



Viking Wind Farm

November 2018

Pre-Application Consultation Report

Section 36 Variation Application - Environmental Impact Assessment Report



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP (the applicant) has applied for variation¹ to the Description of the Development provided in Annex 1 of the consent for Viking Wind Farm, Shetland. Consent was granted in April 2012 for a 103-turbine wind farm. A further consent was granted in March 2017, extending the period in which development must commence until April 2020. This Pre-Application Consultation Report has been prepared on behalf of the applicant, by Ramboll Environment and Health (Ramboll), to accompany the application.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the variation application is to seek a consent under 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, along with a direction that planning permission be deemed granted under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended. The proposed varied development would increase the maximum tip height of the turbines, from 145 metres (m) to a maximum of 155 m. In addition, the applicant is seeking deletion of noise condition 43 and revisions to noise condition 44 of the consent. It is proposed that the maximum rotor diameter would increase from 110 m previously assessed and consented, to a maximum of 120 m. In combination, these proposed changes comprise the 'proposed variation'. It is important to note that no changes to the footprint of the development are proposed.
- 1.1.3 The applicant is committed to engaging with local communities in development proposals, both prior to and following the submission of a planning application. As this development proposal is being made under Section 36C of the Electricity Act, there is no obligation to complete pre-application consultation. However, the applicant has applied the principles of the consultation process required for 'major' planning applications as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and circular 3:2013-Development Management Procedures. This provides the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals with an opportunity to provide comment and feedback.
- 1.1.4 In addition, the applicant also completed pre-application consultation, specifically on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment with key statutory consultees.

¹ Under The Electricity Generating Stations (Applications for Variation of Consent) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

2. CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

2.1.1 The purpose of pre-application consultation is to:

- Ensure that statutory consultees and other bodies with a particular interest in the environment are informed of the proposal and provided with an opportunity to comment at an early stage in the EIA process;
- Obtain baseline information regarding existing environmental site conditions;
- Establish key environmental issues and identify potential effects to be considered during the EIA;
- Identify those issues which are likely to require more detailed study and those which can be justifiably excluded from further assessment; and
- Provide a means of confirming the most appropriate methods of assessment.

2.2 Pre-Application Consultation

2.2.1 Pre-application meetings and telephone calls were held with representatives of Scottish Government (Energy Consents Unit), Shetland Islands Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

2.2.2 Each meeting and call was used to inform consultees regarding the nature of the proposed variation, discuss key issues in respect of the potential for environmental effects and to discuss the timescales for the submission of the application.

2.3 Public Information Day

2.3.1 Public engagement is a key element of the consenting process. A public exhibition was held in the Voe Public Hall on the 2nd October 2018 from 12 noon until 8 pm.

2.3.2 The public exhibition provided information regarding the proposed development to local residents. The event was advertised in the local press. Local councillors, the MSP and MP were advised in advance of these exhibitions in writing.

2.3.3 The information available included plans of the proposed site layout, information boards explaining the key potential environmental effects, along with an explanation of the consenting process and the current stage that the project is at within that process. Photomontages and wireline visualisations were provided to illustrate the difference between the consented Viking Wind Farm and the proposed varied development. Representatives from Viking Energy Partnership were available to provide additional information and answer queries. The exhibition boards and information leaflet were made available on the applicant's website (www.vikingenergy.co.uk).

3. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION ISSUES

3.1 Attendance

3.1.1 Approximately 30 members of the public attended the exhibition.

3.1.2 Attendees were invited to complete a questionnaire; 6 responses were provided. Other attendees discussed issues directly with the Viking Energy team.

3.2 Summary of Responses

3.2.1 Five out of six respondents were against or strongly against the tip height variation. Five out of six found the exhibition helpful or very helpful in giving them more information about the planned tip height variation.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 This document provides an overview of the consultation process undertaken by the applicant while preparing the planning application for the variation application for the consented Viking Windfarm. The applicant has endeavoured to follow good practice in relation to engaging with members of the local community at the pre-application stage.
- 4.1.2 The public exhibition gave an opportunity to local communities to engage with the developer and allowed them to raise specific concerns.
- 4.1.3 The applicant will continue to hold discussions during the determination period with the local community and respond to any comments by all forms of communication.

APPENDIX 1: COPIES OF ADVERTS AND PRESS COVERAGE



viking energy

Harnessing Shetland's natural resources

Public Exhibition

Viking Wind Farm Tip Height Variation

Viking Energy is submitting an application to increase the currently consented tip height by up to 10 metres at Viking Wind Farm. If approved, this would increase the maximum tip height from 145m to 155m.

We are holding a public exhibition to give the local community the opportunity to meet members of the project team, get an update on the project, view the tip height visualisations and discuss our proposals.

