

SSE Renewables

NPF4 & EIA – SSE Renewables Perspective

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NPF4 – How Can Developers Help?

- *“Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.” (Quote from Ministerial Forward)*
- *“Policy 1- When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.”*
- **Interaction between Policies: Policy 11- Energy, Policy 4- Natural Places and Policy 3 – Biodiversity.**
- **This is not an exhaustive list and other policies will have relevance, as a development plan NPF4 needs to be considered in the round.**

Onshore Wind – A Problem or Part of the Solution?



- Rolling programme of **peatland restoration** in collaboration with Dunmaglass Estate
- **70ha** of targeted restoration completed to date
- SSER are also developing the neighbouring **Aberarder Wind Farm** – opportunity for further targeted restoration and enhancement

|| SSE Renewables – Best Practice Peatland Restoration



- **304ha** of peatland restoration at Viking in Shetland
- **1,600ha** of forest to bog restoration underway at Strathy South
- SSER's **largest Habitat Management Plan** to date

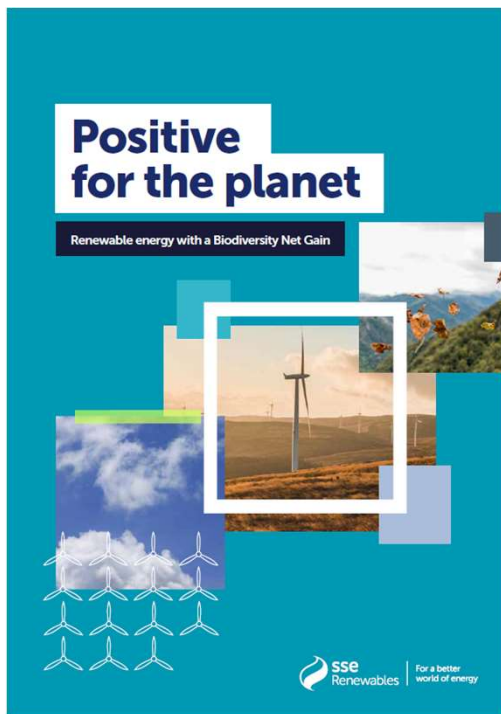


|| **SSE Renewables – Part of the Solution**

- **Habitat Management Plans delivering quality peatland restoration on our sites; Clyde, Dunmaglass, Viking, Strathy South *the story continues!***
- **Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022 – Annex 1 “ Best Practice Examples: Enhancing the Natural Environment”**
- **Renewable development can be part of the solution and help address both the climate and the nature crises, but expectations must be realistic!**
- **How do we demonstrate this and compliance with NPF4 policies?**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain- How to evidence ?**

Positive For The Planet

A commitment to credibility, transparency and collaboration



- New **BNG report**, two **BNG toolkits** and user guides all published in full
- Launched on **COP27 Biodiversity Day** at twin events in Edinburgh and Egypt for key stakeholders
- Opportunity to showcase Scotland as a **global leader on BNG**
- **Scottish Government's recent announcement to create a metric and guidance is greatly welcomed by SSER, but in the meantime our Toolkits may provide a way of evidencing BNG for decision making and are available on our website for all to use.** [Biodiversity Net Gain | SSE Renewables](#)

|| **NPF4 & Development Planning Regulations 2023**

- **NPF4 – Statutory Development Plan- Next 10 years to 2030 targets & beyond**
- **New Development Planning Regulations in May 2023- LPAs now looking to prepare new development plans**
- **Need for Industry to engage in supporting LDP Evidence Reports**
- **Transitional arrangements – Chief Planner Letter 8th February.**
- **In the event of any incompatibility between a provision of NPF and a provision of an LDP, whichever of them is the later in date is to prevail.**
- **Local Development Plans – local policy context to support Net Zero targets & addressing the nature crisis.**

Onshore Wind Sector Deal – Industry Commitments

- **By end of 2023, provide an analysis of the expected pipeline of new onshore wind projects, extensions to existing projects, life extensions and re-powering projects expected between 2023 and 2030**
- **From 2024, submit plans for consent that are buildable without delay, to the extent that such delays are not caused by external factors beyond a developer's control**
- **From end of 2023, proactively engage with consultees to improve approaches to the scoping of the environmental information required in EIARs**
- **From end of 2023, ensure that in planning for developments close to other projects, regardless of the owners/developers involved, due attention is given to cooperation on interconnected planning and environmental considerations for the area.**
- **From Q3 2024, ensure the submission of Section 36 applications and the accompanying EIARs, are based as far as is possible on the agreed templates, scopes and formats, to enable effective and efficient determinations without any need for additional information**

