



# BUILDING SHETLAND'S ENERGY FUTURE





### About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy across the UK and Ireland, with a portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, its strategy is to drive the transition to a net zero future through the world class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.

SSE Renewables owns nearly 2GW of operational onshore wind capacity with over 1GW under development. SSE Renewables also has the largest offshore wind development pipeline in the UK and Ireland at over 6GW, of which around 3GW is in construction or consented.



### About Viking Wind Farm

Viking Energy Wind Farm (VEWF) is a 103-turbine onshore wind farm set around the central Mainland of Shetland. The £580m project is owned by SSE Renewables and construction began last year. When completed in 2024, VEWF will become the UK's most productive onshore wind farm in terms of annual electricity output, playing a crucial role in contributing towards the UK and Scotland's net zero targets.



TRANSMISSION

### About SSEN Transmission

SSEN Transmission, operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission, owns, operates and develops the high voltage electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. Its network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines on wooden poles and steel towers, and electricity substations, extending over a quarter of the UK's land mass crossing some of its most challenging terrain.

SSEN Transmission powers the communities its network serves by providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity, taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through the transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.

### Keeping in touch

We are keen to hear your feedback, so if you have any questions about the newsletter or the works currently underway please contact:

SSEN Transmission Community Liaison Manager [Sharon.Powell@sse.com](mailto:Sharon.Powell@sse.com) / 07918 305099

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To find out more about the projects and to register for updates please visit:

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/Shetland/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/Shetland/)  
[www.vikingenergy.co.uk/](http://www.vikingenergy.co.uk/)

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# WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD THE WIND FARM

## WELCOME BACK

**Construction Phase:** Wind farm construction has now been in full swing for over seven months with steady progress made since the main contractor RJ McLeod started in August 2020.

The company has a workforce of just over 100 people deployed on site (half of whom are local) who have already laid over 12 miles (20km) of access tracks to turbine locations, much of it in the form of floating roads which are placed on top of the peat, avoiding the need to excavate it. All peat that is excavated is retained for use in extensive peat restoration initiatives which seek to reverse decades of significant peat erosion. No peat is being removed from the wider wind farm site.

More than 40 excavators and 30 dump trucks were deployed by early March with as much as possible supplied by local firms, including EMN Plant, Garriock Bros, Tulloch Developments, Shetland Quality Construction, Stewart Malcolmson, CW Johnson and FLJ.

The unusually long period of icy weather during January and February made for slippery conditions on the new hill tracks with activity sometimes having to be halted in the interests of safety. Due to environmental considerations, the spreading of road salt to help the dump trucks and other vehicles is not permitted, with only grit being used.

When the big thaw eventually set in, the network of silt traps and flood defences coped well with the dramatic increase in surface water, preventing sediment flowing into burns and lochs but allowing clean water to pass.



A floating access track to a turbine site above Catfirth in South Nesting.

