

## **A5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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### **A5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 5 of the 2009 ES described the requirement for EIA for the proposed Viking Wind Farm under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended), and explained how the EIA process was managed to ensure compliance.

There have been no changes in the legislative regime since publication of the ES.

In commenting on the 2009 ES, the RSPB referred to the legal requirement that mitigation measures must be fully committed before they can properly be regarded as mitigation and taken into account in assessing the residual impacts of proposed development projects. The RSPB pointed out that the Habitat Management Plan (HMP), which is designed to ensure that many of the environmental effects of the proposed wind farm are more than compensated for by habitat creation, peatland restoration and other improvements, cannot be regarded as committed because in many cases land access agreements had yet to be completed. Since then, in-principle agreements have been made with a number of land managers in Shetland, and details are provided in Appendix A10.9.

Viking Energy Partnership is absolutely committed to ensuring that the HMP, which has been extensively revised and updated since the 2009 ES was published, would be fully implemented. If, for reasons beyond Viking Energy Partnership's control, certain elements could not be put into place as intended then alternative, equivalent measures would be designed in consultation with the relevant bodies (SEPA, SNH and RSPB) and put into effect after approval by the relevant authorities.

The revised HMP is presented with this ES Addendum as Appendix A10.9.

### **A5.2 CONSULTATION**

A Consultation Report and Consultation Audit Report have been produced which describe the very extensive public and stakeholder consultation which has been undertaken as part of the Viking Wind Farm project. These documents are not part of the ES Addendum but are published in parallel with it and are available for download from the project website, <http://www.vikingenergy.co.uk>.