



# Viking Wind Farm Construction Compounds - Main Compound

Pre-Application Consultation Report

June 2019



## **PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP (“the Applicant”) is developing proposals to seek planning permission under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended for three temporary construction compounds on Mainland Shetland, known as the Main Compound, West Compound and North Compound. This Pre-Application Consultation Report has been prepared on behalf of the applicant, by Ramboll UK Limited (Ramboll), to accompany the application.
- 1.1.2 The construction of temporary construction compounds is included as part of the existing consent, however the Applicant has identified a requirement to increase the size of the compounds in order to facilitate the expeditious construction of the proposed wind farm. As such the Applicant is proposing to bring forward applications for permission to construct three temporary construction compounds.
- 1.1.3 Three separate planning applications and accompanying EIAs have been prepared for each of the aforementioned construction compounds.
- 1.1.4 The applicant is committed to engaging with local communities in development proposals, both prior to and following the submission of a planning applications. As the construction compounds individually are considered a ‘major’ class of development; as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and circular 3:2013 - Development Management Procedures, public consultation is required and has been undertaken by the Applicant. This provides the local community and all those with an interest in the proposals with an opportunity to provide comment and feedback.
- 1.1.5 In addition, the applicant also completed informal pre-application consultation, specifically on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment with key statutory consultees.

## **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 A conference call took place on 12th April 2019 to discuss the likely significant environmental effects. Statutory consultees: Shetland Islands Council, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) were invited to comment on the scope of the EIA. Those that could not attend the call provided comment separate to the call.

### **2.3 Public Information Day**

2.3.1 Public engagement is a key element of the consenting process. Public information events were held on Wednesday 12 June 2019 as follows:

- Whiteness & Weisdale Hall from 10am-2pm; and
- Voe Hall from 3.30pm-8pm.

2.3.2 The public exhibition provided information regarding the proposed development to local residents. The events were advertised in the local press and advertised on local notice boards. Community councils, local councillors, MSPs and MPs were advised in advance of these exhibitions in writing. Local community councils consulted included:

- Nesting and Lunnasting Community Council;
- Whiteness, Weisdale and Tingwall Community Council; and
- Delting Community Council.

2.3.3 The information available included plans of the proposed site layout, information boards explaining the potential environmental effects, along with an explanation of the consenting process and the current project stage within that process. Representatives of the Applicant and Ramboll were also 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](http://www.vikingenergy.co.uk)).

### **3. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Attendance**

- 3.1.1 Approximately 31 members of the public attended across both exhibition locations.
- 3.1.2 Attendees were invited to complete a questionnaire; 0 responses were provided. Other attendees discussed issues directly with the Viking Energy team.

## **4. SUMMARY**

- 4.1.1 This document provides an overview of the consultation process undertaken by the applicant while preparing the planning applications for the construction compound applications. 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**

# Isles links marked with Merchant Navy plaque



Brother and sister Ian Elliott and Ann Bianchi (née Elliott) have presented the Shetland Family History Society with a beautiful plaque, hand turned and carved by Mr Elliott in memory of all the merchant seamen who took part in the First World War.

After extensive research carried out by the pair they found members of their family with links to Shetland who had moved to the north of England and sailed with the Merchant Navy.

Mr Elliott and Mrs Bianchi described an emotional story leading up to finding their ancestors. Several members of the Shetland Family History Society joined them at the Hillhead office in Lerwick for the presentation.

**Pictured outside the family history group office are (from left): Joan Robertson (membership secretary), Elinor Nicolson (secretary), Ann Bianchi, Ian Elliott, Susan Cooper (chairwoman), Jean Gifford (vice-chairwoman) and Jasmine Moncrieff (research secretary). Left: A close-up of the plaque.**

Photo: Dave Donaldson



## Arthurs under the spotlight

The Shetland Family History Society is holding another "Sharing Shetland Surnames" event next weekend.

This time the society will be exploring the surname Arthur (or Arthurs) on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June at the Whiteness & Weisdale Public Hall.

On Saturday 8th at 6.30pm there will be talks, music and eight o'clocks. The guest speaker will be Susan Wyndham, literary editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

In her career as a journalist she has been editor of *Good Weekend* magazine, New York correspondent for *The Australian* and a deputy editor of the *Herald*.

She is the author of *Life In His Hands: The True Story of a Neurosurgeon and a Pianist*, and has edited and contributed to several other books.

On the Sunday afternoon, with teas hosted by the hall committee, the public will have another chance to look at the family of Arthurs exhibition from 2pm to 5pm.

