



Viking Wind Farm Construction Compounds - North Compound

June 2019

Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary

Environmental Impact Assessment Report



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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: proposed development

Figure 3: Construction Compounds in relation to Viking Wind Farm

Figure 4: Indicative Detailed Design Drawing

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 Viking Energy Wind Farm LLP (the Applicant) is developing proposals to seek planning permission for three temporary construction compounds on mainland Shetland, known as the Main Compound, West Compound and North Compound (Figure 1). This document relates to the North Compound (Figure 2).
- 1.1.2 The construction of temporary construction compounds is included as part of the existing consent; however the Applicant has identified a requirement to increase the size of the compounds in order to allow sufficient space for a well organised construction and allowing for a shorter programme. As such the Applicant is proposing to bring forward applications for permission to construct three temporary construction compounds. Figure 3 details the compounds in relation to the Viking Wind Farm.
- 1.1.3 The applicant has provided an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) to accompany the application. The EIA Report comprises the following sections:
- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary;
 - Volume 2: Main Report;
 - Volume 3: Figures;
 - Volume 4: Technical Appendices.
- 1.1.4 Additional documentation that will be submitted with the application includes:
- Design and Access Statement; and
 - Pre-Application Consultation Report.
- 1.1.5 The EIA Report and additional documents will be available for viewing on the Shetland Islands Council online portal (<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/planningcontrol/ViewandComment.asp>), on the application website (<https://www.vikingenergy.co.uk/document-archive>) and also during normal opening hours at the following locations:
- Shetland Islands Council, 8 North Ness Business Park, Lerwick, ZE1 0LZ;
 - Shetland Library, Lower Hillhead, Lerwick, ZE1 0EL
- 1.1.6 A paper copy of the Non-Technical Summary is available free of charge. A copy of the EIA report is available on DVD at a cost of £10. A printed copy of the EIA Report can be provided upon request (£300). Copies of the documents may be obtained from the applicant by contacting:
- Viking Energy Partnership
The Gutters Hut
North Ness Business Park
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0LZ
- 1.1.7 Any comments (representations) on the application must be made in writing via letter to Development Management, Development Services, 8 North Ness Business Park, Lerwick, ZE1 0NT, via email or online (please note registration is required to be able to comment online). Shetland Islands Council will advertise the application and will set a closing date for the submission of representations.
- 1.1.8 Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the applicant will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted.

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Project Description

2.1.1 The proposed development would include the following key components (an indicative detailed design drawing is provided as Figure 4):

- a temporary construction compound area of no more than 250 m x 250 m;
- access tracks and internal circulation routes for vehicles and pedestrians;
- lighting for security and safety during hours of darkness;
- surface water management;
- temporary office accommodation and welfare buildings (toilets, kitchen/canteen, drying rooms) with a height no more than 7 m;
- equipment storage;
- maintenance and refuelling facilities;
- waste, recycling and materials management facilities;
- general laydown areas; and
- parking.

2.2 Residues and Emissions

2.2.1 The EIA has considered the potential for residues and emissions associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development, including consideration of water, air, noise and vibration, light, soil pollution and waste, and concludes that:

- Following the application of mitigation, no significant residual residues or emissions with effects on the water environment or soil have been identified.
- The proposed development would not contribute to a material change in carbon emissions released when integrated as part of the wider Viking Wind Farm development.
- An assessment of noise has confirmed that noise levels associated with the proposed development will not exceed BS5228-1 threshold levels at any identified noise receptors.
- No significant sources of waste have been identified.
- The proposed development may be equipped with passive infra-red sensor-controlled security lighting in accordance with Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) standards for avoiding obtrusive lighting. These would illuminate the compound area when activated. Any effect would be temporary and not expected to be significant during normal operation of the proposed development.

3. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 This EIA Report considers potential effects from the proposed development as well as cumulative impacts in relation to the Viking Wind Farm. No significant residual effects were predicted for the proposed development.

3.2 Landscape and Visual

- 3.2.1 The assessment identifies the principal sources of landscape and visual effects, including cumulative effects and sets out a series of mitigation measures with which to ameliorate effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. Whilst these would not entirely eliminate potential effects they would reduce the level of some effects and the prominence of the proposed development.
- 3.2.2 The LVIA concludes that significant effects, including some significant cumulative effects, would be localised within the valley, would be confined to locations in close proximity to the proposed development, and would be short to medium-term in duration and reversible. On this basis, the overall effect on the landscape and visual resource of the area is not considered significant.

