

Intended for
Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP

Date
July 2026

Project Number
1620009158

VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM PLANNING MONITORING OFFICER AUDIT REPORT 052: 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025 TO 10TH JUNE 2026

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1. AUDIT DETAILS

1.1 Audit Details

Audit Number	PMO 052
Location	Kergord Sandwater Road Nesting Main Compound
Weather Conditions	Sunny, dry, 16°C
Audit Date	10 th June 2026
Audit Period	4 th September 2025 – 10 th June 2026
Audit Owner	Ramboll UK Ltd

1.2 Distribution

Position	Action
Ramboll Project Director Planning Monitoring Officer	For information
SSE Renewables Development Manager	For information
SSE Renewables Consents Manager	For information
SSE Renewables Environmental Advisor	For information
SSE Renewables Vestas Package Manager	For information
RJ McLeod Design Management Engineer	For Information
Shetland Islands Council Planning Enforcement Officer	For information
Shetland Islands Council Natural Heritage Officer	For information

1.3 Terms of Reference

This audit has been completed with reference to the following key documents:

- Application under Section 36C of the Electricity Act 1989 to vary the consent granted under Section 36 of that Act on 4 April 2012 to construct and operate the Viking Wind Farm located in Shetland Islands Council Planning Authority Area and for a direction under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for planning permission to be deemed to be granted in respect of the proposed development (i.e. the 'Variation Application').

The Viking Wind Farm project will comprise the construction of 103 wind turbines with a turbine tip height of 155 m; development of a temporary construction compound; construction of associated access tracks; development of a substation; development of a convertor station; erection of permanent Met Masts; and the excavation of borrow pits.

The project was consented as detailed above, receiving Section 36C Consent and deemed planning permission on the 24th of May 2019.

Separate planning consents are in place for the following specific aspects of the development:

- Construction of the Kergord Access Track¹ (consented on the 29th of April 2019).
- Re-alignment of Sandwater Road² between the Burn of Weisdale and the junction with the A970 to facilitate construction access for the Viking Wind Farm (consented on the 26th of May 2020).
- Formation of temporary construction compounds at two locations; Sandwater (Main)³, consented on 22nd June 2020; and North (South of Voe)⁴ consented on the 9th of September 2020.

1.4 Role of the Planning Monitoring Officer

Condition No. 3 of the Variation Application states that:

"No development shall commence unless and until the Planning Authority has approved in writing the terms of appointment by the Company of an independent and suitably qualified environmental consultant to assist the Planning Authority in monitoring compliance with the terms of the deemed planning permission and conditions attached to this consent (a Planning Monitoring Officer ("PMO"). The terms of the appointment shall:

- Impose a duty to monitor compliance with the terms of the deemed planning permission and conditions attached to this consent;
- Require the PMO to submit a monthly report to the Planning Authority summarising works undertaken on site; and
- Require the PMO to report to the Planning Authority any incidences of non-compliance with the terms of the deemed planning permission and conditions attached to this consent at the earliest practical opportunity.

The PMO shall be appointed on the approved terms throughout the period from Commencement of Development to completion of post construction restoration works.

In order to discharge the above requirements, the PMO undertakes site-based audits at monthly intervals to monitor the compliance with the conditions of the consent. The primary documents used for compliance monitoring are the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); and the Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP). Additional documents will be referenced as required for specific detail.

The following traffic light system is used to indicate action status:

	Green – activities appear to be compliant with the CEMP, PPP and other applicable environmental management procedures and plans and there are no other issues.
	Amber – in general activities are compliant with the CEMP, PPP and other applicable environmental management procedures and plans but there are minor actions required.
	Red – activities may not be compliant with the CEMP, PPP and other applicable environmental management procedures and there are critical actions.

¹ Shetland Islands Council Planning Reference No: 2018/096/PFF

² Shetland Islands Council Planning Reference No: 2019/079/PPF

³ Shetland Islands Council Planning Reference No: 2019/188/PPF

⁴ Shetland Islands Council Planning Reference No: 2019/210/PPF

1.5 General Limitations and Reliance

This report has been prepared by Ramboll UK Limited ("Ramboll") exclusively for the intended use by Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP (the "client"). No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the services or the purpose for which the report and the associated agreed scope were intended, or any other services provided by Ramboll.

In preparation of the report and performance of any other services, Ramboll has relied upon site observations, publicly available information, information provided by the client and information provided by third parties. Accordingly, the conclusions in this report are valid only to the extent that the information provided to Ramboll was accurate, complete and available to Ramboll within the reporting schedule.

