

Intended for  
**Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP**

Date  
**September 2021**

Project Number  
**1620009158**

# **VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM PLANNING MONITORING OFFICER AUDIT REPORT 011: 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM  
PLANNING MONITORING OFFICER AUDIT REPORT  
011: 2ND SEPTEMBER TO 23RD SEPTEMBER 2021**

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## 1. AUDIT DETAILS

### 1.1 Audit Details

<b>Audit Number</b>	PMO 011
<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 (13°C).
<b>Audit Date</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021
<b>Audit Period</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September to 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 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/PPF

<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 22<sup>nd</sup> September 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 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, formation of crane pad hardstanding areas and installation of cable ducts.

##### 3.1.2 Observations

Construction in the north of Kergord has extended towards K42, with ongoing preparation for peat reinstatement works. A crane hardstanding at K43 was noted to have been rotated within the micro-siting boundary in order to minimise peat excavation/ cut and fill. Archaeological areas of interest between K43 and K42 has been marked and avoided. Clean surface water flow is controlled by cut off trenches which direct flow away from construction areas. The ditches are designed to ensure the flow of water towards ecologically sensitive environments is protected. Ecologically sensitive areas near K45 can be seen in Photos 1 and 2. The PMO noted evidence of the Principal Contractor and ECoW working together to identify ecological protection areas and micro site the track away from these, and finding pragmatic solutions for maintaining hydrological connection between areas of wet habitat.

Silt traps are installed throughout the area as construction progresses to manage runoff. A proactive approach to silt traps is being taken in anticipation of higher rainfall in coming months. Part of KBP02 is currently being used as temporary peat storage while the other parts remain active (Photo 3).

Construction in the south of Kergord has extended towards K74. The PMO observed the reinstatement where peat movements had resulted in additional intervention to restore and maintain stability of the track edge near K63 (Photo 4). The PMO noted discussions held between Principal Contractor and ECoW on best way to maintain hydrological connectivity between sensitive habitat areas between K73 and K74 (Photos 5 and 6).

#### 3.2 Sandwater Track

##### 3.2.1 Site Setting and Activities

A 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. Landscaping has been completed on the south side of the western section of Sandwater Track. Landscaping has also been completed at a managed settlement pond to the north of the western section.

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.

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



### 3.2.2 Observations

Works on Pettawater bridge are ongoing to complete construction, including formation of wing walls. The PMO observed that the south face and part of the north face of the eastern section of the Sandwater track has been reinstated, with vegetation growth appearing where seeding has been completed.

## 3.3 Mid Kame Ridge

### 3.3.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Mid Kame Ridge (MKR) is accessed from the Sandwater track and stretches northwards to Hamarigrind Scord. Construction personnel were assembling the steel reinforcement for a turbine foundation/base during the audit at turbine K86.

### 3.3.2 Observations

The bases in the area are being prepared for concrete pouring with a number of steel cages installed since the previous audit (example shown in Photos 7 and 8). The stockpiled material at each base will be tested and graded for suitability as backfill for the turbine bases.

The peat reinstatement along Spur 18 is ongoing, there are sections where the reinstatement of turves is awaiting installation of cabling.

## 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. Track construction, peat restoration, reinstatement and crane pad hardstanding formation was also being undertaken during the audit. At the North Compound batching plant 1 and 2 are in place.

### 3.4.2 Observations

The ECoW and GCoW both noted during interviews with the PMO that some mixing of mineral soil and peat had been observed in peat restoration area P15-P17 and that remedial action had been requested. The SSER Environmental Site Manager confirmed that the Habitat Management Plan Officer (HMPO) has carried out a review of these areas and highlighted where additional work is required. The PMO understands that the HMPO recommendations are in the process of being implemented at P17 (see photo 9) with further work to follow at P15 in due course to ensure that the completed works are satisfactory under the peat restoration criteria. Peat restoration continues to be managed by the SSER Environmental Site Manager and HMPO with a view to providing the revised restoration areas extents by year end. This revision will be presented to SIC and SWEAG.

It was noted during the audit that the access track route towards N105 has been modified using the micro-siting tolerances to avoid an area of good quality sensitive habitat (Photo 10).

## 3.5 Nesting

### 3.5.1 Site Setting and Activities

The Nesting arrays are accessed from the A970. Activities in this area during the audit included progression of access tracks, bridges and peat restoration areas, rock extraction at borrow pits and formation of crane pad hardstanding areas.

