

Intended for  
**Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP**

Date  
**August 2021**

Project Number  
**1620009158**

# **VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM PLANNING MONITORING OFFICER AUDIT REPORT 009: 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO 4TH AUGUST 2021**

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REPORT 009: 24TH JULY TO 4TH AUGUST 2021**

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# 1. AUDIT DETAILS

## 1.1 Audit Details

<b>Audit Number</b>	PMO 009
<b>Location</b>	Kergord Sandwater Road Mid Kame Ridge North Compound and North Nesting Main Construction Compound Nesting
<b>Weather Conditions</b>	Windy, mild, dry (15°C).
<b>Audit Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Audit Period</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June to 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b>Audit Owner</b>	Ramboll UK Ltd

## 1.2 Distribution

<b>Position</b>	<b>Action</b>
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
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 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

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

- Construction of the Kergord Access Track<sup>1</sup> (consented on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019).
- Re-alignment of Sandwater Road<sup>2</sup> between the Burn of Weisdale and the junction with the A970 to facilitate construction access for the Viking Wind Farm (consented on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020).
- Formation of temporary construction compounds at two locations; Sandwater (Main)<sup>3</sup>, consented on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020; and North (South of Voe)<sup>4</sup> consented on 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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 Audits 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 SIC regarding public concerns or complaints received during the audit period.
- Review of documents provided by the Client and Principal Contractor prior to and following the audit visit. Specific references are included in the relevant sections of the report.
- A site visit attended by the PMO, SSE Renewables Environmental Site Manager, RJM Design Management Engineer and SIC Planning Enforcement Officer undertaken on 04<sup>th</sup> August 2021 which included the following locations:
  - Kergord;
  - Sandwater Road;
  - Mid Kame Ridge;
  - North Compound and North Nesting;
  - Main Compound; and
  - Nesting.
- Discussions were held with the Geotechnical Clerk of Works (GCoW), Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW).

A selection of 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
SSE Renewables	Environmental Advisor
RJ McLeod	Design Management Engineer
Tony Gee and Partners	Geotechnical Clerk of Works
MBEC	Environmental Clerk of Works
Headland Archaeology	Archaeological Clerk of Works

### 3. SITE SETTING, RECORDS AND OBSERVATIONS

Observations made during the audit are described in this section. Corresponding photographs are included in Appendix 1, alongside a plan of the site indicating the location of each photograph.

#### 3.1 Kergord

##### 3.1.1 Site Setting and Activities

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

Activities in this area during the audit included progression of access tracks and peat restoration areas, rock extraction at borrow pits and formation of crane pad hardstanding areas.

##### 3.1.2 Observations

Construction has extended past K62 to towards K63, with works including track development and the formation of turbine bases. A number of unmapped gullies have been culverted below the track and provided with silt traps to manage sediment runoff. The segregation of turf was observed to be good and peat reinstatement works along the preceding section of Spur 4 are ongoing.

Rock extraction at KBP05 is ongoing with a second borrow pit (KBP03) being established for material extraction. A mitigation plan is in place to prevent surface water entering the borrow pit, where surface water is captured within the borrow pit it will pass through silt traps before release.

Additional dust suppression measures were observed on site with six water bowsers reportedly in continuous operation. During the audit the PMO observed several water bowsers in operation which appeared to reduce dust generation.

Two waste skips were observed at KBP02 where general waste and oily waste are segregated, the skips ordered are based on the anticipated types of waste from the planned works. The waste segregation was good, and no leaks or staining was observed.

#### 3.2 Sandwater Track

##### 3.2.1 Site Setting and Activities

A new track has been constructed at Sandwater, located at the southern limit of the central site area, which provides access to the Kergord and Mid Kame Ridge wind farm areas for all construction traffic. The new track is located adjacent to the existing Sandwater Road (B7095), which remains operational for public traffic. The Sandwater Loch is located directly to the south of the site boundary. Sandwater Loch is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)<sup>5</sup>, notified for 'Open Water Transition Fen' and 'Mesotrophic Loch' habitats.

##### 3.2.2 Observations

It was reported that a complaint had been received by SIC of silt entering Burn of Droswell from the access track. A previous incident was reported during PMO003 which was identified as silt mobilised by surface water flow. In response to the first event additional silt traps were installed and the surface water flow was diverted away from the track.

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<sup>5</sup> As notified under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004



Based on the recent reoccurrence of the incident a filter drain is being excavated to direct flow away from the track. Due to the recent dry weather it is considered unlikely that the incident was caused by rainfall mobilising sediment from the track.

All watercourses are inspected daily and SSE will continue to apply preventative measures where necessary. Additionally, downstream water monitoring is ongoing.

