

Welcome

About this event

Thank you for taking the time to attend our public drop-in exhibition. The event provides information about the 'revised design' of our Neven Point Wind Farm proposal, located on the southern edge of the island of Eday.

This exhibition provides you with the opportunity to:

- learn more about the proposal
- discuss your views with our project team
- provide feedback to GreenPower on the proposal at this stage

A range of information is available, and our experienced project team can discuss the project with you and answer any questions that you may have.

Pre-application consultation

Due to the time that has lapsed since our August 2022 consultation event, we are renewing our pre-application consultation process for the revised design. As such, this is the first of two consultation events that we will be holding over the next few months.

The August 2022 feedback played an important part in the design development process, and we are grateful to everyone who took time to share their views with us and submit comments.

Since August 2022 we have continued with site surveys to inform design changes. The changes are summarised on the 'design evolution panel'.

Your views count

Our project team always aims to design and deliver in a way that minimises impacts and maximises benefits.

Whilst a great deal of design work has been undertaken over the last couple of years, there is still an opportunity for your comments to influence the proposal before the design is finalised.

As well as contributing to tackling Climate Change and helping to meet the Scottish and UK Governments Carbon reduction targets, we want to ensure that the project delivers meaningful and tangible benefits for the community, so please let us know what matters to you.

Providing feedback

Feedback to GreenPower must be provided in writing by filling in a comments form at this exhibition, or download the form online via the project website and email to nevenpoint@greenpowerinternational.com.

The closing date for submitting feedback to GreenPower is Wednesday 4 December 2024. This ensures that all feedback received by this date is considered **at this stage** of the pre-application process.

Written comments submitted to GreenPower are not representations to the determining authority (Orkney Islands Council). There will also be an opportunity to submit written representations to the determining authority – Orkney Islands Council, once a planning application has been submitted and a statutory consultation is initiated.

About GreenPower

GreenPower is an award-winning independent Scottish-owned renewable energy company headquartered in Alloa, near Stirling.

We were founded in 2000 by CEO Rob Forrest, one of the early pioneers and leaders in renewable energy in the UK, and now have over 290MW of consented renewable energy projects and a growing portfolio of onshore wind, solar and green hydrogen projects in active development.

We are passionate about developing sustainable renewable energy projects which help tackle the climate emergency and also contribute to the benefit of communities in which we operate.

Fundamental to our approach is the importance we place on meaningful and constructive engagement with local communities to ensure that our projects are well designed and considerately delivered.

For more information about GreenPower, please visit www.greenpowerinternational.com.

Project overview

Site location

Neven Point Wind Farm is located on Greentoft farmland, on the southeastern edge of Ward Hill, at the most southerly point of the Orkney Island of Eday.



The north of Scotland has some of the best wind resource in Europe, and Orkney is no exception. Eday sits in the midst of this incredible energy resource and is uniquely placed to support a wind project.

The Neven Point proposal would help towards tackling the climate emergency - whilst also delivering significant economic and social benefit to Eday in a way that could help support, sustain and energise the island's future.

Project background

The Neven Point Wind Farm project was acquired by GreenPower in June 2022 as an 8-turbine proposal.

Following our early assessment work, we held our first public exhibition to gather community feedback in August 2022 on a 6-turbine design.

Extensive technical and environmental survey work, together with community feedback, has resulted in some key changes and led to the development of a revised design of 5 turbines.

Needs case

The Scottish Government has targets to effectively double the capacity of onshore wind across Scotland from 2022 levels (roughly 9GW) to 20GW by 2030 in order to meet net zero carbon emission targets. To achieve this, the industry is also predicted to create around four times more jobs.

Onshore wind projects like Neven Point can achieve carbon payback within a relatively short period of time (typically 9-24 months), and help improve the country's energy security by reducing the requirement to import energy from elsewhere. As such onshore wind forms an important part of Scotland's decarbonisation strategy.

Due to the high wind resource Neven Point is capable of producing electricity at some of the lowest costs compared to other forms of renewable generation such as offshore wind and hydro-power.

Onshore wind is also capable of delivering significant local inward investment into local communities, including jobs and employment, and currently provides the highest levels of community benefit within the energy industry.

Considering the environment

As part of our design development work we have undertaken hundreds of hours of site surveys to identify constraints and ensure that we are developing the project in a way that protects the environment.

Some of the studies we have undertaken include:

- Ornithology
- Ecology
- Landscape and Visual
- Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology
- Noise
- Telecommunications
- Aviation

In addition, we are also aiming to enhance habitats to improve biodiversity overall, as well as recreational opportunities through a commitment to enhance the War Ness walk.

