Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Offshore Project

Offshore Pre-Application Consultation Report

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PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT FORM

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Section 24

1. Proposed Licensable Marine Activity

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form the proposed licensable marine activity, including its location.

See **Section 1.3** of the attached Offshore Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.

2. Applicant Details

Title	**Initials**	**Surname**
Mr	M	Whyte

Trading Title
(if appropriate)

Spiorad na Mara Limited

Address

Spiorad na Mara,
Regus Building, 1st Floor,
93 George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 3ES.

Name of contact
(if different)

Position within Company
(if appropriate)

Project Director

Telephone No. **(inc. dialling code)**	**Fax No.** **(inc. dialling code)**
[Redacted]	
Company Registration No.	**Email**
SC717716	[Redacted]

Is this prospective applicant the proposed licensee?

YES ✓ **NO** ☐

If NO, please complete Section 3 below.

3. Proposed Licensee Details

Title	**Initials**	**Surname**

Trading Title
(if appropriate)

Address

Name of contact
(if different)

Position within Company (if appropriate)	

Telephone No. (inc. dialing code)	**Fax No. (inc. dialing code)**

Company Registration No.	**Email**

4. Pre-application Consultation Event

Please describe below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form the pre-application consultation event.

Please see **Sections 3** to **7** of the attached Offshore PAC Report for details of the PAC events.

5. Information provided by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any information provided by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event.

Please see **Sections 6, 7** and the **Appendices** of the attached Offshore PAC Report for details of the PAC materials provided at each of the PAC events.

6. Information received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of any comments and objections received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event.

Please see **Sections 6.3** and **7.3** of the attached Offshore PAC report for details of the feedback received during each of the PAC events.

7. Amendments made, or to be made, to the Application for a marine licence by the Prospective Applicant following their Consideration of Comments and/or Objections received at the Pre-application Consultation Event

Where any amendments are made, or are to be made, by the prospective applicant for a marine licence application as a direct result of their consideration or comments and/or objections received at the pre-application consultation event, please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form details of such amendments.

Details of amendments made to the Application for a marine licence in response to comments received at the pre-application consultation events can be found in **Section 6.3** and **7.3** of the attached Offshore PAC Report**.**

8. Explanation of Approach taken by the Prospective Applicant where, following Relevant Comments and/or Objections being received by the Prospective Applicant at the Pre-application Consultation Event, no Relevant Amendment is made to the Application for a marine licence.

Where, following comments and/or objections having been received by the prospective applicant for a marine licence at the pre-application consultation event, no relevant amendment is made to the application for a marine licence by the prospective applicant, then please provide below or, where there is insufficient space, in a document attached to this form an explanation for the approach taken.

Amendments have been made to the Application in response to comments received at the pre-application consultation events and considerations identified as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The Applicant considers that these amendments address comments raised at the pre-application consultation events, as set out in **Sections 6.3** and **7.3** of the attached Offshore PAC Report.

Certification

Insert Name	Martin Whyte
Insert address	Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
	Spiorad na Mara Limited
	Regus Building, 1st Floor
	93 George Street
Town	Edinburgh
County	
Postcode	EH2 3ES

I certify that I have complied with the legislative requirements relating to pre-application consultation and that the pre-application consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the Statutory requirements.

	Signature	[Redacted]	**Date**	27 February 2026	

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

1.1.1.1 This Offshore Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report has been developed by Spiorad na Mara Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') for the proposed development of the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) (hereafter referred to as 'the Project') located off the northwest coast of the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* in the Western Isles/*Na h-Eileanan Siar*, Scotland/*Alba*.

1.1.1.2 This Offshore PAC Report is a critical component in the context of the Project's consent application(s). The Applicant is submitting separate consent applications for the Offshore Project (component infrastructure seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)) and for the Onshore Transmission Works (OTW) Project (component infrastructure landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)). This Offshore PAC Report is a supporting document that has been submitted to the Marine Directorate - Licencing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for the Section 36 (s36) Consent application and the Marine Licence application for the Offshore Project. A separate Onshore PAC Report will be submitted and included as a supporting document to the Onshore Application, which will be submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) at a later date. The Onshore PAC Report will meet the requirements of relevant onshore legislation under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the Town and Country Planning (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 and it will detail further feedback received (and Project responses to that feedback) during Project consultation events and additional onshore specific consultation events.

1.1.1.3 This Offshore PAC Report provides a comprehensive overview of the stakeholder engagement and consultation activities conducted throughout the planning phase of the Project. These activities have been designed and implemented in compliance with the requirements outlined in the relevant Scottish Marine legislation and requirements (Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, also see Section 2).

1.1.1.4 Spiorad na Mara is a proposed OWF being developed by Northland Power Inc., a global energy producer focused on renewable Projects, and Electricity Supply Board (ESB), Ireland's leading energy company since 1927.

1.1.1.5 The Offshore Project is located within the Offshore Project Boundary which is situated off the northwest coast of the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*. The Array Area is located within the Offshore Project Boundary and is the total area within which the Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) and associated foundations, Array Cables, and the Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required) will be located. The Array Area is located approximately 5-13 km offshore and is approximately 161 km^2

in size. With an anticipated capacity of 900 megawatts (MW), the Project could generate enough energy to meet the annual average electricity needs of approximately 1.2 million Scottish homes[1].

1.1.1.6 Subject to the receipt of all relevant consents and approvals, construction could potentially commence in 2028, with electricity generation expected to start by 2031.

1.2 THE APPLICANT

1.2.1.1 Spiorad na Mara Ltd is the company that owns the Project (the Applicant). Northland Power Inc. (Northland) indirectly owns 75.5% of the share capital in the Applicant, while ESB indirectly owns the remaining 24.5%.

1.2.1.2 Northland is a Canadian independent power producer focused on the development, construction, and operation of renewable energy projects. Founded in 1987, the company has a diverse portfolio, including offshore and onshore wind, solar, and thermal power plants. Northland is committed to advancing clean energy solutions and has established a strong presence in both North America and international markets, particularly in Europe and Asia. The company emphasises sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint while aiming to meet the growing demand for renewable energy. Through strategic investments and partnerships, Northland continues to expand its operations and contribute to the global transition to low-carbon energy.

1.2.1.3 ESB is a leading Irish energy company that operates in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity. Established in 1927, ESB plays a pivotal role in Ireland's energy sector, providing reliable power to homes, businesses, and industries. The company has a diverse energy mix, including renewable energy sources like wind (onshore and offshore), solar and hydroelectric power, alongside conventional thermal plants. ESB is committed to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions, with a strategic focus on decarbonising its operations and increasing its renewable energy capacity with an expanding presence across Great Britian. The company also explores innovative solutions in energy storage, electric vehicle infrastructure, and smart grid technology, aiming to support the transition to a low-carbon energy future.

1.2.1.4 The Applicant adopts a build-to-own approach from the start of any development, considers the long term when making decisions, and will work to strengthen the solid bonds already formed with communities and stakeholder representatives in Scotland's Western Isles and Northwest. As part of this approach, the Applicant will eventually transfer the offshore transmission assets to an Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO). An OFTO is responsible for operating and maintaining the offshore

[1] More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics), together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900 MW.

electric power transmission infrastructure, ensuring the efficient delivery of electricity from the wind farm to the National Grid. This transfer process is managed through a competitive tender process overseen by The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), which aims to partner wind farm developers with the most efficient and competitive transmission operators. This ensures that the transmission infrastructure is maintained to high standards, ultimately benefiting both the generators and consumers.

1.2.1.5 Northland and ESB adopt a long-term perspective in their decision-making processes and aim to strengthen the established relationships with communities and stakeholder representatives in the Western Isles and northern Scotland.

1.3 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.3.1.1 The Applicant is proposing to develop the Project which comprises of both offshore and onshore components. The Project is an OWF that will consist of up to 60 fixed-bottom WTGs, with an anticipated capacity of 900 MW. The Project will generate and transmit renewable electricity to the National Grid. The Applicant has a connection agreement with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) for a connection to the grid network on mainland Scotland via SSEN's Alternating Current (AC) Substation and High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Converter Station (referred to as the SSEN Lewis Hub).

1.3.1.2 The Offshore Project is situated off the northwest coast of Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* and the Array Area is located approximately 5-13 km offshore and is approximately 161 km^2 in size. It will comprise WTGs, foundations, Offshore Cables, Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required), and Landfall. The Array Area combined with the Offshore Cable Area of Search (OCAS) is defined as the Offshore Project Boundary. The water depths across the Array Area range from 37 m-67 m with the southwest corner of the Array Area reaching 72 m. The proposed WTGs and fixed foundations will be located within a Turbine Area of approximately 140 km^2, within the Array Area. The Turbine Area incorporates an 11 km setback from the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist/*Siorrachd Leòdhais a Deas, na Hearadh agus Uibhist a Tuath* National Scenic Area (NSA), approximately 6 km from the coast at its closest location. The OCAS is the area within which the Offshore Cables between the Array Area and Landfall will be located. The OCAS is approximately 91 km^2 in size. Landfall is the interface between the Offshore Project and the OTW Project, where the Offshore Cables (either Array Cable to Landfall or Export Cable) come ashore at a coastal cliff at Barvas/*Barabhas* via Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD).

1.3.1.3 Within the Array Area and OCAS (see **Figure 1 Spiorad na Mara Offshore Site Location**), Offshore Project infrastructure will include (seaward of MHWS within Scottish Territorial Waters):

- Up to 60 WTGs and associated foundations;

- Scenario 1: WTGs connected to an OSP and then to Landfall - In Scenario 1, the substation on the west coast of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* will be located offshore within the Turbine Area, referred to as the OSP. The key components of this option are:
    - Array Cables: The Array Cables will connect multiple WTGs together. These cables will transmit the generated power from each WTG to the OSP located within the Turbine Area;
    - Export Cables: From the OSP, the Export Cables will transmit the collected power to Landfall;
- Scenario 2: WTGs connected directly to a Landfall Substation at Landfall - In Scenario 2, the substation on the west coast of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* will be located onshore northeast of Barvas/Barabhas, referred to as the Onshore Landfall Substation. The key components of this option are:
    - Array Cables will be installed in several string circuit configurations, connecting multiple WTGs together (referred to as 'Array Cables'). The final WTG in each chain will transmit the generated power from the WTG directly to the Landfall (referred to as 'Array Cables to Landfall');
- HDD Exit Pits below MHWS (located in the Exit Pit Area);
- Other associated infrastructure such as navigation markers.

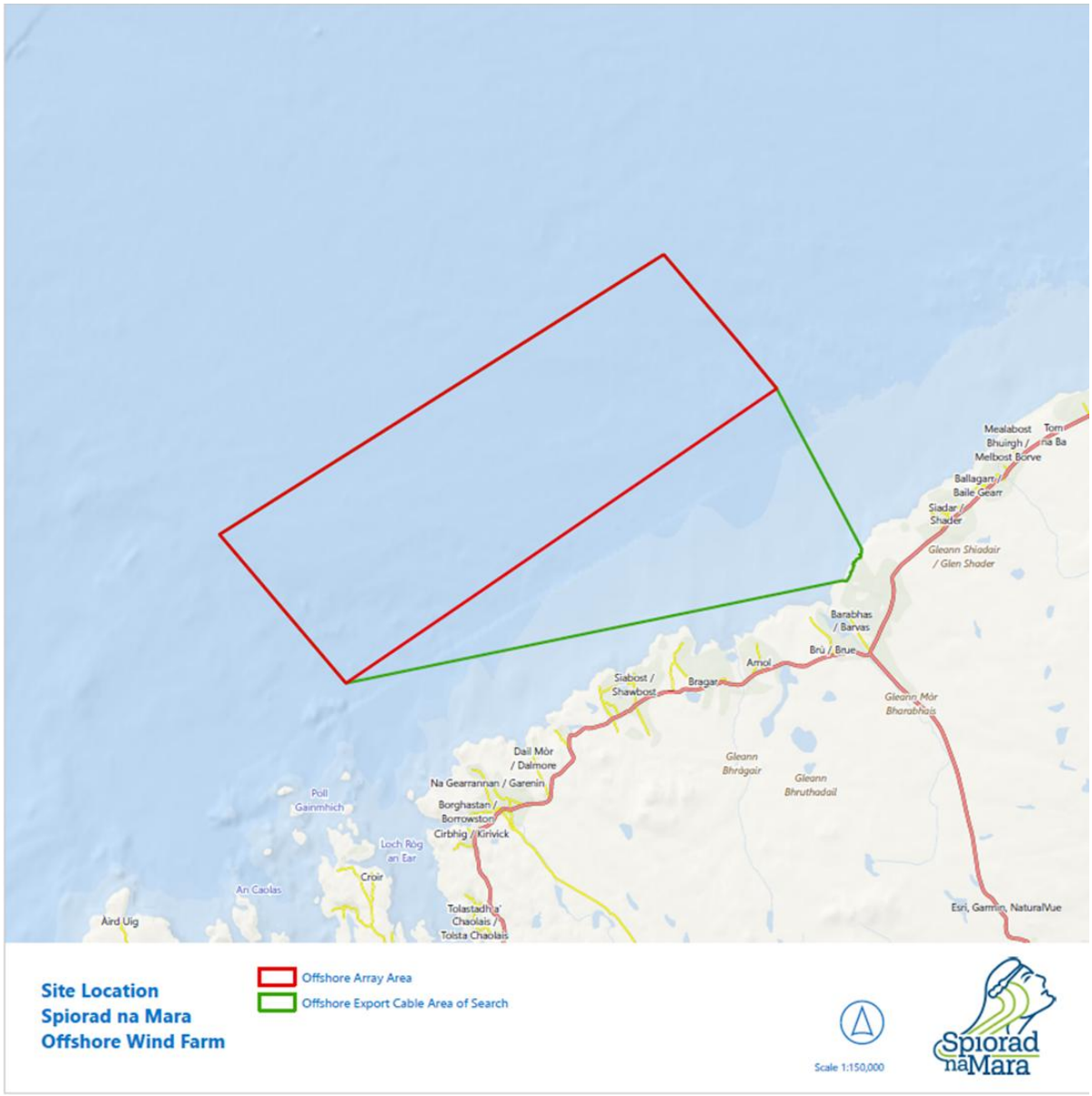


Figure 1 Spiorad na Mara Offshore Site Location

1.3.1.4 The OTW Project (see **Figure 2 Spiorad na Mara Onshore Site Location**), refers to all works landward of the MLWS and will consist of:

- A single Landfall site near Barvas/*Barabhas*, connecting offshore Export Cables and onshore Export Cables via, Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) installation techniques;
- <u>Under Scenario 1:</u>

- At the Landfall, the Export Cables will connect to the Onshore Cables at the TJBs. The Export Cables will be connected to the TJB at Landfall using a trenchless solution (HDD) from the HDD Exit Pit;
- From the TJBs, the buried Onshore Cables will connect to the Grid Substation on the east of the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*. The Grid Substation will then connect to the National Grid connection point at the SSEN Lewis Hub Converter Substation;

- Under Scenario 2:
  - The Array Cables to Landfall will connect to the Onshore Cables at the TJBs;
  - From the TJBs, the Onshore Cables will connect to the Landfall Substation on the west of the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*;
  - The collected power will be transmitted from the Landfall Substation to the Grid Substation via buried Onshore Cables;
  - The Grid Substation will then connect to the National Grid connection point at the SSEN Lewis Hub Converter Substation;
- Peat management areas;
- Associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - Temporary construction compounds;
  - Landscaping;
  - Drainage;
  - Parking/servicing areas;
  - Access tracks and road alterations;
  - Cycle/multi-use pathway.

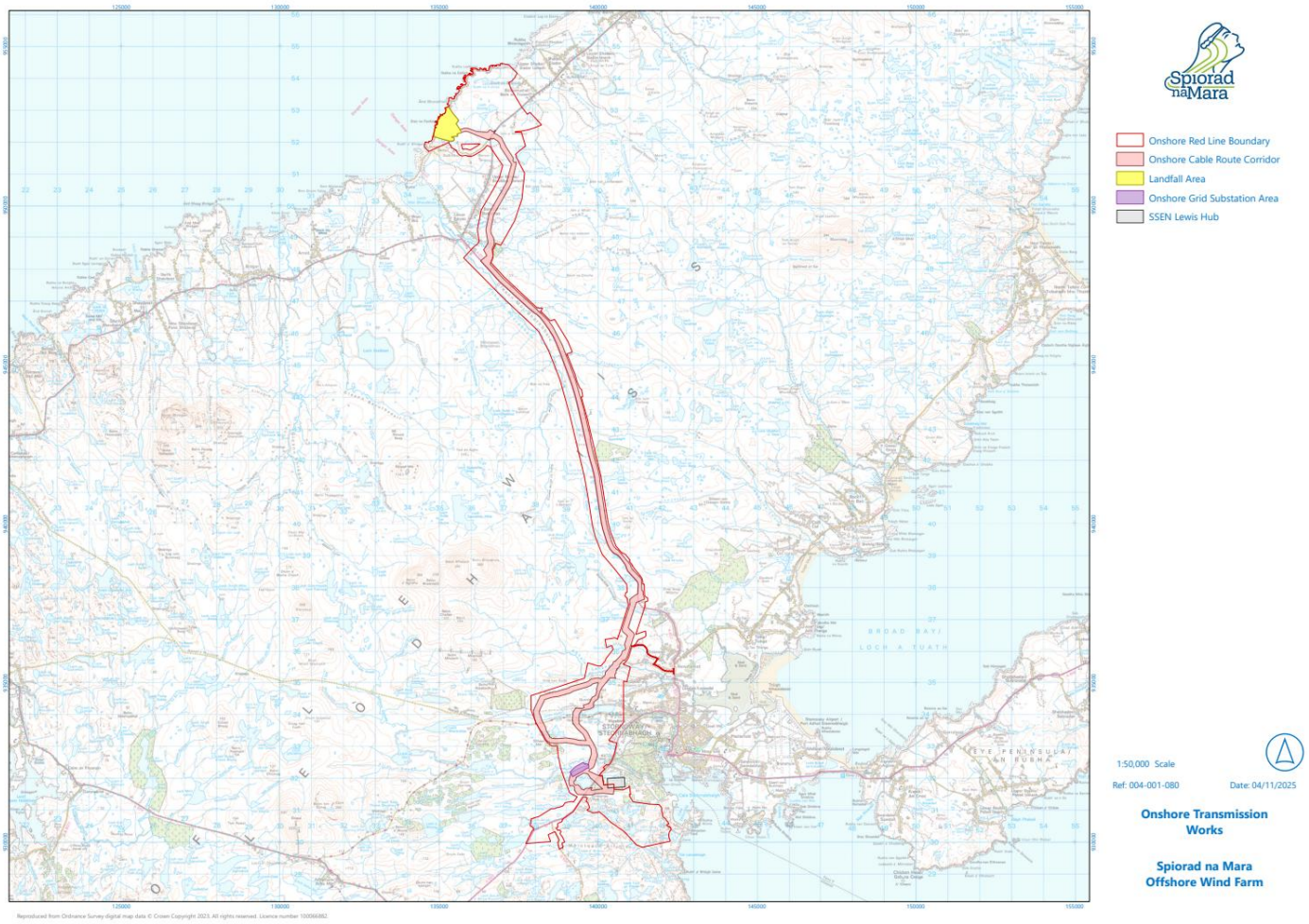


Figure 2 Spiorad na Mara Onshore Site Location

1.3.1.5 Further details regarding the Project Design Envelope (PDE) and timeline are available in **Chapter 3: Project Description, Volume 1a** and **Chapter 4: Consideration of Alternatives, Volume 1a** within the **Offshore EIAR**.

1.3.1.6 The Applicant seeks a minimum consent duration of 35 years. If the Applicant opts to repower the Project in the future, it will submit an application for a separate consent for the extension of the Project's lifespan or for any proposed new developments.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.4.1.1 This Offshore PAC Report outlines the approach taken to inform and engage stakeholders and the public throughout the consultation process. It provides a summary of the key activities undertaken, feedback received, and the main themes and issues raised throughout the planning development phase of the Project, both during the PAC process and through the wider programme of

engagement in the community and beyond. The report also explains how comments and concerns have been considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Project design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approach. Evidence of consultation activities, including copies of notices, advertisements, and engagement materials, is provided in the Appendices to demonstrate compliance with statutory requirements and a transparent consultation process.

1.4.1.2 This engagement process reflects the Applicant's commitment to fostering open dialogue with all stakeholders involved. This has included local communities, the fishing community, environmental groups, governmental authorities, and other relevant parties who have an interest in the development of the Project. By actively seeking input and feedback from these stakeholders, the Applicant has sought to ensure that their perspectives and concerns are considered, thereby enhancing the overall Project design and reinforcing the Applicant's shared vision of creating a sustainable future through responsible and inclusive development practices.

2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND PAC REQUIREMENTS

2.1 COMMITMENT TO ENGAGEMENT

2.1.1.1 The Applicant is fully committed to undertaking meaningful and inclusive engagement with communities and stakeholders in line with the legislative requirements outlined below. This includes ensuring early, transparent, and accessible opportunities for stakeholders to understand the Project and provide feedback throughout its development.

2.2 SECTION 36 CONSENT UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989

2.2.1.1 Scottish Ministers are responsible for determining applications under s36 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) ('the Electricity Act') relevant to plans for the construction, expansion, or operation of offshore generating stations with a capacity exceeding 1 MW within Scottish territorial waters (out to 12 nm from the shore); or over 50 MW in the Scottish offshore region (12 to 200 nm). These applications are processed by the MD-LOT on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

2.2.1.2 The Offshore Project exceeds 1 MW and is located offshore within 0-12 nm, thus requiring s36 consent to authorise the installation, operation, and maintenance of the offshore electricity generation and associated transmission infrastructure, including the WTGs and Offshore Cables, as well as to establish the overall principle of the development. The consultation process and subsequent information in this Offshore PAC Report has been executed in compliance with the applicable guidance and requirements for consulting on an application under the Electricity Act [2].

2.3 SCOTTISH OFFSHORE POLICY AND GUIDANCE

2.3.1 MARINE SCOTLAND GUIDANCE ON MARINE LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION.

2.3.1.1 Marine Scotland issued guidance on marine licensable activities subject to PAC[3] outlining the key requirements of both the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. It summarises and provides guidance on the following:

- The marine licensable activities subject to PAC;

[2] Applicable guidance for PAC under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. Available online at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-Sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/3/

[3] Marine Scotland Guidance on Marine Licensable Activities subject to Pre-Application Consultation: Available online at: Guidance+on+activities+subject+to+pre-application+consultation.pdf

- How to request a PAC statement;
- The public PAC procedure;
- The PAC Report.

2.3.2 THE MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

2.3.2.1 The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) imposes a duty to protect and enhance the marine environment within Scottish territorial waters (located between MHWS and 12 nm offshore), a Marine Licence is required for the Offshore Project to carry-out prescribed marine licensable activities, (such as, but not limited to, the deposition of cables and other objects on or within the seabed) and marine licence applications would be determined by Scottish Ministers under the 2010 Act. This includes proposed marine licensable activities within both the Array Area and Offshore Export Cable Area of Search. Marine licence applications would run concurrently with the s36 application.

2.3.2.2 Section 23 and Section 24 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 sets out the requirement for an Offshore PAC Report for developments within the Scottish Inshore Region, defined in the Act as "*the area of sea within the seaward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Scotland and includes the bed and subsoil of the sea within that area*", with the potential for significant Impact on the environment and local communities. The process allows for feedback from the public and essential stakeholders, which can subsequently be incorporated into the application and the accompanying EIAR. The MD-LOT mandates that applicants engage in pre-application consultations with stakeholders, consultees, and the public, in line with legislative requirements.

2.3.3 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

2.3.3.1 The Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (the PAC Regulations), are applicable to specific activities taking place within the Scottish Inshore Region, which includes, but is not limited to:

- The deposit of a submarine cable either in the sea or on or under the seabed from a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure or floating container, where that cable is over 1,853 m in length and where it crosses the inter-tidal boundary;
- The deposit of any substance or object either in the sea or on or under the seabed from a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure or floating container;
- The construction of a renewable energy structure in or over the sea or on or under the seabed, where the total area in which the structure is to be located exceeds 10,000 m^2.

2.3.3.2 The aim of the PAC Regulations is to enable the local community, stakeholders, and other interested parties to provide feedback on marine development proposals before a Marine Licence application is submitted. The key requirements of the PAC Regulations, plus the actions the Project has taken to meet these requirements, are outlined in the table below (**Table 2-1**).

Table 2-1 PAC requirements under the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Requirement	Action Taken
Regulation 4 - Prescribed classes or descriptions of licensable marine activity *4. The following classes or descriptions of licensable marine activity are prescribed—* *(f) the construction of a renewable energy structure within the Scottish marine area either in or over the sea or on or under the seabed, but only where the total area in which such structure is to be located exceeds 10,000 square metres in extent*	The Project is classified as a licensable marine activity as the Project falls clearly under the description of the construction of a renewable energy structure as detailed in Regulation 4.
Regulation 5 – Procedure in relation to a pre-application consultation statement *(1) A prospective applicant for a marine licence who considers that the activity in respect of which a licence may, or is to, be sought which may, or is to, be of a class or description prescribed in regulation 4 may notify the Scottish Ministers requiring a pre-application consultation statement from them.*	A formal pre-application consultation statement to Scottish Ministers was not deemed necessary, as the classification of the activity under Regulation 4 was clear and unambiguous. MD-LOT, acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers, have been consistently engaged throughout the EIA process and were fully informed of the forthcoming Marine Licence and Section 36 Consent applications.
Regulation 6 – Pre-application Consultation *(1) This regulation and regulation 7 apply to a prospective applicant for a marine licence to whom the Scottish Ministers have provided a preapplication consultation statement under regulation 5(5).* *(2) The prospective applicant for a marine licence must give notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted to—* *a) the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses;* *b) the Maritime and Coastguard Agency;* *c) the Scottish Environment Protection Agency;*	Prior to the commencement of Phase 1 Public Consultation (PC1) (see Section 6), a notification of the Applicants intention to submit a Marine Licence was issued on 13 August 2024 and submitted to the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot and CnES. As outlined in the Marine Scotland guidance[4], the notification included general information of the licensable marine activity in relation to the Offshore Application, a map of the

[4] https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-overview/pages/statutory-pre-application-consultation/

Requirement	Action Taken
d) NatureScot; and *e) any delegate for a marine region where the application for a marine licence is for an activity which is to be carried out wholly or partly in that region.*	outline location at which the activity is to be carried out, details of how to contact the Applicant and the time and location of the PAC events. A copy of the notification to statutory consultees is available in **APPENDIX A: PC1 Public Notices** and **APPENDIX B: PC2 Public Notices** All of the above-listed stakeholders were also notified of the PC1 and Phase 2 Public Consultation (PC2) events, with details of event locations and times supplied before the events.
Regulation 7 – Pre-application Consultation Event *(1) The prospective applicant for a marine licence must—* *a) hold at least one pre-application consultation event at which those persons mentioned in regulation 6(2), and members of the public, may provide comments to the prospective applicant as regards the licensable marine activity to which the application for a marine licence is to relate; and* *b) publish in a local newspaper a notice containing—* *(i) a description, including the location of, the licensable marine activity for which the marine licence is to be sought;* *(ii) Details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed licensable marine activity;* *(iii) The date and place of the pre-application consultation event;* *(iv) A statement explaining how persons wishing to provide comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposed licensable marine activity may do so, and the date by which this must be done; and* *(2) a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the*	PAC events were held over 2 phases (PC1 and PC2), see Sections 6 and 7). A total of 7 in-person PC1 events were held from 24 September-3 October 2024, where members of the public and those stakeholders listed above in Regulation 6(2) were invited to view Project details and provide feedback. An online virtual exhibition ran for 1 month in parallel, from 23 September-23 October 2024, and a deadline for feedback was set for all interested stakeholders of 25 October 2024. A total of 5 in-person PC2 events were held from 2 June-5 June 2025, where a Project update and responses to feedback were provided in respect of the comments received during PC1. Updated Project proposals, incorporating feedback received, where relevant, were also presented as part of these events and further feedback sought. Members of the public and those stakeholders listed above in Regulation 6(2) were invited. A virtual exhibition also ran for 1 month in parallel between 2 June-2 July 2025, and a deadline for feedback was set for all interested stakeholders of 2 July 2025. For PC1, a public notice was published in the *Press and Journal (P&J) Highlands and Islands Edition* on

Requirement	Action Taken
Scottish Ministers and that if the prospective applicant makes an application for a marine licence that there will be an opportunity for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application. (2) A pre-application consultation event must be held no earlier than six weeks after the later of— *a) the date on which notification of such event is given in accordance with paragraph (1)(b); and* *b) the date of notification that an application for a marine licence is to be submitted is given in accordance with regulation 6(2).* *(3). Paragraph (1) does not apply where—* *a) a pre-application consultation event in respect of the licensable marine activity for which a marine licence is sought has been held in relation to that activity within one year of the date on which the application for a marine licence is received by the Scottish Ministers;* *b) that pre-application consultation event has been held in a suitably accessible venue; and* *c) that pre-application consultation event has been advertised at least six weeks prior to the event in a manner likely to bring the application to the attention of persons likely to be interested in it.*	the 13 August 2024 and in the local newspaper *Stornoway Gazette* on the 15 August 2024. For PC2, a local newspaper public notice was published in the *Stornoway Gazette* on 17 April 2025. A copy of each public notice can be viewed in **APPENDIX A** and **APPENDIX B**. In-person PC1 events commenced on 24 September 2024, which was more than 6 weeks from the submission of the notice in accordance with regulation 6(2) and 6 weeks from the notification in a local newspaper. In-person PC2 events commenced on 2 June 2025, 7 weeks from the notification in a local newspaper. All consultation events – for PC1 and PC2 – were held in suitably accessible venues (Further details can be found in **Table 6-1** and **Table 7-1**.) Further outreach and awareness-raising of the events was carried out through leaflet mail drops to all properties in HS1 and HS2 postcodes, adverts placed within local media and e-mailshots sent to opted-in individuals and key stakeholder contacts via the Project mailing list (see Sections 6 and 7).
Regulation 8 – Pre-application Consultation Report *A pre-application consultation report which must be prepared by virtue of Section 24(1) of the [Marine (Scotland)] Act [2010] must be in the form prescribed in the Schedule.* **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 24** *(1) A person who, before submitting an application for a marine licence, was required to comply with Section 23 and who proceeds to submit that*	This Offshore PAC Report completes this requirement.

Requirement	Action Taken
application must prepare a report as to what has been done to effect such compliance. *(2) A report under Subsection (1) is to be in such form as the Scottish Ministers regulations may prescribe.*	

3 ENGAGEMENT AND PAC PLAN

3.1 ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

3.1.1.1 The Project stakeholder engagement programme was designed to ensure timely, transparent, and inclusive engagement with stakeholders and the public at key stages of the Project. **Figure 3 Engagement Programme** presents a timeline of the engagement process, highlighting key milestones and consultation activities, and opportunities for feedback throughout the pre-application period. Key consultation phases include: Pre-Scoping from 2021-2023, EIA Scoping from 2023-2024, PC1 held in 2024 and, most recently, PC2 held in 2025. Consultation throughout all phases of the Project has been both general – covering all topics of the Project – and also targeted to address specific concerns of each stakeholder group.

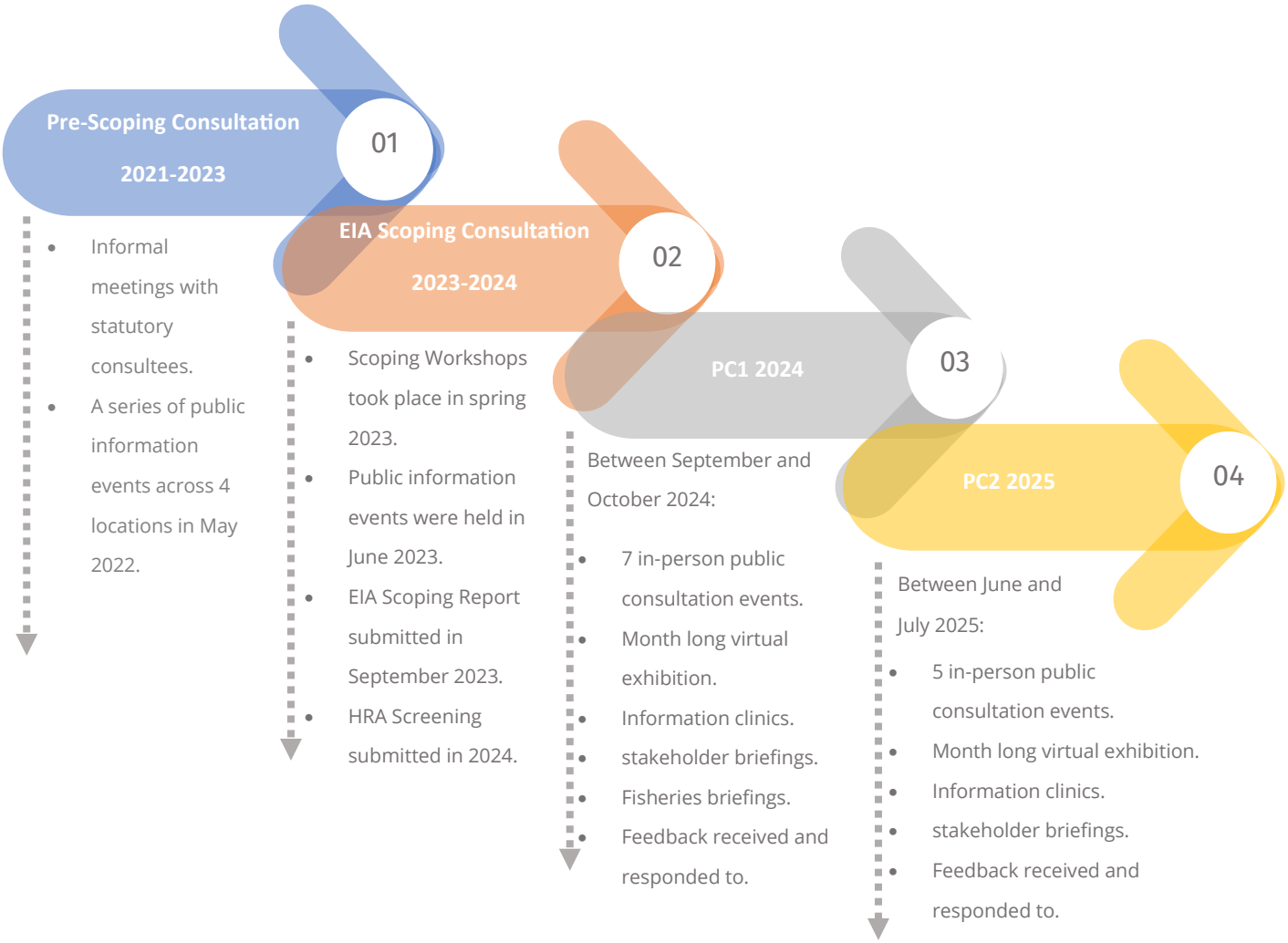


Figure 3 Engagement Programme

3.2 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

3.2.1.1 The engagement approach and methodology were developed by the Project team in 2023 and finalised in early 2024. The approach to engagement was designed to ensure meaningful, inclusive, and timely engagement with stakeholders and the public throughout the consultation process. An overview of the engagement approach and methodology includes:

- The identification of key stakeholder groups;
- The identification of the most appropriate range of engagement methods and tools;
- The approach to communication, including the use of multiple communication channels;

- The scheduling of consultation activities aligned with Project milestones;
- A clear process for capturing and responding to feedback.

3.3 STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

3.3.1.1 Initial identification of stakeholders took place in 2022 prior to the submission of a bid as part of the ScotWind leasing process and formed the basis of early engagement by the Project, prior to the development of a clear set of Project proposals.

3.3.1.2 In November 2023, a more comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken to identify further individuals, groups, and organisations with an interest in or the potential to have influence on the Project. This process involved analysing the geographic, social, economic, and environmental context of the Project to ensure that relevant stakeholders—including statutory consultees, local authorities, community groups, industry representatives, and members of the public—were appropriately identified. The mapping informed the engagement approach and methodology and ensured that communication was tailored to reflect the interests and levels of influence of different stakeholder groups.

3.4 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AREA

3.4.1.1 The community consultation area covered the HS1 and HS2 postcode districts (see **Figure 4 Spiorad na Mara Consultation Area**). This ensured the inclusion of residents in the immediate vicinity of the Project locations and those living in other regions of the island. All consultation materials were made available online during all consultation periods to ensure accessibility for all communities on the island and further afield. Further consultation through visits to the fishing ports within HS1 and HS2 postcode districts was conducted during 2024 to gather additional information which is included within **Appendix A21.1: Commercial Fisheries Baseline Characterisation Report, Volume 2c** and **Appendix A21.2: Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP), Volume 2c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.

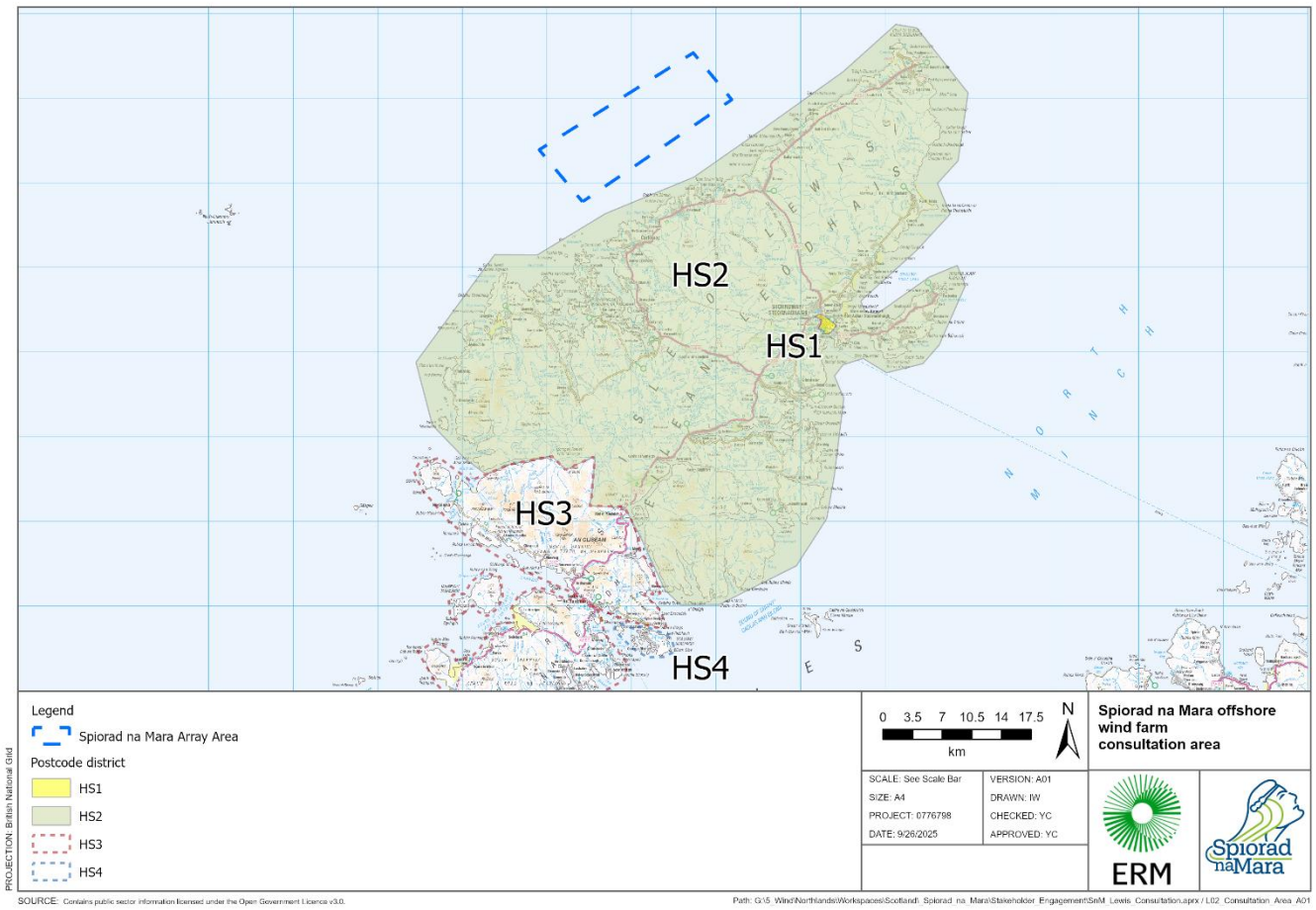


Figure 4 Spiorad na Mara Consultation Area

4 PRE-SCOPING CONSULTATION PHASE

4.1 OVERVIEW

4.1.1.1 As shown in **Figure 3**, Pre-Scoping Consultation includes all engagement that took place prior to the submission of EIA Scoping in 2023. Engagement efforts began in 2021 for the Project, which were increased following the announcement that the Applicant had secured the rights for the N4 Plan Option area in January 2022, following the ScotWind Leasing process held in 2021 by CES.

4.1.1.2 The N4 Plan Option area is located 5-13 km off the northwest coast of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* and was named Spiorad na Mara (which translates from Scottish Gaelic to 'Spirit of the Sea') during the autumn and winter of 2022. The naming process involved active engagement with local community members, including national and secondary level island schools and collaboration with the Gaelic department at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) North, West and Hebrides (formerly known as UHI Outer Hebrides) to establish an appropriate and meaningful name for the Project, which reflected local heritage and island identity.

4.1.1.3 A series of initial consultation and engagement activities were undertaken to introduce the Project to key stakeholders and to gather essential early feedback that would inform the development process. The engagement approach included meetings with statutory consultees and targeted outreach with local authorities as well as introductory briefings with the community. This approach was essential to ensure compliance and alignment with regulatory requirements and to ensure open and proactive engagement with the community.

4.1.1.4 The overarching aim of this early engagement effort was to proactively identify any immediate concerns that stakeholders might have and to establish clear and open lines of communication. This initial phase of engagement was also important in shaping the Project's overall approach to stakeholder engagement, which would ensure that stakeholder views were not only acknowledged but actively integrated into the development process from the outset. By doing so, the Project team created a foundation for transparent, open and proactive communication.

4.2 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND CONSULTATION

4.2.1.1 After the N4 Plan Option area agreement was signed in April 2022, a series of public information events were held across 4 key locations in May 2022— Galson/*Gàbhsann*, Breasclete/*Breascleit*, Grinneabhat, and Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*. These events provided an early opportunity for local residents to learn about the Project and share their initial thoughts. In total, 93 individuals attended these sessions, reflecting a strong level of early interest from the community.

