry valleys;
- Lightly settled landscape with scattered villages, hamlets and farmsteads;
- Roman roads and drove roads are common and characteristic features and the area is rich in visually prominent prehistoric remains, particularly Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows and prominent Iron Age hillforts;
- In the east, rivers from the Low Weald cut through the Downs to form river valleys and broad alluvial floodplains with rectilinear pastures and wet grazing meadows – a contrast with the dry uplands. Above these valleys, the high, exposed, rounded uplands of white chalk have a simple land cover of few trees, an absence of hedgerows, occasional small, planted beech clumps, and large arable areas and some grassland;
- The eastern Downs have a distinctive escarpment which rises prominently and steeply above the Low Weald. It is indented by steep combs or dry valleys;
- Woodlands – both coniferous and broadleaved – are a distinctive feature of the western Downs; and,
- In the west, large estates are important features with formal designed parkland providing a contrast to the more typical farmland pasture.

- A12.1.92 The West Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3a) provides a further level of detail at the **local** scale, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. The following character areas have

been considered as those of relevance with potential to be affected by the proposals.

A12.1.93 West Sussex Character Area SD1 – Western Downs

- Rolling chalk uplands with a bold combination of woodland, farmland and commercial plantations, often connected by copses and dense hedgerows;
- Large fields and woodlands on the ridges, smaller in the valleys;
- Large estates and parklands, especially on the lower parts of the Downs;
- Low degree of settlement, with valley villages and farms;
- Sense of remoteness and tranquility; and,
- Views from the Downs are highly sensitive to visually prominent development.

A12.1.94 West Sussex Character Area SD3 – Central Downs

- Dramatic, steep, mostly open escarpment, deeply indented by rounded coombes;
- Open, expansive landscape mostly with few trees and hedgerows;
- Distinctive historic landscape features including hill forts, barrows, and windmills;
- Strong sense of remoteness and solitude in some areas; and,
- Views from the Downs both north and south are highly sensitive to visually prominent development.

A12.1.95 West Sussex Character Area SD4 – Angmering Park

- Rolling chalk uplands with a bold combination of woodland, farmland and commercial plantations often connected by copses and dense hedgerows;
- Large area of estates and parklands, especially on the dip slope; and,
- Sense of remoteness.

A12.1.96 West Sussex Character Area SD6 – Eastern Downs

- Elevated, open rolling landform of hills, dry valleys and a steep escarpment (scarp) across uniform chalk upland scenery close to the sea;



- Southern boundary of the area is fringed by the major coastal towns of Brighton, Hove and Shoreham-by-Sea;
- Isolated farms and farm buildings on the high downland and sparse settlement elsewhere, clustered in the valleys, in hamlets and farmsteads;
- Many landmarks and distinctive prehistoric and historic landscape features;
- Chalk quarries and pits, telecommunications masts, pylon lines, golf courses, and intensive recreational use centred on Devil's Dyke;
- High sensitivity to the impact of encroaching urban development, modern farm buildings, masts and pylons and new roads, reinforcing the cumulative visual impact of buildings and other structures; and,
- Views from the downs are highly sensitive to visually prominent development both on the urban edge to the south and in the Weald to the north.

A12.1.97 The East Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (refer to Figure 12.3b) provides another geographic extent of **local** scale detail, which elaborates on the descriptive content at the national level. The following character areas have been considered as those of relevance for consideration with potential to be affected by the proposals..

A12.1.98 East Sussex Character Area 17 – Ditchling - Mount Harry Downs:

- The highest, most inland part of the east Sussex Downs culminating in Ditchling Beacon;
- More woods, tree belts and parkland than in most of the Downs;
- Large country houses at foot of Downs in Parkland or designed landscape setting;
- Outstanding views across the Weald and along the Downs to east and west, especially from Ditchling Beacon; and,
- A wide expanse of remote, unspoiled downland..

A12.1.99 East Sussex Character Area 18 – Falmer-Telscombe Downs:

- Predominantly open, rolling downland with few tree features and large expanses of chalk grassland, noted for its downland and coastal views, and remote, visually isolated valleys close to the urban edge.

A12.1.100 East Sussex Character Area 21 – Firle Bishopstone Downs:

- Seaford Head, its cliffs, nature reserve and views of Seven Sisters are special features; and,
- Country houses in designed landscape or parkland setting.

A12.1.101 East Sussex Character Area 23 – Wilmington Heritage Coast:

- Contains the iconic coastal cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head;
- East Sussex's only large area of undeveloped cliff coastline;
- Sheer Chalk cliffs extend westwards from Eastbourne to Brighton, interrupted by the narrow valleys of the Rivers Cuckmere and Ouse, which cut through the South Downs. West of Beachy Head the undulating cliff-line of the Seven Sisters provides magnificent examples of hanging dry valleys;
- Hard cliffs in the region are developed entirely in chalk, with vertical faces formed by cliff recession cutting across the grain of inland topography to create an undulating cliff-top with surfaces ranging between 40 m and 70 m along the most scenic stretches (e.g. Seven Sisters Cliff west of Beachy Head) and rising to a maximum height of 163 m at Beachy Head itself;
- No settlements between Beachy Head and Cuckmere Haven, with the exception of Birling Gap, where there are a number of coastguard cottages built on National Trust land and where access to the beach is maintained; and,
- Unsightly buildings and parking at Birling Gap and Beachy Head.

A12.1.102 A more general reference to the context and value afforded to the South Downs National Park is made within the SDNPA document titled 'South Downs National Park – Special Qualities' which refers to:

- *Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views, to include 'stunning, panoramic views' to the sea from the South Downs Way culminating in the chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters.*
- *Tranquil and unspoilt places, emphasising the value placed on the sense of tranquillity and unspoilt places and the lack of intrusive development and the presence of dark night skies.*

Urban Character Associations

A12.1.103 Brighton and Hove includes notably 'gentrified' sea front characters, including large scale and ornate buildings laid out in distinctive regular grid formations. Whilst Brighton and Hove includes a notable seafront character, the greater

massing of urban area extends onto the lower slopes of the South Downs, which affords a southerly seaward outlook across large areas of the settlement.

- A12.1.104 The coastal landscape to the east of Brighton becomes progressively less urbanised and more influenced by the landscape of the South Downs hills. Settlement areas including Saltdean and Peacehaven are characterized by suburban residential development. Newhaven, at the mouth of the Ouse valley, exhibits an industrial character, accentuated by the landmark influences of harbour infrastructure and the chimney of the waste recycling facility. Seaford at the easternmost limit of notable settlement influence associates with a beach resort character with seafront promenade.
- A12.1.105 The clifftop position of settlements west of Newhaven affords an elevated seaward aspect, though subtly influenced by the undulating downland topography which creates areas of containment within the settlement areas. Newhaven is more discretely contained within the landform of the Ouse valley.
- A12.1.106 Inland settlement is concentrated within the river valleys that cut through the Downs and includes the towns of Lewes in the east and Arundel in the west. The eastern limits of the character area touch on the urban edge of Eastbourne, however neither Eastbourne nor the inland towns include any notable visual associations with the proposed site extents.

#### Summary of Key Landscape Characteristics

- A12.1.107 Landscape has been considered and described as comprising the physical land environment as far as the high water mark and the related inter-visibility associations with the sea. In summary of the above, the South Downs is described in terms of key landscape characteristics (including overlap with sea influences where relevant):
- A12.1.108 **Scale and enclosure** – A predominantly large scale, open landscape associated with outward looking slopes, but inclusive of more contained, smaller scale valley landscapes. Large scale woodland plantations at the western extents of the area add an increased sense of enclosure. The urban influence of settlement in and around Brighton creates a more intimately scaled and detailed landscape context.
- A12.1.109 **Landform** – The South Downs landscape is defined by a prominent east to west orientating chalk ridge with a north facing scarp, south facing dip slope, rolling dry valleys and chalk cliffs on the coastline. The peak of the ridgeline averages a height of between 200 and 250m AOD. Cliff heights range from approximately 40m AOD at Saltdean through to 160m AOD at Beachy Head. River valleys with broad floodplains cut through the line of the Downs on a north to south orientation.
- A12.1.110 **Landcover and pattern** – Arable fields and grassland characterizes the eastern extents of the Downs, becoming more wooded in the west. Field patterns are

diverse and sinuous, reflecting the underlying influence of rolling landform and becoming elongated along the prevailing line of slope. Woodland concentrated in the west and on the lower slopes and valleys follows a similar pattern to that of the fields. An overall sense of a unity and consistency exists within the tree and grass cover associations.