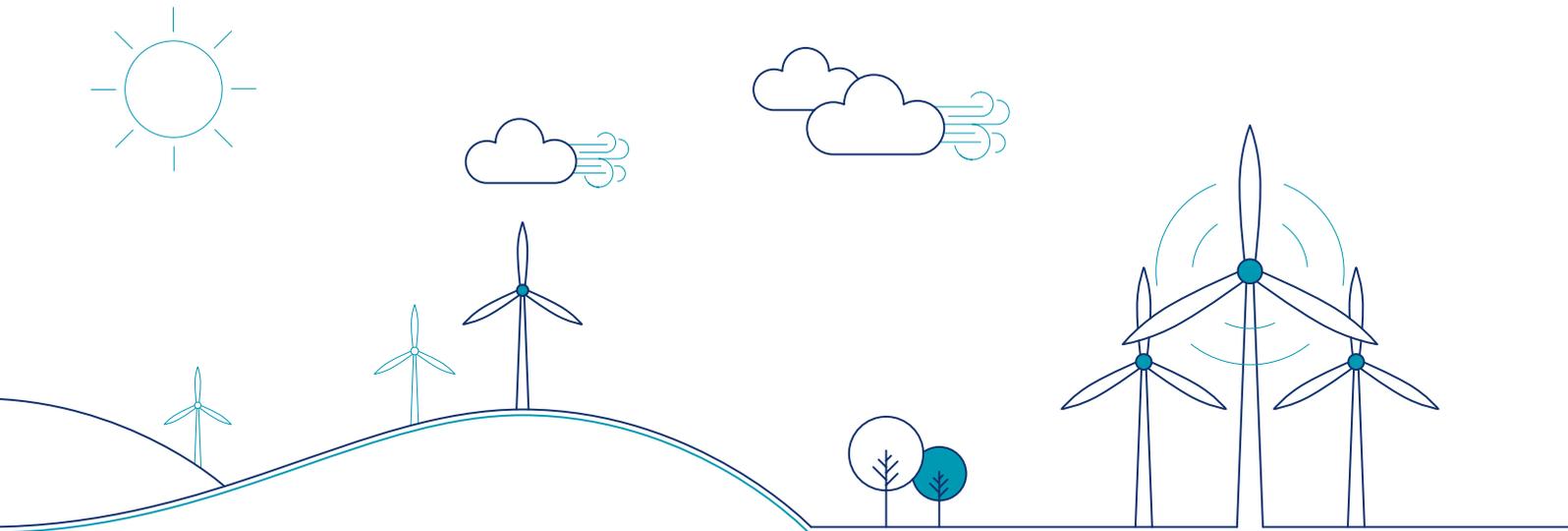
# THE NEW SANDWATER ROAD

The new double-track Sandwater road came into use on 15th March for construction traffic accessing Kergord and Mid Kame. This has removed most of the works lorries and plant from the old B9075 Sandwater Road. The new road will be tarred in 2023/24 and handed over to Shetland Islands Council for public use.

The last major part of the new road was the installation of a bridge over the Burn of Pettawater, involving Shetland contractors in lead roles constructing the abutments. This area is particularly sensitive as the bridge crosses the main water course flowing into the Site of Special Scientific Interest at Sandwater Loch.



Most construction traffic has started using the new Sandwater road.



# ACCESS TRACKS AND SITE ENTRY POINTS

Travellers using the main A970 road will have noticed new activity south of Voe where two junctions and access tracks will be formed on either side of the carriageway. The track to the east, at Scar Quilse, will access the site of the temporary North Compound and will also open up access to a group of 21 turbine locations to the south of Voe and Laxo.

The track built to the west side of the main road, at Hamarigrind Scord, will join up with the track already constructed along the ridge of Mid Kame where 11 turbines will be erected.



The north end of the access track along the Mid Kame ridge, which is nearing completion. It will end at a new road junction at Hamarigrind, south of Voe.

In total, the wind farm will have six site entrances. The main entrance near Sandwater is into the South Nesting section, accessing the temporary Main Compound and onwards to 36 turbine locations. The section of road to the Main Compound has been tarred, but generally the access tracks will not be surfaced with bitmac.



The Main Compound is now home to the wind farm workforce from SSE, RJ McLeod and various contractors and consultants. A large laydown area is being created to the rear. Strict Covid-19 management protocols apply to everyone working on site.

The track into South Nesting has reached the area at the Dud of Flamister where a borrow pit will be opened up to provide stone for access tracks further into the site. This avoids the need to transport all the stone over public roads from commercial quarries. Borrow pit sites will be backfilled, reprofiled and landscaped before the wind farm is completed.



A peat restoration area is being prepared at this turbine site at the Dud of Flamister, where the existing peat has all but eroded away. Areas of extensive, existing peat erosion can be seen in the background.

On the western section of the wind farm, an access track has been built up the hill of Scalla Field from the Kergord Access Track, which was constructed last year by Shetland firm Tulloch Developments in advance of the main wind farm works. A borrow pit is being opened up on the hill to provide road stone for tracks between East Burrafirth and Kergord.

In the coming months, the final site entrance will be formed at Scord of Sound, between Weisdale and Tresta, where a small temporary West Compound will be built.

The construction works are monitored daily by the team of environmental, archaeological and geotechnical clerks of works. Each month an independent Planning Monitoring Officer (PMO) inspects the site and files a report to Shetland Islands Council detailing any issues of concern, which are followed up the next month.