4.2.1.2 In parallel, a business breakfast event was organised in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and CnES. This event was specifically aimed at initiating contact with CnES and highlighting potential economic and supply chain opportunities that could arise from the Project.

4.2.1.3 In order to facilitate broader community engagement efforts, a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed in Autumn 2022. A Project office was also established in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* to provide a local point of contact and facilitate ongoing dialogue with the local community. In October 2023 a Consultation and Local Engagement Lead was appointed with responsibility for managing all community engagement and managing and delivering all pre-application consultation activities of the Project.

4.2.1.4 Recognising the importance of the fishing sector, the Project engaged a Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO) in April 2023, supported locally by a Fishing Industry Representative (FIR), who has been in place since August 2022. Their work has focussed on ensuring that the concerns and insights of the fishing community are fully understood and integrated into the Project's planning.

4.2.1.5 From the outset, the Project team has prioritised direct engagement with key stakeholders. Immediately following the ScotWind announcement, engagement was carried out with local estate groups and trusts within the proposed onshore infrastructure areas, Stornoway Port Authority, UHI, HIE, Harland & Wolff, and local primary schools. Pre-scoping consultation also included engaging with local political representatives, Minister of Scottish Parliament (MSP) Alasdair Allan and (then) Member of Parliament (MP) Angus Brendan MacNeil.

4.2.1.6 Throughout late 2022 and into early 2023, the CLO and wider Project team continued to build relationships across the community. This included informal introductions to a wide range of local individuals, businesses, and community groups, helping to foster transparency, trust, and a shared understanding of the Project's goals and potential benefits.

4.2.1.7 An overview of this early engagement throughout the Pre-Scoping Consultation phase is included in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1 Overview of Engagement during Pre-Scoping Consultation Phase

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
2021	Local MP and Local MSP	Contact was established with local MSP Alasdair Allan and MP Angus Brendan MacNeil in 2021, prior to the bid submission. Several update meetings were held subsequently, and both were later included in the Project mailing list.
2021	West Side Estates Group (WSEG)	An initial meeting took place in 2021, and Northland Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WSEG in July 2021, prior to

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
		the bid submission. A follow-up meeting was held in November 2022. From early 2023, a regular meetings have been held.
2021	Stornoway Trust	An initial meeting took place in 2021, prior to the bid submission. Northland Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stornoway Trust in July 2021.
2021	Stornoway Port Authority	Engagement commenced in 2021.The Applicant met with the Chief Executive on multiple occasions to provide Project updates.
2021	Harland & Wolff (now Navantia UK)	Initial engagement took place in 2021, followed by ongoing discussions and a site visit to the Arnish facility to understand its capabilities and explore potential opportunities for future collaboration.
2021	UHI	An initial meeting took place in 2021, and Northland Power signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UHI in July 2021, prior to the bid submission. Engagement continued into early 2022, with regular meetings. As part of this collaboration, the Project committed—alongside other developers in the region—to fund a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) Co-ordinator for the Outer Hebrides for a 3 year period.
2022-ongoing	MD-LOT NatureScot	The Applicant held quarterly Project update meetings on ongoing works/surveys and deadlines for screening, scoping and applications MD-LOT provided legislation updates. These quarterly meetings are ongoing as the Project progresses.
2022	HIE	Regular meetings were held with Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* -based HIE staff from early 2022 onward. HIE led the DeepWind offshore wind cluster for the north of Scotland and Northland Power became a developer member.
2022	Fishing community	There was some initial engagement with the fishing community throughout 2022 and in August

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
		of that year a FIR was appointed to act as a liaison between the Project and the fishing community. A CFLO was subsequently appointed in Q1 2023 to further support this engagement.
2022	Local schools	The local Project team engaged 2 local schools in the naming of the Project, an initiative which was well received.
2022	OFGEM	Engagement on the process for obtaining generation licence and the OFTO.
2022	CnES SSEN National Energy System Operator (NESO) Other developers	Engagement to discuss the Project grid connection and Holistic Network Design Follow-up Exercise (HNDFUE) workshops.
2022 to date	Scottish Government, Crown Estate Scotland (CES) and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)	Periodic roundtables for Scotwind developers have been held by the Scottish Government. Quarterly meetings take place with CES and with DESNZ to brief them on Project progress, including relevant stakeholder engagement activities, survey activity, grid connection updates, supply chain readiness work, and discussion of government policy topics.

4.3 OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

4.3.1.1 Following the announcement of the ScotWind Leasing process outcome, the Applicant took immediate steps to ensure transparency and accessibility of information regarding its offshore wind projects. Initial details were promptly shared on Northland Power's main website[5].

4.3.1.2 In the initial stages—prior to the formal EIA Scoping process and throughout the EIA Scoping Consultation phase—efforts were made to ensure that clear, accessible information about the Project was made available to the public and key stakeholders. To oversee and manage this effectively, a Communications Advisor was appointed to the Project team in December 2022.

4.3.1.3 As part of the early engagement efforts, a bespoke Project website was developed and launched in March 2023[6] to further enhance public access to Project-specific information with the aim of building awareness and transparency from the outset. This platform serves as a central hub for

[5] The Northland Power website can be accessed here: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/.

[6] The Spiorad na Mara website can be accessed here: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/

stakeholders, community members, and interested parties, providing up to date, clear and concise information about the Project's scope, anticipated development timelines, and key milestones. The website is a main channel used to share updates and provide a range of contact points for members of the public to engage with the Project team, including a general online contact and feedback form.

5 EIA SCOPING CONSULTATION PHASE

5.1 OVERVIEW

5.1.1.1 The EIA Scoping Consultation phase ran in parallel with the development and submission of the Project's EIA Scoping Report, which covered the Offshore Project and the OTW Project and was formally submitted in September 2023 (SnM, 2023). During the EIA Scoping Consultation phase, the Project team focused on deepening its engagement with key stakeholders, statutory consultees, and the wider community to ensure that the EIA process was informed by local knowledge, regulatory expectations, and environmental sensitivities.

5.1.1.2 Primary engagement efforts included targeted consultation to inform the Project's EIA Scoping and Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) Screening processes, as well as wider public consultation in the community and engagement with fisheries representatives, community organisations and local authorities and businesses.

5.1.1.3 Although the EIA Scoping Report submission was a key milestone, the EIA Scoping Consultation phase extended well beyond the EIA Scoping Report itself. A notable milestone was the release of the first Project Newsletter in June 2023, marking a significant step in proactive communication with the wider community (see **APPENDIX D: Spiorad na Mara Summer 2023 Newsletter**).

5.1.1.4 In May 2024, the Project received a Scoping Opinion from MD-LOT which detailed stakeholder consultation responses gathered by the Scottish Ministers in the process of determining the Scoping Opinion (MD-LOT, 2024a). The Project also submitted its HRA Screening Report (SnM, 2024) which was informed by engagement with NatureScot. The Project received a consolidated HRA Screening Response from MD-LOT in November 2024, which detailed stakeholder consultation responses gathered by the Scottish Ministers covering both the Offshore Project and Onshore Project (MD-LOT, 2024b). Comments raised in the HRA Screening Response and associated Appendix 1 have been addressed and incorporated into **Offshore Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)**. Within the RIAA, a summary of consultation is provided, which includes how each of the comments in the HRA Screening Response have been considered by the Project and subsequently where and how the comment has been addressed within the RIAA (see **Offshore RIAA**).

5.1.1.5 In parallel with the Scoping process and on receipt of the Scoping Opinion from MD-LOT, the Project carried out engagement with various stakeholders to inform the EIA. Details of this consultation are included within the relevant chapters of the **Offshore EIAR** (see **Chapters 6-22, Volume 2a**). Further details of how each relevant comment from the MD-LOT Scoping Opinion has been addressed within the **Offshore EIAR** is detailed in **Appendix 5.2: Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume 1c** of the **Offshore EIAR.**

5.1.1.6 Throughout the EIA Scoping Consultation phase, the Project continued to provide Project updates to key stakeholders including MD-LOT, NatureScot, CnES, CES and DESNZ.

5.1.1.7 A Project update newsletter was published in July 2024 which shared in-depth information on the overall Project, provided updates on the development of the EIA and the Social Impact Assessment (SIA)[7] Baseline, and introduced future public consultation (see **APPENDIX E**).

5.1.1.8 Engagement efforts throughout the EIA Scoping Consultation phase helped to build awareness and lay the groundwork for more formal consultation activities in the subsequent 2 PAC phases (PC1 and PC2, see Sections 6 and 7).

5.2 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND CONSULTATION

5.2.1 SCOPING WORKSHOPS

5.2.1.1 While not formally part of the statutory PAC process as defined under Scottish planning legislation, scoping workshops were an important component of early engagement with key stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees and regulators. Held during the initial stages of Project development and in advance of the submission of the request for a Scoping Opinion, these sessions were designed to support the EIA Scoping process by discussing potential environmental Impacts, identifying key constraints, and gathering technical input to shape the EIA approach.

5.2.1.2 The scoping workshops provided a valuable forum for dialogue with statutory consultees, regulators, and technical stakeholders. They enabled the Project team to gather early insights, clarify expectations, and build a stronger understanding of the local context. While these workshops were not open to the general public and did not influence the design of the Project nor the structure of future consultation activities, they played a meaningful role in shaping the approach to the EIA and contributed to a more informed EIA Scoping Report.

5.2.1.3 Formal scoping workshops were held in May and June 2023 to inform the EIA Scoping Report. A total of 5 scoping workshops were held covering 17 technical topics as outlined in **Table 5-1**.

Table 5-1 Scoping Workship Summary

Workshop Date	Technical Topics	Stakeholder Organisations in Attendance
15 May 2023	Onshore Ecology Hydrology and Hydrogeology	NatureScot CnES *Invited but could not attend:*

[7] Work is underway to develop a bespoke methodology to assess the social impacts of developments in highly rural and island settings which has informed the relevant chapters of the offshore and onshore EIAs and will be used as part of the SIA.

Workshop Date	Technical Topics	Stakeholder Organisations in Attendance
	Peat, Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land	SEPA
23 May 2023	Marine Mammals and Other Megafauna Fish and Shellfish Ecology Underwater Noise	Marine Directorate Science MD-LOT NatureScot Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust
31 May 2023	Physical and Coastal Processes Marine Sediment and Water Quality Benthic and Intertidal Ecology	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital MD-LOT NatureScot
13 June 2023	Marine and Nearshore Ornithology Onshore and Intertidal Ornithology	MD-LOT NatureScot CnES *Invited but could not attend:* The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland
13 June 2023	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA)	MD-LOT Historic Environment Scotland NatureScot CnES

5.2.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

5.2.2.1 In June 2023, the Project was formally introduced to the wider island communities through a series of public information events. Over the course of 2 days, 4 events were held in key locations across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*: Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*, Barvas/*Barabhas*, Carloway/*Càrlabhagh*, and Bernera/*Beàrnaraigh Mòr*. These events provided an opportunity for local residents to meet the Project team in person, ask questions, and learn more about the Project.

5.2.2.2 A total of 115 individuals attended the events, engaging directly with 15 members of the Project team, who represented a range of disciplines. Feedback was actively encouraged at each event, with 50 attendees completing a feedback form. These responses offered valuable insight into local

perspectives and highlighted some of the themes that mattered most to the community. Key issues raised included:

- The need for the Project team to ensure meaningful and lasting benefits for local communities;
- The need for a commitment to responsible environmental management;
- Potential visual Impacts of offshore infrastructure;
- The importance of delivering low-cost electricity as part of the Project's legacy.

5.2.2.3 This feedback played an important role in shaping the Project's ongoing engagement approach and areas of focus.

5.2.2.4 An overview of further engagement activities that took place during the EIA Scoping Consultation phase is included in **Table 5-2**.

Table 5-2 Overview of Engagement during EIA Scoping Consultation Phase

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
2023	CnES – elected members	A briefing was provided to the full Council membership in June 2023. Council members were invited to attend the public information events held that same month. A Project update email regarding the EIA Scoping Report was sent on 20 October 2023, followed by a meeting with elected members and officials at the CnES office on 25 October 2023.
2023	CnES – officials	Regular engagement took place with key officials on matters relating to planning, Project updates (such as the EIA Scoping Report), and land use. A Project update email was sent on 20 October 2023, followed by a meeting with elected members and officials at the CnES office on 25 October 2023.
2023	West Side Estates Group	Regular meetings took place throughout 2023, which always included detailed updates on Project progress, timeline and activities, e.g. surveys, site investigations etc., as well as discussions around community benefit.
2023	Fishing community	A FIR and CFLO were appointed for the Spiorad na Mara Project in 2022 and 2023, respectively, to serve as conduits between the Project and the local fishing community. Engagement with the Western Isles Fishermen's Association (WIFA), Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA), Orkney Fisheries Association (OFA)

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
		and Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) was also conducted during this period to identify key commercial fisheries stakeholders working within the Project area. Project updates have also been given to the fishing community through regular communications with the Project FIR at local ports. Other fisheries specific information has been shared through Notice to Fishermen (NtF) and Project update presentations. A presentation on survey activities and associated equipment used within the offshore wind industry was given by the Project CFLO to the WIFA at their annual general meeting during March 2023. Other survey information has been distributed via Notice to Mariners (NtM) and the Sea Fish Kingfisher Bulletin Service.
2023	Common Grazing Committees	Project land agents were appointed in May 2023 and engagement has been ongoing including introducing the Project, identification of landowners and providing Project updates.
2023	Community and voluntary sector	The CLO reached out to local groups to introduce the Project and provide updates. The Project also supported several local organisations through sponsorships and donations, as highlighted in the Summer 2023 newsletter (**APPENDIX D**).
2023	National Trust for Scotland	Materials regarding offshore ornithology were shared during the relevant scoping workshop, given the specific interest as owners of St Kilda United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.
2023-2025	NatureScot MD-LOT Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital SEPA Historic Environment Scotland CnES Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust	Engagement with the various stakeholders was undertaken regarding the validation of baseline data, survey design, EIA approach and Embedded Mitigation where relevant.

Year	Stakeholder	Engagement
	RSPB Scotland Fishing Community MCA NLB	
2024	Met Office	A direct request was sent for comment on the EIA Scoping Report.
2024	RSPB Scotland	Meeting held to discuss the onshore cable route of the Project to better understand any potential Impacts to birds.
2024	University of Highlands and Islands – Gaelic Department	Meeting to discuss how the Project can best incorporate Gaelic language into materials appropriately.
2024	CnES NatureScot	Meeting held to discuss and agree the viewpoints for the photography for the EIA.
2024	CnES Ward (6,7,9,10) Councillors NatureScot	Meetings held to provide a Project update and get feedback on proposed public consultation plans.
2024	NatureScot MD-LOT	Engagement to agree the HRA Screening Approach.
2024	Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	The Applicant responded to FMS on their stakeholder comments on the HRA Screening.

5.3 OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

5.3.1.1 The Project website is regularly updated with news and announcements, including the commencement of offshore and onshore surveys, ground investigation works, and other early-stage activities. It has also become the primary repository for publicly available Project documentation—such as links to the EIA Scoping Report and consultation materials—ensuring that all relevant and up to date information is easily accessible in 1 place. Similar to the Project website, regular information and updates are shared on the Projects LinkedIn[8] which was launched in January 2024, to reach a wide-ranging audience with the aim to broaden the reach of communications and engagement.

5.3.1.2 When the EIA Scoping Report was submitted, a press release[9] was issued to all local media, as well as to relevant national and trade media, making them aware of the publication and including a link

[8] The Project's LinkedIn page can be accessed here: https://www.linkedin.com/company/spiorad-na-mara.

[9] The press release can be accessed here: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/press-release-scoping-report-issued-and-capacity-update-at-spiorad-na-mara-offshore-wind-farm/.

to where it could be found. An information sheet, explaining the purpose and content of the EIA Scoping Report as well as the next steps in the process, was also added to the Project website for the benefit of the local community and wider stakeholders. Additionally, an email was sent to relevant stakeholders – including community, fisheries, industry, political and regulatory stakeholders – making them aware of the submission of the EIA Scoping Report and its purpose. A link to where the EIA Scoping Report can be found was also included, as well as contact details for relevant Project team members, should any questions arise, or further information be needed.

5.3.1.3 In 2023, the Project began sharing email updates via the Project mailing list with stakeholders in its database on key updates and milestones on the Project. The mailing list is open for anyone to sign up to via the Project website.

5.3.1.4 In 2024, the Project team started to work closely with a local Gaelic media company on the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* to ensure that initiatives and Project materials used Gaelic as widely as possible.

5.3.1.5 This multi-channel approach to outreach—combining digital platforms, written communications, and direct engagement—aimed to build on the ongoing approach of transparent, proactive and inclusive dialogue with stakeholders as the Project continued to progress.

6 PHASE 1 CONSULTATION

6.1 OVERVIEW

6.1.1.1 The first phase of formal public consultation undertaken as part of the PAC process for the Project (PC1), took place in 2024, marking a significant milestone in the Project's development and engagement journey. PC1 formed a key component of a broader programme of consultation activities designed to support the ongoing refinement of the Project's design and the preparation of its EIARs.

6.1.1.2 PC1 was structured to ensure that local communities across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* had multiple opportunities to engage meaningfully with the Project team, learn about the emerging Project design proposals, and provide feedback. A series of face-to-face events were held at accessible locations across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*, with the aim of maximising participation and ensuring geographic coverage. These events were complemented by a virtual exhibition, which allowed those unable to attend in person to access the same information and submit their views digitally. In addition to the formal PC1 in-person events, the Project team also held information clinics (small group meetings) and one-to-one discussions with interested individuals, community representatives, and local organisations.

6.1.1.3 PC1 focused on sharing initial Project plans and gathering feedback on key aspects such as the proposed offshore and onshore infrastructure, environmental considerations, and potential community benefits. The input received during this phase played an important role in shaping the approach to Project design and assessment, ensuring that local knowledge and concerns were taken into account, alongside technical and environmental requirements.

6.2 PC1 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

6.2.1 PC1 IN-PERSON PUBLIC EVENTS

6.2.1.1 As part of PC1, a series of in-person public events were held across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* in late September and early October 2024. These events formed the foundation of the Project's consultation approach, offering a direct and accessible way for local communities to engage with the Project team, ask questions and share feedback.

6.2.1.2 There were 7 exhibition events which took place between Tuesday 24 September and Thursday 3 October 2024, at a range of community venues selected for their accessibility and geographic spread (see **Table 6-1**). In line with PAC requirements, each venue was carefully chosen to ensure it was suitably accessible to all members of the public. This included considerations such as step-free access, proximity to public transport routes, and availability of parking. The venues were chosen to

ensure that the west coast communities were prioritised as they are the closest communities to where the Offshore Project and identified Landfall locations are proposed. All venues are well-utilised community venues with which local people are familiar. The aim was to remove as many barriers to participation as possible, ensuring that everyone—regardless of physical ability or location—had the opportunity to attend and engage meaningfully with the Project team.

6.2.1.3 At the events, visitors were able to explore a wide array of materials, including display boards, maps, photomontages, and printed brochures that mirrored the content of the virtual exhibition. A 3D interactive visualisation model was also available, offering a dynamic view of the indicative array layout options and onshore infrastructure. These resources helped attendees understand the scale, layout, and potential Impacts of the Project in a clear and accessible way. All materials and visuals made available at the events are included in **APPENDIX F: PC1 Consultation Materials**.

6.2.1.4 Members of the Project team, representing a range of disciplines—from environmental assessment to engineering and community engagement—were present at each event. The team engaged with attendees, answered questions, explained technical details, and discussed many topics such as visual Impact, marine biodiversity, land use, and community benefit initiatives.

6.2.1.5 To ensure that feedback could be captured effectively, attendees were invited to complete a PC1 feedback form on-site or take them home with pre-paid return envelopes. The printed consultation brochures, which featured the same detailed information about the Project that was accessible through the virtual exhibition, were provided for attendees to take home and/or share with neighbours or family members who could not attend in person. These can be viewed in **APPENDIX F.**

6.2.1.6 A total of 322 people participated in the 7 events, reflecting strong local interest and engagement in the Project's early-stage proposals.

Table 6-1 PC1 Locations and Dates

Location	Date	Time	No. of attendees
Clan MacQuarrie Centre	Tuesday 24 September 2024	3pm – 8pm	30
Barvas and Brue Community Centre	Wednesday 25 September 2024	3pm – 8pm	61
Old School, Shawbost	Thursday 26 September 2024	3pm – 8pm	66
Stornoway Town Hall	Monday 30 September 2024	3pm – 8pm	78
Carloway Community Centre	Tuesday 1 October 2024	3pm – 8pm	35
Uig Community Centre	Wednesday 2 October 2024	3pm – 8pm	32
Great Bernera Community Centre	Thursday 3 October 2024	3pm – 8pm	20

6.2.2 PC1 VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

6.2.2.1 To complement the PC1 in-person consultation events, Spiorad na Mara launched an interactive PC1 virtual exhibition through its dedicated website. This digital platform was designed to enhance accessibility and allow community members to explore the Project at their own pace, from any location.

6.2.2.2 The PC1 virtual exhibition was live for a full month, from 23 September to 23 October 2024, and featured a wide range of content covering both onshore and offshore aspects of the proposed Project. Visitors could navigate through themed sections that explained key elements of the Project, including the proposed Project design, Landfall options, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, supply chain opportunities, Project timelines and the Project's approach to community benefits and engagement (see **Figure 5 PC1 Virtual Exhibition**).

6.2.2.3 Visual materials played a central role in the online experience. Detailed maps illustrated potential locations for infrastructure, while photomontages showcased 2 indicative offshore array layouts, helping users visualise how the development might appear from various key viewpoints on the island.

6.2.2.4 The PC1 virtual exhibition attracted 1,265 visits during its open period. Among the most popular features were the photomontages, which drew the highest levels of engagement. To encourage two-way communication, the PC1 virtual exhibition included the PC1 feedback form and contact options, enabling users to share their views, ask questions, and contribute to the consultation process.



Figure 5 PC1 Virtual Exhibition

6.2.3 PC1 INFORMATION CLINICS

6.2.3.1 Following the PC1 public events, a series of 5 information clinics were held to offer more personalised, one-to-one engagement opportunities (see **Table 6-2**). These small-scale sessions allowed individuals or small groups to speak directly with Project team members, ask detailed questions, and explore topics of personal interest. A total of 13 people attended, with discussions covering a range of subjects. Where immediate answers weren't available, the Project team followed up with responses after the events.

Table 6-2 PC2 Information Clinics Locations and Dates 2024

Location	Date	Time
An Lanntair	Friday 4 October 2024	4pm – 8pm
Cabarfeidh Hotel	Saturday 5 October 2024	10am – 2pm
Raebhat House, Horshader	Monday 7 October 2024	5pm – 9pm
Breasclete Community Centre	Tuesday 8 October 2024	9am – 1pm
Spòrsnis	Wednesday 9 October 2024	1pm – 5pm

6.2.4 PC1 FISHERIES BRIEFINGS

6.2.4.1 Recognising the importance of the fishing industry as a key stakeholder, a series of dedicated PC1 fisheries briefings were organised to ensure open dialogue with both local and national representatives. These sessions provided a focused space to discuss potential Impacts of the Project on fishing activity and livelihoods.

6.2.4.2 These fisheries-specific meetings were held ahead of the PC1 events from 24-26 September 2024. Representatives from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) and the Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) attended the first session at the Clan MacQuarrie Centre. A more in-depth discussion followed on 25 September 2024 at Barvas and Brue Community Centre, where SFF, SWFPA, and the Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association (MNWFA) met with the Project's CFLO and FIR. A third meeting took place on 26 September 2024 with an independent fisherman, followed by a demonstration of the 3D Project model for SFF and SWFPA representatives.

6.2.4.3 In addition to these sessions, the CFLO and FIR visited Carloway Pier to distribute information directly to local fishermen. An online meeting was also held on 1 October 2024 with the Orkney Fisheries Association, covering topics such as survey activities and the commercial fisheries study area.

6.2.5 PC1 STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

6.2.5.1 In the week leading up to the PC1 events, the Applicant held 2 advance briefing sessions with community stakeholders who had previously engaged with the Project and who had expressed a desire to be kept up to date with Project events. These sessions aimed to raise awareness of the upcoming consultation activities, explain what they would involve, and encourage wider community participation through local networks. A total of 57 people attended the briefings, which took place in Borve/*Borgh* and Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* on 19 September 2024.

6.2.5.2 On 17 September 2024, a dedicated briefing was held with the Member Officer Working Group for Energy of CnES. Hosted in the council chamber in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*, the session was open to all local councillors, with some attending in person and others joining remotely. The purpose was to ensure elected members were well-informed about the consultation process and equipped to share information with their constituents.

6.3 PC1 FEEDBACK

6.3.1 PC1 FEEDBACK MECHANISMS, COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

6.3.1.1 To ensure broad and inclusive community engagement, feedback was collected through both online and hard copy form. The hard copies of the PC1 feedback form were made available at public events and from the Project office, while the online version could be accessed within the PC1 virtual exhibition on the Project website. The PC1 feedback form covered a range of topics including onshore and offshore elements, environmental considerations, community benefits, and employment opportunities, with space for open-ended comments. Project team members were present at events to assist attendees and to record verbal feedback from those who preferred to share their views in conversation.

6.3.1.2 Across the 7 PC1 public events, 5 PC1 information clinics, PC1 fisheries consultation sessions, and PC1 stakeholder briefings, a total of 397 people participated in person. The PC1 virtual exhibition, hosted for 1 month, received 1,265 visits. In total, 275 pieces of feedback were collected through various channels: 135 hardcopy forms, 55 online submissions, 8 emails, 2 handwritten notes, and 67 verbal contributions recorded by the team during events. Lastly, meeting minutes were also recorded during the information clinics (5 in total) and the fisheries consultation sessions (3 in total).

6.3.1.3 All feedback was logged into a central database and anonymised where requested. It was then categorised into themes and sub-themes to identify common concerns, suggestions, and areas of support. This structured analysis enabled the Project team to understand the feedback and community priorities in detail.

6.3.1.4 The Project's Stakeholder Engagement and Community team led the initial review, highlighting key themes and identifying short-term actions. These findings were shared with the wider Project team—including specialists in consents, engineering, environmental, procurement, and commercial planning—as well as those working on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments. A dedicated workshop brought together all discipline leads to explore the feedback in depth, ensuring that nuanced perspectives were fully considered. This was followed by a series of focused internal meetings on specific topics which allowed community input to shape the evolving Project plans. The final updated Project plans were then prepared to be presented at Phase 2 Consultation (PC2) in 2025 (see Section 7).

6.3.2 PC1 FEEDBACK SUMMARY

6.3.2.1 Following the collection and analysis of the feedback received from the public as part of the PC1 consultation activities, the 'Phase 1 Consultation Summary Report' (**APPENDIX G**: **Phase 1 Consultation Summary Report**) was published and shared on the Project's website. The Phase 1

Consultation Summary Report was also shared on social media and emailed to the 515 individuals and organisations via the Project mailing list, which contains names and contact details for those who expressed a desire to be kept informed of the Project's development.

6.3.2.2 The questions in the feedback form used for PC1 were split into 10 topics including:

1. General Opinion;
2. Offshore Elements;
3. Onshore Elements;
4. Landfall;
5. EIA;
6. Economic Benefits;
7. Community Engagement;
8. Community Benefit;
9. Additional Comments;
10. This Consultation.

6.3.2.3 All feedback received was analysed and summarised by themes, which then formed the structure for the PC1 responses to feedback booklet (**APPENDIX H: Responses to Feedback from Phase 1 Consultation**). **Table 6-3** summarises the topics raised and the Applicant's responses from the Responses to Feedback from Phase 1 Consultation booklet. The feedback and responses to feedback informed activities and areas to be addressed for PC2.

Table 6-3 Summary of Responses to Feedback from Phase 1 Consultation

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Offshore Infrastructure	
Concern about visual Impact of offshore array and substation	Reduced turbine number, height, rotor diameter; increased coastal and protected area setbacks; smaller array footprint. Further details provided in **Chapter 18: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about turbine size/layout and suggestions to relocate	Site location fixed; increased setbacks; fewer/lower turbines; future refinements based on surveys. Further details are provided in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Visual Impact from key viewpoints and beaches	Design changes to reduce Impact at sensitive sites; photomontages available; further refinements planned. Further details are provided in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Queries on turbine colour and night lighting	Colour to suit local conditions; lighting assessed in EIA; night-time visualisations available during PC2. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about operational noise	Operational noise assessed in EIA; compliance with guidelines; mitigation as required. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Appendix A30.4: Operational Noise Assessment, Volume 3c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Mixed views on layout options	Flexible design envelope; reduced turbine size/number; final layout to consider safety and site conditions. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Queries on sustainability and recycling	Commitment to repurposing components; decommissioning plan to be developed prior to commencement of construction; turbines designed for longevity.
Onshore Infrastructure	

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern about substation size, scale, and location	Substations sited to reduce visual and cultural Impact; colour and noise assessments included in EIA; visuals available. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Preference for Landfall Site 2B and request for clearer visuals	Landfall Site 2B confirmed; visualisations from key viewpoints provided. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Suggestions for underground cabling and industrial siting	Cables to be buried along A857; temporary haul road planned; Grid Substation in vicinity of Creed Industrial Park. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Noise	
Queries on infrasound and health Impacts	No infrasound assessment planned; current studies show no adverse health Effects. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Appendix A30.4, Volume 3c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Queries on construction noise management	Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) will guide noise control; community engagement will inform residents. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Appendix A30.3: Construction Noise and Vibration Assessment, Volume 3c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Construction	
Concern about traffic and emergency access	No full road closures; haul and access roads planned; coordination with emergency services. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Concern about road conditions and long-term improvements	Roads used for construction will be restored; new access roads built and maintained. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Concern about worker influx and accommodation	Workforce details pending; engagement with housing agencies underway to manage Impacts.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
	Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6: Socio-Economics and Tourism, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Onshore Environment	
Concern about peat disturbance and carbon release	Peatland surveys conducted; design to minimise disturbance; carbon balance considered in EIA. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Concern about biodiversity and habitat loss	Ecological surveys completed; mitigation measures planned; biodiversity net gain considered. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Concern about cultural heritage Impacts	Cultural heritage assessments included in EIA; design to avoid significant sites. This will be assessed within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Offshore Environment	
Concern about marine wildlife disturbance	Marine surveys conducted; Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan (MMMP) will be developed post-consent and the Project commits to following Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) best practice methodologies as necessary to reduce potential Impacts. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 12: Fish Ecology, Volume 2a; Chapter 13: Marine Mammals, Volume 2a;** and **Chapter 14: Marine and nearshore Ornithology, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about seabird and marine mammal Impacts	Species-specific assessments in EIA; turbine siting adjusted to reduce risks to seabirds. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 12, Volume 2a; Chapter 13, Volume 2a;** and **Chapter 14, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about fishing and marine user disruption	Engagement with marine users ongoing; array footprint reduced; access routes maintained. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 20: Other Sea Users, Volume 2a** and **Chapter 21: Commercial Fisheries, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern about fish populations and breeding grounds, ecosystems and commercial fishing	Fishing industry engagement since 2022, benthic and fish ecology studies, salmon tracking study conducted with Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 20, Volume 2a; Chapter 21, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Human, Social and Culture (Economic Benefit, Supply Chain, Jobs etc.)	
Request for local economic benefits and job creation	Project may generate 750–7,000 temporary and 80–720 permanent jobs. Focus on local employment, training, and business readiness. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Need for transparency in supply chain ethics	Procurement will follow legal and ethical standards; supplier selection is pending and will align with Northland Power's policies and Spiorad na Mara Project Governance.
Concern about housing availability and social Impact.	Workforce details are not finalised; engagement with housing agencies is underway to manage accommodation needs. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Call for local training and career development	Project supports apprenticeships, STEM outreach, and scholarships to build long-term local workforce capacity. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about Effects on fishermen and marine users	Ongoing consultation with fishing industry; feedback informs planning and environmental assessments address safety and access. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 20, Volume 2a; Chapter 21, Volume 2a;** and **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Community Benefits and Issues	
Calls for community ownership and local benefits	Project prioritises local spending and supports community ownership discussions; proposes £4.5m annual benefit fund for lifetime of the Project.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern about cultural Impacts and tourism	Project supports Gaelic heritage and tourism, includes sponsorships and infrastructure support; Impacts assessed in EIA; Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Concern about economic strain and infrastructure	Infrastructure Impacts assessed in EIA; collaboration with local forums; study shows minimal property value Impact. Further details of the assessment are provided in **Chapter 6, Volume 1b** of the Offshore EIAR and will be assessed within the Traffic and Access assessment of the **Onshore EIAR**.
Lack of trust in consultation process	Project partners committed to extensive public engagement beyond requirements; ongoing community liaison and events. Further details of the process are provided in **Appendix A5.4: Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement, Volume 1c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Suggestions for community engagement and infrastructure	Project offers scholarships, donations, and infrastructure supports; further benefits explored through independent consultation.

6.4 AWARENESS-RAISING AND MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION

6.4.1.1 As outlined above, a key aim of PC1 was to ensure the consultation events and information was accessible, informative, and inclusive, encouraging broad participation across communities. Public exhibition venues were chosen for their geographic spread, accessibility and familiarity to local residents. Alternative venues were used for information clinics, offering flexible appointment times—including evenings and weekends—to accommodate different schedules. To maximise engagement, the PC1 virtual exhibition remained open for a month, and feedback forms were accepted for slightly longer. Pre-paid envelopes were provided for convenience, and community members could contact the team directly for accessibility support.

6.4.1.2 Equally important to ensuring accessibility to information was the effort to raise awareness of the consultation activities and provide communities with sufficient notice to participate in the consultation process. A wide range of communication tools, platforms, and outreach methods were used to inform the public and encourage engagement. These included both digital and traditional channels, tailored to reach different segments of the community effectively. The aim was to ensure that as many people as possible were aware of the opportunities to participate. A full breakdown of the communication methods used is provided in **Table 6-4** and copies of each can be found in **APPENDIX I: PC1 Methods of Engagement and Awareness Raising**.

Table 6-4 PC1 Methods of Engagement and Awareness-Raising

Engagement Methods	
Mail Drops	Over 11,000 leaflets were distributed via Royal Mail from 26 August 2024 to all HS1 and HS2 postcode areas. The leaflets provided details about the PC1 consultation events and how to participate. This was a key outreach method to ensure widespread community awareness.
Newspaper/News Site Advertisements	Adverts were placed in local newspapers ahead of PC1 to share event details and invite public feedback. This included statutory notices for both offshore and onshore developments. Adverts appeared in *The Press & Journal* on 13 August 2024, *Stornoway Gazette* on 15 August 2024 and 5 September 2024, and *Fios* on 6 September 2024. Using trusted local publications helped ensure the information reached a wide local audience.
Press Releases	Issued on 16 September 2024 ahead of PC1 to local and regional media outlets, including *Stornoway Gazette, We Love Stornoway, Fios, Hebrides News, BBC Stornoway, Western*

Engagement Methods	
	Highlands Free Press, CnES, and various community newsletters (e.g. Carloway, Uig, Breasclete, Fuaran).
Mailshots	Many stakeholders requested to be added to the Project mailing list to stay informed about Project updates. Between July and September 2024, 5 mailshots were issued, including 1 sent just before PC1. This final update provided key details about the consultation process and upcoming activities, helping to ensure stakeholders were well-prepared to engage.
Website	The Spiorad na Mara website serves as a central platform for transparent and inclusive stakeholder engagement. During PC1, it featured a dedicated Public Consultation page hosting the virtual exhibition, downloadable materials, event details, and contact information.
LinkedIn Page	The Spiorad na Mara LinkedIn page is used to share regular updates, Project milestones, and educational content. In the lead-up to and during PC1, posts promoted the consultation events and encouraged feedback, helping to maintain visibility and engagement with a wider professional audience.

7 PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

7.1 PC2 OVERVIEW

7.1.1.1 The second phase of formal public consultation—Phase 2 Consultation (PC2)—as part of the PAC process for the Project took place in 2025, marking another significant milestone in the Project's development and engagement journey. PC2 built on the previous PC1 events and allowed further refinement of the Project's design and the preparation of its EIARs. Further consultation events specific to the Onshore Project have been held following the 2025 Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) (**APPENDIX C: Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)**) requirements under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Details of these events will be provided in the Onshore PAC Report which will be submitted alongside the Onshore Application separately.

7.1.1.2 PC2 followed a similar structure to PC1 to ensure that local communities across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* could revisit the Project design and learn how the feedback they provided in PC1 informed the development process. A second series of face-to-face events were held at accessible locations across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais*. This allowed for optimum participation and ensured wide geographic coverage. These events were also complemented by an updated virtual exhibition (see Section 7.2.2), which allowed those unable to attend in person to access the same information and submit their views digitally. In addition to the formal PC2 in-person events, the Project team also offered additional information clinics; small group meetings and one-to-one discussions with interested individuals, community representatives, and local organisations.

7.1.1.3 This second phase of consultation focused on sharing updated Project plans and detailing how feedback received during PC1 was used to inform these updated proposals, including specific changes made to the design parameters. A leaflet summarising the updates to the Project parameters and Project benefits was made available as part of the PC2 consultation materials (see Section 7.2.1 and **APPENDIX J: PC2 Consultation Materials**). Further feedback was gathered on key aspects such as the proposed offshore and onshore infrastructure, environmental considerations, and potential community benefits. The input received during this phase played an ongoing role in shaping the approach to Project design and assessment, ensuring that the local knowledge and concerns that were received in PC1 could be seen and reviewed by participants and further feedback could be gathered on the updated Project design proposals. Feedback received during PC2 is presented in further detail in **APPENDIX K: Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report**.

7.2 PC2 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

7.2.1 PC2 IN-PERSON PUBLIC EVENTS

7.2.1.1 As part of PC2, several in-person public events were held across the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* in June 2025. The events held were a key part of the public consultation process which offered a second informative and interactive opportunity for the community to engage with the Project team, ask questions and share feedback.

7.2.1.2 A total of 150 people attended the 5 PC2 exhibition events which took place between Monday 2 June and Thursday 5 June 2025 at a variety of community venues (see **Table 7-1**). 4 of the 5 venues used had also been used during PC1, the exception being the Cabarfeidh Hotel in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*, which was used instead of Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* Town Hall (due to unavailability on the consultation dates). All venues, including the Cabarfeidh Hotel, are familiar to the community and accessible, with ample parking.

Table 7-1 PC2 Locations and Dates

Public Consultation 2 Location	**Date**	**Time**	**Number of attendees**
Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*	Monday 2 June 2025	3pm - 7pm	31
Clan MacQuarrie Centre	Tuesday 3 June 2025	12pm-2pm	20
Barvas and Brue Community Centre	Tuesday 3 June 2025	4pm - 7pm	36
Shawbost Old School Hall	Wednesday 4 June 2025	3pm - 7pm	37
Uig Community Hall	Thursday 5 June 2025	3pm - 7pm	26

7.2.1.3 At the PC2 events, information about the Project's purpose and potential benefits, updated proposals for the offshore and onshore elements, updates on environmental assessment work, responses to feedback from PC1 and recently announced benefits were shared through a variety of formats, including:

- Display boards;
- Map booklets;
- Photomontages (including night-time photomontages of the array layout options);
- Interactive 3D visualisation computer model – which allowed attendees to view the indicative Project design from anywhere on the island;
- Information brochures – which included a printed version of the virtual exhibition boards;
- Updated Project parameters and benefit factsheets;
- 'Responses to Feedback from PC1' booklet.

7.2.1.4 All materials and visuals made available at the events are included in **APPENDIX J**, the 'Responses to Feedback from PC1 booklet' is included in **APPENDIX H.**

7.2.1.5 Similar to PC1, members of the Project team with a range of expertise from environmental assessment to engineering and community engagement were present at each event. This allowed the attendees to follow up with many of the same team members and discuss a range of topics and technical details such as visual Impact, biodiversity, land use and community initiatives.

7.2.1.6 Attendees could complete the PC2 feedback form at the events and submit them at the feedback stations, or they could take the PC2 feedback form and pre-paid envelopes away to complete and post in their own time. This also allowed people to take forms away for friends or family members who could not attend the events themselves. In the same manner, attendees were provided with various materials such as information brochures, updated Project parameters and benefits factsheets, as well as the 'Responses to Feedback from PC1' booklet, all of which were available for them to take away and distribute to others if they wished.

7.2.2 PC2 VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

7.2.2.1 An updated interactive PC2 virtual exhibition was hosted on the Spiorad na Mara website to provide an online platform for community engagement (see **Figure 6 PC2 Virtual Exhibition**). This ran alongside the in-person events but remained open for 1 month between 2 June and 2 July 2025. The PC2 virtual exhibition featured all the same updated materials that were shared and available at the PC2 in-person events.

7.2.2.2 The PC2 virtual exhibition attracted 1,223 visitors in total over the course of the month, with the most visited section being the photomontages. To ensure the PC2 virtual exhibition provided the opportunity for public input, an online version of the PC2 feedback form was integrated into the exhibition, allowing visitors to complete it either at the end of the virtual tour of the exhibition room or at a later time if preferred. The online PC2 feedback form was also downloadable and could be returned by email or printed and returned as a hardcopy.