## Somerset man traces his roots in Fair Isle

Somerset man Neil Owen has been tracing his family history for 15 years, including his Fair Isle roots which he says date back to the 18th century.

Mr Owen's paternal grandmother's family, the Stouts, can be traced back to Thomas Stout in Fair Isle in 1700 (his father is thought to be James Stout).

Mr Owen has been offered a photographic trip to Shetland next week with a group of disabled ex-servicemen by the charity Blesma. They will be spending next week based in Lerwick and visiting much of the isles' natural and historical heritage.

He has decided on his last day in Shetland to take the morning flight to Fair Isle to view his heritage from the air. He is returning to Shetland Mainland on the same flight to try and avoid weather complications concerning connections to his return flights to London.

Mr Owen is hoping to come

back to Shetland and Fair Isle on another date with colleagues from his family history group, some of whom also have connections to Shetland.

He hopes to research in more depth aspects relating to crofters during the Second World War, for instance, the build-up of 10,000 mixed troops and the development of relationships and how they integrated with the local community.

He would also like to look at all the aspects of Shetland life in which the Stouts have been/are involved, which is why his family history working party will be visiting to discover more.

Mr Owen will be at the Fair Isle airstrip during the aircraft turnaround between 9.25am and 9.35am on Friday 7th June and would love to shake the hands of any Stouts who are available and take contact details to enable him to contact them at a later date.

## Young musicians display High Level skills during Banchory competition



The High Level Music students who performed brilliantly in Banchory.

Photo courtesy of Fiona Adamson

A large group of pupils from the High Level shop in Lerwick enjoyed success recently at a music competition in Banchory.

They travelled south to take part in the Banchory Festival of Scottish Music and returned home with a haul of trophies – with High Level musicians placing first in seven different categories.

Youngster Ellie Nicolson who took the top prize in the nine and under violin section also won the trophy for highest points awarded.

High Level owner Fiona Adamson said it had been a fantastic weekend and congratulated all those who took part.

Tracey Webster, one of the festival organisers, made special mention of "Fiona and her Shetland musicians".

Ms Webster was also particularly impressed by the High Level Dance Band, singling them out for praise on the festival's website.

Results for the Shetland musicians were as follows:  
Age nine and under violin: 1 Ellie Nicolson; 2 Hope Williamson.

Age 12 and under violin: 1 Ruby Duncan; 2 Jayden Moore; 4 Emily Laurenson.

Age 12 and under accordion: 2 Emily Gifford; 4 Ryan Johnson.

Age 13-15 violin march strathspey and reel: 2 Zoe Semple; 3 Emma Leask.

Age 13-15 violin slow air: 2 Zoe Semple.

Age 13-15 accordion: 1 Victoria Byrne McCombie.

Senior march strathspey and reel: 1 Tamzin Leask; 3 Jayniemay Laurenson.

Senior accordion: 1 Mike Laurenson.

12 and under duet: 2 Jayden Moore and Ellie Nicolson.

15 and under duet: 3 (equal) Lulu Johnson and Daisy Anderson; Victoria Byrne-McCombie and Emily Gifford.

Junior ensemble: 1 (equal) High Level fiddlers. Special mention Forget-Me-Notes.

Dance band: 1 High Level Dance Band

Trophy for highest points awarded in the festival: Ellie Nicolson.

## Information Day Viking Energy Wind Farm

Viking Energy is holding an information day to outline its proposal to build three temporary construction compounds to service the wind farm site during the construction phase.

These are proposed to be situated:

- ♦ East of the loch of Sand Water, above the main A970 road
- ♦ Near Scar Quilse, Voe, east of the main A970 road
- ♦ On the Scord of Weisdale/Tresta, north of the main A971 road

Please accept this invitation to drop in at one of our two venues to learn about the planning applications and get an update on other forthcoming wind farm-related activities.

Information boards from these events will be available later on the project website [www.vikingenergy.co.uk](http://www.vikingenergy.co.uk)

**Wednesday  
12th June**

**Whiteness & Weisdale Hall  
10am – 2pm**

**Voe Hall  
3.30pm – 8pm**

**All welcome**

More info from the local VE office on  
[info@vikingenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@vikingenergy.co.uk)  
or phone 01595 743 840

[www.vikingenergy.co.uk](http://www.vikingenergy.co.uk)