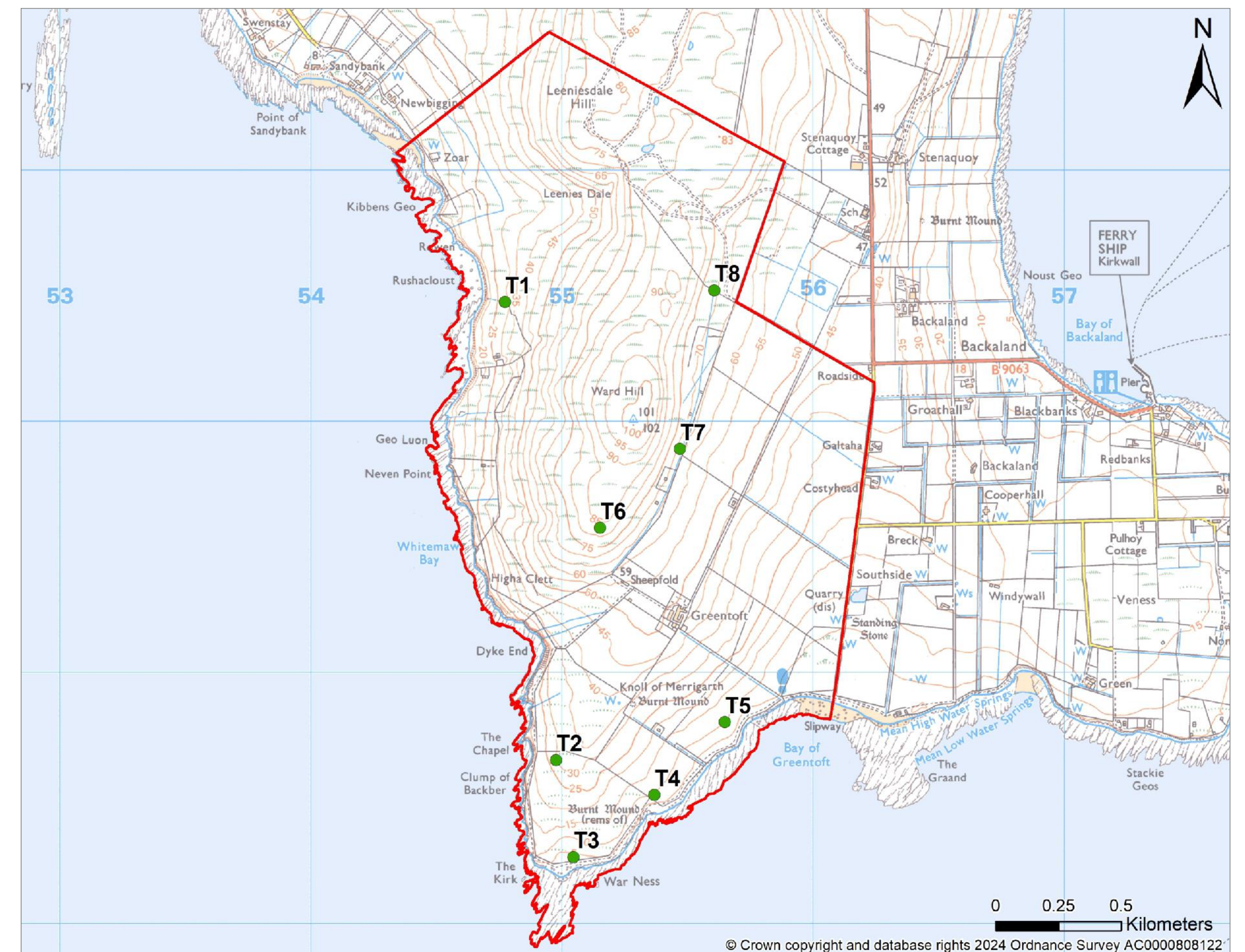
Design Evolution

8-turbine design (June 2022)

Initial scoping suggested the site could accommodate 8-turbines when GreenPower acquired the project in June 2022.

The design included turbines on the west side of Ward Hill.

Up until this point, the majority of site survey data and identification of site constraints was at an early stage. However, detailed ornithological studies were underway, including breeding and wintering bird surveys, vantage point surveys, and Skua surveys.