### 3.5.2 Observations

The construction of the track for Spur 34 has been completed and construction of a bridge over the Burn of Grunnafirth (watercrossing 22, between N140 and N141) is ongoing (Photo 11). The tracks are floated where permissible within normal design limits to minimise the volume of peat excavated. A temporary bridge has been installed over the Burn of Forse (watercrossing 19, between N120 and N122) while construction of a permanent bridge is ongoing.

Peat restoration at P22 has begun. Construction has moved to N124 and past J30 heading towards N126. Peat restoration area P23 has been deemed unsuitable.

Rock extraction at NBP05 is ongoing, mobile crusher and screening plant for the production of aggregate has been observed at NBP05 (Photo 12).

## 3.6 Communication with Clerks of Work

### 3.6.1 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 discussion was held between the PMO and GCoW before the site visit, on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The GCoW described the ongoing monitoring work across the site. This has included monitoring of the general construction works, monitoring peat restoration areas, and providing advice on peat handling. The GCoW reported good working practices when floating tracks on Spur 34 and Spur 41, additionally the reseeding along Sandwater Road was commented on as being of a high standard. The GCoW reported that there have been some geotechnical events which have been inspected, these did not result in environmental incidents.

### 3.6.2 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 discussion was held between the PMO and ECoW before the site visit, on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The ECoW continues to work with the Principal Contractor to identify and implement mitigation measures ahead of construction. This includes pre construction surveys ahead of planned works and additional surveying of cable routes.

There is ongoing discussion regarding best practices at peat restoration areas to ensure a successful restoration. This extends to the seed mix for peat restoration and reinstatement which is being developed by the Principal Contractor and the ECoW.

### 3.6.3 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. The ACoW communicated the ongoing works to the PMO on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The ACoW described the ongoing and completed monitoring works across the site. In the Nesting Array monitoring has finished on Spur 34 as the peat stripping has been completed. There are also ongoing monitoring works on Spur 41, Spur 26, and along Spur 39a.

In North Nesting the ACoW continues to work with the Principal Contractor, advising on track alignment to avoid archaeological features. There is also intermittent monitoring works along track and around borrow pit construction.

In Kergord the monitoring areas along Spur 17 and Spur 6 have been completed.

The ACoW has continued with daily checks across the project site.

### **3.7 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.
- Update on the construction of the VEWf Substation.
- 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 are managed through the project Habitat Management Plan which balances the geotechnical and ecological objectives of the restoration.</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. The PMO will request evidence in future audits to confirm compliance with requirements for GCOW and ECOW approval of proposed peat restoration areas.</p> <p>The project COSHH stores are typically used for the storage of maintenance oils and greases. The stores were all locked and the assessment for each substance was readily available in each store. The stores were bunded and no leaks or staining was observed around the stores.</p>	No action required.	N/A	Green
Natural and Built Environment (e.g. ecology, biosecurity, protected sites, archaeology and site restoration).	<p>Ecological 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. These are also marked out by poles on the site.</p> <p>Watching briefs have been undertaken by the ACoW where potential archaeological constraints are identified. Where there are known archaeological features the track is micro-sited to avoid the feature.</p>	No action required.	N/A	Green
Pollution Prevention and Response (e.g. use of spill	The project has received authorisation to abstract water from eight locations from SEPA. The	No action required.	N/A	Green