The exhibition will be a drop-in event at the Voe Public Hall, open from 12pm to 8pm on Tuesday 2nd Oct.

For those not able to attend the exhibition, copies of the information boards will be available for download from the following day on the project website www.vikingenergy.co.uk

The variation application will be submitted to the Scottish Government in October 2018 for determination. The full application will be available for review online at www.energyconsents.scot/

For questions about the project, please contact Viking Energy on :

Tel: 01595 743 840

Email: info@vikingenergy.co.uk

Date: Tuesday 2nd Oct

Time: 12pm to 8pm

Location:

**Voe Public Hall
Shetland ZE2 9PT**

www.vikingenergy.co.uk

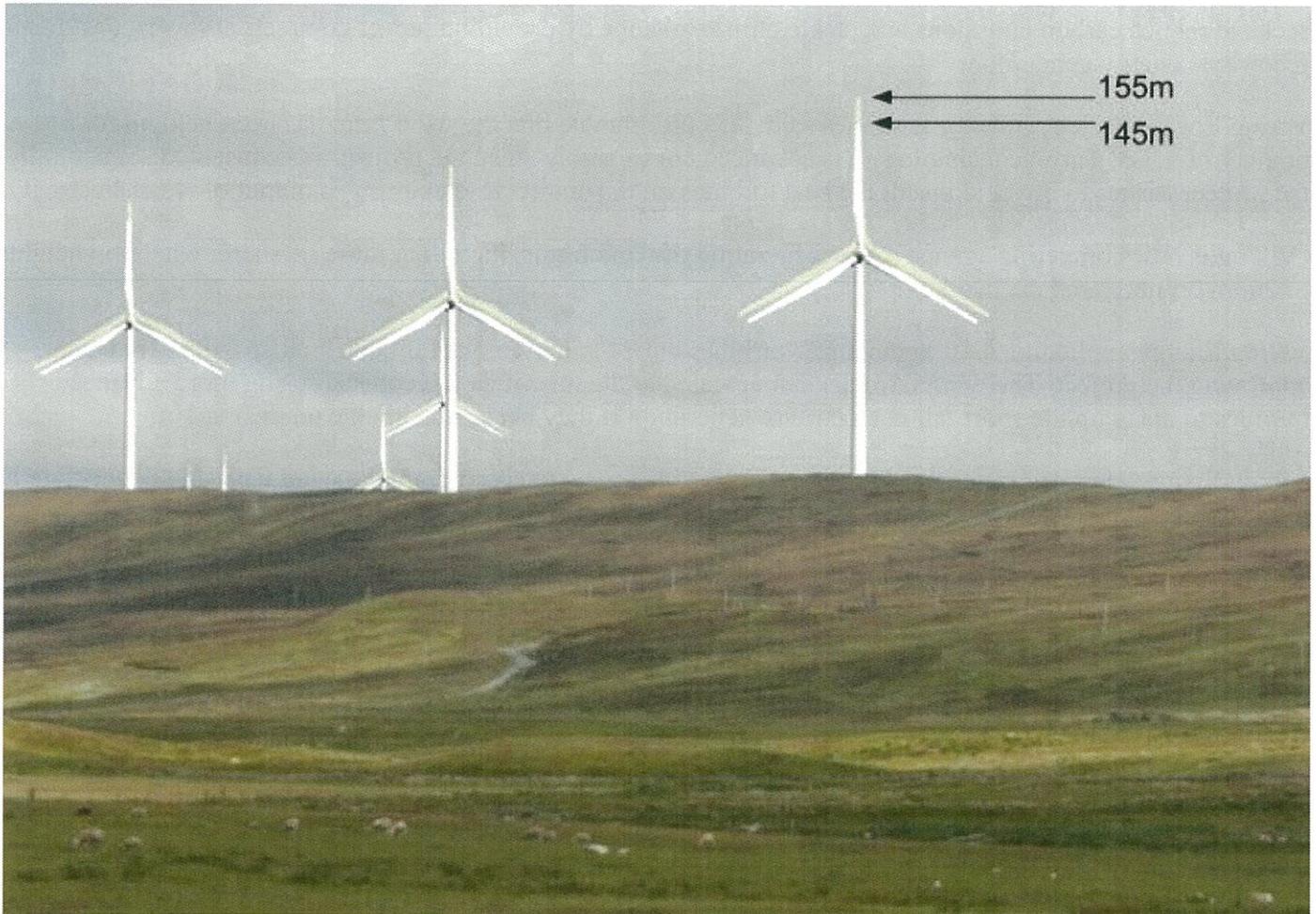


viking energy

Harnessing Shetland's natural resources

Increase planned for size of Viking turbines

11:28 Wednesday, 26 September 2018 | Written by Shetland News



An artist's impression of the bigger turbines. Photo: Viking Energy.