- A12.1.111 **Manmade influence** – Urban influence is concentrated around Brighton and the coastal developments at the eastern margins of the area. Inland, the area is lightly settled, with settlement concentrated within the valleys. Large estates and designed parkland feature in the west of the area and at the foot of the Downs. Chalk quarries, telecommunications masts and golf courses are notable man-made interventions. North-south road and rail routes associate with the valleys cutting through the Downs.
- A12.1.112 **Skyline** – Inland elevated views typically look across a simple, rural foreground context towards the sea on the horizon. Lower foothills typically experience a more diverse foreground, influenced by urban coastal development that appears below the skyline but against the sea backdrop. The skyline from elevated vantage points is not exclusively defined by the sea but frequently broken by undulations in the landform or more immediate vegetation cover. Views from the coast extend across the open sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.
- A12.1.113 **Remoteness and tranquility** – The relative dissociation from man-made influences and expansive views presents extensive areas with a sense of remoteness and tranquility. This is most apparent on the upper slopes of the Downs, within the valleys and along the Heritage Coast. More generally the experience is heightened in the east where there is no urban coastal margin and in the west where urban concentrations are more remotely located beyond the intervening coastal plain.
- A12.1.114 **Visual interruption and views** – The elevated south facing Downs afford open, panoramic and extensive views with remote inter-visibility associations with the sea. North facing slopes afford extensive inland views across the lowland Weald. Below the ridgeline, the rolling dip slope landform creates alternating experiences of openness and enclosure, with valleys including channeled southerly seaward outlooks. Seaward view lighting conditions typically associate with back-lit orientation into the sun or overhead illumination but with accentuated scope for sunset views from the eastern extents of the area.
- A12.1.115 **Settlement and key views** – The ridgeline of the South Downs landform affords prolonged and expansive views in all directions where the sea is a feature but part of a wider landscape context. The ridgeline includes both incidental highpoint viewpoints and more formal viewpoints. The extents of Brighton and Hove coincide with the foothills of the South Downs, which affords a southerly seaward outlook from large areas of the town, in addition to the prominent seafront views. Coastal edge seaward views are typically outward looking to the horizon but include dramatic cliff views along the coastline. The Seven

Sisters cliff formation culminating in Beachy Head is a prominent landmark vantage point. Seaward views are generally without particular focus with a consequent lack of depth and perspective.

#### Landscape Value

A12.1.116 The majority of the area coincides with the extent of the South Downs National Park and also includes the Heritage Coast. These designations are reflective of the inherent scenic and visual qualities of the area, which are anyway apparent landscape characteristics.

A12.1.117 The value judgement does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **high**.

#### Landscape Character Area 3: Low Weald

##### Published reference source components

A12.1.118 At a **national** level, the 'Low Weald' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) has been defined by the extents of the corresponding NCA of the same name (NCA 121) (refer to Figures 12.3a and 12.3b). The key characteristics identified therein include:

- Broad, low lying and gently undulating clay vales underlie a small-scale intimate landscape enclosed by an intricate mix of small woodlands, a patchwork of fields and hedgerows;
- Tall hedgerows with numerous mature trees link copses and remnant woodlands which combine to give the Low Weald a well-wooded character; and,
- Much of the Low Weald is essentially rural in character. Settlements are mainly villages or small hamlets.

##### Urban Character Associations

A12.1.119 Urban influences are a relatively discrete component of the landscape. The main urban centres are Burgess Hill and Hailsham, neither of which is prominent within the wider rural context.

##### Summary of Key Landscape Characteristics

A12.1.120 Landscape has been considered and described as comprising the physical land environment as far as the high water mark and the related inter-visibility associations with the sea. As such, the Low Weald has no coastline boundary with the sea, nor does it have a visual association with the sea. The basis for its inclusion is to acknowledge its context influence on cumulative assessment where it is a contextual component of inland views from the elevated vantage

point of the South Downs. In summary of the above, the Low Weald is briefly described in terms of key landscape characteristics:

- A12.1.121 **Scale and enclosure** – A typically small scale, intimate landscape enclosed by an intricate mix of small scale woodlands and hedgerows, becoming more open in the east.
- A12.1.122 **Landform** – Low lying and gently undulating landform ranging between 10 and 40m AOD. Heavily dissected by wide, shallow stream and river valleys including the River Ouse and River Cuckmere.
- A12.1.123 **Landcover and pattern** – Tall hedgerows with trees combine with copses and woodlands to present a well-wooded character within a surrounding patchwork of fields. Tree cover becomes more concentrated within plantations in the east.
- A12.1.124 **Manmade influence** – Much of the Low Weald is essentially rural in character. Settlements are mainly villages or small hamlets. A single wind turbine is located at Glyndebourne, east of Lewes.
- A12.1.125 **Skyline** – The skyline is typically defined by vegetation and buildings in the immediate locality. Views from the southern extents of the area do however include the steeply rising South Downs scarp slope skyline.
- A12.1.126 **Remoteness and tranquillity** – The extent of vegetation cover helps absorb the scatter of buildings and villages with a resultant degree of remoteness.
- A12.1.127 **Visual interruption and views** – The area associates with a sense of containment in the west, afforded primarily by the extensiveness of vegetation cover. Open views of the Downs characterize the east of the area. Inter-visibility with the sea is not a feature of the area.
- A12.1.128 **Settlement and key views** – Sparsely populated and generally insular concentrated settlement pattern, with scope for notable views of the Downs

#### Landscape Value

- A12.1.129 The majority of the landscape is undesignated with no distinct scenic value. The character area does overlap a localised extent of the South Downs National Park south of Burgess Hill; however this sensitivity relates more fundamentally to the adjacent South Downs character area.
- A12.1.130 The value judgment does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **medium**.

#### Landscape Character Area 4: Pevensey Levels

Published reference source components

A12.1.131 At a **national** level, the 'Pevensey Levels' character area (refer to Figure 12.4) has been defined by the extents of the corresponding NCA of the same name (NCA 124) (refer to Figure 12.3b). The key characteristics identified therein include:

- *Low-lying tract of largely reclaimed wetland;*
- A predominantly open landscape with extensive grazed wet meadows and some arable fields with characteristic dykes, wetlands and wide skies. The open windswept feel is further enhanced by the scarcity of trees and hedges in the landscape;
- Widely-spaced roads and isolated settlements combine with the overall open character to provide a sense of remoteness; and,
- Views out of the area to the south-west are framed against the dramatic and distinctive backdrop of the South Downs.

#### Urban Character Associations

A12.1.132 The urban influence of Eastbourne and its suburban surrounds is a prominent component of the southern extents of the area and coastline. The seafront promenade is backed by a distinctive regular street pattern that contrasts with the more diverse associations of recent inland suburban extension. The seaward aspect of the inland extents of the town are directed eastwards by the orientation of landform and the screening influence of Beachy Head. The overall urban association is fragmented by the extents of wetland and waterbodies, which define the underlying landscape. The concentration of urban development south of Pevensey and Polegate contrasts with the un-built wetland landscape that defines the northern extents of the character area.