As the track-building moves into new areas of crofted land, the project team is keeping the different Common Grazings Committees and owner-occupiers informed about the plans and where fences are to be temporarily breached, particularly as the hill lambing season approaches.

# ROCK BLASTING AND BREAKING

RJ McLeod requires small blasts in areas around the wind farm site to remove obstructions and produce rock for access tracks and hard-standing areas. These events are carried out under strict safety controls and with well-marshalled procedures.

In the coming months, the blasting will move further away from areas where people live, becoming concentrated mainly in borrow pits within the interior of the wind farm site.

Blasting at the cut area along the new Sandwater road has finished and rock-breaking excavators have been tidying up the remaining stone formations at the cut area between Kergord and Sandwater.

A few more blasts are planned at the Main Compound area to produce the level surface required for the laydown yard. Once that is completed, the rock for the access tracks in the Nesting area will come from borrow pits far from houses and public roads.



The popular Vestas V-117 selected for Viking Wind Farm will be a 4.3MW-rated model, slightly larger than this version seen being installed at Stronelaig in the Highlands. Turbine deliveries and erection start on Viking in 2023.

## The Windfarm's Role in Supplying Shetland's Energy Requirements

The electricity from Viking Wind Farm will be used to power homes and buildings in Shetland before the surplus is transmitted down the interconnector cable.

Locally produced green electricity is central to ambitious plans that Shetland Islands Council has for Project ORION (Opportunities for Renewables Integration with Offshore Networks) and related oil and gas industry initiatives to decarbonise platforms located West of Shetland. It is estimated that Project ORION could support up to 1750 jobs in Shetland, providing a long-term future for Sullom Voe as the world moves towards a carbon net-zero future.



# LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

A major development like Viking Wind Farm offers a wide range of opportunities for businesses of all types and sizes in Shetland. Our aim is to work closely with the local business community to ensure as much as possible of the financial benefits of this project are shared. More than 30 Shetland firms already benefit from their involvement with Viking Wind Farm and over £5.3 million has been spent with local suppliers between June 2020 and January 2021.

We want to build and develop our supplier network, so there will be many more local opportunities to join the supply chain as the wind farm progresses. These range from providing equipment and trade services, to working on-site during construction, to providing operational support once the turbines start producing electricity.

We will continue to make it our priority to engage local people to work on building and operating the wind farm. Currently there are 54 local workers active on this project, which accounts for 50% of the workforce, and it is planned that this will increase as the build gets into full swing.

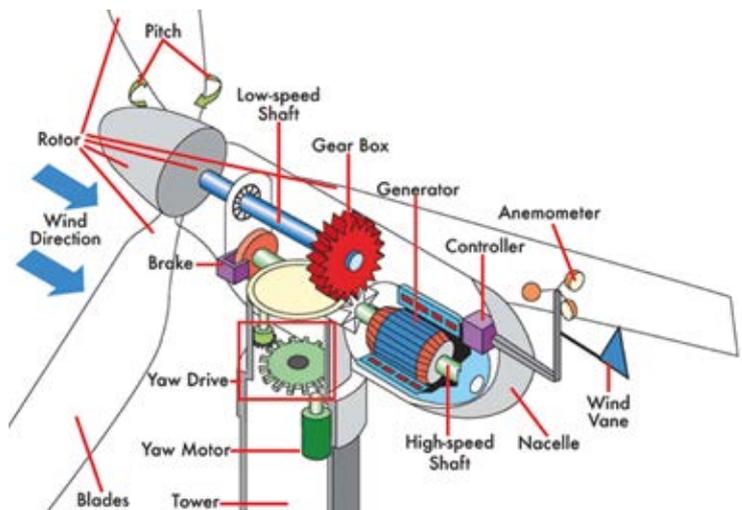
We're working in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, through their Open4Business web portal, to make sure finding out about Viking Wind Farm's supply chain opportunities is as straightforward as possible.

