

Appendix 10.10 Ecological issues raised during scoping by consultees

Scoping Response to consultation on Collafirth & Nesting quadrants (June 2004)

Organisation	Issue raised	Response	
Scottish Executive (now The Scottish Government)	<i>General</i>	Consider relevant legislation & guidance.	Relevant wildlife & ecology guidance & legislation is considered within this chapter.
		All survey data should be made available to SNH.	All ecology survey data will be made available to SNH (and the Shetland Biological Records Centre).
	<i>Impact Assessment</i>	European protected species should be considered.	European protected species are considered in the assessment within this chapter.
		Particular attention should be paid to impacts on peatlands & mires.	Impacts on peatlands & mires have been considered within this and the Soils & Water chapter 14.
		The environmental impact of borrow pits should be assessed.	Ecological impacts of borrowpits have been considered within this chapter.
	<i>Fish</i>	Impacts of power cables on fish moving upstream should be assessed.	Impacts on fish movements have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.
		EIA should include direct impacts on fisheries, particularly as the development covers many lochs identified as brown trout fisheries with the possibility of migrating salmonids.	Impacts on fisheries have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.
		Impacts on migratory & other fish species should be considered including obstruction to migration, disturbance of spawning beds, pollution & drainage.	Impacts on fish species have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.
		Species (particularly protected species) on site should be established prior to application being considered for consent.	Species identified as present during the scoping, desk studies & field surveys are considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.
	<i>Survey - general</i>	A desk based study of the proposed site & connector routes including assessment of statutory & non-statutory designations, pre-existing data on flora, fauna should be undertaken.	A desk based survey was undertaken. There are a number of designated sites within 5km of the site but none of the ecology of these sites is likely to be directly or indirectly affected by construction, operational or decommissioning. Further detail of designated sites is provided within this chapter.
	<i>Survey - flora</i>	Phase 1 habitat survey should be undertaken with additional, specific survey of any rare species &/or communities.	Habitat surveys (Phase 1 and NVC) were completed & results are given within this chapter. Targeted survey work, for rare or threatened plants (esp. Shetland endemics) was carried out & is reported within chapter and Technical Appendix 10.3.
		Target notes should be produced detailing further information on habitat features	Target Notes were produced & relevant findings are summarised within this chapter and fully detailed in Technical Appendices 10.1, 10.2 & 10.3.
	<i>Survey - fauna</i>	A field survey is required to determine the presence & distribution of rare/specially protected animals, based on observation of the	Surveys for protected species are reported upon within this chapter.