Ramboll's services are not intended as legal advice, nor an exhaustive review of site conditions and/or compliance. This report and accompanying documents are intended to form a record for the purpose of documenting compliance with Condition No. 3 of the Variation Application. Ramboll neither owes nor accepts any duty to any third party, unless formally agreed by Ramboll through that party entering into, at Ramboll's sole discretion, a written reliance agreement.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Objectives of Audit

The purpose of the PMO Audit is to monitor the provision of appropriate environmental management at active work sites of the project, via desk-based review of relevant documentation and site visits to be undertaken on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with the conditions of the planning consent and associated environmental management plans.

2.2 Scope of Audit

The scope of the audit was as follows:

- Liaison with Shetland Islands Council (SIC) regarding public concerns or complaints received during the audit period (if any).
- A site visit attended by the PMO, SIC and SSE Renewables (SSER) Consents Manager as undertaken on the 10th June 2026. The site visit included the observation of the following locations:
 - Sandwater Road;
 - Kergord;
 - Nesting; and
 - Main compound.
- Updates were obtained from MBEC Environmental Consulting, Archaeological Clerk of Works (AcoW), and SSER Operational Team.
- It is noted that the Geotechnical Clerk of Works (GCoW) input from Tony Gee has come to an end with the completion of the construction works phase. The peat slide risk areas that had been identified within the windfarm have been monitored in the Operational phase with no evidence of further slip failures. An assessment of the risk throughout the site has been provided to Operations. Going forward, this will be handled purely as routine Operational site management.
- It is noted that the Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) input from MBEC Environmental Consulting has also come to an end with the completion of the construction works phase. MBEC Environmental Consulting remain engaged on the monitoring of the hydroseeding.
- Habitat Management Plan (HMP) Officers currently monitor the peat restoration and ongoing surface water monitoring. They will remain engaged throughout the operational phase. The monitoring is reported through the Shetland Windfarm Environmental Advisory Group (SWEAG), as required under planning Condition 21. SWEAG meet twice a year, with the last meeting having taken place on 10th June 2026.

Selected photographs taken during the audit are included in Appendix 1.

2.3 Site Personnel

The following site personnel were interviewed as part of this audit:

Company	Position
Headland Archaeology	Archaeological Clerk of Works
MBEC	Ecologists
SSE	Consents Strategy Manager and Environmental Advisor

3. SITE SETTING, RECORDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Observations made during the audit are described in this section. Corresponding photographs are included in Appendix 1.

The majority of civil engineering work is now complete, with localised activities ongoing to deliver restoration and reinstatement work, e.g. peatland restoration.

Since the previous audit visit in September 2025, the following main works have been undertaken: completion of silt trap fencing removal across site (including the Burn of Droswell); completion of cut-off ditches backfilling/reinstatement; permanent surface water management system (silt traps) emptied at Burn of Droswell; main compound fully reinstated including surfacing; NBP05 borrow pit walkover with civil team for assessing peat slip risks.

3.1 Kergord

3.1.1 Site Setting and Activities

Access to the Kergord Arrays is taken via the Kergord Access Track (KAT), which is accessed from the Sandwater track along the southern boundary of the central area of the development.

Activities observed during the audit visit were associated with the drainage treatment at KBP02, with the installation of pilot trials for the new treatment design.

3.1.2 Observations

KAT has been formally handed over to SSE Operations, however as the water management and treatment relates to construction phase activities, this area will be monitored during the PMO audits to ensure that the management systems are operating effectively.

The permanent surface water management system to provide attenuation and treatment of surface water draining to the Burn of Droswell from the KAT was observed. All retention ponds were observed to be holding water during the audit visit, with slight siltation of the upper ponds noted, as well vegetation having developed (photos 1 and 2). Vegetation around retention pond can be beneficial, however excessive silt build up can significantly decrease the total volume of water that ponds can hold, with a risk dirty water overflow. It is understood that this area is being monitored by SSE as part of their routine checks, to ensure that the storage capacity of the ponds remain satisfactory and maintenance undertaken as required. Temporary silt fences have been removed from the area as part of the snagging phase. This area should be visited during the next PMO audit.

The PMO audit included inspection of the existing temporary drainage treatment system at KBP02 (photo 3). SSER have taken on the monitoring and maintenance of the treatment system, with continued water monitoring and sampling. Pilot trials of a new design for the treatment system are on-going and were observed during the audit visit (photo 4 and 5). The system consists of a series of IBCs providing a succession of nature-based water treatments. The pilot trials are being monitored in close collaboration with SEPA, and the system is in the process of being refined and improved. It is understood that the system will be upscaled for long term water quality management if pilot trials are proven to be successful and suitable. This area should be visited during the next PMO audit.