3.3 Ornithology

- 3.3.1 The EIA presented examines the potential for impacts on bird receptors to arise from disturbance and habitat loss/change effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development.
- 3.3.2 The impacts of the proposed development on all Shetland bird receptor populations, including golden plover and curlew, are judged to be Not Significant for the purposes of the 2017 EIA Regulations.
- 3.3.3 A cumulative impact assessment concludes proposed development would not contribute to the cumulative impacts on these species from wind-energy projects in Shetland.
- 3.3.4 Habitat reinstatement work is proposed that will draw on the experience of implementing the Viking Wind Farm Habitat Management Plan (RPS, 2016) with regard to restoring and enhancing peatland habitats to benefit breeding bird species.

3.4 Noise

- 3.4.1 The EIA Report has assessed the impacts of noise from the construction and operation of the proposed development on the nearest residential receptor. The assessment has been undertaken following the guidance contained within BS5228-1 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites. Noise'.
- 3.4.2 Three scenarios have been considered, namely the construction of the compound and access track, typical operational activities that will occur during daytime periods and the operation of lighting rigs and generators during the night-time. The predicted noise levels, including consideration of cumulative noise from other Viking Wind Farm construction activities, indicate that the BS5228 threshold levels will not be exceeded. Accordingly, the assessment concludes that noise impacts are Not Significant.
- 3.4.3 It is assumed that any noise generated during decommissioning activities would be similar to that generated during the construction of the access track and compound, therefore, noise impacts during decommissioning will also be Not Significant.

3.5 Ecology

- 3.5.1 The ecology assessment was undertaken with regard to relevant legislation, related policy and guidance. Baseline work included a desk study, biological records search, vegetation surveying and otter surveying. The assessment reports on the potentially significant effects with respect to ecology associated with the construction, operation and restoration of the proposed development.
- 3.5.2 Only 8 existing biological records were present for the area and those were all for introduced mammals. No evidence of any recent otter presence was found within the proposed north compound area or the surrounding 200 m buffer in early June 2019. Evidence of otter presence but no resting-up sites was found just within the surrounding 250 m survey area. The vegetation surveying completed included both a Phase 1 habitat survey and a National Vegetation Classification survey for the proposed development site and a 250 m buffer around the site. Just over 61% of the proposed north compound area was found to contain blanket bog on peat of generally a metre or more in depth. The majority of the surrounding 250 m buffer to the proposed development boundary is also blanket bog and again, the area generally contains peat of at least 1 m in depth. The plant communities present are described with areas and percentages accorded for both the proposed north compound and the surrounding wider 250m buffer zone. Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems are also detailed with areas calculated.
- 3.5.3 It is specifically noted that an invasive plant species Montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiflora*) is present within the unrestored section of the quarry. It will require specific best practice mitigation and supervision to prevent its spread during this proposed development.
- 3.5.4 While there are significant effects prior to mitigation the assessment on ecology concludes that, provided all mitigation and compensation detailed is implemented then there are not likely to be any significant effects on ecology for the construction and operation of the proposed north compound.

3.6 Hydrology

- 3.6.1 This Hydrology assessment considers likely significant effects on water quality, flooding and water resources during both the construction and operation of the North Construction Compound.
- 3.6.2 The assessment of the likely significant effects for the proposed Main Construction Compound concludes that, following the consideration of proposed mitigation, all activities with potential to affect hydrology and hydrogeology would be appropriately managed and there would be no significant effects.

3.7 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

- 3.7.1 Potential effects of the proposed North Construction Compound upon cultural heritage assets resulting from its construction operation and cumulative effects have been considered.
- 3.7.2 No construction effects on known cultural heritage assets are predicted.
- 3.7.3 There is low potential for the construction phase to impact on previously unrecorded cultural heritage asset in the CHISA. A programme of archaeological works will be agreed with the Shetland Regional Archaeological Service to mitigate such effects through preservation by record.
- 3.7.4 No operational effects on cultural heritage assets were identified.
- 3.7.5 No cumulative effects on cultural heritage assets were identified.