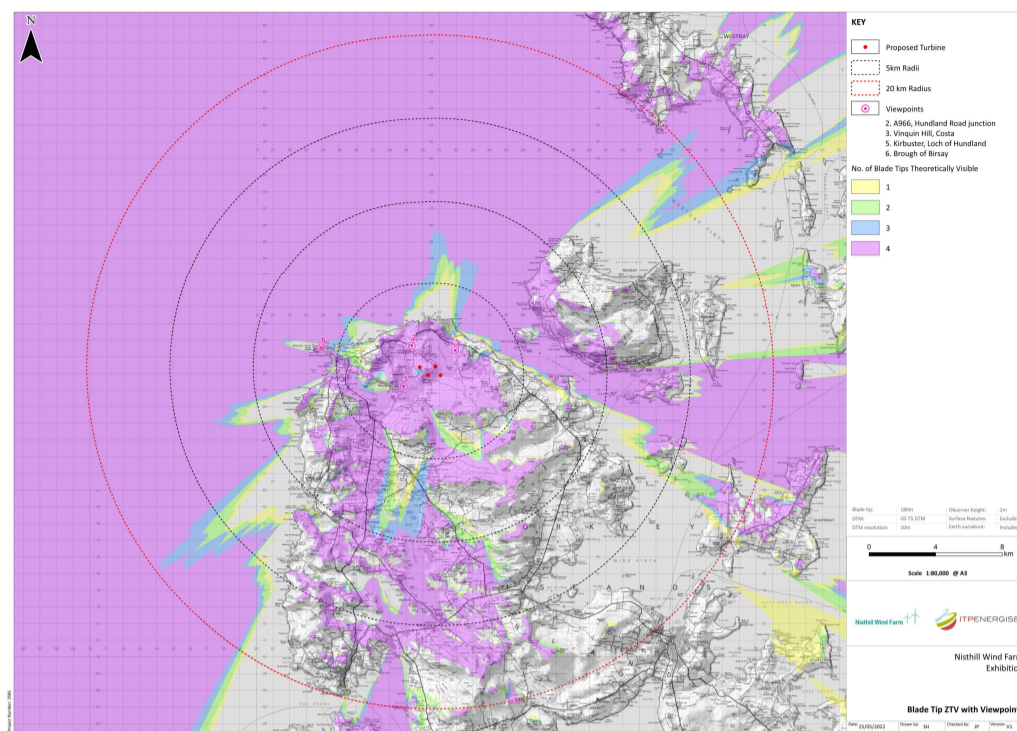


LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT



A landscape and visual impact assessment establishes the potential effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape.

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) as shown above is a computer-generated tool that establishes the likely extent of the visibility of a proposed development and key visual receptors. A ZTV based on preliminary design options has been prepared to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment. This ZTV assumes no vegetation or buildings and so is worst case.

The ZTV indicates the areas where turbines will be visible, based on the relief of the surrounding study area (45 km from the outer turbines). This is supported by producing and analysing wirelines and photomontages from several agreed viewpoints that give a clearer picture of what the new turbines would look like.

The current design consists of 4 turbines of up to 180 m (590 feet) to blade tip.

On the next two banners, you will see four different viewpoints with their respective photomontages. These are to give you an indication of how the wind farm might look. The final EIAR will provide a number of additional viewpoints and give further detail about each and will be available to view once lodged with Orkney Islands Council.

Why tip heights of 180 metres (590 feet)?

There are a number of reasons why a higher tip height is being proposed on this site than is already in situ in Orkney. Firstly, the taller the wind turbine, the more wind it is able to capture. As a result, far more green electricity is generated, maximising the site's capacity. Furthermore, wind turbine manufacturers are continuously improving turbine technology and addressing the specific needs of other countries globally.

Elsewhere in the world, it has become commonplace for 200 m (656 feet) and higher turbines to be erected. In response turbine manufactures are following this global market trend and removing the smaller turbine models (<150 m) from their production line. By choosing a 180 m turbine model we are not only maximising the site's capacity but also ensuring the proposed development, if permitted, can be developed without delay.