

Welcome

The purpose of today's event is to update you on progress with Viking Energy Wind Farm and present new information about a forthcoming planning application for three temporary construction compounds.

We have team members on hand from different parts of the project who are more than happy to answer any questions you have. And, as always, we are keen to hear your views.



A view of how the wind farm might look from South Nesting.

Where we're at

2019 is proving a busy one for Viking Energy as it gears up construction. That depends on success in the forthcoming bidding round for government-backed CfD contracts. In the meantime, some smaller scale works are likely to start in late June and continue beyond the end of this year.

These include:

- Ground investigations for access tracks and turbine sites
- Construction of the Kergord access track
- Preparation of three temporary construction compound sites

How we got here

Viking Energy was formed as a joint venture between the Shetland community and SSE. It received planning consent seven years ago to build 103 wind turbines.

Extensive work is now being carried out to deliver Shetland's first large-scale operational wind farm. The project team is working to secure a contract in the UK Government's Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction, the results of which are decided later this year.

In March this year the industry regulator Ofgem announced it was minded to approve construction of a 600MW subsea link between Shetland and Caithness, which would enable renewable electricity from wind farms in Shetland to be transmitted to the GB grid. This is a major breakthrough for Viking Energy and other wind farm developers in the islands.

Recent developments

Minor increase in turbine size

In May, Viking Energy received approval from Scottish Ministers to increase the tip height of the turbines by 10 metres, to 155m. Viking Energy is still considering turbine models from different manufacturers.