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
		animal & of signs of their presence & abundance.	
		Any requirement for licences must be considered prior to survey work being undertaken.	Otter & freshwater pearl mussel survey work was carried out under an SNH Animal Conservation Licence. Electro-fishing was carried out under a licence issued by the Scottish Government.
		Specific survey methods for mammals should be agreed with SNH.	Survey methods for surveying otters were agreed with SNH at a scoping meeting in September 2005 & subsequently in April 2008.
		An otter survey should be completed.	An otter survey was completed and is reported within this chapter. Full detailed report given as Technical Appendix 10.4.
		A preliminary assessment of the suitability of the larger burns for freshwater pearl mussel should be undertaken, with full surveys, if any are suitable.	Survey completed for freshwater pearl mussels and is reported within this chapter. Full detailed report given as Technical Appendix 10.5.
	<i>Consultations</i>	SNH must be consulted.	SNH has been consulted on several occasions.
		Suggest that Shetland Anglers Association is contacted.	Shetland Anglers Association was consulted in May 2006 and during electro-fishing work in August 2008.
	<i>Other</i>	If otter are present, the design of any culverts should allow the movement of otter & small mammals.	Culvert & bridge designs are migratory fish and otter friendly and accord with SE guidance – see Soil & Water chapter 14.
SEPA	<i>Consultations</i>	SNH should be consulted	SNH has been consulted on several occasions.
	<i>Survey</i>	Habitat surveys to be carried out at the appropriate time of year.	All surveys were carried out at an appropriated time of year.
	<i>Impacts</i>	Indirect impacts on riverine wildlife, such as salmon, freshwater pearl mussel etc. from pollution should be considered.	Indirect impacts on riverine wildlife have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed freshwater pearl mussel, otter, freshwater macro-invertebrate & electro-fishing survey reports given in relevant Technical Appendices.
		Impacts on habitats, protected species & designated sites should be addressed as well as considering mitigation measures & impact on delivery of national and local Biodiversity Action Plans.	Impacts on habitats, species, designated sites & national and local BAPs have been considered within this chapter.
	<i>Culverts</i>	Any necessary culverting should be designed in accordance with SE guidance ' <i>River Crossings & Migratory Fish</i> '. Culverts should also be designed to allow the passage of otter & small mammals.	Culvert & bridge designs are migratory fish and otter friendly and accord with SE guidance – see Soil & Water chapter 14.
Shetland Islands Council	<i>Borrowpits</i>	Impacts of borrow pits to be fully assessed. Local Plan Policy LP MIN7 should be taken into account – this includes that: The borrow pit should ' <i>not adversely affect sites of natural heritage significance</i> ' & that ' <i>suitable restoration proposals, which enhance biodiversity are agreed at the application stage & the site is restored immediately the construction project is complete.</i> '	Ecological (natural heritage/biodiversity) impacts of borrow pits have been considered within this chapter.
SNH	<i>Otter</i>	Recommended a survey of otter within the site to identify any natal holts & regularly used corridors and that the EIA should consider	An otter survey has been completed & results given within this chapter. Full detailed survey report given as Technical

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
		measures to minimise any potential impacts on otters.	Appendix 10.4.
	<i>Freshwater pearl mussel</i>	Advised that a preliminary assessment of the suitability of the larger burns on site for freshwater pearl mussel should be undertaken, followed by full surveys of any sites considered suitable.	A freshwater pearl mussel survey has been completed & results provided within this chapter. Full detailed survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.5.
	<i>Consultation</i>	Advised consultation with Shetland Anglers Association	The Shetland Anglers Association was consulted in May 2006 and during electro-fishing work in August 2008.
	<i>Peat</i>	Advised that disposal of large quantities of peat could have environmental impacts locally but also possibly have wider implications due to drying out & release of CO ₂ to the atmosphere. Therefore, it would be preferable to ensure peat spoil is returned to a stable, saturated, anoxic condition.	Consideration of CO ₂ emissions & disposal of peat given in chapter 16 Air and climate and chapter 14 Soils and water.
		Potential impacts of peat disposal & consideration of whether peat spoil could be used for bog restoration within the site should be considered	Peat habitat restoration details in Habitat Management Plan.

Scoping Meeting, 19 September 2005 (Delting and Kergord quadrants)

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
SNH	<i>Survey Methods</i>	Phase 1 habitat survey should be conducted as for Collafirth & Nesting quadrants.	Phase 1 Habitat Survey was completed & results given within this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.1.
		Vegetation survey should include details on NVC.	NVC was completed & results given within this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.2.
		Assessment of mire condition should be included in the Phase 1 habitat survey & target notes.	Mire condition was recorded. Details are included in within this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.2
		Surveys should determine the presence of protected species.	Protected species surveys were completed & summary results within this chapter.
		Animal data should be gathered from walkover survey.	Baseline survey data provided within this chapter for protected species.
		Survey should include data on otters.	Otter survey completed and findings provided within this chapter. The survey methodology was developed & agreed with SNH. Full details given within Technical Appendix 10.4.
		Survey should include data on freshwater pearl mussel.	Survey completed for freshwater pearl mussel & findings provided within Ecology chapter. Full detailed survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.5.
	<i>Impact assessment</i>	Secondary effects on vegetation should be considered.	Secondary effects on vegetation are considered within this chapter.
	<i>Protected sites & species</i>	ES should meet requirements of Habitats and Birds Directives.	European protected sites & species are considered in the assessment. Ornithological issues & the requirements of the Birds Directive are considered in chapter 11.
		ES should address potential impacts on SSSIs within & adjacent to development area.	Potential impacts on designated sites (including SSSIs) are considered within this chapter.

