

How the project will look

Overview

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is being prepared by Shanti McAllister Landscape Planning & Design Ltd, an independent consultant and Chartered Landscape Architect with over 24 years' experience preparing LVIA's for wind farms in Northern Ireland. LVIA is a formal part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and the methodology used is in accordance with best practice guidance publications relating both to the LVIA process in general and in specific relation to wind farm developments.

Objectives

The objectives of an LVIA are to:

- Present an objective analysis of the landscape and visual character of a defined area (the 'Study Area') in so far as they relate to the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm. The Study Area for this LVIA covers an area that extends to a 30 km radius from the proposed development;
- Identify the potential effects of the proposed development on these baseline conditions including direct, indirect, permanent, temporary and cumulative effects;
- Clearly distinguish between landscape effects – the effects on the physical landscape as a resource in its own right – and visual effects – the effects on specific views and general visual amenity as experienced by people;
- Propose appropriate mitigation measures to address likely significant effects, where possible, and to assess any residual effects that remain following the implementation of these measures;
- Present all information clearly and objectively in a manner that will inform the decision-making process.

Viewpoint Selection

Viewpoints for the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm have been selected from the 29 viewpoints identified and assessed in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the originally consented six-turbine Cam Burn Wind Farm scheme (C/2011/0459/F) and subsequently amended Cam Burn Wind Farm scheme (LA01/2022/1209/F). This allows for a direct comparison between the previous proposals and current Cam Burn II Wind Farm proposal.

The viewpoints were reviewed to ensure that they still provide a range of different view types and viewing locations across the study area. The main aim was to select locations where people are likely to see the wind farm, rather than locations where hills, trees or other landscape features would screen it.

Viewpoints are selected from places that the public can access and commonly use, such as:

- Public footpaths and rights of way
- Car parks
- Tourist attractions
- Villages and settlements
- Scenic viewpoints

Areas where the wind farm is expected to be most visible are also prioritised. Because private homes cannot normally be used as viewpoints, nearby public roads are used to represent the views that residents are likely to experience.

Following this approach, 10 viewpoints will be included in the LVIA, with a selection shown during this consultation. The visual material produced and presented in the Environmental Statement will include:

- Current photographs showing existing views.
- Computer-generated wireline images: simple outline drawings showing where turbines would appear.
- Comparisons between:
 - The originally approved Cam Burn Wind Farm scheme (C/2011/0459/F);
 - The amended Cam Burn Wind Farm scheme (LA01/2022/1209/F);
 - The current Cam Burn II Wind Farm proposal.
- Images showing the proposed turbines alongside other existing or approved wind farms in the area, known as cumulative views.
- Photomontages, which are realistic images showing how the turbines would look in the landscape.

These viewpoints are examples rather than a complete picture of every possible view across the area. They are intended to provide a snapshot of what the wind farm could look like from representative locations.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Diagrams

A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) is a map that shows all the places from which the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm could potentially be seen.

The map is created using computer modelling of the area's landform and is used as a starting point to identify where the turbines might be visible before more detailed site surveys are carried out. A ZTV does not take account of:

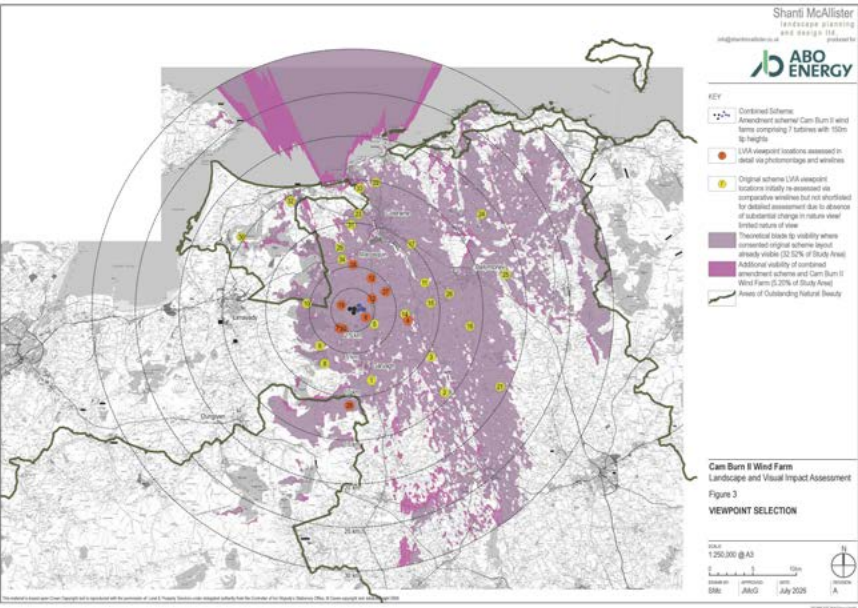
- Trees and other vegetation
- Buildings
- Small hills, ridges or dips in the land
- Other features that could block views

As a result, a ZTV often shows a larger area of visibility than would actually occur on the ground. The ZTV maps are based on whether either the top of the turbine blade, known as the blade tip, or the centre of the turbine rotor diameter, known as the hub height, would be visible. Each map clearly states which measure has been used.

A blade-tip ZTV shows every area where even the very top of a turbine blade could theoretically be seen. This does not necessarily mean that the whole turbine would be visible.

- The blade-tip ZTV included in the Viewpoint Selection map is used to show:
- Where the originally approved Cam Burn Wind Farm would have been visible;
 - Where the amended Cam Burn Wind Farm scheme would add visibility; and
 - Where the amended scheme and the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm together would create additional areas from which turbines could potentially be seen.

In simple terms, the ZTV is a worst-case visibility map that helps identify where the wind farm might be visible, but it does not reflect exactly what people will see on the ground.



Glenough wind farm