If you would like to be a potential supplier to SSE and our principal contractors, register your details for free by visiting [www.o4b-highlandsandislands.com](http://www.o4b-highlandsandislands.com). For information on how to register for updates and the latest contracting opportunities, or if you'd like to discuss how we could work with your business directly, please get in touch via email: [vikingwindfarm@sse.com](mailto:vikingwindfarm@sse.com)

## INSIDE A WIND TURBINE – HOW IT WORKS?

So how does a wind turbine create electricity? Kinetic energy from the wind is converted into electricity by using the aerodynamic force from the blades. When wind flows across the blade, the air pressure on one side of the blade decreases. The difference in air pressure across the two sides of the blade creates both lift and drag. The force of the lift is stronger than the drag and this causes the rotor to spin. The rotor, whose main job is to absorb mechanical energy and create rotational motion, connects to the generator through a shaft and a gearbox.

The gearbox speeds up the rotation and translates the aerodynamic force into electricity. Within the generator a magnetic rotor spins inside loops of copper wire which causes electrons inside the copper to flow, creating electrical energy. The electricity generated then travels down large cables from the nacelle, through the tower, and into underground cables.



At wind farms, cables from different turbines take the electricity generated to a substation where a step-up transformer again increases the electrical output. A transmission line connects the electricity output at the substation to the electrical grid – for Viking this will be at the new HVDC converter station at Kergord.

# SPECIAL PRODUCT MAKES LIGHT WORK OF THE NEW SANDWATER ROAD

The building of the new road has seen the use of a new lightweight fill material which is a first for public roads in Shetland. SSER Civil Engineer, David Hegarty explains the process...

Ground investigations identified deep peat deposits of up to five metres in places along the proposed route of the new Sandwater road. To put in a traditional founded public road was likely to require over 100,000 cubic metres of peat to be dug away, which was not a sustainable option.

Floating roads on top of peat are common on SSE wind farm sites but the amount of rock needed to bring the road at Sandwater up to the height levels required of a new public road brought with it an increased risk that the peat below might become overloaded. It was also likely that the road might require regular maintenance due to the rock settling, which would be an unwanted cost for

the council, which is to adopt the road once the wind farm is built.

Extensive research found that in Norway, where floating highways on deep peat are common, a solution is to use a lightweight fill. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) and tyre bales were considered before a product called Leca lightweight aggregate was deemed the best solution. It is formed by heating and firing natural glacial clay and has been used on the M8 in Glasgow and the approaches to the Queensferry Crossing.

Leca is easy to install using trucks and excavators and is chemically inert. Crucially, its weight is typically 85% less than traditional fill materials.



Diggers spreading lightweight Leca.



The Leca is a mixture of colours, sizes and textures.

The Leca is now successfully installed and is sealed in position by geotextile membranes, banded and capped with aggregate. Its use meant all three deep peat sections could be floated, significantly reducing the environmental impact of the works. The new road will carry wind farm-related construction traffic only, until it is handed over for public use in 2023/24.

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF A WIND FARM

The Viking Wind Farm has a dedicated group of environmental managers and ecological clerks of works in place overseeing the application of good practice and environmental scrutiny on a day to day basis.

All environmental management principles are based around the same simple model of:



By applying this model, good environmental management principles help to prevent or minimise the potential impacts from construction work. Applying the model allows any pollution risk to be effectively managed and reduces the chances of an incident occurring in the first place.

Identifying the potential impacts of constructing and operating a wind farm begins years in advance of the first spade in the ground. By carrying out detailed desktop studies which draw on historic and current information, a picture of the natural surroundings and environmental baseline can be formed. This is then supplemented with detailed site-specific investigations including into hydrology, geology, ecology, peat and natural soil deposits, groundwater flow and the chemical composition of underlying soils and surrounding watercourses and features. This data underpins an Environmental Impact Assessment document and forms the basis on which the environmental management measures are designed. These measures are all aimed at eliminating, preventing, reducing or mitigating the risk of any pollution.

The more information collected, the better the understanding of the natural environment. For example, in the case of the Viking Energy Wind Farm, data was collected for over a year, sometimes for many years, prior to construction to establish what the natural baseline is. Ongoing sampling throughout the construction and early operational phase is used to measure and quantify the impact of activities. Similarly, around 10-15 years of bird and fish data has been collected including seasonal variations in populations.