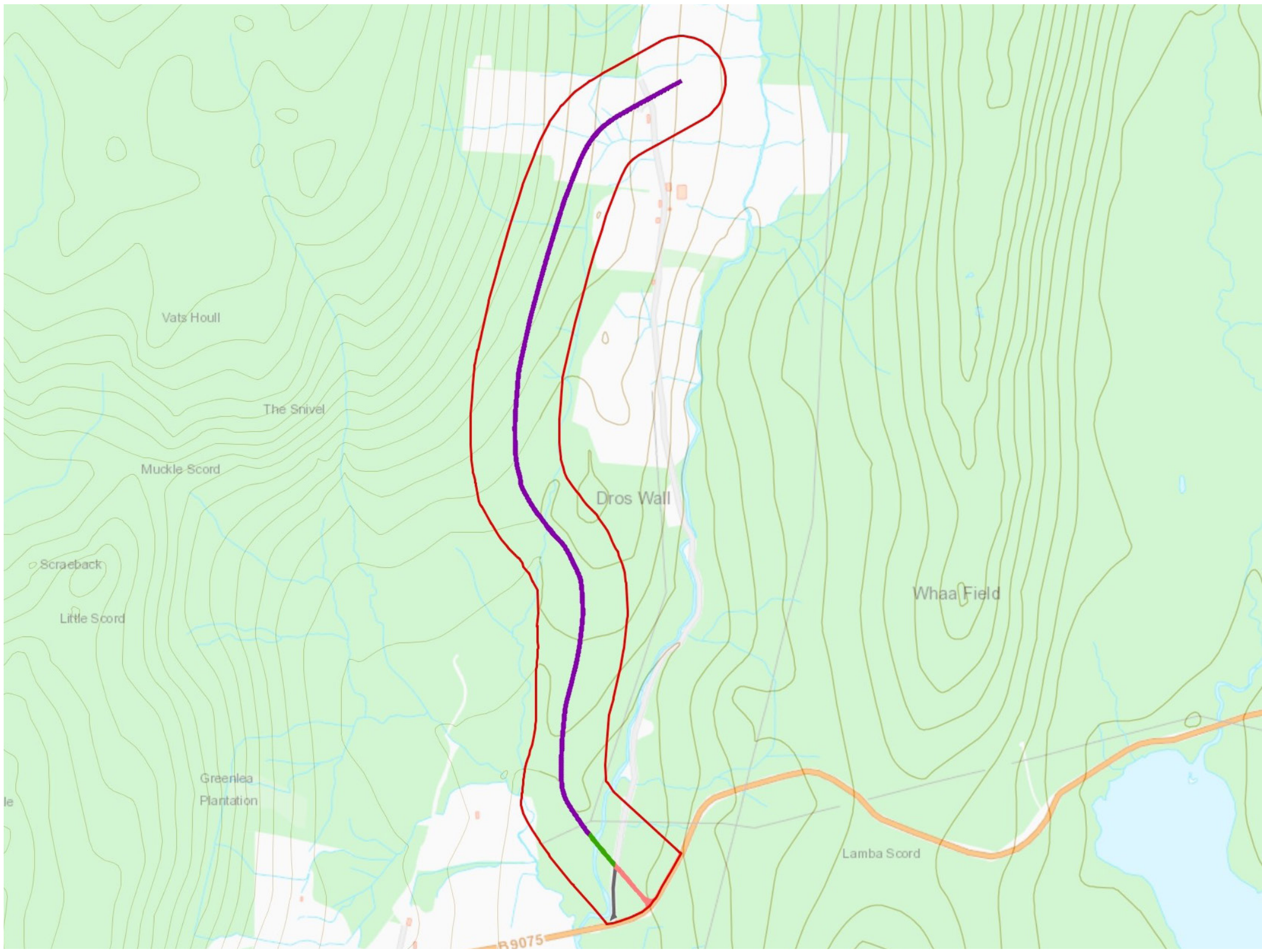


Comparative photograph taken from the Kergord valley showing the difference between the 145m tip height and the 155m maximum tip height that Viking Energy has applied for.

Kergord access track

In April, Shetland Islands Council approved plans for a 2km track which will provide access for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHET) to build a 600 megawatt electricity converter station at Upper Kergord.

The station will handle electricity from the wind farm and send it to market locally and through a subsea cable to the GB grid. The access track will also be used by Viking Energy to reach turbine sites between Weisdale and Aith.



