

Chapter 6: EIA Scope and Pre-Application Consultation

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6 EIA Scope and Pre-Application Consultation

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 In general the EIA Regulations require that an EIA should describe the likely significant effects of a proposed development on the environment. Scoping of potential issues against the physical and operational aspects of a proposed development provides a basis for ensuring that the assessment of environmental effects is appropriately limited to issues of genuine potential significance. This ensures a proportionate approach focussed on likely significant effects that have not already been considered.

6.1.2 This Chapter describes the pre-application consultation process that was undertaken to determine the scope of the EIA Report, and the consultations that were undertaken to inform the local community of the Proposed Development. This Chapter also includes a summary of the environmental features of potential significance associated with the Proposed Development which are to be addressed in detail in the EIA Report, and those that are scoped out.

6.2 Pre-Application Consultation

6.2.1 To discuss and agree the proposed scope of the EIA Report, a Pre-Application Briefing Note for the Proposed Development was submitted to Shetland Islands Council (SIC) on 22nd October 2018 followed by a meeting on 31st October 2018 to agree the proposed scope of the EIA Report. A copy of this briefing note is included as Appendix 6.1 and the minutes of the meeting detailing the agreed scope of the EIA are provided in Appendix 6.2.

6.2.2 Meetings with SIC Roads Authority have been undertaken to help inform the design of the road alignment and associated junctions.

6.2.3 Regular pre-application meetings and telephone calls have been held with representatives of SIC, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and other key stakeholders to discuss the Viking Wind Farm proposals, during which the proposed realignment of Sandwater Road has often been discussed.

6.2.4 Public consultation has been undertaken as part of the wider Viking Wind Farm consultations, most recently the public engagement day held in the Voe Public Hall on the 2nd October 2018.

6.3 Response to Pre-Application Briefing Note

6.3.1 Consultation with SIC confirmed that, for the majority of subject areas, the scope of works proposed in the Pre-Application Briefing Note was considered appropriate. There were two exceptions:

- SIC requested that more information be provided on landscape and visual effects. A new Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) has therefore been undertaken for the Proposed Development (see Chapter 7).
- SEPA requested that more information be included on Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) including a comparison with the effects of 2016 Application. This has therefore been carried out (see Chapter 9).

6.4 Agreed EIA Scope

6.4.1 The agreed scope for the EIA Report can therefore be summarised as follows:

Table 6.1: Summary of EIA Scope

Topic	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Relevant Chapter of EIA Report
Landscape and Visual	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Landscape mitigation measures.	-	Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual
Ornithology	Summary of previous assessment findings. Review of mitigation measures.	Detailed ornithology assessment.	Chapter 8: Ornithology and associated appendices. Appendix 4.1: Schedule of Mitigation Appendix 8.4: Draft Bird Protection Plan
Ecology, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	Summary of previous assessment findings. Assessment on Sandwater Loch SSSI. Assessment of effects on GWDTE. Update protected species surveys for otter. Review of mitigation measures and production of draft CEMP.	Detailed assessment of habitats, protected species, fish and macroinvertebrates.	Chapter 9: Ecology and associated appendices. Appendix 4.1: Schedule of Mitigation Appendix 4.2: Outline Draft CEMP
Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology	Assessment of hydrology, hydrogeology and geology. Peat Management Plan	-	Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology and associated appendices. Appendix 10.4: Peat Management Plan
Cultural Heritage	Assessment of effects on historic environment. Cultural Heritage Management Plan.	-	Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage and associated appendices. Appendix 11.3: Cultural Heritage Management Plan
Air Quality and Noise	Review of mitigation measures and production of draft CEMP.	Assessment of air quality and noise.	Chapter 12: Other Issues Appendix 4.1: Schedule of Mitigation Appendix 4.2: Outline Draft CEMP Appendix 12.1: Air Quality Construction Mitigation
Land Use, Socio-economics, Access and Recreation	Review of mitigation measures and production of draft CEMP.	Assessment of land use, socio-economics, access and recreation.	Chapter 12: Other Issues Appendix 4.1: Schedule of Mitigation Appendix 4.2: Outline Draft CEMP
Traffic and Transport	Construction Traffic Management Plan*.	Construction and operational traffic assessment.	Chapter 12: Other Issues
Forestry	-	Forestry assessment.	-
Population and Human Health	-	Detailed assessment of population and human health.	Chapter 12: Other Issues Appendix 4.1: Schedule of Mitigation Appendix 4.2: Outline Draft CEMP Appendix 12.1: Air Quality Construction Mitigation

Topic	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Relevant Chapter of EIA Report
Climate Change	-	Detailed assessment of climate change.	Chapter 12: Other Issues
Accidents and Disasters	-	Detailed accidents and disasters assessment.	Chapter 12: Other Issues
Materials	-	Detailed materials assessment.	Chapter 12: Other Issues Appendix 10.4: Peat Management Plan
Consideration of Alternatives	Alternatives Comparison of Effects with 2016 Application		Chapter 3: Consideration of Alternatives

* Construction traffic would be managed in accordance with the overall Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for Viking Wind Farm.