The pond system located down from T026 was also observed and appeared in good condition (photo 6). It is understood that this system will also be improved following the completion of the pilot trials downstream of KBP02. This area should be visited during the next PMO audit.

SSE indicated that the back filling of cut off ditches across the site is now complete. Backfilled ditches were observed south of KBP02 (photo 7).

A good state of vegetation was observed during the audit visit following the hydroseeding that took place in spring 2024, as observed north of KBP02 (photo 7). It was indicated however that areas across the entire site require reseeding. This will be taking place during summer 2026. The success of hydroseeding in these areas should be monitored during the next audit visit.

3.2 Mid Kame Ridge and Sandwater Road

3.2.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Mid Kame Ridge (MKR) is accessed from the Sandwater Road and stretches northwards to Hamarigrind Scord.

3.2.2 Observations

MKR was not observed during this PMO audit.

The construction of the Sandwater road carpark and the bus layby off the B9070 at the junction with the former B9075 is complete, and the car park is being successfully used for carshare as well as for visitors taking part in recreational activities in the area.

The former B9075 is being used by pedestrian and bicycles for recreational use. Once the road is formally "stopped up", it will officially become a recreation route and passed over to SSE as landowner.

The Sandwater Road car park will be handed over for adoption by the Local Roads Authority.

3.3 North Compound

3.3.1 Site Setting and Activities

The North Compound is located towards the northern limit of the site on the eastern side of the A970. The creation of a new recreational carpark is proposed for the North Compound, and a planning permission has been granted by SIC.

3.3.2 Observations

The North Compound was not observed during the audit visit. SSER is working on discharging pre-commencement conditions relating to ground make up. It is understood that works will commence when these conditions are discharged by SIC.

3.4 North Nesting

3.4.1 Site Setting and Activities

The northern Nesting turbine arrays are located towards the northern limit of the site on the eastern side of the A970.

3.4.2 Observations

North Nesting was not observed during the audit visit. It is understood that peat restoration work had been on-going in this area though could not be observed due to the presence of bird nesting

at the time of the audit visit. Peat restoration areas should be observed during the next audit visit.

3.5 Main Compound

3.5.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Main Compound is located at the southern extent of the site, accessed from the A970. No activity was taken place at the time of the audit visit.

3.5.2 Observations

The Main Compound remains has been fully reinstated and partly hydroseeded, with an area of hardstanding left in place (photos 8 and 9). The remainder of the hydroseeding will be completed during summer 2026.

3.6 Nesting

3.6.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Nesting arrays are accessed from the A970. SSE ecologists were observed to be undertaking tree assessment at NPB05 during the audit visit.

3.6.2 Observations

NBP05 was observed during the audit visit. The water features created appeared in good working order with a good state of vegetation on the slopes (photo 10), though some possible water logging during wet period was evident from the poor success of grass growth in some areas (photo 11). SSE are currently assessing the results of a tree health survey that was undertaken in March 2026, with the view of replacing the dead trees with different species. The success of the tree replacement planting will be monitored and assessed again over the summer by the HMP officers. Following this, additional measures may be implemented to help tree growth and restoration efforts. SSE indicated that the peat slip that occurred at NBP05 was assessed by the civil team with a site walkover undertaken in March 2026, with no peat movement recorded.

Drainage at T076 was observed (photo 12). The water was noted to run clear close to NBP05 and further downstream across the peat towards the watercourse.

Peat restoration efforts east of T076 were observed during the audit visit to have been successfully completed (photo 13). This consisted mainly in the creation of surface water features such as ponds and lochans, and the enhancement of existing features, to provide sites favourable for wildlife and to increase biodiversity. Similar peat restoration efforts are on-going across Nesting and the wider site. Completed restored areas should be visited during the next PMO audit.

3.7 Substation

3.7.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Substation occupies the northern third of the HVDC Converter Station Platform located in the Kergord Valley, between Mid Kame Ridge and Kergord. Access to the Substation is taken via the KAT.

3.7.2 Observations

The substation has been handed over to operations, with no further construction works required, and no longer needs to be visited during PMO audits.

3.8 Communication with SSER Clerks of Works and Ecologists

3.8.1 MBEC ecologists

MBEC ecologists are engaged on the monitoring of the hydroseeding across the site. They have indicated that they will visit the site in August/September 2026 to assess the success of the hydroseeding undertaken over the summer.

