

Pre-Application Consultation Event and Onshore Update - August 2022

Document No.	GBPNTD-PGM-PEN-CM-00004
Project:	Pentland Floating Offshore Windfarm
Originator Company	Pentland FOWF
Revision	01
Classification	Public
Author	OR Creative
Date	24.08.2022

Revision History:

Revision	Date	Status	Author	Reviewed	Approved
01	24.08.2022	For Information	OR Creative	RJM	PEM



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OVERVIEW

Welcome to the virtual public exhibition and consultation for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm. This consultation event is being held to update local residents and other interested stakeholders on key changes made to the onshore proposal. We encourage feedback as the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm progresses towards submission of its application documents for the onshore elements of the project. We are committed to working with local communities and stakeholders to help shape the development of our proposal.

This consultation is being undertaken virtually. This virtual exhibition is similar to what you would expect to find at a traditional public exhibition including information boards on the proposal, opportunities to ask the team questions and possibilities to provide feedback.

This virtual exhibition includes images, maps and a list of frequently asked questions to provide an overview of the project and current development activities. It will explain the changes made to the onshore proposal since the previous consultation.

This exhibition is focused on the onshore elements of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm. Further information regarding the offshore proposal is available on www.pentlandfloatingwind.com.

The consultation period runs until 19 September 2022. You can provide feedback through the feedback form in this virtual exhibition until this date.

We will review the feedback together with the results of the environmental assessments which will be undertaken to inform

the final design of the project. Details of how your comments may have influenced the final design will be explained in the application submissions.

Please note that any comments made on the proposals at this stage are not representations to the planning authority. When the application is submitted to The Highland Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have an opportunity then to make formal representations to the Council.

LIVE CHAT QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

On Thursday 1 September 2022 the project team will be available to answer questions you may have on a live chat function in the virtual public exhibition during the following times: 12:00–14:30 and 18:00–20:30.

Our website www.pentlandfloatingwind.com provides further information about the project. Should you have any further questions or feedback once the consultation period for this exhibition has closed, you can contact us at pentland-stakeholder@cop.dk.

WHO WE ARE

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is being developed by Highland Wind Limited which is majority owned by a fund managed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) with Hexicon AB as a minority shareholder. Project development activities are being led by CIP's development partner, Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP). The project development team is based in COP's Global Floating Wind Competence in Edinburgh.



Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S (CIP) is a fund management company focused on energy infrastructure including offshore wind, onshore wind, solar photovoltaic (PV), biomass and energy-from-waste, transmission and distribution, reserve capacity and storage, and other energy assets like Power-to-X.

CIP has offices in Copenhagen, Hamburg, New York, Tokyo, Utrecht, Melbourne and London. CIP was founded in 2012 by senior executives from the energy industry in cooperation with PensionDanmark. CIP manages eight funds and has approximately €16 billion under management.

www.cippartners.dk



Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP) is a leading and experienced provider of project development, construction management, and operational management services to offshore wind projects.

The company is headquartered in Denmark and has offices in Taiwan, USA, Australia, Japan, South Korea, UK & Vietnam. COP's team of specialists has a broad range of competencies within project management, early and late-stage project development, engineering, construction, procurement, operational management as well as business development and project financing.

www.cop.dk



Hexicon AB is a leading floating offshore wind technology and project developer. It was founded in 2009 and is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.

www.hexicon.eu

THE PENTLAND FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm will be located off the coast of Dounreay, Caithness.

It will comprise up to seven turbines and will provide enough energy to power to approximately 70,000 homes, equivalent to approximately 65% of homes in the Highland Council Area (based on 2020 figures).

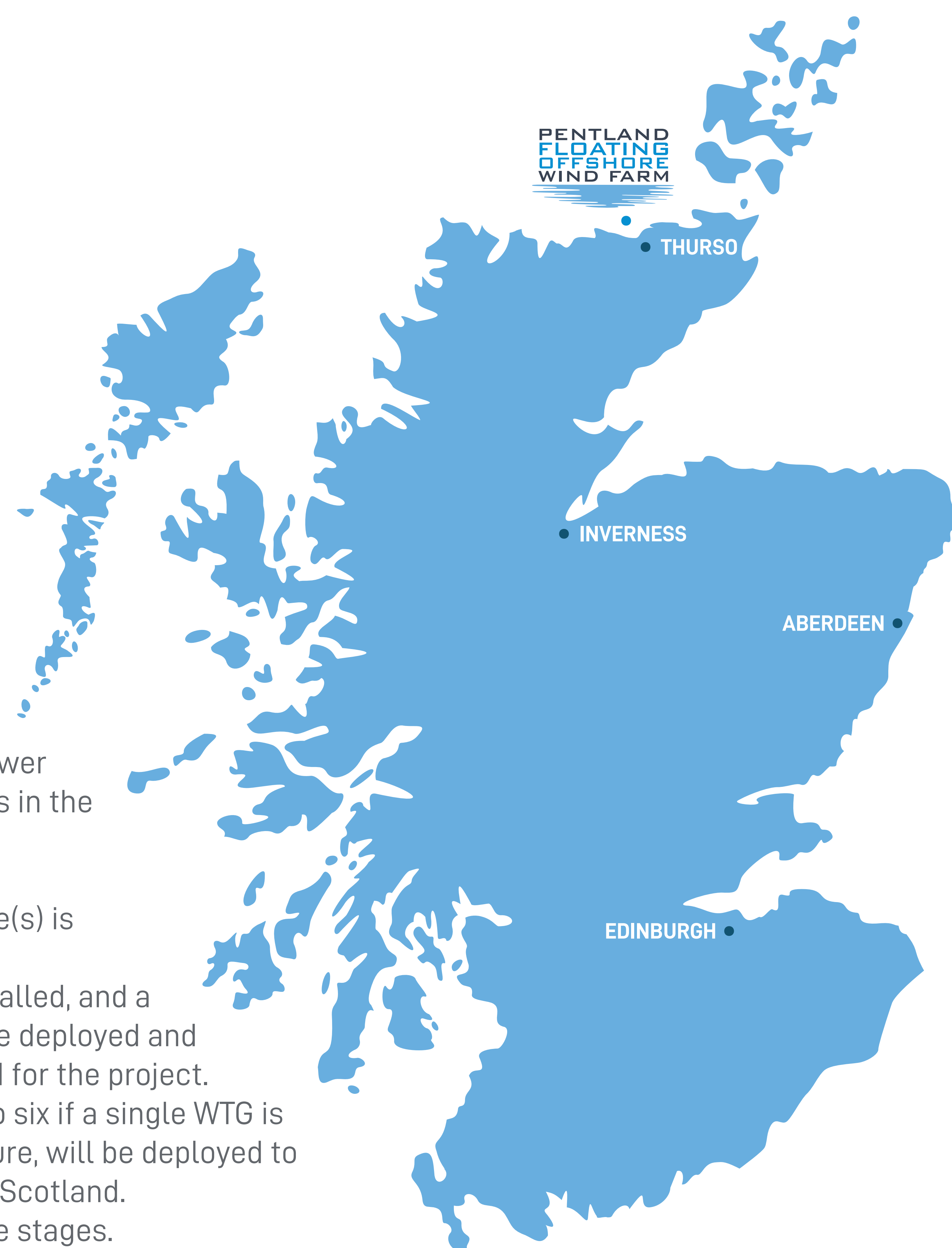
Construction of the wind farm and installation of the offshore export cable(s) is anticipated to take place in two stages:

- Stage 1: The anchors for all Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) will be installed, and a single floating demonstrator WTG and associated infrastructure may be deployed and commissioned ahead of the wider array to trial the technology required for the project.
- Stage 2: The remainder of the array, comprising up to seven WTGs (up to six if a single WTG is installed as part of the first stage) and associated offshore infrastructure, will be deployed to test and demonstrate commercial-scale floating wind technologies in Scotland.
- The construction of the onshore elements of the project will span these stages.

The project is anticipated to be commissioned and in operation by the end of 2026.

The onshore substation for the project will be located adjacent to the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) and the former Dounreay Nuclear Facility.

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm onshore elements is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Highland Council in 2022.



DEVELOPMENT



A staged approach to the deployment of the floating technology underpins the development of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, as well as our future floating projects in Scotland and globally.

INNOVATION



The innovative technology trialled in this project will be key to the commercialisation of this floating technology. It will deliver valuable insight into developing floating wind technology in Scotland.

LEARNING



The learnings from this will help contribute to the development of a strong Scottish supply chain for floating wind.

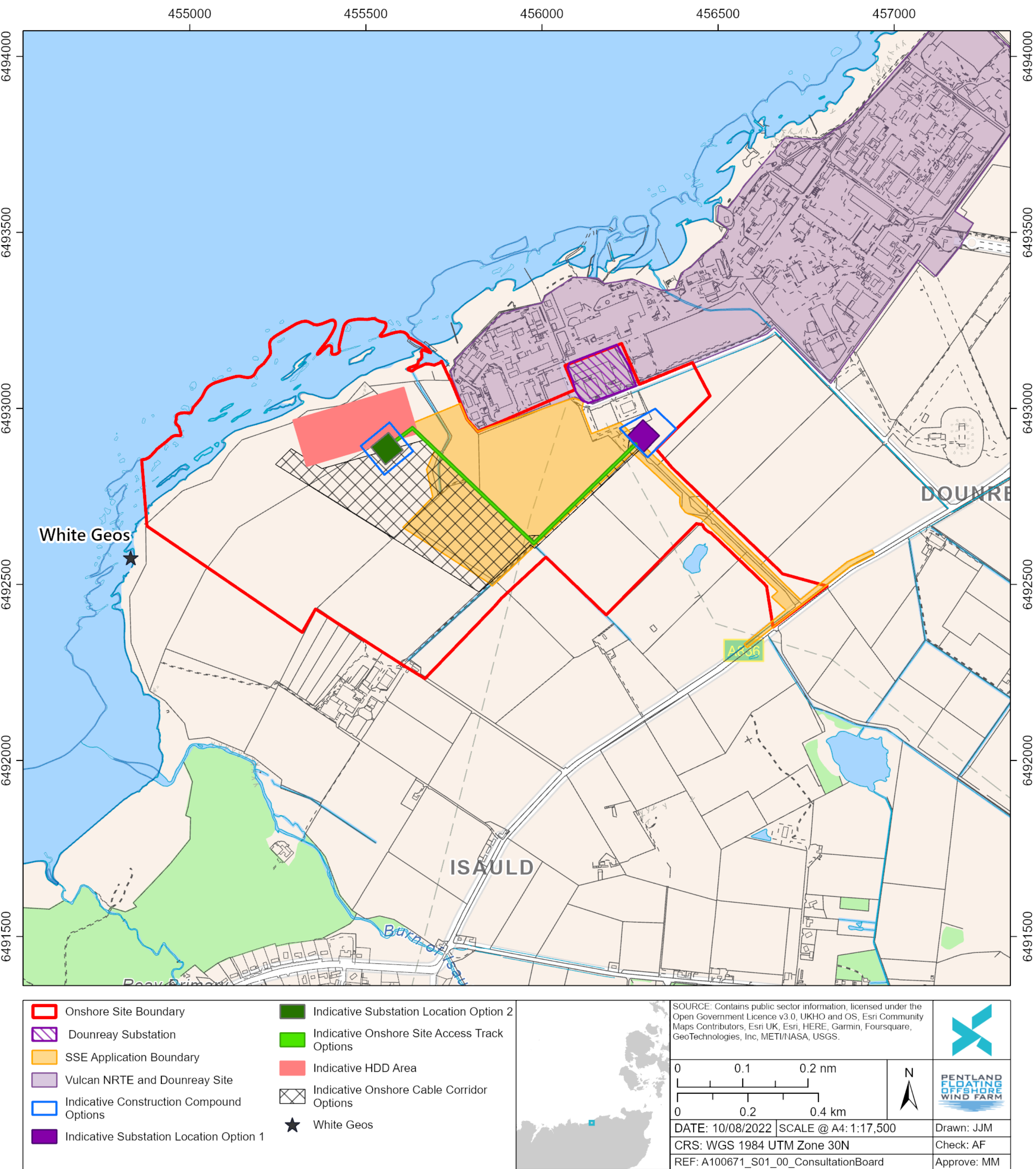
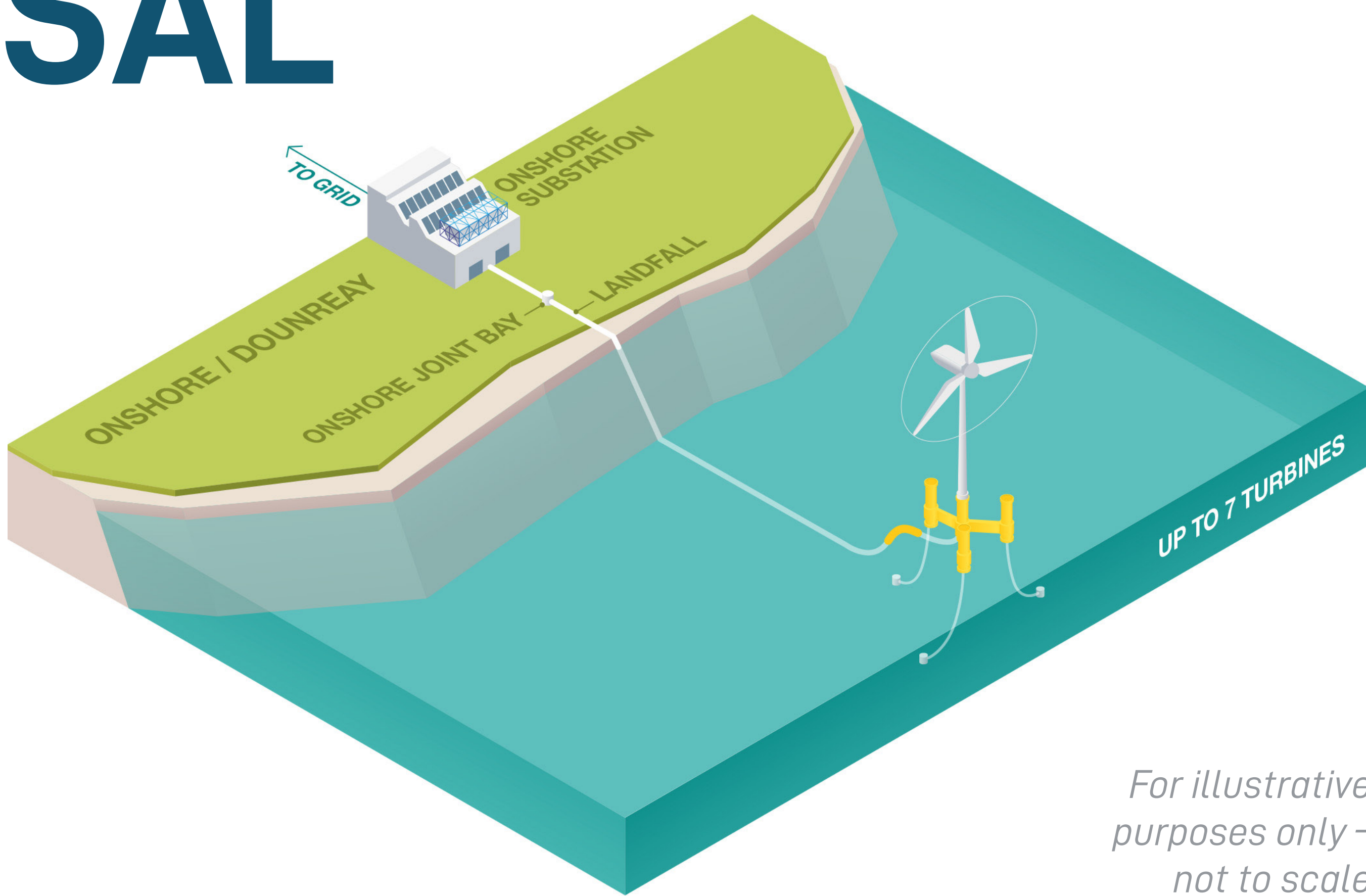