#### Summary of Key Landscape Characteristics

A12.1.133 Landscape has been considered and described as comprising the physical land environment as far as the high water mark and the related inter-visibility associations with the sea. As such, the Pevensey Levels does not visually associate with the Project site, but has been included as a contextual component of the adjacent seascape, from which the Project site may be visible. It has also been included to acknowledge its context influence on cumulative assessment where it is a contextual component of inland views from the elevated vantage point of the South Downs. In summary of the above, the Pevensey Levels is briefly described in terms of key landscape characteristics (including overlap with sea influences where relevant):

A12.1.134 **Scale and enclosure** – Open, expansive landscape of meadows and ditches.

- A12.1.135 **Landform** – Low-lying tract of largely reclaimed wetland averaging between 0 and 10m AOD with open waterways and lagoons and localized islands of higher ground.
- A12.1.136 **Landcover and pattern** – Reed fringed winding channels define an irregular checkerboard field pattern of wetland pasture. Few trees and hedges. Coastline shingle banks and groynes.
- A12.1.137 **Manmade influence** – The concentration of urban development south of Pevensey and Polegate draws a line of contrast with the isolated farms and cottages that define the northern extents of the character area.
- A12.1.138 **Skyline** – Views out of the area to the south-west are framed against the distinctive backdrop of the South Downs. Views from the coast extend across the open sea to the horizon line defined by the curvature of the earth.
- A12.1.139 **Remoteness and tranquillity** – Widely-spaced roads and isolated settlements combine with the overall open character to create a sense of remoteness.
- A12.1.140 **Visual interruption and views** – A predominantly open landscape of expansive views. Views along the coast are typically extensive as a result of the low lying coastal edge and the long curve of the coastline. The seaward extent of views is featureless apart from transitional boat activity and ultimately limited by the curvature of the earth. Seaward view lighting conditions typically associate with side or front lit orientation but with accentuated scope for sunrise views from the western extents of the area.
- A12.1.141 **Settlement and key views** – The main focus of seaward views relates to those from the Eastbourne seafront promenade and pier and the wider urban coastal edge, with more general inland views of the South Downs backdrop. Beyond the coastal edge there is limited land/sea inter-visibility, with the greatest scope for views relating to the elevated western edge of Eastbourne.

#### Landscape Value

- A12.1.142 The majority of the non-urbanised northern extents of the area are designated for their nature conservation value, which highlights the integrity of the wetland context.
- A12.1.143 The value judgment does not modify the overall consideration of character area sensitivity, which has been assessed as **medium**.



## ***Appendix 12.2: Detailed assessment of the existing baseline and predicted visual impacts***



**Detailed Viewpoint Assessment**

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| <b>Viewpoint 2: Birling Gap (top of steps leading down to beach)</b><br><b>See Figure 12.15</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                            |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>555384, 095992                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Elevation: 14m AOD                         | Direction of view: 250°          |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                            |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Designation: Heritage Coast, National Park |                                  |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                            |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Footpath and Residential Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                            |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175     | Nearest visible turbine: 19.6km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>226                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175           | Farthest visible turbine: 40.4km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located at the top of the pedestrian steps that provide access from an area of visitor facilities down to the beach at Birling Gap. The location is a notable cliff top viewpoint associated with a car park, café and general visitor amenities. The main outward sea aspect is south facing, with the view along the coastline to the east limited by the immediate rise of white chalk cliffs. The view along the coast to the west is more extensive and includes the aspect of the ‘Seven Sisters’ chalk cliffs, terminating in the headland at Seaford Head. The main sea aspect is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. The relatively narrow shoreline comprises a shingle bank at the foot of the cliffs interspersed with localised areas of patchy sand and a rocky plateau extending further out to sea. The immediate context of the viewpoint is characterised by the extent of car parking and a number of dispersed residential properties, including a short 2 storey terrace immediately adjacent to the car park. The relative concentration and diversity of appearance within the built form contrasts with the uniformity and un-built character of the surrounding rolling downs grassland. The general orientation of the surrounding topography limits the extent of inter-visibility with inland areas to a narrow field of view. The experience of the ‘along coast’ aspect is limited to the immediate vicinity of the cliff edge where the view is otherwise contained by the rolling hills that rise to either side of Birling Gap. The location coincides with both a Heritage Coast and South Downs National Park designation status and also lies along the route of the South Downs Way. The immediate surrounds of the viewpoint also fall within an area of National Trust ownership. |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be very <b>high</b> due to its focussed visitor viewpoint role, its associated Heritage Coast and National Park designations and the prominence of visual associations with the sea. Whilst the sensitivity of the viewpoint                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                            |                                  |

is considered to be very high, the large scale of the car park and general appearance of the visitor facility locally degrades the overall sensitivity of context.

**Predicted view:**

For the purposes of relative comparison, both the Option F (175 turbine) 'worst case' and Option D (100 turbine) alternative configurations have been illustrated and assessed.

Option F - 175 turbines (summary data in grey box above) (Fig 12.15b)

The land to sea view will look onto the eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the easternmost, and closest, turbines at the 'point' of the layout to the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at around 257 degrees, offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views (as illustrated in Figure 12.15d). Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 20 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 226 days a year (equating to 62% of the year). The location has also been presented as an evening sunset photomontage to illustrate the changing effect of light conditions on the appearance of the view.

Option D – 100 turbines (Fig 12.15c)

The alternative option illustrates that the general visual associations in terms of the relative position and grouping of turbines and substations will be similar in perception. The larger size of turbines will accentuate the relative visibility of individual turbines. The wider grid spacing and lesser number of turbines will however present less of a massing effect across the skyline with the horizontal extent of visibility occupying a lesser 11 degrees of the panorama.

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the undeveloped seascape and cliff coastline context and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The relative scale of the development will not however dominate over that of the cliffs, which will remain the more substantial and defining feature within the extent of view. The relative distance of the turbines from the viewpoint and the surrounding expansiveness of seascape context will also contribute in placing the wind farm within a recessive backdrop association rather than one dominating the foreground setting. The Option D development scenario will present less of an associative massing of turbines across the horizon but will appear more pronounced in detail with the larger turbine size. The magnitude of change would remain the same for either design scenario.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this

judgement reflects the high recreational, designated and recognised viewpoint context sensitivity of the location, the immediate setting of the viewpoint is noted to be associated with a car park and visitor facilities, which is in itself a visual detractor. The significance of effect would remain the same for either of the option scenarios considered.

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| <b>Viewpoint 3: Birling Gap (bottom of steps leading down to beach)</b><br><b>See Figure 12.16</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>555375, 095989                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Elevation: 6m AOD                          | Direction of view: 250°          |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Designation: Heritage Coast, National Park |                                  |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                            |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175     | Nearest visible turbine: 19.6km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>226                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175           | Farthest visible turbine: 40.4km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located at the bottom of the pedestrian steps that provide access from an area of visitor facilities down to the beach at Birling Gap. The location is a notable point for access to the beach within an area where access is more typically constrained by the physical barrier of the cliffs. The main outward sea aspect is south facing, with the view along the coastline to the east limited by the immediate rise of white chalk cliffs. The view along the coast to the west is more extensive and includes the aspect of the ‘Seven Sisters’ chalk cliffs, terminating in the headland at Seaford Head. The main sea aspect is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. The relatively narrow shoreline comprises a shingle bank at the foot of the cliffs interspersed with localised areas of patchy sand and a rocky plateau extending further out to sea. The immediate context of the viewpoint is characterised by the stairway providing access from the cliff top immediately behind the viewpoint and by the narrow shelf of pebble beach and rocky foreshore that extends along the foot of the cliffs. The relative proximity and scale of cliffs is dominant whilst the containment of the cliffs limits the potential for inland views and concentrates the line of sight seawards. The location coincides with both a Heritage Coast and edge of South Downs National Park designation status. The immediate surrounds of the viewpoint also fall within an area of National Trust ownership. |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its focussed visitor viewpoint role, its associated Heritage Coast and National Park designations and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br>The land to sea view will look onto the eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the easternmost, and closest, turbines at the ‘point’ of the layout to the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |                                  |

The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at around 257 degrees, offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 20 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 226 days a year (equating to 62% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the undeveloped seascape and cliff coastline context and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The relative scale of the development will not however dominate over that of the cliffs, which will remain the more substantial and defining feature within the extent of view. The relative distance of the turbines from the viewpoint and the surrounding expansiveness of seascape context will also contribute in placing the wind farm within a recessive backdrop association rather than one dominating the foreground setting.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major** in acknowledgement of the high recreational and designated viewpoint context sensitivity.