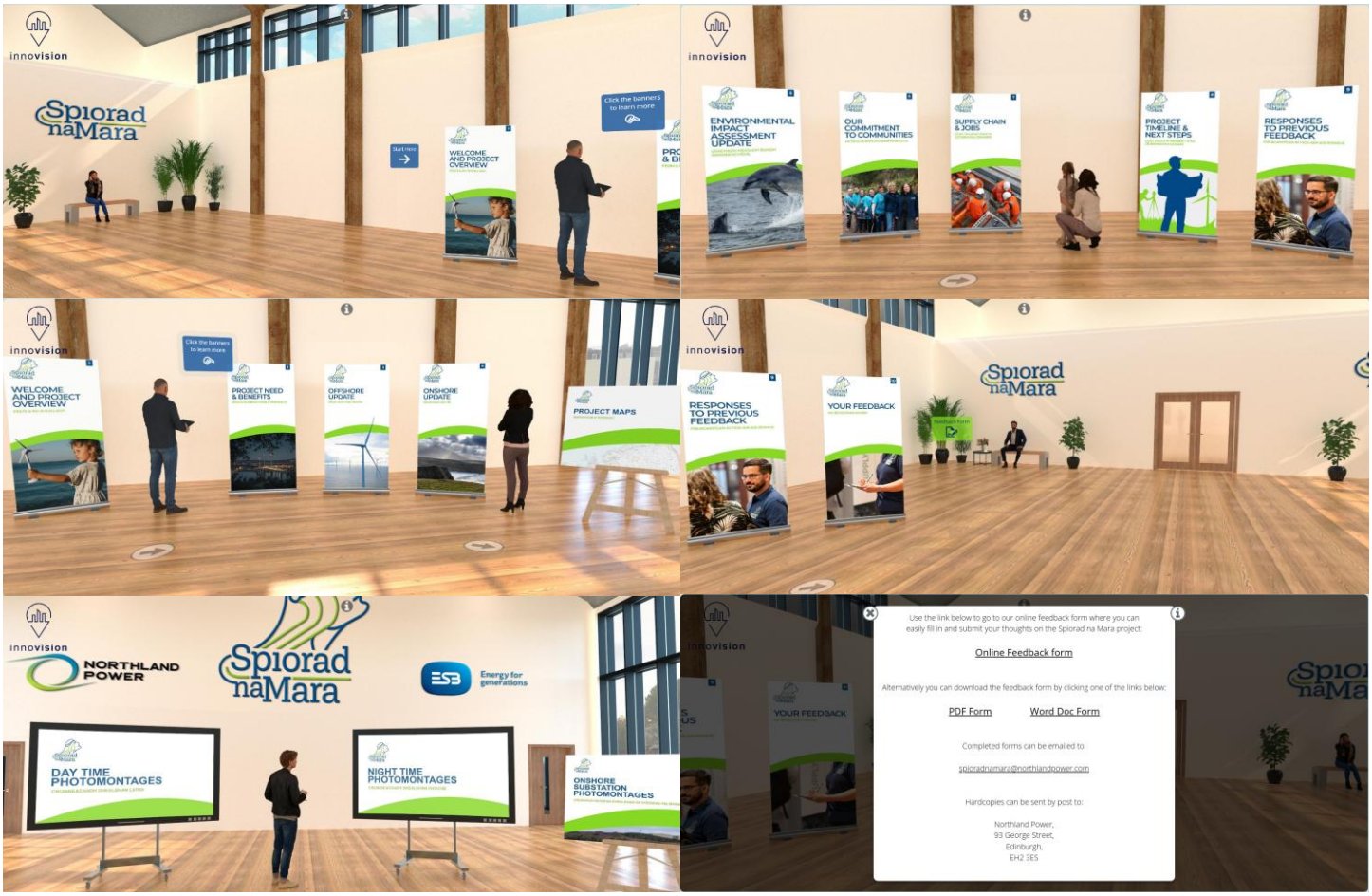


Figure 6 PC2 Virtual Exhibition

7.2.3 PC2 INFORMATION CLINICS

7.2.3.1 PC2 information clinics were dedicated sessions available to members of the public, offering one-to-one or small group meetings with Project team members by appointment. These sessions took place following the PC2 in-person events, with the Project team available to meet for a total of 15 hours between Monday 9 June and Friday 13 June 2025. The PC2 information clinic dates and times (see **Table 7-2**) were advertised in public materials and on the Project website, highlighting that the team were flexible to accommodate specific time requests to suit community members.

7.2.3.2 In total, 2 people booked and attended the PC2 information clinic appointments, in which a range of topics were discussed. The venues for the PC2 information clinics were chosen to accommodate the preferences of the participants. Of the 2 individuals who attended, 1 clinic was conducted at the Project office in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*, while the other took place at An Lanntair in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*.

Table 7-2 PC2 Information Clinic Dates and Time

Date	Time
Monday 9 June 2025	9am - 12pm
Tuesday 10 June 2025	3pm – 6pm
Wednesday 11 June 2025	12pm – 3pm
Thursday 12 June 2025	6pm – 9pm
Friday 13 June 2025	9am - 12pm

7.2.4 PC2 STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

7.2.4.1 Prior to the commencement of PC2 events, the Applicant held 2 PC2 stakeholder briefing sessions with community stakeholders who had expressed a desire to be kept up to date with Project events. Similar to the PC1 stakeholder briefings, these sessions aimed to raise awareness of the upcoming consultation activities and explain the new information which would be shared through PC2, to encourage a wide range of residents and community members to participate or re-engage in the consultation process. A total of 25 people attended the 2 sessions, 1 of which was held in Borve/*Borgh* and the other in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh*, on 28 May 2025.

7.2.4.2 On 29 May 2025, a briefing was held with the Member Office Working Group for Energy of CnES. All local councillors were invited to attend the hybrid briefing which was held in the council chamber in Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* attendees joined both in-person and online.

7.3 PC2 FEEDBACK

7.3.1 PC2 FEEDBACK MECHANISMS, COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

7.3.1.1 PC2 feedback was collected using both online and hard-copy forms. Hard-copies of the PC2 feedback form were available to the public at the in-person events and from the Project office. The online version of the PC2 feedback form could be accessed through the PC2 virtual exhibition hosted on the Project website. The PC2 feedback form included space for open-ended comments on topics including offshore and onshore elements, EIA, community benefits, supply chain and jobs, and additional comments. The Applicant and Project team contact details were included in the feedback section of consultation materials, including phone numbers, individual and Project email addresses and the Stornoway/*Steòrnabhagh* office address, allowing feedback to be shared with the Project team through various channels depending on a person's preference. Project team members present at the in-person events were available to assist attendees with filling out a PC2 feedback form and also recorded relevant verbal feedback from those who shared their views in conversation.

7.3.1.2 In total, 304 pieces of feedback were collected through various channels including:

- 248 online PC2 feedback forms through the PC2 virtual exhibition;
- 12 hard-copy PC2 feedback forms submitted at the PC2 in-person events;
- 33 hard-copy PC2 feedback forms posted to the Project office;
- 1 PC2 feedback form submitted via email;
- 2 feedback notes recorded from PC2 information clinics;
- 8 feedback notes recorded by the Project team members through discussions at in the PC2 in-person events.

7.3.1.3 After the closing date of PC2 and the deadline for feedback submission of the 2 July 2025, all feedback received was collated into a survey database via Tractivity[10] which was anonymised where requested. Each PC2 feedback form was analysed and the feedback received was categorised into themes and sub-themes. This allowed the Project team to clearly identify common concerns, themes that were consistent through each consultation phase, and themes, suggestions and statements of support new to PC2.

7.3.1.4 The review process of PC1 feedback as outlined in Section 6.3.1 was repeated for PC2. This allowed the Project team to better understand the communities' priorities and conduct a further review the overall proposed Project plans prior to submission of the consent applications.

7.3.2 PC2 FEEDBACK SUMMARY

7.3.2.1 Following the collection and analysis of the feedback received from the public as part of PC2 consultation activities, the 'Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report' (see **APPENDIX K**) was published and shared on the Project's website. The Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report was also shared on the Project's LinkedIn page and emailed via the Project mailing list to 690 individuals and organisations whose emails that are held on the Project database, provided by those who expressed a desire to be kept informed of the Projects development.

7.3.2.2 All feedback received was analysed and summarised by themes, which then formed the structure for the responses to feedback booklet (see **APPENDIX L: Responses to Feedback from Phase 2 Consultation)**. **Table 7-3** summarises the key comments and concerns received according to question and category.

[10] Stakeholder engagement and management platform: https://www.tractivity.co.uk/

Table 7-3 Feedback to Responses from Phase 2 Consultation

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Offshore Infrastructure	
Concerns about visual Impact of the Array Area and OSP	The Project is utilising a PDE approach which ensures that the maximum design parameters for all elements of the Project are assessed within the EIA. The potential visual Impacts of the Offshore Project on the seascape and landscape is assessed based on these maximum design parameters. The Project's Lease Area was designated as part of the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Planning process. The location of the 161 km^2 site is fixed and we do not have the option to relocate it.
Concern about the potential cumulative Impacts due to the presence of the WTGs within the Array Area	As part of the EIA, a Cumulative Effects assessment has been undertaken which considers other consented and proposed renewable energy developments, as well as developments related to other industries. This assessment is reported within all relevant topic chapters and **Chapter 23: Combined Effects Assessment, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Some respondents expressed uncertainty around decommissioning	Decommissioning will be considered within all relevant topic chapters of the EIA. A full Decommissioning Plan will be prepared post consent, but prior to construction, in accordance with the Energy Act 2004.
Some respondents were opposed to the option of an OSP	The OSP remains an option within the PDE and may be built. All potential Impacts relating to the OSP, is fully assessed within the relevant topics of the **Offshore EIAR** and appropriate mitigations will be put in place, where required.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern about the potential Impacts from lighting, shadow flicker and noise	The potential Effects of lighting from the Project are considered in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a**, which forms part of the **Offshore EIAR**. A technical study of the potential Effects of shadow flicker due to Project infrastructure was completed and the results confirmed that shadow flicker would not be experienced at the coast, or recreational sea use areas within 1km of the coast. The findings of this technical study have been used to inform the Offshore EIAR and therefore shadow flicker has not been included within **Chapter 18, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.
Onshore Infrastructure	
Some respondents raised concerns about the location of the Landfall Substation north of Upper Barvas/*Barabhas*	The proposed Landfall Substation location is as far as possible from Barvas/*Barabhas* Cemetery within the Onshore Landfall Area. Options to further reduce the visibility of the Landfall Substation will be considered; however, due to the nature of the local landscape, blending the buildings more with their surroundings may be possible. The Project is also looking at painting colours and techniques that will help the infrastructure blend into the surroundings.
Disproportionate scale of the Grid Substation	The Grid Substation is now proposed to be located at a site which lies northwest of Loch Cnoc a'Choilich. As described above for the Landfall Substation, a colour study will be completed to assess how the potential visual Impact of the Grid Substation may be reduced.
Concern about potential health Impacts from lighting and noise during construction and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the Landfall Substation, Grid Substation and Onshore Cables	Potential human health impacts will be considered in the **Onshore EIAR** will include the assessment of potential health Impacts associated with lighting and noise from the Landfall Substation and Grid Substation.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
	Lighting of the Landfall Substation and Grid Substation will be carefully planned to ensure safety and minimise Impact. There is no conclusive evidence that high-voltage cables cause health problems, however this will be considered within the **Onshore EIAR**.
Concern about potential fire risks at substations	If the Project receives all required consent approvals, there will be ongoing close engagement with the local emergency services to ensure good communication and understanding is in place between all relevant parties. In the unlikely event of a fire, management will follow a CEMP, emergency response plans, fire prevention and suppression systems, and maintain ongoing coordination with local emergency services.
Concern around the potential Impacts from the construction of the Onshore Cable	The proposed Onshore Cable Corridor has been carefully refined to avoid deep, high-quality peat and particularly sensitive machair habitats, where possible, by staying close to the Barvas Moor Road (A857). In order to minimise the disruption to traffic during construction, a temporary haul road will be installed adjacent to the main road, which will be used by construction vehicles. No full closure of the A857 will be required at any time where works are taking place.
Calls for greater clarity on technical aspects of the Onshore Cable	For the Project, the Onshore Cables will be laid in a trench approximately 0.8m below the surface. Once the cable is laid, the trench will be backfilled, ensuring the cable is both stable and protected.
Operations and Maintenance (O&M)	
General support for the preferred O&M base located at Stornoway Port	The Project is committed to working with local support agencies to create awareness of opportunities that will arise during the Project and to support the training and

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
	upskilling/reskilling of a local workforce. In addition, the Project has appointed a full-time Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer to develop relationships with and support local businesses to help them to position themselves to compete for contracts on the Project.
Concern around offshore working and safety considerations	Maintenance will only be carried out when safe to do so, in accordance with offshore Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards and guidance. Also, all contractors carrying out work on the Project will be required to prepare health and safety plans and to carry out all necessary risk assessments before commencing new activities.
Concern for the potential increased pressure on local infrastructure such as roads and harbours.	Stornoway Port has been selected as the preferred location for the Project's O&M base and activities. Based on our engagement with the Port, we are confident that there is sufficient space and capacity within the port facilities to allow our activities to take place without disrupting or displacing other services or activities. It is envisaged that much of the equipment needed to facilitate O&M will be shipped to the island, rather than using local roads.
Calls for more clarity on maintenance activities	Activities associated with the offshore O&M phase of the Project are considered in the **Offshore EIAR** and will be considered in the **Onshore EIAR**, this will be reported on as part of the supporting documentation. An outline O&M Plan will be submitted with the Offshore Application, which will be updated to a detailed O&M Plan at a later date.
Calls for more clarity on post-construction monitoring	The Project will be required to comply with all conditions associated with its consents. This may include ongoing or periodic monitoring during construction and operational phases of the Project.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern around potential Impacts to marine mammals	Potential Impacts to marine mammals are assessed fully within **Chapter 13, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**. The Project has committed to submitting an Outline MMMP as part of the Offshore Application. The Project commits to following JNCC best practice methodologies during any offshore works. This includes having a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) onboard for certain installation vessels and using a soft-start approach when carrying out noisy construction activities.
Concern around potential Impacts to birds and the location of the Array Area overlapping migratory and foraging routes	An assessment of the potential Impacts to birds is included within **Chapter 14, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR** and **Chapter 10: Onshore Ecology and Ornithology, Volume 2** of the **Onshore EIAR**. The updated parameters of the WTGs were designed to reduce collision risk to birds.
Concern around the potential Impacts to the seabed and marine physical processes	All potential Impacts to the seabed and marine physical processes is fully considered within **Chapter 11: Benthic and Intertidal Ecology, Volume 2a, Chapter 10: Marine Sediment and Water Quality, Volume 2a,** and **Chapter 9: Physical and Coastal Processes Assessments, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**. In the event of consents being granted, the Project will undertake pre-construction surveys to support the final design of the wind farm. Through this design process where possible, sensitive habitats will be avoided through micro-siting (i.e. optimising the placement of individual WTGs within the Array Area and the Offshore Cables within the OCAS).
Queries and concern around the potential Effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) and heat from subsea cables	Potential Impacts to fish are fully assessed within **Chapter 12, Volume 2a** and **Chapter 11, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**. EMF and thermal emission Effects from Offshore Cables have been scoped into these assessments.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern around potential pollution	For the offshore infrastructure, the Project will seek to use chemicals and other fluids suited to and approved for use in the marine environment, with biodegradable materials selected wherever possible in order to minimise Impacts in the event of a spill. A Marine Pollution Contingency Plan will identify fluids and chemicals associated with the Project and processes to be followed should a leak occur during any phase of the Project lifetime. In relation to the OTW Project, many pollution prevention design principles have been adopted as part of the mitigation embedded into the design, such as the inclusion of buffer distances, between the OTW Project and watercourses wherever possible.
General support for renewable energy projects	This feedback is noted and aligns with the overall objectives of the Project, including to support the Scottish Government targets of 50% renewable energy by 2030.
Concern about the potential visual Impacts at cultural sites, west coast cemeteries and beaches	This is covered in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a, Chapter 15: Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Volume 2a, Chapter 20, Volume 2a** and **Chapter 6, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**. A number of changes have already been made to the design parameters of the Project – including a reduction in the number and height of turbines; an increase in the distance of turbines from shore. Within the proposed Landfall area, the Project has proposed to locate the Landfall Substation as far as possible from the Barvas/*Barabhas* Cemetery and will consider options to further reduce visibility where possible.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Concern about the potential property devaluation	Several studies have been conducted to assess the potential Impact of onshore wind turbines on house pricing; however, there are limited studies in relation to offshore wind turbines.
Concern about the Outer Hebrides depopulation issues	We anticipate that the Project could bring benefits to the Isle of Lewis/*Eilean Leòdhais* through local job and supply chain opportunities, skills development and community initiatives, with the potential to help retain local people by creating long-term job opportunities.
Concern about the potential human health Impacts from noise and visual Impacts	The potential impacts of the Project on human health are assessed in **Chapter 22: Offshore Human Health, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR** and **Chapter 18: Human Health, Volume 2** of the **Onshore EIAR**. Potential visual and noise Impacts are assessed in **Chapter 18, Volume 2a,** and **Chapter 19: Offshore Airborne Noise, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR** as well as **Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Volume 2, Chapter 15: Airborne Noise and Vibration, Volume 2** and **Chapter 16: Air Quality, Volume 2** of the **Onshore EIAR**.
The importance of Gaelic culture and heritage must be considered	The potential Impacts to culture and heritage – including the language – are fully assessed within **Chapter 6, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**. Separately, we are committed to supporting Gaelic language and culture activities through project initiatives such as sponsorship and donations and other programmes.
Concern about the potential increased pressure on local infrastructure and services	These concerns are addressed within **Chapter 6, Volume 2a and Chapter 21, Volume 2a** of the **Offshore EIAR**.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
	It is important to note that the majority of the workforce required for offshore construction activities is expected to be offshore most of the time, meaning that potential impact to accommodation and local services should be reduced. The Project remains committed to working collaboratively with other developers and in conjunction with CnES and HIE, through the Major Developments Forum, to help minimise pressures on local infrastructure.
Community Engagement	
Recognition of community engagement efforts	This feedback is welcome and appreciated. We have worked hard to broaden and deepen our engagement, including the range of engagement and consultation opportunities we provide, over the last 18 months and will continue to work on this further as the Project progresses.
Mixed views on the consultation materials and visualisations	We have worked hard to make our consultation materials extensive yet accessible for the community. It is not possible, at this stage, to provide precise details of what all aspects of the Project will look like should it go ahead. All of our materials are developed in accordance with statutory requirements and in line with best practice engagement and consultation standards. Specialists with extensive expertise in this area of work have been engaged to advise on and oversee the development of these materials.
Calls for community-led discussions	Providing a range of consultation opportunities is important in gathering wide-ranging views and feedback. The Project has done this at every stage and has dedicated team members (including a full-time island-based CLO) working on an ongoing basis on community engagement and consultation.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Need for more advertisement of the public consultation	The public consultations were widely advertised through local channels and details were published through the Project website, circulated directly to everyone on our emailing list and promoted on our LinkedIn page. Following feedback received from PC2, the Project has also incorporated posters into its advertisement process, placing these in local retail venues, and has improved signage.
Community Benefits	
West Coast Community Benefit Fund	Aquatera Ltd. was appointed to carry out an independent consultation process earlier this year, to gather views on how the fund should be set up, administered and used. The recommendations arising from this report are being considered and next steps will be progressed in 2026.
Cycleway/Multi-use path	These comments have been considered and an update on the cycleway/multi-use path was shared during the Final OTW Consultation at the end of November 2025.
Call for more benefits that can improve the local communities	As the Project progresses, we will continue to explore opportunities to bring benefits to local communities. The outputs from the Aquatera independent community benefit consultation report will be considered in this regard. In terms of community ownership, this is something we have had initial discussions with Eilean Siar Energy about and these discussions will continue.

7.4 PC2 AWARENESS RAISING AND MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION

7.4.1.1 As outlined in Section 7.2.1, all but 1 of the in-person events for PC2 were held in the same venues as PC1, and these were selected based on familiarity and accessibility for the local communities. Flexible timings and venues were offered to public members who attended the information clinics. As with PC1, the PC2 virtual exhibition remained open for 1 month allowing people to read all materials multiple times if wished and to provide feedback. Similar to PC1, during PC2 free stamped envelopes were made available at the in-person events to facilitate posting hardcopy PC2 feedback forms.

7.4.1.2 Several methods were used to advertise PC2 and raise awareness in the community to the events. **Table 7-4** below summarises all the methods of engagement carried out by the Project to advertise PC2. These can be viewed in **APPENDIX M: PC2 Methods of Engagement and Awareness Raising**.

Table 7-4 PC2 Methods of Engagement and Awareness-Raising

Engagement Methods	
Mail Drops	Over 11,000 leaflets were distributed via Royal Mail from 28 April 2025 to residential and business addresses within HS1 and HS2 postcode areas. The leaflets provided details about the PC2 consultation events and how to participate.
Newspaper/News Site Advertisements	Adverts were placed in local newspapers ahead of PC2 to share event details and invite public feedback. This included statutory public notices for both offshore and onshore developments. The public notices were placed in the *Stornoway Gazette* on the 17 April 2025 (relating to the offshore elements) and 22 May 2025 (relating to the onshore elements). Several adverts for the consultation events were published including: • *Stornoway Gazette* on 15, 22 and 29 May 2025; • *Fios* on 16 and 20 May 2025; • *We Love Stornoway* from 15 May - 5 June 2025.
Press Releases	Issued on 27 May 2025 ahead of PC2 to local and regional media outlets, including *Stornoway Gazette, We Love Stornoway, Fios, Hebrides News, BBC Stornoway, Western Highlands Free Press*, CnES, and various community newsletters (e.g. Carloway, Uig, Breasclete, Fuaran and Bernera).
Mailshots	Many stakeholders requested to be added to a mailing list to stay informed about Project updates. On 2 June 2025 a mailshot was sent

Engagement Methods	
	to all announcing the commencement of PC2 with details of the in-person events and a link to the virtual exhibition.
Website	The Spiorad na Mara website continued to serve as a central platform for access to up-to-date, trustworthy Project information and engagement. During PC2, it featured a dedicated Public Consultation page hosting the virtual exhibition, downloadable materials, event details, and contact information.
LinkedIn Page	The Spiorad na Mara LinkedIn page is utilised to share news and regular updates, project milestones, and educational content. In the lead-up to and during public consultation, posts promoted the consultation events and encouraged feedback, helping to maintain visibility and engagement with a wider professional audience.

8 ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 OVERVIEW

8.1.1.1 The Applicant has undertaken a comprehensive and inclusive engagement process that not only meets, but exceeds, the statutory and regulatory obligations required for the Spiorad na Mara OWF. The Project team's approach has endeavoured to ensure that the consultation to date has been proactive, widespread and meaningful. As detailed in supporting documents, feedback from stakeholders and the community has been considered and, where appropriate, has informed the design of the Project.

8.1.1.2 The Applicant's objective is to ensure the Project is developed with community and key stakeholder involvement by providing transparent and meaningful engagement throughout; this engagement will continue throughout the Project life cycle.

8.1.1.3 Every effort was made to ensure that all measures were taken to involve the wider community in the development of the Project and this approach has contributed to the building of strong relationships between the Project and stakeholders. Valued feedback received from the stakeholders and community at all stages of the pre-application consultation has been appropriately considered as part of the Project proposal and the Applicant intends to continue working with the community and stakeholders in the future.

8.2 WIDER ENGAGEMENT

8.2.1.1 Wider engagement carried out by the Project team that goes beyond the PAC requirements has been outlined in further detail in **Appendix A5.4, Volume 1c** of the **Offshore EIAR**.

8.3 CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

8.3.1.1 Following the submission of the Offshore Application, the Project team will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community as the Onshore Application progresses. Post-submission of the Offshore Application, the Project team is committed to staying engaged with stakeholders and the community. Relevant updates will be shared via the Project website and Project mailing list, and the Project team will continue to engage with the community and wider stakeholders locally, including being available to meet with them and responding to queries.

8.3.1.2 Should the Applicant gain consent to develop the Project, further engagement will be carried out in relation to the Community Benefit Fund, supply chain and skills development opportunities.

8.3.1.3 The Applicant will remain available to answer any questions or discuss any aspect of the Project via the website contact page, telephone or email, details of which are shown in **Table 8-1**.

Table 8-1 Spiorad na Mara Contact Details

General Enquiries	**Project Postal Address**
Via the Project website: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/contact/ By email: spioradnamara@northlandpower.com	Spiorad na Mara Project Stornoway Business Hub 9 Bank Street Stornoway Isle of Lewis HS1 2XG Pl*ease note that a hybrid working model is followed and the office is not open to the public. If you would like to make an appointment to meet, please contact Kathleen* [Redacted]
Community Liaison	
Kathleen Milne Community Liaison Officer [Redacted] [Redacted]	Denise Horan Consultation and Local Engagement Lead [Redacted] M[Redacted]

8.4 NEXT STEPS

8.4.1.1 The **Offshore EIAR** and associated documents (including this Offshore PAC Report) is available in paper format and can be viewed publicly at the following accessible locations:

- Stornoway Library, 19 Cromwell Street, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS1 2DA;
- Raebhat House, North Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BD;
- Carloway Community Centre, Knock, Carloway, Isle of Lewis, HS2 9AU.

8.4.1.2 All documents are also available for download on the Project's website (https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/). Any issues accessing these documents can be reported to spioradnamara@northlandpower.com and the Project team will provide support. Similarly, the Offshore Applications are available via the Marine Directorate website at https://marine.gov.scot/marine-licence-applications.

8.4.1.3 If you wish to comment on the Offshore Application and **Offshore EIAR** or make representations to Marine Directorate, any comments or representations must be submitted directly to MD-LOT via the contact details below within the deadlines set out in the notice advertising the submission of

the Offshore Applications and **Offshore EIAR**. Details to provide feedback on the Onshore Application will be included in the Onshore PAC Report.

8.4.1.4 Marine Directorate can be contacted at ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot, or written to at:

Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team

Marine Scotland

375 Victoria Road

Aberdeen

AB11 9DB

8.4.1.5 Regarding the OTW Project, it is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in early 2026 to the CnES. The Onshore Application will incorporate an updated PAC Report that demonstrates how future engagement aligns the applicable planning legislation and guidance concerning the OTW Project.

9 GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

9.1.1.1 A list of key terms and acronyms used in this Offshore PAC Report are provided in **Table 9-1** and **Table 9-2**.

Table 9-1 Acronyms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CES	Crown Estate Scotland
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
CnES	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FIR	Fisheries Industry Representative
FMS	Fisheries Management Scotland
GW	Gigawatt
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
HNDFUE	Holistic Network Design Follow-up Exercise
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HVDC	High-Voltage Direct Current
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MCA	Marine Coastguard Agency
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licencing Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Mammal Observer
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan
MNWFA	Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association
MP	Member of Parliament
MSP	Member of Scottish Parliament
MW	Megawatt
NESO	National Energy System Operator
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NSA	National Scenic Area

NtF	Notice to Fishers
NtM	Notice to Mariners
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OCAS	Offshore Cable Area of Search
OFA	Orkney Fisheries Association
Ofgem	The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
OFTO	Offshore Transmission Owner
ONS	Onshore Substation
OSP	Offshore Substation Platform
OTW	Onshore Transmission Works
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PC1	Public Consultation 1
PC2	Public Consultation 2
PDE	Project Design Envelope
RIAA	Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment
RSPB Scotland	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
s36	Section 36
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
SOWEC	Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council
SPFA	Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Energy Networks
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
TJB	Transition Joint Bay
UHI	University of Highlands and Islands
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

Table 9-2 Glossary

Term	**Definition**
the Applicant	Spiorad na Mara Limited (the Project owner)

Array Area	The offshore area within which the offshore wind turbine generators (WTGs), associated foundations, Offshore Cables, and Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required), will be located. This area encompasses the Turbine Area that will contain all above water surface infrastructure (WTGs / OSP) and an additional area within which further below water infrastructure (foundations and cables) may also be located.
Array Cables	The offshore electrical and communication cables that connect infrastructure located within the Array Area, for: • Scenario 1: Array Cables will be used to connect Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs) to each other, and to connect WTGs to the OSP. • Scenario 2: Array Cables will be used to connect WTGs to each other.
Array Cables to Landfall	The offshore electrical and communication cables located in the Array Area and Offshore Cables Area of Search that connect the wind turbine generators (WTGs) directly to Landfall for Scenario 2.
Combined Effects	Combined effect of the individual development on one particular receptor; for example noise, dust, and visual. This includes Project-Lifetime Effects and Receptor-Led Effects.
Cumulative Effects	Considers the likely significant effects of multiple impacts and activities from several developments.
Effect	Term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of an effect is determined by correlating the magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
Embedded or 'Designed-in' Mitigation	Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the preferred design for the Project. This can include standard practice in accordance with or without guidance. Embedded Mitigation is considered as part of the impact assessment, before effect significance is identified.
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared to assess the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment.
Export Cables	The offshore electrical and communication cables located in the Array Area and Offshore Cables Area of Search that connect the Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required) to Landfall for Scenario 1.
Grid Substation	The onshore substation located adjacent to and connecting to the SSEN Lewis Hub. This allows the voltage to be increased to meet onward transmission requirements.

Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD)	A trenchless crossing engineering technique using a drill steered underground without the requirement for open trenches. This method is able to carry out the underground installation of pipes and cables with minimal surface disruption.
Impact	Change that is caused by an action; for example, foundation installation (action) during construction which results in habitat loss (impact).
Landfall	This consists of works from offshore Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) exit pits (located below MLWS) to onshore at the Transition Joint Bays (TJB) (located above MHWS). The infrastructure and installation methods associated with the Landfall involves both onshore and offshore components.
Landfall Substation	The optional onshore substation located on the west side of the Isle of Lewis. Includes the platform, buildings and associated components which allows the voltage to be increased to meet onward transmission requirements.
Lease Area	Legal agreement from the Crown Estate Scotland whereby an option over an area of foreshore or seabed is granted to a developer for an agreed purpose. If the required permissions are gained, the developer can exercise their rights to enter into a lease. In this case this is the same spatial area as the Array Area.
Offshore Application	The application for Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (between 0 and 12nm) and a Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
Offshore Cables	Electrical and communication cables located within the Array Area and Offshore Cable Area of Search. The Offshore Cables consist of Array Cables, Array Cables to Landfall, and Export Cables.
Offshore Cable Area of Search (OCAS)	The area within which the offshore electrical and communication cables between the Array Area and Landfall up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) will be located.
Offshore Project	The components of the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (the Project) located seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).
Offshore Project Boundary	The 'red line boundary' encompassing the Offshore Project.
Offshore Substation Platform (OSP)	The optional offshore substation located within the Turbine Area. Includes the platform and associated components which allows the voltage to be increased to meet onward transmission requirements.
Onshore Application	The application for consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).
Onshore Cables	Electrical and communication cables located within the Onshore Cable Corridor.
Onshore Cable Corridor	The area within which Onshore Cables and associated infrastructure will be located which is routed from the Transition Joint Bays (TJB) to the SSEN Lewis Hub.

Onshore Landfall Area	The area which includes both the Landfall above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and Landfall Substation (as defined separately), cabling from the Transition Joint Bays (TJB) to the Landfall Substation (if required) and construction related compounds and working areas.
Onshore Transmission Works (OTW) / Onshore Project	The components of the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (the Project) located landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).
Onshore Transmission Works Boundary / Onshore Project Boundary	The 'red line boundary' encompassing all temporary and permanent works associated with the OTW/Onshore Project.
Project	The Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm development. This term describes the whole development, including all offshore and onshore components.
Project Boundary	The 'red line boundary' encompassing all offshore and onshore components of the Project.
Project Design Envelope	A description of the range of possible components that make up the Project design options under consideration when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known.
Scoping Opinion	A report presenting the written opinion of the Scottish Ministers, with input from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) for the OTW, as to the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Project.
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Lewis Hub	This is the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) interface. A transmission system operator substation into which the Project will connect for onward transmission through the existing grid network.
Social Impact Assessment	The assessment of the potential positive and negative social consequences of the Project.
Transition Joint Bay (TJB)	The point at which offshore cables are connected to Onshore Cables. The TJB is located onshore above MHWS.
Turbine Area	A reduced area within the Array Area where above water surface infrastructure would be located i.e. wind turbine generators (WTG) and Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) (if required). This area has been developed and refined through stakeholder engagement and environmental assessment.
Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)	The wind turbines that generate electricity consisting of tubular towers and blades attached to a nacelle housing mechanical and electrical generating equipment.

10 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A **PC1 Public Notices**

Public Notice

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Electricity Act 1989

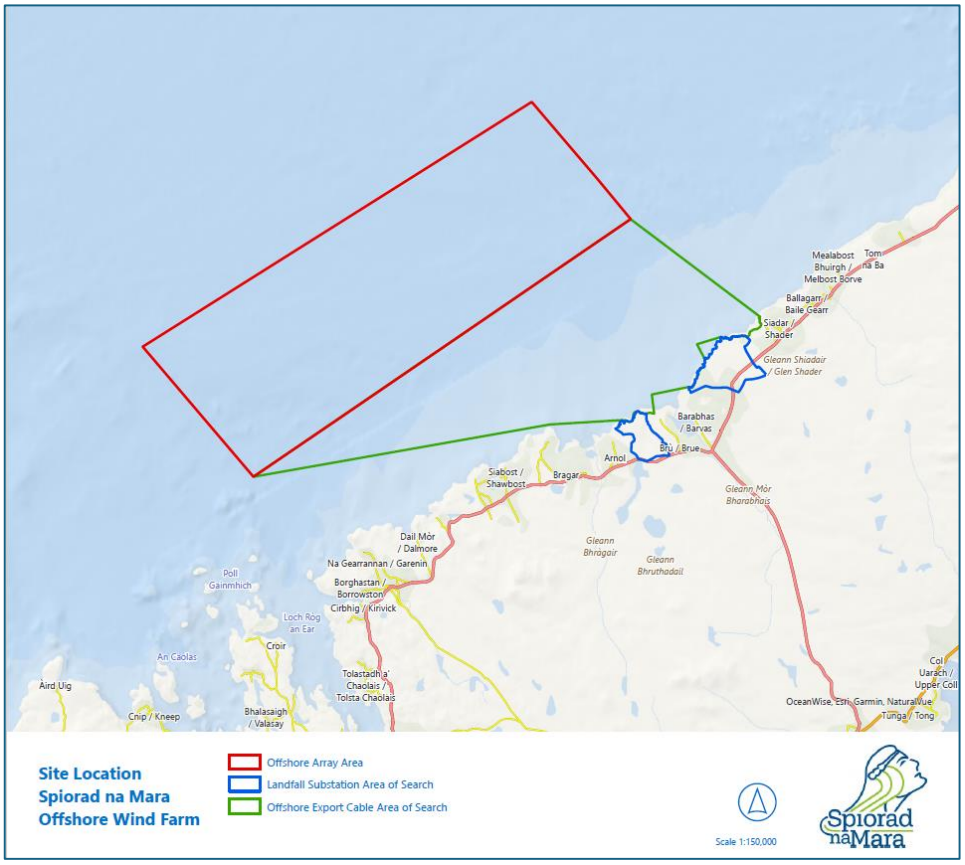
Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. The proposed Spiorad na Mara wind farm is located 5-13 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lewis (Western Isles). The licensable activity consists of:

• Up to 66 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables.

• Up to 12 offshore cables from array to the landfall location on the west coast.

• An offshore substation, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables.

The map below details the location of the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and its associated transmission infrastructure.



Information about the proposed licensable activities and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the times and locations below. The consultations will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

Date	Location
Tuesday 24th September 2024	Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY 3 – 8 pm
Wednesday 25th September 2024	Barvas & Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA 3-8 pm
Thursday 26th September 2024	Old School Shawbost, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ 3 – 8pm
Monday 30th September 2024	Stornoway Town Hall, 20 South Beach, Stornoway HS1 2BJ 3 – 8pm
Tuesday 1st October 2024	Carloway Community Centre, Knock, Carloway, Isle of Lewis HS2 9AU 3 – 8pm
Wednesday 2nd October 2024	Uig Community Hall, Uig, Isle of Lewis 3 – 8pm
Thursday 3rd October 2024	Great Bernera Community Centre, Breaclete, Great Bernera, Isle of Lewis 3 – 8pm

Information about the proposed licensable activities can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 23rd September to 23rd October accessed via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event and leaving it with us, or sending it back to us by post at Spiorad na Mara Office, UHI Lews Castle Campus (2nd floor), Stornoway, HS2 0XR;
- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted] .

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make

submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

Dear [First Name],

Please find attached a notice concerning the project company's intention to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

Public consultation events are planned in September and October, with fuller information about additional information clinics and other arrangements for events which will be made available on the project website nearer the time: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date. All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Should you have any questions in relation to any of the above, do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Regards,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

SENT BY Tractivity

Public Notice
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
– Associated Onshore Transmission Infrastructure
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning
(Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
Pre-Application Public Consultation

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) intends to submit an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to construct onshore transmission works in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. The onshore works, landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM) for the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm consists of:

- 6-8 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at one of three potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west side of the Isle of Lewis;
- up to 2 onshore substations being:
  - a Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs
  - a Grid Substation located near the Arnish Moors and the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station;
- 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a landfall substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation; and
- export cables from the Grid Substation to the SSEN Converter Station.
- associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - temporary construction compounds landscaping;
  - drainage;
  - parking/servicing areas; and
  - access tracks and road alterations.

The location of the proposed Onshore transmission infrastructure works landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM) include potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with a cable corridor linking the landfall locations south of the A858 and A857 roads, before following the route of the A857 south east across towards Stornoway before deviating from the road to the west of Stornoway culminating east of Creed Industrial Park.

Information about the proposed onshore transmission works and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the times and locations below. The consultations will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

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Tuesday 24th September 2024	Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY 3 – 8 pm
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Thursday 3rd October 2024	Great Bernera Community Centre, Breaclete, Great Bernera, Isle of Lewis 3 – 8pm

Information about the Project can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 23rd September 2024 to 23rd October 2024 accessed via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event and leaving it with us, or sending it back to us by post at Spiorad na Mara Office, UHI Lews Castle Campus (2nd floor), Stornoway, HS2 0XR;
- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by 5 pm Friday 25th October 2024.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
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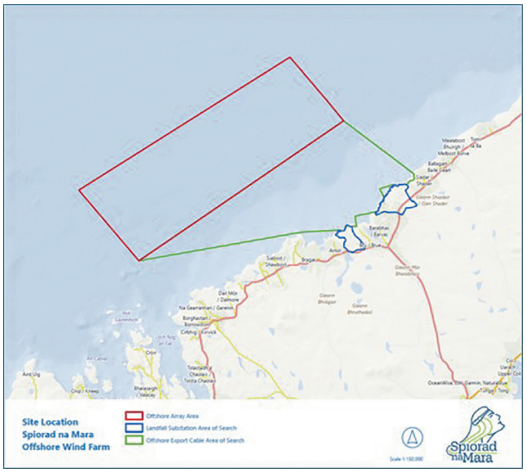
- Up to 66 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables.
- Up to 12 offshore cables from array to the landfall location on the west coast.
- An offshore substation, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables.

The map below details the location of the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and its associated transmission infrastructure.



Information about the proposed licensable activities and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the times and locations below. The consultations will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

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Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

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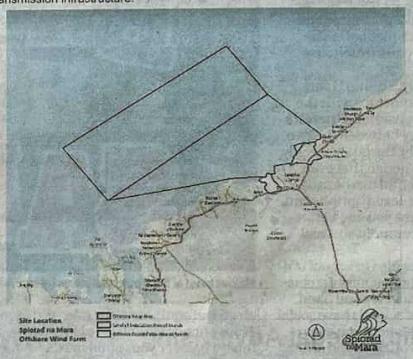
- An offshore substation, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables.

The map below details the location of the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and its associated transmission infrastructure.



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- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
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- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpowers.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted].

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

Public Notice

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Associated Onshore Transmission Infrastructure.
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
Pre-Application Public Consultation

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) intends to submit an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to construct onshore transmission works in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. The onshore works, landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM) for the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm consists of:

- 6-8 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at one of three potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west side of the Isle of Lewis;
- Up to 2 onshore substations being:
- A Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs
- A Grid Substation located near the Arnish Moors and the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station;
- 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a landfall substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation; and
- Export cables from the Grid Substation to the SSEN Converter Station.
- Associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - -Temporary construction compounds landscaping;
  - Drainage;
  - Parking/servicing areas; and
  - Access tracks and road alterations.

The location of the proposed Onshore transmission infrastructure works landward of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM) include potential landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with a cable corridor linking the landfall locations south of the A858 and A857 roads, before following the route of the A857 south east across towards Stornoway before deviating from the road to the west of Stornoway culminating east of Creed Industrial Park.
Information about the proposed onshore transmission works and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the times and locations below. The consultations will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

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Information about the Project can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 23rd September 2024 to 23rd October 2024 accessed via the project website: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

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- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
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- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number -[Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by 5pm Friday 25th October 2024.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

APPENDIX B PC2 Public Notices

Public Notice

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Associated Onshore Transmission Infrastructure

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Pre-Application Public Consultation, with revision of boundaries to reflect peat management and refinement of landfall options

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) plans to hold pre-application consultation events in relation to an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to construct onshore transmission works in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. This notice updates the previously approved Pre Application Public Consultation Notice Ref 24/00327/PAN, to reflect refinement of the landfall location and inclusion of peat management areas.

The onshore works, inland of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM), for the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm consists of:

- Up to 12 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at the landfall located north-east of Barvas on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis;
- up to 2 onshore substations being:
  - a Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs;
  - a Grid Substation located near the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station;
- export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a landfall substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation; and
- 2 export cable circuits from the Grid Substation to the SSEN Converter Station;
- peat management areas;
- associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - temporary construction compounds;
  - landscaping;
  - drainage;
  - parking/servicing areas;
  - access tracks and road alterations;
  - cycleway/ multi-use pathway.

Information about the proposed onshore transmission works and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, to be held on the dates, and at the times and locations, below. The consultation events will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

Date	Location	Time
Monday 2nd June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel, Manor Park, Perceval Rd S, Stornoway HS1 2EU	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Clan McQuarrie Community Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY	12pm – 2pm
	Barvas and Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA	4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Shawbost Old School Trust, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 5th June 2025	Uig Community Centre, Uig, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JE	3pm – 7pm

Information about the project can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 2nd June 2025 – 2nd July 2025, accessed via the project website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

Information clinics, through which members of the public can make an appointment to speak with a member of the project team, will be available from 9th June and 13th June. These appointments can be booked by calling +44 7442585935 or emailing kathleen.milne@northlandpower.com

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event or sending it back to us by post at Spiorad na Mara Office, c/o Stornoway Business Hub, 9 Bank Street, HS1 2XG;
- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by 5pm, 2nd July 2025.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar once the project submits its planning application and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Electricity Act 1989

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Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) plans to hold pre-application consultation events in relation to proposed licensable marine activities in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

The proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm is located 5-13 kilometres (km) off the coast of the Isle of Lewis.

The marine licensable activities seaward of Mean High Water Springs within Scottish Territorial Waters consist of the following (the "Licensable Marine Activities"):

- Up to 60 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables located within the offshore array area shown edged red in the figure below;
- Transmission infrastructure comprising either:
  - Up to 12 offshore cables from the offshore array area (being the area edged red in the figure below) to a landfall location on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis and to be located within the offshore cable area of search (being the area edged green in the figure below), or
  - An offshore substation located within the offshore array area (being the area edged red in the figure below) connected to the turbines via inter-array cables and, up to two export cables from the offshore substation to a landfall location on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, to be located within the offshore cable area of search (shown in the area edged green in the figure below);
- Other associated activities including seabed preparation, scour, cable protection and installation of cable ducts.