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ONSHORE PROPOSAL

The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is applying for planning permission in principle for the onshore substation and transmission infrastructure.

Planning permission in principle allows the proposal to be assessed by the planning authority without the details of the layout and design being finalised at the application stage. This allows the principle of the development to be approved whilst allowing for flexibility in the design. Details of the final design and layout will be submitted to The Highland Council for approval ahead of construction work commencing.



The onshore infrastructure will comprise:

- A cable landfall west of the Vulcan nuclear facility – the preferred option is for the cable to be brought to shore by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD);
- A maximum of two onshore cable circuits buried to a depth of approximately one metre;
- A cable Transition Joint Bay (TJB) where offshore and onshore cables are spliced together;
- An onshore substation and switchgear; and
- A temporary construction compound.

It is currently expected that the grid connection point will be into the existing SSE 132/33/11 kV Dounreay Substation and a connection agreement has been received from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission.

Two indicative onshore substation locations have been identified (as indicated on the map above). These are indicative positions only and the locations for the onshore substation and associated construction compound have not yet been finalised within the onshore site. The final position will be subject to detailed design and further consultation with The Highland Council and relevant consultees, if planning permission is granted.

The onshore substation will include the electrical equipment required to connect the project to the grid. The main components encapsulated in the onshore substation are:

- Transformers;
- Reactors;
- Capacitors;
- Power Electronics; and
- Associated substation equipment.

The main components encapsulated in the construction compound (in addition to the onshore substation) are:

- Offices / welfare facility;
- Car park;
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) storage;
- Plant fuel / gas storage and refuelling area;
- Diesel generator;
- Water tanks;
- General / recycling / hazardous waste skips;
- Quarantine area;
- Plant storage/ laydown area; and
- Security office.

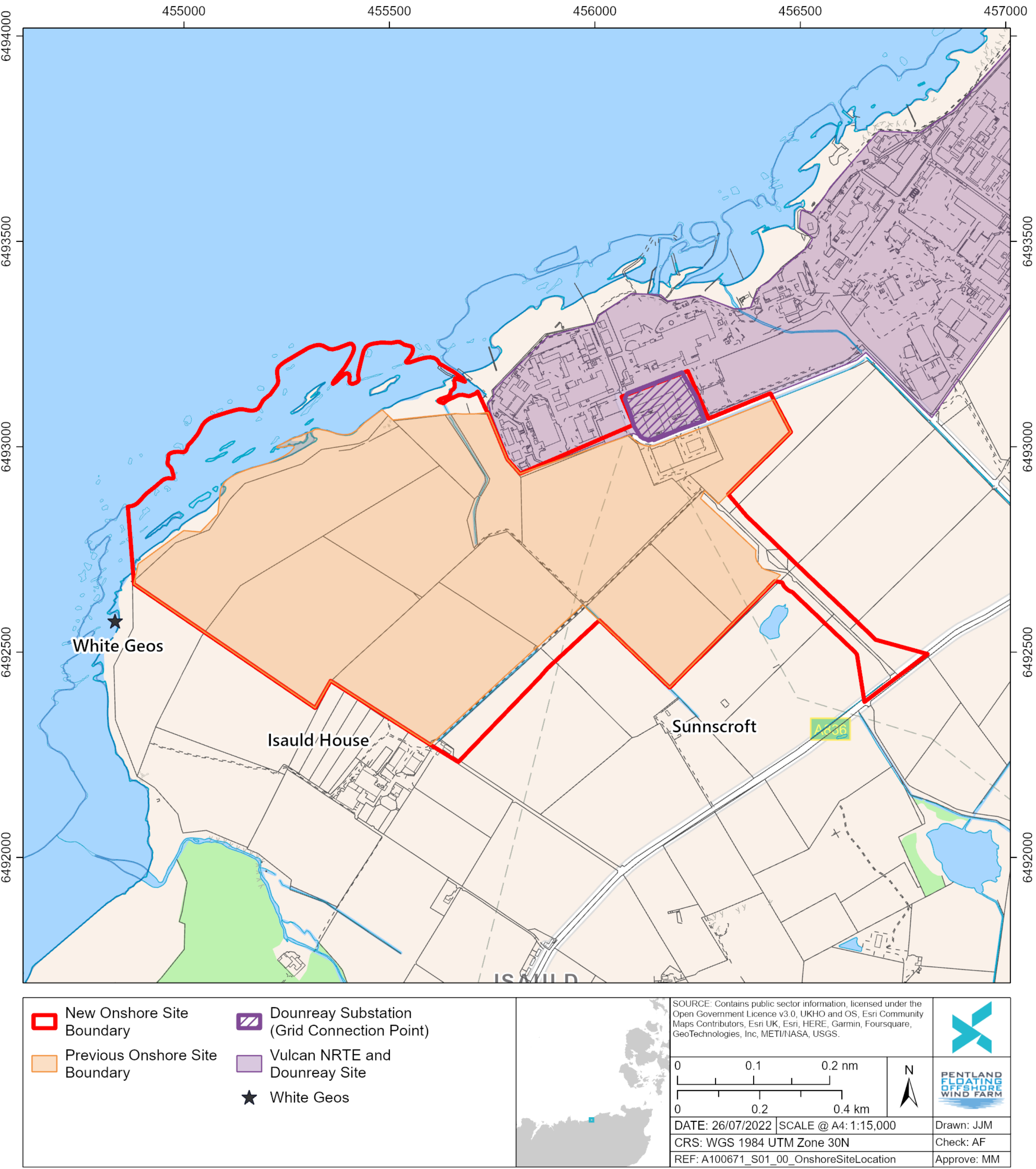
Depending on the final design, the electrical equipment may be housed externally. The exact location of the onshore substation, construction compound, access roads and other onshore infrastructure will be decided at a later stage, following landowner discussions, detailed design and interactions with other projects.



For illustrative purposes only – final substation design and location may differ

MAXIMUM PARAMETER	VALUE / DESCRIPTION
Substation Width	65 m
Substation Length	65 m
Substation Height	14 m
Substation Footprint	4,225 m ²
Construction Compound Footprint	6,975 m ²
Combined Substation & Construction Compound Footprint	11,200 m ² (1.12 hectares)
Perimeter Fence Height	2.4 m

Indicative parameters, subject to final design



CHANGES TO THE ONSHORE SITE

The onshore site area has been increased compared to what has been shown at previous consultation events to include aspects of the development which were not previously included.

This includes the intertidal area covering the area between Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS), an access track and a route into the existing substation where the project will connect into the national grid.

The decision was made to incorporate all onshore requirements within one application. Although the site area has been increased (as indicated on the map), the proposed infrastructure and its footprint has not changed.

CONSENTS & ASSESSMENTS

An application for planning permission in principle will be made under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to The Highland Council for the onshore elements of the project.

The application to The Highland Council will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

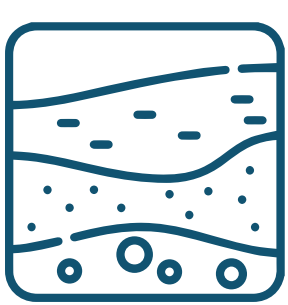
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a systematic process which identifies and assesses the potential significant environmental effects of a project, informs the design of the project from an environmental perspective, and sets out standard industry and additional mitigation measures to eliminate or minimise the project's effect on the environment. An EIA report is the written output of the EIA process.

An EIA will be prepared for the onshore project components. The EIA will demonstrate that all potentially significant effects on the environment have been considered and assessed and that appropriate mitigation measures to reduce any significant effects are identified and commitments made to implement these.



The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is currently undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment for the onshore development to establish the potential impacts on various receptors in the vicinity of the project. An extensive programme of surveys have been undertaken to underpin the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The final results of the assessments will be detailed within the onshore EIA report.



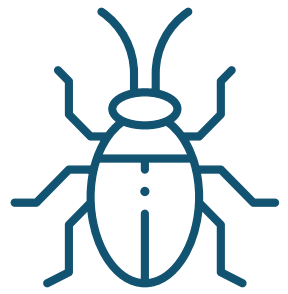
GEOLOGY & HYDROGEOLOGY

A field walkover survey identified main topographical, hydrological and hydrogeological features within the site, including drainage patterns, watercourse crossings, private water supplies and peatlands. The assessment will cover impacts on identified geology and hydrogeology receptors from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases, including potential effects from ground breaking construction works, for example during HDD and installation of cables.



LAND USE, AGRICULTURE & SOILS

A site walkover survey was undertaken to ground truth receptors including soils, land use, property, recreational areas, utilities and access tracks that are present within the onshore site and surrounding area. The EIA will assess the key land uses including agricultural land, areas of residential and commercial properties, and utilities together with the locations of transport routes, access tracks and routes used for informal recreation.



TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

A suite of terrestrial ecology surveys are being undertaken to identify local wildlife and ecology. This includes Extended Phase One habitat surveys which will characterise the baseline habitat and vegetation and identify signs of protected species or other species of conservation importance. National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys have also been undertaken to identify sensitive habitats within the site and to classify any ground-water dependent terrestrial ecosystems. Bat surveys have also been undertaken around the site, including surveys of buildings within the area, to identify signs of bat activity. The Ecological Impact Assessment will assess potential impacts on ecological receptors, including direct habitat loss, potential for disturbance or injury, and indirect effects due to pollution sedimentation.



TERRESTRIAL ORNITHOLOGY

A programme of bird surveys was undertaken to identify the local ornithology features in order to support the ornithology impact assessment. The survey scope included terrestrial breeding bird surveys, foraging seabirds, and wintering migrant bird surveys. The survey area focussed on the onshore site and surrounding area, and coastal waters. The EIA will assess the impacts of the onshore development on these species in terms of effects such as disturbance, habitat loss and potential displacement.



ONSHORE ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

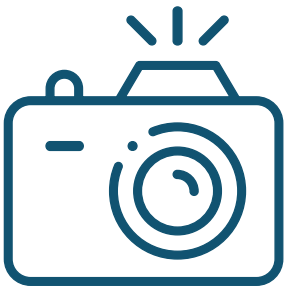
An archaeology and cultural heritage terrestrial site survey was conducted for the previous Dounreay Tri consent application to ascertain the position of any potentially vulnerable cultural heritage features within the onshore site. This survey covered all the areas relating to the onshore development application, and so is applicable to the assessment. This included augmenting heritage data collected from records and highlighted through consultation and determining whether there were any previously unrecorded historic features visible or present at the site. The EIA will consider the impact of the onshore development on scheduled monuments, listed buildings and other designated archaeological and cultural heritage assets.



AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

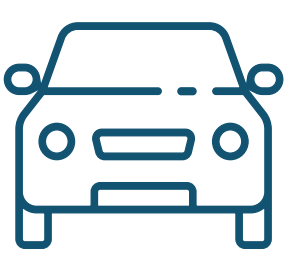
The EIA will assess construction and decommissioning activities that could impact localised air quality from the generation of dust, and the potential impacts of these on human health and ecological receptors.

Dust may be generated from construction works such as onshore cable laying and upgrading of access tracks. The assessment will also consider potential cumulative air quality impacts that may arise from nearby developments. The EIA report will also include an assessment of the carbon costs and savings impact of the onshore development. Findings from the greenhouse gas and carbon assessment for the offshore development will be used to quantify the overall carbon savings with regard to the onshore infrastructure. This will include a high level assessment which will quantify the carbon offset of the wind farm in relation to the carbon footprint of the onshore infrastructure. Additionally, information will be provided in relation to potential alternatives for materials for the onshore infrastructure, which will note the strategy for selecting the materials including the criteria that materials selected will ensure the project is carbon neutral.



LANDSCAPE & VISUAL AMENITY

In order to ascertain the potential visual impacts on static viewpoints, a number of wirelines and photomontages will be created from all viewpoints to be assessed within the EIA. The viewpoints have been identified through site surveys and through consultation with statutory consultees. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will assess effects on landscape character and visual amenity, from effects such as loss of agricultural land and vegetation, and introduction of development infrastructure to the environment. Careful site selection and iterative design of the layout have sought to minimise landscape and visual effects associated with the onshore development through embedded mitigation.



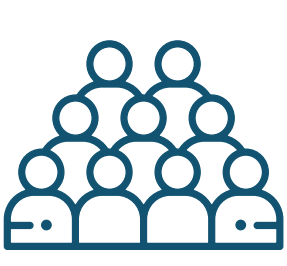
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

A desk study and review of existing traffic surveys has been undertaken to provide the baseline and characterisation of the existing traffic network. The assessment will focus on potential effects arising from traffic generation through the construction phase, and particularly cumulative impacts with other projects, including road safety, driver delay, noise and effects on vulnerable road users (including pedestrians, particularly children and older adults or disabled people, cyclists, horse riders, and motorcyclists).



ONSHORE NOISE

The main source of noise from the development is likely to come from noisy construction activities, such as HDD works. Whilst noise impacts during operation and maintenance are unlikely to cause significant disturbance, noise from the operation elements of the development, such as the substation, will be assessed within the EIA. Cumulative impacts will also be assessed to identify any overlap of noisy construction work with other nearby projects, such as the Dounreay substation. A detailed assessment and background noise survey will be undertaken once substation location and layout are finalised prior to construction.



BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & SUPPLY CHAIN

The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm has completed a consultation on the community benefit approach. The project is committed to supporting local suppliers, where possible, and developing the project so that it promotes the welfare, livelihood and sustainability of local communities. You can find more details on Board 7: Benefits to the Community on how to get involved in the consultation process and further information on supply chain engagement and contribution to the local economy.