During the audit the PMO observed the preparations for the groundwater channel and the existing surface water diversion. Both measures aim to prevent silt being mobilised from the rock armour surrounding Burn of Drosswell.

### **3.3 Mid Kame Ridge**

#### **3.3.1 Site Setting and Activities**

The Mid Kame Ridge (MKR) is accessed from the new Sandwater track and stretches northwards to Hamarigrind Scord. Track construction, reinstatement, crane pad hardstanding formation, the excavation of turbine bases, installation of cable ducts and preparation for concrete blinding was being undertaken during the audit.

#### **3.3.2 Observations**

During the audit the PMO observed preparation for pouring of concrete bases and the ongoing installation of cable ducts. The bases are subject to final checks and sign off before concrete is poured.

Waste generated during construction is separated between wood, metal, and general with segregation noted by the PMO to be good. Waste is uplifted by the waste contractor as and when required and the size of skip requested is decided based on anticipated waste generation.

In PMO008 it was noted that dust was generated along Mid Kames Ridge, this had also been a source of complaint. During PMO009 additional mobile bowzers were noted on site for dust suppression and dust generation had been reduced.

### **3.4 North Compound and North Nesting**

#### **3.4.1 Site Setting and Activities**

The North Compound and northern Nesting turbine arrays are located towards the northern limit of the site on the eastern side of the A970. Activities that have been undertaken in this area have included the ongoing construction of Spurs 42 and 46. At the North Compound batching plant 1 and 2 are in place.

#### **3.4.2 Observations**

Since PMO008 a second concrete batching plant had been installed at the North Compound which will provide concrete for the bases along Mid Kames Ridge. The storage of materials in North Compound was generally observed to be good with bunded storage provided for fuels. Minor quantities of oil (5x 5L in sealed containers) had been delivered to the compound and had not been provided with secondary containment, this was quickly identified and addressed by the internal auditing and reporting processes. Additionally, the Principal Contractor will carry out toolbox talks on the best practice for storing liquid materials.

### **3.5 Main Compound and Nesting**

#### **3.5.1 Site Setting and Activities**

The Main Compound is located at the southern extent of the development site, accessed from the A970. The lower level comprises car parking and site offices and welfare facilities. The upper level is in use for material and equipment laydown. The Nesting arrays are also accessed from this area.

#### **3.5.2 Observations**

The main compound includes the primary waste storage area for the site, these included skips for all waste streams generated on site. The segregation between the wastes was observed to be good, with no leaks or stains observed in the area surrounding the skips. This area included bins for special wastes that were provided with secondary containment. Wastes from this area are uplifted by the waste contractor as and when required.

Construction in the South Nesting array has extended towards N140 with the track Spur 34 being developed from both Junctions 38 and 39. The turf and peat storage along the track was observed to be good, a number of streams have been culverted under the track and silt traps are in place to manage any runoff.

### **3.6 Communication with SIC**

As described in Section 3.2.2, SIC advised the PMO of a recent complaint that had been received regarding sediment in the Burn of Droswell. The incident was investigated by SSE and identified natural springs under the track. In order to prevent a reoccurrence the construction of a filter drain is planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> August to divert the water from the springs away from the rock armour around the Burn of Droswell. Additionally, the downstream silt traps have been cleaned to improve sediment retention.

### **3.7 Communication with Clerks of Work**

#### **3.7.1 GCoW**

Condition 39 of the planning consent requires the appointment of a Geotechnical Clerk of Works (GCoW) to minimise the risk of peat failure arising from the development. A video call was held between the PMO and GCoW prior to the site visit, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The GCoW described the monitoring work that had been undertaken since the last audit. This included continued monitoring of the general construction works, including peat restoration areas. Additionally, the GCoW has provided advice to the Developer and Principal Contractor teams in relation to peat and soil storage and handling; reviewing and commenting on Peat Risk Registers (PRR); and undertaking design reviews.

The GCoW reported significant progress on site with advice provided on seven areas of peat restoration and ongoing advice to the Principal Contractor regarding floating or founded tracks.

#### **3.7.2 ECoW**

Condition 19 of the planning consent requires the appointment of an Ecological Clerk of Works to ensure protection of the natural heritage of the area. A call was held between the PMO and ECoW after the site visit, on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The ECoW reported no significant updates on site due to the shutdown across three of the four construction areas. At present there are two full time bird surveyors supporting the ECoW.

The number of nesting bird constraints has reduced as the nesting season ended for wading birds during the shutdown. The remaining constraints are monitored with daily checks and are expected to be in place through to the end of August.

The ECoW did not report any ecological events on site outside of the existing bird constraints.

