

Landscape & Visual

A preliminary layout of 60 turbines, all 140m to blade tip, was provided by SSE in order to initiate the Scoping process. This layout was based on the technical capacity of the site and took little consideration environmental constraints, including landscape and visual matters.

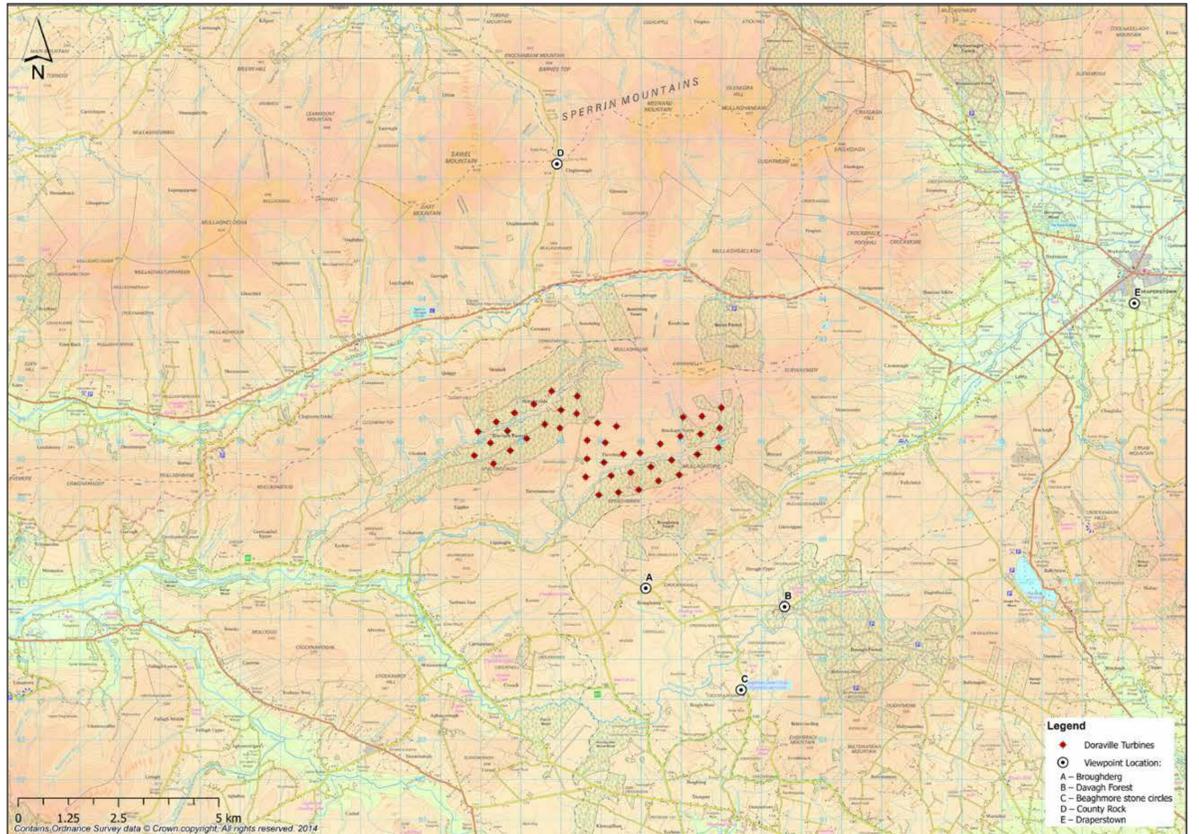
This preliminary layout has been computer-modelled in order to produce computer-generated visualisations that show its appearance from a variety of locations around the site. A series of 19 preliminary viewpoints has been identified during site visits and through some preliminary consultation. These preliminary viewpoints are located to represent a number of locations around the proposed wind farm site, including various points on the Glenelly Road, residential views (including Broughderg, Cranagh, Glen Lark and Ligatraght), visitor attractions (Beaghmore stone circles, Davagh Forest, Lenamore picnic site, NCR 95, and the Glenelly Scenic Route) and mountain tops in the Sperrin Mountains. Other more general views have also been included to show the overall type of views that may be available to people driving around the area.

Since the submission of the Scoping Report, an exercise to evaluate the landscape and visual capacity of the site and reduce the level of visibility has subsequently been undertaken, with regard given to the landform and land use patterns on and around the site. Environmental constraints were also considered. As a result of this exercise, layout changes have been implemented through the identification of the specific turbines that are consistently highly visible in views and the removal or relocation of these to other parts of the site where there is more capacity. The height of some turbines has also been reduced from 140m to 126.5m to blade tip as this can be highly beneficial in concealing or reducing the level of visibility.

The outcome of this exercise is an interim layout of 43 turbines, of which 18 are 126.5m high and the remainder are 140m high. These are located in two main areas:

- 1) the upper Glenlark River valley; and
- 2) the upper Coneyglen Burn valley

where the valley landform provides something of a barrier to visibility from surrounding areas. Computer visualisations of this revised layout from the viewpoints are shown in the Figures below.



The key improvements seen in views of this revised 43-turbine layout include the following:

- No visibility from the viewpoints in the Glenelly valley, on the Glenelly Scenic Route (Viewpoints 2, 3 and 4);
- No visibility from Cranagh (Viewpoint 3);
- Greatly reduced visibility from the Beaghmore stone circles (Viewpoint 1) and NCR 95 at Coneyglen Bridge (Viewpoint 8);
- Reduced visibility from the Lenamore picnic site (Viewpoint 5), Moyard Road near Six towns (Viewpoint 10), the road near Eagle Rock (Viewpoint 12) and the mountain top views (Viewpoints 6, 9 and 11); Glenlark (Viewpoint 16), Ligatraght, Coneyglen (Viewpoint 17), Broughderg (Viewpoint 18) and Davagh Forest (Viewpoint 19).

Further Work

The 43 turbine layout is considered to provide an interim design solution that better reflects the topography and capacity of the landscape and will usefully provide a basis for ongoing consultation and survey work for the proposed wind farm. However, further refinement of the layout is likely to be required in respect of a number of aspects of the development, both in technical and visual terms. The final layout will then be used to proceed with a full landscape and visual assessment, which will examine the potential effects of the wind farm on views from the surrounding areas as well as effects on landscape character.

In order for the visual aspects of the proposed wind farm to be fully considered, SSE Renewables is asking people to identify suggestions of viewpoint locations that are of importance to local residents in order that the visibility of the wind farm from these locations can be taken into consideration in the ongoing design process.

Photomontages: Doraville Wind Farm



VP1 - Davagh Forest



VP2 - Davagh Road, northwest of Broughderg



VP3 - Beaghmore Stone Circles



VP4 - County Rock