Additional Consultation, May 2006 (all quadrants)

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
Shetland Anglers Association (SAA)	<i>Trout</i>	Noted that it is an offence to block the natural spawning routes for migratory fish & that stocks of sea trout in Shetland are fragile & after many years of decline are improving due to re-stocking efforts by the SAA. The SAA provided a list of locations for important sea trout & brown trout sites within the study area.	Impacts on migratory fish have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.

April 2008 Scottish Ministers (and consultees) responses to January 2008 Scoping Report (non-avian ecological issues only – all quadrants)

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
SNH	Site selection	The ES should explain site selection in relation to alternative sites in Shetland & Scotland.	Alternative sites are considered in chapter 3 Site selection.
	<i>Construction</i>	The Scoping Report prepared by BMT Cordah covered all advice previously given & identifies all environmental impacts that might affect natural heritage. SNH broadly agree with the assessment of their significance, subject to comments listed.	Environmental impacts that might affect natural heritage identified in the BMT Cordah Scoping Report are fully considered & assessed within this chapter.
	<i>Decommissioning</i>	The Scoping report does not provide detailed consideration of environmental impacts of decommissioning. The EIA should at least provide an outline of how site will be decommissioned e.g. hardstandings just covered or removed.	The issues surrounding decommissioning are considered with the this chapter and chapter 4 Development description. It should be noted that the tools & best practice guidance for decommissioning in 20-30 years time are likely to be significantly different to those now available.
	<i>Grid connection</i>	The grid connection infrastructure will require a separate EIA & strictly speaking is outside scope of this exercise. However, as some elements will be directly associated with this project these should be considered w.r.t. landscape, visual amenity & ecology.	Related grid connection infrastructure will constitute fairly small buildings & will be micro-sited out of any conflict with sensitive ecology. The wires between turbines & sub-stations are all underground along the road network. i.e. the ecology is already disturbed. One sub-station will be wired to the converter station in Kergord underground along the road network. The other substation will be wired to the converter station on timber poles following existing timber pole route.
	<i>Pollution & emissions from vehicles</i>	SNH agrees that pollution from vehicles, plant etc is unlikely to be significant. However, CO ₂ from these sources should be included in assessment of overall carbon budget	Carbon emissions dealt with in . Fuel & hydraulic oil spillage issue is assessed in chapter 14 Soil & water with reference to all applicable SEPA PPGs.
	<i>Construction & operation</i>	Reassess potential impacts of fuel or hydraulic oil spillage in risk assessment from both mobile plant and in construction compounds.	Fuel & hydraulic oil spillage issue is assessed in chapter 14 Soil & water with reference to all applicable SEPA PPGs.
			EIA should identify likely 'corridors' for access tracks, to allow for likely micro-siting of tracks & to ensure river crossings are properly assessed.