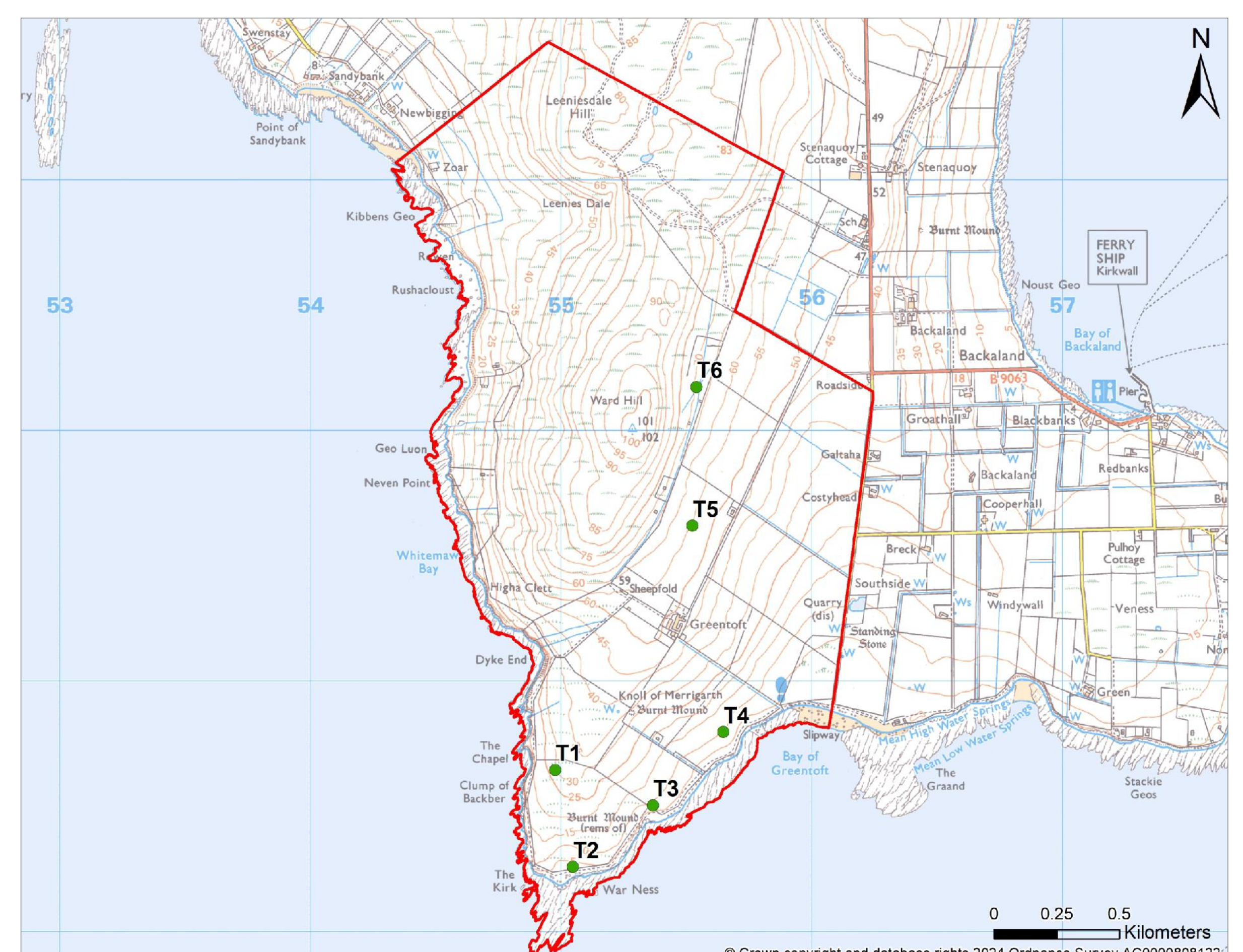


6-turbine design (August 2022)

By August 2022 further ornithology survey work had been completed. The data showed that some of the turbines to the west of Ward Hill were at risk of potentially having a negative effect on some bird species including the Great and Arctic Skuas.

In addition, other site data highlighted potential impacts on peatland habitat at these locations – and landscape assessments concluded that creating a more contained layout would be a better fit.

As such, the two turbines on the west side of Ward Hill were removed to create this 6-turbine design.

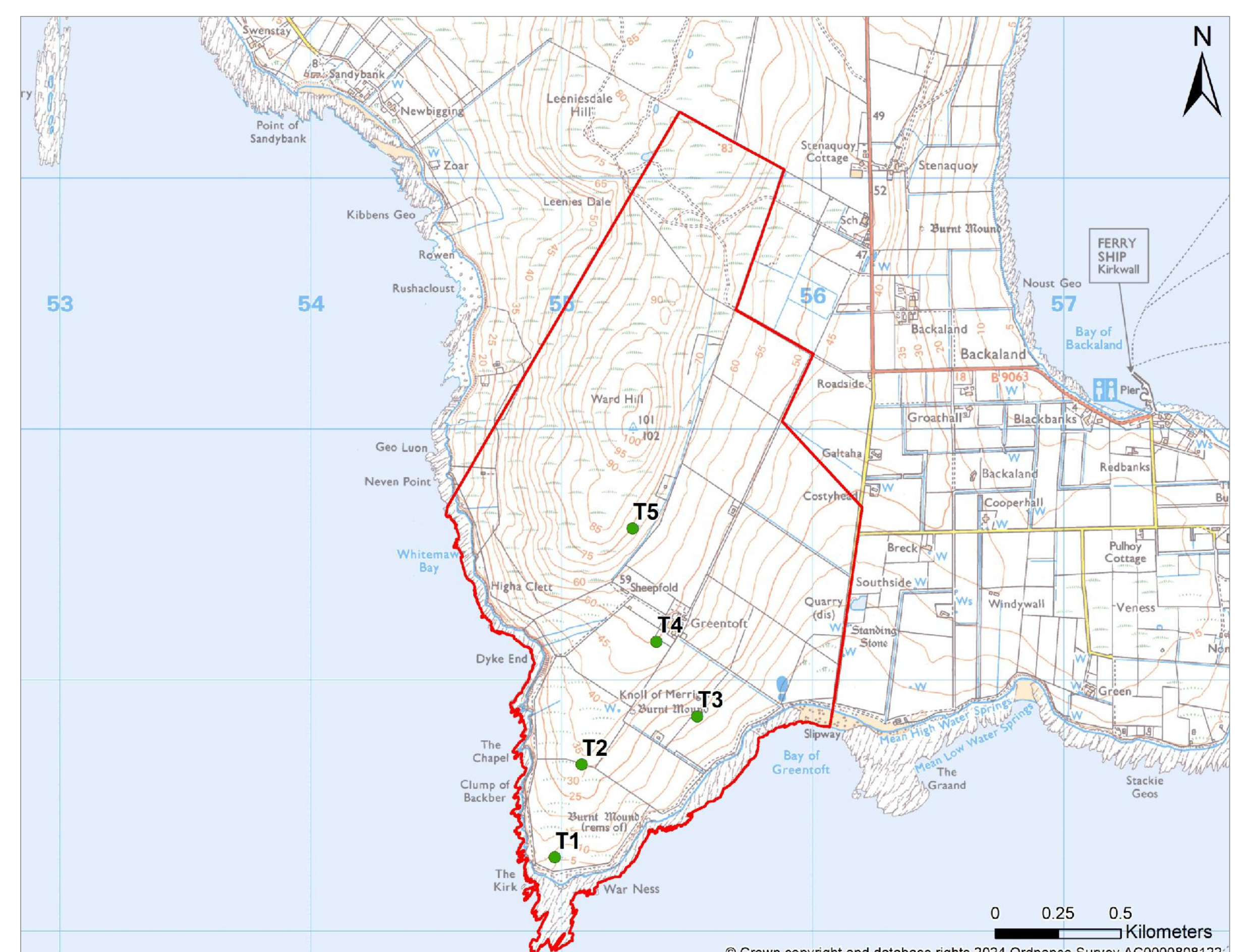


5-turbine revised design (November 2024)