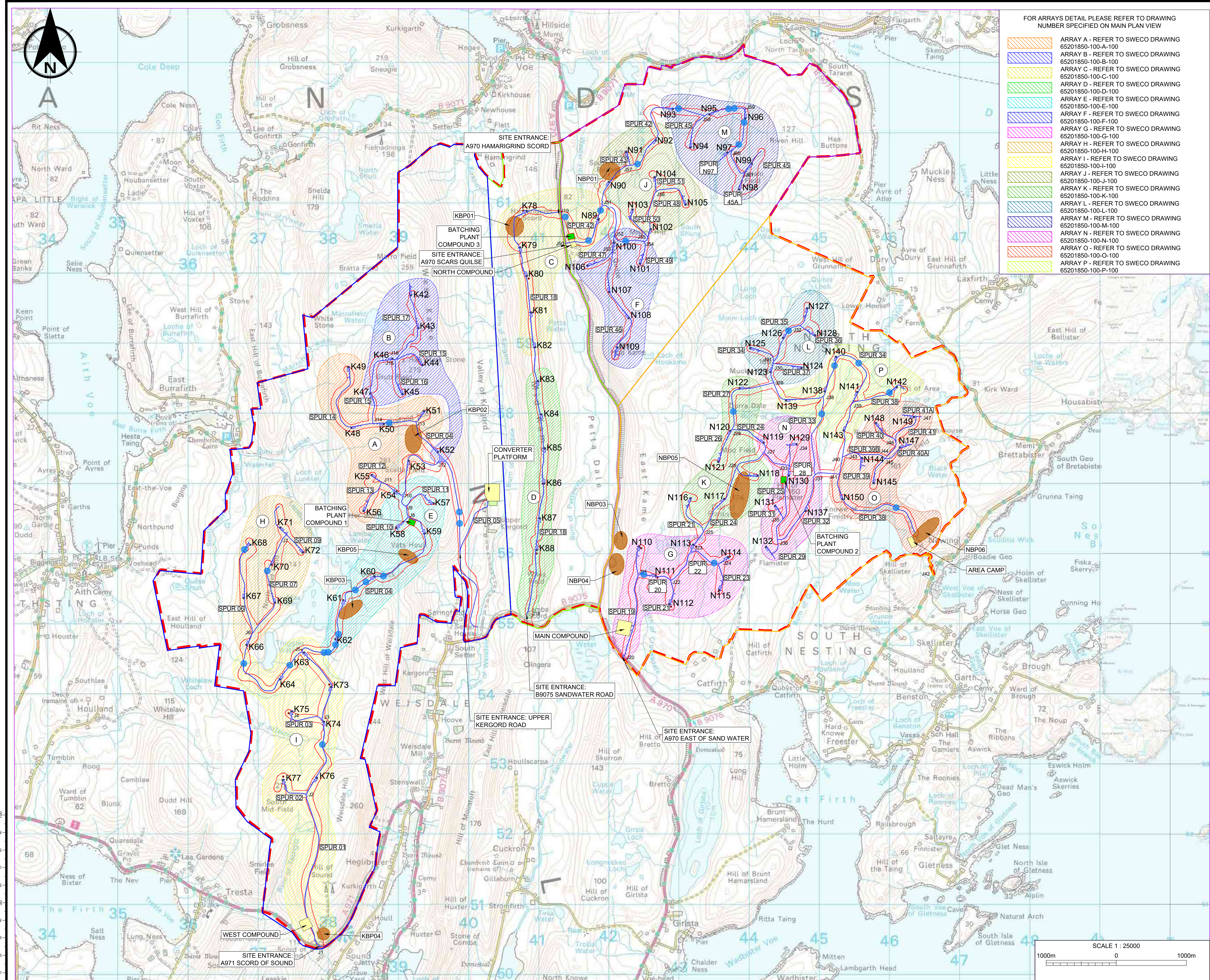
## VIKING ENERGY WIND FARM

Issue	Auditor Comments	Required Action	Action Owner	Status
kits, silt control, cement/concrete, water resources).	<p>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>			
Noise, Dust, and Air Quality	No dust complaints 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.	The project manages wastes through a Site Waste Management Plan, the plan identifies the contractors transferring the waste and the disposal sites. Documents are retained in line with regulatory requirements.	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 constraints. Potential constraints are identified and suitable mitigation measures implemented to prevent negative impacts.	No action required.	N/A	Green

## **APPENDIX 1**

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





- FOR ARRAYS DETAIL PLEASE REFER TO DRAWING NUMBER SPECIFIED ON MAIN PLAN VIEW
- ARRAY A - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-A-100
  - ARRAY B - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-B-100
  - ARRAY C - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-C-100
  - ARRAY D - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-D-100
  - ARRAY E - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-E-100
  - ARRAY F - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-F-100
  - ARRAY G - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-G-100
  - ARRAY H - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-H-100
  - ARRAY I - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-I-100
  - ARRAY J - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-J-100
  - ARRAY K - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-K-100
  - ARRAY L - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-L-100
  - ARRAY M - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-M-100
  - ARRAY N - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-N-100
  - ARRAY O - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-O-100
  - ARRAY P - REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-P-100

### NOTES

- CONTAINS ORDANCE SURVEY DATA RECEIVED FROM SSE ON 27.08.2020.
- ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES AND ALL LEVELS IN METRES AOD UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.
- TURBINE LOCATIONS BASED ON: "VIKING MICROSITING TRACKER" DATED 24.07.2020.
- ACCESS TRACKS AND HARDSTANDINGS BASED ON SSE LAYOUT: "S115056-TG-XX-XX-M3-C-1000\_ALL\_SPURS HARDSTANDS-P01". ARRAY LAYOUTS SUBJECT TO VALUE ENGINEERING DESIGN BY RJM.
- FOR CULVERT CATCHMENT ASSESSMENT REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-101.
- FOR CONSTRAINTS PLAN REFER TO SWECO DRAWING 65201850-100-111.