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
			200m overall, to allow for micro-siting. Watercourse crossing locations were searched for sensitive species e.g. otter & freshwater pearl mussels.
RSPB	Construction	The ES should provide sites of associated hardstandings, control buildings & sub-stations.	Details of hardstandings, control buildings & sub-stations provided in chapter 4 – Development description.
		The ES should provide details of peat disposal sites.	Details of peat disposal sites provided in chapter 16 Air and climate.
		The ES should provide sites of anemometer masts, workers camps & facilities	Details of anemometer masts, workers camps & facilities provided in chapter 4 – Development description
		Details of inter-connector & associated infrastructure should be provided despite being subject of another planning application	Related infrastructure will constitute fairly small buildings & will be micro-sited out of any conflict with sensitive ecology. The wires between turbines & sub-stations are all underground along the road network. i.e. the ecology is already disturbed. One sub-station will be wired to the converter station in Kergord underground along the road network. The other substation will be wired to the converter station on timber poles following existing timber pole route. Further information is provided in Chapter 4 – Development description
		Reinstatement of disturbed peat should use species from the area e.g. <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> and not perennial rye grass.	Reinstatement and restoration work will use native Shetland species appropriate to the location.
		Would welcome plans to route cables underground (to avoid collisions by birds). However, must ensure watercourses are protected and avoid runoff into burns. Vegetation should be carefully reinstated after cable burial.	Details of cabling issues provided in Chapter 4 – Development description. Watercourses will be protected & detail of actions to avoid runoff into burns is provided in Chapter 14 Soil & water with reference to all applicable SEPA PPGs.
	Construction & operation	Suitably qualified ecological scientist to be employed to supervise work	An independent Ecological Clerk of Works, to be appointed and paid for by VEP, will be employed for a period from the commencement of the development during all construction works and final decommissioning &/or restoration works.
		Construction should be phased. Avoid large scale disturbance across the site during bird breeding season	Construction will be phased and details of bird considerations can be found in chapter 11 - Birds.
		Will hardstanding areas (locations of which, along with borrow pits should be shown in ES) be retained during the life of the development?	Hardstanding tends to mean crane pads, which would be retained for the duration of the wind farm, although afterwards they would be allowed to regenerate naturally. Other construction compounds will be reinstated as appropriate.
		The camp site details for construction workers should included within ES	Details of workers camps & facilities provided in section chapter 4 – Development description.
		Great care should be taken in reversing effects on the vegetation of borrow pits, construction compounds & cables. Focus should be on suitable native species of vegetation.	Great care will be taken when carrying out restoration. Restoration is one of the main focuses of the Habitat Management Plan. Reinstatement and restoration work will

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
			use native Shetland species appropriate to the location.
	<i>Species surveys</i>	Shetland Biological Records Centre (SBRC) should also be consulted about methodology	SBRC was consulted on data, but SNH as statutory authority recommended appropriate survey methods to follow.
		Are any locations for rare or nationally scarce plants within the site & have these been taken into account by mitigation measures?	Targeted survey work, for likely locations of rare or threatened plants (esp. Shetland endemics) was carried out & is reported upon in this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.3.
	<i>Soils & Water</i>	The RSPB consider any proposals to place turbines & access tracks on deep peat areas could adversely affect this Priority & Annex 1 habitat. The UK has an obligation under Article 2 of the Habitats Directive to maintain or restore active blanket bog at favourable conservation status	Blanket bog considerations and impacts are discussed within this chapter & chapter 14 - Soils & Water.
Fisheries Research Services	<i>Surveys & baseline data</i>	From fisheries perspective, the developer should seek to establish one years hydro-chemical, electro-fishing & macro-invertebrate baseline data, identifying suitable control sites away from potential impacted area.	A baseline electro-fishing survey has been carried out across the site and findings reported within this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.6. A baseline aquatic-invertebrate survey has been carried out across the site and findings reported within this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.7.
SIC	<i>Construction</i>	Clarity required on phasing of works & mitigation described.	Detail of proposed phasing provided in section chapter 4 – Development description.
	<i>Decommissioning</i>	Scoping report suggests that decommissioning impacts would be similar to construction impacts. More detailed consideration required on decommissioning inc. restoration	The issues surrounding decommissioning are dealt with in this chapter and chapter 4 – Development description. It should be noted that the tools & best practice guidance for decommissioning in 20-30 years time is likely to be significantly different to those now available.
	<i>Construction & operation</i>	EIA should clearly determine effects of access tracks on ecology and how potentially adverse effects will be mitigated	Track layout in relation to ecology impacts/effects discussed within this chapter.
	<i>Designated sites</i>	Potential impacts of borrow pits may have been underestimated. ES needs to clearly assess impacts and how sites will be restored	Impacts of borrow pits have been considered within this chapter. Issues associated with visual &/or landscape effects of borrow pits are dealt with in chapter 9 - Visual impact.
		Direct and indirect effects of proposal on all designated sites should be clearly set out.	A desk based survey was undertaken & results are given in within this chapter. There are a number of designated sites within 5km of the site but none of the non-avian ecology interests of these sites is likely to be directly or indirectly affected.
	<i>Habitats</i>	Impacts of construction compounds have been under-estimated. Areas will be used for several years & habitat loss will be permanent, so ES should show how areas will be restored in longer term.	Details of construction compounds provided in chapter 4 – Development description. Ecological impacts have been considered within this chapter.
		Laying cables can have significant impact on peat & blanket bog unless carefully mitigated. Where possible cables should be combined with access track corridors to reduce effects.	Details of cabling provided in chapter 4 – Development description. Ecological impacts have been considered within this chapter.