Since August 2022 we have undertaken another two years of bird surveys, detailed site surveys including ecology, peat probing and cultural heritage and landscape and visual assessments.

This wealth of data, together with community feedback from the August 2022 consultation event, has been immensely valuable and helped to further inform and refine the layout. This has created a revised design of 5 turbines which is the focus of this exhibition and renewed pre-application consultation.

All of the turbine positions have changed location to some degree, and we have removed turbine 6 from the layout. The revised design work also prioritised increasing the distance from multiple properties.



Infrastructure layout - revised design

Turbine locations

The turbine locations have been carefully refined over the past two years to address technical constraints and minimise potential adverse effects wherever possible. This has created a 5-turbine revised design with tip heights of up to 180m and an installed capacity of around 30MW.

Site access tracks and hardstandings

Wherever possible, existing farm tracks will be utilised to help minimise environmental impacts; these tracks will require to be improved and upgraded to accommodate construction traffic.

Additional access tracks, mainly in the form of short spur roads out to the turbine locations, will also be created – together with hardstanding areas at the base of each turbine for the crane and other plant to utilise during turbine erection.

On-site substation

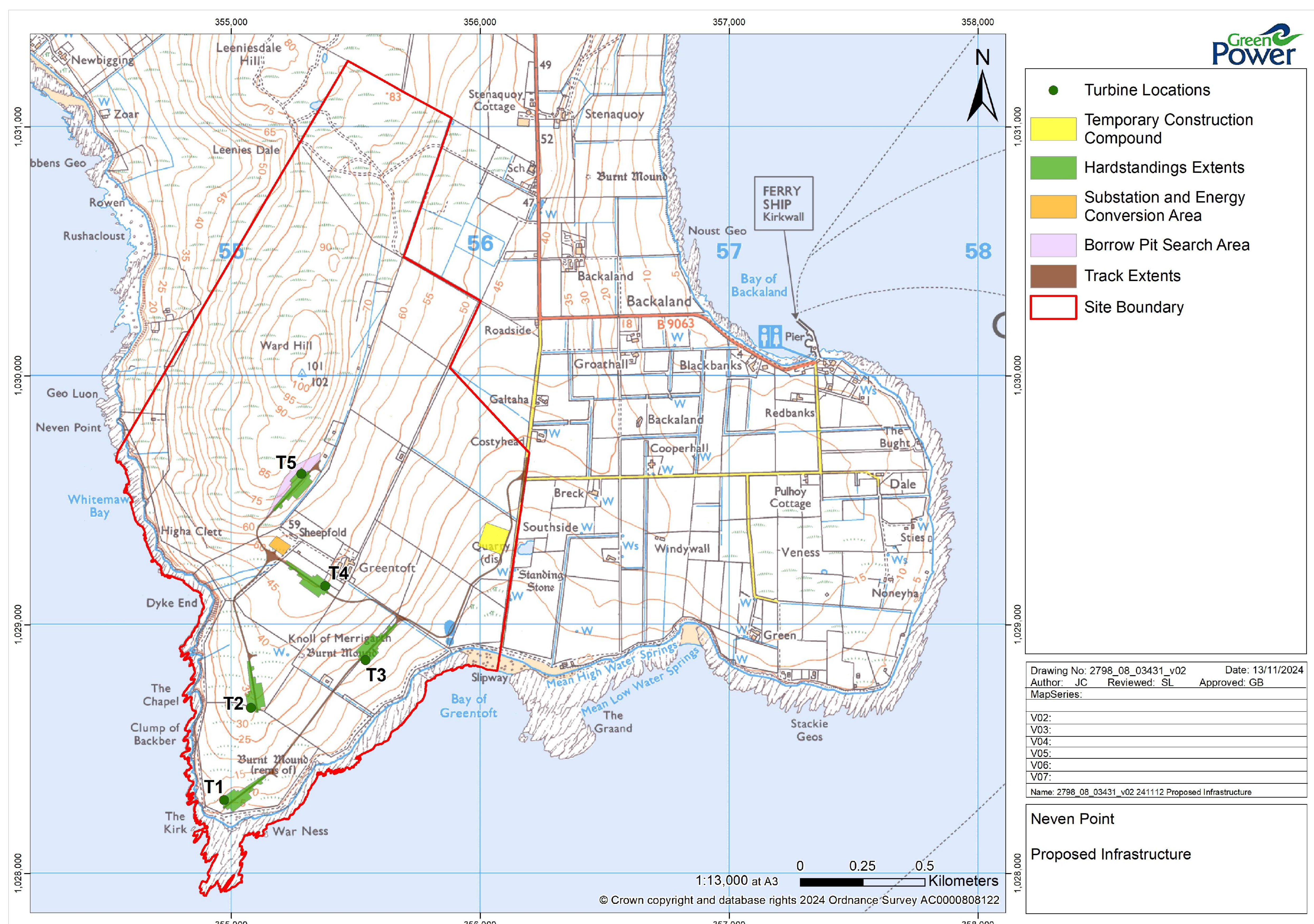
Cabling from each of the turbines will feed back into a single-storey on-site substation located in the centre of the site. The substation will convert the low-voltage electricity generated by the wind farm to a higher voltage suitable for the grid network.