Risk assessments are applied which seek to eliminate or minimise any pollution risk. Examples of risk reduction being applied include aspects such as air filters, dust suppression units, drainage settlement systems, the diversion of water courses and, where applicable, amendments are made to the original design to account for localised habitats, through planned micro-siting.

Building a wind farm is weighed against many factors, including environmental impact, which is why a robust and extensive EIA is produced at the very outset. In the design phase, as many of the potential sources of pollution are engineered out as possible, so that their impact becomes minimal or non-existent. But it is the nature of construction that many will remain which require to be effectively managed and controlled.

# BIRD HABITAT PROTECTION

One of Shetland's greatest assets is the vast range of wildlife that has made its home here and as such Viking Wind Farm and its contractors are committed to monitoring, safeguarding and protecting it. That commitment extends to native breeding and migratory birds, a pledge which is underpinned by a detailed and comprehensive Bird Protection Plan (BPP). Ongoing, day to day adherence to the BPP is enshrined in the project's consent conditions which bind-in statutory protection of the nests, eggs and dependent young of breeding birds. Prior to the start of the breeding season thorough environmental surveys continue to be undertaken by trained expert staff so that detailed plans can be put in place ahead of construction work and risk levels fully assessed.

Since 2005, regular surveys have been undertaken giving a clear knowledge of the breeding locations for a range of protected birds. Our specialist consultants have worked in partnership with the RSPB and local ornithologists allowing us to carefully map breeding areas and develop practices to ensure bird disturbance is kept to a minimum.

The independent Shetland Windfarm Environmental Advisory Group (SWEAG), oversees the conservation measures put in place to manage sensitive habitats around the wind farm site. Improvements to the habitat of several



species, including red-throated divers, whimbrel and merlin, are a key priority with the aim being to increase their breeding success.

Daily site checks will be undertaken during the breeding season which will allow us to adapt plans quickly if necessary, divert or stop works and put in place mitigation measures such as placing visual baffles to disguise construction areas in order to reduce the impact on protected species.

All construction staff will remain well briefed on the importance of constant vigilance and awareness of the potential for breeding birds to be in the environments in which they are working and also to ensure that workers stay well away from nesting sites and other sensitive areas.

# VIKING COMMUNITY FUND LAUNCHES



Viking Energy Wind Farm is committed to be an integral part of the wider Shetland community and, as part of that process, to prioritising the communities who live near our development, providing support for positive local projects that will make a real difference.

We will be sharing the benefits of the wind farm through the Viking Community Fund, an index-linked fund which is anticipated to be worth £72 million over the project's lifetime. This will be managed independently by the Shetland Community Benefit Fund who can now take applications for grants from all 18 community councils in Shetland.

## There are two tiers from which funds can be applied for:

**Tier One** – Provides Micro Grants of £50 to £500 to support small projects which might need only a small level of support. This could be for an existing project or to develop a new idea. The application process is short and easy to access.

**Tier Two** – Provides grants of over £500 to support projects which need a larger investment. These applications should be from constituted groups. Projects should support the priority areas of the advanced grant scheme which include: promoting social inclusion and mental wellbeing; developing or improving community assets; and improving local heritage, cultural, sport, and arts facilities or activities.

To find out more about the fund please visit Shetland Community Benefit Fund's website [www.scbf.org.uk/ags](http://www.scbf.org.uk/ags)

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

It has been an extremely busy period for the Shetland HVDC project, with the team making excellent progress over the past 6 months since we first broke ground. We have experienced some challenging weather, with heavy rain and snow and ice blanketing the site on more than one occasion. Luckily as the Transmission operator in the North of Scotland we know a little something about working in challenging weather conditions.

## So, what's new?

As you can see the site is now starting to take shape and beginning to look like a construction site. The main focus over the last couple of months has been blasting, rock processing, earthworks and installation of environmental mitigations. We have been carrying out blasting weekly, we do this to "win" stone on site, reducing the need to import stone and help reduce the number of lorry journeys to and from the site.



The Kergord site taking shape.



Our site offices are now in place.

We have taken delivery of our temporary site offices and welfare facilities which will be home to the team for the next 3 years, with local company Garriock Bros Ltd providing the precast foundations the offices sit on.