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
		Important to draw meaningful distinction between short term and permanent effects.	Distinction between temporal effects is made throughout this chapter
	<i>Restoration</i>	Essential that ES gives attention to restoration of the site. SIC would expect this to include consideration to areas of blanket bog of greatest value, including liaison with SNH. The ES should clearly set out how much peat will be lost & how integrity of remaining bog will be maintained.	Blanket bogs considerations and impacts are discussed within this chapter. Restoration is one of the main focuses of the Habitat Management Plan.
	<i>Cumulative impacts</i>	ES should clearly cover cumulative impacts of proposal with other developments. On particular ES should cover combined effects of wind farm & interconnector.	Related grid connection infrastructure will constitute fairly small buildings & will be micro-sited out of any conflict with sensitive ecology. The wires between turbines & sub-stations are all undergrounded along the road network. i.e. the ecology is already disturbed. One sub-station will be wired to the converter station in Kergord underground along the road network. The other substation will be wired to the converter station on timber poles following existing timber pole route. Further details provided in chapter 4 – Development description
	<i>Mitigation</i>	Wherever possible, adverse effects should be mitigated at source & compensation should only be used as a last resort.	Wherever possible, potential adverse effects have been mitigated at source.
	<i>Surveys</i>	All survey methods should be agreed with appropriate consultees to ensure that final assessments are underpinned by surveys which meet expectations.	All ecology survey methodologies have been agreed with the statutory agencies e.g. SNH or SEPA and follow best practice guidance..
Scottish Ministers	<i>Format of ES</i>	Describe methodologies used in assessing all impacts & provide qualifications & experience of all those involved in surveying & technical sections.	Methodologies used are fully described in ES. Summary of experience & competency of personnel used provided in Appendix 10.8.
	<i>Non-technical summary</i>	Should be written in simple non-technical terms describing the various options, impacts & mitigations.	Non-technical summary provided.
	<i>Site selection & alternatives</i>	Demonstrate that a wide set of environmental & economic parameters have been considered and narrowed down to choice of sites (taking into account spatial framework set out in Annex A to SPP6). Provide detailed examination of these parameters to minimise impacts by sensitive design & layout. Avoidance of areas of deep peat, unnecessary watercourse crossings, avoidance of wetlands, location of protected species are examples of constraints that should be considered from both outset & detailed design & layout stage.	A wide set of environmental parameters have been considered and alternative sites/options are discussed in chapter 4 - Development description.
	<i>Description of the development</i>	Where required to assess environmental effects, the ES should include: Description of physical characteristics of land use requirements during construction, operation, decommissioning & restoration phases.	Physical description of the development & its location with regard to land-uses provided in chapter 4 – Development description.
	<i>Construction</i>	Design details will be required for all aspects of site work that might impact upon the environment, containing preventative action & mitigation to limit impacts.	Full description of design and associated mitigation provided in chapter 4 – Development description.

