

To whom it may concern,

Here in Shetland, swathes of peat moorland habitat is under threat in the name of supposed 'green' energy. Viking Energy wishes to erect 103 155m wind turbines in this beautiful area which is home to much wildlife - including curlews and lapwings, mountain hares, merlin, otters and much more, destroying peat moorland and releasing tonnes of co2 into the atmosphere. Peat that is becoming valued as a carbon sink and a fragile habitat.

The investigative ground works for which they applied for retrospective planning permission last year used tracked vehicles destroying the top layer of peat, a helicopter to deliver materials and personnel disturbing a loch with red throated diver chicks not yet fledged (endangered species). Photographs of the activities can be seen on the Stop Viking Energy Windfarm Facebook page where you can also see evidence of run off into water courses from toxic materials used in drilling. Viking Energy are currently working on an access road for which not all the planning conditions have been met and during bird nesting season.

The destruction of the hills will be massive with huge amounts of peat removed, huge 'borrow pits' (quarries) dug out to surface the necessary roads, one pit alone will need the equivalent of 5000 trucks to transport the rock. Concrete slabs will be poured necessitating more trucks. The turbines will have to be transported by sea then road on an island where roads are not made for items of this size. How can this be green?

This project requires an interconnector cable to join it to the mainland, this does not yet exist. It requires subsidies, it seems they assume this is all assured as they are charging ahead. Money for subsidies is driving this project. Wind power is not guaranteed. In Shetland the small turbines we have are often braked because the wind is too strong. There is already overcapacity on the mainland with wind farms being paid not to produce energy as the grid can't take it, why are we being turned into an offshore wind farm for a mainland that can't take it? Money, profit, is the only answer.

We need support to protect this fragile, important environment which attracts wildlife enthusiasts and wild places lovers from all over the world. We would like to keep our lonely planet top ten places to visit in Europe designation. While we appreciate the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gases, climate change cannot be stopped by the destruction of a habitat such as this which releases the very gases into the atmosphere!

The recent proposal to build a gas powered power station on Shetland requires serious consideration.