### LEGEND

- SITE PLANNING BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED NEW TRACK
- PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
- PROPOSED SUBSTATION COMPOUND
- PROPOSED BATCHING PLANT
- BORROW PIT SEARCH AREA
- PROPOSED WTG LOCATION
- AREA 1 - WEST (KERGORD)
- AREA 2 - RIDGE (KERGORD CENTRAL)
- AREA 3 - EAST (NESTING SOUTH)
- AREA 4 - NORTH (NESTING NORTH)
- PROPOSED WATERCOURSE CROSSING
- 50m MICROSITING
- SANDY WATER ROAD

0A	14.10.20	MINOR UPDATES	PL	RP	KS
0	17.09.20	FOR APPROVAL	BH	RP	KS
Rev.	Date	Amendment Details	Drawn	Chk'd	App'd

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## SWECO

Client

**sse**  
**RJ McLEOD**  
Drawing Status

**viking energy**  
Harnessing Scotland's natural resources.

### FOR APPROVAL

Project Title

## VIKING WIND FARM

Drawing Title

### SITE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT (177-0802-1001-000-00)

Scale	1:25000	Designed	RV	Drawn	RV	Checked	RP	Approved	KS	
Original Size	A1	Date	11.09.20	Date	11.09.20	Date	17.09.20	Date	17.09.20	
Drawing Number	65201850-100-100								Revision	0A





**Photo 1.**

View from K45 of adjacent Ecological Protection Area marked out by poles in red with poles marking edge of hardstanding in blue



**Photo 2.**

View from K45 of adjacent ecological protection area.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021



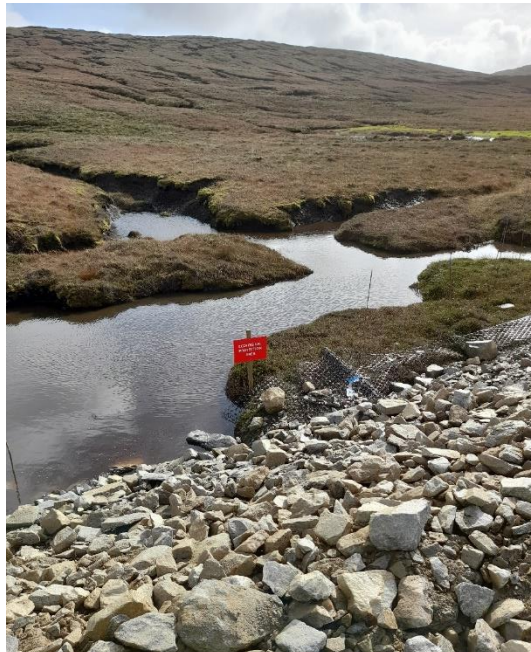


**Photo 3.** Active face of KBP02



**Photo 4.** View of reinstatement of a peatslide along track near K63

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021



**Photo 5.** View of Ecological Protection Area from track between K73 and K74 marked out by poles



**Photo 6.** View of proposed culvert route between K73 and K74

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021



**Photo 7.** View of the steel work at K86 in preparation for concrete pouring.



**Photo 8.** View of the completed and covered concrete work at K82, the excavated area will then be backfilled.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021





**Photo 9.**

View of peat restoration area P17 by N102 where the peat is in place.



**Photo 10.**

View towards N105 from N102 where peat basin has been avoided through micro-siting.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021



**Photo 11.** Bridge construction at Spur 34 between N140 and N141.



**Photo 12.** View of active rock extraction at NBP05, mobile crusher and screening plant for the production of aggregate can be seen.

<b>Title:</b> Photographic Log	<b>Client:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm
<b>Site:</b> Viking Energy Wind Farm	<b>Date:</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021

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