Organisation	Issue raised	Response
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Follow guidance on minimising impacts of access roads in wind farms e.g. from FC, CIRIA & SNH. Since some roads will be located on peat, evidence will be necessary of additional consideration of best practice.	Guidance followed on roads design provided in chapter 15 - Roads & traffic.
	Application & ES should outline plans & specification for decommissioning & reinstatement of site.	Decommissioning explanation provided in chapter 4 – Development description. It should be noted that best practice tools & guidance available when decommissioning & reinstatement is planned to be carried out should be followed & used, rather than options available now which may be obsolete & inappropriate in 20 years time.
<i>Baseline assessment, mitigation, construction & operation</i>	This section should clearly describe environmental features of the site, likely impacts on these features & measures taken to prevent, mitigate & remedy or offset any significant effects on the environment. It should include methodologies used in monitoring (inc control sites), timings & reporting arrangements	Environmental (ecological) features of the site are described in this chapter. Where future monitoring is recommended, suggested timings & potentially suitable control sites are outlined.
	ES to include site specific info on fuel transport & storage management, concrete production, stockpile storage, storage of weather sensitive materials at lay-down areas, haul routes & access roads (temp or permanent), earthworks to provide landscaping, mechanical digging of new or existing drainage channels, vehicle access over watercourses, construction of crossings & digging of excavations, welfare arrangements of workers, maintenance of vehicles & plant, pollution control measures, bunding or roofing of transformer areas, use of power cables & related contingency measures. ES should identify if any particularly pollution sensitive receptors are present (e.g. salmonids & freshwater pearl mussels).	Pollution control issues (inc method statements) outlined & examined in chapter 14 - Soil & water with reference to all applicable SEPA PPGs. This chapter identifies sensitive receptors potentially present across site (particular attention is paid to otters, freshwater pearl mussels, fish and macro-invertebrates).
	ES should demonstrate best times of years for work in relation to rainfall, potential runoff & pollution, whether fully qualified Ecological Clerk of Works will be used, and process whereby method statements will be developed in consultation with planning authority & SNH prior to any works commencing.	An independent Ecological Clerk of Works, to be appointed and paid for by VEP, will be employed for a period from the commencement of the development during all construction works and final decommissioning &/or restoration works.
<i>Designated sites</i>	ES should cover impacts on nature conservation interest of all designated sites in vicinity of proposed development. It should provide proposals for mitigation to avoid these impacts or to reduce them to a level where they are not significant. Further details provided on Natura 2000 site procedures if affected.	A desk based survey was undertaken. There are a number of designated sites within 5km of the site but none of the non-avian ecology of these sites is likely to be directly or indirectly affected. Further detail of designated sites is provided within this chapter.
<i>Habitats & management</i>	Recommend that all ecological survey methods are agreed with SNH specialist advisors for each habitat and species. All data collected should be made available to SNH & Scottish Government.	All relevant survey methods agreed with SNH (& SEPA) & follow standardised survey methodologies and best practice for relevant species. All non-sensitive ecological survey data will be made publicly available & all data (inc. sensitive data) will be provided to SNH, Scottish Government and SBRC.