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| <b>Viewpoint 4: Seven Sisters Country Park cliff top</b><br><b>See Figure 12.17</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>552394, 097408                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Elevation: 81m AOD                         | Direction of view: 240°          |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                            |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Designation: Heritage Coast, National Park |                                  |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                            |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                            |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175     | Nearest visible turbine: 17.8km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>237                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175           | Farthest visible turbine: 38.1km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the cliff top within the Seven Sisters country park on the route of the South Downs Way and illustrates the extensive nature of elevated coastal views that are characteristic of this stretch of the coastline. The seaward aspect is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. Beyond the immediate extent of view the undulating downland topography is apparent within the extent of eastward coastal views within the series of peaks and troughs, which are further accentuated by the contrasting tone of exposed chalk cliff faces. Belle Tout lighthouse is a notable skyline landmark on the headland north of Birling Gap. The only other man made influences are limited to small scale, agricultural scale properties within an otherwise characteristically open grassland landscape. The narrow shoreline is largely hidden from view below the cliff line but is partially visible at low tide with exposure of the coincident rock plateaus. To the west the view is more diverse and includes the foreground coastal inlet of Cuckmere Haven with its distinctive brown and white cliff face banding. Beyond the immediate backdrop headland of Seaford Head, the urban extents of Seaford and Newhaven are apparent but are typically contained below the skyline within the rolling dips of the downland topography. The predominantly agricultural context grassland landscape is large scale and open, with minimal field boundary definition or woodland cover. Whilst the general topographic trend of the area is that of a seaward southerly aspect, the immediate valley of the River Cuckmere is notably more visually contained and inclusive of limited inter-visibility with land to the north of the South Downs hills. The location coincides with both a Heritage Coast and South Downs National Park designation status. Cuckmere Haven, within the valley to the west of the viewpoint, is an area of National Trust land ownership. |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                            |                                  |



with the route of a national trail, its associated Heritage Coast and National Park designations and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.

**Predicted view:**

For the purposes of relative comparison, both the Option F (175 turbine) 'worst case' and Option D (100 turbine) alternative configurations have been illustrated and assessed.

Option F - 175 turbines (summary data in grey box above) (Fig 12.17b)

The land to sea view will look onto the eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the easternmost, and closest, turbines at the 'point' of the layout to the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the middle and left of view.. The closest of the two substations will be barely distinguishable against the backdrop of turbines at around 252 degrees whilst the furthest substation will be visible at 258 degrees, offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 25 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 237 days a year (equating to 65% of the year).

Option D – 100 turbines (Fig 12.17c)

The alternative option illustrates that the general visual associations in terms of the relative position and grouping of turbines and substations will be similar in perception. The larger size of turbines will accentuate the relative visibility of individual turbines. The wider grid spacing and lesser number of turbines will however present less of a massing effect across the skyline with the horizontal extent of visibility occupying a lesser 15 degrees of the panorama.

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the undeveloped seascape and cliff coastline context and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The relative scale of the development will not however dominate over the context of the headland and bay, which will remain the more substantial and defining feature within the extent of view. The turbines will appear dissociated from land, appearing to relate to a greater extent of seascape glimpsed beyond the headland and therefore appearing remote from the relative intimacy of the immediate bay landform of Cuckmere Haven. The Option D development scenario will present less of an associative massing of turbines across the horizon but will appear more pronounced in detail with the larger turbine size. The magnitude of change would remain the same for either option scenario.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major** which reflects the high recreational, designated and scenic sensitivity of the location. The viewpoint also coincides with a character defining visual aspect along the line of cliffs extending through to Beachy Head, which look eastwards and away from the extent of proposed development. The significance of effect would remain the same for either of the option scenarios considered.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 5: Seven Sisters Country Park Cuckmere Haven</b><br><b>See Figure 12.18</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                       |                                            |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                       |                                            |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>552224, 099149                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Elevation: 47m AOD                    | Direction of view: 230°                    |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                       |                                            |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                       | Designation: Heritage Coast, National Park |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                       |                                            |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                       |                                            |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                       |                                            |
| % turbines visible:<br>29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 50 | Nearest visible turbine: 26km              |
| Days visible/year:<br>230                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No. of turbine hubs visible: 42       | Farthest visible turbine: 38.5km           |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the route of the South Downs Way on the elevated valley slopes of the Cuckmere River and illustrates the relative containment afforded by the valley associated with the Seven Sisters country park. Views of the sea are focussed along the axis of the north to south aligned valley, primarily orientating towards the seascape directly south of the coastline. The landform of South Hill and Seaford Head limits the majority of views westwards, but affords glimpses of the sea on the skyline beyond. The remnant channel of the Cuckmere River is a prominent and distinctive feature, presenting a broad meandering profile across the expansive valley floodplain. The active channel of the river follows a more linear route on the far western side of the valley, though diminutive in scale alongside the more prominent foreground ‘oxbow’ channel. Apparent man made intervention is small scale and typically limited to properties adjacent to the A259 Eastbourne Road at the right of view and properties on the coast at Cuckmere Haven at the left of view. The eastern residential edge of Seaford is glimpsed through tree cover on the skyline to the right of view. A surfaced access road is visible along the eastern edge of the valley floor within the foreground extent of view. Vegetation cover is sparse and typically concentrated within remnant hedgerows and linear belts of trees, though inclusive of occasional larger woodland groups. There is a strong sense of unity and a large sense of scale presented by the extensive, open grassland character. A network of Public Rights of Way follows the line of the valley, typically heading towards the coast along the valley floor, with the exception of the South Downs Way which ascends towards the Seven Sisters cliffs. The location coincides with both Heritage Coast and South Downs National Park designation status. Cuckmere Haven, within the extents of the valley floor and part of the western slopes, is an area of National Trust land ownership. |                                       |                                            |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the route of a national trail, its associated Heritage Coast and National Park designations and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                       |                                            |

**Predicted view:**

The land to sea view will be defined by glimpsed views of the northern extents of the wind farm, with the majority of the wind farm obscured behind intervening land form. The extent of views of the wind farm will vary along the route of the South Downs Way, but will typically be contained from within the valley and will be filtered by intervening landform where elevated. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 5 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 230 days a year (equating to 63% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a small element within the limited extent of visibility of the wind farm and therefore present a **very small** magnitude of change. The turbines will appear remote beyond intervening landform and will be physically and visually dissociated from the distinct containment and setting of the Cuckmere valley.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **moderate** which reflects the high recreational, designated and scenic sensitivity of the location. The visual containment and prominence of features within the valley context will however limit the potential for remote effects to perceptibly associate with the valley setting.