SUBSTATION OPTION 1 – LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACTS

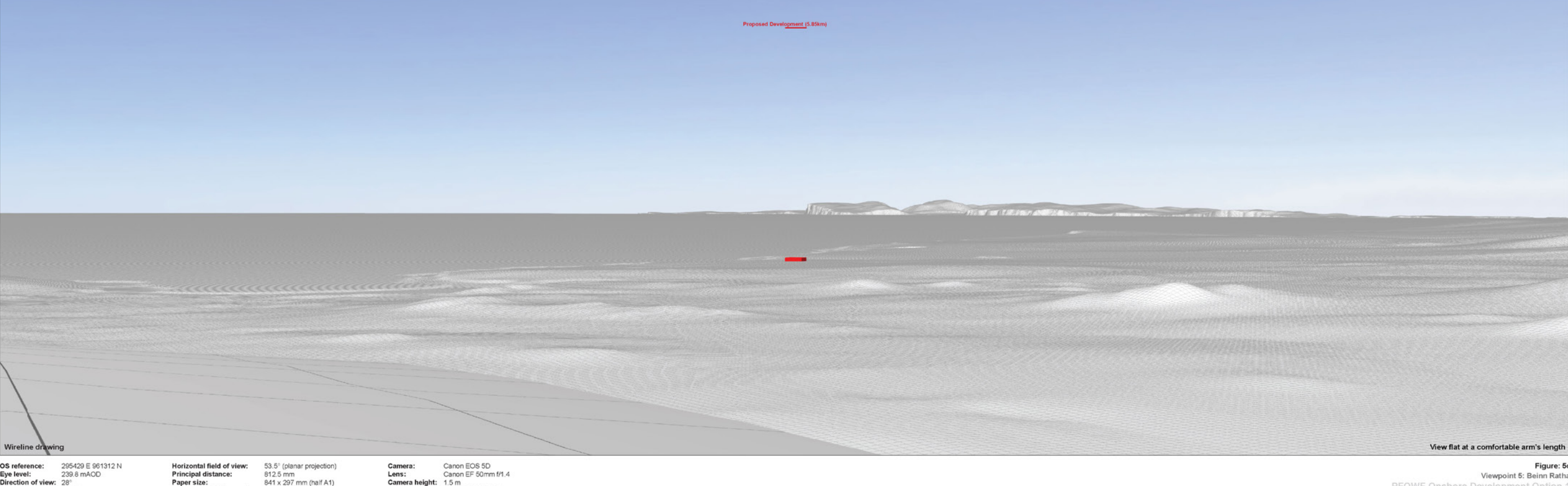
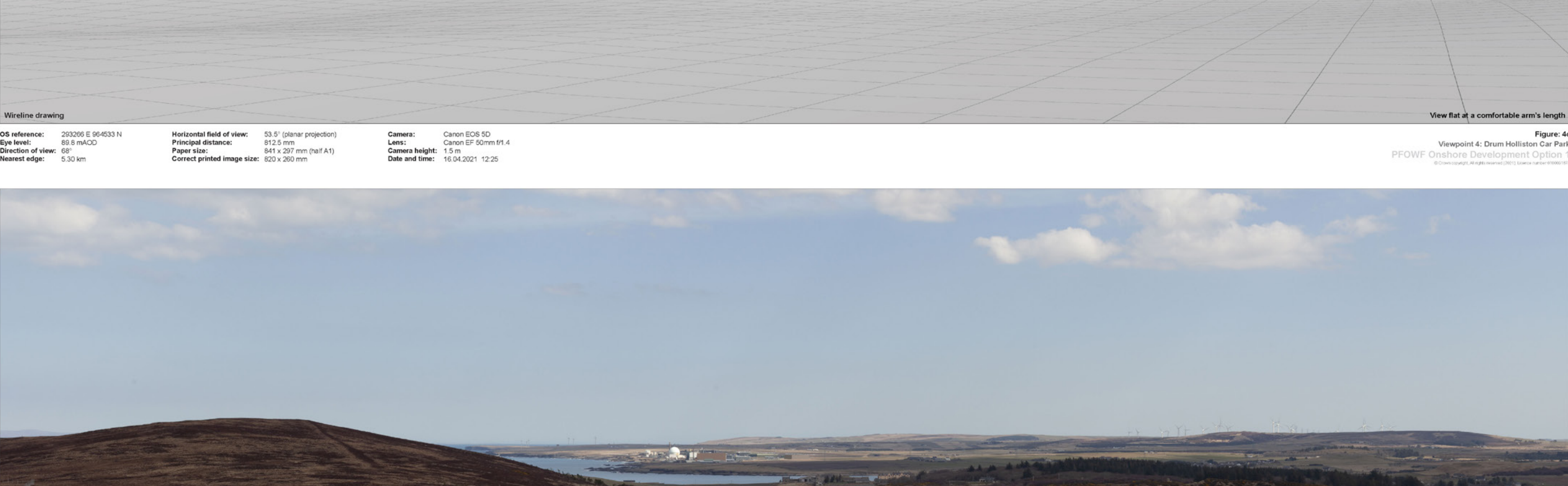
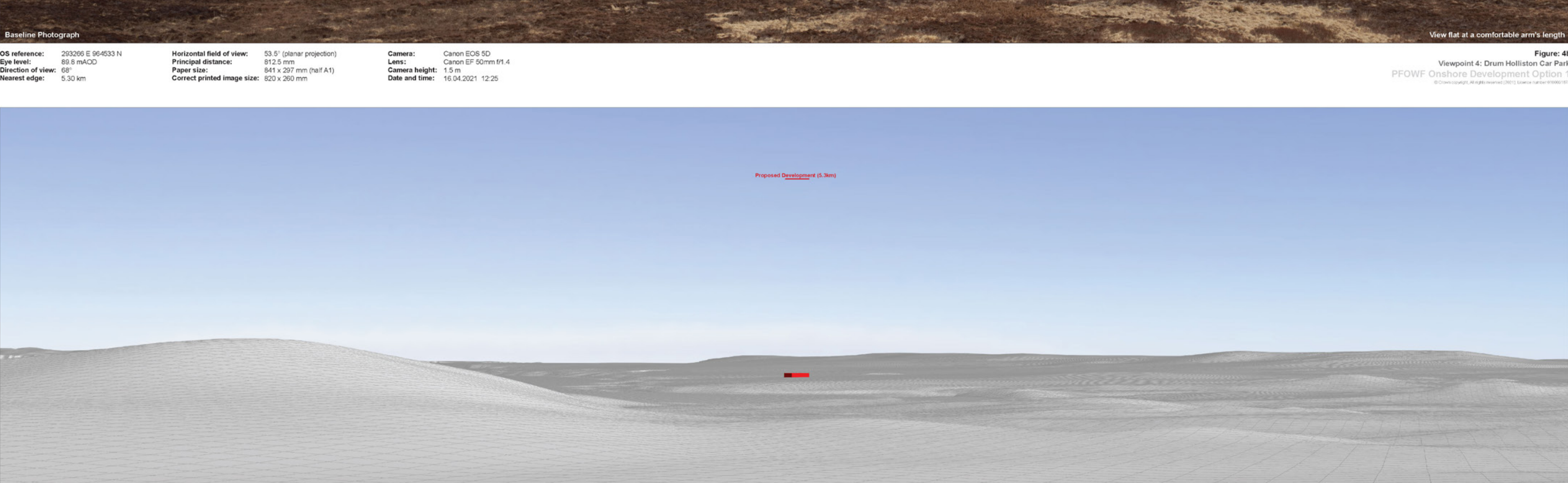
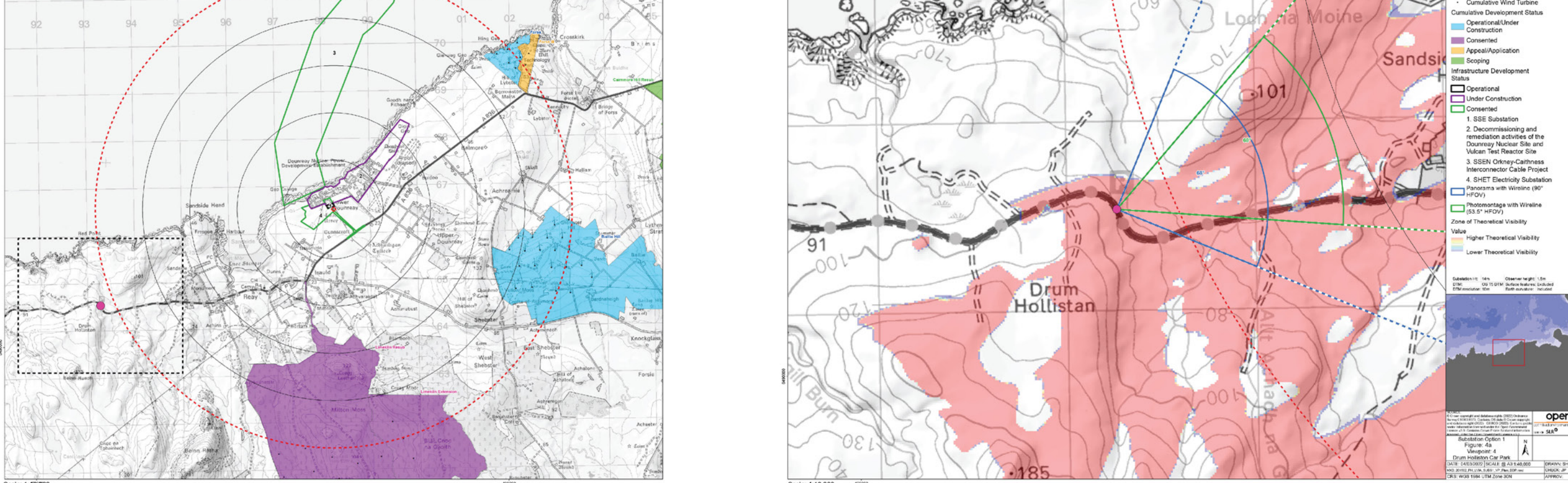
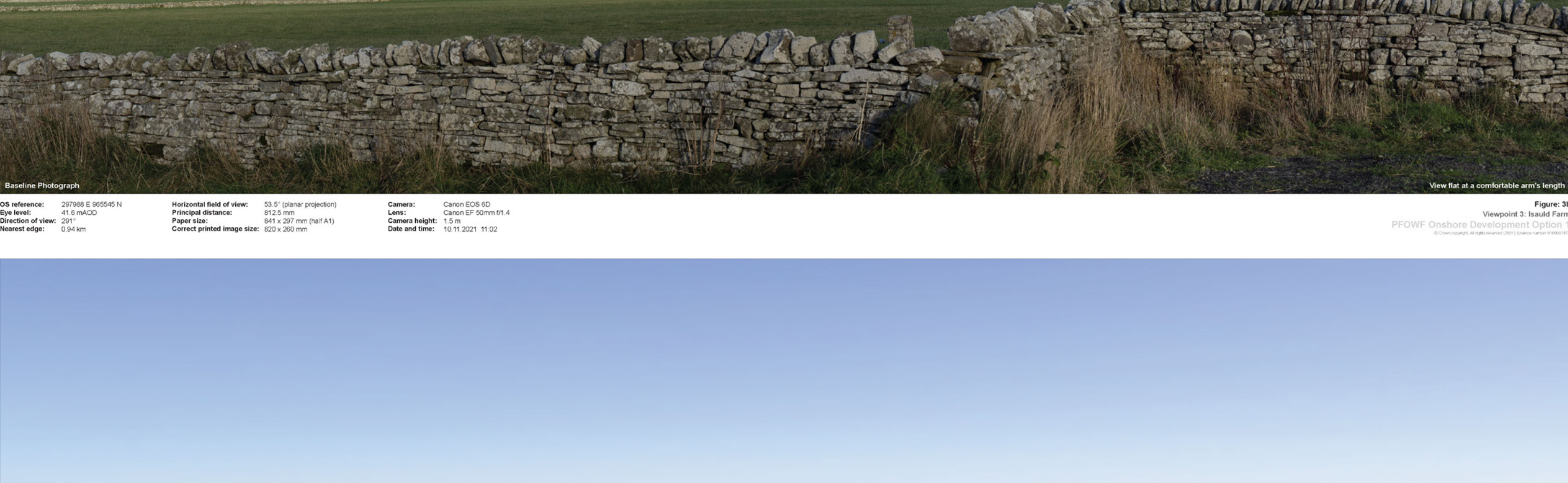
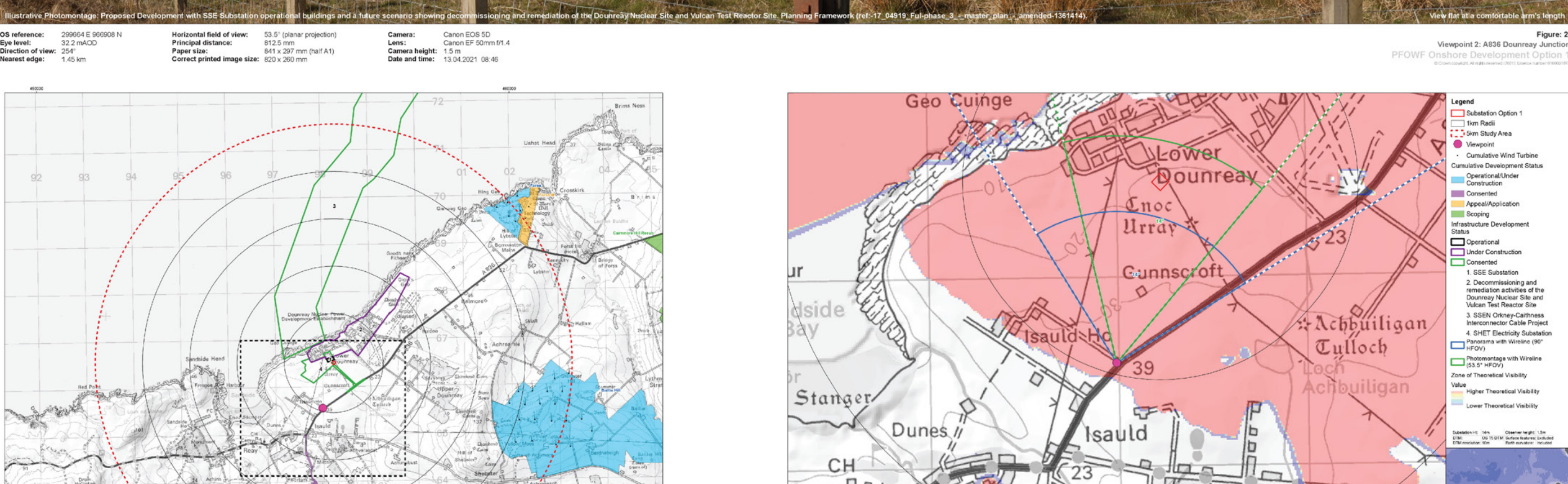
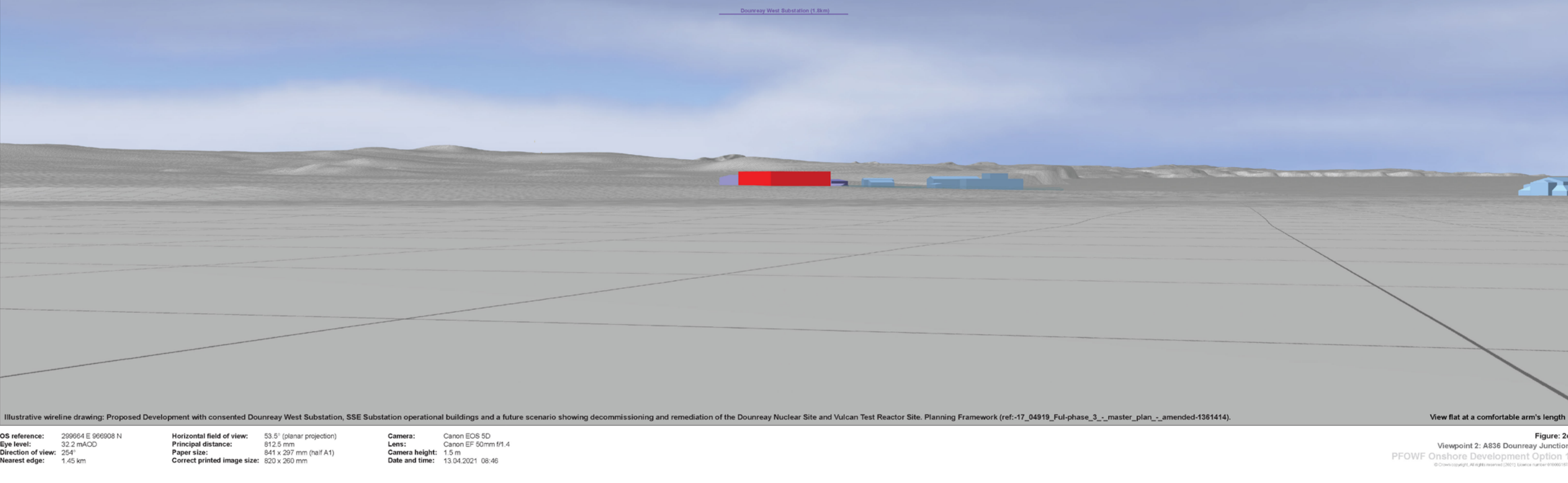
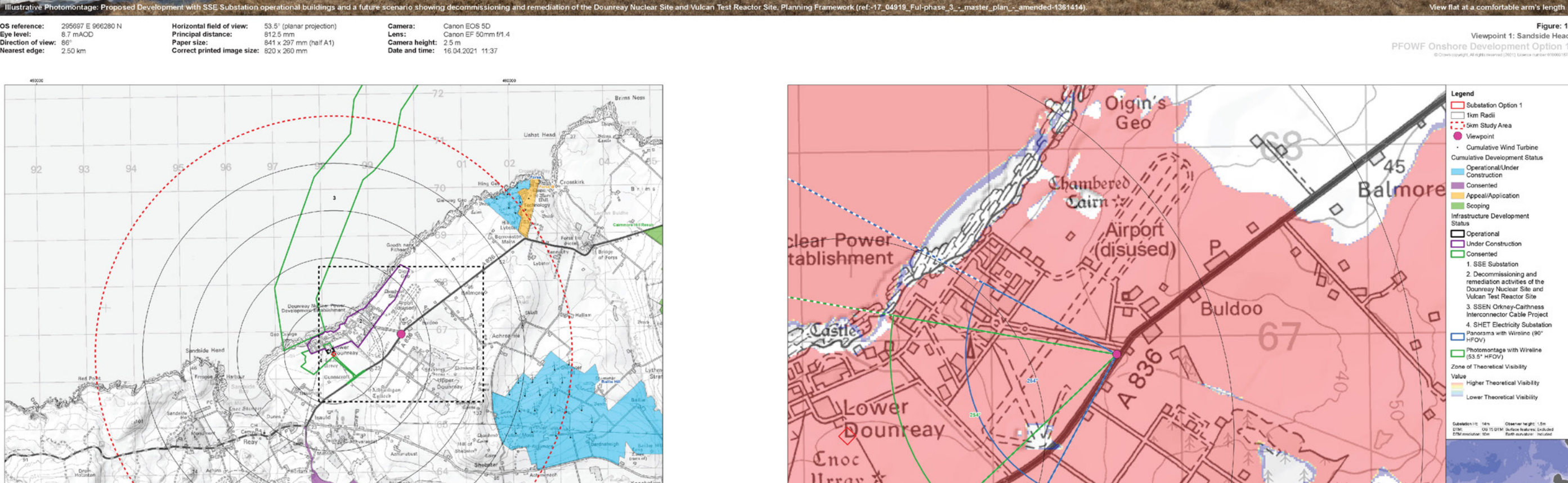
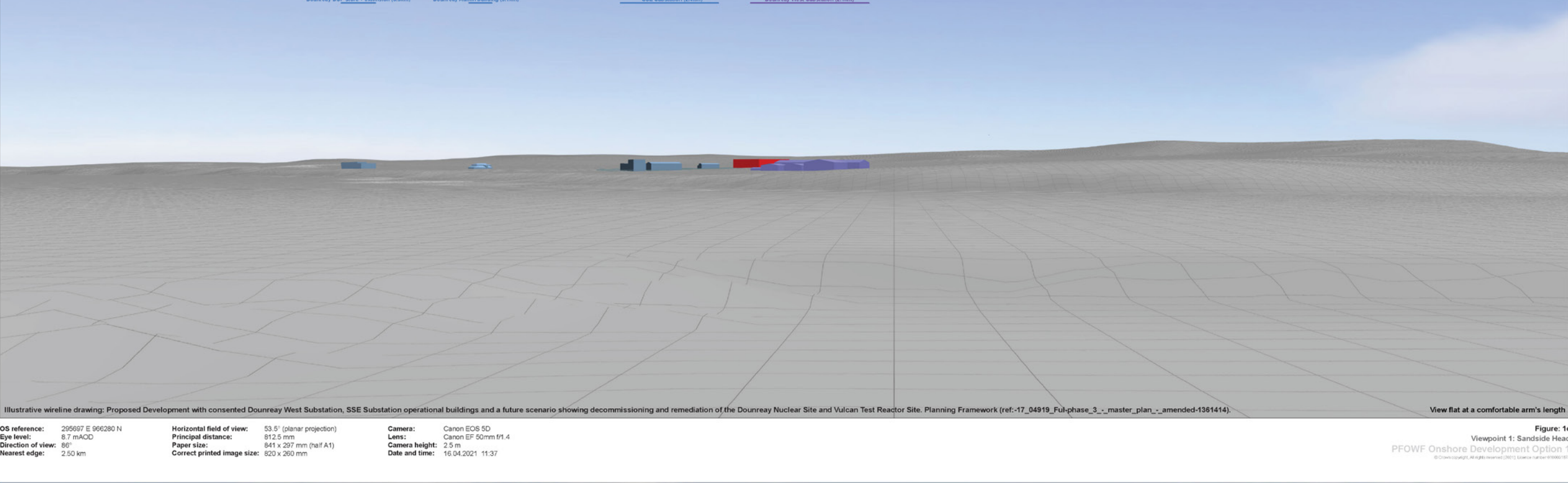
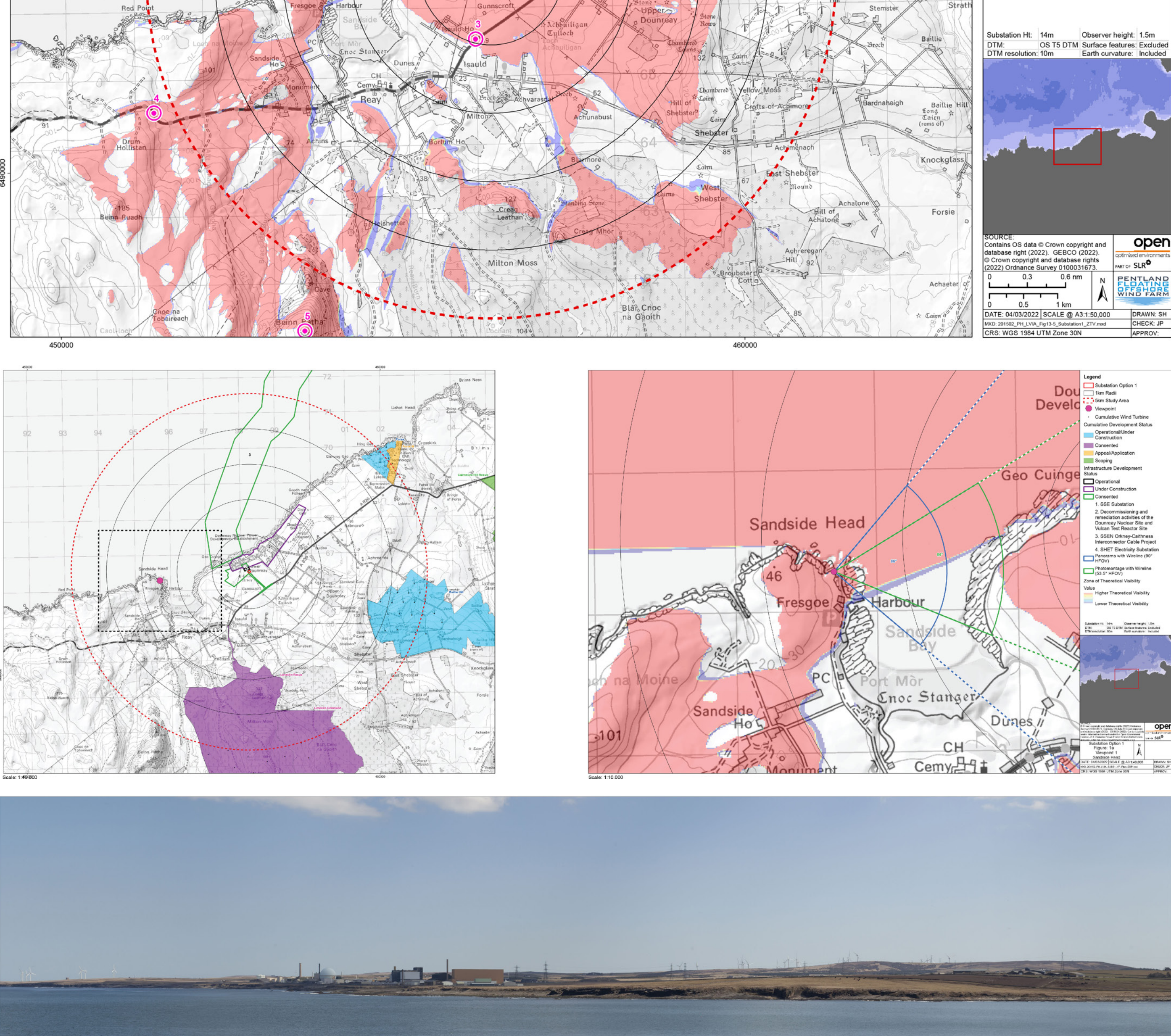
The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) assesses the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity, arising as a result of the onshore development. The LVIA assesses the potential impacts of the project on landscape and visual receptors within the 5km onshore study area. This includes the likely impacts of the onshore development, comprising the onshore substation, landfall, onshore cable route and other associated infrastructure including the plant required during construction and decommissioning. The LVIA assesses the likely effects that the construction and operation of the onshore development will have on landscape and visual receptors, encompassing effects on coastal character, landscape character, wild land, effects on views and visual receptors, and cumulative effects.