Organisation	Issue raised	Response
	The ES should identify rare & threatened habitats, those protected by European/UK legislation, or identified in national/local BAP.	This chapter outlines detail of rare, protected habitats on site.
	Habitat enhancement & mitigation measures should be outlined. Special attention should be made to peat land habitats.	Habitat enhancement & restoration details in Habitat Management Plan, with a special emphasis on peat habitats.
	SEPA emphasises that ES should demonstrate turbine locations have been on basis of habitats, esp w.r.t. deep peats & intact hydrological units of mire vegetation. Turbines & road need to be located in light of vegetation survey work. Measures to avoid pH impact on peatland from use of cement/concrete should be set out.	Peatland hydrology assessment has guided site section & design layout (chapters 3 & 4). NVC work has been used to move and micro-site roads & turbines to avoid sensitive areas. Issues in relation to construction materials are provided in chapter 4 – Development description.
	RSPB & SNH want to see a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the area of the windfarm & for any area managed in mitigation or compensation for potential impacts of windfarm. A commitment to maintain or enhance biodiversity overall is expected. Monitoring impacts of development & outcomes of any habitat management measures should form part of ES proposals.	Summary HMP for whole area provided in Appendix 10.9. The plan will enhance overall biodiversity & will have a detailed & funded monitoring programme associated with enhancement work. The HMP will be developed & taken forward with invited interested partners.
<i>Species & management</i>	ES needs to show applicants have taken account of relevant domestic & international wildlife legislation & guidance. It needs to be categorically established which species are present on the site before application is considered for consent.	Relevant wildlife/ecology guidance & legislation is considered within this chapter. Full suite of necessary species surveys have been agreed & carried out prior to submission of the application.
	A baseline survey of plants on site should be undertaken, & this should be used to determine presence of any rare or threatened vascular, non-vascular plants & fungi.	Full baseline Phase 1 and NVC surveys carried out across site & wider area and reported upon in this chapter & Technical Appendices 10.1 & 10.2. Follow-up survey work, targeting likely locations of rare or threatened plants (inc. lower plants & Shetland endemics) carried out & reported upon in this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.3.
	A baseline survey of mammal species present on site should be undertaken. Particular attention should be paid to protected &/or vulnerable species, esp. EPS mammals.	Baseline survey of otter undertaken & reported upon in this chapter & Technical Appendix 10.4. No additional survey work on other non-native mammal species carried out as none requested by SNH during species & habitats survey meeting on 06/09/07.
	A baseline survey of reptile & amphibian species present on site should be undertaken. Particular attention should be paid to protected &/or vulnerable species, esp. EPS.	The only reptiles known in Shetland are vagrant turtles, which are not present on the site & therefore not expected to be impacted by the windfarm. The only amphibians are the Common toad & Common frog, both of which are introduced non-native species. Only the Common frog is known to have survived and it is widespread across most of Shetland, including the proposed wind farm site. No additional survey work on introduced species carried out as none requested by SNH during species & habitats survey meeting on 06/09/07.

Organisation		Issue raised	Response
		A baseline survey of fish species present in waterbodies & watercourses on and around the site should be undertaken. This should extend to watercourses which may be affected by runoff from the site during construction, operation & decommissioning.	Fish species have been considered within this chapter. Full detailed electro-fishing survey report given as Technical Appendix 10.6.
		A baseline survey of the significant invertebrates on site & present in waterbodies & watercourses on & around the site should be undertaken	Baseline freshwater pearl mussel & aquatic macro-invertebrate surveys have been carried out across the site & are reported upon in this chapter and Technical Appendices 10.5 & 10.7.
	<i>Hydrology</i>	All culverts must be designed with full regard to natural habitat & environmental concerns. Where migratory fish may be present (e.g. trout, salmon or eels) the culvert should be designed in accordance with Scottish Executive guidance on River Crossings & Migratory Fish. Where watercourse is used as a pathway by otters & other small mammals, the design of culverts will need to be modified to accommodate this.	Culvert designs are migratory fish and otter friendly and accord with SE best practice guidance – see chapter 14 – Soil & water.
	<i>Assessment of peat slide risk</i>	If development occurs on peatland habitats, the ES should incorporate a comprehensive peat slide risk assessment in accordance with Scottish Exec best practice.	Peat slide risk assessment is covered in chapter 14 - Soil & water.
	<i>Forestry</i>	The ES should indicate areas of forestry plantation which may be felled to accommodate turbines.	No forestry will be felled. Furthermore, native tree planting forms part of the HMP.
	<i>Cumulative impacts</i>	Ecological cumulative effects may arise where other wind farms occur and should be considered.	No other wind farms are known to be planned and so cumulative effects have not been investigated further.