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| <b>Viewpoint 6: Seaford Head cliff top</b><br><b>See Figure 12.19</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                            |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>549298, 097865                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Elevation: 62m AOD                         | Direction of view: 260°          |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Designation: Heritage Coast, National Park |                                  |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                            |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175     | Nearest visible turbine: 15.7km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>259                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175           | Farthest visible turbine: 35.5km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the cliff top at Seaford Head on the route of the Vanguard Way and illustrates the extensive nature of elevated coastal views. The location coincides with both Heritage Coast and South Downs National Park designation status. In the immediate foreground of the viewpoint the coastline undergoes a notable transition from the vertical landform of white cliffs into the horizontal line of the beach. The coastal edge of the town of Seaford is defined by a shingle beach that extends as a continuous feature through to Newhaven. Beyond the shoreline the residential extents of Seaford, orientate within a general association of south facing slopes. The residential extents form an intermittent backdrop to the sea front promenade, interspersed with open space and recreational uses, but characterised by 3-5 storey residential properties. The headland at Newhaven provides the focus for westward views along the coast and presents a diverse formation, with the line of the harbour wall extending from its base, a sporadic arrangement of built form on its slopes, communication masts on its skyline and a variable colour contrast in the exposed face of its cliffs. Beyond Newhaven, the indentations of the coastline are visible continuing westwards past Brighton towards Worthing and Bognor. The sea view itself is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. More apparent large scale shipping activity associates with boats entering or leaving Newhaven Port, including that of regular cross channel ferries. To the east of the viewpoint the context is characterised by an undulating downland topography, accentuated by the profile of the exposed chalk cliff faces that define the coastal edge through to Beachy Head. |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the route of a long distance trail, its associated Heritage Coast and National Park designations and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                            |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                            |                                  |

The land to sea view will look onto the eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the easternmost, and closest, turbines at the 'point' of the layout to the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the middle, left and right of view. The closest of the two substations will be barely distinguishable against the backdrop of turbines at around 248 degrees whilst the furthest substation will be visible at 255 degrees, offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 31 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 259 days a year (equating to 71% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the seascape context and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The relative scale of the development will not however dominate over the more immediate seascape and coastal context, instead associating with a remote skyline position.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major** which reflects the high recreational, designated and scenic sensitivity of the location. The focus of view from Seaford Head is also inclusive of expansive eastward views along the line of the Seven Sisters cliffs towards Beachy Head and away from the wind farm.

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| <b>Viewpoint 7: Seaford sea front promenade (adjacent to Martello Tower)</b><br><b>See Figure 12.20</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>548453, 098453                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Elevation: 2m AOD                      | Direction of view: 250°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Nearest turbine: 15.5km                | Farthest turbine: 35.2km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        | Designation: None                |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Residential, Local Road and Cycleway Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 15.5km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>248                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 35.2km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the sea front promenade outside the Martello Tower Museum. The immediate foreground is defined by the expansive uniformity of the shingle beach that extends as a continuous feature through to Newhaven. To the east, the coastline undergoes a notable transition from the horizontal line of the beach into the vertical landform of the white cliffs of Seaford Head. The immediate beach backdrop is defined by a row of beach huts, low-key visitor facilities and parking. Beyond this and wrapping around to the rear of the viewpoint and through to the western coastal aspect are the residential extents of Seaford, orientated within a general association of south facing slopes. The residential extents form an intermittent backdrop to the sea front promenade, interspersed with open space and recreational uses, but characterised by 3-5 storey residential properties to the immediate west of the viewpoint. The headland at Newhaven forms the limit of westward views along the coast. The headland presents a diverse formation, with the line of the harbour wall extending from its base, a sporadic arrangement of built form on its slopes, communication masts on its skyline and a variable colour contrast in the exposed face of its cliffs. The containment afforded by landward topography and built form presents a predominantly seaward aspect. The sea view itself is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. More apparent large scale shipping activity associated with boats entering or leaving Newhaven Port, including that of regular cross channel ferries. The capacity for seasonal variation to affect the view is apparent with the potential for the beach and coastal waters to become a busy and diverse environment as a summertime recreational facility. |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>high</b> due to its coincidence with a concentration of sea front facing residential properties and the open sea focussed aspect of beach and sea front users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |

**Predicted view:**

The land to sea view will look onto the eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the easternmost, and closest, turbines coincident with the 'point' of the layout to the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect towards the middle, left and right of view. The relative variation in density of turbine groupings will also be apparent with outliers appearing at the left of view in contrast with the greater massing of turbines at the right of view. The closest of the two substations will be barely distinguishable against the backdrop of turbines at around 245 degrees whilst the furthest substation will be obscured beyond the horizon. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 33 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 2648 days a year (equating to 68% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the undeveloped, open seascape context and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The turbines will perceptibly associate with the headland at Newhaven, appearing as a continuation of the line of the headland across the horizon and thereby prompting a sense of enclosure around the intervening seascape. This will appear to bring the turbines closer to the viewer in relative distance association but will not however present an imposing sense of scale.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major/moderate**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high sensitivity prominence of the vantage point as a promenade and urban seafront, the focus of the view on a busy summer's day will be more substantially defined by foreground beach and water activity with a reduced focus on the remote wind farm.



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| <b>Viewpoint 11: Brighton parade</b><br><b>See Figure 12.24</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>532564, 103597                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Elevation: 20m AOD                     | Direction of view: 190°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Nearest turbine: 14.2km                | Farthest turbine: 25.9km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Designation: None                      |                                  |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Residential, Local Road and Cycleway Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 14.2    |
| Days visible/year:<br>270                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 25.9km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the elevated promenade associated with the Marine Parade (route of the A259 highway). The landmark feature of Brighton Pier is located approximately 1km to the west, beyond the immediate extent of view. The elevation of the viewpoint above the immediate shoreline directs the view seawards beyond the lower foreground extents of visitor amusements and shingle beach. The sea view itself is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. This smaller scale sea based activity concentrates around the marina which is defined by its utilitarian breakwater and associated industrial scale structures within the eastward coastal extents of view. In anticipation of concentrated seasonal use of the beach and sea front recreational facilities there is capacity for the foreground beach and coastal waters to take on a much busier and diverse appearance than that captured by the photograph. The eastward extent of coastal views is largely limited by the projection of Brighton marina out from the coast, but retains scope for glimpsed views through to the white chalk cliffs around Rottingdean and Peacehaven. The westward extent of coastal views is more extensive, associated with the broad sweep of the coastline through to its headland limits at Selsey Bill. At such distance there is limited perceptible detail beyond the general massing of the coastal landform, however the harbourside chimney at Shoreham is a distinguishable landmark. The multi-storey tower, hotel and 5-6 storey apartment built extents of Brighton form part of the westward coastal view skyline and backdrop to the viewpoint in combination with prominent traffic movement and roadside parking associated with the A259. |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>high</b> due to its coincidence with a concentration of sea front facing residential and tourist properties and the open seaward aspect of the highway approaches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |

For the purposes of relative comparison, both the Option F (175 turbine) 'worst case' and Option D (100 turbine) alternative configurations have been illustrated and assessed.

Option F - 175 turbines (summary data in grey box above) (Fig 12.24b)

The land to sea view will look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest, turbines towards the mid extent of the layout. The curvature of the earth will exert an influence on the visibility of the proposals, with the visible height of turbines gradually diminishing away from the viewer towards either end of the development and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the mid left and right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 193 degrees and the furthest substation will be visible at 222 degrees, both offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 66 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 270 days a year (equating to 74% of the year).

Option D – 100 turbines (Fig 12.24c)

The alternative option illustrates that the general visual associations in terms of the extent and grouping of turbines and relative visibility of substations will be similar in perception. The wider grid spacing and reduced number of turbines will however present less of a massing effect across the skyline with a greater sense of permeability of view through the wind farm to the horizon. The relatively larger size of turbines will present less of a perceived difference between the options as there will be limited scope for comparative scale references within the expansive sea environment.

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

Within the extensive undeveloped, open seascape context, the introduction of turbines will form a prominent element and therefore present a **large** magnitude of change. The expansive scale and uniformity of the seascape will offer little scale or distance association with the remote wind farm. The scale of individual turbines will be diminutive relative to that of foreground features, however the combined massing of turbines across the horizon and large proportion of view occupied by the turbines will present an extensive development feature. The Option D development scenario will present less of an associative massing of turbines across the horizon but will appear more pronounced in detail with the larger turbine size. The magnitude of change would remain the same for either scenario.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high sensitivity prominence of the vantage point as a promenade and urban seafront, the view encompasses a diverse context where foreground detail serves to distract from the seaward focus. On a busy summer's day the focus of the view will be more substantially defined by foreground beach and water

activity with a reduced focus on the remote wind farm. The significance of effect would remain the same for either of the scenarios considered.