Visibility of the onshore development will be largely contained within the 5km radius from the boundary of the onshore development. This relates to the relatively small scale of the onshore substation, the enclosure of landform which gradually rises up from the coastal edge, and the large-scale forestry which covers the sweeping moorlands to the south.

The photomontages and wirelines presented below provide an indication of the likely visibility of the onshore development from the selected viewpoints.

These represent visibility during 'very good' or 'excellent' conditions to ensure the fullest visibility from those locations which are representative of local residents, road-users, walkers and visitors to the area.

For each viewpoint, photomontages and wirelines illustrate two alternative and indicative substation locations which represent the realistic worst-case scenarios for development on this site. On this banner, photomontages and wirelines are shown for each viewpoint from option one, based on the realistic worst-case scenario. The presented layouts are indicative at this stage and are based on the maximum parameters in respect of length, width and height. The final substation location and layout will be confirmed prior to construction. Comparative baseline photographs from the selected viewpoints are also provided below and for viewpoints one and two there are photomontages illustrating the future scenario in which substantial parts of the Dounreay Nuclear Power Facility and Vulcan NRTD would be removed. In addition, an image which shows the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the onshore development is included to provide an indication of the areas where theoretical visibility of the onshore substation would arise, although in reality this may be reduced by screening from buildings, tree cover or other vegetation.