### 3.7.3 ACoW

Condition 29 of the planning consent requires the appointment of an Archaeological Clerk of Works to ensure archaeological features are protected and recorded during the development. A discussion was held between the PMO and ACoW prior to the site visit, on 09<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

An update on the archaeological watching briefs and monitoring that has been carried out since the previous PMO audit was provided, as summarised below:

- Daily monitoring checks are undertaken across the construction site by the ACoW.
- Ongoing monitoring by ACoW of groundworks at NBP01 and Spur 42, by late July monitoring of NBP01 will be completed. Additional intermittent checks may be required at NBP01.
- Ongoing monitoring by ACoW of Spur 34 which is expected to be completed by July 16<sup>th</sup>, a small number of linear ditches have been recorded.
- Planned monitoring on Spur 49 and Spur 48 during late July.

## 3.8 Scope of next audit

The scope of the next PMO audit will be dependent on the specific activities undertaken at the development site in the preceding days and weeks. This is likely to include:

- Update on progress of construction works at Kergord, Mid Kame Ridge, Sandwater Road, North Compound and Nesting.
- Consideration of any comments received by the SIC or the Developer in relation to the works, including visits to view specific areas of concern.
- Update on the formation of peat restoration areas.
- Update on the construction of borrow pits.
- Updates from the ACoW, ECoW and GCoW teams.

## 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).	<p>Peat restoration areas appeared well managed with good segregation between peat and turf.</p> <p>Potential risks relating to storage of peat are recorded on the PRRs and communicated to the Principal Contractor to allow mitigation/monitoring to be undertaken.</p> <p>The PMO observed that fuels and oils were typically stored on hardstanding and provided with secondary containment.</p>	No action required.	N/A	Green
Natural and Built Environment (e.g. ecology, biosecurity, protected sites, archaeology and site restoration).	<p>Nesting bird constraints identified by the ECoW team are communicated to the Principal contractor and Developer to allow mitigation measures to be implemented and rescheduling of preparatory and construction work as required.</p> <p>Watching briefs have been undertaken by the ACoW where potential archaeological constraints were identified. Excavations in the vicinity of a historical Nissen Hut are ongoing to define and evaluate the feature.</p>	No action required.	N/A	Green
Pollution Prevention and Response (e.g. use of spill kits, silt control, cement/concrete, water resources).	<p>The project has received authorisation to abstract water from eight locations from SEPA. The authorisation allows the water to be used for dust suppression. The PMO has reviewed documents confirming that the appropriate registration is in place with SEPA under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended.</p> <p>During the audit the PMO observed spill kits to be well stocked and readily available in areas where liquids are stored.</p>	No action required.	N/A	Green

## VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM

Issue	Auditor Comments	Required Action	Action Owner	Status
Noise, Dust, and Air Quality	No dust complaint had been received during the reporting period and the PMO noted effective dust suppression measures in continual use throughout the audit.	No additional actions required other than continued monitoring of dust conditions and implementation of control measures as needed; and ongoing liaison as required with other construction operators.	N/A	Green
Resources, Waste and Transport.	Evidence of compliance with the Site Waste Management Plan was provided and observed. The PMO reviewed a sample of waste transfer notes and the summary of wastes from the site.	No action required.	N/A	Green
Pre-Planning Works (e.g. site set-up and general management, access tracks, community liaison).	Evidence of pre-planning works observed and reported during the audit included pre-construction surveys, nesting bird surveys, and micro-siting of access tracks to account for nesting bird constraints. The PMO reviewed examples of project communications confirming 'work arounds' for some bird constraints, involving temporary micro-siting/use of pilot roads to progress construction whilst taking account of bird constraints. In each case, the proposals were approved by the SSE environmental advisor and project ECOW, in accordance with condition 16.	No action required.	N/A	Green

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **SITE LOCATION PLAN AND PHOTOLOG**









**Photo 1.** View from K62 looking west, construction in Kergord has extended towards K63. Watercourses are culverted under the track.



**Photo 2.** View of Peat Restoration 4, peat has been reinstated to the track level.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2021





**Photo 3.**

View of waste storage at KBP02, wastes were well segregated with no leaks or stains observed in the area.



**Photo 4.**

The spill kit locating at the North Compound was well stocked with appropriate equipment and easily accessible.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2021



**Photo 5.** View of the works at Drosswell Burn to direct groundwater flow away from the rock armour.



**Photo 6.** View of the base of K82 which is progressing towards concrete pouring.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2021





**Photo 7.** View of progress along Spur 34, with the track being developed from N140 and N141.



**Photo 8.** View of waste storage at the Main Compound, wastes were well segregated with no evidence of leaks or staining.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2021