The figure below details the location of the proposed offshore array area and the offshore export cable area of search.



Information about the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm, including the proposed Licensable Marine Activities, can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the dates, times and locations below. The consultation events will provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the proposed Licensable Marine Activities.

Date	Location	Time
Monday 2nd June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel, Manor Park, Perceval Rd S, Stornoway HS1 2EU	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Clan McQuarrie Community Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY	2pm – 2pm
	Barvas and Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA	4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Shawbost Old School Centre, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 5th June 2025	Uig Community Centre, Uig, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JE	3pm – 7pm

Information about the proposed Licensable Marine Activities can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 2nd June 2025 – 2nd July 2025, accessed via the project website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website: www.spioradnamara.co.uk.
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event or sending it back to us by free post to: Spiorad na Mara Office, c/o Stornoway Business Hub, 9 Bank Street, HS1 2XG.
- Emailing comments to our dedicated mailbox: www.spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.
- Calling our free project phone number: [Redacte

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) of the person making a representation, and a return email or postal address should be provided. All comments need to be received by Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

As no marine licence application for the proposed Licensable Marine Activities has been submitted, feedback will be received by Spiorad na Mara Limited. Please note comments made to Spiorad na Mara Limited are not representations to the Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT). Representations to MD-LOT can be made once a marine licence application has been submitted.

APPENDIX C Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN)

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Section 35B)
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 4 -7)

To be completed for all developments within the national or major categories of development

Name of Council	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Address	Sandwick Road Stornoway Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Multiple locations across the Isle of Lewis, please see accompanying cover letter.
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Construction and Operation of onshore infrastructure associated with the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm located landward of the mean low water mark (further detail is included in the cover letter).

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to

[Note 3] Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council by [Note 4] Spiorad na Mara Limited

Of [Note 5]

1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES

In respect of [Note 6] 7x public events

To take place on [Note 7] 24/09/24 Clan MacQuarrie Centre; 25/09/24 Barvas and Brue Community Centre; 26/09/24 Old School, Shawbost; 30/09/24 Stornoway Town Hall; 01/10/24 Carloway Community Centre; 02/10/24 Uig Community Hall; and 03/10/24 Bernera Community Centre

[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

Community Council(s) (see covering letter)
Relevent Ward Councillors (see covering letter)
Holyrood Constituency MSP (see covering letter)
Westminster MP (see covering letter)

[Note 9] For further details contact Fiona MacGregor, Spiorad na Mara Limited

on telephone number [Redacted]

And/or at the following address [Redacted]

[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site

Signed [Redacted]

On behalf of Spiorad na Mara Limited

Date 29 08 2024

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

[Note 1] – Insert postal address or location of proposed development
[Note 2] – Insert description in general terms of the development to be carried out.
[Note 3] – Insert Council name.
[Note 4] – Insert name of applicant and/or agent
[Note 5] – Insert applicant's and/or agent's postal address
[Note 6] - Insert form of consultation the prospective applicant proposes to undertake e.g. public meeting
[Note 7] – Insert date and venue of consultation
[Note 8] – Insert list of those groups who have been invited to attend
[Note 9] – Insert details as to how the prospective applicant/agent can be contacted (incl. name, address and tel. no)
[Note 10] - Attach plan that outlines the location of the proposed development and is sufficient to identify the site

Pre-application Consultation (PAC)

Where PAC is required, the prospective applicant must, under sections 35B(1) and (2) (of the Act), provide to the planning authority a 'Proposal of Application Notice' at least 12 weeks (section 35B(3)) prior to the submission of an application for planning permission. The Proposal of Application Notice must include the information set out in section 35B(4) and in regulation 6, namely:

i) a description in general terms of the development to be carried out;*
ii) the postal address of the site at which the development is to be carried out, if available
iii) a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify the site;
iv) detail as to how the prospective applicant may be contacted and corresponded with; and
v) an account of what consultation the prospective applicant proposes to undertake, when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

* You should provide an outline of the proposal's characteristics, and the identification of its category (e.g. Major development). Any subsequent application needs to be recognisably linked to what was described in the proposal of application notice.

Submission of an Application after Pre-application Consultation Notice

The submission of the proposal of application notice starts the PAC processing clock. After a minimum of 12 weeks, having carried out the statutory requirements and any additional requirements specified by the planning authority, an applicant can submit the application along with the required written Pre-application Consultation Report. Information in relation to the proposal of application notice must also be placed by the planning authority on the list of applications required under section 36A and regulation 21.

Additional consultation activity (responding to the Proposal of Application Notice)

The applicant is required to indicate in the proposal of application notice what consultation will be undertaken in addition to the statutory minimum. The planning authority must respond within 21 days of receiving the Notice to advise the applicant whether the proposed PAC is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required in order to make it binding on the applicant. In doing so, planning authorities are to have regard to the nature, extent and location of the proposed development and to the likely effects, both at and in the vicinity of that location, of its being carried out (section 35B(8)). Additional consultation requirements should be proportionate, specific and reasonable in the circumstances. If there is no response to the proposal of application notice by the planning authority within 21 days, only the statutory minimum PAC activities will be required.

Scottish Ministers expect planning authorities to develop and maintain up to date lists of bodies and interests with whom applicants should consult in particular types of case. These lists should be available to applicants, who can draft proposal of application notices in light of that information. Further advice on planning community engagement activity can be found in Planning Advice Note 81: Community Engagement – Planning With People.

Minimum consultation activity

Consultation with community councils - Under regulation 7 an applicant must consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated. This includes community councils in a neighbouring planning authority.

The public event - Regulation 7 also requires the holding of at least two public event for members of the public where they can make comments to the prospective applicant on their proposals. This 'public event' must be advertised at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development. The advertisement for the public event must include:

- a description of, and the location of, the proposed development;
- details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; the date and place of the public event;
- a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and
- a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. If the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.

Applicants will gain less from poorly attended or unrepresentative PAC events and should ensure that processes are put in place that will allow members of the community to participate meaningfully in any public event. The public event should be reasonably accessible to the public at large, including disabled people. It may be appropriate for the public event to take place over a number of dates, times and places. Applicants should ensure that individuals and community groups can submit written comments in response to the newspaper advertisement.

There is a need to emphasise to communities that the plans presented to them for a proposed planning application may alter in some way before the final proposal is submitted as a planning application to the planning authority. Even after PAC, and once a planning application has been submitted to the planning authority, communities should ensure that any representations they wish to make on the proposal are submitted to that authority as part of the process of considering the planning application.

Any personal data that you have been asked to provide on this from will be held and processed in accordance with Data Protection Legislation.

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Section 35B)
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 4 -7)

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Name of Council	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Address	Sandwick Road Stornoway Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Multiple locations across the Isle of Lewis including revision to PAN boundary. Please see accompanying letter.
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Construction and Operation of onshore infrastructure associated with the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm located landward of the mean low water mark (further detail is included in the cover letter).

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Of [Note 5]

1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3ES

In respect of [Note 6] 5 x public events

To take place on [Note 7] 02/06/25- Caberfeidh Hotel Stornoway, 03/06/25- Clan Macquarrie Centre, 03/06/25- Barvas and Brue Community Centre, 04/06/25- Old School Shawbost, 05/06/25-Uig Community Hall

[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

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Relevent Ward Councillors (see covering letter)
Holyrood Constituency MSP (see covering letter)
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[Note 9] For further details contact	Fiona MacGregor, Spiorad na Mara Limited
on telephone number	[Redacted]
And/or at the following address	[Redacted]

[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site

Signed	[Redacted]
On behalf of	Spiorad na Mara Limited
Date	14/04/2025

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

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APPENDIX D Spiorad na Mara Summer 2023 Newsletter

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2023

Spiorad na Mara



FÀILTE

Welcome to our first project newsletter for the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm, designed to keep local communities and stakeholders informed and up to date on the latest developments, and to invite feedback as we continue to progress the project.

Spiorad na Mara is in the early stages of development. Engaging and listening to local communities and our stakeholders is an important part of how we work and how we want to develop the project.

Our objective is to deliver a project which the Isle of Lewis and the Outer Hebrides can be proud of, and which can deliver benefits for the local, regional, and national economies, in addition to improving the security of our electricity supply and saving more than 1.2 million tonnes of harmful CO_2 emissions every year.

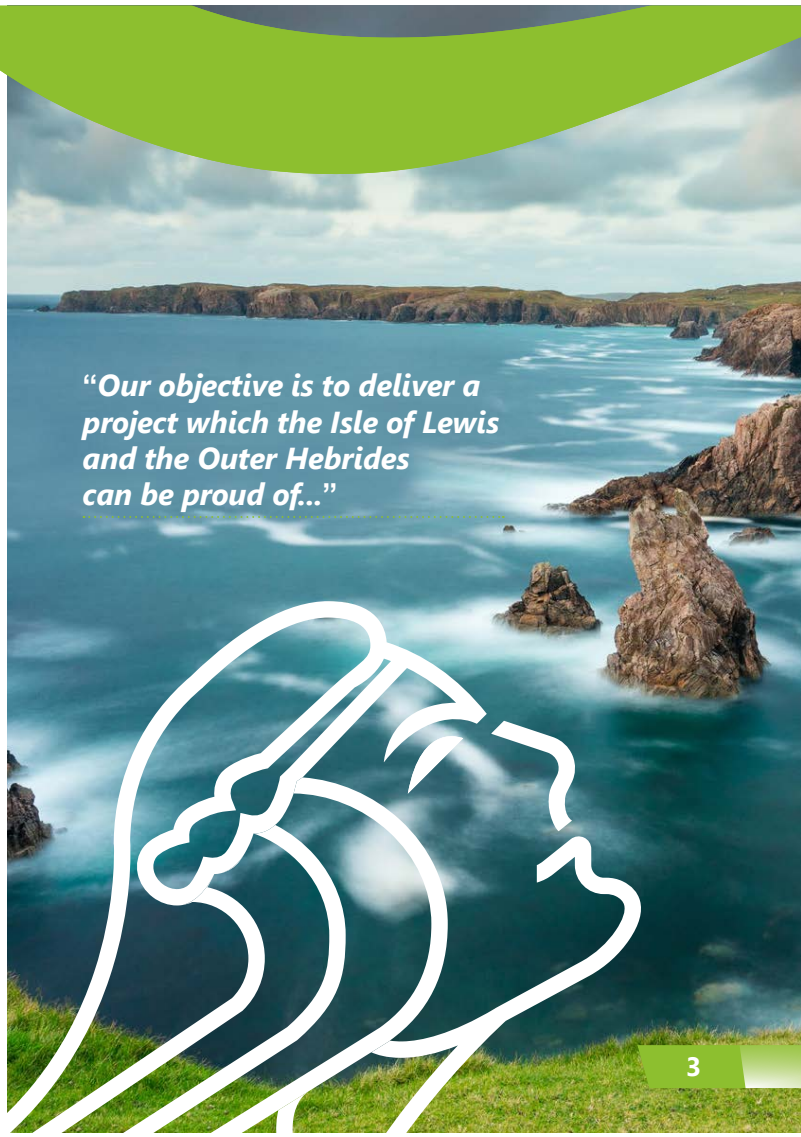
I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any comments or questions about the project, please get in touch with us using the contact details at the end.

Gach dùrachd/Kind regards

[Redacted]

Tanya Davies
Project Director





AT A GLANCE

Wind resource in and around the Outer Hebrides is among the best in the world and Spiorad na Mara will generate clean offshore wind energy, which is at the heart of achieving Scotland's net zero emissions target by 2045.

Northland was delighted to be successful in the outcome of the ScotWind leasing round in April 2022, winning the rights to develop two offshore wind projects– Spiorad na Mara off the north west coast of the Isle of Lewis, and Havbredey, located to the north of the Minch.

ScotWind was the Scottish Government's first round of offshore wind leasing in Scottish waters for a decade. The ScotWind leasing process enabled developers to apply for seabed rights, to plan and build windfarms within pre-defined areas of Scottish waters, resulting in 20 offshore wind projects with option agreements confirmed, which together total up to 27.6GW of clean energy.

These projects will deliver locally produced clean offshore wind energy that is central to Scotland's efforts to tackle the climate emergency, secure the UK's energy supply, and generate billions of pounds of investment in Scotland.

For further information on ScotWind, please search 'ScotWind' on **www.crownestatescotland.com**



THE NUMBERS

760,000 homes
Number of Scottish homes whose average annual electricity needs could be met with renewable electricity

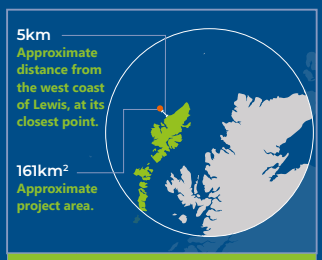
up to 66
Number of fixed bottom turbines

10.6m/s
Mean wind speed at hub height

1.2 million
The equivalent number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

840MW
Potential generating capacity

35-65m
Water depth



INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

2024	Expected date for submission of planning application
2028	Potential start of construction
2030	The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland will support Spiorad na Mara
2031	Expected date when the wind farm could be operational
35 Years	Anticipated operating life of wind farm

Social

- Multi million-pound community investment over the lifetime of the project
- Working in partnership with local communities
- Education and training opportunities
- Encouraging local employment, subcontracting and material supply



Environment

- Contribution to Scotland's 2045 net zero emissions target
- Renewable electricity for up to 760,000 Scottish homes
- Up to 1.2million tonnes of CO_2 savings
- Energy security for Scotland



Economic

- Significant new infrastructure investment
- New jobs during development, construction and operation
- Opportunities for local ports
- Opportunities for local, regional and national businesses



GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE

Since being awarded Spiorad na Mara in April 2022, we have made great progress across many areas.

The aim of the project team is to submit a planning application to Marine Scotland by the end of 2024, and subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Spiorad na Mara could begin construction in 2028.

Consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders is at the heart of our development process and we are committed to ongoing, open dialogue as the project progresses.

Prior to submitting our planning application, we will undertake at least two further phases of formal public consultation, inviting feedback and input, to continue to help shape the development and design of the project.





New project names and identities unveiled

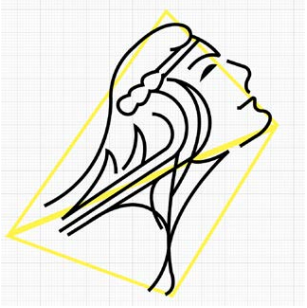
In March, we announced new names and brand identities for our two ScotWind Projects.

Working in partnership with Stornoway-based LOOM Graphics, we conducted local research, consultation, and engagement, to ensure the new names reflected the rich local folklore and history of the areas in which they are located – this was very important to us.

The new names and identities took their inspiration from Scottish and Nordic folklore, with tales often overlapping with the Western Isles' strong connection to the Norse culture. With the designs encapsulating the deep connection that local people have with the sea and the environment, they bring together the past, present, and future relationships between the islands, their people, and their stories.

"Working with Northland Power was a huge opportunity for our small studio. We're very grateful that they sought to use a local business when looking for logo designs for the new ScotWind projects," said Pearse O'Halloran, Creative Director, LOOM Graphics. "It was an exciting challenge, and we spent a large part of the project researching folklore and island heritage to find relevant approaches for the design. These shine through in the final graphics that are built on the traditional values that folk spirits represented but are looking toward the future of the island. We are delighted to see the new designs in use and the positive change they symbolise for many years to come."





Spiorad naMara

Brand new websites launched

To coincide with the launch of the new project names, new websites have also been launched, providing more information about the projects, our community commitments and how to get in touch, to ask any questions and provide feedback. The websites provide easier access to information and will be regularly updated with news and developments - the 'go to' place for information on Northland and the projects.



For further information visit
www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk

GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE

New partnership announced with ESB

In May 2023, Northland entered into a partnership agreement with ESB for a 24.5% interest in the Spiorad na Mara and Havbredey projects. Northland retains a 75.5% stake in each project and continues to lead on their development, construction, and operation.

The partnership provides Northland with an opportunity to bring in an experienced long-term partner to help build on the development progress already made, with all commitments made by the projects prior to the agreement remaining in place.

"With ESB, we have found a highly experienced and valued partner to help advance the development of the projects, and we look forward to working closely together to realise both projects over the months and years ahead."

Tanya Davies
Project Director, ScotWind Northland Power.

ESB is a leading Irish energy company, with vast experience in the offshore wind industry, including within Scotland. The partnership demonstrates the strong interest in ScotWind and in developing offshore wind in Scotland bringing together two very experienced companies with complementary skills, resources, and ambitions.

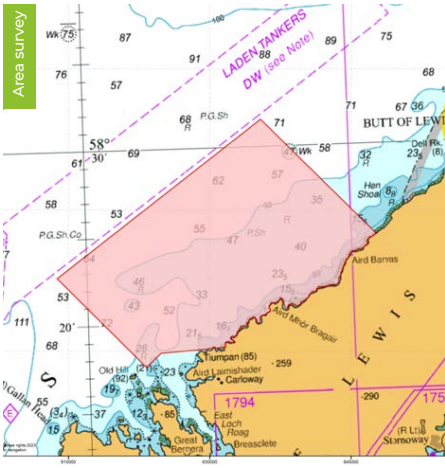


Offshore survey programme under way to collect important data

During May 2023, an important step took place in the development of Spiorad na Mara with the start of offshore investigation surveys across the project site and along potential cable route corridors.

The purpose of the surveys is to gather data to inform the design of the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will be submitted as part of the project's planning application. With these initial surveys expected to be completed by the end of September 2023, a range of specialist vessels will be used to undertake geophysical, geotechnical, and environmental surveys:

- The geophysical surveys will map out the seabed surface and subsurface, identify potential archaeological features, and provide insight into the physical features of the seabed, including water depth, sediment type and distribution (sand, mud, gravel, rock).
- The geotechnical surveys will collect samples from the seabed, including boreholes and cone penetration testing. This data will be used to inform the mechanical and geotechnical properties of the seabed that will determine the foundation type and design.
- The environmental survey will collect data on seabed habitats, marine ecology, and water quality.



The survey results, in addition to the feedback we receive from our local engagement and consultations, will feed into the process to define suitable cable routes, cable landfall options, and inform the layout of the project.

Details of the survey programme were shared in advance with the local fishing community and other marine users, including a Notice to Fisheries and a Notice to Mariners.

GOOD PROGRESS BEING MADE

Onshore surveys taking place to identify most suitable locations for electricity transmission

In order to send the electricity generated at Spiorad na Mara to Scottish homes and businesses, a grid connection is needed on Lewis. This connection requires the development of supporting onshore infrastructure, which could include up to two onshore substations, one at or near to landfall and the other close to the National Grid substation, near Stornoway.

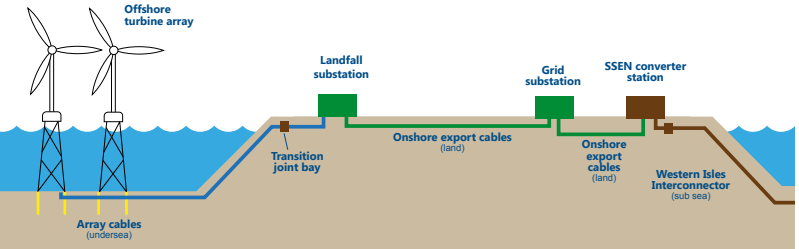
We will also need to bring cables, through which the electricity will be transmitted, from the wind farm and connect to the National Grid substation. Depending on the most feasible route, this is likely to involve underground onshore cable routes leading from the landfall location to the substation.

We are currently looking at a number of options that might be available, and are undertaking a range of onshore surveys, which will help inform the EIA for the electricity transmission works associated with the windfarm and identifying the most suitable locations.

The surveys commenced in April 2023 and are expected to continue through to the summer of 2024.

The surveys include:

- Breeding and wintering bird surveys
- Ecology surveys (including protected species surveys, plants, and animals)
- Cultural heritage surveys
- Background noise surveys
- Hydrology surveys
- Peat surveys
- Engineering surveys



New office opens in Stornoway and team grows

To support our commitment to working in partnership and engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development of Spiorad na Mara, we have recently opened a new office in Stornoway at the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) Outer Hebrides, from where our local Community Liaison Officer, Eilidh Whiteford and Project Developer, Grant Anderson, are based.

Both Grant and Eilidh have been kept very busy, holding numerous meetings with island organisations, community groups and a wide range of stakeholders, which are set to continue in the months and years ahead.

There is a vast amount of knowledge and experience within the Spiorad na Mara team, gained from working on projects all around the world. Within the past 12 months, the size of the team has continued to grow with around 40 people now currently working on the project. This is set to increase over the months and years ahead, including many additional local opportunities.





Offshore bird and marine mammal surveys ongoing

Aerial bird and marine mammal surveys have been ongoing since March 2022. The surveys cover the Spiorad na Mara site plus a 10km buffer. The first year of data collection was completed in February 2023 with the first annual report expected in June 2023. The results from these surveys will feed into the EIA process and will support the project's planning application to the Scottish Government. The second year of surveys commenced in March 2023.



Alongside the wider benefits offered by Spiorad na Mara in terms of reduced energy costs, greater energy security and reduced carbon emissions, communities also stand to benefit through a range of community initiatives. To date, we have been delighted to support a number of local organisations, including:

Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH)

The Western Isles Association for Mental Health is a small locally based charity in the Western Isles. Their subject is health, with a focus on how to maintain (and where necessary, recover) a positive state of mental wellbeing, for individuals and the community as a whole.

WIAMH Delivers Catch 23 Support Services for people in the local community struggling with their mental health. Service provision includes a Mental Health Drop-in Service and a variety of activities designed to support and help people gain and maintain positive mental health and well-being. Catch 23 delivers a weekly programme of activities Monday - Friday from 12.30-3.30. Catch 23 aims to provide an informal relaxed place for people to meet without fear of being judged by the stigma of mental health and the issues that surround it. Catch 23 do not charge for any of the services provided. The Centre relies totally on external funding from a number of supporting agencies and Third Sector funders, with donations always very welcome.



Western Isles Association for Mental Health, Manager **Rebecca Mahony** *(2nd from right)* and team

Rebecca Mahony, Project Manager for Western Isles Association for Mental Health, said: "I was delighted that our organisation was nominated for donation in the run up to last year's World Mental Health Awareness Day in recognition of the work we do locally to support people who are struggling with their mental health via our Catch23 Support Services.

"As a grass-roots independent local mental health charity donations like this help us provide a vital support service to our members, adults with live experience of mental health issues."

Hebridean Emigration Centenary

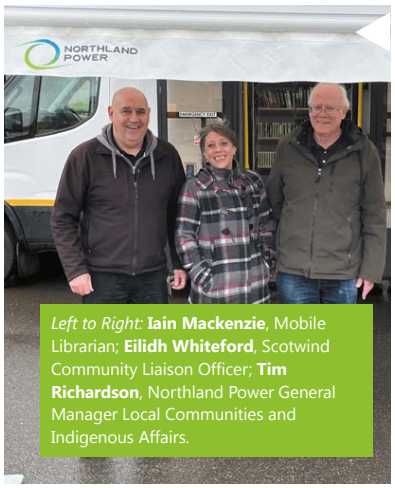
The Hebridean Emigration Centenary has been established to mark 100 years since major emigration from the Outer Hebrides, to primarily the east coast Canada took place. Events include a full exhibition being displayed around the islands, a Tattoo Metagama taking place in August and a variety of smaller literary and music events throughout the year. Events are being organised and supported by Western Isles Lottery and exhibition supported also by Stornoway Historical Society.

Tony Robson, Event Organiser said: "The Western Isles Community Society were delighted to receive support towards Tattoo Metagama and Leaving Home Exhibition from Northland Power; such early intervention enabled the project to proceed at an important moment in Our Islands history."



"..such early intervention enabled the project to proceed at an important moment in Our Islands history."

Tony Robson | Event Organiser



Left to Right: **Iain Mackenzie**, Mobile Librarian; **Eilidh Whiteford**, Scotwind Community Liaison Officer; **Tim Richardson**, Northland Power General Manager Local Communities and Indigenous Affairs.

Western Isles Library Services

Mobile libraries ensure that books are accessible to people of all ages, in different locations and have been used in the Outer Hebrides since the early 1950s. Through our support, an awning has been secured for the mobile library vans.

Iain Mackenzie from Western Isles Library Services said: "The awning is a great addition to the mobile library, which will be beneficial when we attend the local shows, providing shelter, extra room to enable a table and chairs to be used, and additional browsing space."



Left to Right: **Iain GG Campbell,** WIIGA General Manager; **Gary Jordan**, WIIGA Archer; **Grant Anderson**, ScotWind Project Developer; **Tim Richardson**, Northland Power General Manager Community & Indigenous Affairs; **Louise Campbell**, WIIGA Archer; **Norman MacDonald,** WIIGA Chair and **Eilidh Whiteford**, ScotWind Community Liaision Officer

"We are incredibly grateful to Northland Power for its contribution to our funds, which will help towards the substantial costs of WIIGA attending the Games. The Games is all about bringing small communities together and supporting them to provide, and improve, the sporting opportunities for people living on islands and overcoming the challenges that brings. The funding provided will go towards bringing together athletes from throughout the Western Isles to compete at the Games."

Iain GG Campbell | WIIGA General Team Manager

Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA)

WIIGA is a non-profit organisation which aims to help island elite athletes develop and reach their full potential by competing at the NatWest International Island Games; and to foster and encourage friendship through sport between island communities and to provide opportunities for athletes to represent the Western Isles at international level.

THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Spiorad na Mara represents a significant energy infrastructure investment in Scotland and will deliver benefits to the local, regional, and national economy. During the development, construction and operational phases, there will be a number of opportunities for contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, and service providers.

We are committed to maximising the opportunities available for local suppliers and other Scottish businesses as the project progresses and are committed to supporting the Scottish and UK supply chain, working in close partnership with local businesses and suppliers.

We are eager to support the development of a new offshore wind supply chain in the west of Scotland, which will benefit local suppliers and the surrounding economy, and while many of these opportunities may be several years away, we are keen to understand what is available in the local market and engage with the local supply chain early.



As members of the DeepWind offshore wind cluster, which draws together suppliers, innovators, and skills providers to support the development of offshore wind in the north of Scotland, we also encourage potential supply chain members to join up via the following link, to access various events and initiatives used to promote local supply chain opportunities. Membership of DeepWind is free:

www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/deepwind-cluster

As the project progresses, we plan to hold 'Meet the Buyer' events, to provide more information on the opportunities available and how to get involved. These will be promoted on our website and through other channels, with plenty of advance notice given.

Business owner? If you are a business that would like to be considered for work on the project, please email **spioradnamara@northlandpower.com**, and we will provide your information for consideration to our main contractors, when appointed. In addition, we will also consider local businesses for supplies, services, and facilities we procure directly.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

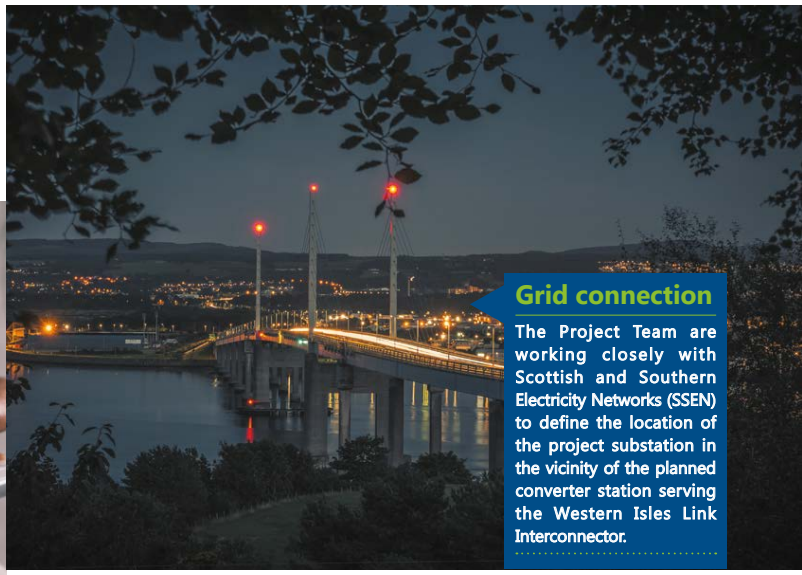
The next 18 months are going to be a busy time on the project, with the following, just some of the activities being planned:

Project Scoping Report to be issued

Scoping is the first formal phase of the development process; it defines the maximum likely parameters of the project and the methodologies that will be used for assessing the potential impacts.

The Scoping Report will be published on our website and submitted to Marine Scotland, who will provide copies to all statutory consultees and other organisations for comment. The formal process that will be completed during 2023/24 ensures that the EIA captures all the likely significant effects and provides formal boundaries of what is and is not included in each assessment.





Grid connection

The Project Team are working closely with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to define the location of the project substation in the vicinity of the planned converter station serving the Western Isles Link Interconnector.



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) takes giant leap forward

WSP has been commissioned to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment for Spiorad na Mara. WSP is a leading engineering and environmental professional services company with their Scottish based team having considerable onshore and offshore experience, including on a variety of projects in the Hebrides.

WSP will be working with local based consultancy Atlantic 58 and others to undertake the EIA, which will be included along with the planning application.

www.spioradnamara.co.uk

Consultation with local communities and stakeholders

Northland is fully committed to working in partnership and engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development, construction and operation of our projects, and have a long history of working closely with communities throughout the lifecycle of projects around the world.

We take pride in our approach to establishing, building, and cultivating strong, mutually beneficial relationships to garner trust and support. This is so important to Northland that we have developed and published a set of commitments to ensure that our long-standing practices and values are transparent, and to demonstrate the consistency of our approach across our global footprint. These can be found on our website at:

www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk

In addition to ongoing engagement and communication, at least two phases of consultation will be held before the planning application is submitted, which is currently expected to be toward the end of 2024.

At each consultation, we will share the latest plans for the project and invite feedback and input, to continue to help shape the planning and design of the project. Full details will be made available once plans and dates have been agreed.



THE PARTNERS

Spiorad na Mara is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation. Both companies have extensive global experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sector.

75.5%

Northland Power

The primary focus of Northland is to build a sustainable and carbon-neutral world.

Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, with offices in eight countries, Northland Power is a global power producer dedicated to helping the clean energy transition by producing electricity from clean renewable resources.

Founded in 1987, Northland has a long history of developing, building, owning, and operating clean and green power infrastructure assets and is a global leader in offshore wind.

For further information visit **www.northlandpower.com**

24.5%

ESB

ESB has been Ireland's foremost energy company since it was established in 1927, driven by an unwavering commitment to power society forward and deliver a net-zero future for customers and communities.

Launched in 2022, its Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040 strategy sets out a clear roadmap for ESB to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. ESB are involved in six offshore wind projects in Scotland, which complements a 1,200MW pipeline of onshore wind farms.

For further information visit **www.esbenergy.co.uk**

INTRODUCING HAVBREDEY

Havbredey

NEW logo designed by LOOM Graphics, Stornoway

During the outcome of the Scottish Government's ScotWind leasing round in April 2022, Northland also won the rights to develop a second offshore wind project, located approximately 35 km offshore to the north-east of Lewis.

The proposed project is called Havbredey, a Norse word meaning 'Isles on the edge of the sea' and is believed to be where the word Hebrides was derived from.

Utilising floating wind turbines, the project has a potential capacity of around 1,500 MW, which could meet the average annual electricity needs for around 1.3 million Scottish homes with renewable electricity and save around 2.2 million tonnes of harmful CO_2 emissions every year. Havbredey is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%) with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation.

The development of Spiorad na Mara will take priority in the immediate short term, utilising the established technology of fixed-bottom wind turbines.

In March 2023, the first year of offshore bird and marine mammal surveys got underway at Havbredey, which will continue until February 2025.

Utilising floating wind turbines, the project has a potential capacity of around 1,500 MW

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Havbredey could begin construction in 2032 and be operational by 2036.

For further information visit **www.havbredey.co.uk**





GET IN TOUCH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the strong relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives on the Western Isles and North west of Scotland.

You can contact us in the following ways:

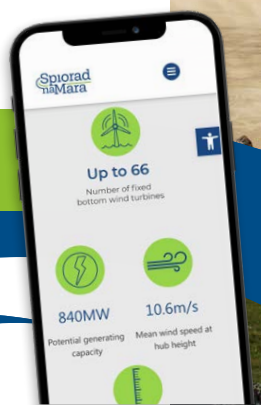
Email: **spioradnamara@northlandpower.com**

Eilidh Whiteford
[Redacted] unity Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Grant Anderson
ScotWind Project Developer
[Redacted]

Media enquiries:
[Redacted]

To find out more information, please visit our website: **www.spioradnamara.co.uk**





Design: LOOM Graphics | Print: Stornoway Media Centre

APPENDIX E Spiorad na Mara Summer 2024 Newsletter

PROJECT UPDATE
JULY 2024

Spiorad na Mara





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FÀILTE

Welcome to our latest project update on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project.

It's been twelve months since our first newsletter and we realise that people are eager to know how our plans are progressing and when they will have an opportunity to provide feedback through consultation.

Hopefully this detailed update will address some of these questions, that is certainly its intent. It contains overviews of all key areas and elements of the project – offshore and onshore – and how they are progressing. Some of this information is new or updated, while more of it is intended as a reminder of how all the pieces of such a large infrastructure project come together.

Detailed information on our public consultation plans is provided: when the two phases will take place, what the consultation process will consist of and what type of information will be shared during the first phase later this year. While consultation will not now start until autumn, we believe that this later timing will allow for clearer, further developed options to be shared, which people can review and on which they can provide feedback.

We also introduce new 'community drop-ins', which are just commencing at local venues around the island, providing an opportunity for people to meet with members of the team, ask questions and provide feedback.

While Spiorad na Mara is still in the early stages of development, throughout its lifetime it will deliver substantial benefits to the local economy, with local communities on the Isle of Lewis standing to also benefit through significant community investment initiatives. A summary of how we are progressing this work is contained in this update.

We are committed to broadening and deepening our engagement as the project progresses and to being transparent in our communication. Members of the project team are regularly out and about meeting with local community representatives and groups, while our website and LinkedIn pages contain all the most up-to-date news on the project.

Nonetheless, I encourage anyone with questions to come to us at any time. There is no need to wait for consultation or to visit a community drop-in; simply pick up the phone and call us at any time or send us an email if there is something on your mind. Your questions, feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

I hope you find this update useful.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

Tanya Davies
Project Director

> ***"We are committed to broadening and deepening our engagement as the project progresses and to being transparent in our communication."***



Fàilte don ùrachadh as ùire againn mu Spiorad na Mara, pròiseact gaoithe aig muir a tha san amharc.

Fàilte don ùrachadh as ùire againn mu Spiorad na Mara, pròiseact gaoithe aig muir a tha san amharc.

Tha dusan mìos air a bhith ann bhon chiad chuairt-litir againn, agus tha sinn mothachail gu bheil daoine dèidheil air faighinn a-mach mar a tha na planaichean againn a' tighinn air adhart agus cuin a bhios cothrom aca fios air ais a thoirt seachad tro cho-chomhairle.

Tha sinn an dòchas gun toir an ùrachadh mionaideach seo aghaidh air cuid de na ceistean sin, agus 's e sin gu cinnteach an amas againn. Tha tar-shealladh ann air a h-uile prìomh raon agus eileamaid den phròiseact – aig muir agus air tìr – agus mar a tha iad a' tighinn air adhart. Tha cuid den fhiosrachadh seo ùr no air ùrachadh, agus tha barrachd dheth airson a bhith mar chuimhneachan air mar a tha pìosan pròiseact bun-structair cho mòr ri seo a' tighinn ri chèile.

> ***Tha sinn dealasach a thaobh ar conaltradh a leudachadh agus a dhoimhneachadh mar a thèid am pròiseact air adhart agus a bhith follaiseach nar conaltradh.***

Tha fiosrachadh mionaideach air a thoirt seachad mu ar planaichean co-chomhairleachaidh poblach foirmeil: cuin a bhios an dà ìre a' gabhail àite, dè a bhios sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh agus dè an seòrsa fiosrachaidh a bhios air a roinn sa chiad ìre nas fhaide air adhart am-bliadhna. Ged nach tòisich co-chomhairleachadh a-nis chun an fhoghair, tha sinn den bheachd gun leig an t-àm nas fhaide air adhart cothrom air roghainnean nas soilleire agus nas leasaichte a bhith air an roinn, air am faod daoine ath-sgrùdadh agus fios air ais a thoirt seachad.

Bidh sinn cuideachd a' cur air bhog 'coinneamhan coimhearsnachd', a tha dìreach a' tòiseachadh aig ionadan ionadail air feadh an eilein, a' toirt cothrom do dhaoine coinneachadh ri buill den sgioba, ceistean fhaighneachd agus fios air ais a thoirt seachad.

Ged a tha Spiorad na Mara fhathast aig ìre thràth de leasachadh, fad a bheatha bheir e buannachdan susbainteach don eaconamaidh ionadail, le coimhearsnachdan ionadail ann an Eilean Leòdhais cuideachd a' faighinn buannachd tro iomairtean tasgaidh coimhearsnachd cudromach. Tha geàrr-chunntas air mar a tha sinn a' toirt air adhart an obair seo anns an ùrachadh seo.

Tha sinn dealasach a thaobh ar conaltradh a leudachadh agus a dhoimhneachadh mar a thèid am pròiseact air adhart agus a bhith follaiseach nar conaltradh. Bidh buill de sgioba a' phròiseict a-muigh gu cunbhalach a' coinneachadh ri riochdairean agus buidhnean coimhearsnachd ionadail, agus tha na naidheachdan as ùire mun phròiseact air an làrach-lìn agus an duilleag LinkedIn againn.

A dh'aindeoin sin, tha mi a' brosnachadh duine sam bith le ceistean tighinn thugainn aig àm sam bith. Chan fheumar feitheamh airson co-chomhairle no tadhal air coinneamh coimhearsnachd; dìreach tog am fòn agus cuir fios thugainn aig àm sam bith no cuir post-d thugainn ma tha rudeigin nur n-inntinn. Tha fàilte an-còmhnaidh air ur ceistean, fios air ais agus molaidhean.

Tha mi an dòchas gum bi an ùrachadh seo feumail dhuibh.

Gach dùrachd

[Redacted]

Tanya Davies
Stiùiriche Pròiseict

THE PROJECT
AM PRÒISEACT



Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. The project is anticipated to have a capacity of around 900 Megawatts (MW), with the ability to meet the average annual electricity needs of more than 1.2 million Scottish homes[1].

The project is being developed by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland Power leading the development, construction, and operation of the windfarm. Both companies are developers, owners and operators of renewable energy projects, with extensive global experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sector.

PROJECT NEEDS & BENEFITS

Reducing our carbon emissions is key in preventing potential catastrophic climate change scenarios. Scotland has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2045; a key contributor to achieving this goal will be a significant increase in clean energy from offshore wind. Spiorad na Mara has the capability to reduce harmful carbon emissions by more than 1.7 million tonnes every year, making a substantial contribution towards Scotland's emission reduction targets and energy security.

Locally, Spiorad na Mara will provide new opportunities for the island and its communities.

- We are working to develop a multi-million-pound community investment package over the lifetime of the project which will directly benefit local people. This is expected to include a significant community benefit fund being established, with local voices at the heart of determining how the money is invested in the needs of the local area.
- There are also expected to be between 80 and 120 new permanent long-term jobs created, which will last the project lifetime, and between 750 and 1,000 new temporary jobs created throughout the construction phase. Vacancies will be advertised widely at the time they become available, including on our website, providing local people with the opportunity to apply for roles within the project.
- To help fill the available job roles, we will also invest in skills development, employment training and apprenticeships in the local area.

1.2 MILLION

...Scottish homes whose average annual electricity consumption could be met with renewable electricity.

1.7 MILLION

..tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

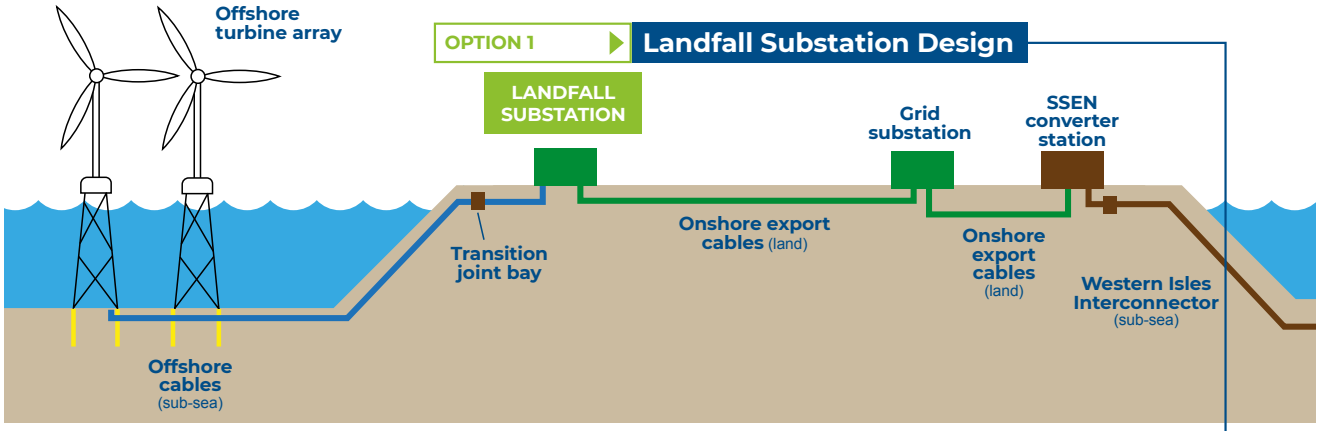
£MILLIONS

...put into community investment package.

1. More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078 kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics) together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900MW.