Energy storage system

An on-site Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be located next to the substation. The BESS will help maximise the efficiency of the site and contribute to a more resilient electricity network - by storing electricity when generation exceeds demand and releasing it back onto the grid when required.

Temporary infrastructure

A temporary construction compound for staff and plant, together with temporary borrow pits for sourcing aggregate during construction, will also be created.



Assessing the effects

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process identifies and assesses the potential significant environmental effects of the proposed development. It covers a wide range of technical considerations, including those outlined on this board, which help shape the final design and inform any mitigation measures.

The findings are written up into a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application submission.

Landscape and visual

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) forms a core part of the EIA. It is carried out by specialist, independent chartered landscape architects and has a crucial impact on the design of the development. The LVIA considers potential effects on visual amenity and the wider landscape, noting any changes in the characteristics and qualities of the landscape as a result of the proposed development, and aims to minimise them wherever possible.

The current 5-turbine layout has been designed to align as far as possible with the natural views from within Eday and the surrounding islands. By assessing sightlines and viewpoints, both locally and from nearby islands, the revised design seeks to preserve important views, minimise visual effects, and integrate appropriately into the landscape from a planning perspective.

A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) also forms a core part of the LVIA work and seeks to minimise potential effects on residential amenity. This work has resulted in a further turbine being removed and the scheme being pulled back to the west in order to create greater distance between the turbines and nearest residential properties.

A preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagram is also included and indicates the number of turbines theoretically visible within the study area. This is done on a clear visibility basis. Indicative visualisations from key viewpoints are included within the exhibition material.

Ornithology

Surveys have been carried out over four years, going over and above the standard two-year requirement, to ensure a robust data set to help us identify adequate buffers and distancing of turbine locations.

These extensive surveys have involved hundreds of hours of work – including vantage point surveys which map flight lines of different bird species in the area, breeding and nesting bird surveys, as well as wintering bird surveys which include migration activity.

All surveys have been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance and consultation with NatureScot.



Ecology

Ecology surveys have been ongoing since 2020, with additional updated surveys carried out over the last two years, to assess the potential effects of the proposal on habitats and protected species and explore opportunities to create biodiversity net gain through enhancement initiatives.

Assessments to date have concluded that there will be no significant impacts.

Assessing the effects - continued

Cultural heritage

Eday is rich in cultural heritage and the layout, including the proposed infrastructure, have been carefully assessed and designed to avoid direct and indirect impacts within the site and wider vicinity.

The design has been carefully balanced to minimise effects on the setting and visibility of key heritage features. Considerations include Knoll of Merrigarth Burnt Mound, Viquoy Chambered Cairn, and Stakle Brae Castle – and we continue to consult with Historic Environment Scotland.

Hydrology, geology and hydrogeology

This EIA work involves, amongst other things, assessing the underlying geology and hydrology of the site, undertaking extensive peat probing, assessing main watercourses, and measuring water quality on the site to establish a baseline.

This has helped us identify constraints and ensure that the design avoids or minimises any potential impacts on hydrology, geology and hydrogeology.

Noise

As part of the EIA work we need to consider the effects of both construction and operational noise, including cumulative impacts with other neighbouring wind farms.

Noise monitoring surveys have been undertaken at nearby properties to establish a background noise baseline. This data has been analysed by independent chartered noise specialists to ensure that turbine locations for the revised design are adequately distanced from nearby sensitive locations.

Noise limits are strict – and commonly restricted to around 35 dB at residential properties, as set by the local authority.

If at any point, for any reason, noise limits are breached the local authority carries the power to shut down the wind farm until the matter is resolved.

Shadow flicker

Shadow flicker is the effect that can be caused, on certain days in the year and in very specific weather conditions, by the sun passing behind a rotating turbine and causing a flicker effect through a narrow opening such as a window.

In the past shadow flicker was an issue with some early wind farms. However, nowadays we have advanced modelling software that can predict when shadow flicker is going to occur by monitoring the weather conditions and turbine positions - enabling turbines to be temporarily adjusted, if necessary, to reduce any significant effects at nearby sensitive locations.

Aviation

This assessment considers potential effects on aviation interests, both civil and military, and our EIA work involves consultation with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL), Loganair and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Turbines in excess of 150m require night-time aviation lighting and an assessment of any visual effects of this will be included in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), with night-time visualisations and photomontages.

Mitigation to minimise lighting is currently being considered by the CAA and, if approved, only three turbines are anticipated to be lit in a similar way to the Sanday turbines. Aviation lighting is also designed to shine upwards and varies in intensity, in response to weather conditions, from around 200 candela in good visibility up to 2,000 candela in poor visibility.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications operations within the vicinity of the site, such as fixed radio links and broadcast transmissions, have been assessed and the design developed in a way that ensures there are no direct impacts or potential for interference to existing operations.