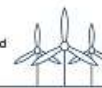
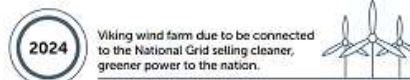
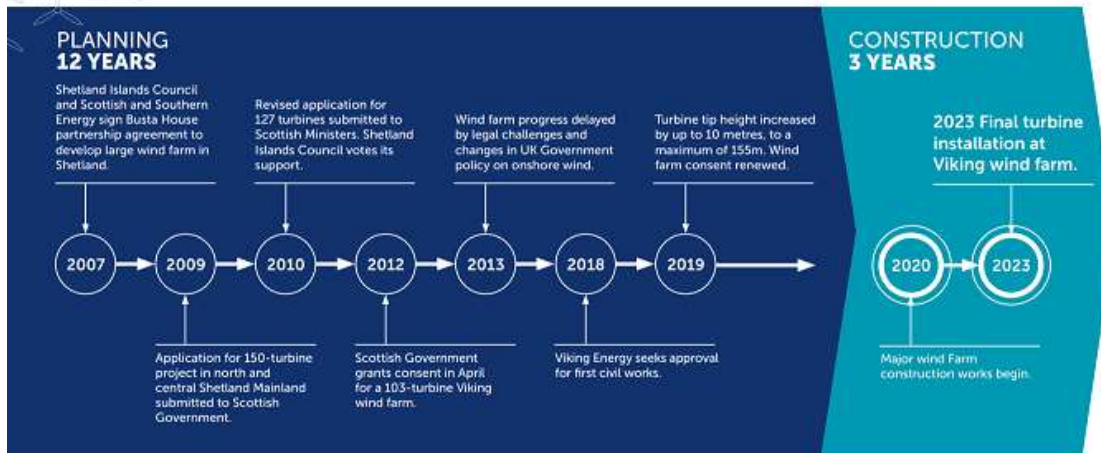
|| **Onshore Wind Sector Deal – Collaborative Commitments**

- In Q4 2023, establish a collaborative working group to develop a recommended standard scope and format for EIARs to reduce the burden on consultees and other stakeholders, complete by Q2 2024
- In Q2 2024, agree and publish template formats for Section 36 consents and deemed planning permission, including conditions imposed on consents
- The Sector, Government and statutory consultees will meet at least annually to examine data on consenting timelines and agree on any actions needed to achieve the desired targets
- All work together to determine resourcing and training requirements to process the expected project pipeline. By July 2024, set out proposals for how additional resources and/or training can be accessed by statutory consultees for responding to applications, and discharging pre-commencement planning conditions
- From Q4 2023, review how baseline information requirements for the EIA of projects to re-power operational wind farms, or for life extension applications under Section 36C, can be appropriately optimised

Viking- Why we need to speed up consenting

VIKING WIND FARM

The long road to Net Zero



EIA- What Needs Changed ?

- **Scoping – needs to be at appropriate time in project lifecycle and with sufficient detail to enable what is in and what is out of scope**
- **Size /length of EIA Reports- remove duplication and irrelevant information**
- **Digitisation – Everyone needs to be onboard and have skills & technology**
- **Proportionality – Parties need to agree**
- **Standardisation – Manage expectations**
- **Guidance – needs to be proactive and not reactive**
- **EIA Regulations ? Post Brexit are they fit for purpose- move to outcomes approach as in England?**

Environmental Outcomes Reports

How we assess the impacts of development, plans and policies, otherwise known as Environmental Assessment, is going to change with the introduction of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR). What can we identify and learn from the current Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environment Impact Assessment processes? And how do ensure that the new system of assessment and the preparation of EORs works better?



EIA- How do we change it?

- Collaboration – All need to work together
- Communication
- Onshore Wind Sector Deal – Catalyst for Change?
- Resource
- Training
- Support from Professional Bodies – IEMA, RTPI, CIEEM
- Technology
- Legislative Changes – What, When, Do we Have Time, so what in the interim?



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