VIKING Energy will be applying to the Scottish Government to increase the size of the 103 wind turbines it plans to build in central Shetland.

Viking says it intends to apply for a 10m increase in tip height variation to its planning permission to a maximum height of 155m. The rotor diameter will also increase by 10m to a maximum of 120m.

The rotors will be moved 5m further up the turbine masts, maintaining a 35m ground clearance below the turbine blades.

No changes to the area of the Viking Energy Wind Farm (VEWF) are proposed. Members of Shetland Islands Council were notified of the changes by letter.

According to Viking, use of powerful turbines of 4 MegaWatts (MW) or more would enable the windfarm to increase its generation of renewable electricity to a level closer to its consented capacity of 457MW, increasing the potential income to Shetland Charitable Trust, which owns 45 per cent of the project.

The letter to councillors says: "Turbine technology has moved on since Viking wind farm received consent in 2012. In the last decade, the annual electricity production per turbine has almost doubled. The planning variation is to enable Viking to take advantage of the best onshore wind turbines available and maximise the output of the site.

"The proposed change has been discussed with the Energy Consents Unit, Scottish Government. Shetland

The proposed change has been discussed with the Energy Secretary, Scottish Government, Shetland Islands Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Further statutory consultation will take place following submission of the application next month."

The partnership between the Shetland community, represented by Viking Energy Shetland, and power company SSE, says it is "keen to share details with the local community and receive feedback."

Viking Energy aims to bid into the 2019 round of the UK Government's Contracts for Difference auction which seeks to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change by providing power contracts at lowest cost for renewable energy generation.

Viking Energy Project Director Ian Innes said: "It's unfortunate that the wind farm has been held up for a number of years. Turbine technology has advanced considerably since the project was consented so, naturally, the project wishes to buy and install the best turbines on the market to maximise its output of clean electricity.

"Viking is now competing against a new generation of wind farms, including those offshore, where tip heights of 200m or more are now available."

Viking Energy applied in 2010 to build 127 turbines but 24 were removed by the Scottish Ministers when approving the project. The wind farm developer stated at the time it would consider using more advanced turbines to make up the short fall in electricity generation if they became available on the market.

Viking Energy plans to begin construction in 2020 with a view to completing the wind farm and connecting it to the proposed 600MW interconnector to the national grid in 2024.

Viking will be holding a drop-in exhibition in the Voe Public Hall on Tuesday 2 October from 12pm to 8pm to "share our plans and allow the community and interested parties to discuss the proposed change with the project team."

Exhibition materials will also be available to view on the Viking wind farm website www.vikingenergy.co.uk from Wednesday 3 October.

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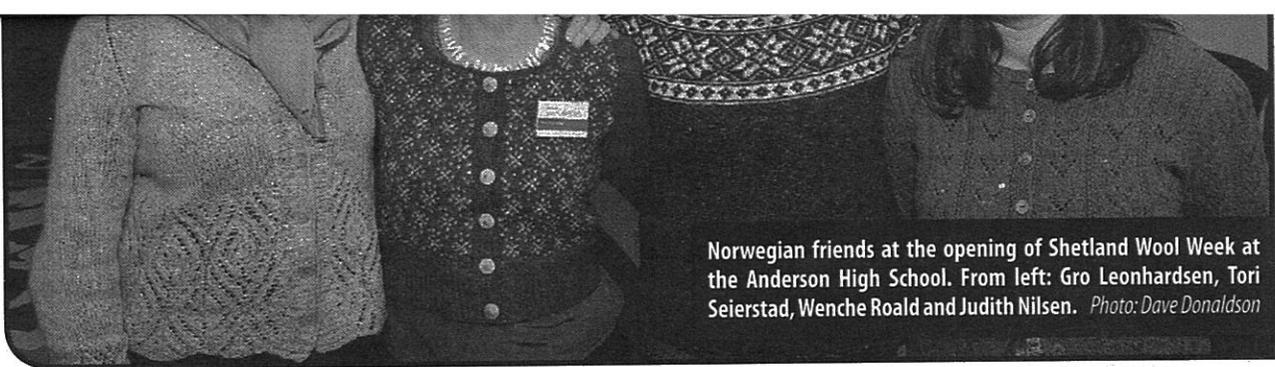
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oto: Dave Donaldson



Norwegian friends at the opening of Shetland Wool Week at the Anderson High School. From left: Gro Leonhardsen, Tori Seierstad, Wenche Roald and Judith Nilsen. Photo: Dave Donaldson

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Taller turbines sought for 'ghastly' Viking windfarm

■ Company applies to Holyrood for approval ■ Protest group condemns 'obtrusive' blades

BY RYAN TAYLOR

Viking Energy is applying to the Scottish government to increase the height of the turbines in its proposed windfarm project, in order to be able to install the most efficient machines on the market.