SUBSTATION OPTION 2 – LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACTS

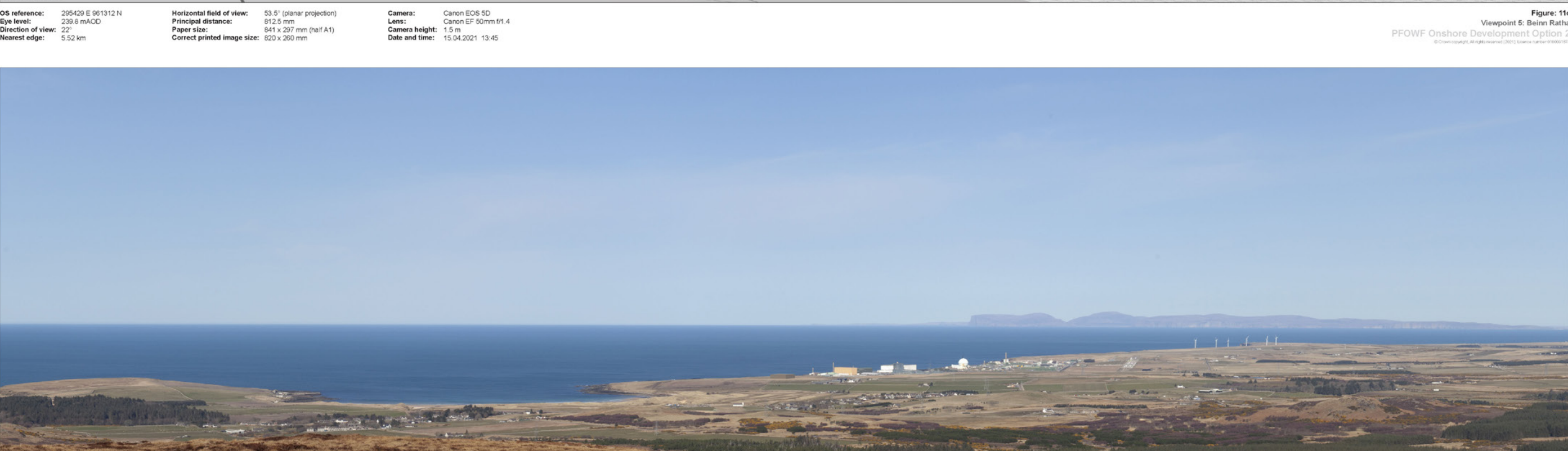
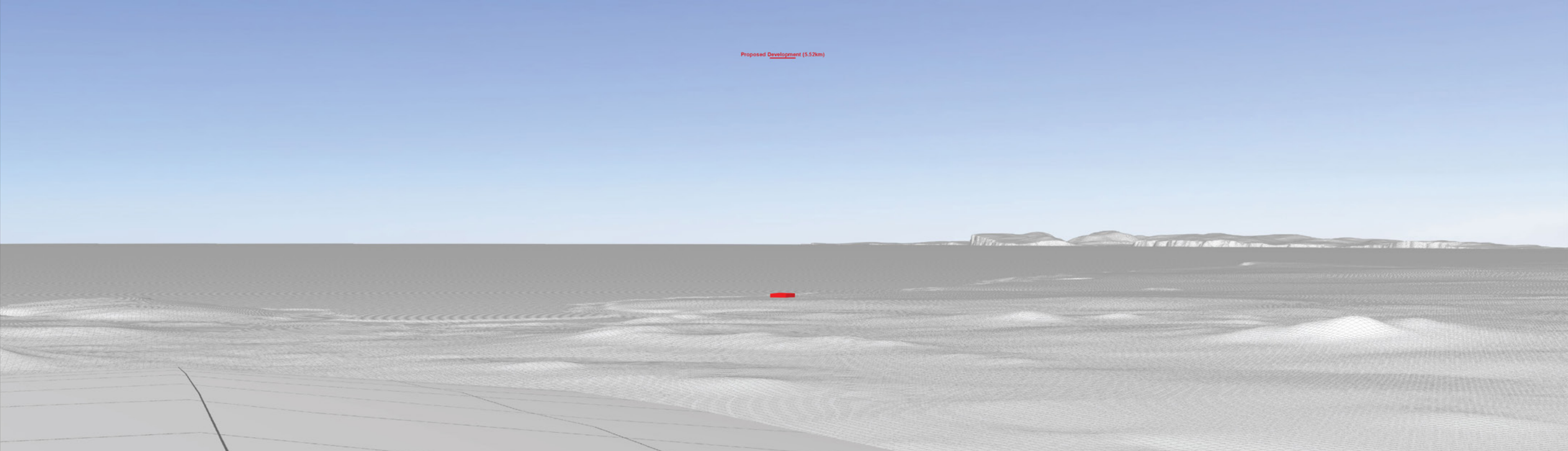
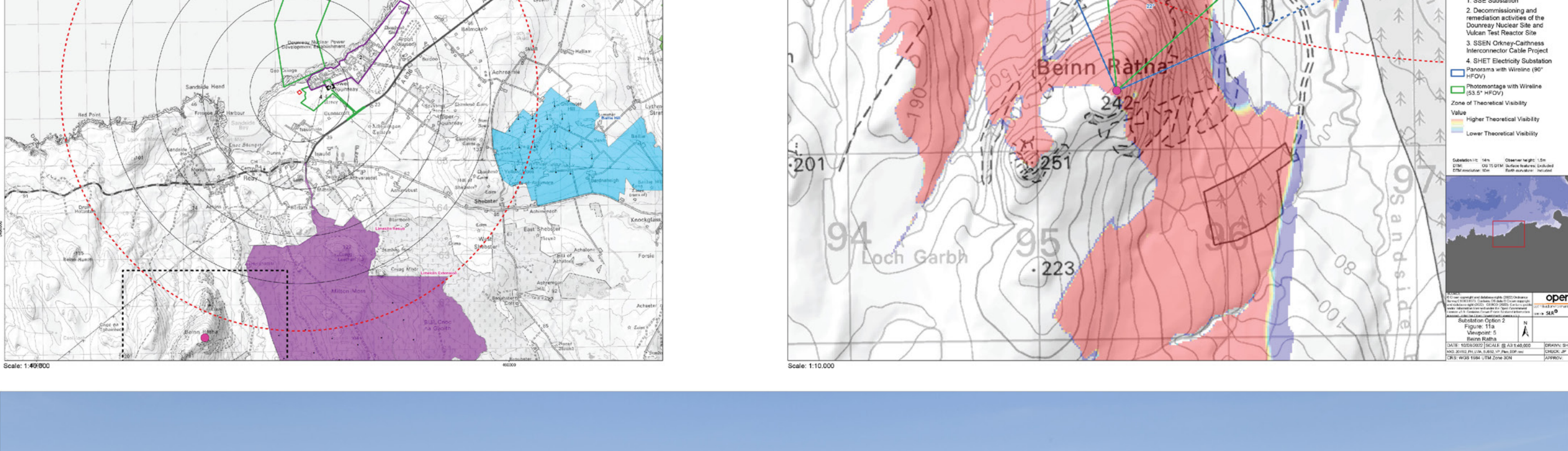
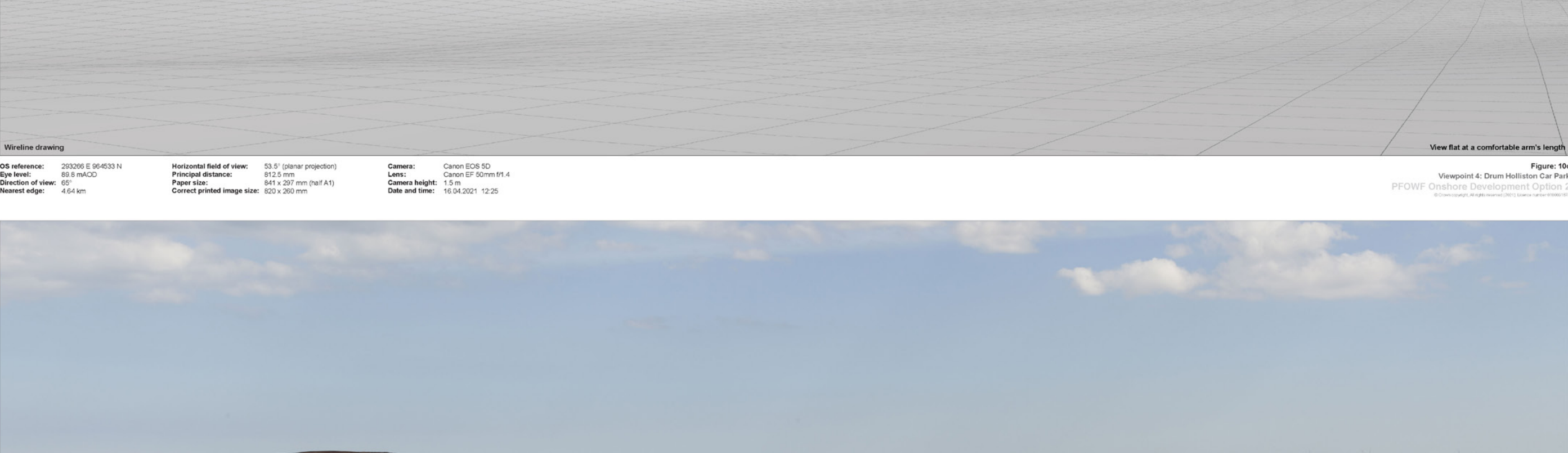
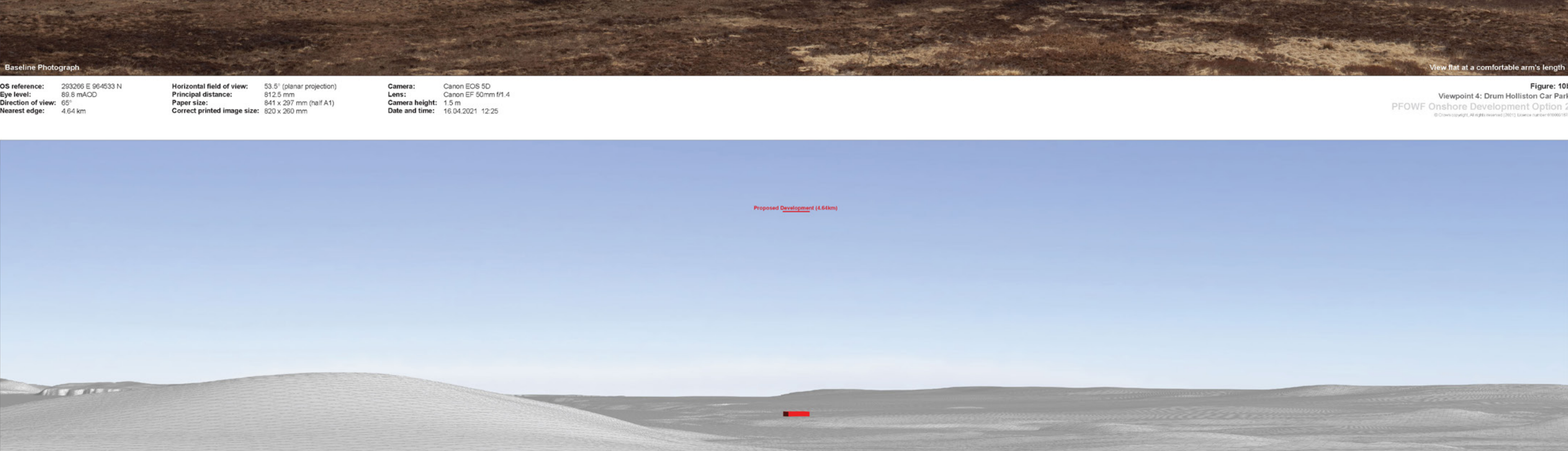
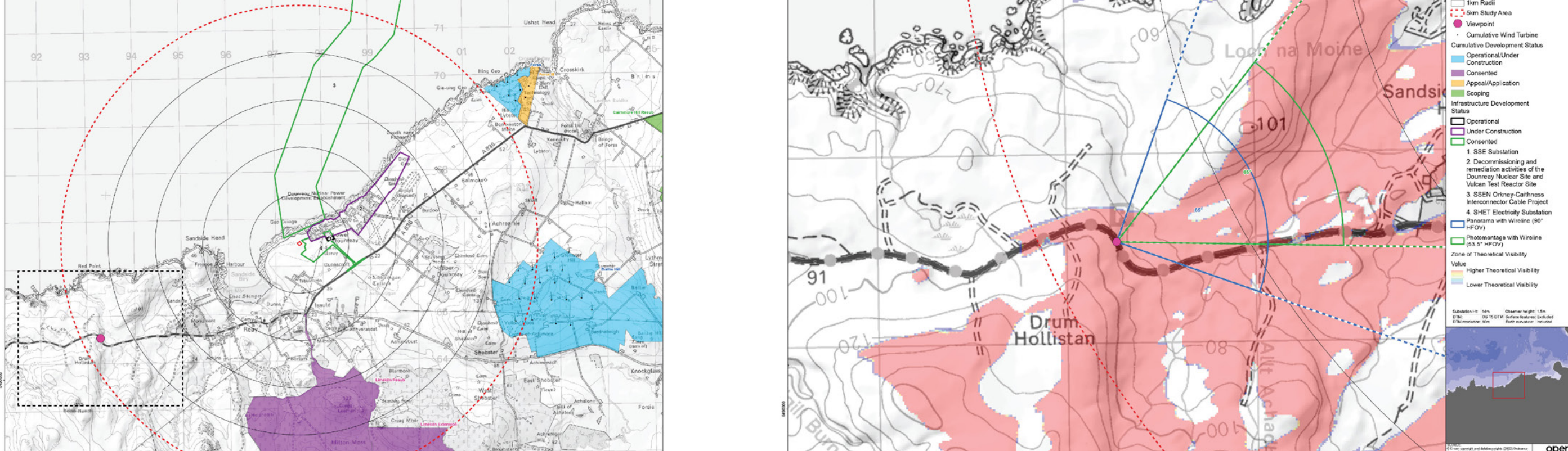
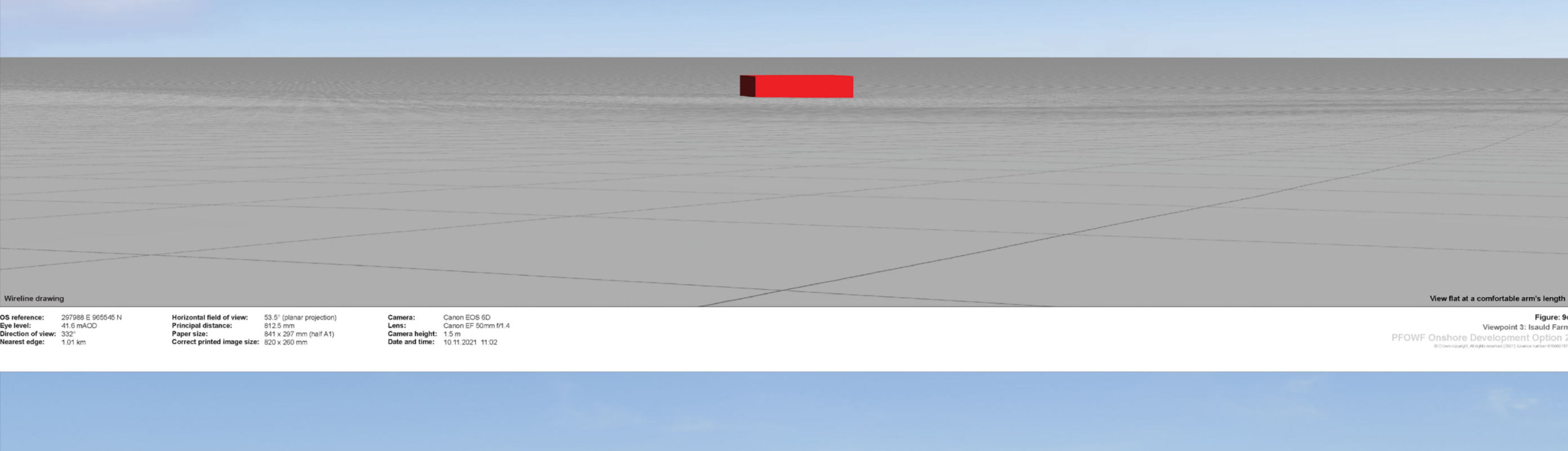