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| <b>Viewpoint 12: Brighton sea front promenade</b><br><b>See Figure 12.25</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>531202, 103830                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Elevation: 8m AOD                      | Direction of view: 190°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Nearest turbine: 14.1km                | Farthest turbine: 25.3km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                        | Designation: None                |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Residential, Local Road, Footpath and Cycleway Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>91                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 160 | Nearest visible turbine: 14.1km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>273                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No. of turbine hubs visible: 160       | Farthest visible turbine: 25.3km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the sea front promenade approximately 100m west of the landmark structure of Brighton pier. The eastward extent of sea and coastal views is limited by the pier structure, however the urban skyline of the landward component indicates the continuation of the coastal frontage beyond. The westward extent of coastal view includes the concave sweep of coastline, picking up the power station chimney at Shoreham and a more general massing of land and buildings towards Worthing. The remnant structure of Brighton west pier features within the extent of the inshore waters to the right of view. The orientation of Brighton pier and foreground breakwater (with sculptural focal point) directs the line of sight seawards to the horizon. The seaward aspect is further emphasised by the landward containment afforded by the distinct urban edge of 5 storey hotels immediately behind the viewpoint. The immediate context of the sea view is fundamentally defined by the influence of the pier. Further foreground detail is contributed by the below promenade shops and beach recreational facilities along with the shoreline strip of shingle beach. Beyond this context the seascape is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. On a busy summer’s day there is capacity for the character of view to be fundamentally changed by seafront and beach activity. |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>high</b> due to its coincidence with a concentration of sea front facing tourist properties and the open sea focussed aspect of beach and sea front users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br>The land to sea view will look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest, turbines towards the mid extents of the visible development (the overall extent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                  |

of turbines will continue behind the line of the pier). The curvature of the earth will exert an influence on the visibility of the proposals, with the visible height of turbines gradually diminishing away from the viewer towards either end of the development and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the middle and right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 188 degrees and the furthest substation will be visible at 218 degrees, both offset from the adjacent turbine rows, but contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 54 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 273 days a year (equating to 75% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a prominent element within the distinctive landmark view where the focus is on the pier and its seascape outlook, and will therefore present a **large** magnitude of change. The very specific and focussed character outlook of this viewpoint affords a relatively higher magnitude of change when compared to that of nearby viewpoint 11. The remote wind farm will visually associate with the foreground pier in defining a sense of continuation in the extent of built influence and thereby instil a perceived sense of development enclosure around the intervening seascape. The westerly extents of the wind farm will appear less confined where these will be met by an extensive open sea horizon. Beyond the immediate vicinity of the pier, views of the sea become more extensive and generic such that the focus of view is much broader and the perception of the wind farm will be more remote, though lacking in a relative sense of scale.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect associated with either development scenario in this location is assessed to be **major**. This judgement reflects the high sensitivity prominence of the iconic and landmark context of Brighton pier as a sea view vantage point, however the greater extent of Brighton's sea front is typically more diverse in focus and more expansive in view (as represented by viewpoint 11). On a busy summer's day the focus of the view will be more substantially defined by foreground beach and water activity with a reduced focus on the remote wind farm.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 14: Worthing sea front promenade</b><br><b>See Figure 12.27</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>514433, 102255                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Elevation: 1m AOD                      | Direction of view: 150°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nearest turbine: 13.4km                | Farthest turbine: 28.4km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Coast Plain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                        | Designation: None                |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Residential and Local Road Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 13.4km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>281                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 28.4km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is located on the sea front promenade to the west of Worthing pier. The immediate foreground is defined by the uniformity and openness of the promenade and its continuation in level across the adjacent shingle beach. The sea view itself is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and smaller fishing and by recreational boats closer to shore. The view along the coast to the east is characterised and limited in extent by the structure of Worthing pier. Street lights and small scale tree and shrub planting defines a transition from the uniformity of the promenade into the backdrop detail of the sea front highway and built façade of 3-5 storey seafront hotels and residential properties. Views from the road behind the viewpoint are limited by a subtle drop in level from the promenade down to the road. The view along the coast to the west is more immediately limited by the convex curve of the coastline. The inland extent of views is limited to the immediate line of buildings behind the viewpoint, such that the character of the view is largely defined by the sea front environment. On a busy summer's day there is therefore capacity for the character of view to be fundamentally changed by seafront activity.</p> |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>high</b> due to its coincidence with a concentration of sea front facing residential and tourist properties and the open sea focussed aspect of beach and sea front users.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br><p>The land to sea view will look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm with the north-westernmost and closest turbines located to the right of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the left of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |

illustrated by the effect to the left and right extents of the wind farm. The two substations will be visible on the offset front row of the wind farm on the horizon line of the sea, at 133 degrees and 156 degrees respectively. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 52 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 281 days a year (equating to 77% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a prominent element within the undeveloped, open seascape context and therefore present a **large** magnitude of change. The expansive scale and uniformity of the immediate foreground beach and sea front promenade will offer little scale or distance association with the remote wind farm. The scale of individual turbines will be diminutive relative to that of the pier and other foreground features. The combined massing of turbines across the horizon and large proportion of view occupied by the turbines will however present an extensive development feature. Worthing pier provides a more immediate visual focus such that the seaward context of man made influence will not relate solely to that of the wind farm. Views of the sea from the coastline beyond the foreground influence of the pier are more extensive and generic and the perception of the wind farm will be more remote and further lacking in a relative sense of scale.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high sensitivity prominence of the vantage point as a promenade and urban seafront, the focus of the view on a busy summer's day will be more substantially defined by foreground beach and water activity with a reduced focus on the remote wind farm.

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 16: Bognor Regis sea front promenade</b><br><b>See Figure 12.29</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>493903, 098932                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Elevation: 6m AOD                      | Direction of view: 110°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Nearest turbine: 23.9km                | Farthest turbine: 45.7km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Coast Plain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        | Designation: None                |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational, Residential and Local Road Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 23.9km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>193                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 45.7km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is located on the sea front promenade to the east of the pier. Both the eastward and the westward coastal aspects include subtle land to land views, coincident with the concave sweep of the adjacent coastline. The detail associated with such views is however limited to the general massing of the coastal landform towards Selsey Bill in the west and Brighton in the east. The more immediate extent of westward views is limited by the structure of Bognor pier and by the general massing of sea front kiosks. To the east, a concentration of sea front facilities, including the most immediately placed band stand, add detail and scale to the sea front environment. Timber groynes subdividing the sand and shingle beach add further small scale detail to the seaward foreground. The sea view itself is featureless to the horizon, punctuated only by the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon and by smaller fishing and recreational boats closer to shore. The inland extent of views is limited to the immediate line of 5 or 6 storey residential and tourist accommodation properties behind the viewpoint, such that the character of the view is largely defined by the sea front environment. On a busy summer's day there is capacity for the character of view to be fundamentally changed by seafront and beach activity.</p> |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>high</b> due to its coincidence with a concentration of sea front facing residential and tourist properties and the open sea focussed aspect of beach and sea front users.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br><p>The land to sea view will look obliquely onto the northern and western boundaries of the wind farm, with the closest turbines at the 'corner' of the layout within the mid visible extents of the development. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right and left of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the influence of the curvature of the earth diminishing the visible height of turbines with increasing distance from the viewpoint. The diminishing effect will be</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                        |                                  |



more pronounced to the left of view along the longer axis of the development. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the right of view. Neither of the two substations will be visible, with both contained beyond the horizon. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunrise backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 21 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 193 days a year (equating to 53% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form an apparent, small element within the undeveloped, open seascape context and therefore present a **small** magnitude of change. The relative distance of the turbines from the viewpoint and the surrounding expansiveness of seascape context will place the wind farm within a recessive backdrop association rather than one dominating the foreground setting. As the viewpoint will look across the narrowest axis of the wind farm, the proportion of horizon affected by the proposals will also be limited

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **moderate**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high sensitivity prominence of the vantage point as a promenade and urban seafront, the focus of the view on a busy summer's day will be more substantially defined by foreground beach and water activity with a reduced focus on the remote wind farm.