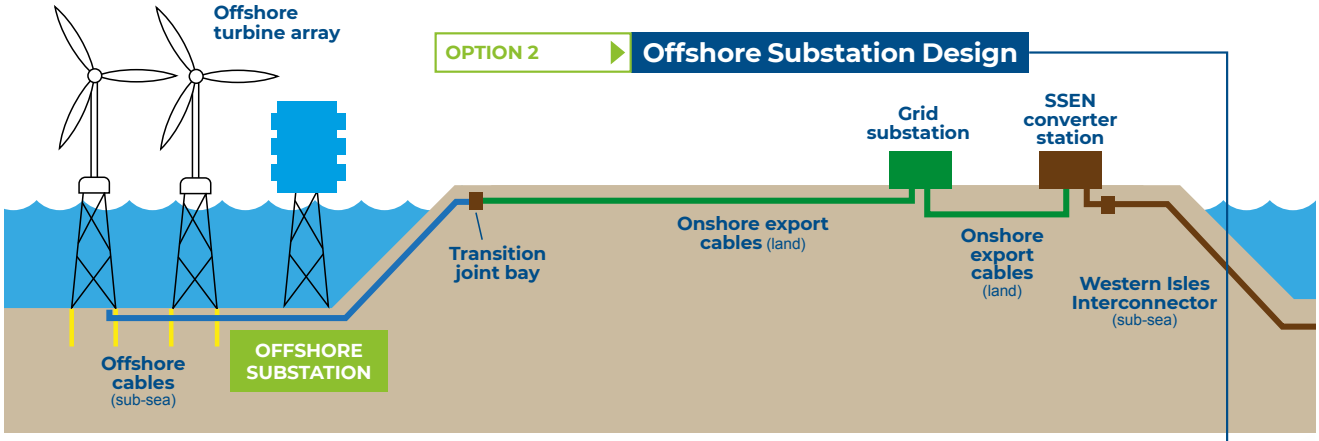
OVERVIEW OF KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

A typical offshore windfarm consists of a number of different elements. The illustrations below provide an overview of these elements, using two potential options being considered for the Spiorad na Mara project. They also show how these elements connect in the case of each option.



This option uses two onshore substations *(no offshore substation platform(s))*:

- A landfall substation located on the west coast of Lewis near the landfall which gathers the electricity generated by the wind turbines, transforms and prepares it for transmission to the grid substation; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.



This option uses an offshore substation platform(s)):

- Up to three offshore substation platforms located within the array area combined with interconnector cable(s) between platforms; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

GLOSSARY

ARRAY AREA

Seabed area which the project has an option to lease from Crown Estate Scotland and where the generating infrastructure *(wind turbines and offshore cables)* would be installed.

WIND TURBINES

Energy generating infrastructure which includes a tower, rotor blades, a generator and a foundation to enable the conversion of wind into electricity.

OFFSHORE CABLES

Electrical cables that connect individual turbines together which then connect to the project substation.

LANDFALL LOCATION

An area on the coast where the offshore cable(s) or array cable(s) meet at the shoreline. A Transition Joint Bay is an underground concrete box where the offshore cables are joined to the onshore cables that lead to the onshore substation.

ONSHORE EXPORT CABLES

Electrical cables that transport the electricity onshore from the landfall location to the onshore grid substation and into the national grid.

GRID SUBSTATION

An onshore substation which holds the electrical equipment required to connect the windfarm to the national grid. This will be located near the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) converter station, which is being built as part of SSEN's plans to improve the connectivity of the Isle of Lewis to the national grid.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BASE/LOCATION

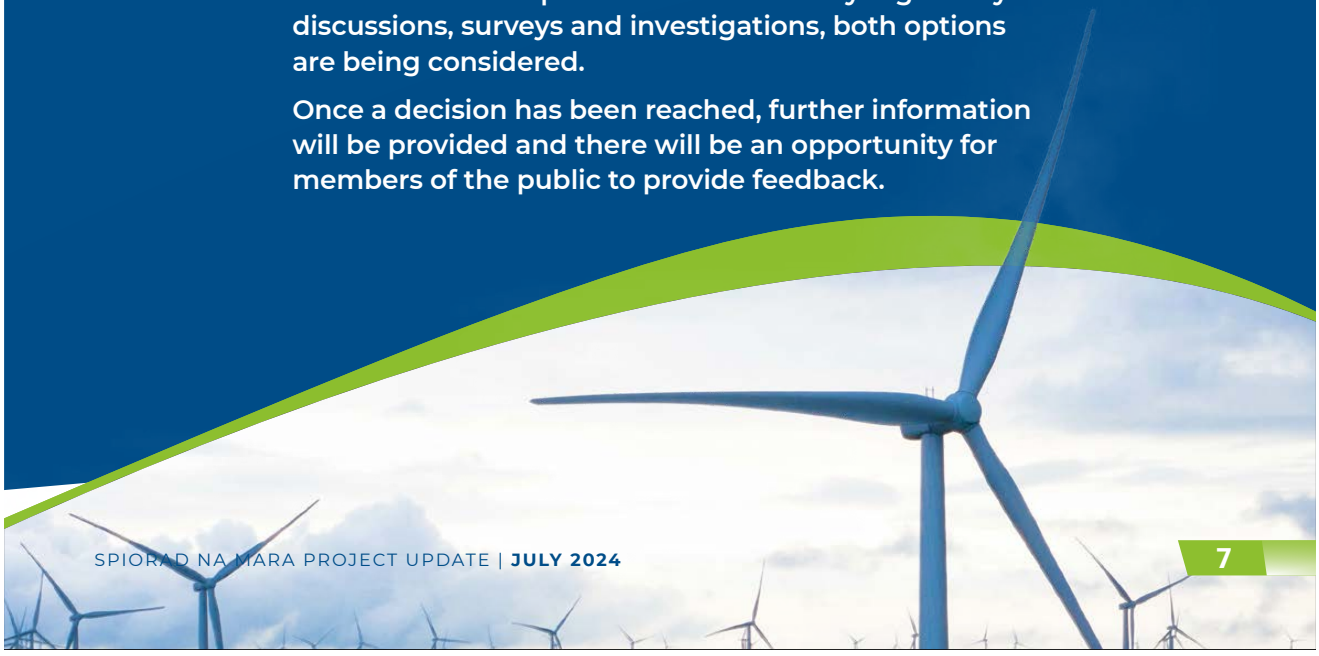
A base that typically provides office space, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities that support service vessel access from a coastal location.

This is not shown in the illustrations on the opposite page, but further information is provided on Page 15 of this update.

As the project is still at an early stage, we are still investigating whether it would be best to have the substation associated with the windfarm built offshore or onshore.

There are many variables which affect this decision and, until we have completed all the necessary regulatory discussions, surveys and investigations, both options are being considered.

Once a decision has been reached, further information will be provided and there will be an opportunity for members of the public to provide feedback.



TIMELINE & MILESTONES

CLÀR-AMA AGUS CLACHAN-MÌLE

KEY ACTIVITIES

Site Selection

2020-2021

2 YEARS

Site selection was undertaken by Scottish Government as part of the ScotWind leasing round.



Development

2022-2027

5 YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- Detailed site surveys *(onshore and offshore)*, including:
  - Geophysical
  - Geotechnical
  - Environmental
  - Cultural and heritage
  - Noise
  - Hydrology
  - Peat
  - Engineering
  - Social
- Evaluate business case
- Wind monitoring
- Engineering design, including turbine size, layout, foundation type and electrical infrastructure
- Secure grid connection & tarriff
- Procurement and financing
- Secure consents
- Feasibility studies



Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received and following local consultation and feedback, Spiorad na Mara could begin construction in 2028 and be operational by 2031.

Above is an indicative project timeline, showing the various stages of development and key activities and milestones on the journey.

As there are multiple factors – internal and external – which can affect the development of a project, this timeline is subject to change.

Our project website **www.spioradnamara.co.uk** will be updated with any changes to this timeline and we will also inform stakeholders directly as we progress.

Pre-Construction

2027-2028

2 YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Final design and construction strategy
- Discharge any planning consent conditions
- Secure contracts, including manufacture and installation of foundations, wind turbines, cable and vessels
- Refine Operations & Maintenance strategy



Construction

2028-2031

3 YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Transportation of components to site
- Installing foundations
- Installing transition pieces
- Installing nacelles and wind
- Installing substation(s)
- Laying offshore cables
- Laying cables on land and into SSEN electricity substation and onto the national grid
- Commissioning the windfarm

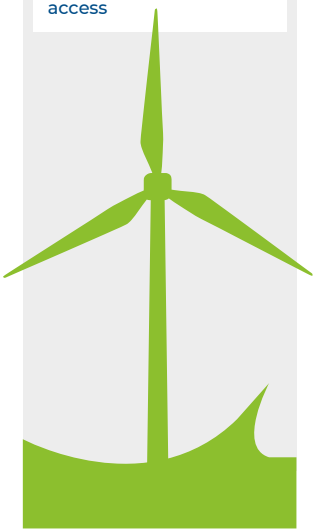


Operations & Maintenance

2031-2066

35+ YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Manage usage and availability of turbines
- Maintenance, inspection, repair and servicing of wind turbines
- Substation maintenance and service
- Use of appropriate vessels on site
- O&M work may include an option to use a helicopter, when weather prevents vessel access

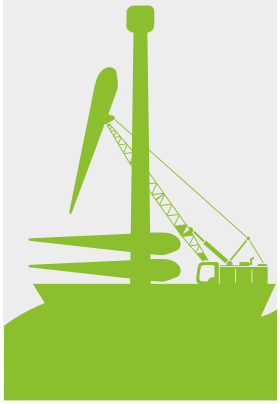


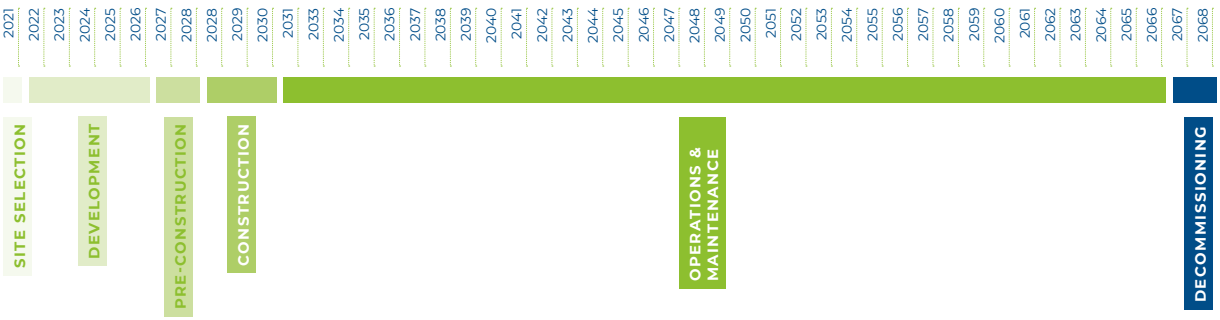
Decommissioning

2067+

2+ YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Decommissioning plans are required as part of application for planning consent
- Removal of project infrastructure, in line with decommissioning plan






PROJECT UPDATES
ÙRACHAIDHEAN PRÒISEICT
"In the section that follows, we summarise the broad parameters of the project"
Last September, we submitted a Scoping Report to the Marine Directorate (who has responsibility for consenting offshore wind projects in Scotland), setting out how we intend to carry out our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and what topics we propose to cover.
The Scoping Report covers the maximum possible parameters to ensure that studies include all eventualities. This is why phrases such as 'up to' a particular number are used throughout the Scoping Report and in this update, as the project is still at an early stage and many alternative options are being considered to work out the best combination taking account of local views, technical feasibility, environmental concerns and many other factors.
During the consultation period on this, extensive feedback was received from a variety of sources, including statutory consultees, environmental and wildlife groups, marine associations and community organisations. The Marine Directorate also provided its own formal opinion on the report. All of this feedback has been analysed and will be considered as we progress our EIA studies and assessments.
Surveys to inform our EIA started in 2022, with various surveys still ongoing, and the data gathered to date is currently being analysed. Once this phase of data gathering and analysis has completed, we will progress the full EIA studies. In the section that follows, we summarise the broad parameters of the project, as set out in the Scoping Report, while also indicating what work remains to be done and what we hope to be able to share with you during our first phase of public consultation later this year.
10
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

OFFSHORE PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE
BUN-STRUCTAIR PRÒISEACT FAR-CHLADACH

> ***The capacity can be reached by a smaller number of larger turbines or a larger number of smaller turbines.***

WIND TURBINES

The project could consist of up to 66 wind turbines, which will be fixed to the seabed and spread out across the approximately 161 km² array area.

Each wind turbine has a tower section, a nacelle (which houses the generating components of the turbine), three rotor blades and associated support structures and foundations. The project is considering a range of wind turbine generators that could be installed in the project array area. Within the scoping report the project has presented individual wind turbines that could be between 15-27MW and up to 380m high. In order to refine these assumptions, the project is continuing discussions with the supply chain with updates expected later in 2024. The capacity can be reached by a smaller number of larger turbines or a larger number of smaller turbines.

Lighting and navigation markings of the wind turbines are very important for safe navigation of sea and air users. The lighting and marking will be agreed with consultees and will follow the policies and best practice guidance from aviation and shipping and navigation authorities. The use of lighting and markings will be carefully considered in relation to many topics within the Environmental Impact Assessment. The approach to how this will be assessed is outlined in our Scoping Report.

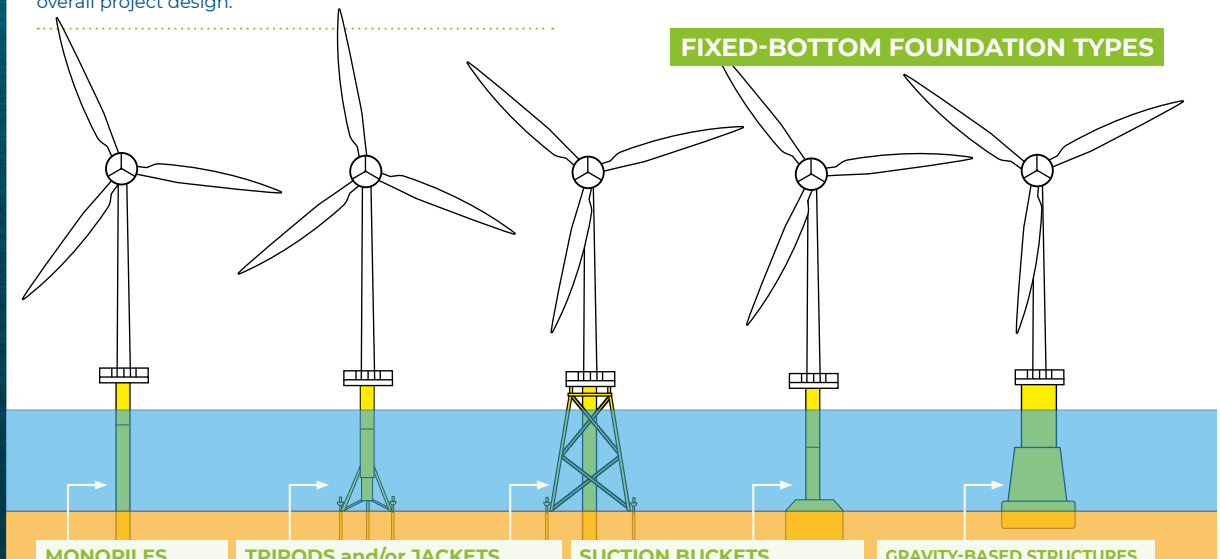
FOUNDATIONS

The wind turbines will be connected to the seabed using fixed-bottom foundations.

Examples of fixed-bottom foundation types are shown below. There is a possibility that more than one of these foundation types could be used across the array area, due to site conditions. This decision will be informed by the data that has been collected about the seabed during the geophysical and geotechnical survey investigations, along with feedback received. The decision will form part of the overall project design.

During our first phase of public consultation, we will share indicative layout options for the turbines, including photomontages of what the project could look like from multiple vantage points along the west coast of Lewis. We will also share more information on the foundation options we are considering at that stage and seek feedback on both elements.

FIXED-BOTTOM FOUNDATION TYPES



MONOPILES
Single steel piles driven into the seabed.

TRIPODS and/or JACKETS
Steel lattice structures supported either by smaller piles driven into the seabed or suction buckets.

SUCTION BUCKETS
Steel or concrete structures using suction to secure the foundation to the seabed.

GRAVITY-BASED STRUCTURES
Concrete structures that sit on the seabed and rely on their weight to provide the required stability.

OFFSHORE CABLES

Offshore cables will be required to connect the wind turbines to each other and subsequently to the project substation. The final routing and number of cables that will connect the array area to the shore will be dependent on the final landfall location *(currently under review)*. The area of seabed that has been surveyed by the project to feed into the design work for the cables routing is shown in the map on page 13.

> ***The Project would connect to an onshore grid substation on the east of Lewis, which is expected to be via the use of underground export cables.***

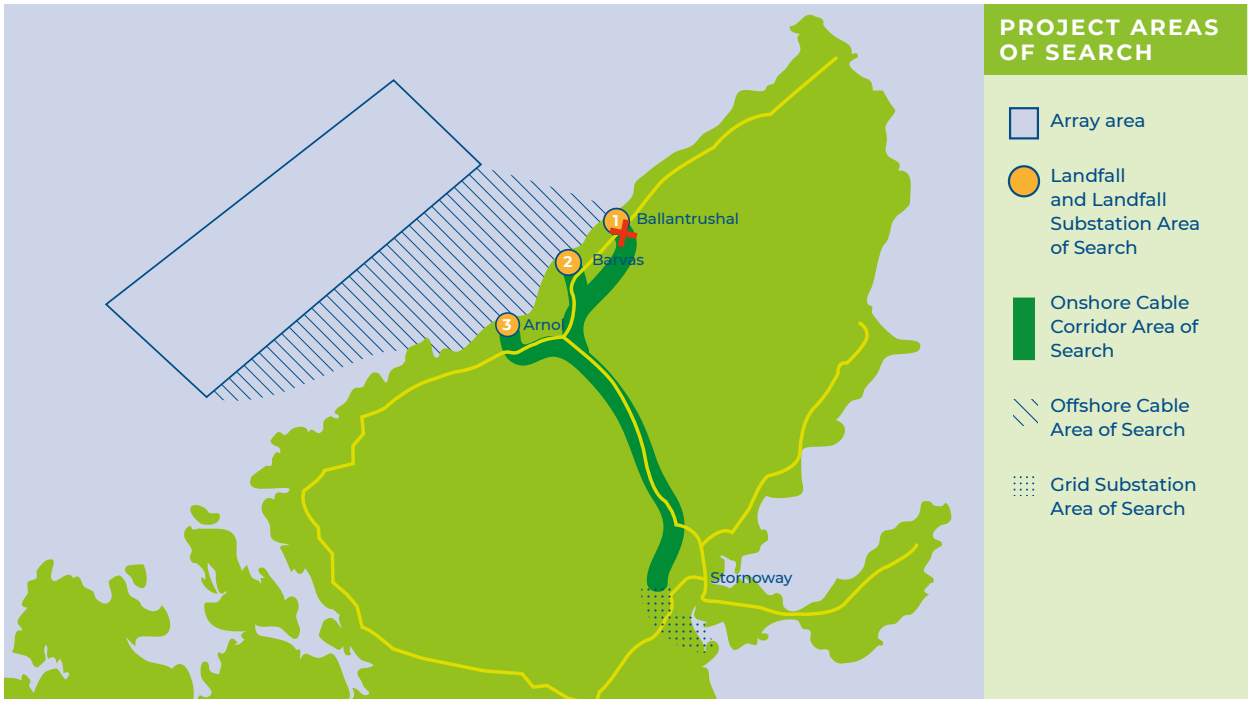
OFFSHORE SUBSTATION(S)

Two options are being considered for converting the generated electricity to match the requirements of the grid. The first option is an onshore substation near landfall with no need for any offshore substation(s) *(Option 1)* and the second option *(Option 2)* is an offshore substation(s) within the array area. Both would connect to an onshore grid substation on the east of Lewis, which is expected to be via the use of underground export cables. Please see the graphics on page 6 which show these options.

Further offshore assessments – including seabed, wind, marine ecology, shipping and navigation considerations and marine archaeology - are ongoing in order to create a full picture of the offshore conditions in and around the Spiorad na Mara site. During public consultation, we will provide more detail on the various options under consideration and updated information on the progress of this assessment work.



LANDFALL LOCATION
SUIDHEACHADH 'TIGHINN GU TÌR



In order to connect the windfarm to the national grid, subsea electricity cables will be brought ashore - *i.e. make 'landfall'* - to connect to onshore cables. The subsea cables will be connected to the onshore cables in a Transition Joint Bay (TJB).

The TJB is a small concrete box, which is sealed and buried and is not visible at ground level. The onshore cables will then transport the electricity to the grid substation *(on the east side of the island, close to the SSEN converter station)*. If the project decides to use a landfall substation in place of an offshore substation(s), this will be located between the TJB and the onshore cables.

Last year, a shortlist of three broad areas of search were identified as potential landfall locations on the west side of the island. These are shown in the map above. In order to identify the most suitable landfall location, a number of studies are required and this process began with the commencement of surveys in April 2023.

As a result of those studies, and feedback from stakeholders, the northernmost landfall option *(marked with a red X in the above illustration)* has been discounted and no further studies will be undertaken at this location.

At the two remaining locations *(the orange circles)*, further surveys, ground investigations and other studies will take place in the coming months. The outputs from these, together with feedback from ongoing engagement and consultation, will inform where the final preferred landfall location will be.

To select the landfall location, we are undertaking a range of onshore surveys, some of which commenced in April 2023 and are expected to continue through to the end of summer 2024. These include:

- **Breeding and wintering bird surveys**
- **Ecology surveys** *(including protected species surveys, plants, and animals)*
- **Cultural heritage surveys**
- **Background noise surveys**
- **Hydrology surveys**
- **Peat surveys**
- **Engineering surveys**

During Phase 1 of public consultation, we will provide more detail on how these options are progressing and which locations within the areas of search are being taken forward.

CONNECTION TO THE ELECTRICITY GRID
CEANGAL RIS A' GHRIOD DEALAIN

ONSHORE SUBSTATION(S)

In order to send the electricity generated at Spiorad na Mara to Scottish homes and businesses, an upgraded grid connection is needed on Lewis. This connection will need onshore infrastructure, including an onshore substation *(the grid substation)* close to the SSEN converter station, and potentially another substation near landfall *(the landfall substation)*.

The project will be connected to the national grid at the SSEN converter station associated with the upgraded Western Isles Link Interconnector. Our grid substation will need to be located close to the SSEN converter station. Further work will be undertaken when the final location of the SSEN converter station is known.

During Phase 1 of public consultation, we expect to be in a position to share the following:

- **The most up to date position on the cable route corridors and route options being considered**
- **A status update on associated surveys and other studies.**
- **The most up-to-date position on the options we are considering for all substation locations.**

Feedback gathered during consultation will be used to inform the final selections made in relation to these onshore elements.

ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE

Onshore cables will transmit the electricity from the landfall to the SSEN converter station. Depending on the cable route and design option chosen, this will likely involve underground cables leading from the landfall location *(on the west side of the island)* to the SSEN converter station *(on the east side)*.

The green corridors in the map on page 13 show the areas of search being considered for the onshore cable route. A similar range of surveys to those required for selection of the landfall, along with ground investigations, will be undertaken to determine the final route.

Following the feedback we have received through the Scoping process, including responses from community organisations, we can confirm that it is now our intention to underground the onshore cables.

> ***"Following feedback received, it is now our intention to underground the onshore cables."***



OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE
OBRACHAIDHEAN & OBRACH-CÀRAIDH

All offshore wind projects need to be operated and maintained, safely and efficiently, throughout their lifespan. Typically, this important work is carried out from an operations and maintenance base located at a coastal location close to the windfarm site, allowing for easy and swift access by service vessels from shore. However, it is also possible to do this work using offshore service vessels, with no fixed onshore base.

While much work remains to be done on this part of the project *(and it is generally led by the wind turbine generator contractor that is appointed later in the project),* it is our preference to have an onshore operations and maintenance base, which would be the long-term, community-based home of the project.

A feasibility study has commenced to assess various options and locations along the coast of Lewis which might be suitable for such a base. It is expected that some preliminary outputs from this assessment will be available later this year.

An onshore operations and maintenance base usually consists of offices, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities, and an operations control centre, to facilitate operations and maintenance services for the windfarm during its lifespan.

It is estimated that 80 to 120 long-term jobs will be created during the operations phase of the Spiorad na Mara project – across maintenance, engineering, administration, and other areas – and these will be largely located at the operations and maintenance base. There will also be local training and apprenticeship opportunities associated with this phase of the project.

> ***"It is estimated that 80 to 120 long-term jobs will be created during the operations phase of the Spiorad na Mara project."***



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

MEASADH BUAIDH ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a study to measure the potential environmental effects of a proposed project, in this case the development of an offshore windfarm.

In the UK, EIAs for offshore windfarms assess various factors, including the impact on ecosystems, air and water quality, and local communities. Through this assessment, potential risks and opportunities are identified and measures are put forward to minimise or reduce adverse effects. This ensures that the project is developed in such a way as to reduce the overall impact of it on the surrounding area and to protect the environment for current and future generations.

The results from the EIA are reported in an EIA Report *(EIAR)* which will be submitted along with the key project consent documents to the regulatory authorities. For Spiorad na Mara, the key consents application is expected to be submitted in the first half of 2025 to the Marine Directorate's Licensing Operations Team *(MD-LOT)*.

The EIA process is split into stages including:

- **SCOPING** - The area that will potentially be affected by the development is determined for each topic, survey methodologies agreed and a catalogue of information requirements produced, in order to gather the correct baseline information to ensure that the impact assessment can consider potential impacts for the whole project lifecycle;
- **IMPACT ASSESSMENT** – The EIA is undertaken, and physical, biological and human receptors are assessed against the potential impacts of the project. Everything is measured against the baseline conditions that are recorded during the environmental surveys that were agreed through the scoping process. Other environmental and social surveys are also undertaken at this stage; and
- **MANAGEMENT & MONITORING** – Project commitments are set, and management and monitoring of impacts are defined, for the lifetime of the windfarm.

An important part of the EIA is the project-specific surveys and stakeholder consultation that are undertaken. The EIA Scoping Report produced by Spiorad na Mara has detailed information about the studies that were undertaken and are proposed to be undertaken to assess the potential impact of developing the project. You can read the report or download a copy from our website, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk**.

> ***"The EIA ensures that the project is developed in such a way as to reduce the overall impact of it on the surrounding area and to protect the environment for current and future generations."***





Another important aspect of the EIA will be an assessment of how the project may affect the people, communities, business and prosperity of the island, as well as its health and cultural heritage. As such, we will undertake a separate Social Impact Assessment *(see separate item on Page 20)* as part of the development process. This is not a requirement of the EIA, but will be used to inform it. It is one of the things Northland Power is committed to completing for all its projects all over the world, as part of its commitment to communities.

The EIA for Spiorad na Mara is being undertaken from the Glasgow office of an environmental consultancy called WSP (**www.wsp.com/en-gl**) with support from various specialist consultants, including experts based on the island.

The EIA will include the following topics:

"An important part of the EIA is the project-specific surveys and stakeholder consultation that are undertaken throughout."

OFFSHORE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS
Physical and Coastal Processes
Underwater Noise
Marine Sediment and Water Quality
Benthic and Intertidal Ecology
Fish and Shellfish Ecology
Marine Mammals and Other Megafauna
Marine and Nearshore Ornithology
Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Commercial Fisheries
Shipping and Navigation
Military and Civil Aviation
Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

ONSHORE SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Onshore Ecology
Onshore Ornithology
Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Traffic and Access
Peat, Geology, Soils and Contaminated Land
Hydrology and Hydrogeology
Airborne Noise and Vibration
Air Quality and Human Health
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

WHOLE PROJECT ASSESSMENTS
Climate including Carbon balance
Socio-Economics
Tourism, Recreation, Land and Marine Users

Updates are posted on our project website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk. In addition, engagement will take place with residents and community groups for activities that may have more direct, localised impacts.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Northland Power is a values-driven company, committed to building strong relationships with local communities. This is enshrined in the company's Commitment to Local Communities Policy, which has been endorsed at Board level.

Similarly, ESB takes its responsibility to local communities seriously and its commitments in this regard are set out clearly on its website.

Initial community engagement began in 2021 prior to the ScotWind leasing round decision, and is broadening and deepening all the time. Members of the project team are meeting and speaking with a wide variety of individuals and organisations across the island communities and we are eager to meet with others also. Contact details for key team members and for the project generally can be found at the end of this booklet and we encourage you to get in touch at any time if:

- You have queries about the project;
- You would like to meet with us;
- You would like us to visit or provide a project update to your organisation or group.

In order to facilitate better access to our project team, we have in June 2024 started a series of "community drop-ins" at four locations across the island. These are all venues in the heart of local communities, with which people in the area are very familiar. We hope that, in providing this service, it will be easier for people to meet with us on their doorstep to find out more about the project and ask any questions they wish to ask.

Further details on these community drop-ins, including venues, dates and times for the summer, are available on our website.

In addition to this on-the-ground engagement, our project website is regularly updated with all the latest news and developments on the project. We also issue press releases to all local media when any activities of relevance to local communities are taking place.

To stay informed, visit **www.spioradnamara.co.uk** or our project LinkedIn page.

> ***"Our project website is regularly updated with all the latest news and developments on the project."***





PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation is an essential part of the development process for all infrastructure projects, and at Spiorad na Mara we are committed to doing this well.

Before we submit our key consents application, we will hold two phases of public consultation, during which we will share details of our plans as they are developing and seek your feedback and input. Here is the most up-to-date timeline for these two phases of consultation, plus a brief summary of what each is about:

Among the consultation activities we are planning are:

A virtual exhibition on our website, containing detailed information about the project and an online feedback form, for 4-6 weeks;

A series of in-person public events at a variety of community-based locations on both the west and east sides of the island;

An opportunity for people to book individual and small-group meetings with project team members on topics of specific interest.

PHASE 1 AUTUMN 2024

During this first phase of public consultation, we will share our latest updates on all aspects of the project, including environmental and technical assessments, ground investigations and offshore and onshore surveys. The range of topics we will consult on will include: offshore array layout options; offshore cable route corridors; onshore cable route corridors; landfall and substation locations; Operations and Maintenance options (to the extent that these are matured); our Environmental Impact Assessment work; supply chain opportunities; and community benefits. Feedback will be invited on our initial plans as they are taking shape, which will inform how we seek to design the project in a way that best addresses the concerns and desires of local people, whilst also balancing relevant technical and environmental considerations

PHASE 2 EARLY 2025

Our second phase of consultation will be different in its emphasis, consultation and feedback elements. At this stage, all feedback from the first consultation will have been considered in detail and taken into account, as appropriate, as our plans have progressed. The focus during this consultation will be on sharing updates on progress since Phase 1, including potential mitigations that have been identified and seeking specific feedback on selected elements.



We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person events and make project personnel available for small-group or individual calls and in-person meetings.

We will advertise details of events – including specific dates, times and venues – extensively in local media outlets and through a range of community networks and their communications channels. This will be done several weeks ahead of the consultation starting. If you or anyone you know has additional needs or need any special requirements to help you to participate, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us so that we can make suitable arrangements.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
MEASADH BUAIDH SHÒISEALTA



The main purpose of a social impact assessment (SIA) is to identify how a project may impact communities, either directly or indirectly. An SIA looks at the ways society and community life could be changed by a development. This may include, but is not limited to, looking at effects on people's way of life, heritage and culture, community, health, safety and wellbeing, personal and property rights, concerns and aspirations.

The SIA allows the project team to firstly identify effects that may impact a community from all stages of the project, and from this explore ways to reduce, avoid or mitigate any negative effects and enhance any positive effects. It should also ensure that local knowledge and understanding of the broad social context in the area are used to inform the way that the project is built and operated if granted planning consent.

SIAs are carried out by independent agencies that ensure all perspectives are considered without bias. Northland have commissioned Atlantic58, an environmental consultancy based on the Isle of Lewis, to undertake this SIA in collaboration with ERM, a larger consultancy who have expertise in the global requirements of SIAs for projects of this scale. Independently, Atlantic58 is working with the University of the Highlands and Islands to develop a detailed assessment methodology which considers the unique social and cultural context of island settings, such as the Western Isles.

The SIA will involve a number of different tasks and stages, including:

- Desk-based analysis of available data and other information relating to community and social life on Lewis;
- Meeting with focus groups to understand people's priorities, values and concerns about the project;
- Assessing the findings and data in order to ascertain potential positive and negative impacts, as well as where those impacts could occur;
- In consultation with the community and according to professional judgement, how these effects could be best managed *(avoided, reduced or mitigated)* from a community perspective.

The SIA will help inform the wider socio-economic assessment that will form part of the EIA, which will then be taken into consideration during the planning application process.

Work on the SIA is just commencing and Atlantic58 will be engaging widely with community-based organisations, local stakeholders and others across the island as it progresses in the coming months.

> ***"SIA work on Northland projects is always undertaken by suitably qualified, independent companies with expertise in, and understanding of, the area in which those projects are being developed."***

If you are interested in having your views considered during the SIA, you are invited to contact Atlantic58 directly via email: sia@atlantic58.co.uk, or phone: 01851 827310



COMMUNITY BENEFIT

BUANNACHD COIMHEARSNACHD

It is important that, where large projects are being developed in close proximity to communities, those communities receive benefits from those projects. For the Spiorad na Mara project there will be a multi-million-pound community benefit package, which will be delivered over the lifetime of the project.

The community benefit package could, for example, include an investment fund, sponsorship and donation programmes, support for households to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills, support for educational initiatives, and a wide range of other opportunities.

These are just some examples of what can be delivered. The scope of the community benefit package is still under development with future options to be consulted upon with local communities and their representatives, with actual programmes being determined by the needs of the community, ultimately delivering long-term investment and local benefits over the decades of the project's operational life.

While the Scottish Government has committed to publish guidelines around community benefit for ScotWind projects, which includes Spiorad na Mara, it is not expected that mandatory amounts or calculation mechanisms will form part of these. Nor is it expected that the guidance will be prescriptive in terms of the types of benefits that should be supported or provided. Allowance is expected for local communities to agree their own bespoke solution and Spiorad na Mara is committed to working together with local communities, helping to shape and deliver a substantial community benefits package.

The project team aims to develop a community benefit proposal which is unique and tailored to local needs and wishes. Once established, the proposal will be shared widely for further feedback and refinement. It is expected to include a community benefit fund which can be utilised over the lifetime of the project, which is expected to be a minimum of 35 years.

To ensure equity and transparency, our approach will be based on three key principles:

- **FAIRNESS:** As the project is located off the west coast of the island, this is the area that should stand to benefit most from the project.
- In addition, those areas where our onshore grid infrastructure will be sited should also benefit and we look forward to discussing and exploring initiatives with relevant community representative organisations to deliver island-wide value.
- **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT:** Communities are best placed to identify the needs in their own areas and to develop plans and programmes to meet those needs. It is our intention to provide a fund which, through collaboration with the relevant communities and in accordance with good governance practices, will be managed and administered locally.
- **COMMUNITY VALUE:** While the community fund will be managed by local communities, we will also look at other, non-monetary initiatives that can be supported as part of the project's development. This might include support for programmes, facilities or other initiatives associated with, for example, education, biodiversity, heritage or tourism. All such supports will be based on expressed community wishes and will be subject to consultation.

Further details on how our community benefit work is progressing will be provided during our public consultation in the autumn. At that time, we hope to be able to share some outline proposals, developed in conjunction with communities, on which you can provide feedback. In the meantime, however, please get in touch if you have any suggestions or ideas.



SUPPLY CHAIN
SLIGHE SOLAR

Spiorad na Mara represents a significant new energy infrastructure investment in Scotland and we are committed to maximising the opportunities available for local suppliers and other Scottish businesses.

Throughout the development, construction and operational phases, the Spiorad na Mara project will utilise a procurement process that aims to provide opportunities for local businesses, new entrants, and small and medium-sized enterprises to offer their services directly to us and our contractors of every tier. We aim to achieve this by:

- Gaining an awareness of the existing range of potential suppliers.
- Proactive involvement in developing new local sources of supply for the project and the wider industry.
- Ensuring the supply chain is made aware of the requirements for each stage of the project.
- Communicating the process of how to get involved either directly with the project or through their contractors.
- Sharing information with the project's potential main contractors of the existing local suppliers and potential new development opportunities.
- Making it an obligation for the project's contractors to provide opportunities to local suppliers.
- Working with other projects, support agencies and the wider industry to leverage greater opportunities to develop the supply chain and infrastructure.
- Hosting meet-the-buyer events.
- Providing feedback and advice to suppliers that register with us.

The project's shareholders are active participants in a number of initiatives intended to promote growth and deliver on the potential supply chain opportunities that the offshore wind industry can provide. As members of the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC), the project is involved with the supply chain clusters and the Strategic Investment Model (SIM) initiative that seeks to support investment in the infrastructure required to enable the industry to deliver its potential in Scotland.

> ***Spiorad na Mara will utilise a procurement process that aims to provide opportunities for local businesses to offer their services directly to us and our contractors of every tier.***



Businesses interested in getting involved in Spiorad na Mara are encouraged to complete the supply chain registration form, which can be found on our website, along with extensive information on the opportunities available, via the following links:

www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/spiorad-na-mara-supply-chain/

www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/supply-chain-registration/

COLLABORATION
CO-OBRACHADH

Spiorad na Mara is not the only energy infrastructure project proposed to take place on the Isle of Lewis in the next decade. We are very conscious of this and will continue to consider what else is planned around and alongside us.

Our aim is to be collaborative, to work with others – other renewable developers, support agencies, and local community and business organisations – to help maximise the opportunities for the Isle of Lewis. This includes job creation, supply chain and skills development, educational initiatives and tourism opportunities.

We are also very mindful of the potential challenges associated with multiple developments and these, too, will be considered and managed. Among these are accommodation, transport and connectivity.

If there are specific partnerships that you feel the project should be exploring, we would very much welcome this feedback. Feel free to email your ideas or suggestions to spioradnamara@northlandpower.com and we will be happy to arrange a follow-up discussion with you or any other relevant



FEEDBACK FIOS AIR AIS

Feedback is invaluable to our project and to ensuring that it develops in a way that aligns with the needs and interests of local communities. It is also an essential way for us to understand and address questions and concerns that local communities may have about the project.

Our two phases of public consultation will provide opportunities for feedback and anyone can make a submission. There will be multiple ways to do this, including:

- Completing an online feedback form;
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event and leaving it with us, or sending it back to us by post;
- Contacting us directly to have a feedback form posted to you, which you can send back to us free of charge;
- Providing feedback directly to our team members at any of our public consultation events or community drop-ins. They will record it and share it with the wider project team.

In addition to the consultation process, you can also share feedback with us directly at any time, by phoning, completing an online form or sending us an email. All contact details are provided at the end of this booklet.

Providing feedback is a way of ensuring that your voice is heard and that your views can be considered. Please take the time to do so, at any time and in whatever way is most convenient; it is invaluable.

WAYS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS:

ONLINE FORM | **HARD COPY FORM** | **POSTAL FORM** | **TALK TO THE TEAM**

GETTING IN TOUCH
CONALTRADH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives on the Western Isles/North west of Scotland.

You can contact us in the following ways:

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Denise Horan, Consultation and Local Engagement Lead

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Media enquiries:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Mar a chumas sinn oirnn a' cumadh agus a' dealbhadh a' phròiseict, tha ur beachdan air ais glè chudromach dhuinne.

Tha sinn airson cluinntinn bhuaibh agus tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri bhith a' togail air na dàimhean a chaidh a stèidheachadh mar-thà le coimhearsnachdan agus riochdairean bho luchd-ùidh sna h-Eileanan Siar/ iar-thuath na h-Alba.

Faodaidh sibh fios a chuir thugainn anns na dòighean a leanas:

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Denise Horan, Stiùiriche Co-chomhairleachaidh agus Ceangal Ionadail

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Ceistean meadhanan:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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FSC

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

APPENDIX F PC1 Consultation Materials

FEEDBACK FORM

Offshore Wind Project
Public Consultation *(Phase 1)*

CONTACT DETAILS

Name* (optional): .....

Email: .....

Would you like to receive project updates by email? If so, please tick the box ☐

Which exhibition did you attend:

- ☐ Clan MacQuarrie Centre
- ☐ Barvas and Brue Community Centre
- ☐ Old School Shawbost
- ☐ Stornoway Town Hall
- ☐ Carloway Community Centre
- ☐ Bernera Community Centre
- ☐ Uig Community Centre
- ☐ Virtual Exhibition Viewing

GENERAL OPINION

Based on the information shared in the exhibition materials, what is your overall opinion of the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project?

- ☐ Strongly Support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly Oppose

Please add any specific comments:

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS

ARRAY LAYOUT

What are your views on the two different, indicative offshore wind turbine array layouts presented within this exhibition? What factors are of greatest importance to you as this work progresses?

OFFSHORE CABLES

Are there specific considerations you would like us to take into account as we continue to refine the work on our offshore cable route options?

OFFSHORE SUBSTATION

What is your view of the potential offshore substation design option, as presented in these materials?

ONSHORE ELEMENTS

GRID SUBSTATION

Do you have specific feedback on the proposed onshore grid substation, or the current Area of Search *(in the Arnish and Creed Industrial Park area)* for this substation?

ONSHORE CABLES

What are the considerations of greatest importance to you as we progress our work on the design of the onshore cable route? Is there anything in particular you would like us to take into account?

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Work on the operations and maintenance approach to the project is at a very early stage. What factors are most important, in your view, as this work progresses?

LANDFALL

LOCATION

What are your views on the three Areas of Interest (2a, 2b and 3) and Emerging Preferred Site (2b) presented in these materials? What is of greatest importance to you as we continue to progress this work?

LANDFALL SUBSTATION

What is your view of the potential landfall substation design option presented in these materials?

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

How concerned are you about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project?

- ☐ Very Concerned
- ☐ Concerned
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Slightly Concerned
- ☐ Not Concerned

Please add any relevant comments:

Are there specific environmental considerations that you would like us to pay particular attention to throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment process?

Are there specific human, social or cultural considerations that you would like us to pay particular attention to throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment process?

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

GENERAL

How important do you think the potential economic benefits (e.g. job creation, skills development, supply chain opportunities) of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project are for the community?

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Slightly Important
- ☐ Not Important

Please add any relevant comments:

JOB CREATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Do you have specific suggestions on how we can maximise the potential for local job creation throughout the project, particularly during the operations phase? Are there specific skills development initiatives we should consider?

SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITIES

How can we support the involvement of the local supply chain in the development of the project, if it progresses?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How effective is the Spiorad na Mara team's engagement with the community and provision of information about the project?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very effective
- ☐ Not at all effective

Please add any relevant comments:

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Last month, we committed to a £4.5m per annum, index-linked community benefit fund for the west coast of the island, to be delivered over the operational lifetime of the project. There will be a separate consultation process on this, supported by an independent company, in the months ahead. However, we welcome any comments or suggestions you have at this stage on this fund and/or on how potential benefits could be delivered to other parts of the island.

Please add any relevant comments:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional comments or concerns you have about the proposed Spiorad na Mara project.