Traffic and transport

Construction traffic

Construction of a wind farm project can be a busy time within a local community, generating higher levels of traffic. Careful management is needed to minimise disruption and protect essential services.

Should the project be consented, the construction of Neven Point Wind Farm is expected to be spread over 18 to 24 months. The first phase would comprise the civil works and involve mobilising plant and staff to site before building the access tracks, hard-standing areas, and turbine foundations. This is likely to be the busiest phase for construction traffic on local roads.

Once the civil works are nearing completion, delivery of turbine components would commence and the turbine installation phase would start.

Delivery of towers, blades and nacelles involves the use of abnormal load vehicles, requiring careful local co-ordination.

Transport routes

Turbine deliveries would be transported by abnormal load vehicles under police escort. We are in the process of exploring two main route options from the pier area as follows:

- Heading west on B9063 then south onto Southside Road
- Head south from the pier and then west along Veness Road

On either route there would need to be some road improvement works at certain points to facilitate the abnormal loads.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will accompany the planning application, will identify the preferred route and include the detailed traffic assessment. General construction traffic management and route will be confirmed following consultation on the detailed transport management plan.

Protecting the essential ferry service

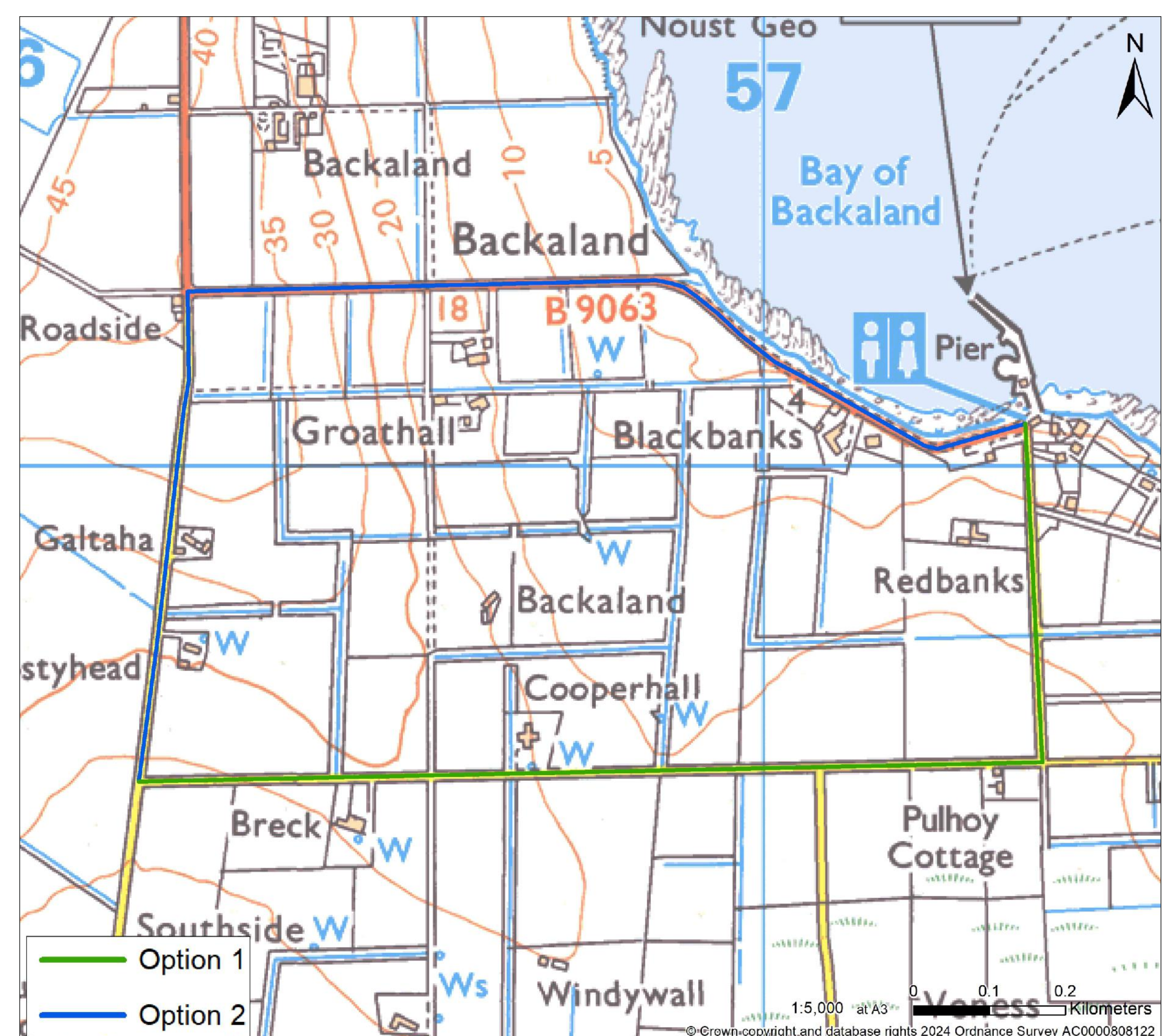
One of our core priorities in the design and delivery of the project is to ensure that essential ferry services to and from Eday are maintained. We commit to working around the needs of islanders.

We are assessing a number of options on how best to manage the turbine deliveries, and wider construction traffic travelling to and from the island, during the construction phase.