The size of the project team onsite has also grown, we now have approximately 70 staff based at the site involved in the day to day construction activities, 30% of which have been recruited locally. This onsite team are supported by a large team who are working remotely from home.



First concrete pour underway

We also marked a big milestone in March as we laid our first concrete on site, pouring the basement blinding for the service building, this was closely followed by the mainline drainage for the site.

Local firm EMN Plant Supplied the ready-mix concrete from their batching plant at Scatsta. 170 cubic metres of concrete was laid over 2 days. EMN Plant is a family run business with roots in some of the largest construction works in Shetland.

## Our new Community Liaison Manager, Sharon Powell joins the team

As a Shetlander, I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to join such an important project. The Shetland HVDC project is at the centre of Shetland's future decarbonisation plans and I am looking forward to playing my part in supporting Shetland's transition to net zero emissions.

Over the coming months I will be working closely with the community to keep you up to date with the project's progress, both onshore and offshore and sharing any forthcoming opportunities.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel welcome to get in touch with me at [sharon.powell@sse.com](mailto:sharon.powell@sse.com) or Tel 07918305099

## PROGRESS MADE IN CAITHNESS

We hit our first major milestone at our Caithness site in November 2020, breaking first ground on the direct current switching station (DCSS) at Noss Head. Since then the team have been focusing on the initial civil engineering which will involve the creation of new access tracks and a haul road to the site, as well as setting up a temporary site compound and welfare facilities. Making excellent progress, the team have established the site drainage, minor watercourse diversion work and the installation of environmental mitigations, ahead of commencing the general earthworks. The diversion of an existing 11kV Overhead Line including the replacement with an

underground cable, was completed in February 2021.

It is set to be a busy couple of months for the team as they continue with the enabling works to get the site ready for the main construction of the switching station. From March 2021 onwards bulk earthworks will continue to shape the earthworks bunds which shelter the DCSS. Works will be underway on the access road (including Ackergill road improvements) along with establishing the final site offices due for arrival in May 2021. This will provide the workforce with welfare facilities for the coming three years until completion.



## ENGAGING WITH MARINE STAKEHOLDERS

On the 27 January we held our first marine stakeholder's forum meeting, virtually. The forum has been established to create a regular communication channel to discuss key topics related to the subsea cable installation. At the meeting we shared an overview of the project, what is involved in cable installation, the envisaged timelines and key dates. The event was well attended by a broad range of stakeholders including representatives from the aquaculture community, recreational sea users, fisheries and harbour authorities. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend and we look forward to the next meeting of the forum which we are hoping to hold in April.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF CONTRACTS

In January we announced, with our principal contractor for the manufacture and installation of the Shetland link HVDC subsea cable, NKT, the appointment of Shetland based civil and marine engineering firm Tulloch Developments, to deliver the civil engineering works for the Shetland HVDC link onshore cable installation.

The multimillion-pound contract will see Tulloch Developments deliver all the cable installation civil engineering works from where the cable makes land fall in Shetland to the new switching station at Kergord. The works will include the creation of haul roads, new access points, local road improvements and the cable transportation. The contract will support the creation of new jobs and is expected to make a significant contribution to the local economy.

In our last newsletter we spoke about working with the

local supply chain, we have been continuing to work closely with local suppliers, confirming contracts to deliver PPE, operational plant and machinery and materials. In just over 6 months we have spent over £1m with 11 local suppliers.

We have been working with one of our principal contractors BAM Nuttall and Open4Business to encourage local firms to bid for a contract to provide catering for our onshore construction teams. The canteen contract, which could run for up to 3 years, will provide catering for between 100 and 150 staff daily, providing hot meals at both breakfast and lunch sittings, within our welfare facilities. We have been very impressed with the quality of submissions received so far.