**viking energy**  
Harnessing Shetland's natural resources

## Cruise pays off

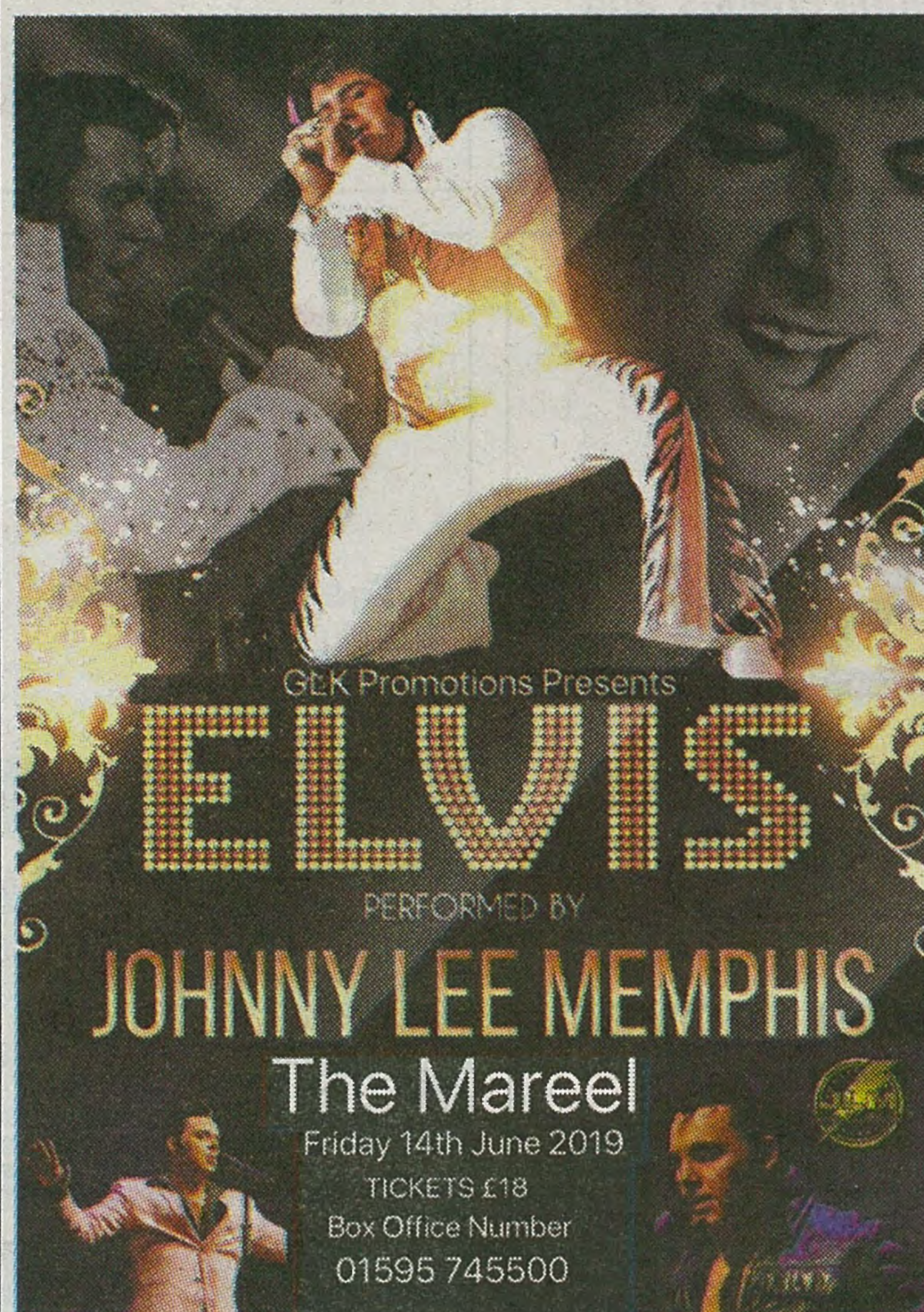
NorthLink Ferries has broken its £10,000 fundraising total for RSPB Scotland following the sell-out success of the fifth annual wildlife cruise onboard the *Hamnavoe*.

The event, which took place on Sunday 19th May, offered passengers the chance to spot some of the Northern Isles' unique wildlife while listening to information from RSPB Scotland and tasting local food and drink.

The event was launched in 2014, with, to date, almost 2,000 passengers, crew and staff helping to raise funds for the wildlife conservation, education and farming charity.

## TV opportunity

A television company is on the lookout for people to take part in a new series focusing on people who are moving from a big town or city to rural locations. They are keen to hear from anyone who has recently moved or is keen to up sticks to the isles. Email: [life@raisetherooftoproductions.com](mailto:life@raisetherooftoproductions.com) if you are interested.