3.8.2 ACoW

Condition 29 of the planning consent requires the appointment of an Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) to ensure archaeological features are protected and recorded during the development. A call between the PMO and took place on the 3rd of June 2026. The ACoW indicated that the items of the Heritage Strategy relating to public events have been successfully completed, with a site workshop, talk and exhibition having taken place in April 2026. Outstanding items concern the analysis of the data collected and publication of the results, which is anticipated to place by the end of 2027.

3.9 Communication with SIC

The PMO asked SIC if there had been any observations or complaints from members of the public regarding activities on site. SIC confirmed that no complaints or observations were received during this PMO audit period and discussed with SSER.

3.10 Scope of next audit

PMO related items remain onsite, and the next audit visit will take once sufficient progress has been made on the outstanding items.

The PMO will liaise with the SSER operational environment manager and SIC to arrange future audit visits. Future audits will focus on peat restoration, hydroseeding, surface water management, main and north compounds, and consideration of any issues raised by SIC.

4. AUDIT FINDINGS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

Issue	Auditor Comments	Required Action	Action Owner	Status
Materials Storage and Handling (e.g. oil/fuel storage and peat/mineral soil storage and handling).	Peat restoration areas are managed through the project Habitat Management Plan and by a dedicated HMPO which balances the geotechnical and ecological objectives of the restoration. Potential risks relating to storage of peat are recorded on the PRRs and communicated to the SSER operations team to allow mitigation / monitoring to be undertaken. The PMO will request evidence in future audits to confirm compliance with requirements for GCoW and ECoW approval of proposed peat restoration areas.	No action required.	SSER Operational Team	Green
Materials Storage and Handling (e.g. oil/fuel storage and peat/mineral soil storage and handling).	Minimal materials are being stored on site. No COSHH stores, fuel stores or similar were present on site at the time of the audit.	No action required.	SSER Operational Team	Green
Natural and Built Environment (e.g. ecology, biosecurity, protected sites, archaeology and site restoration).	Ecological constraints identified by the ECoW team are communicated to the SSER operational team to allow mitigation measures to be implemented. The ECoW construction phase duties are now complete, albeit follow up surveys are on-going to assess the success of reinstatement and the need for any remedial work. The construction phase duties of the ACoW are complete.	No action required.	SSER Operational Team	Green
Pollution Prevention and Response (e.g. use of spill	Siltation and vegetation of permanent water management ponds at the Burn of Droswell may	Ponds to keep being monitored and	SSER Operational Team	Green

VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM

Issue	Auditor Comments	Required Action	Action Owner	Status
kits, silt control, cement/concrete, water resources).	affect efficiency of the system and could lead to overflow of dirty water.	maintained by SSER Operational team as part of routine maintenance, to ensure efficiency of system and no incident of dirty water overflow		
Pollution Prevention and Response (e.g. use of spill kits, silt control, cement/concrete, water resources).	The SSE Renewables Environmental Manager notified the PMO in March 2023 that there have been some exceedances of Environmental Quality Standards of some trace metals in water quality sampling in the Burn of Lunklet.	New design for short term treatment system being trialled, as per the SEPA accepted mitigation plan.	SSER Operational Team	Amber
Noise, Dust, and Air Quality	No complaints on Noise Dust or Air Quality had been received by SIC during the audit period.	Continued monitoring of dust conditions and implementation of control measures during dry periods.	N/A	Green

APPENDIX 1

PHOTOLOG



Photo 1. Permanent surface water management at the Burn of Droswell



Photo 2. Permanent surface water management at the Burn of Droswell

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 3. Existing temporary drainage treatment system downstream of KBP02



Photo 4. Pilot trials for new design of drainage treatment system at KBP02

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 5. Existing drainage treatment system (left) and pilot trials (right) north of KBP02



Photo 6. Pond treatment system at T026

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 7. Vegetated slopes and backfilled cut off ditches north of KBP02



Photo 8. Main Compound reinstatement and vegetated slopes

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 9. Main Compound reinstatement



Photo 10. Tree planting area and vegetated slopes at NBP05

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 11. Water features, track and vegetated slopes at NBP05



Photo 12. Drainage at T076 downstream from NBP05

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026



Photo 13. Surface water features created as part of peatland restoration efforts east of T076

Title: Photographic Log	Client: Viking Energy Wind Farm
Site: Viking Energy Wind Farm	Date: 10 th June 2026