THIS CONSULTATION

We aim to hold our second phase of public consultation on the project in early 2025. To help make this as effective as possible, we would appreciate your feedback on this current consultation. How effective have you found the online exhibition and/or the in-person events?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very effective
- ☐ Not at all effective

Please provide any specific comments you have in relation to this consultation:

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please place your completed form in the box provided in the venue or give it to a member of the team.

If you wish to complete and return it later, please ask a team member for a stamped addressed envelope in which the form can be returned.

The deadline for receipt of completed feedback forms for consideration as part of Phase 1 consultation is Friday, 25th October.

**All contact details shared will be used in accordance with GDPR regulations and in line with our Privacy Policy, which is available on our website, https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/privacy-policy/.*

WELCOME & OVERVIEW
FÀILTE & RO-SHEALLADH

1

Fàilte!

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for our first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

Spiorad na Mara is a key project that can contribute to Scotland's efforts to tackle the global climate emergency while benefiting Scottish communities by providing greater energy security and generating additional investment for the local, regional, and national economies.

The project is being developed by Northland Power *(75.5%)* and ESB *(24.5%)*, with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation of the windfarm. Both companies are developers, owners and operators of renewable energy projects, with extensive global experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sector.

Anticipated to have a capacity of approximately 900MW, Spiorad na Mara has the potential to power 1.2 million Scottish homes through homegrown wind energy while reducing harmful carbon emissions by more than 1.7 million tonnes every year.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

"Spiorad na Mara is a key project that can contribute to Scotland's efforts to tackle the global climate emergency"

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE	
2025	Submission of planning applications
2028	Potential start of construction
2030	The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland, which will support Spiorad na Mara and other proposed projects.
2031	Expected date when the windfarm could be operational
35 Years	Anticipated operating life of windfarm

CONSENTING TIMELINE

Following our two periods of consultation, this one and a second in early 2025, and the finalisation of our Environmental Impact Assessment, the project intends to submit its consent applications in 2025.

Subject to a successful outcome, the construction of Spiorad na Mara could begin in 2028 and the project could be operational by 2031.

PARTNER INTRODUCTIONS

NORTHLAND POWER

The primary focus of Northland Power is to build a sustainable and carbon-neutral world. With Scottish headquarters based in Edinburgh and a project office in Stornoway, and over 1,000 employees worldwide, Northland Power is a global power producer dedicated to helping the clean energy transition by producing electricity from clean renewable resources.

Founded in 1987, Northland Power has a long history of developing, building, owning, and operating clean and green power infrastructure assets and is a global leader in offshore wind.

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB

ESB has been Ireland's foremost energy company since it was established in 1927, driven by an unwavering commitment to power society forward and deliver a net zero future for customers and communities.

Launched in 2022, its 'Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040' strategy sets out a clear roadmap for ESB to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. ESB are involved in six offshore wind projects in Scotland, which complements a 1,200MW pipeline of onshore windfarms.

ESB Energy for generations

75.5%	24.5%

PROJECT OWNERSHIP



CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK

CO-CHOMHAIRLE & FIOS AIR AIS

2

At Spiorad na Mara we are committed to ensuring there is comprehensive and meaningful consultation as part of the development of the project. To ensure this, we are holding two phases of public consultation prior to the submission of our planning applications.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

PHASES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

PHASE 1: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

- Information on onshore and offshore project aspects.
- Information on environmental and technical assessments.
- Opportunity to provide feedback, which will inform project progress.

PHASE 2: EARLY 2025

- Updates and progress made since the Phase 1 consultation, including actions taken as a result of feedback received.
- Opportunity for further feedback on updated project proposals.

CONSULTATION FOR FISHING COMMUNITY

- Richard Joseph is your dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and Calum Macleod is your Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR). Both have been engaging with the local fishing community for the last two years.
- Their contact details are available on the 'Getting in Touch' information board or by speaking to a member of the team
- We are also holding dedicated consultation meetings for the fishing community as part of this consultation process. Separate invitations have been sent for these.

"We are committed to ensuring that information about the Spiorad na Mara project is accessible to everyone."

CURRENT CONSULTATION *(PHASE 1)*

Runs from 23rd September 2024 to 23rd October 2024

Three main components:

VIRTUAL CONSULTATION ROOM

- Our online exhibition is currently open and accessible on the Spiorad na Mara website.
- It includes all the information you are accessing here, as well as more detailed information on project elements, environmental impact assessment, benefits, and visuals.
- There is also an online feedback form.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

- Seven exhibitions at various venues from 24th September to 3rd October.
- Opportunity to speak with the project team in person.

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS

- 20 hours of appointments for detailed discussions.
- Held at accessible community locations (three on the west side and two in Stornoway).
- There are still some appointments; please book via our website or by phone, or speak to a member of our team today.

INCLUSIVITY COMMITMENT

- We are committed to ensuring that information about the Spiorad na Mara project is accessible to everyone.
- Information is available online, in hard copy and at these in-person events.
- Dates and locations for all events have been publicised in local media and community networks.
- We want everyone to have the opportunity to learn about, and give feedback on, the Spiorad na Mara project so if you know of anyone with special requirements to allow them to take part in this consultation, please let a member of the team know.

WAYS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS:

ONLINE FORM | HARD COPY FORM | CALL OR EMAIL | TALK TO THE TEAM

Contact details are on the 'Getting in Touch' board or please speak to a member of our team.

NEXT STEPS

We will publish a summary report of all the consultation feedback and responses we have received.



PROJECT NEED & BENEFITS
FEUM & BUANNACHDAN A' PHRÒISEICT

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Reducing our carbon emissions is crucial in preventing potential catastrophic climate change scenarios.

Scotland has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2045; a key contributor to achieving this goal will be a significant increase in renewable energy from offshore wind.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

The Scottish Government's ScotWind leasing round, which took place in 2022, was the first round of offshore wind leasing in Scottish waters for a decade. It enabled developers to apply for seabed rights to plan and build offshore windfarms within pre-defined areas, and Northland was successful in securing an option agreement for the Spiorad na Mara site as part of this process.

In addition to their major contribution to Scotland's net zero targets, ScotWind projects also present business opportunities as their construction, operation and maintenance could attract billions of pounds in investment and generate new employment opportunities in our Scottish communities.

PROJECT BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL



Spiorad na Mara will provide new opportunities for the island and its communities while contributing to the wider Scottish goal of net zero by 2045.

With a capacity of around 900MW, it will meet the average annual electricity needs of approximately 1.2 million Scottish homes.

1.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions saved annually.

SOCIAL



Multi million-pound community investment over the lifetime of the project.

New opportunities for the local supply chain.

Working in partnership with local communities.

Education and training opportunities.

Encouraging local employment, subcontracting and material supply.

ECONOMIC



Between 80 and 120 new and permanent jobs will be created, for at least 35 years.

We aim to keep as many of these jobs as possible on the island, to boost the local economy and utilise local knowledge and skills.

During construction, we expect to create between 750 and 1,000 temporary jobs.



Spiorad na Mara

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

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A typical offshore windfarm consists of a number of elements, all of which combine to enable energy from offshore wind to be harnessed, converted to electricity and delivered into the national grid, for use in homes, businesses and industry throughout the country.

In the case of the Spiorad na Mara project, two design options are still being considered. These two options have the same elements in common except for the substation that collects and converts the electricity gathered from the wind turbines. Design Option 1 includes a landfall substation and Option 2 has an offshore substation(s) design:

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

OPTION 1 ▶ Landfall Substation Design

This option uses two onshore substations *(no offshore substation(s))* as follows:

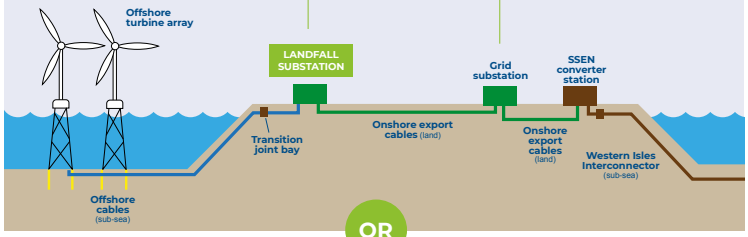
SUBSTATION 1

A landfall substation located on the west coast of Lewis near the landfall which gathers the electricity generated by the wind turbines, transforms and prepares it for transmission to the grid substation;

AND

SUBSTATION 2

A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.



OR

OPTION 2 ▶ Offshore Substation Design

This option uses one or more offshore substation(s):

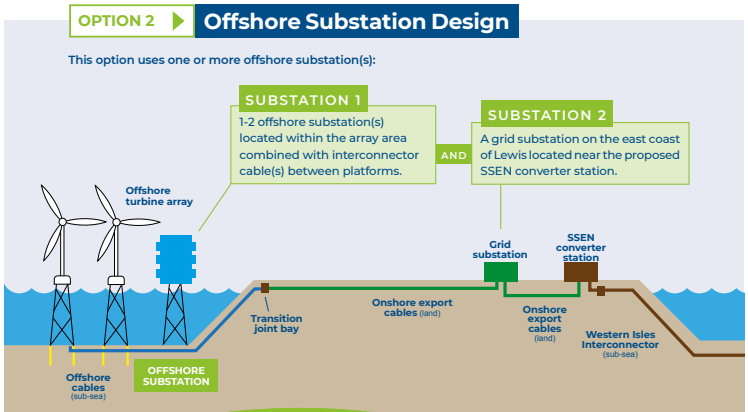
SUBSTATION 1

1-2 offshore substation(s) located within the array area combined with interconnector cable(s) between platforms.

AND

SUBSTATION 2

A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.





OFFSHORE ELEMENTS

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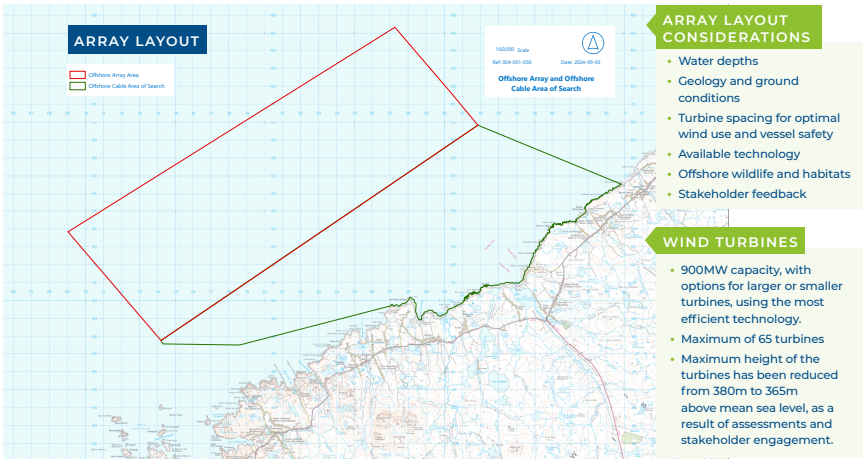
The project could consist of up to 65 fixed-bottom wind turbines located within the 161km² array area shown in the map below. Foundations will be required to put these in place on the seabed. In addition, a number of offshore cables will be required, to transport the power generated, as described below.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

ARRAY LAYOUT



ARRAY LAYOUT CONSIDERATIONS

- Water depths
- Geology and ground conditions
- Turbine spacing for optimal wind use and vessel safety
- Available technology
- Offshore wildlife and habitats
- Stakeholder feedback

WIND TURBINES

- 900MW capacity, with options for larger or smaller turbines, using the most efficient technology.
- Maximum of 65 turbines
- Maximum height of the turbines has been reduced from 380m to 365m above mean sea level, as a result of assessments and stakeholder engagement.

PHOTOMONTAGES

As part of this consultation, we are presenting two potential layout options: one with 65 smaller turbines, plus an offshore substation, and one with 48 larger turbines. Photomontages showing these two layout options from a range of viewpoints along the west coast can be viewed elsewhere in this room. Please ask a member of the team to assist you.

It is important to note that these are indicative layout options only.

FOUNDATIONS

- The wind turbines will use fixed-bottom foundations - jacket foundations *(steel lattice structures)* supported either by piles or by gravity-based structures.
- The type of foundation used will depend on site conditions, port capabilities, supply chain, installation processes and further surveys that we will undertake between 2024 and 2026.

OFFSHORE CABLES

- These include inter-array, inter-connector, and export cables.
- The placement of the cables depends on their purpose, the layout of the turbines, any required offshore substation(s) within the array area, seabed conditions, potential obstructions, and the landfall location.
- We are currently assessing two cable system options:
  - Direct connection of inter-array cables to an onshore substation at a landfall site.
  - Connection via an offshore substation(s), which would remove the need for an onshore substation at landfall.

PROGRESS & SURVEYS

- In 2023, a programme of offshore surveys was carried out within the array area and the offshore cable area of search. This included geophysical surveys and preliminary ground investigation (GI) studies, which provided seabed and ground condition information. Analysis of this data has given us a better understanding of the site from a physical, environmental and ecological perspective.
- Subtidal Environmental Characterisation was completed in October 2023, informed by the data collected during the geophysical surveys. This aids our understanding of the species and habitats present, as well as the sediments which make up the seabed.
- Two years of aerial marine mammal and bird surveys have been completed and the results have informed the EIA process and relevant assessments.
- Ongoing Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) commenced in January 2024, building our understanding of the marine mammal species in the area, while fish tracking surveys commenced in April 2024.

SAFETY

Safety is a top priority and we are collaborating closely with a range of maritime stakeholders around a number of key safety considerations, including:

- **Appropriate marking on UK Hydrographic Office Admiralty Charts;**
- **Sharing information on project vessel routes, timings, locations, and safety zones;**
- **Managing project vessel movements through effective marine coordination and communication;**
- **Implementing and monitoring suitable cable protection measures;**
- **Appropriate lighting and navigation markings to ensure safe navigation for sea and air users;**
- **Safety zones of up to 500m during construction and major maintenance and up to 50m during windfarm operation;**
- **Spacing of approximately 900m between the wind turbines.**

NEXT STEPS

In the next few months, site-specific data collected will be used to complete more detailed technical feasibility studies that will be used during our EIA work in 2025.

In Phase 2 of consultation, we will share further updates on our offshore work and an updated indicative layout.

Further GI and supply chain engagement in the coming years will enable completion of foundation design and windfarm layout development.



LANDFALL
TÌR

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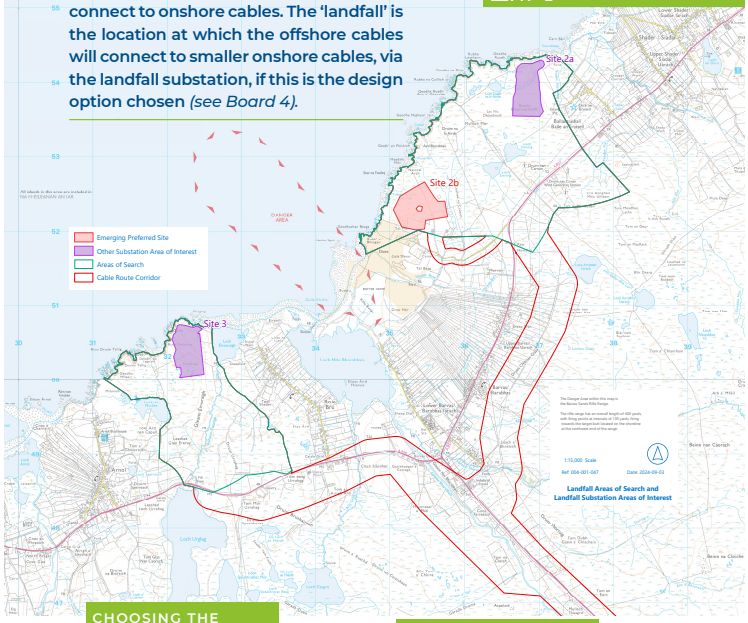
In order to connect the windfarm to the national grid, offshore cables will be brought ashore – i.e. 'make landfall' – to connect to onshore cables. The 'landfall' is the location at which the offshore cables will connect to smaller onshore cables, via the landfall substation, if this is the design option chosen *(see Board 4)*.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



CHOOSING THE LANDFALL LOCATION

- Initially, the entire west coast of Lewis was assessed for potential landfall locations.
- Areas were ruled out due to environmental sensitivities, designations, residential properties, crofts, steep or unstable terrain.
- After assessment, nine potential landfall Areas of Search were identified.
- The initial criteria for assessment were:
  - Environmental impact *(onshore and offshore)*
  - Technical feasibility
  - Proximity to local communities and crofts
  - Minimising cable length *(onshore and offshore)*

REFINEMENT PROCESS

- Three Landfall Areas of Search were presented in the Scoping Report.
- These three areas were assessed using a wide range of constraints criteria under three categories:
  - Engineering/construction
  - Land Use, Planning and Consenting
  - Environment
- Areas of Search 2 and 3 were progressed, while Area of Search 1 was not.
- Further analysis identified three smaller Areas of Interest:
  - 2a: West of Ballantrushal
  - 2b: North-east of Barvas
  - 3: Between Arnol and Brue

EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION AND NEXT STEPS

- Area 2B has been identified as the 'emerging preferred option' for the Spiorad na Mara landfall location, for various technical and environmental reasons.
- Further detailed ground investigation works and offshore assessments need to be undertaken, as well as engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including the community.
- The results of these activities will inform the final selection of the landfall and potential landfall substation location.

LANDFALL SITE CONSTRUCTION

- To bring offshore cables to shore, we will use methods that minimise disruption. This includes horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to create a duct for the cables underground from the transition joint bay to the exit pit offshore.
- This method reduces the environmental impact on the shoreline, by reducing the area of disturbance. It will involve careful planning and use of specialist equipment to minimise disturbance.

THIS CONSULTATION

As part of this consultation process, we welcome feedback on the three potential landfall sites shown on the map *(with the emerging preferred option shown in red)*. In particular, please tell us if there are specific features or details – technical, environmental, cultural, historical, social etc. – around each which you would like us to consider.



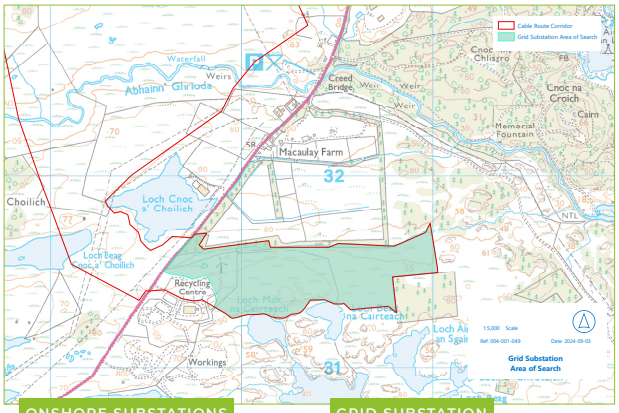
ONSHORE ELEMENTS

EILEAMAIDEAN AIR TÌR

7

There are a number of onshore elements required as part of the Spiorad na Mara project: a landfall substation *(if this is the design option chosen)*, a grid substation, onshore cables and an operations and maintenance base.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



ONSHORE SUBSTATIONS

- Onshore substations collect electricity from the windfarm, transforming voltages to minimise losses and enhance efficiency.
- Spiorad na Mara will have up to two onshore substations: a grid substation and potentially a landfall substation, depending on the final design.
- Each substation compound will include control buildings and external infrastructure required to safely export the electricity from the windfarm to the grid. The buildings could be up to 20m in height, with footprints of 150 x 150m for the landfall substation and 250 x 250m for the grid substation.

GRID SUBSTATION

It will be located near the SSEN converter station near Stornoway. The area of search for the Spiorad na Mara grid substation is around the Arnish and Creed Industrial Park area *(as shown on the map)*.

LANDFALL SUBSTATION

It will be located – *if required* – on the west side of the Isle of Lewis at the selected landfall site. We are committed to minimising environmental impact and ensuring the site blends appropriately with its surroundings.

ONSHORE CABLES

Onshore cables carry the electricity generated by the windfarm from the landfall site on the island's west coast to the grid substation near the SSEN converter station, before connecting to the national grid. Depending on the design option chosen, the number of onshore cables required may be:

OPTION 1 **LANDFALL SUBSTATION:**

- Up to 6 onshore export cables from the transition joint bay(s) to the landfall substation;
- 2 onshore export cables linking the landfall substation to the grid substation; and
- 2 onshore export cables from the grid substation to the SSEN converter station.

OPTION 2 **OFFSHORE SUBSTATION:**

- 2 onshore export cables from the transition joint bay(s) to the grid substation; and
- 2 onshore export cables linking the grid substation to the SSEN converter station.

ROUTING & INSTALLATION

The anticipated onshore cable route will largely follow the A857 *(the Barvas Moor Road)*, to minimise the impact on peatlands. The total route length is approximately 25km.

Following feedback we have received, it is now our intention to underground all onshore cables.

To install the cables, a trench will be excavated, each cable circuit will be laid in it and the trench will then be backfilled. There are two potential techniques for this:

- Direct bury, where the cables are installed into the open trench which is then backfilled, **or**
- Ducted, where ducts are installed and the trench backfilled, with the cable being pulled through the ducts at a later date.

Cable trenches will typically be dug with an excavator, but horizontal directional drilling is likely to be required for crossings beneath roads,

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

All offshore wind projects need to be operated and maintained, safely and efficiently, throughout their lifespan. Typically, this important work is carried out from an operations and maintenance (O&M) base located at a coastal location close to the windfarm site.

An O&M base typically consists of the following:

- O&M building with office space and welfare facilities;
- A local control room where activities are coordinated and the windfarm is monitored;
- A warehouse; car parking, and vessel berthing facilities including access to fuel, water and load out equipment.

There are two potential approaches to O&M, both of which require a base, but with different types of vessels supporting. One is a crew transfer vessel (CTV) approach, which uses small vessels (up to 30m) to carry out routine, day-to-day maintenance of the turbines. The alternative approach involves the use of service operation vessels (SOVs), which are much larger in size and are used to help operate and maintain the offshore windfarm.

A feasibility study has commenced to assess various locations which might be suitable for such a base, and to assess which approach is most appropriate in the context of this project.



ENVIRONMENTAL
ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

8

The Spiorad na Mara project is committed to responsible and sustainable development. This will be achieved through active consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders and authorities.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being conducted to evaluate the potential significant environmental effects of the project. The methodologies used in the EIA are based on consultations, guidance documents and best practice principles, designed to avoid, minimise, and mitigate any potential significant adverse effects while maximising the potential benefits of the project.

The results of the EIA are reported in an EIA Report (EIAR), which will be submitted with the planning consent applications for the project. We aim to submit these in the first half of 2025, to the Marine Directorate's Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for the offshore elements of the project and to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the onshore elements of the project.



STEPS IN THE EIA PROCESS

1. **SCREENING** – Determine if the project needs an EIA.
2. **SCOPING** – Identify environmental aspects to study and methods for studying them.
3. **ASSESSMENT** – Evaluate the project's potential significant impacts.
4. **MITIGATION** – Propose ways to reduce negative impacts.
5. **REPORTING** – Compile findings in an EIAR.
6. **REVIEW** – Authorities and the public review the EIAR.
7. **DECISION** – Authorities decide if the project can go ahead, often with conditions.

OFFSHORE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS

- Physical & Coastal Processes
- Marine Sediment & Water Quality
- Benthic Ecology
- Marine Mammals & Other Megafauna
- Marine & Nearshore Ornithology
- Military & Civil aviation
- Shipping & Navigation
- Seascape, landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
- Commercial Fisheries
- Fish Ecology
- Marine Archaeology

ONSHORE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS

- Onshore Ecology
- Onshore Intertidal Ornithology
- Peat, Geology, Soils & Contaminated Land
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
- Onshore Archaeology & Cultural Heritage
- Traffic & Transport
- Airborne Noise & Vibration
- Air Quality & Human Health

WHOLE PROJECT ASSESSMENTS

- Climate Change Resilience
- Greenhouse Gases
- Socio-Economics
- Tourism, Recreation, Land & Marine Users

PROGRESS & NEXT STEPS

We have conducted an extensive series of surveys across the project to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current environmental conditions. The information collected thus far is aiding our understanding of the baseline environment and allowing the project to progress work to identify potential impacts *(positive and negative)* and enhance or mitigate these through design refinement.

In addition to our surveys, we are actively engaging with key stakeholders, including government bodies and statutory consultees. This work will continue in the months ahead and we will provide further updates during our second phase of public consultation.

For further information on our survey work to date, please visit our online exhibition or speak to a member of the team.



SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

MEASADH BUAIDH SHÒISEALTA

9

Northland Power conducts Social Impact Assessments (SIA) for all its projects, though this is not required by Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The SIA analyses, monitors, and manages the potential effects of projects on communities.

SIAs aim to ensure developments are sustainable, fair, and informed by local knowledge.

An SIA looks at potential changes to elements of society and community life caused by a development, e.g. effects on people's way of life, heritage and culture, community, political systems, health and wellbeing, personal and property rights, concerns and aspirations.

SIAs are informed by engagement with local community organisations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders.

SIAs are conducted by independent agencies to ensure unbiased perspectives. For Spiorad na Mara, the SIA is being led by a local consultancy called Atlantic58 *(based on the Isle of Lewis)*, in partnership with ERM, experts in global SIAs.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

THE SIA PROCESS

It involves a number of different tasks and stages, including:

- desk-based analysis of publicly available data;
- meeting with focus groups to gather and understand people's priorities and values, as well as concerns about the project;
- assessing the findings and data against the project to identify potential impacts and where they would occur;
- considering what would be acceptable in order to avoid, reduce ("mitigate") or offset negative impacts, where the preference is to avoid them.
- to monitor how the project's impacts on the community are being managed, should the project go ahead.

PROGRESS & NEXT STEPS

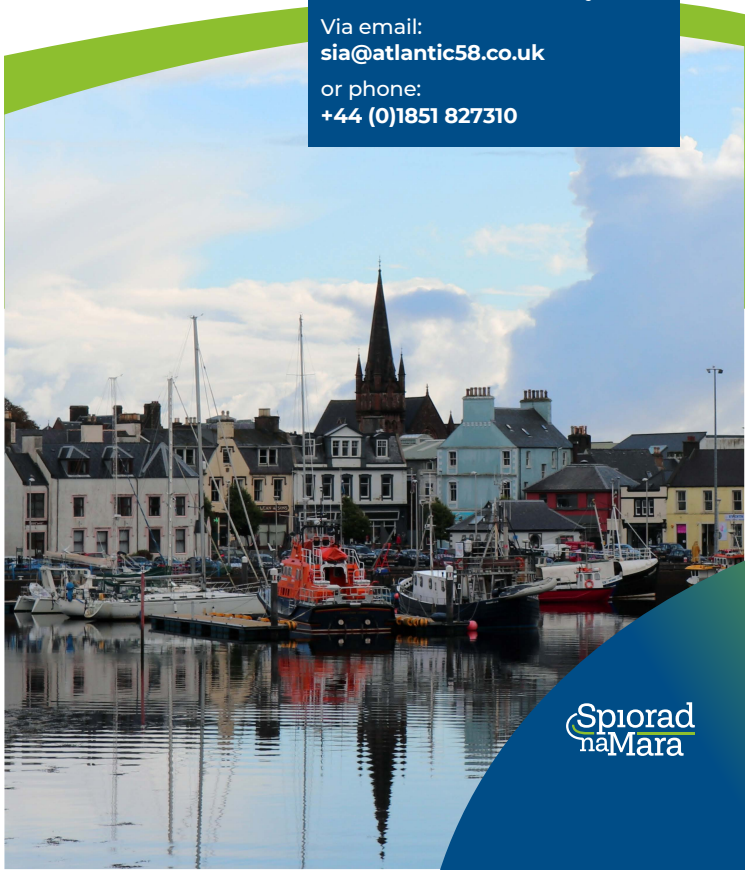
Work on the SIA began this summer and to date a number of focus groups have been held around the island, facilitated by Atlantic58. The final SIA will be informed by the socio-economic chapter of the EIA.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you are interested in learning more about the SIA or in having your views considered as part of it, please contact Atlantic58 directly.

Via email:
sia@atlantic58.co.uk

or phone:
+44 (0)1851 827310



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES

AR DEALAS DON CHOIMHEARSNACHD

10

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Northland Power is committed to building strong relationships with local communities, guided by its Commitment to Local Communities Policy.

ESB also emphasises its responsibility to local communities, with clear commitments available on their website.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ongoing community engagement for the Spiorad na Mara project has been ongoing since 2021, involving meetings with community councils, trusts, support agencies, and other groups.

"Community drop-ins" were held in June, July, and August 2024 across four island locations, offering residents convenient access to discuss the project.

Drop-ins will resume after public consultation, with details available on the project website or by contacting Denise Horan or Kathleen Milne.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Regular updates are provided on the project website, including news and developments.

A project update booklet was distributed to all households in HS1 and HS2 postcodes in July 2024.

Press releases are issued to local media in relation to relevant project activities and developments.

Stay informed via the project website or LinkedIn page.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

We are committed to ensuring that the communities closest to the proposed Spiorad na Mara project benefit meaningfully from its presence in their area, in both the short and long term.

In August, the project announced its commitment to providing a £4.5m per annum community benefit fund, index linked, and delivered over the operational lifetime of the project, which is expected to be at least 35 years. This is aimed at delivering benefits directly into communities on the west of the island.

There will be a separate, comprehensive consultation process on these proposals, supported by an independent specialist company, in the coming months. The outputs from this independent consultation will be used to inform and put in place a legally binding Community Benefit Agreement.

Northland also provides smaller scale support to local communities through its Sponsorship and Small Donations programme. Typically, support is given following an approach from a local organisation and discussions between them and Northland regarding the activity, event or initiative for which support is sought.

To date, we have supported a range of local community, sporting and cultural activities and initiatives, including:

- **DeasbadNàiseantananÀrd-sgoiltean 2024**
- **Co-funding of a STEM Co-ordinator for the Highlands and Islands, delivered through UHI**
- **War Memorials Restoration Project**
- **Western Isles Association for Mental Health** *(WIAMH)*
- **Hebridean Emigration Metagama Centenary**
- **Western Isles Library Services**
- **Western Isles Island Games Association** *(WIIGA)*

All community benefit fund arrangements are separate from the planning process.

MEET WITH US

If your community group or organisation would like to meet with us, to learn more about the proposed Spiorad na Mara project and ask questions, we will be happy to do so.

Simply call Denise on [Redacted]
or Kathleen on [Redacted]
or email **spioradnamara@northlandpower.com**

THIS CONSULTATION

If you have general ideas and suggestions on the types of benefits you would like to see delivered, should the project go ahead, please share these via our feedback form. In addition to considering these as part of this process, we will also feed them into the future consultation process on community benefit.



SUPPLY CHAIN & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 11

SÈINE SOLARACHAIDH & COTHROMAN COSNAIDH

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

JOB CREATION

- The project is expected to create 80 to 120 permanent, long-term jobs and 750 to 1,000 temporary jobs during construction.
- Investment in skills development, employment training, and apprenticeships is a key focus.

SUPPLIERS

Spiorad na Mara is committed to maximising opportunities for local suppliers and Scottish businesses.

During development, construction and operation, our procurement process will focus on involving local suppliers and Scottish businesses.

Our procurement strategies will include:

- Identifying and developing local supply sources.
- Informing the supply chain about project requirements.
- Providing opportunities for local suppliers to engage directly or through contractors.
- Collaborating with other projects and industry to expand opportunities.
- Hosting meet-the-buyer events and offering feedback to suppliers

A wide range of local support services are required from the earliest stages of a project's development and continue throughout the life of the project. Many of these services are already being sourced locally, while others will be required in the months and years ahead, including:

ACCOMMODATION | FUEL SUPPLY | OFFICE SPACE & EQUIPMENT | FENCING | CATERING | SECURITY | ELECTRICIANS | PLANT HIRE | TRAINING | GROUND & BUILDING MAINTENANCE | TRANSPORTATION, HIRE CARS & TAXIS | IT SERVICES

LONG-TERM JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Typical long-term jobs required within the Operations & Maintenance phase include:

WIND TURBINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Wind Turbine Service Technicians
- Wind Turbine Service Manager
- Wind Turbine Service Supervisor
- Wind Turbine Service Planner
- HSE Manager
- Warehouse Operative
- Administration

OPERATIONS AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

- General Manager
- Production Manager
- Engineering Manager
- Commercial Manager
- Office Manager
- Administrative staff and Back-Office

SUPPORT INCLUDING FINANCE, PROCUREMENT AND HR

- Stakeholder Manager
- Windfarm and High Voltage Control
- Engineers & Marine Coordinators

ENGINEERS & MARINE COORDINATORS

- Safety Rules Authorisations Officer
- Planning and Logistics Coordinator
- Subsea Asset Engineer
- Turbine Engineer
- High Voltage Electrical Engineer
- SCADA and Control Engineer
- Balance of Plant Maintenance Technician
- Performance Engineer
- Warranty, Quality and Systems Engineer
- HSE Manager
- Warehouse Manager
- Fisheries Liaison Officer

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES (NOT ALL FULL-TIME ROLES)

- Vessel Master
- Vessel crew
- High voltage maintenance engineers
- Blade inspection and repair technicians
- Drone operators
- Specialist engineering support consultants
- Environmental consultants and survey staff
- Subsea survey teams



GETTING INVOLVED

Businesses interested in getting involved in Spiorad na Mara are encouraged to complete the supply chain registration form, which can be found on our website, along with extensive information on the opportunities available, via the following links:

- northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/spioradna-mara-supply-chain/
- northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/supply-chain-registration/

Spiorad na Mara

PROJECT TIMELINE
LOIDHNE-TÌM A' PHRÒISEICT

Below is an indicative project timeline, showing the various stages of development and milestones on the journey. Further information is available – and is updated as and when timelines change – at www.spioradnamara.co.uk.

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KEY ACTIVITIES

Site Selection	Development	Pre-Construction	Construction	Operations & Maintenance	Decommissioning
2020-2021	2022-2027	2027-2028	2028-2031	2031-2066	2067+
2 YEARS	5 YEARS	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	35+ YEARS	2+ YEARS
Site selection was undertaken by Scottish Government as part of the ScotWind leasing round.	Engagement & consultation	Engagement & consultation	Engagement & consultation	Engagement & consultation	Engagement & consultation
CrownEstateScotland.com	Environmental Impact Assessment	Final design & construction strategy	Transportation of components to site	Manage usage and availability of turbines	Decommissioning plans are required as part of application for planning consent
	Social Impact Assessment	Discharge any planning consent conditions	Installing foundations	Maintenance, inspection, repair and servicing of wind turbines	Removal of project infrastructure, in line with decommissioning plan
	Detailed site surveys *(onshore and offshore)*, including: • Geophysical • Geotechnical • Environmental • Cultural and heritage • Noise • Hydrology • Peat • Engineering • Social	Secure contracts, including manufacture and installation of foundations, wind turbines, cable and vessels	Installing transition pieces	Substation maintenance and service	
	Evaluate business case	Refine Operations & Maintenance strategy	Installing nacelles & wind	Use of appropriate vessels on site	
	Wind monitoring		Installing substation(s)	O&M work may include an option to use a helicopter, when weather prevents vessel access	
	Engineering design, including turbine size, layout, foundation type and electrical infrastructure		Laying offshore cables		
	Secure grid connection & tariff		Laying cables on land and into SSEN electricity substation and onto the national grid		
	Procurement & financing		Commissioning the windfarm		
	Secure consents				
	Feasibility studies				

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



GETTING IN TOUCH
CONALTRADH

13

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Please fill out a feedback form about this consultation

They are located on the table by the final information board.

If you would like to get in touch at any time – to ask a question, arrange a meeting, share feedback or seek more information about the project – we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us in the following ways:

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

COMMUNITY LIAISON

KATHLEEN MILNE
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

DENISE HORAN
CONSULTATION & LOCAL ENGAGEMENT LEAD
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

FISHERIES LIAISON

RICHARD JOSEPH
COMPANY FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICER
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

CALUM MACLEOD
FISHERIES INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

STEVE THOMAS
COMMUNICATIONS LEAD
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PHASE 1, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024 – PROJECT MAPS

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH
ÌRE 1, SULTAIN/DÀMHAIR 2024 – MAPAICHEAN A' PRÒISEICT



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Map 4
Offshore Cable Corridor Area of Search, Landfall 2B



Map 5

Offshore Cable Corridor Area of Search, Landfall 3

Map 6

Landfall and Landfall Substation Areas of Search and Areas of Interest

Map 7

Onshore Cable Route Corridor Area of Search

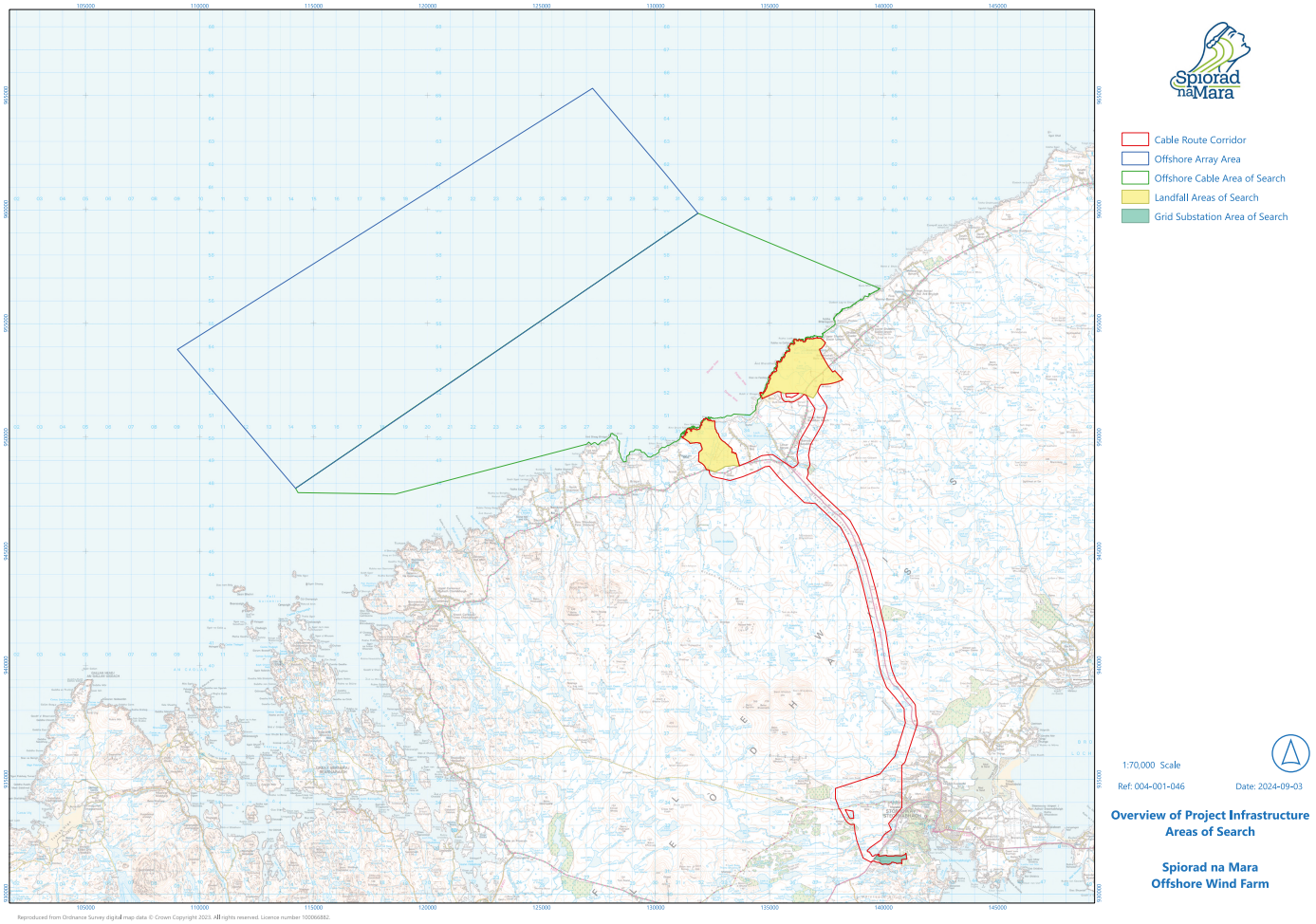
Map 8

Grid Substation Area of Search



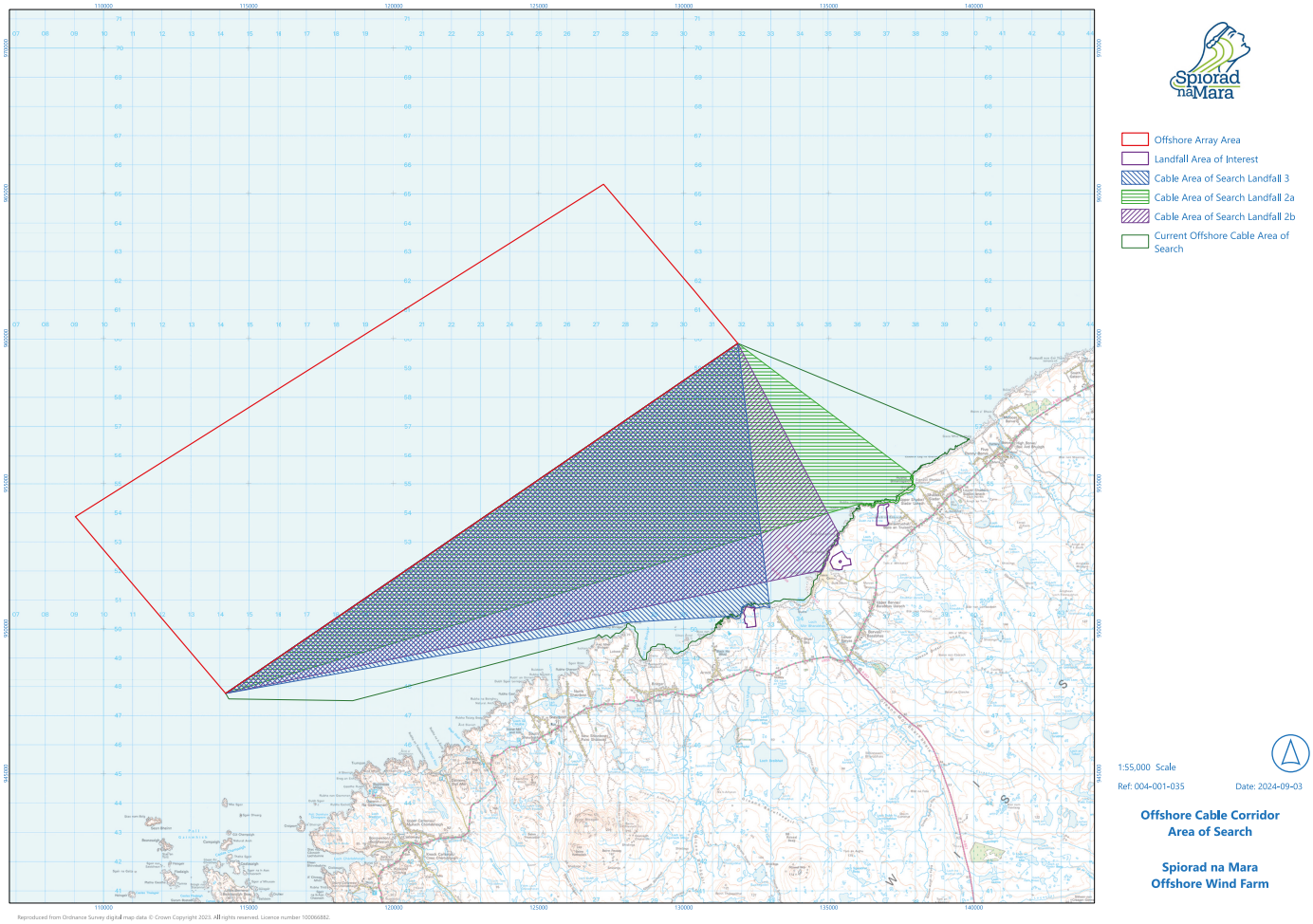
MAP 1

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS OF SEARCH (ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE)