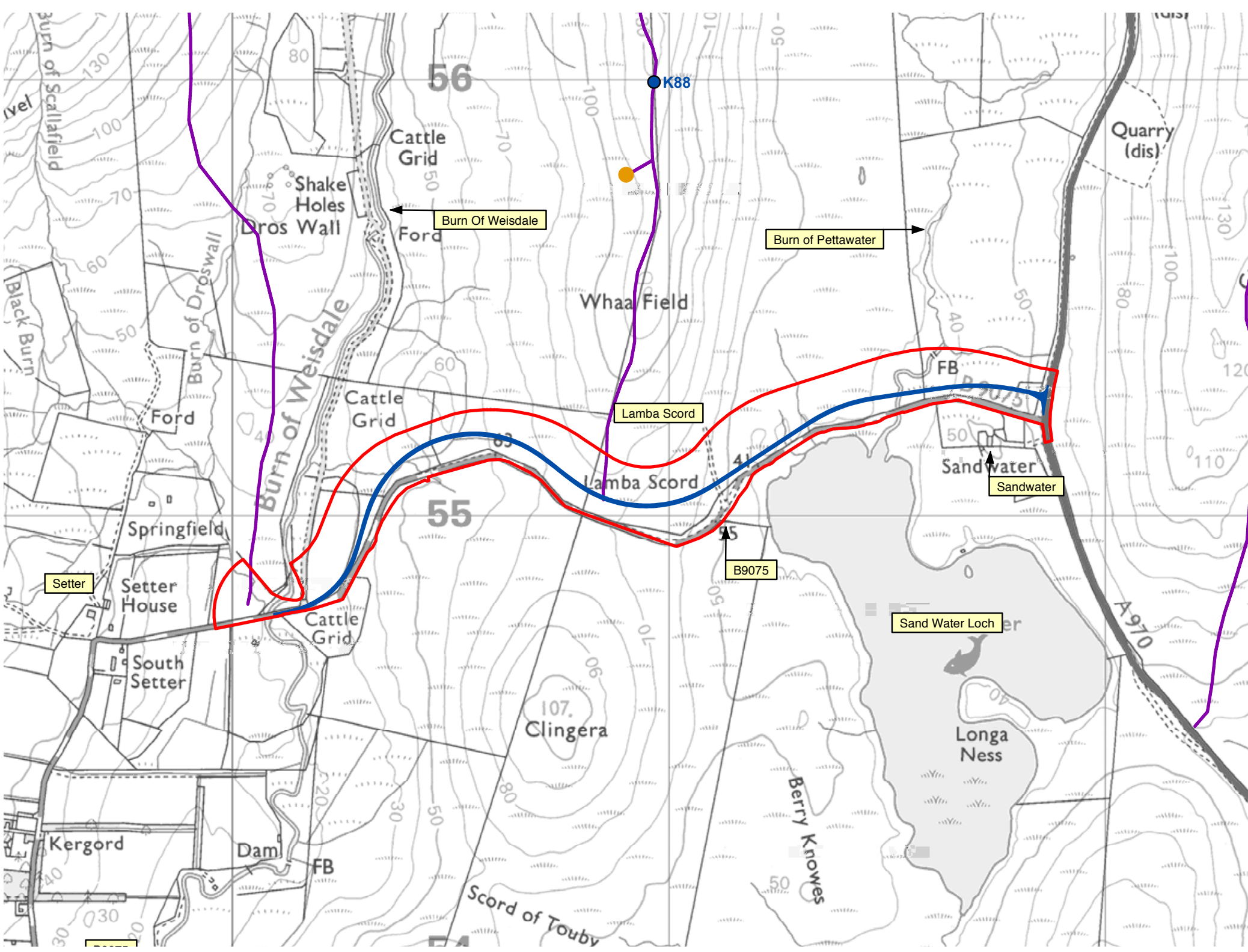
Sandwater road

Council planners are considering Viking Energy’s application to build a new 2.3km double-track main road to replace the existing B9075 from Kergord to Sandwater.

The multi-million pound development would be used only for construction traffic until the wind farm is completed then it would be upgraded to public road standard and handed over to the council.

The temporary separation of traffic would help minimise disruption to the travelling public. Once the wind farm is operational, part of the existing Sandwater road would be kept for recreational use and the rest covered over.

The new road route (shown in blue) would run slightly to the north of the existing Sandwater road.



The next stage

Viking Energy is currently considering bids from civil engineering contractors to carry out the main construction works for the wind farm. The successful bidder should be appointed later this year.

A key requirement of the contract is to seek to maximise engagement of Shetland-based sub-contractors and suppliers, which all the bidders are doing already.

The main construction contract is likely to start in April 2020.



Looking from the west towards the wind turbines east of Aith and Bixter.

Ground investigations

Detailed probing and analysis of soil, peat and stone samples from throughout the wind farm site is vital to ascertain the most suitable and practical approach to construction.

A programme of ground investigations is expected to take place from June this year using highly experienced drilling teams with previous experience of working in Shetland.

Further details on these investigations will be provided in the coming weeks.

Road and compound construction

Depending on the outcome of the CfD auction, it is possible that the Kergord access track, junctions for wind farm access roads and the three construction compounds could start in November.

Additional activities already taking place during spring and summer include water quality monitoring in lochs and burns; bird surveys; an otter survey; mapping by drone and archaeological investigations.

Other aspects of the project will be brought forward as and when preparations are completed, including details of electricity substations, borrow pits and a finalised habitat management plan.

Proposed temporary construction compounds

Viking Energy has planning consent for four temporary construction compounds but decided to reduce this to three and re-apply with modified designs. The applications will be submitted to Shetland Islands Council in the summer.

The site deleted was located close to the house at Sand Water, at the junction between the Sandwater road and the main A970 road. The compounds provide space for offices, workshops, canteen, storage and parked vehicles.

All three proposed compounds are close to main roads where traffic is often fast-moving. This will require comprehensive safety measures to be taken including adequate warning signs and wide visibility splays to promote good road safety.

These will be set out in detail in the forthcoming planning applications and each will be supported by an environmental impact assessment.