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 20: Firle Beacon</b><br><b>See Figure 12.33</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                           |                                 |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                           |                                 |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>548554, 105917                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Elevation: 210m AOD                       | Direction of view: 220°         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nearest turbine: 21.6km                   | Farthest turbine: 39km          |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                           |                                 |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                           | Designation: National Park      |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                           |                                 |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                           |                                 |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                           |                                 |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No. of turbine blade<br>tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 21.6km |
| Days visible/year:<br>209 (72)*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No. of turbine hubs<br>visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 39km  |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is located at a localised trig marked high point of 217m AOD on the crest of the South Downs on the route of the South Downs Way national trail. The dip slope of the Downs falls away southwards towards the coast across a rolling landscape of hills and valleys. The scarp slope falls away more steeply to the north, immediately behind the viewpoint, towards an extensive inland plain. The vantage point offers extensive views in all directions with no single point of focus. Views of the sea are experienced across an extensive agricultural foreground, with the sea covering a notable extent of the horizon. The elevation of Seaford Head on the horizon breaks the continuity of views across the water, with the most open seaward aspect coinciding with the area between Newhaven and Seaford. The sea environment is featureless apart from the transitional influence of large scale shipping (most immediately servicing the port of Newhaven). Man made influence is limited and concentrated within the extents of Newhaven, including the breakwater of Newhaven harbour, which forms an apparent seaward extension of the port. Telecommunications masts are apparent vertical skyline breakers along the South Downs ridge to the right of view. The single wind turbine at Glyndebourne is barely distinguishable inland to the north-west of the viewpoint where set within an expansive landscape setting and dissociated from the context of seaward views. The rolling downland landscape is open, with a large scale field pattern of mixed arable and pastoral land use. Tree cover typically associates with the valleys, accentuating the more general sense of openness associated with the hill tops and conversely emphasising the localised enclosure presented by the valleys. The viewpoint and much of its surroundings fall within the extents of the South Downs National Park designation.</p> |                                           |                                 |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the National Park designation, the extensive and prolonged views afforded by the route of the national trail and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                           |                                 |

**Predicted view:**

The land to sea view will look onto the north eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest turbines towards the left of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, with the visible height of turbines diminishing under the influence of perspective. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the left and middle of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 230 degrees, offset from the adjacent turbine rows, whilst the furthest substation will be visible at 241 degrees, against a backdrop of turbines, with both contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 34 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 209 days a year (equating to 57% of the year), though potentially as little as 20% of the year based on inland weather data.

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a conspicuous element within the seascape component of a broader landscape context and present a **medium** magnitude of change. Whilst the turbines will form an extensive cumulative massing and occupy a large proportion of the seaward horizon view, the individual scale of the turbines will not be prominent within the more substantive foreground landscape context.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high recreational, designated and viewpoint context sensitivity of the location, the viewpoint itself affords an extensive 360 degree aspect within which the extent of proposed development will not be the main focus of the view.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 24: Devil's Dyke Ridge</b><br><b>See Figure 12.37</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>525770, 110721                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Elevation: 204m AOD                    | Direction of view: 180°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Nearest turbine: 19.6km                | Farthest turbine: 29.3km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        | Designation: National Park       |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 19.6km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>226 (95)*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 29.3km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is located on the route of the South Downs Way national trail at an area of convergence of several Public Rights of Way that pass both along and across the ridge line of the South Downs. The viewpoint is also close to a visitor car park and formal viewpoint at Devil's Dyke (however the formal viewpoint orientates northwards away from the coast). The dip slope of the Downs falls away southwards towards the coast across a rolling landscape of hills and valleys. The land continues to rise for a short distance behind the viewpoint, obscuring the view beyond which otherwise opens up across the dip slope to the plains in the north. Whilst views extend westwards along the ridgeline over successive 'peaks' in the crest of the slope, the main orientation of the view is southwards towards the coast. Localised vegetation cover associated with a hedgerow along the access road to the Devil's Dyke viewpoint limits the extent of views eastwards along the line of slope. The simple uniformity and openness of the Downs gives way to a more intimately vegetated landscape on its lower slopes. This character in turn undergoes a transition into the diverse urban context of Brighton and Shoreham which defines the character of the immediate coastal fringe. The urban skyline profile set against the seascape backdrop includes notable high rise buildings within Brighton and Hove and the landmark chimney and electricity pylons associated with the power station at Shoreham. West of Shoreham the immediate coastal hinterland becomes obscured behind the rolling foothills. The sea environment is featureless apart from the transitional influence of large scale shipping on the horizon. The viewpoint and much of its surroundings fall within the extents of the South Downs National Park designation. A Scheduled Monument associated with the site of a hill fort lies approximately 100m to the north east of the viewpoint.</p> |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the National Park designation, the extensive and prolonged views afforded by the route of the national trail and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |                                  |

**Predicted view:**

The land to sea view will look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest turbines towards the mid extents of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the left and right of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, under the diminishing influence of perspective. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the left, middle and right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 195 degrees against a backdrop of turbines, whilst the furthest substation will be visible at 171 degrees slightly offset from the adjacent turbine rows, with both contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 52 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 226 days a year (equating to 62% of the year, though potentially as little as 26% of the year based on inland weather data).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a prominent element within the undeveloped, open seascape context and therefore present a **large** magnitude of change. As the coastline is relatively developed, the combined association between the developed coast and developed sea will accentuate the prominence of man made influence. The existing open sea horizon extending into the distance will appear foreshortened and contained by the limits defined by the wind farm's northern boundary.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high recreational, designated and general viewpoint context sensitivity of the location, the main visitor facilities associated with Devils Dyke relate to a northwards inland facing viewpoint.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Viewpoint 26: Cissbury Ring</b><br><b>See Figure 12.39</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                |                                 |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                |                                 |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>513730, 107782                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Elevation: 160m AOD                            | Direction of view: 180°         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Nearest turbine: 18.9km                        | Farthest turbine: 32.3km        |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                |                                 |
| Character area: South Downs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Designation: National Park, Scheduled Monument |                                 |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                |                                 |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                |                                 |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                |                                 |
| % turbines visible:<br>34                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 60          | Nearest visible turbine: 18.9km |
| Days visible/year:<br>230 (102)*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No. of turbine hubs visible: 60                | Farthest visible turbine: 28km  |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br>The viewpoint is located on the route of a Public Right of Way that passes through the setting of Cissbury Ring. The man made influence of the earthworks associated with the historic hillfort are apparent within the general profile of the hilltop landform. Views out from the hill are locally limited by the immediate extent of tree cover, which limits the potential for 360 degree views and instead compartmentalises the aspect of different angles of view into distinct character contexts. Seaward views are inclusive of a prominent foreground, suburban, residential influence, which extends along the immediate valley through to the greater massing of Worthing towards the coastline. The urban context presents a complex, small scale mosaic of form and colour in contrast with the relatively large scale and uniformity of foreground grassland and background sea. The transition from rolling agricultural upland through to the urbanised plain is further characterised by extensive tree cover in and around the urban area. High rise buildings in Worthing are visible against the seascape backdrop. Seaward views form a central component of the main southerly aspect and are extensive along the coast to the west, though limited by immediate vegetation cover to the east. The sea environment is featureless apart from the transitional influence of shipping on the horizon. The setting of Cissbury Ring is designated as a Scheduled Monument with coincident extents of National Trust ownership. The site and its hilltop surrounds all fall within the extents of the South Downs National Park designation. |                                                |                                 |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the National Park designation, its role as a distinct landmark viewpoint destination and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                |                                 |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br>The extent of visibility of the wind farm will be partially obscured behind woodland vegetation on the immediate hill slopes to the left of view. The land to sea view will                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                |                                 |

look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest turbines towards the mid extents of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer across the rows beyond the front line of turbines, under the diminishing influence of perspective. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view, notably contrasting the appearance of the western visible extents of the wind farm. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect in the western extents of the array to the right of view. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. The westernmost substation will be visible at 161 degrees against the more prominent backdrop context of turbines. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 19 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 230 days a year (equating to 63% of the year though potentially as little as 28% of the year based on inland weather data).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines into the seascape context will form a conspicuous element within the view, and therefore present a **medium** magnitude of change. The screening effect of vegetation on the immediate southern slopes of the hill will notably limit the extent of influence of the proposed development, with the greater focus directed towards the open seascape to the right of view. The view is also more notably defined by the immediate extent of foreground urban development, which serves to reduce focus on the backdrop seascape.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect on the high recreational, designated and general viewpoint context sensitivity is assessed to be **major**.