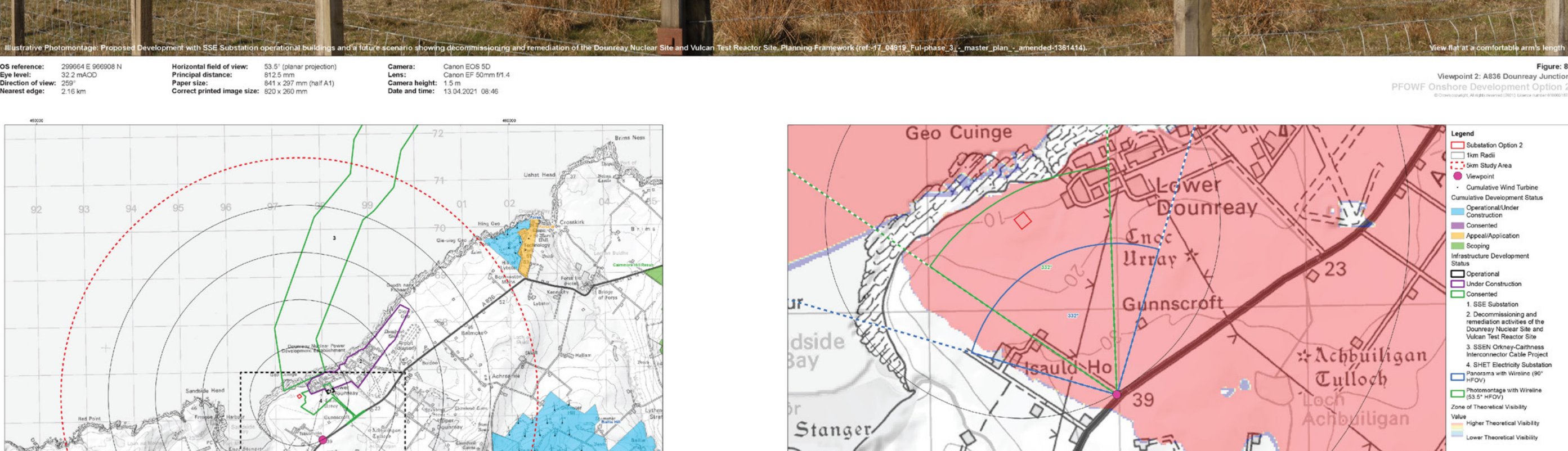
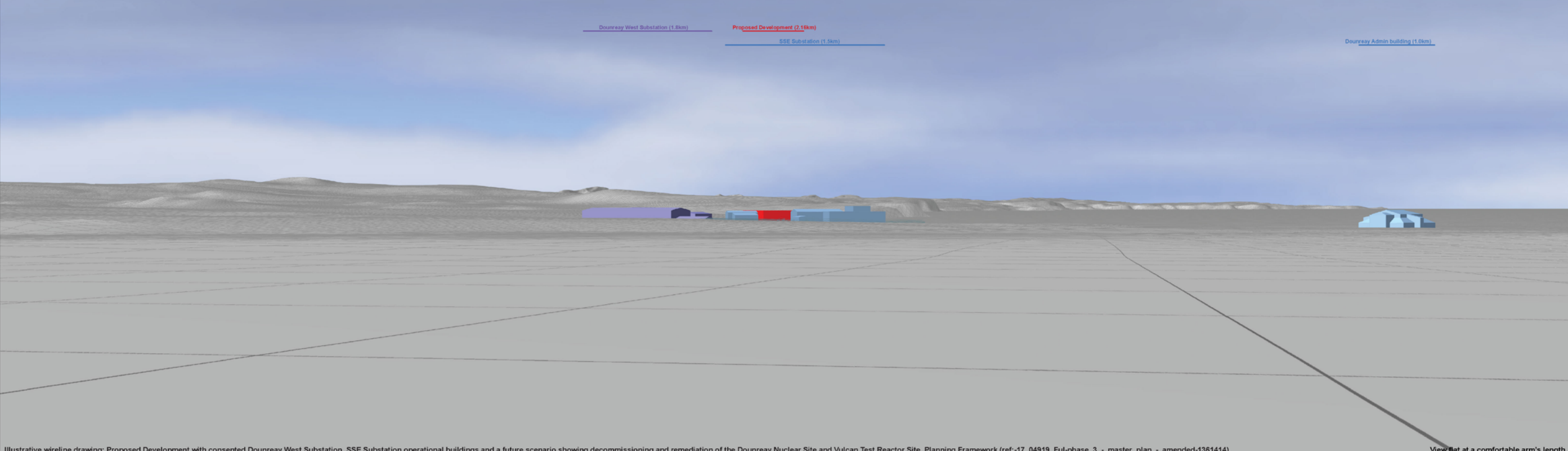
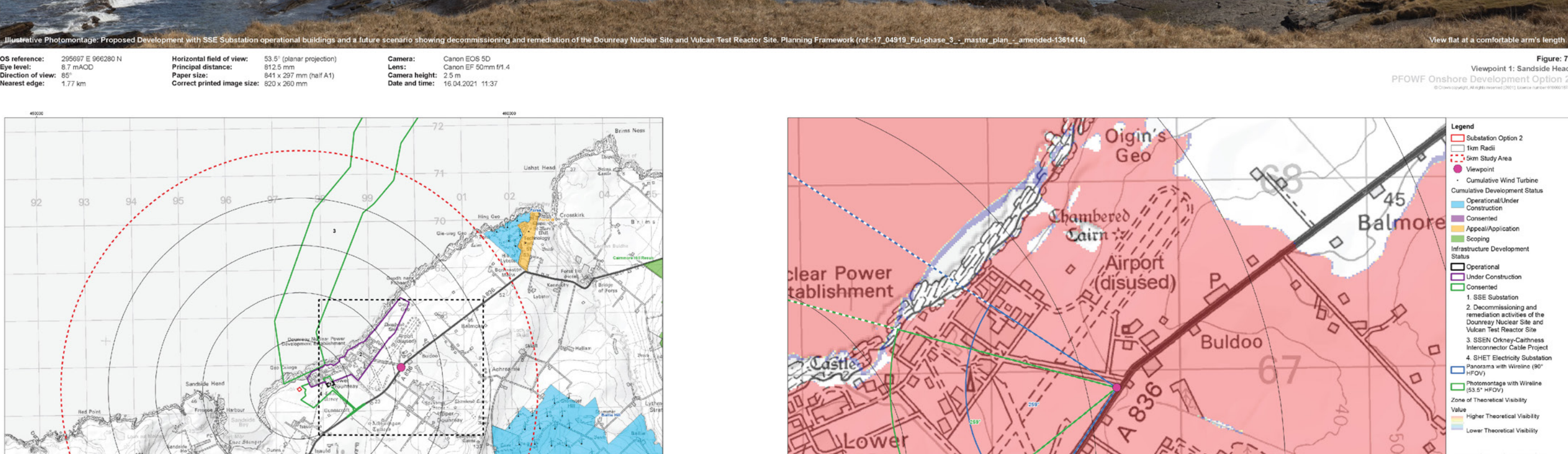
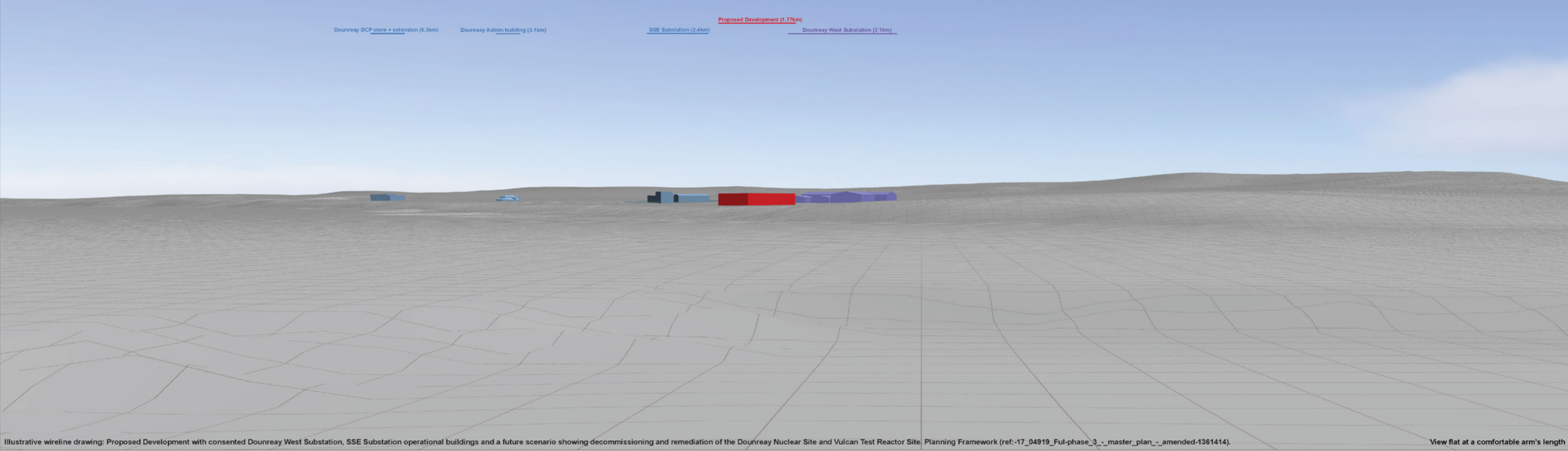
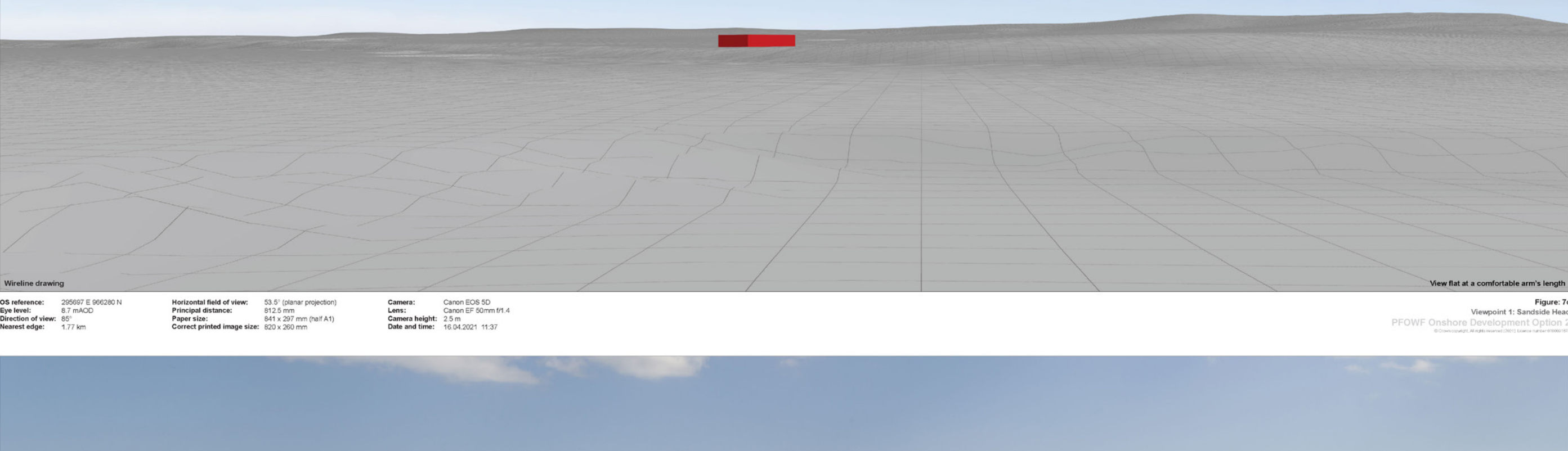
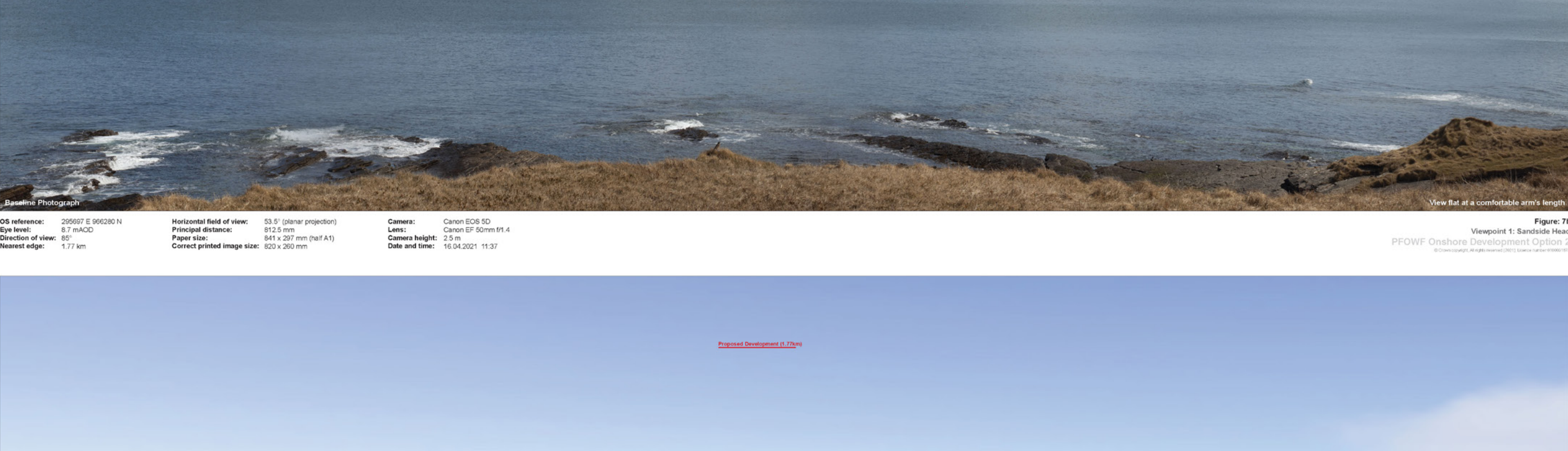
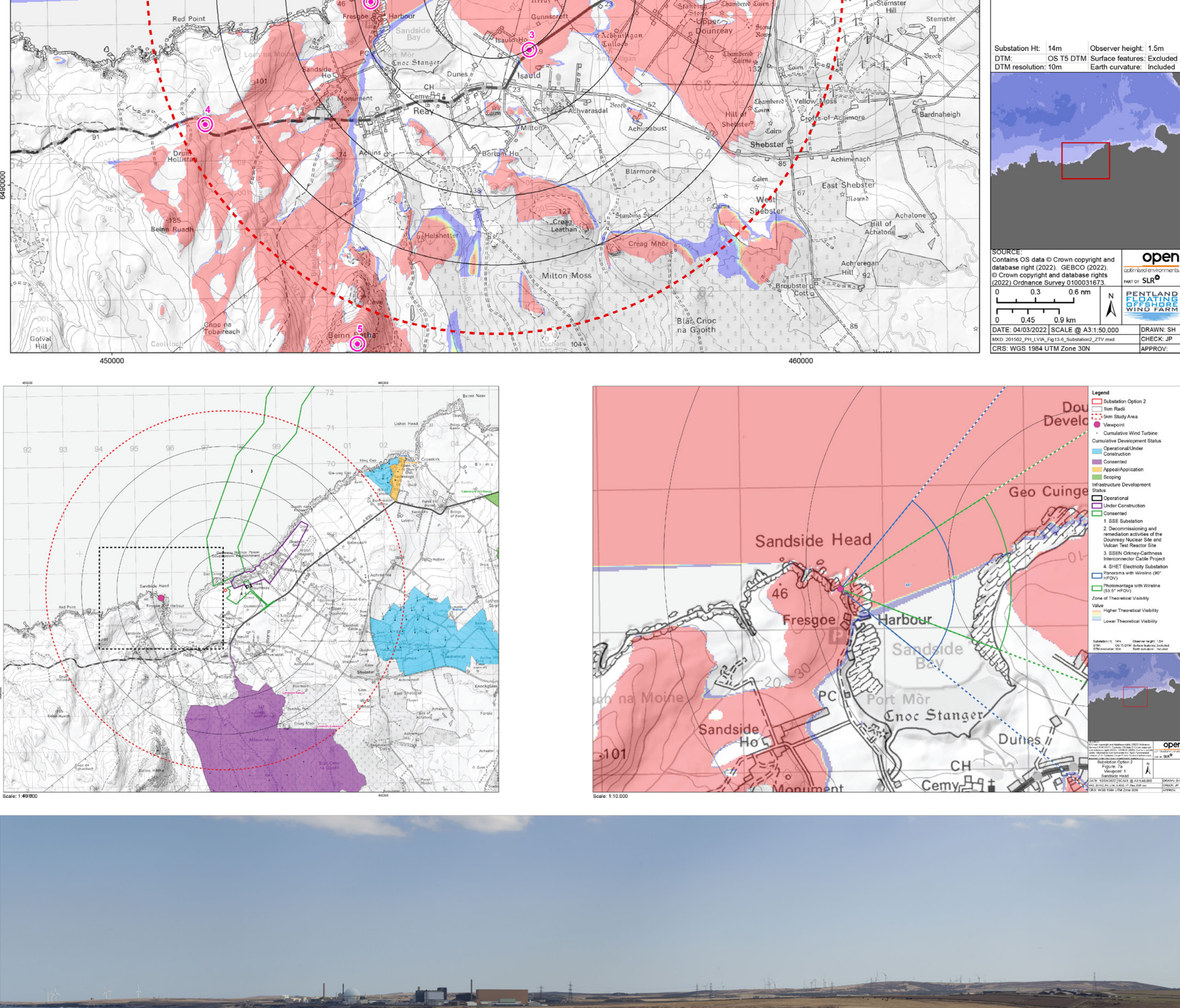
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BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

