

## Scoping Opinion: Kirkwhelpington Parish Council

Following an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 28<sup>th</sup> May, the Council has resolved on a **neutral** opinion until more detailed information and plans are available.

The Council notes the current development plans are likely to fall within the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime and welcome Vattenfall's willingness to consult with the Council and to host a drop-in session, where parishioners could ask questions to understand the current plans.

We look forward to working with Vattenfall to mitigate any concerns, and develop opportunities, and will seek to do this in partnership with the Parish Councils in Corsenside and Elsdon.

Looking towards the final planning application in 2027, we would, at this stage, register some concerns:

### Overdevelopment:

The proposed development consists of up to 20 additional (and very much larger) wind turbines, concentrating a total of 36 wind turbines in a small area. The six proposed wind turbines to the East of the A696 (identified on plans as T1/T1/T3/T4/T15 and T16) are of particular concern as they may impact on some residents in that part of the village. In addition, whilst it is planned that any power generation will be fed to the Fourstones Substation by underground cable, the option of pylons at this stage is not discounted. The use of pylons would be a serious concern due to their impact on the local environment.

### Traffic and road safety:

The A696 is a busy and dangerous road, particularly in the winter months. It is imperative that 'standing traffic' on this main route is avoided and mitigations be put in place.

### Environmental concerns:

We appreciate Vattenfall's commitment in this area, however, of particular concern are the huge reinforcing concrete foundations through peat moorland.

### Heritage and conservation:

Kirkwhelpington village is a conservation area and there is a concern that Ray II Wind Farm may have an impact on future planning permissions within the village. The current character and history of the village must be preserved.

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A major concern would be the potential use of pylons to feed Fourstones Substation.

### Noise, pollution, or nuisance:

Inevitably, a process that is likely to take 2 years to completion is likely to create noise, pollution and nuisance – we look forward to understanding how these will be mitigated in the final development application.

David Binns  
Clerk & RFO  
Kirkwhelpington Parish Council