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| <b>Viewpoint 27: Highdown Hill</b><br><b>See Figure 12.40</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                           |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                           |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>509309, 104284                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Elevation: 71m AOD                        | Direction of view: 140°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nearest turbine: 16.8km                   | Farthest turbine: 33.8km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                           |                                  |
| Character area: South Coast Plain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                           | Designation: National Park       |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                           |                                  |
| Receptor types: Visitor/Recreational and Footpath Receptors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                           |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                           |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No. of turbine blade<br>tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 16.8km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>248 (131)*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | No. of turbine hubs<br>visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 33.8km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is located on the route of a Public Right of Way within the National Trust owned extents of Highdown Hill. The site of a hillfort lies immediately behind the viewpoint with limited capacity for inland views beyond the landform and tree cover. The vantage point looks out across the physical transition between the South Downs foothills and the coastal plain which also defines a transition in character between the more typically rural uplands and urbanised coastal lowlands. Views range extensively across Worthing to the east, becoming obscured behind the slopes of Highdown Hill in the west. The extent of sea view across the horizon is expansive and forms a prominent component of the view. The immediate coastal foreground context is however a complex mosaic of urban and urban periphery influences with a predominance of residential use but inclusive of several larger scale industrial units. The extents of Ferring make up the immediate foreground with Angmering to the west and Worthing to the east. Highdown Hill is located within the southern limits of the South Downs National Park with the viewpoint taken adjacent to a hill fort Scheduled Monument.</p> |                                           |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>very high</b> due to its coincidence with the National Park designation, its accessibility as a recreational site and elevated vantage point and the prominence of visual associations with the sea.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                           |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br><p>The land to sea view will look onto the northern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest turbines towards the right of view. The turbines will gradually recede away from the viewer to the left of view and beyond the front line of turbines, under the diminishing influence of perspective. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the centre and left of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 144 degrees against a backdrop of turbines, whilst the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                           |                                  |



furthest substation will be visible at 128 degrees offset from the adjacent turbine rows, with both contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines. The view will typically be experienced in side or back-lit conditions. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 40 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 248 days a year (equating to 68% of the year, though potentially as little as 36% of the year based on inland weather data).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form a prominent element within the seascape component of a broader landscape context and present a **large** magnitude of change. Within the visible extents of land and sea, the proportion of view occupied by the development will become a prominent feature of the seascape component. The visible extent of sea however comprises only a limited part of the overall view, with notable feature and detail in the intervening landward foreground, which reduces focus on the remote seascape. The atmospheric visibility data further suggests the potential for visibility of the proposals to be notably limited by weather conditions.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect in this location is assessed to be **major**. Whilst this judgement reflects the high recreational, designated and general viewpoint context sensitivity of the location, the relative prominence of the proposals will be notably contextualised by urban influences on the intervening coastal plain.

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| <b>Viewpoint 31: Newhaven to Dieppe Ferry</b><br><b>See Figure 12.44</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Location and orientation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                        |                                  |
| OS Grid Ref:<br>555018, 078773                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Elevation: 24m above sea level         | Direction of view: 324°          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Nearest turbine: 18.6km                | Farthest turbine: 40.6km         |
| <b>Seascape/landscape context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                  |
| Character area: Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Offshore Waters                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        | Designation: None                |
| <b>Visual context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                        |                                  |
| Receptor types: Boat Users (Commercial and Recreational)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Proposed wind farm visibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                        |                                  |
| % turbines visible:<br>100                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No. of turbine blade tips visible: 175 | Nearest visible turbine: 18.6km  |
| Days visible/year:<br>234                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | No. of turbine hubs visible: 175       | Farthest visible turbine: 40.6km |
| <b>Existing view:</b><br><p>The viewpoint is taken from the deck of the Newhaven to Dieppe ferry looking back from the direction of travel towards the coastline. The main distinguishable land features are the white cliffs associated with the 'Seven Sisters' between Beachy Head in the east and Seaford Head in the west. The lower height cliff range between Newhaven and Brighton is also visible to a lesser degree beyond the wake of the ferry. The inland backdrop landform of the South Downs is visible where this coincides with the coastal cliffs but is less distinguishable where it lies inland of the coastal plain west of Brighton. The general urban massing of Eastbourne is just discernable on the coastline to the east of Beachy Head. The expansive sea aspect is featureless to the horizon in all other surrounding orientations, punctuated only by the transitional influence of boats and the temperamental influence of weather and sea conditions.</p> |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Visual receptor sensitivity:</b><br><p>The sensitivity of the viewpoint is considered to be <b>medium</b> due to its association with a 'gateway' arrival point to the country. Whilst the context may more generally associate with those with a working relationship with the sea such as commercial or fishing workers, and therefore demonstrate low sensitivity, the capacity for the route to include those with a recreational interest has been acknowledged in the scoring.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                  |
| <b>Predicted view:</b><br><p>The sea to sea view will look onto the south-eastern boundary of the wind farm, with the closest turbines towards the right of view. The curvature of the earth will exert an influence on the visibility of the proposals, with the visible height of turbines gradually diminishing away from the viewer towards the left of view and across the rows beyond the front line of turbines. The regular grid layout illustrates the capacity for both regular and random turbine group associations across the extent of view. Stacking will be an apparent feature where the view orientates along the line of the grid, as illustrated by the effect to the centre and left of view of the visible extents of the wind</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                        |                                  |

farm. The easternmost substation will be barely distinguishable within the greater scale influence of the turbines and beyond the massing of turbines on the horizon towards the right of view. The closest of the two substations will be visible at 257 degrees offset from the adjacent turbine rows, whilst the furthest substation will be visible at 263 degrees set in amongst the turbines, with both contextualised by the greater scale influence of the turbines.. The view will typically be experienced in side-lit conditions, with potential for sunset backdrop views. Within the overall extent of view the proposed development will occupy 20 degrees of the panorama. The atmospheric visibility assessment indicates that potential visibility may be limited by atmospheric conditions to approximately 234 days a year (equating to 64% of the year).

**Predicted magnitude of change:**

The introduction of turbines will form an apparent element within the undeveloped, open seascape context, but will not affect the overall quality or character of view and therefore present a **small** magnitude of change. The expansive scale and uniformity of the seascape will offer little scale or distance association with the wind farm. The existing visual relationship with the 'Seven Sisters' cliffs will include comparative reference to the wind farm, however the relative distance of the wind farm from the viewpoint will limit the potential for the turbines to dominate over the visual presence of the cliffs.

**Level and significance of effect:**

The level of the visual effect on the potentially medium to low range sensitivity associated with recreational or commercial boat users is assessed to be **moderate/minor**.

\* Days visible/year data in parentheses for the inland viewpoints are frequencies derived from the land-based observations at Herstmonceux.