# VE powers ahead as work is set to begin

- Civil engineers expected to start preparatory digs in next month
- Information days as firm looks to expand contractors' compounds

BY RYAN TAYLOR

Signs have emerged of building momentum around the Viking Energy windfarm – with imminent plans afoot to carry out ground investigations on site.

Thirty people are expected to be working on test bores and trial pits within a month, gathering information to feed into the civil engineering process.

Plans for the 103-turbine development have been discussed, and contested, for years. But Viking Energy is preparing to go through the latest round of Contracts for Difference to bid for the right to generate renewable energy.

Construction could begin in the first half of next year.

Head of development and strategy Aaron Priest said he expected the long-discussed plans to soon reach fruition.

His comments came during an information day was held over proposals to build three temporary construction compounds.

Viking Energy opened the doors to Whiteness and Weisdale Hall on Wednesday morning, before decanting to the Voe hall in the afternoon.

Over 20 people came to seek information throughout the day.

Viking Energy says it is consulting publicly as part of the planning process.

Mr Priest said the day allowed people to gain a general update on how the project is progressing.

"There are a lot of things going to

happen in a relatively short period of time," he said.

"We're doing ground investigations starting in early July throughout the summer. So there will be quite a bit of activity, test boring and trial pits being dug. There will be a team of about 30 people involved in that. There will be a lot of activity in the ground relatively soon."

He said the findings would provide civil engineering contractors with "a better indication of the conditions on the ground".

He added deputy chairman of anti-windfarm group Sustainable Shetland, James Mackenzie, had been present but there had been others simply seeking the latest information

» » Continued on page two

## Most people keen to get an update, says Viking's Priest

» » Continued from front page

Mr Priest said: "A lot of the people that have been here, and some have been interested in finding work with the project. Some have been representing contractors, some have been interested in getting a general update."

"I'd say the majority are just interested in getting a general project update."

The three proposed compounds are:

- East of the loch of Sand Water, above the main A970 road
- Near Scar Quilse, Voe, lying east of the A970
- On the Scord of Weisdale, north of the A971.

Mr Priest said the compounds, which will be used to provide welfare facilities, site offices, a canteen and parking, had already been consented.

Permission is being sought to make them bigger, following a request from contractors.

"The compounds would be reinstated. They are temporary compounds."

Attending the Voe gathering was Robin Black, a resident of Trondra but from Weisdale originally.



Robin Black questioned whether the size of the Viking Energy project was right for Shetland.

Photo: Dave Donaldson

"I'm interested to see what it is they are building and where," he told *The Shetland Times*.

"This is the first opportunity to look at preparatory works, which are quite significant."

Mr Black said he was an advocate for renewable energy given the level of "environmental degradation" being seen.

However, he questioned whether it was right to build "a windfarm of this size in an island of this size".

Mr Black was also concerned by the peat that will be displaced as part of the construction process.

"I work in civil engineering and I see what happens to peat when you disturb it," he said.

He said information should be more readily available on energy consumption across the life-cycle of the project and called for more input into offshore turbines or tidal energy.

Voe resident Angus Abernethy was relaxed about the windfarm being built.

"If it happens it happens, if it doesn't happen it doesn't happen – it makes no difference to me."

"It was the same with the oil. If Sullom Voe hadn't happened where would we have been?"

Speaking yesterday, Mr Mackenzie said he had struggled to gain enough information about why the compounds were needed. He said the Sand Water site was twice as large as his croft.

"I asked them why the compounds had to be so big, and the only answer I got was that the contractors they had approached had advised them they'd need the space."

r.taylor@shetlandtimes.co.uk

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## **APPENDIX 2 - FEEDBACK FORM TEMPLATE PROVIDED AT EXHIBITIONS**

## Viking wind farm – temporary construction compounds

### Your Comments

Thanks for taking the time to visit this public information day and we hope it has been informative. To help us understand the views of people in the community we would be grateful if you could please take a minute to complete our short questionnaire.

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**1. How did you find out about this information day?**

Newspaper ☐ Email ☐ Word of Mouth ☐ Website ☐

*Other? Please provide detail:*

**2. Has this public exhibition been helpful in terms of giving you more information about the plans for temporary construction compounds for Viking wind farm?**

Very helpful ☐ A little helpful ☐ Not helpful ☐

*Comments:*

**3. What are your views on the proposed construction compounds?**

Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Undecided ☐ Against ☐ Strongly against ☐

*Comments:*

4. If you have any further comments on the compounds proposal, or would like to request more information on 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 ticking 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, Shetland Islands Council. In the event that Viking Energy submits formal applications for planning permission there will be an opportunity to submit representations to the SIC 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.

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**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

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