

Viking Energy Wind Farm

**Operational Newsletter
Spring 2025**





Welcome to the first edition of the Viking Energy Wind Farm's Operational Newsletter, updating the Shetland community during the site's first 6 months of operation.

Project Overview

Viking became fully operational in September 2024, after more than 15 years in development. The site has an installed capacity of 443MW which is generated by 103 wind turbines on site - enough clean electricity to power almost half a million homes.

We continue to retain a local presence via our Shetland based SSE Renewables asset management team and our turbine manufacturer Vestas, who both maintain and operate the asset locally. The operations base employs over 30 full time employees, in addition to local contractors who support the ongoing maintenance of the wind farm. **Further information on the project can be found on Viking's website: vikingenergy.co.uk/about**

Blade Replacement Works Complete

Following the damage to one of our blades last year, a replacement blade was successfully installed on site in March and the turbine is now back in operation. We'd like to thank the local community for their patience as these works were coordinated and undertaken.

North carpark at Viking Wind Farm gets go-ahead

Shetland Islands Council has granted planning permission for a new carpark which will allow access to miles of local scenic trails. The SSE Renewables proposal was formally approved by the council's Planning Committee in April.

Once complete, the development, which includes a carpark and picnic area, will offer better access for the local community and visitors wanting to utilise local trails. Visitors will also benefit from SSE Renewables' work with disability

charity Ability Shetland as a specialist all terrain wheelchair, which was funded by the business, along with Ability Shetland's adapted e-bikes, can now be stored at the location in a new secure container.

Work on the carpark will begin once pre-construction activities are completed and we will continue to share updates as this work progresses.

Old Sandwater Road update

As part of the development of the Viking wind farm, we have provided a new Sandwater Road for Shetland Islands Council in accordance with our planning permission. This new section of road is due to replace part of the existing B9075 Sandwater public road, upgrading it from a B road to an A road and making it much safer for public use.

VEWF will shortly be submitting a request to Shetland Islands Council to 'Stop Up' the B9075. If approved, the order will close the road to public vehicular traffic, and the old road will become a recreational route for walking, wheeling, cycling and equestrian use. Vehicular access will be maintained for landowners, crofters and utilities to access fields and utility equipment; all affected parties have been contacted, and access arrangements are in place. The stopping up order will be advertised in local press by Shetland Islands Council once submitted.

A permanent carpark, in addition to the North car park mentioned in the previous story, will also be constructed close to the junction of the A970 and Sandwater Road for recreational and commuter use. Construction of this car park is anticipated to begin spring / summer 2025.

Site Access Update

As we work to finalise some ongoing construction activities on site, site access restrictions remain in place during this time. As this work is completed, we'd like to thank members of the public for continuing to adhere to our site safety restrictions and exclusion zones until outdoor access rights have been fully reinstated which is expected to take place later this year.

£1million distributed from Viking Community Fund

The Viking Community Fund has provided a financial boost to communities in the Shetland Islands by awarding over £1,000,000 to local projects. It has seen 52 projects benefit from the fund since it was launched in September last year.

Projects who have been awarded sums from the fund vary, from £500 given to local youth clubs and sports teams, to larger sums of £200,000 awarded for the MRI Scanner Appeal and Energy Efficiency programme respectively. Strategic priority projects account for over £600,000 of the total awarded, and include £114,349 to the Brae Rural Energy Hub towards staffing costs over four years from November 2025 to October 2029.

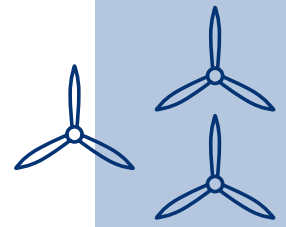
The South Nesting Boating Club were awarded £79,800 to help fund an Environmental Impact Assessment to progress their marina project, with £60,000 allocated to the Scalloway Community Development Company for a District Heating Feasibility study.

Other projects include £34,200 to the Brae Community Hall to upgrade the surface of its car park and Bigton Community Shop also received £3,850 for a similar project. Youth focused projects included £920 for new equipment and roller skates for the Lunnasting Young Ones Club, £1,000 for the 1st Aith Brownies for filmmaking equipment and £766 for sports equipment and craft kits for the Tingwall Youth Club.

The Viking Community Fund is managed independently by Shetland Community Benefit Fund with a Director from every community council area in Shetland. The first 5 years of the fund focuses on the priorities identified by Shetland residents including more young people wanting to stay and/or return to Shetland, reduced cost of living in Shetland and improved housing supply and affordability.

For more information on SCBF, criteria for the Viking fund and how to apply please visit scbf.org.uk/





Viking team supports Shetland's Da Voar Redd Up



The SSE Renewables Viking Energy Wind Farm site team recently participated in Shetland's Da Voar Redd Up – the UK's most successful community litter-picking event. The Redd Up, organised by the Shetland Amenity Trust, makes a huge contribution to the protection of Shetland's natural environment and wildlife, with the site team clearing litter from 2.5km of roadside verge adjacent to the wind farm access junctions. The Viking team were pleased to support the event, alongside other community volunteers across Shetland.

160ha of peatland restoration delivered

SSE Renewables is making significant progress in the delivery of its commitment to restore peatland on site. The project's Habitat Management Plan (HMP), approved by Shetland Islands Council, sets out ambitions to restore 250 ha of historically degraded and eroded swathes of peatland, the equivalent of over 380 football pitches.

This work was made possible by the construction of the wind farm's access tracks, enabling greater accessibility to areas which are experiencing the most significant impacts of peatland degradation. This also allowed SSE Renewables to increase its initial peatland restoration target from 250ha in its HMP to 272ha. The works so far, which started in 2020, have resulted in the restoration of 160 ha to date and will continue throughout the operational phase.



Get in Touch

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. If you have any questions or feedback you would like to share you can contact us directly at VikingWindfarm@sse.com