The variation to the current planning consent seeks an increase in maximum tip height up to 10 metres, from 145m to 155m with a corresponding increase in the turbine hub height from 90m to 95m.

The change is intended to ensure the proposed 103-turbine windfarm keeps up with the latest turbine technology, which Viking says has advanced considerably since the project launched more than 10 years ago.

Use of powerful turbines of 4MW or more would enable Viking Energy to increase its generation of renewable electricity to a level closer to its consented capacity of 457MW, increasing the potential income for the firm and the Shetland Charitable Trust, which owns 45 per cent of the project.

A public exhibition of the plans is to be held on Tuesday at Voe Public Hall. An application for a variation of Viking Energy's Section 36 con-

sent will then be submitted to the Scottish government's Energy Consents Unit in Glasgow.

Viking Energy aims to bid into the 2019 round of the UK government's Contracts for Difference auction which seeks to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change by providing power contracts at the lowest cost for renewable energy generation.

Viking Energy project director Ian Innes said: "It's unfortunate that the windfarm has been held up for a number of years. Turbine technology has advanced considerably since the project was consented so, naturally, the project wishes to buy and install the best turbines on the

market to maximise its output of clean electricity.

"Viking is now competing against a new generation of windfarms, including those offshore, where tip heights of 200m or more are now available."

The windfarm business applied in 2010 to build 127 turbines but 24 were removed by the Scottish ministers when approving the project. The developer stated at the time it would consider using more advanced turbines to make up the shortfall in electricity generation if they became available on the market.

Viking Energy plans to begin construction in 2020 with a view to

completing the windfarm and connecting it to the proposed 600MW interconnector to the National Grid in 2024.

Chairman of anti-Viking group Sustainable Shetland, Frank Hay, said some windfarm projects had seen their tally of turbines reduce to compensate for the growth in height.

"Such is the greed of Viking Energy that they still want the same number of turbines.

"Sustainable Shetland remains opposed to the Viking Energy windfarm in its original form and are appalled by this latest development. An extra 10 metres in height is a significant increase and will make the windfarm even more obtrusive in the landscape.

"Our councillors need to have a serious discussion as to whether or not they envisage Shetland turning into a giant windfarm and the implications for people who are going to have the misfortune to live in or near all of this.

"The windfarm is not certain to go ahead yet and we must hope that Shetland may still be saved from this ghastly project."

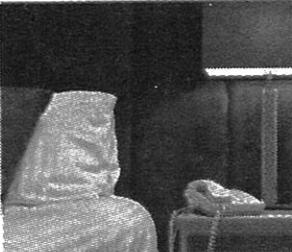
r.taylor@shetlandtimes.co.uk

“
Viking is now competing against a new generation of windfarms, including those offshore, where tip heights of 200m or more are now available.
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Ian Innes

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APPENDIX 2: FEEDBACK FORM TEMPLATE PROVIDED AT EXHIBITIONS

Viking wind Farm tip height variation

Your Comments

We thank you for taking the time to come to this public exhibition and hope it has been informative. To help us record your views and to improve the effectiveness of our consultation with local communities and other consultees, could you please take a minute to complete our short questionnaire.

1. How did you find out about this exhibition?

Newspaper Email Poster Word of Mouth Website

Other? Please provide detail:

2. Has this public exhibition been helpful in terms of giving you more information about the Viking wind farm planned tip height variation

Very helpful A little helpful Not helpful

Comments:

3. What are your views on the proposed Viking wind farm tip height variation?

Very supportive Supportive Undecided Against Strongly against

Comments:

4. If you have any further comments on or would like to request more information regarding any aspect of the proposal please write below (and ensure you leave your contact details):

6. If you would like to receive project updates please 'opt in' by checking this box and provide your contact details below:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone:

We would like to keep you informed as the Viking wind farm project progresses. We will always treat your data with respect, keep it safe and secure and never sell it to third parties or use it for purposes other than providing information about the Viking wind farm.

You can stop receiving these emails at any time by simply replying to any of our emails with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Any comments submitted to Viking Energy at this time are not representations to the planning authority. In the event Viking Energy submits formal applications for planning permission there would be an opportunity to submit representations to the appropriate planning authorities at that time. Any information given on this questionnaire can be used and published anonymously as part of our consultation reporting. By completing this questionnaire, you consent to us using this information for these purposes. By providing contact details you consent to us contacting you in relation to the Viking wind farm. Your details will not be used for marketing purposes.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