To find out more about up-coming business opportunities visit [www.o4b-highlandsandislands.com](http://www.o4b-highlandsandislands.com)

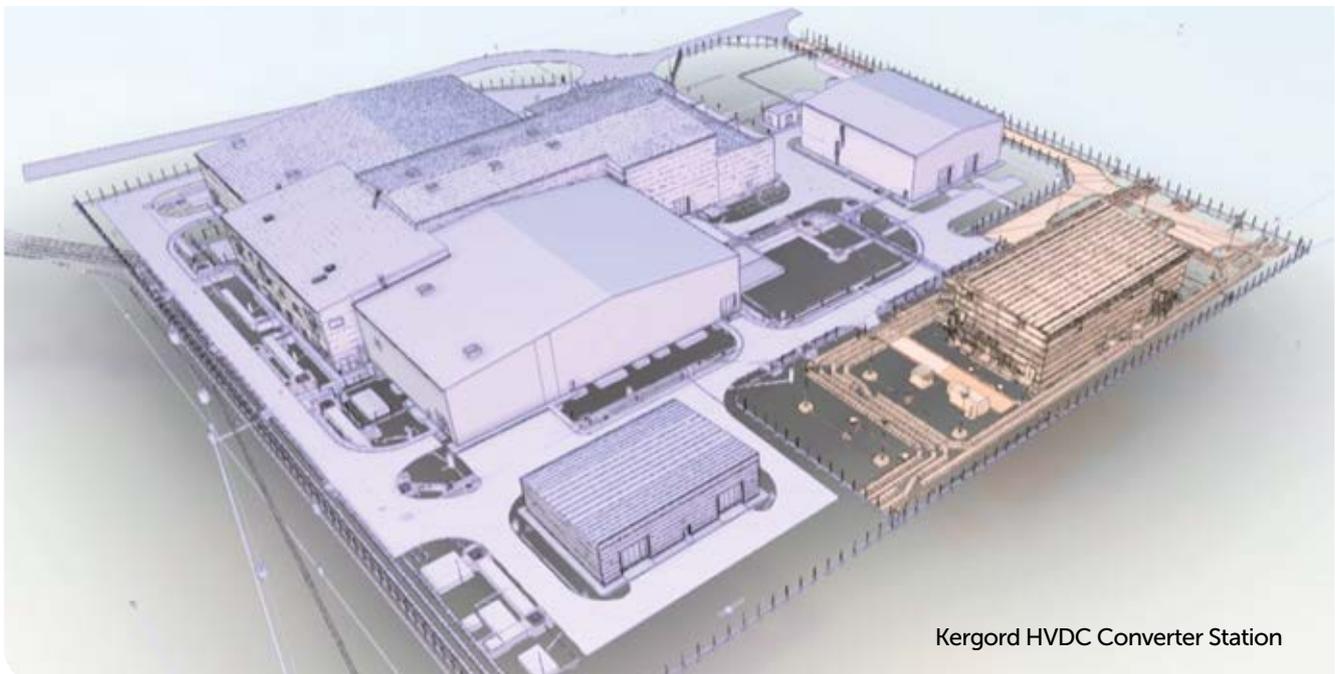
# FOCUS ON THE TECHNOLOGY: A LOOK AT WHY WE ARE USING HVDC TECHNOLOGY

The new 600MW HVDC Converter and 132kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation at Upper Kergord, will provide a mechanism for Shetland to harness the islands' onshore renewable generation and export to the Scottish Mainland. Connecting Shetland to the Main Integrated Transmission System (MITS) for the first time enabling the export and import of renewable energy, providing a more secure network for Shetland, reducing reliance on diesel generation. We thought we would take a closer look at High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) technology and why it is so important.

The use of HVDC technology allows electricity to be transmitted over long distances, whilst resulting in lower power losses in comparison to a traditional Alternating Current (AC) transmission subsea cable. It also allows the energy to flow in two directions, taking energy generated away from Shetland but also bringing it to Shetland when it is required, giving a greatly increased operational flexibility of the system.

HVDC transmission systems are becoming more and more important in the energy landscape, with around 10,000 km of HVDC cable now in operation around the world, transporting up to 120 GW of energy, helping to connect more green power to the grid.

At Kergord, the traditional AC 132kV GIS Substation plays a key role, it will be the connection point for the new renewable generation and future transmission network in Shetland. This renewable energy is then transmitted across to the Kergord HVDC Converter station, where power electronic devices known as Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistors (IGBTs), accompanied by complex control and protection systems, perform the conversion of the power from AC to DC to allow it to be transported.