To deliver the turbines and other large equipment to the island we are proposing to build a separate jetty plus a temporary floating roll-on roll-off pontoon to the southeast of the existing pier. There are no plans to lengthen or interfere with the use of the existing pier.

We commit to fully consult with the community and Orkney Islands Council transport department to develop a detailed Transport Management Plan. We will utilise as much material and as many people and local services as possible from within Eday. Where needed we will charter additional shipping capacity to move vehicles and materials as required.

A separate public exhibition for marine works at the pier will be carried out early next year. Further information will be available at the event and there will be an opportunity to provide feedback ahead of the marine design being finalised.



Next steps

November 2024 - Exhibition feedback

The feedback received from this exhibition and subsequent consultation period will play an important part in helping further inform the design and delivery of the project as well as shaping the local benefits that the project could deliver should it receive consent.

Whatever your views on the project, please take the time to engage with our team before submitting your formal feedback to us in writing. Details of how to submit feedback and by when are provided on the 'Welcome' exhibition information board.

December 2024 - Design freeze

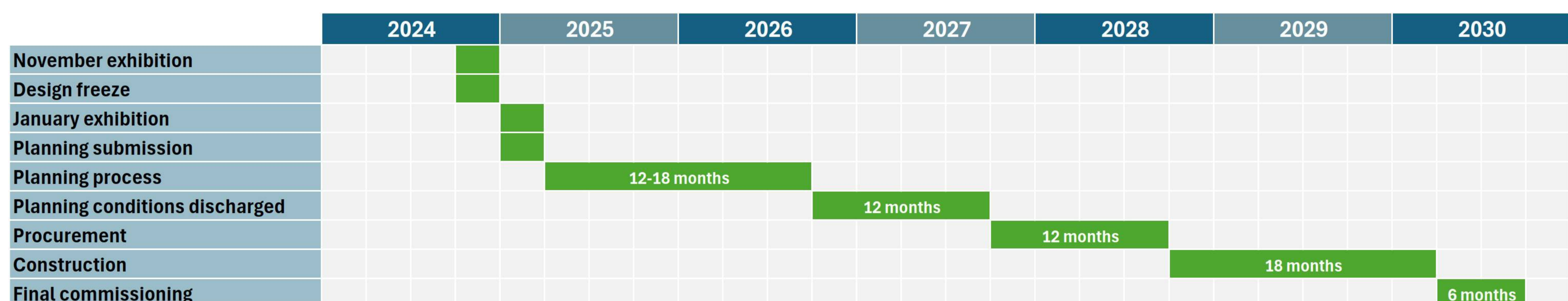
By the end of this year we expect to have completed all of our site survey work, analysed the feedback from this November exhibition, and reached a final design. At this point we will complete the drafting of the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application.

Early 2025 - Public exhibition

We plan to hold a second and final public exhibition early in 2025, to present the final design and gather any final feedback from the community. This event will be advertised accordingly and in line with Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) requirements of the planning authorities.

Once the community feedback from the second exhibition has been logged and considered, a PAC Report will be written – capturing all of the feedback from consultation events and explaining how it has been considered in relation to the design. The PAC Report will accompany the planning submission.

Indicative timeline



Spring 2025 - Planning

A planning application is currently proposed to be submitted to the Orkney Islands Council in early 2025 under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act.

Once the planning application is submitted, the Council will advertise and hold a formal statutory consultation period for people, as well as key consultees, to review the planning application and associated documentation and submit formal written representations to the Council as the determining authority.

2025 - 2027 - Planning process

It usually takes between 6 to 12 months for a proposal to pass through the planning process and receive a determination.

Should the project receive consent there is then a period during which the planning conditions are reviewed and discharged (typically 12-months).

2028 - Procurement process

Once the planning conditions are discharged the procurement process is initiated (typically 12-months).

2028 - 2030 Construction and operation

The construction of the project is expected to take around 18 months, subject to weather conditions, with a final 6 months to test and commission the project before it is fully operational.

The planning permission being applied for is to operate the wind farm for a 40 year period. The community fund will be provided throughout the operational lifetime of the project.

Delivering meaningful benefits

Community Benefit

GreenPower is committed to delivering meaningful, tangible benefits to the community from the project, should it be consented. This can take a number of forms and is ultimately shaped and informed by community feedback.

We are keen to understand the sorts of benefits that residents would like to see delivered from the project, should it go ahead.

The project could deliver up to £100,000 to £150,000 per year (index-linked) in community benefit (for the operational lifetime of the project) depending on the final capacity of turbines installed. This falls in line with the Scottish Government guidance for community benefit from onshore wind of £5,000 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity each year.

Initial ideas for local benefits

We have received a number of suggestions from the community and we are keen to seek people's feedback on these ideas (in addition to any other suggestions that you may have):

- **Local electricity discount:** one of the consistent pieces of community feedback that we have received so far is that people on the island would like GreenPower to consider offering an annual discount off people's electricity bills. This could be an option if there is enough interest from the island.
- **Energy efficiency measures:** this could include grants for home energy efficiency improvements. funding towards solar panels, heat pumps, double or triple glazing, insulation, etc. An initiative like this would help decarbonise island properties, reduce energy bills in the long run, and also add value to properties.
- **Community Centre:** a purpose-built Community Centre on the island would help provide a dedicated space and social hub for community activity, events and social events.

Community-led approach

The benefits from the project will be shaped in response to community feedback and administered openly and transparently which the community will be consulted on further, should the project receive consent.