Cable Route Corridor
Offshore Array Area
Offshore Cable Area of Search
Landfall Areas of Search
Grid Substation Area of Search
1:70,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-046
Date: 2024-09-03
Overview of Project Infrastructure Areas of Search
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

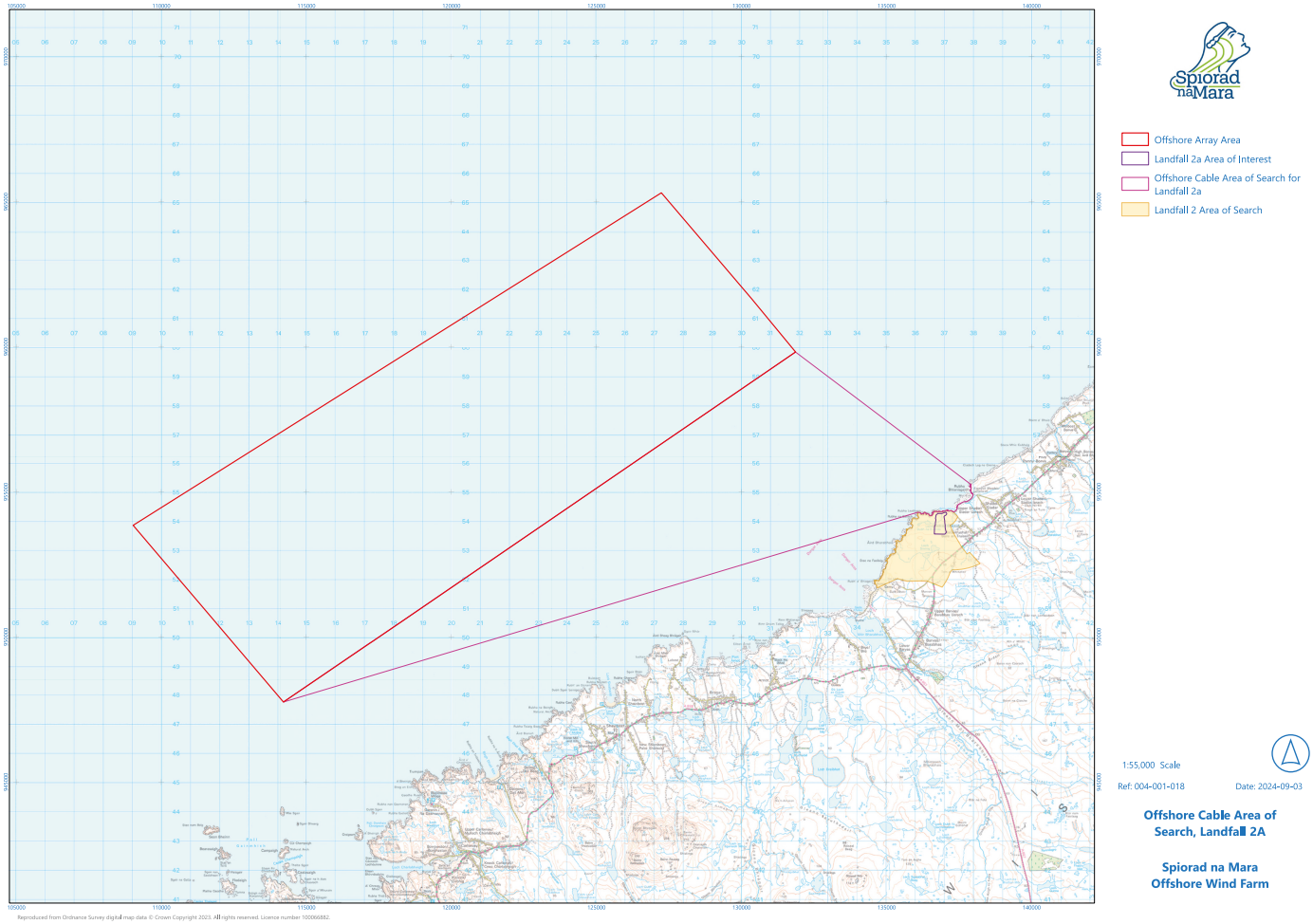
MAP 2

OFFSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH


Offshore Array Area
Landfall Area of Interest
Cable Area of Search Landfall 3
Cable Area of Search Landfall 2a
Cable Area of Search Landfall 2b
Current Offshore Cable Area of Search
1:55,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-035
Date: 2024-09-03
Offshore Cable Corridor Area of Search
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

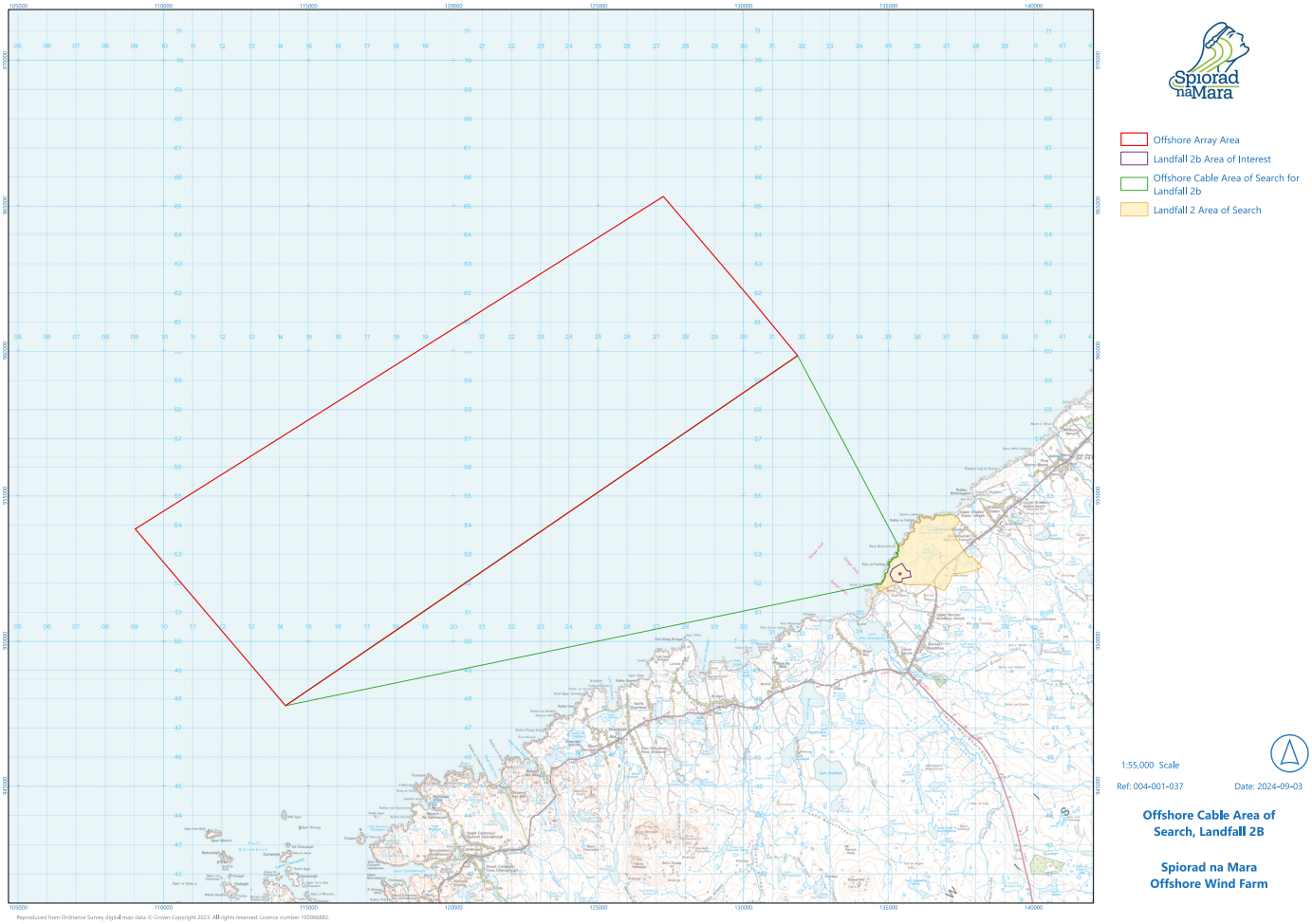
MAP 3

OFFSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH, LANDFALL 2A


Offshore Array Area
Landfall 2a Area of Interest
Offshore Cable Area of Search for Landfall 2a
Landfall 2 Area of Search
1:55,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-018
Date: 2024-09-03
Offshore Cable Area of Search, Landfall 2A
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

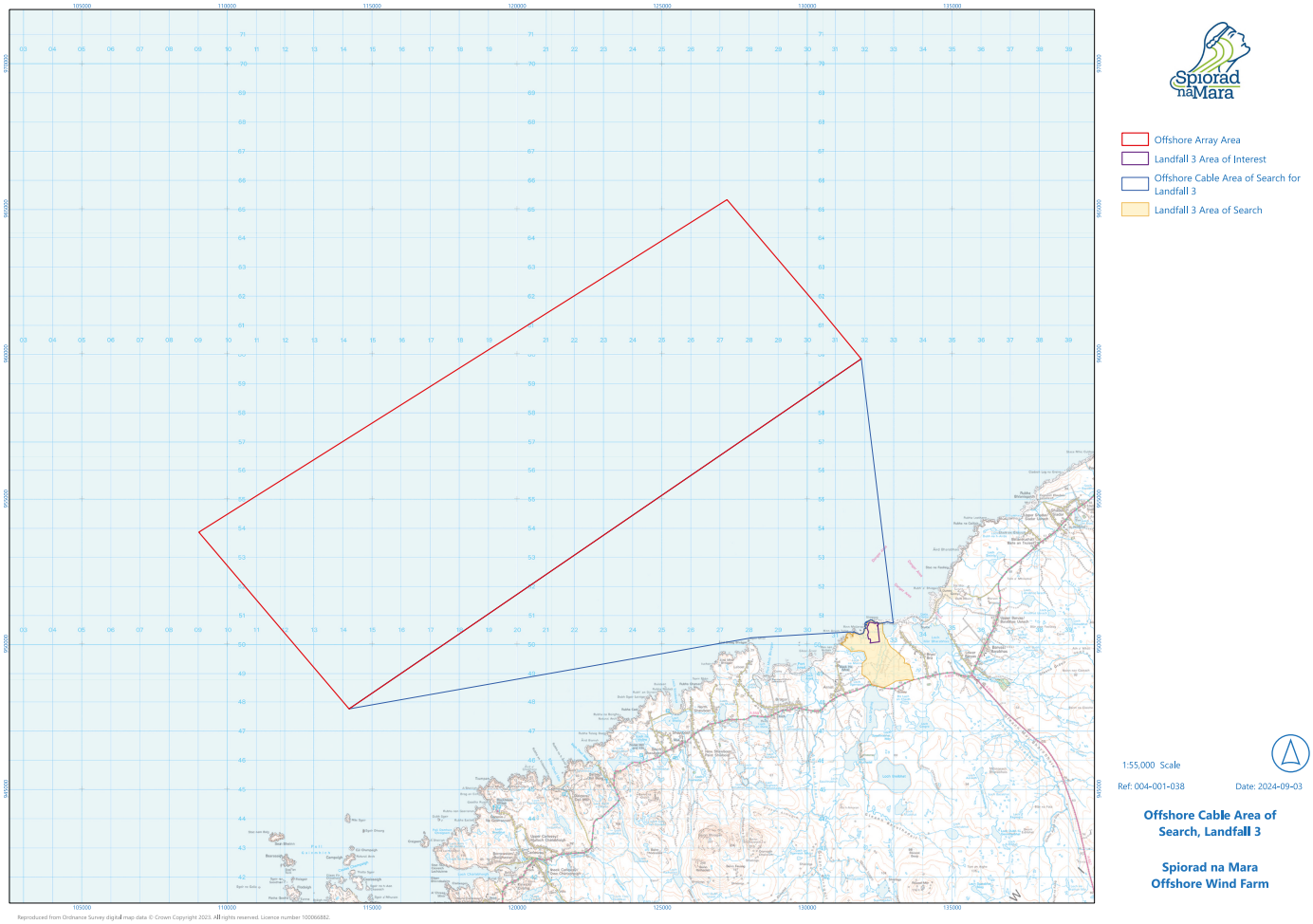
MAP 4

OFFSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH, LANDFALL 2B


Offshore Array Area
Landfall 2b Area of Interest
Offshore Cable Area of Search for Landfall 2b
Landfall 2 Area of Search
1:55,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-037
Date: 2024-09-03
Offshore Cable Area of Search, Landfall 2B
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

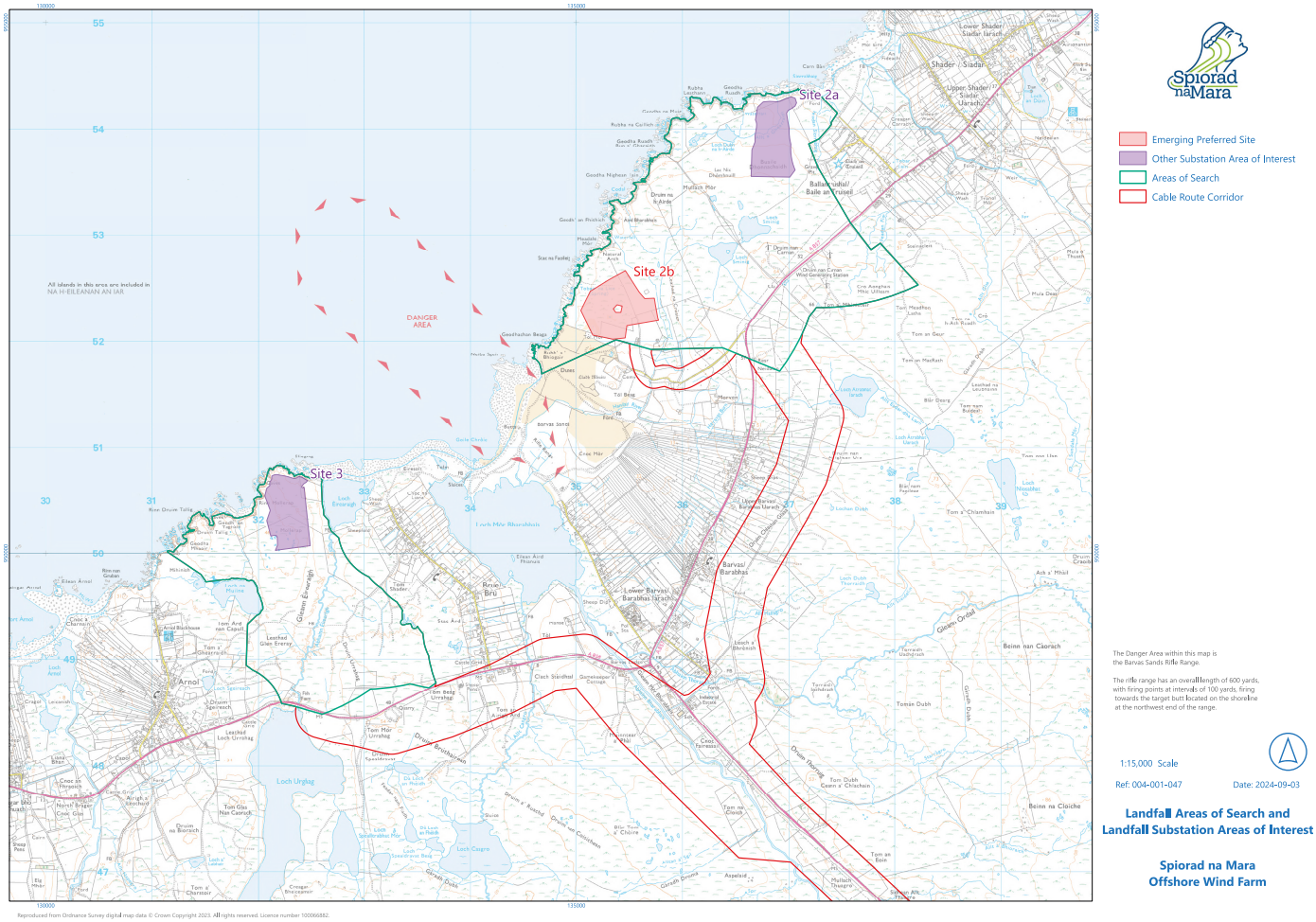
MAP 5

OFFSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH, LANDFALL 3


Offshore Array Area
Landfall 3 Area of Interest
Offshore Cable Area of Search for Landfall 3
Landfall 3 Area of Search
1:55,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-038
Date: 2024-09-03
Offshore Cable Area of Search, Landfall 3
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

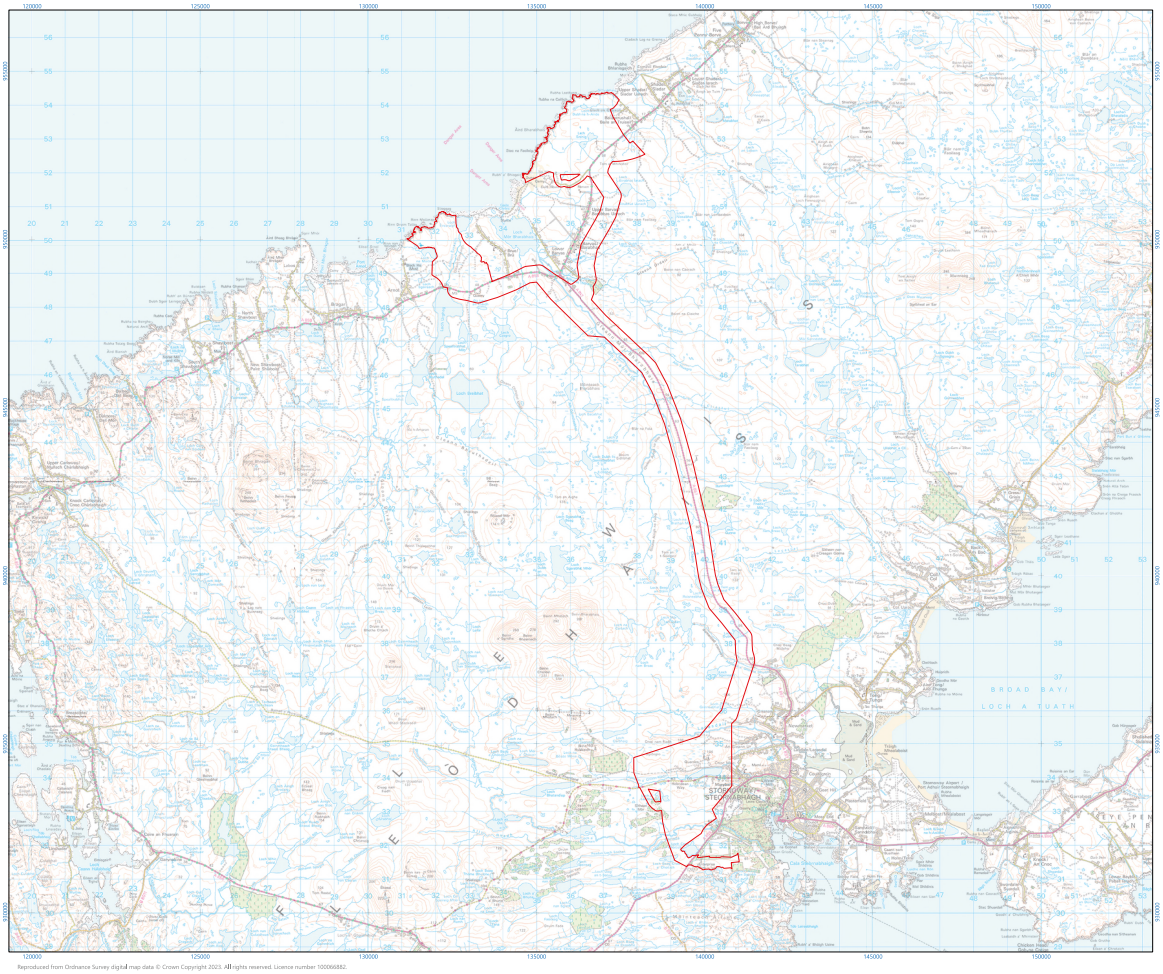
MAP 6

LANDFALL AND LANDFALL SUBSTATION AREAS OF SEARCH AND AREAS OF INTEREST


Site 2a
Site 2b
Site 3
DANGER AREA
Emerging Preferred Site
Other Substation Area of Interest
Areas of Search
Cable Route Corridor
The Danger Area within this map is the Barvas Sands Rifle Range.
The rifle range has an overall length of 600 yards, with firing points at intervals of 100 yards, firing towards the target butt located on the shoreline at the northwest end of the range.
1:15,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-047
Date: 2024-09-03
Landfall Areas of Search and Landfall Substation Areas of Interest
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

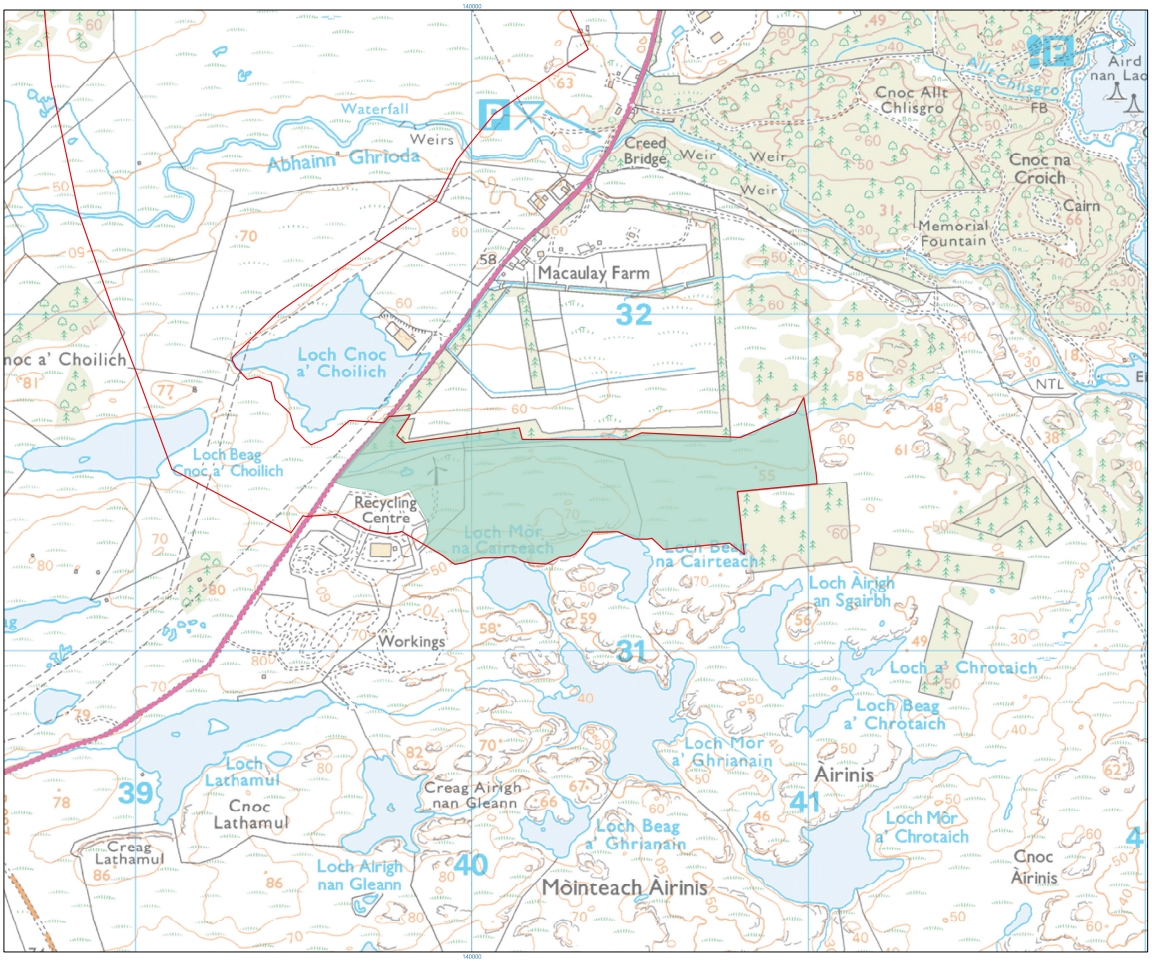
MAP 7

ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH


Cable Route Corridor
1:50,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-048
Date: 2024-09-03
Onshore Cable Route Corridor
Area of Search
Spiorad na Mara
Offshore Wind Farm

MAP 8

GRID SUBSTATION AREA OF SEARCH



Cable Route Corridor
Grid Substation Area of Search

1:5,000 Scale

Ref: 004-001-049 Date: 2024-09-03

Grid Substation Area of Search

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

PHASE 1 ÌRE 1

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH



September/October Sultain/Damhair 2024

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WELCOME & OVERVIEW
FÀILTE & RO-SHEALLADH

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for our first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project, located approximately 5–13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

Spiorad na Mara is a key project that can contribute to Scotland's efforts to tackle the global climate emergency while benefitting Scottish communities. If it goes ahead, it will provide greater energy security nationally and generate additional investment for the local, regional and national economies.

Anticipated to have a capacity of approximately **900MW**, Spiorad na Mara has the potential to generate enough electricity to meet the equivalent annual electricity needs of roughly **1.2 million**[1] Scottish homes through homegrown wind energy, while reducing harmful carbon emissions by more than **1.7 million tonnes**[2] every year.

Fàilte & Ro-shealladh

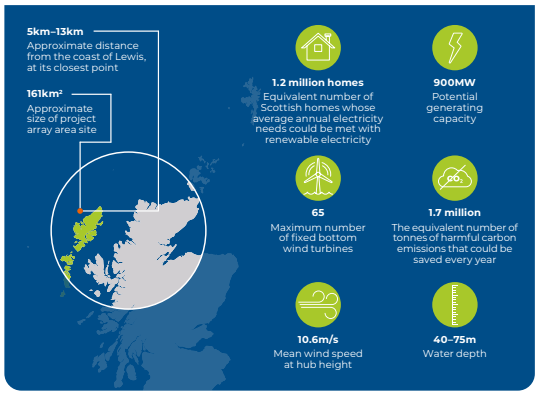
Fàilte agus tapadh leibh airson tighinn a choimhead oirnn an-diugh. Tha sinn air leth toilichte gu bheil sibh air a thighinn còmhla rinn airson a' chiad ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean a' phròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara, a tha suidhichte mu 5-13km far costa an iar Eilean Leòdhais.

'S e pròiseact cudromach a th' ann an Spiorad na Mara a chuireas ri oidhirpean na h-Alba gus dèiligeadh ri èiginn gnàth-shìde na cruinne agus aig an aon àm a' toirt buannachd do choimhearsnachdan na h-Alba. Ma thèid e air adhart, bheir e barrachd tèarainteachd lùtha gu nàiseanta agus cruthaichidh e in-ionmhas a bharrachd dha na h-eaconamaidhean ionadail, roinneil agus nàiseanta.

Thathas an dùil gun cruthaich e timcheall air 900MW, agus tha comas aig Spiorad na Mara dealan gu leòr a chruthachadh gus coinneachadh ris na feumalachdan dealain bliadhnail co-ionann aig timcheall air 1.2 millean dachaigh Albannach tro lùth gaoithe dachaigheil, agus aig an aon àm a' lùghdachadh sgaoilidhean gualain cronail le còrr air 1.7 millean tunna gach bliadhna.

[1]More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics), together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900MW.

[2]900MW x 0.5 (assumed minimum projected wind load factor) x 8,760 (hours in the year) x 446g (tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied: BEIS July 2020) /1,000 = 1,758,132 tonnes of CO_2 per year.



Consenting timeline
Clàr-ama ceadachaidh

Following our two periods of consultation, this one and a second in early 2025, and the finalisation of our Environmental Impact Assessment, the project intends to submit its consent applications in 2025. Subject to a successful outcome, the construction of Spiorad na Mara could begin in 2028 and the project could be operational by 2031.

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- **APRIL 2022** Northland awarded two offshore wind projects in the ScotWind leasing round
- **2025** Expected date for submission of planning applications
- **2028** Potential start of construction
- **2030** The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland will support Spiorad na Mara and other proposed projects
- **2031** Expected date when the windfarm could be operational
- **35 YEARS** Anticipated operating life of windfarm

Partner introductions
Ro-ràdh Chom-pàirtichean

Spiorad na Mara is being developed by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation of the windfarm. Both companies are developers, owners and operators of renewable energy projects, with extensive global experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sector.

NORTHLAND POWER

The primary focus of Northland Power is to build a sustainable and carbon-neutral world. With Scottish headquarters based in Edinburgh, a project office in Stornoway, and over 1,000 employees worldwide, Northland Power is dedicated to helping the clean energy transition by producing electricity from clean renewable resources. Founded in 1987, Northland Power has a long history of developing, building, owning and operating clean power infrastructure assets and is a global leader in offshore wind. Northland Power is dedicated to supporting local communities and contributing to a greener future.

ESB

ESB has been Ireland's foremost energy company since it was established in 1927, driven by an unwavering commitment to power society forward and deliver a net-zero future for customers and communities. Launched in 2022, its 'Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040' strategy sets out a clear roadmap for ESB to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. ESB are involved in six offshore wind projects in Scotland, which complement a 1,200MW pipeline of onshore windfarms.





Public consultation is an essential part of the development process for all infrastructure projects, and at Spiorad na Mara we are committed to doing this well.

Before we submit our key consents applications, we are holding this first phase of public consultation, as well as a second phase early next year, during which we will share details of our plans as they are developing and seek your feedback and input.

PHASE 1: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

During this first phase of public consultation (currently underway), we are sharing our latest updates on all aspects of the project – onshore and offshore – including environmental and technical assessments, ground investigations and offshore and onshore surveys. Your feedback during this phase of consultation is fundamental, as it provides an opportunity for your input to shape our project plans on all key aspects of the project as they are progressing.

PHASE 2: EARLY 2025

Our second phase of focused consultation will be different in its emphasis and consultation elements. At this stage, all feedback from the first consultation will have been considered in detail and taken into account, as appropriate, as our plans have progressed. The focus during this consultation will be on sharing updates on progress since Phase 1 and seeking feedback on these updated plans, including potential mitigations that have been identified.We will be showing what you said and what we did in response.

This phase may also include consultation on specific aspects of the project which will be more advanced by the time of the second period of consultation, for example our operations and maintenance approach.



Members of our project team will be available at our in-person exhibitions.

7 in-person events

We are hosting seven in-person exhibitions from 24th September to 3rd October.

This consultation

This consultation (Phase 1) runs for one month, from 23rd September to 23rd October, and consists of three strands:

- **1. A virtual consultation room:** This is the online exhibition you are currently visiting, which is hosted on our website, spioradnamara.co.uk. The room consists of the following:
  - a. Information boards on all key elements of the project.
  - b. An overview of the comprehensive environmental impact assessment process we are undertaking.
  - c. Details of the potential benefits associated with the project, including benefits for the local community.
  - d. Photomontages showing two indicative turbine array layouts, from eight locations along the west coast of Lewis.
  - e. Maps and visuals showing areas of search and potential locations for the main infrastructure elements of the project.
  - f. A feedback form through which you can share any feedback you have on the updated information presented in this exhibition.
- **2. In-person public exhibitions:** We are hosting seven in-person exhibitions from 24th September to 3rd October at six venues on the west coast of the island and one in Stornoway. Each exhibition will run for five hours, during which people can call in, view our exhibition boards, speak with members of the project team (including technical specialists), complete a feedback form and take away a comprehensive booklet with all content contained in these virtual exhibition boards.
- **3. Dedicated information clinics:** We are providing 20 hours of in-person appointment opportunities, with members of the project team, to allow individuals or small groups who have specific questions they would like answered or topics they would like to discuss to do so in person. These dedicated clinics will take place at five different community locations, three on the west coast and two in Stornoway. Appointments for the information clinics may be made using the booking tool on our website or by calling [Redacte

"Our second phase of focused consultation will be different in its emphasis and consultation elements."



CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK
CO-CHOMHAIRLE & FIOS AIR AIS

Spiorad na Mara public consultation, phase 1 – schedule of activities
Co-chomhairle Poblach Spiorad na Mara, Ire 1 - Clàr Ghniomhan

MON 23RD SEPT Virtual exhibition goes live	**TUE 24TH SEPT** Clan MacQuarrie Centre, 3–8pm	**WED 25TH SEPT** Barvas and Brue Community Centre, 3–8pm	**THUR 26TH SEPT** Old School Shawbost 3–8pm
MON 30TH SEPT Stornoway Town Hall, 3–8pm	**TUE 1ST OCT** Carloway Community Centre, 3–8pm	**WED 2ND OCT** Uig Community Centre, 3–8pm	**THUR 3RD OCT** Great Bernera Community Centre, 3–8pm
FRI 4TH OCT Information clinic, An Lanntair 4–8pm	**SAT 5TH OCT** Information clinic, Cabarfeidh Hotel, 10–2pm	**MON 7TH OCT** Information clinic, Raebhat House, Horshader, 5–9pm	**TUE 8TH OCT** Information clinic, Breasclete Community Centre, 9am–1pm
WED 9TH OCT Information clinic, Spòrsnis, 1–5pm	**THURS 23RD OCT** Virtual exhibition ends		

We are also providing dedicated consultation opportunities for the local fishing community, which they have been informed of directly, through our fisheries liaison team.

Separate to these public consultations, the project is undertaking engagement with all relevant bodies, agencies and regulatory authorities, as well as with fisheries groups and representative bodies.

Feedback
Fios air ais

Feedback is crucial in shaping our project, as it helps us to take the needs and interests of local communities on board and to understand and address any questions or concerns you may have.

There are multiple ways in which you can provide feedback:

- **Complete the online feedback form at the end of this exhibition.**
- **Complete a hard copy feedback form at one of our in-person exhibitions or information clinics and either leave it with us on the day or send it back to us by post. Stamped addressed envelopes will be available at all public exhibition events and information clinics, allowing you to complete a feedback form at home and post it to us at our Stornoway office.**
- **Contact us directly to have a feedback form posted to you, which you can send back to us free of charge.**
- **Speak to a member of our team at any of our consultation events and provide your feedback verbally, which they will capture.**

Outside of this consultation process, you can get in touch with us at any time to share your feedback, raise queries or concerns or simply to learn more about the project. Contact details for all relevant team members can be found on the 'Getting in touch' board elsewhere in this exhibition.

Inclusivity
in-ghabhaltachd

We commit to being inclusive in all our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we are making information available online, holding in-person events and making project personnel available for small-group or individual calls and in-person meetings, via our information clinics.

We advertised details of all events associated with this period of consultation – including specific dates, times and venues – extensively in local media outlets and through a range of community networks and their communications channels. We also sent an information leaflet, providing details about the consultation process and timeline, to all households on the Isle of Lewis. We will do the same ahead of our second phase of public consultation early in 2025.

If you or anyone you know has additional needs or special requirements to enable participation in this consultation process, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us so that we can help make suitable arrangements.

Next steps
Na h-ath cheumannan

A report summarising this consultation process, including the feedback received and outline responses given, will be compiled after this process and will be published on our website once ready.

Our second phase of public consultation will take place in early 2025. All details will be advertised extensively in advance. At that point, we will provide an update on how your feedback from this phase of consultation has been considered as we have progressed our project plans.



PROJECT NEED & BENEFITS
FEUM & BUANNACHDAN A' PHRÒISEICT

Why is the project needed?
Carson a tha feum air a' phròiseact?

Reducing our carbon emissions is crucial in preventing potential catastrophic climate change scenarios.

Scotland has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2045; a key contributor to achieving this goal will be a significant increase in renewable energy from offshore wind. Spiorad na Mara has the capability to reduce harmful carbon emissions by more than 1.7 million tonnes every year, making a substantial contribution towards Scotland's emission reduction targets and energy security.



The Scottish Government's ScotWind leasing round, which took place in 2022, was the first round of offshore wind leasing in Scottish waters for a decade. It enabled developers to apply for seabed rights to plan and build offshore windfarms within pre-defined areas, and Northland was successful in securing an option agreement for the Spiorad na Mara site as part of this process.

Spiorad na Mara and the other ScotWind projects also present local business and employment opportunities, as their construction, operation and maintenance could attract billions of pounds in investment in our Scottish communities.

For further information on the ScotWind process and projects, please visit: CrownEstateScotland.com

In addition to the major contribution it could make to achieving Scotland's net zero target, the Spiorad na Mara project will also create significant new opportunities for the island and its communities. These potential opportunities are summarised below and in the panel on the right.

What benefits will the project bring?
Dè na buannachdan a bhios an cois a' phròiseict?

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

We are committed to developing and delivering a multi-million-pound community investment package throughout the project's lifetime, directly benefitting local communities. This includes establishing a significant community benefit fund, with local voices guiding the investment to meet the area's needs over more than 35 years.

Further information on our community benefit approach can be found in the section on 'Our commitment to communities'.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

We estimate that the project, once built, will create 80 to 120 new, direct permanent jobs supporting operations and maintenance (O&M) activities. The project will also create 750 to 1,000 new, temporary jobs throughout the construction phase.

We are aiming to keep as many jobs as possible – particularly the long-term roles in the O&M phase – based on the island, to boost the local economy and utilise the knowledge and skills of local people as much as possible.

To support these roles, we will invest in new skills, employment training and apprenticeship opportunities in the area.

SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITIES

The project will create new opportunities for the local supply chain, boosting the local economy and enabling local businesses, facilities and service-providers to contribute directly to Scotland's future energy security.

Further information on supplier and employment opportunities on the project can be found in the section on 'Supply chain & employment opportunities'.

Spiorad na Mara

A Gaelic expression meaning 'Spirit of the Sea'. The proposed project is located 5–13km off the west coast of Lewis.



ENVIRONMENT



- **Net zero** – Contribution to Scotland's **2045** net zero emissions target
- **Renewable electricity** – for the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Scottish homes.
- **CO_2 savings** – of up to **1.7 million** tonnes
- **Energy security** – for Scotland

ECONOMIC



- **Investment** – Significant new infrastructure investment
- **New jobs** – during development, construction and operation
- **New business potential** – for local ports
- **Opportunities** – for local, regional and national businesses

SOCIAL



- **Investment** – Multi-million-pound community investment over the lifetime of the project
- **Partnership** – Working in partnership with local communities
- **Education & training** – opportunities
- **Employment** – Encouraging local employment, subcontracting and material supply

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS
PRÌOMH EILEAMAIDEAN A' PHRÒISEICT

A typical offshore windfarm consists of a number of elements, all of which combine to enable energy from offshore wind to be harnessed, converted to electricity and delivered into the national grid, for use in homes, businesses and industry throughout the country.

In the case of the Spiorad na Mara project, two design options are still being considered. These two options have the same elements in common except for the substation that collects and converts the electricity gathered from the wind turbines. Design Option 1 includes a landfall substation and Option 2 has an offshore substation(s) design:

Option 1
Landfall substation design

This option uses two onshore substations (no offshore substation(s)) as follows:

- A landfall substation located on the west coast of Lewis near the landfall which gathers the electricity generated by the wind turbines, transforms and prepares it for transmission to the grid substation; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

OR

Option 2
Offshore substation(s) design

This option uses one or more offshore substation(s):

- 1–2 offshore substations located within the array area combined with interconnector cable(s) between platforms; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

How will a decision be made between Option 1 and Option 2?
Ciamar a thèid co-dhùnadh a dhèanamh eadar Roghainn 1 agus Roghainn 2?

Numerous factors influence the decision on which option is most suitable, including environmental, technical and safety considerations, plus feedback from a range of stakeholders.

As part of our ongoing design and the environmental impact assessment processes, we are undertaking numerous onshore and offshore investigations and analysis. The majority of environmental surveys have been undertaken throughout 2023 and during 2024 to date, although further surveys are planned for later this year and in 2025. Technical assessments have also been undertaken and more will take place this year and into next year.

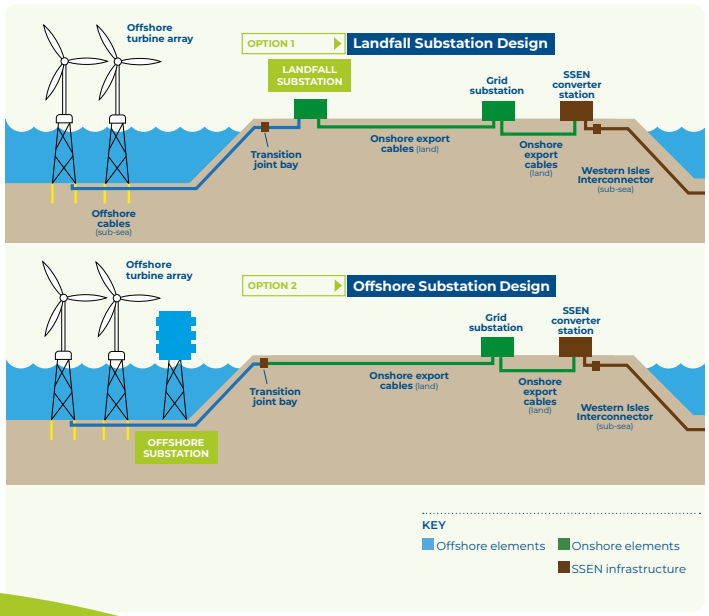
In addition, we have engaged with the regulatory authorities and statutory consultees, as well as with community, environmental and marine stakeholders. These activities and engagements will continue and by the time we hold our second phase of consultation, expected to be in early 2025, we will have decided on our preferred design, balancing all of these multiple considerations.