Kergord HVDC Converter Station

So, what happens to the power that isn't used in Shetland? Well it connects into the existing Caithness Moray HVDC System via a new Direct Current (DC) Switching Station at Noss Head outside Wick. The DC Switching Station will be a common node for both the Caithness Moray link and Shetland link, creating a first of its kind multi-terminal HVDC System.

This renewable energy will then be distributed via the Main Interconnected Transmission System (MITS) to either the local network in Caithness and the wider North West Highlands or transported by the Caithness Moray HVDC link via the existing Spittal and Blackhillock HVDC Converters respectively, to be sent wherever it is needed.

# CONNECTING SHETLAND'S FUTURE RENEWABLE GENERATION

Back in July last year we consulted on our plans to provide connections for three new renewable electricity generators in Shetland; Energy Isles and Beaw Field windfarms located in Yell; and Mossy Hill windfarm located west of Lerwick. Once connected these windfarms will play a key role in Shetland's transition to net zero emissions.

## The Shetland Connections Project is made up of 5 main elements:

- A new 132kV Switching Station located in Yell to connect Energy Isles and Beaw Field Windfarms;
- Two new 132kV connections from the proposed Yell Switching Station to Energy Isles and Beaw Field windfarms, likely to be a combination of overhead line with sections of underground cable;
- A new 132kV connection from Yell Switching Station to Kergord 132kV Substation and HVDC Converter Station. This will consist of a combination of 132kV land cable, overhead line and a subsea cable between Yell and Mainland Shetland;
- Two new 132kV connections from Kergord 132kV Substation to a new Grid Supply Point (GSP) Substation near the existing Gremista 33kV Substation to supply island demand. They will consist of a combination of overhead line with sections of underground cable. Location of the new Gremista GSP still to be determined;
- A new 132kV tee-connection from one of the Gremista connections to Mossy Hill windfarm, likely to be a combination of overhead line with sections of underground cable.

Last year we sought your feedback on proposed route corridors for connections with your feedback helping to inform our environmental and engineering assessments enabling us to identify route options.

This summer we will be holding our next series of consultation events to seek further feedback on our route proposals to connect the three windfarms and Gremista GSP once a suitable site has been identified. We are still in the early development phase of this project and are keen to work closely with the local community as we consult on the preferred routes for these new connections.



We encourage anyone who might be interested in finding out more about the project to visit [Shetland Renewable Connections](#)

# MAKING A START ON THE LAND CABLE INSTALLATION

As we head into summer we will be turning our attention to work taking place outside the Kergord site, as our principal contractor NKT and their contractor Tulloch Developments start work on the installation of the land section of the HVDC cable.

The cable will run from Kergord to Weisdale Voe for approximately 8km, with initial fencing works commencing in April. Over 12 months the team will work on the trenching and duct installation, in preparation for installation of the cables, which is expected to take place in summer next year. We will also be mobilising a survey vessel to commence surveys of the subsea cable route in May.

In our next edition we will be sharing with you more details of what is involved in the land and sea cable installation.



CREDIT: Paula Moss

## || UPCOMING SURVEYS

We will recommence breeding bird surveys in April in the north of Shetland for the Shetland Renewables Connection Project. Our environmental partners Ramboll and Atlantic Ecology are carrying out these surveys on our behalf between April and September 2021.

You may see ornithologists in various parts of the North Mainland. Our land manager, Jim MacMillan will be contacting landowners in advance of these surveys taking place.

As part of their pre-construction works, the cable installation contractor NKT, may be deploying bird mitigation measures between Weisdale Voe and Kergord.

Ahead of the commencement of construction, ecological surveys will be undertaken on the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable route between Weisdale Voe and Kergord from March onwards.

### A LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

With the site mobilising work now complete and site offices and welfare facilities nearing completion, the team will shift their focus to building the HVDC Converter station and AC substation. Over the next 3 months we will see the site start to take shape as we complete the stone platform, concrete foundations and begin to create the structures of the first buildings.

We take delivery of key materials including structural steel and pre-cast foundations ahead of installation in July.

The bulk earthworks are currently underway for the HVDC platform and are scheduled to finish in April.

Work will continue on the platform drainage system and will be completed in June.

Onsite staff number will grow to approximately 140. Land Cable installation works will commence with our Contractor NKT and Tulloch Developments.