We want to ensure the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm provides long term benefits to communities local to the development. We are working with local schools and universities to provide support to skills development in the renewable industry. We have conducted consultation on the design of a community benefit fund. We have also completed a supply chain assessment and socio-economic studies to understand the benefits the project will bring to the community through jobs and value created.



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

We are at the early stages of developing a community benefit fund for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, which would likely become available on commissioning of the array project. The fund will support local projects that are focused on climate smart initiatives.

We commissioned Foundation Scotland to consult on the development of this fund. Consultation ended in July 2022. The views collected during the consultation will form part of the considerations when finalising the design of the fund. More information is available at: www.foundationscotland.org.uk/pentland

SUPPLY CHAIN ASSESSMENT & LOCAL VALUE CREATION

The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is committed to supporting local suppliers where possible and developing the project so that it promotes the welfare, livelihood and sustainability of local communities. In 2021, the project team met with a number of local suppliers and negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Scrabster Harbour Trust, to work together on the development of operations and maintenance requirements, services and facilities. This shows a commitment to work collaboratively to investigate the potential for construction support services and major component change out for the floating wind turbines.

In 2021, we undertook a social and economic study in partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and leading industry experts, to understand the positive impacts the project will have (both directly and indirectly) on the community, for example, through providing jobs, Gross Value Added (GVA) potential and demand for local services. We have also commissioned a supply chain study to inform the socio-economic work in order to assess local supply chain capability and identify opportunities to support the project.

It is anticipated that during the lifetime of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, between 750-800 FTE job-years in Caithness and between 2,400-3,300 FTE job-years in the Highlands and Islands will be created. The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is anticipated to create around £50 million for Caithness and £150-200 million for Highlands and Islands of Gross Value Added at 2021 prices. These numbers will be updated as we finalise the detailed design, procurement activities and construction and operations and maintenance strategies. The socio-economic impacts of the project will be assessed in detail within the Environmental Impact Assessment, as set out on Board 4: Consents & Assessments.

Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm has recently launched a supply chain registration portal. A link to this portal and information on how to register can be found at: www.pentlandfloatingwind.com/work-with-us

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is supporting an Education and Training Fund which will award scholarships to selected students from Thurso and Farr High Schools, who are going on to study higher education and training programmes focussed on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

We are proud to have students from the University of Highland and Islands (UHI) and the University of Strathclyde interning with the project, enabling them to gain offshore wind industry experience. Meet Grant, an intern on the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm:

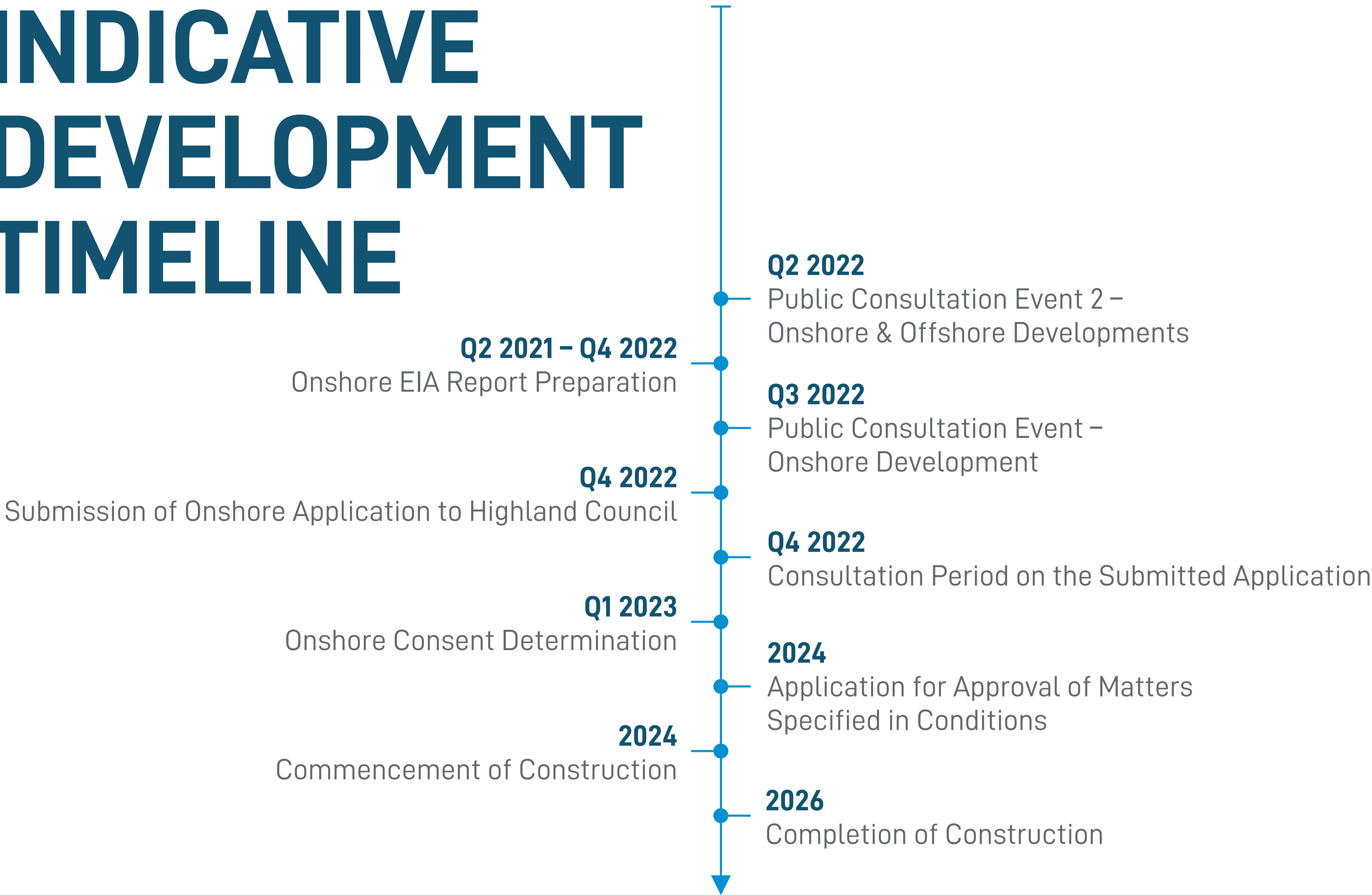


GRANT ANDERSON

I am currently in my final year of Energy Engineering at the UHI Outer Hebrides and working as an

intern on the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm. The internship has allowed me to be fully involved with a range of different disciplines including engineering, health and safety and project management. I have been able to apply many elements of my degree during the internship including data analysis, report writing and computer modelling. More importantly, it has allowed me to get relevant hands-on experience on a current project which will be valuable for any future employment in the offshore wind world. I have really enjoyed being part of a dynamic and motivated team.

INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

PREPARATION OF THE EIA REPORT – CURRENT STAGE

The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is currently at the stage of preparing the EIA report for submission. Within the EIA report, impacts of the proposed onshore project design will be assessed by competent experienced professionals, using the relevant baseline information collected, various guidance, good practice guidelines and expert judgement. All the findings and proposed mitigation measures identified through the EIA process will be presented in the onshore EIA report. Desk based assessments and field studies helped to define the baseline environment and identify receptors for consideration and the assessments are supported by detailed modelling and technical studies.

The project design and EIA scope draws on the feedback from statutory consultees and the comments received during the public consultation events. Your views and feedback during this consultation period will continue to help shape the development of our project proposals.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

An application for planning permission in principle for the onshore transmission works for the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 will be submitted to The Highland Council. At this point, there will be a period for the public to formally comment on the proposals, information to the public on how to respond will be advertised through local press.

DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION

It is anticipated that it will take four months for the applications to be determined. During this time the project will continue with engineering studies to finalise the project requirements. During this time, the project will continue with engineering studies to finalise the project requirements and detailed supply chain discussions will also be held and we will finalise community benefits associated with the project.

PREPARATION FOR CONSTRUCTION

The application will be for planning permission in principle. If consent is granted, further applications will be made to The Highland Council with the detailed design and layout. This process is known as approval of matters specified in conditions.

The consents granted will likely have a number of conditions associated with them. Information on the detail of the project will be submitted in order to ensure they are in line with the consented project. Construction and environmental management and monitoring plans detailing how the project will be delivered will also be submitted for approval.

CONSTRUCTION

It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2024. The construction of the project is anticipated to take place within a two year period. An independent environmental clerk of works will be employed to ensure that the construction is carried out in line with the consent.

FAQS

Q: Who are Highland Wind Limited?

A: Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is being developed by Highland Wind Limited which is majority owned by a fund managed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) with Hexicon AB as a minority shareholder. Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners P/S (CIP) is a fund management company focused on energy infrastructure including offshore wind, onshore wind, solar photovoltaic (PV), biomass and energy-from-waste, transmission and distribution, reserve capacity and storage, and other energy assets like Power-to-X. It was founded in 2012 and currently has approximately EUR 16 billion under management. CIP is a major investor in the offshore wind sector and has significant investments in a number of offshore wind projects around the world. Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP), which conducts offshore wind development activities on behalf of the funds managed by CIP, has recently opened an office in Edinburgh to support the funds' increasing engagement in Scotland, with a particular focus on floating wind.

Q: What are the benefits of floating wind and do we need it?

A: Almost 80% of the world's wind resource is in water deeper than 60 metres. It is where windspeeds are stronger and more consistent meaning higher capacity factors. It is looking extremely likely that floating wind will be essential to meet the UK's net-zero emission targets and is needed to deliver on ambitions set by the Committee on Climate Change.

Q: How does Dounreay Tri Project fit in with your proposal?

A: The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm project is an update to the Dounreay Tri Project that was granted key consents and a site lease in 2017. The original Dounreay Tri Project consisted of a two-turbine offshore wind farm, with an installed capacity of between 8 to 12 MW, approximately 6 km off Dounreay, Caithness. Highland Wind Limited acquired the Project and associated consent, licences and site lease in 2021. The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm will be built out under a new consent that is the subject of this exhibition.

Q: What are your plans?

A: The primary objective of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm is to test and demonstrate a technology solution for floating wind in Scotland. By developing the project in stages, through deploying the single turbine followed by the remaining turbines a year later, the capabilities of the local supply chain in Scotland will be better understood. This understanding will allow us to support the development of a strong local supply chain for floating wind in Scotland, helping to meet climate change targets, and providing highly skilled jobs and energy security. Highland Wind Limited firmly believes that this project will be an enabler for larger scale developments resulting from the current ScotWind Leasing Round and in turn will result in knowledge exchange and export opportunities in relation to the global floating offshore wind market.

Q: What technology are you using?

A: Highland Wind Limited will develop the project using the optimal technical, environmental and commercial solution. Currently, this technology is still evolving so the exact technological requirements for the project are still under consideration. We will look to establish our selected technology and suppliers once we have gathered all the information from our metocean and seabed surveys to ensure the most efficient and technically feasible options are taken forward. Nonetheless, we are planning on using up to 7 turbines, with the maximum height of the turbine blade tip from the sea surface being 300 metres.

Q: Will I see the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm from the shore?

A: The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm Application Boundary will be approximately 7.5 km from shore, this distance has been increased from the previously consented boundary for the Dounreay Tri Project in order to further reduce any visual impacts.

Q: Will there be disruptions during construction?

A: We are working to engage closely with landowners, local residents, the Maritime Coastguard Authority, ports and harbours and Traffic and Transport Scotland to ensure the development minimises disruptions to local communities as far as possible. We already understand there are some concerns regarding construction and operational traffic in the local area. This will be taken into account in our application.

Q: What about environmental impacts on seabirds and other marine life?

A: Renewable energy technologies are key to combating the effects of climate change, which is considered one of the biggest threats to marine life. Floating wind is part of the solution for a greener and safer future. Nonetheless, any development activity in the marine environment has the potential to impact on marine life and seabirds. We are committed to following best practice and have proactively undertaken environmental surveys and have conducted assessments, monitoring and modelling to minimise any impact on wildlife during the project's development. The project team continues to engage with key environmental and conservation stakeholders and other relevant consultees in order to inform the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and detail of the project related to the EIA.

Q: When will the Pentland Floating Wind Farm be completed?

A: The single turbine demonstrator is planned to be deployed as the first stage of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm to allow time to test and demonstrate the floating wind technology. We are planning to finish construction and installation of the remaining turbines during 2026.

Q: How many homes will you power?

A: The Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm will provide enough green energy for approximately 70,000 homes per year, equivalent to approximately 65% of households in The Highland Council Area (based on 2020 figures). This would offset up to 125,000 tonnes of CO₂ when considering all types of fossil fuels (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/renewable-and-conversioncalculators/>).

Q: What are the benefits to the local community?

A: Highland Wind Limited is committed to ensuring this project provides long term benefits to the local community. We have undertaken social and economic studies with involvement of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and leading industry experts to understand the positive impacts the project will have (both directly and indirectly) on the community, for example, through providing jobs, Gross Value Added (GVA) potential and demand for local services. Furthermore, we have commissioned a supply chain study to complement the socio-economic work in order to assess local supply chain capability and identify opportunities to support the project. We have completed a consultation process on the Community Benefit Fund and the views collected will form part of the considerations when finalising the design of the fund.

Q: How many jobs will this development provide to the local community?

A: It is anticipated that during the lifetime of the Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm, between 750-800 FTE job-years in Caithness and between 2400-3300 FTE job-years in the Highlands and Islands will be created.

Q: Who else are you engaging with in the application process?

A: To date we have been in contact with a number of stakeholders including the Highland Council, Marine Scotland, Scrabster and Wick Harbour Authorities, local fisheries, NatureScot, Northern Lighthouse Board, the Maritime Coastguard Authority, SEPA, landowners, Dounreay Site Restoration Limited, NRTE Vulcan, Crown Estate Scotland, RSPB, Dounreay Stakeholder Group, Caithness West Community Council and Melvich Community Council. We plan to continue engagement as the application progresses towards submission.

Q: I want to keep informed on project updates, how do I do this?

A: Updates on the project will be provided on our website at www.pentlandfloatingwind.com. There will be an opportunity for the community to make formal comment on the onshore proposals to The Highland Council once our application has been submitted. Details on how to go about this will be provided in a local newspaper and published on our website at the time of submission.