There are several ways community funds can be delivered:

- **Community benefit fund:** one of the most common approaches is to set up a community benefit fund steering group - with grant applications considered by a democratically appointed community decision-making panel.
- **Project-focused:** this is where key community projects and initiatives are the focus, such as an energy efficiency/energy bill discount programme or delivery of a community centre for example, and will be overseen by a panel drawn from across the community in partnership with GreenPower.
- **Hybrid approach:** a combination of the above.

The approach taken will ultimately be shaped by community feedback. GreenPower always actively oversees decision-making processes and requires open, transparent and audited administration of funds.

Involving the local supply chain

It is important to GreenPower that we involve local businesses as much as possible, to maximise community wealth building opportunities and growth potential for businesses on Eday and within wider Orkney. The skills, services and materials that the project is likely to require include:

- Plant hire
- Labourers
- Joiners
- Civil engineers
- Ecologists
- Crane services
- Welfare Services
- Supply of catering
- Cleaning
- Plant operators
- Steel fixers
- Fencers
- Electrical engineers
- Administrators
- Groundworks
- Accommodation
- Vehicle maintenance
- Office support

If you are a local business interested in getting involved in the project, please talk to our team so that we can register your details.

Long term commitment to Eday

Lasting benefits beyond construction

Neven Point Wind Farm offers opportunities that will extend well beyond the initial construction phase, fostering lasting community advantages.

Beyond immediate jobs during setup, the project will create stable roles in wind farm maintenance and operations, ensuring economic benefits continue for decades, over a 40-year span. This approach aims to build a skilled local workforce that contributes to and benefits from renewable energy development, reinforcing Eday's role in Scotland's energy landscape and supporting the area's long-term prosperity.

Enhancing local infrastructure

In collaboration with Orkney Islands Council, SSE Networks, and other stakeholders, GreenPower will seek to enhance local infrastructure to support community needs and improve access. We will work constructively where it is appropriate, be that on local grid security, road maintenance, improvements to Eday's pier and waiting room facilities, etc. We will play our part in helping to ensure that the infrastructure on Eday can support growth and resilience, benefiting both current residents and future generations.

Pioneering green energy innovations

As part of our commitment to innovation, the project could also potentially support Green Hydrogen production in the future, creating further opportunities for jobs.

This has applications across various sectors, including farming and transport. GreenPower is very active in Green Hydrogen elsewhere in Scotland.

Improved grid infrastructure will also potentially benefit local generators by having a Grid Supply Point to the new interconnector on Eday, such as the Eday Community Turbine, by reducing export limitations and facilitating smoother operations.

GreenPower is dedicated to exploring these possibilities to broaden the project's impact across multiple energy solutions, aligning with Orkney's pioneering role in renewables.

Eday Enterprise Trust

The landowner of Greentoft Farm has also made a commitment to establishing and funding a Trust for the island – should the project go ahead – to support new enterprise and provide employment. Details of this proposal are provided below.

Nick Joy (Greentoft Farm)

Support statement for the Neven Point development

When I was a boy spending all of my summers on Eday, there were at least five families supported by fishing, with many more supported by farming. There were two shops, one of which travelled, a full-time doctor and all of the people employed by the services. Now we have almost no families involved in fishing and few in farming too. From the perspective of an active farming company the preservation of Eday is looking fairly difficult for the foreseeable future.

In 2018, when I was approached with the idea of a wind turbine project on Eday, I was very supportive to the extent of being willing to put forward some of my own funds to see if it could be done. There was never any intention that I would develop the wind farm myself. This sort of money has never been spent on Eday and we simply don't have the funds. My hope then was to encourage a wind company of repute to come to Eday and develop it. In order to encourage companies to apply, I set the rent at a relatively low level as I was aware that an outer isle of Orkney is costly to deliver to and to construct responsibly. When GreenPower came out on top of the tender process I was thrilled and remain so. They have a very good reputation for doing what they say they are going to do and fairness.

My primary hope was and remains that the turbines, if they are consented would underpin the farm and ensure employment continues there for my lifetime and beyond. Employment is critical to the preservation and sustainable development of the island's community. I believe that it is also the responsibility of business owners to try and give the communities in which they exist a brighter future and my belief is that the turbines will help to preserve Eday as a whole.

My other commitment which I made at the inception of the project, was to form a Trust to support the island - outwith and in addition to the community benefits delivered from the project by GreenPower.

It will be called the Eday Enterprise Trust and its aim will be to support any new enterprise which employs people on the island. It will help get ideas into action, help with raising finance, writing business plans, and connecting people or companies to markets to help businesses start and flourish on the island. It will be managed by a Board comprising islanders and people connected to the island and will work with any other funding bodies as long as the project has potential to employ people on Eday.

Of course there are people who will disagree with the proposed project, which I believe offers a strong future for Eday. I completely understand that and agree that we should all express our views. Given that, I will express my own view which is that I do not believe that wind turbines have had any significant effect on the areas in which they exist. In light of this I do ask one thing which is that those people who do not agree, please explain how Eday is going to survive for the long-term future if no employment comes to the island. The current political economic situation is dictating cuts to the sort of support we have been used to over the last decades. I cannot see a better situation coming in the future and life will be tougher in isolated areas as the cost of services are higher.

This project offers Eday a unique opportunity to protect and preserve its future amidst the challenging economic climate we face and I cannot see a better situation coming along anytime soon - which is a large part of why I got involved in the first place.