This consultation

This consultation offers an opportunity for you to provide your feedback on the substation options. Please let us know (through the feedback form provided):

(a) What factors are of greatest importance to you in the decision-making process on the onshore and offshore substation options?

(b) Is there anything from a local community perspective that we should be particularly mindful of as part of our considerations?





KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS
PRÌOMH EILEAMAIDEAN A' PHRÒISEICT

Guide to offshore wind project elements

WIND TURBINES



Energy-generating infrastructure which includes a tower, rotor blades, a generator and a foundation.

OFFSHORE SUBSTATION(S)



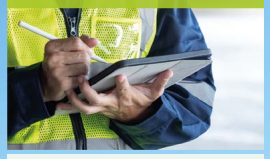
An offshore substation that collects the electricity generated and transforms it to a voltage that can be transported to shore.

ONSHORE CABLES



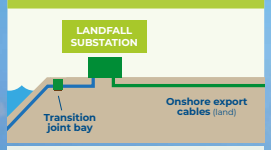
Electrical cables that transport the electricity onshore from the landfall location to the onshore grid substation and into the national grid.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BASE



A base that typically provides office space, warehousing and vessel berthing facilities that support vessel access from a coastal location.

LANDFALL SUBSTATION



An onshore substation that collects the electricity generated offshore and transforms it to a voltage that can be transported to the grid substation.

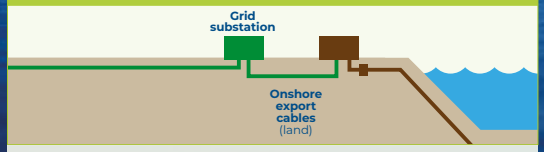
OFFSHORE CABLES



Electrical cables that connect individual wind turbines together which then connect to the project substation (either offshore or onshore).

- Inter-array cables: Electrical cables that transport electricity from individual wind turbines to an offshore or onshore substation.
- Offshore export cables: Electrical cables that transmit electricity from an offshore substation to landfall (only used if an offshore substation is required).
- Inter-connector cables: Electrical cables that connect multiple offshore substations to improve transmission reliability (only required should more than one offshore substation be installed).

GRID SUBSTATION



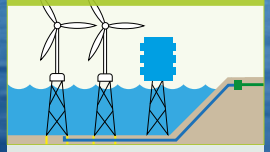
An onshore substation which holds the electrical equipment required to connect the windfarm to the national grid. This will be located next to the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) converter station, which is being built as part of SSEN's plans to improve the connectivity of the Isle of Lewis to the national grid.

LANDFALL LOCATION



An area on the coast where the offshore cable(s) meets the onshore cables.

TRANSITION JOINT BAY(S)



Small concrete box where the offshore cable is joined to the onshore cable, which is sealed and buried with only access covers visible at ground level.

14

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIG MUIR

Wind turbines
Cruinn-gaoithe

The project could consist of up to 65 fixed-bottom wind turbines, which will be fixed to the seabed and installed within the 161km² array area.

The capacity for the project (around 900MW, based on the grid offer we received in 2023) can be reached by a smaller number of larger turbines or a larger number of smaller turbines.

Wind turbine model availability is continually changing as the suppliers develop their technologies and the project will seek to use, where possible, the most up-to-date and efficient technology.

Based on discussions with the supply chain to date, plus technical assessments and wider stakeholder engagement, we have reduced the maximum height of the turbines from 380m to 365m (above mean sea level). These discussions and assessments are continuing.

Array layout
Cruth eagrachaidh

There are multiple factors that are considered during the development of the windfarm layout. While these all feed into the decision-making process, the main considerations are:

- Water depths
- Geology and ground conditions
- Spacing the turbines efficiently and effectively to ensure we make best use of the wind
- Spacing the turbines to allow safe passage for vessels and Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Supply chain and wind turbine technology available
- Offshore wildlife and habitats identified through environmental surveys
- Engagement with, and feedback from, stakeholders.

This consultation

As part of this consultation, we are presenting two potential layout options: one with 65 smaller turbines, plus an offshore substation, and one with 48 larger turbines. You can view these directly through our 'Photomontage viewer', within this exhibition, which shows what these two layouts would look like from eight different vantage points along the west coast of Lewis.

It is important to note that these are **indicative layout options only** and the final layout may be somewhere between the two (in terms of number, height, spacing etc). In providing feedback, therefore, we are not seeking a preference for one option over the other, but an indication of the considerations that are most important to you as we progress our design. You can provide your feedback in our dedicated feedback form.

Foundations
Na Bunaitean

The wind turbines will be connected to the seabed using fixed-bottom foundations. Fixed-bottom foundations have been successfully used on multiple windfarms around the world and are suitable for the water depths present on the Spiorad na Mara site.

The project's current preferred foundation options include:

- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations (which are steel lattice structures) supported by piles into the seabed, or
- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations which sit on top of a gravity-based structure, i.e. rely on their weight to provide the required stability.

Next steps
Na h-ath cheumannan

In the months ahead, we will assess all of the feedback received through this consultation, as well as through engagement with statutory consultees and other relevant stakeholders.

In addition, we will continue to consider the outputs from our surveys and assessments, engage with the supply chain and obtain further site-specific information. When we hold our second phase of consultation in early 2025, we will present a final indicative layout that balances all of these considerations. This final indicative layout will be used to inform our environmental impact assessment work.



There is a possibility that more than one foundation type could be used across the array area, due to water depths and ground conditions. To date, we have completed offshore geophysical survey investigations and, during the course of 2024 to 2026, we expect to carry out further environmental and geotechnical surveys to contribute to the foundation concept selection. In addition to site conditions, we will also take into consideration port/harbour capabilities, supply chain, and installation processes to minimise time offshore during construction which has environmental, safety and cost benefits.

> ***We have reduced the maximum height of the turbines from 380m to 365m (to blade tip)***

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIG MUIR

Offshore cables
Càbaill aig muir

Offshore cables are made up of inter-array cables, inter-connector cables and offshore export cables which serve a different function and come together to help bring electricity harnessed by the turbines to shore.

The placement of the cables depends on several factors: their purpose, the layout of the turbines, any required offshore substation(s) within the array area, the seabed conditions, potential obstructions, and the landfall location.

The project is currently assessing two offshore cable system options:

1) Installing inter-array cables (cables connecting turbines to each other) directly to an onshore substation at landfall on the west of the island (up to 12 separate cables).

2) Installing inter-array cables (up to 12) from the array to an offshore substation(s) from which offshore export cables (2) will route from the offshore substation to the grid substation on the east side of the island. This option negates the requirement for an onshore substation at landfall on the west of the island.

65
Maximum number of turbines to be installed (reduced from 66 previously).

365m
Maximum turbine height above mean sea level (was previously 380m)



Progress to date and next steps
Adhartas is ath cheumannan

In 2023, a programme of offshore surveys was carried out within the array area and the offshore cable area of search **(as illustrated in Figure 1).**

Geophysical survey data and preliminary ground investigation (GI) data acquired in 2023 provided measurements and imagery relating to both the seabed itself and the underlying ground conditions across the Spiorad na Mara array site and the cable route area of search. Analysis of this data has given us a better understanding of the site from a physical, environmental and ecological perspective and allowed us to begin the process of refining the design of the offshore infrastructure.

Further GI will be required in the coming years to provide more detailed information to enable foundation design and windfarm layout development to be completed.

The seabed information from the geophysical survey and GI includes:

- Measurements of water depths over the full site area, which is key to ensuring suitable and efficient engineering (water depths within the array area range from approximately 40m to 75m).
- Visual and sonar imagery of the seabed which can be used to determine areas of rock, boulders or other objects at seafloor, and which help to inform our understanding of the ecological environment. This indicated large areas of rock at seafloor, particularly in nearshore areas, but also in some places further from shore, along with high densities of boulders in many areas.
- Data on the layering of the soils and rocks across the site, and likely depth of rock below the seafloor, which will have importance in the selection, design and installation of the turbine foundations and offshore substation(s) (if required).
- Measurements of magnetic readings over the site to help identify any potential items of unexploded ordnances, shipwrecks, or other debris. No shipwrecks, other than those previously mapped, were identified during these surveys.

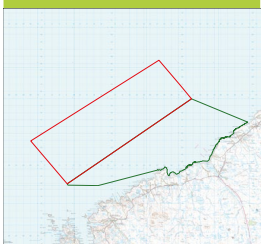
Subtidal Environmental Characterisation was completed in October 2023, which was informed by the data collected during the geophysical surveys. Data collected included video and still photography, seabed sediment samples and water samples. The data will be used to describe the abundance, extent and types of species and habitats present, including identifying any of conservation importance. The data will also be used to define the type and extent of sediments which make up the seabed.

The second year of aerial marine mammal and bird surveys were completed in March 2024. The surveys collected key data covering the array area plus a 10km buffer. The first year of surveys commenced in March 2022 and the annual report was published in June 2023. The second annual survey report has also been published. The results from these surveys have informed the EIA process and relevant assessments.

Ongoing passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) commenced in January 2024 and is being undertaken by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS). This data will develop our understanding of the marine mammal species in the area.

Fish tracking surveys commenced in April 2024 and National Vegetation (NVC) surveys were completed throughout summer 2024.

Figure 1
Array area and offshore cable route area of search.



Key
Offshore Array Area
Offshore Cable Area of Search

At present, we have also conducted the following onshore ornithology surveys:

- **Breeding corncrake surveys**
- **Breeding raptor surveys**
- **Breeding diver surveys**
- **Moorland breeding bird surveys**

Following the completion of Phase 1 peat probing surveys in September 2023, Phase 2 commenced earlier this year. These surveys are important for collecting data that informs the design of the landfall substation and grid substation.

- Based upon initial site investigation data analysis, cable protection will be required at Spiorad na Mara, however the extent and type of cable protection is not yet confirmed. During the next few months, the site specific data collected during 2023 will be used to complete more detailed technical feasibility studies that will be used during our EIA work in 2025.

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIG MUIR

Safety considerations
Beachdachadh air sàbhailteachd

For all elements of the project, safety is our top priority. From an offshore perspective, we are engaging closely with stakeholders from the maritime sector such as the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) to ensure our project complies with all relevant legislation. Some aspects of safety we have committed to include:

- appropriate marking on UKHO Admiralty Charts;
- distribution of information for vessel routes, timings and locations, and safety zones via Notices to Mariners and Kingfisher bulletins;
- compliance with Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 and its annexes from the MCA and completion of a SAR checklist;
- application of safety zones up to 500m during construction and periods of major maintenance, and up to 50m during operation (subject to an assessment of risks for justification);
- marine coordination and communication to manage project vessel movements;
- manned vessels on site will monitor and advise other marine users of project activities;
- suitable implementation and monitoring of cable protection; and
- compliance of all project vessels with international marine regulations.

To ensure aviation safety, information regarding construction will be provided to the Civil Aviation Authority, Defence Geographic Centre (DGC) and the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) prior to installation or removal of the first turbine. Details of the location, height of infrastructure, construction dates and lighting type will also be shared with relevant stakeholders via the CAA, including NATS and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Any potential aviation obstructions will also be made known to all licensed UK airports via the civil UK Integrated Aeronautical Information Package (IAIP) and the Military Aeronautical Information Publication (Mil AIP).

Lighting and navigation marking of the wind turbines is very important for safe navigation by sea and air users. The lighting and marking will be agreed with consultees and will follow the policies and best practice guidance set by both aviation and shipping and navigation authorities. Additionally, the wind turbines will have a separation distance of at least 900m between them to ensure sufficient safe distance for vessels and SAR helicopters to navigate through the windfarm. The use of lighting and marking will be carefully considered in many sections of the Environmental Impact Assessment including but not limited to:

- shipping and navigation;
- military and civil aviation;
- seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA);
- marine and nearshore ornithology; and
- tourism, recreation, land and marine users.

Fisheries and other marine users
Iasgach is luchd-cleachdaidh eile na mara

The Spiorad na Mara team aims to understand and minimise the potential impact of the project on commercial fisheries and other marine users.

Our dedicated fisheries team ensures effective consultation with the potentially affected fishing communities, following the FLOWW (fishing liaison with offshore wind and wet renewables) guidance (industry best practice for communication between offshore renewables and fisheries).

Richard Joseph is our Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO), and Calum Macleod is the project's Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR). Both have been in place supporting the Spiorad na Mara project since 2023. They engage directly with local fishermen (including those engaged in shell fishing) in the vicinity of the proposed windfarm in relation to all offshore activities associated with the project. Richard has also attended the Western Isles Fisherman's Association (WIFA) Annual General Meeting and is in regular contact with their chairman and with all other fisheries industry representatives with an interest in the area.

Richard and Calum keep in contact with local fishermen to inform them about the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process on our Environmental Impact Assessment. We are committed to maintaining engagement with the local fishing industry throughout the lifetime of the project.

This consultation

We are holding dedicated consultation meetings for the fishing community as part of this consultation process. Local fishermen, as well as representatives of relevant fishing industry bodies and other organisations, have been notified and invited to attend. We will do the same during our second phase of consultation.

Feedback related to fisheries may also be provided through either the online or hard copy feedback forms associated with these consultation events.

Contact information
Fiosrachadh conaltraidh

- For local fishermen: Calum, based locally, can be reached at [Redacted]
- For fishing industry bodies and organisations: Richard can be contacted at [Redacte



In order to connect the windfarm to the national grid, offshore cables will be brought ashore – i.e. 'make landfall' – to connect to onshore cables.

The 'landfall' is located between the point of cable entry to the drilled duct on the seabed, known as the exit pit, through to the transition joint bay (TJB), typically located within 200m of the high tide mark. It is at this TJB where the offshore cables will connect to smaller onshore cables, via the landfall substation, if this is the design option chosen.

Initial coastal assessment for cable landfall
A' chiad mheasadh cladaich airson càball a thoirt air tìr

Initially, the entire west coast of Lewis was assessed for potential landfall locations and large areas of the coast were ruled out due to environmental sensitivities, designations, the number of residential properties and crofts, or being too steep or unstable. This led to the identification of seven potential landfall Areas of Search.

Subsequently, an additional two possible landfall Areas of Search were identified and a comprehensive evaluation was carried out. Criteria used in the assessment included:

- environmental impact both on and offshore
- technical feasibility of installing cables from land to sea
- proximity to local communities and crofts
- minimising the length of onshore and offshore cables needed.

Refinement of landfall options
Ath-leasachadh air roghainnean

As part of the Scoping Report, three Landfall Areas of Search were presented. A second, more detailed risk assessment was then undertaken on these against a wider range of constraint criteria under three main categories:

- Engineering/construction
- Land Use, Planning and Consenting
- Environment.

Following completion of the assessment, it was proposed that Area of Search 1 would not be progressed further, while Areas of Search 2 and 3 would (see map above, right).

Following more detailed analysis of Areas of Search 2 and 3, three smaller Areas of Interest were identified: 2a located west of Ballantrushal, 2b located north-east of Barvas, and 3 located between Arnol and Brue.

'Emerging preferred option' and next steps
'Roghainn as fheàrr' agus na h-ath cheumannan

Figure 2 shows the three landfall Areas of Interest that are currently under further investigation by the project. Of these three Areas of Interest, 2b is the 'emerging preferred option', for a variety of environmental and technical reasons. However, detailed ground investigation works and further offshore assessments need to be undertaken. In addition, further engagement and consultation is required with a wide range of stakeholders, including with the community, as part of this consultation process. The results of this suite of information will inform the final selection of the landfall and potential landfall substation location.



Landfall site construction method
Dòigh togail làrach tighinn air tìr

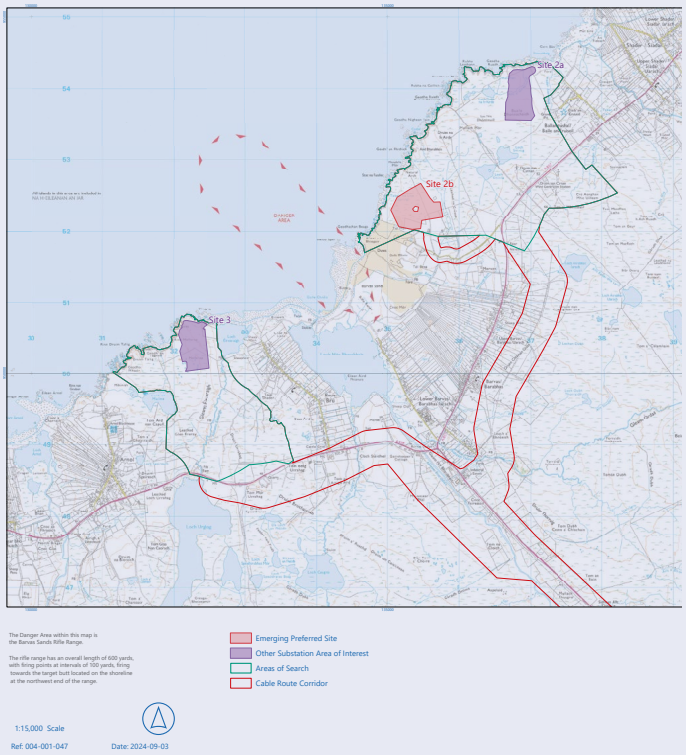
To bring offshore cables to shore, we will use methods that minimise disruption. This includes horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to create a duct for the cables underground from the TJB to the exit pit offshore. This method typically reduces the environmental impact on the shoreline, due to the reduced area of disturbance. The process will involve careful planning and use of specialist equipment to ensure the disturbance to the surrounding environment is minimised as much as possible.

Once the cables are in place, the area will be restored as close to its natural state as possible.

This consultation

The three potential landfall sites which have been shortlisted are shown on the map, with the emerging preferred option shown in red. In this consultation, we are seeking your specific feedback on these three sites and any particular features or details – technical, environmental, cultural, historical, social etc – which you would like us to consider.

Figure 2
Final landfall areas of search and landfall substation areas of interest



ONSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIR TÌR

Onshore substations
Fo-stèiseanan air tir

An onshore substation is a compound that holds the electrical equipment required to collect the electricity generated by the windfarm and transforms electrical voltages up and down to minimise electrical losses and ensure the system is more efficient.

The project will have up to two onshore substations, these will be the grid substation and potentially a landfall substation, depending on the final project design that is selected.

The onshore substation compounds will include control buildings and external electrical and ancillary infrastructure required to safely export the electricity generated from the windfarm to the grid.

Each onshore substation compound will contain infrastructure up to 20m in height and will have a footprint of 150 x 150m for the landfall substation (approximately the size of two football pitches) and 250 x 250m for the grid substation.

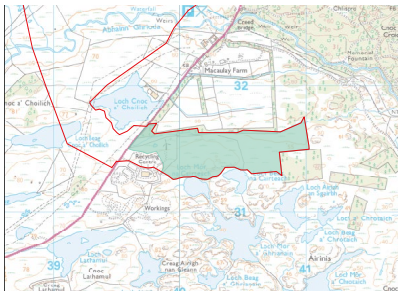
20m
maximum height of some infrastructure for each onshore substation compound

150 x 150m
footprint for the landfall substation

Grid substation
Fo-stèisean a' ghriod

The purpose of the grid substation is to increase the voltage from the onshore export cables to a level that can be accepted by the SSEN converter station, in order to connect the project to the national electricity grid.

The final location of our grid substation is dependent on where SSEN locate their substation and converter. We would aim to be as close to this as feasible. In July of this year, SSEN identified a site near Stornoway **(https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/western-isles/)** as the preferred location for their converter station. We are therefore currently looking at potential options in and around the Arnish and Creed Industrial Park area and we can now progress further work on these (see map below).



Key
Cable Route Corridor
Grid Substation Area of Search

Landfall substation
Fo-stèisean tighinn gu tir

The purpose of the landfall substation, if required, is to collect the electricity that has been generated offshore. The voltage will be stepped-up so that the electricity can be transported using fewer cables across the island to the grid substation.

During the construction of the substation, a flat platform will be created on which the electrical infrastructure will be located. The platform location will be selected with the aim of minimising the amount of earthworks and potential disturbance to peat by choosing an area with gentle slopes.

Drainage, access routes, and underground cables will be installed. Above ground, there will be gas insulated switchgear (GIS) buildings, electrical equipment, and security fences.

A temporary compound will be necessary during the construction phase but will be removed once construction is complete. We are committed to minimising environmental impact and ensuring the site blends appropriately with its surroundings.

Onshore substation(s) site selection
Taghadh làrach fo-stèisein(ean) air tir

Key aspects of the site selection process for both the grid substation and landfall substation include:

- Avoiding environmentally sensitive areas, including environmentally designated areas, croft land, and scheduled ancient monuments, and minimising effects on peatland.
- Ensuring suitable ground conditions.
- Avoiding utilities, residential areas, and other users.
- Ensuring accessibility via suitable routes.
- Locating the landfall substation (if required) as close to the landfall as possible to minimise the amount of cable and other infrastructure.
- Minimising footprint of the substation compound and ground disturbance.



ONSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIR TÌR

Onshore cables
Càbaill air tir

Onshore cables carry the electricity generated by the windfarm from the landfall site on the island's west coast to the grid substation near the SSEN converter station, before connecting to the national grid. Depending on the design option chosen, the number of onshore cables required may be:

Option 1
Landfall Substation Design

- Up to 6 onshore export cables from the transition joint bay(s) to the landfall substation;
- 2 onshore export cables linking the landfall substation to the grid substation; and
- 2 onshore export cables from the grid substation to the SSEN converter station.

OR

Option 2
Offshore Substation(s) Design

- 2 onshore export cables from the transition joint bay(s) to the grid substation; and
- 2 onshore export cables linking the grid substation to the SSEN converter station.

Following the feedback we have received through the EIA scoping process, including responses from community organisations, we can confirm that it is now our intentionto underground all onshore cables.

Following the feedback we have received through the EIA scoping process, including responses from community organisations, we can confirm that it is now our intention to underground all onshore cables. In doing so, we will seek to minimise disturbance to sensitive ecosystems, such as peatlands, and restore the area once construction is complete.

A trench will be excavated and each cable circuit will be laid in the trench (two required). The cable trench will then be backfilled. There are two potential techniques for this:

- Direct bury, where the cables are installed into the open trench which is then backfilled, or
- Ducted, where ducts are installed and the trench backfilled, with the cable being pulled through the ducts at a later date.

Every 800-1600m the cables will need to be jointed at a joint bay due to the maximum length of cable that is on a cable drum. These joint bays will be small underground structures.



ONSHORE ELEMENTS
EILEAMAIDEAN AIR TÌR

Route selection and construction of onshore cables
Taghadh slighe agus togail chàbaill air tir

The final area of search for the onshore cable route depends on both the landfall location and the selected site for the SSEN converter station. Similar surveys and ground investigations conducted for the landfall location will be performed to determine the final onshore cable route, including engineering, peat depth and condition, archaeological, ecological and other environmental surveys.

The anticipated onshore cable route will largely follow the A857 (the Barvas Moor Road) to minimise the impact on the Lewis Peatlands SPA and Ramsar protected area. The total route length is approximately 25km.

Cable trenches will typically be dug with an excavator, but horizontal directional drilling is likely to be required for crossings beneath roads, utilities, and rivers. Upon completion, both the onshore cables and the transition joint bays will be buried, with only access covers visible at ground level.

Further peat probing, environmental assessments, ground investigations, and third-party consultations will be conducted to finalise the final onshore cable route.

Lighting
Solais

For the onshore infrastructure, lighting will be carefully planned to ensure safety and minimise impact. During construction, temporary lighting will be used to ensure a safe work environment, with measures to reduce light pollution. For the onshore substations, the necessary security lighting will be installed with consideration for local residents and wildlife, using motion sensors and directional lighting fixtures to minimise disturbance.

Operations & Maintenance
Obrachaidhean & Cumail suas

All offshore wind projects need to be operated and maintained, safely and efficiently, throughout their lifespan. Typically, this important work is carried out from an operations and maintenance base located at a coastal location close to the windfarm site, allowing for safe year-round access by service vessels from shore.

An operations and maintenance (O&M) base typically consists of the following:

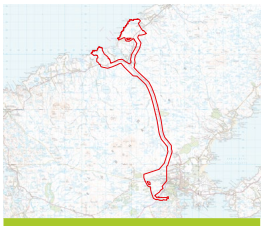
- an O&M building with office space and welfare facilities;
- a local control room where activities are coordinated and the windfarm is monitored;
- a warehouse;
- car parking;
- vessel berthing facilities including access to fuel, water and load out equipment.

This consultation

In the map shown on the right, a 1km-wide cable route corridor is shown, running from he potential landfall substation sites we are exploring, along the A857 road across the island and into the onshore grid substation area of search. Your feedback is sought on specific features or details you would like us to consider as we refine this corridor for the purposes of our planning application.

This feedback, along with the outputs of our EIA surveys and feedback from our ongoing engagement with statutory consultees, landowners and other stakeholders, will be used to inform the final route chosen.

Separate consultation with relevant landowners and common grazings committees has commenced and will continue as project design plans are progressed.



Onshore Cable Route Corridor
Area of Search

There are two potential approaches to operations and maintenance, both of which require an O&M base, but with different types of vessels supporting. One is a crew transfer vessel (CTV) approach, which uses small vessels (up to 30m) to carry out routine, day-to-day maintenance of the turbines. Due to the size of these vessels, berthing facilities are required at a local port which is very well sheltered. This is a particularly important consideration given the weather conditions off the coast of Lewis.

The alternative approach involves the use of service operation vessels (SOVs), which are much larger in size and are used to help operate and maintain the offshore windfarm.

They can work safely offshore in more challenging wind and wave conditions and provide offshore facilities for personnel responsible for operating and maintaining the windfarm once it has been built, including office and warehouse space on board. Using this approach, the crew remain offshore for typically two weeks at a time.

A feasibility study has commenced to assess various locations which might be suitable for such a base, both on the west and east sides of the island and to assess which approach is most appropriate in the context of this project.

This consultation

As work on our O&M approach has only recently commenced, there are no specific options to consult on at this point. However, any general feedback that you wish to provide on the two broad approaches outlined on this board may be included in the feedback form. We are also eager to hear your feedback on what assistance could be provided locally to support people who may wish to secure future O&M jobs on the project.

A planning application for this element of the project will not be submitted at the same time as the main project planning applications, but at a later date. This will be subject to a separate consultation process, also at a later time.



ENVIRONMENTAL
ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

The Spiorad na Mara project, a collaboration between Northland Power and ESB, is committed to responsible and sustainable development. With a proven track record in environmental stewardship, we aim to develop Spiorad na Mara to the highest environmental standards, pending all necessary consents. This will be achieved through active consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders and authorities.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being conducted to evaluate the potential significant environmental effects of the project. The methodologies used in the EIA are based on consultations, guidance documents, and best practice principles. These methodologies are designed to avoid, minimise, and mitigate any potential significant adverse effects while maximising the positive benefits of the project. This approach ensures that the project is developed in a manner that protects the environment for current and future generations.

A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) looks at potential changes to elements of society and community life caused by a development which may include, but is not limited to: effects on people's way of life, heritage and culture, community, political systems, health and wellbeing, personal and property rights, concerns and aspirations.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process and Report
Pròiseas agus Aithisg Measadh Buaidh Àrainneachdail

The results of the EIA are reported in an EIA Report (EIAR), which serves as the primary supporting documentation submitted with the planning consent applications to the regulatory authorities. For Spiorad na Mara, these are expected to be submitted in the first half of 2025 to the Marine Directorate's Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for the offshore elements of the project and to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the onshore elements of the project (see information on the next page).

The environmental impact assessment process

1 Screening
Determine if the project needs an EIA.

2 Scoping
Identify which environmental aspects to study and the methods for studying them.

3 Assessment
Evaluate the project's potential significant impacts on the environment.

4 Mitigation
Propose ways to reduce negative impacts.

5 Reporting
Compile findings in an EIAR.

6 Review
Authorities and the public review the EIAR.

7 Decision
Authorities decide if the project can go ahead, often with conditions.



In September 2023, we submitted our EIA Scoping Report to MD-LOT.

This report outlined the environmental assessments we planned to conduct to evaluate the potential significant effects of the Spiorad na Mara project. Following its submission, MD-LOT consulted with various specialist stakeholders, including Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, on the Scoping Report, covering a range of environmental topics.

We received their feedback in the Scoping Opinion in May 2024 and this has been instrumental in refining our assessment approach. You can access the Scoping Report on our website at **www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/.** We have conducted an extensive series of surveys across the project to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current environmental conditions. The information collected thus far is aiding the understanding of the baseline environment and allowing the project to progress work to identify potential impacts (positive and negative) and enhance or mitigate these through design refinement.

In addition to our surveys, we are actively engaging with key stakeholders, including government bodies and statutory consultees, to discuss the various assessments we will undertake as part of the EIA.

The topics to be included within the EIA include:

Consenting approach

Originally, it was our intention to submit a single planning application, for both the onshore and offshore elements of the Spiorad na Mara project, to the Marine Directorate through their "one-stop-shop" for consenting and licensing offshore windfarms in Scotland. This application, under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, would have sought permission for the offshore infrastructure and for "deemed planning" for the onshore elements. The advantage of this approach is that it is more streamlined – for the project, for regulators, statutory consultees and wider stakeholders, including the community – and allows for all aspects of the project to be considered at the same time.

The alternative consenting approach is to apply for the offshore elements under Section 36, in addition to marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Part 4), and to apply separately for consent for the onshore elements to the relevant local authority (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar), under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Following feedback from stakeholders, including community voices, we have now decided to take the latter consenting approach.

This means that we will apply for consent for the onshore elements of the project to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the offshore elements to the Marine Directorate.

This change in approach will provide stakeholders with two separate opportunities to make submissions in relation to the project's planning proposals, through the respective statutory consultation processes carried out by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Marine Directorate.

At the moment, it is still our intention to compile a single EIA and submit this as part of both consent applications. The timeline for these submissions is the middle of 2025.

As assessment work on the O&M approach to be taken by the project is still in the early stages, any permissions required for an O&M base will not form part of the planning application we submit in 2025.

Therefore, a separate planning application for the O&M facilities required for the project will be submitted at a later date, and will be subject to a separate consultation process.

Offshore specific assessments

- **Physical and coastal processes**
- **Marine sediment and water quality**
- **Benthic ecology**
- **Fish ecology**
- **Marine mammals and other megafauna**
- **Marine and nearshore ornithology**
- **Marine archaeology**
- **Commercial fisheries**
- **Shipping and navigation**
- **Military and civil aviation**
- **Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment**

Onshore specific assessments

- **Onshore ecology**
- **Onshore intertidal ornithology**
- **Peat, Geology, soils and contaminated land**
- **Hydrology and hydrogeology**
- **Landscape and visual impact assessment**
- **Onshore archaeology and cultural heritage**
- **Traffic and transport**
- **Airborne noise and vibration**
- **Air quality and human health**

Whole project assessments

- **Climate change resilience**
- **Greenhouse gases**
- **Socio-economics**
- **Tourism, recreation, land and marine users**





Offshore considerations
Beachdachaidhean Far a' Chladaich

Across the offshore-specific Environmental Impact Assessment, many topics and potential impacts will be considered. The section below provides a summary of some of the work that has taken place on the project to date, with additional information presented on topics in which the most public interest has been shown, to date.

We welcome feedback on the following considerations and if you require further information on a topic not highlighted below please get in touch with the project team.

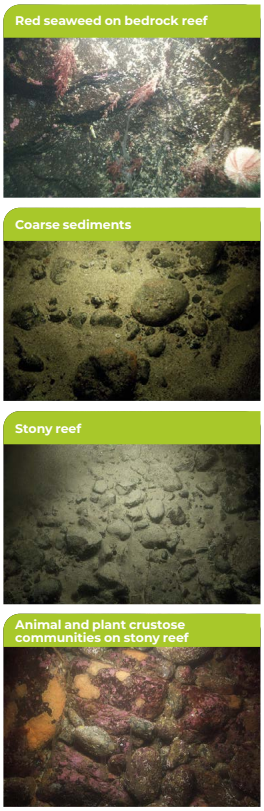
Environmental
Àrainneachdail

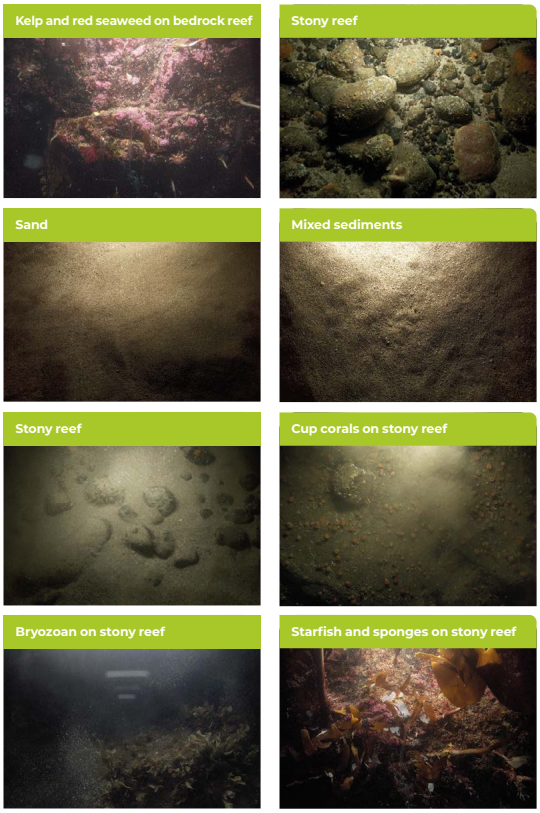
Benthic and fish ecology

Benthic communities are the plants and animals that are associated with the seabed. Following completion of the subtidal environmental characterisation survey (October 2023), it was identified that the majority of the site comprised of stony and bedrock reef communities consisting of kelp, sponges and echinoderms (sea urchins and starfish).

Data and information on fish populations that frequent the project area, which include benthic (species that live near or on the bottom) and pelagic (fish that inhabit the water column) species, as well as migratory fish that move between freshwater and marine environments, will be collected. This will be done primarily through a desktop review of commercial and recreational catches, as well as government and third-party research. The desk-based studies will also be supported through the collection of baited remote underwater video (BRUV) to capture images of fish and other mobile species (completed 2023) and acoustic telemetry to track the outbound migration of juvenile Atlantic salmon (smolts) (ongoing).

The data and information will be compiled and will be used to determine what (if any) potential impacts may occur as a result of the proposed project. This will be undertaken through detailed assessment of the sensitivity of identified species within the project area and likely magnitude of proposed project activities. Underwater noise (noise emitted underwater from a noise source) and physical processes (suspended sediment concentrations, currents and waves) modelling are two ways in which potential impacts to these species will be accurately assessed.





Habitat types within the array and offshore cable development area.

The data and information will be compiled and will be used to determine what (if any) potential impacts may occur as a result of the proposed project.

Marine mammals
Mamalan Mara

Marine mammals are species that include whales, dolphins, porpoises and seals.

Firstly, we will identify the marine mammal species that are found in the project area through the review of desk-based data sources, plus the data collected as part of the 24-monthly digital aerial surveys that were completed in March 2024. In addition data collected from two passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) devices will also be considered.

The baseline data and information collected will then be used to determine what (if any) impacts may occur as a result of the proposed development of the windfarm. This will be undertaken through detailed assessment of the sensitivity of identified species within the array and likely magnitude of proposed project activities. Underwater noise modelling, similar to that undertaken for fish species (described on the previous page), will be undertaken to assist in accurately determining any potential impacts from underwater noise emissions from the project during its construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases.

Marine and nearshore ornithology

The area around the proposed windfarm is home to a variety of birds, including seabirds like puffins, guillemots, and razorbills, as well as migratory birds like geese and ducks. Baseline data from the 24-monthly digital aerial surveys (DAS) described above for marine mammals, together with desk-based data on bird populations that may be connected with the project area, will assist with informing the EIA.

Once information on species and populations that could be potentially affected by the project has been identified, we will use detailed scientific models, including those recommended by environmental agencies, to understand these potential impacts. This includes looking at the risk of collision, whether birds might be displaced from the area, and how the windfarm could affect bird populations overall. This information will help us design and operate the windfarm in a way that protects the birds identified within the area.

Commercial fisheries

It is recognised that the commercial fishing sector is important to the communities of the Isle of Lewis and the project has set up a dedicated commercial fisheries team to work directly with the fishing industry.

The fisheries team has been collecting information since 2022 through stakeholder engagement with industry associations nationally and locally e.g. Western Isles Fisheries Association, and has undertaken desk-based surveys that include catch statistics, vessel tracking information, and surveillance records with the intention to fully understand how the project site and its surrounding areas are utilised by operational fleets that are known to use the area.

The information collected will be used to determine what (if any) impacts may occur as a result of the proposed development of the windfarm. We will undertake assessments for all project phases i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning, and all project activities will be considered. The project will also develop a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) in collaboration with the fishing industry, and contact will be made with local fishers and the fishing associations over the coming months as this document develops.

Our dedicated fisheries team will continue working with commercial fisheries' stakeholders operating within the project's commercial fisheries study area to maintain a positive relationship with these vital fishing communities throughout the project's lifespan.

SLVIA

We are committed to understanding how the Spiorad na Mara windfarm might change the way the Isle of Lewis looks. We are conducting a detailed study called a Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA). This study involves taking photographs from various locations around the island – from coastal villages and popular tourist spots to higher vantage points inland – to see how the windfarm might appear from different perspectives. Viewpoint photography collected allows visual representations' or 'photomontages' to be produced, showing the indicative appearance of Spiorad na Mara from recognised viewpoints, in comparison to the existing views experienced today.

As we progress our assessments and finalise the project design, photomontages will be produced to show effects during both day and night, when aviation and marine navigation lighting may be visible. For the purposes of this consultation, however, only daytime representations are presented as our work on night-time lighting is still at a relatively early stage.





Clockwise from top left; Puffins, Razor bills and guillemots

2022
When our fisheries team started to gather relevant information, through stakeholder engagement with fishermen and with industry associations, locally and nationally.

Our initial findings suggest that the windfarm will be most noticeable from the northern and western coasts of the island, especially from higher elevations. This means that people living in coastal communities, tourists exploring the area, and those enjoying outdoor activities like hiking or cycling are most likely to see the turbines. However, the windfarm will be less visible or even completely out of sight for those on the eastern coasts of the island. We also understand that certain areas hold special value for their scenic beauty and cultural significance. That's why we're paying special attention to how the windfarm might affect areas like the National Scenic Area in southern Lewis and northern Harris. We're committed to minimising any potential negative visual impacts on these cherished landscapes.

As part of this exhibition, we are sharing photomontages showing how the windfarm might look from 8 different locations along the west coast. We're eager to hear your thoughts and feedback on these visuals. Your input will help us understand any concerns you may have and will be invaluable in shaping our final plans. Together, we can work to ensure that the Spiorad na Mara windfarm is developed responsibly and harmoniously with the natural beauty of the islands.



Onshore considerations
Beachdachaidhean air Tir

Across the onshore-specific assessments, there are many topics and potential impacts taken into account. We welcome feedback on the following considerations, either environmental or social, that you feel we should also consider as part of the EIA process.

Environmental
Àrainneachdail

Onshore ecology

Ecological surveys have been taking place within the areas of search during 2023 and 2024; these surveys include:

- national vegetation classification surveys
- protected species surveys e.g. otter
- peatland condition surveys.

Of particular importance during the assessment phase of the EIA are the impacts of the project on:

- The Lewis Peatlands Ramsar Site;
- The Lewis Peatlands Special Area of Conservation
- priority habitats including peatland, and the machair
- protected and priority species such as otter.

Ornithology

Breeding bird surveys and wintering goose foraging surveys were carried out over the onshore areas of search during 2023 and 2024. The area of search for ornithology overlaps with three statutory sites of international importance that are either partially or fully designated due to protected bird species. All three sites are being considered as part of the ornithology assessment, and include:

- Ness and Barvas Special Protection Area (SPA);
- Lewis Peatlands SPA; and
- Lewis Peatlands Ramsar Site.

Further to this, one potential landfall site lies east of Loch na Muilne RSPB Nature Reserve. Although this is not a statutory designation, we are also considering this in the assessment due to its importance for breeding waders such as the red-necked phalarope.

Peat, geology, soils and contaminated land

Ongoing desk-based assessments and site surveys aim to evaluate baseline conditions and the project's impact on the following:

- bedrock geology;
- superficial soils, referring to the youngest geological deposits overlying older bedrock, often covered by a layer of surface soil;
- National Soils of Scotland;
- carbon-rich soils, deep peat, and priority habitats; and
- contaminated land.

3 sites
of international importance that are either partially or fully designated due to protected bird species have been searched.

Whilst the landfall, landfall substation and grid substation areas of search avoid nationally important carbon-rich Class 1 and Class 2 peatland and are all located outside of Lewis Peatlands SAC and the Lewis Peatlands Ramsar Site, the cable route will pass through these designations. In order to minimise the impact on these designations, our cable corridor is centred on the A857 with the cable following the route of the road and other infrastructure for a large part of the route across the island.



Hydrology and hydrogeology

Impacts to hydrological receptors from the project, effects on public and private water supplies and effects on the wider hydrological environment are included. No private water supplies have been identified.

A hydrological site walkover was conducted in October 2023 to confirm the presence of water features, watercourses and drainage features shown on Ordnance Survey maps. The results from this site visit, along with desk-based research, will be used to inform the hydrology and hydrogeology assessment.

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

Following construction, the only above-ground infrastructure will be the substation(s). The LVIA will take into consideration what this will look like from different viewpoints agreed with NatureScot and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. As part of the EIA, photomontages will be produced which will show what the substations could look like once built.

Onshore archaeology and cultural heritage

We recognise that Lewis has a long history of human occupation, of which a large proportion remains well preserved and now forms the focus of many of the tourist attractions.

Impacts on designated assets such as the Callanish Stones and the Clach an Truiseil Standing Stone, as well as listed buildings, Lews Castle garden and designated landscapes, together with non-designated heritage assets such as Pictish remains, cairns, shell middens and flint tool findspots are being investigated.

The assessment identifies direct impacts on these assets and impacts to the setting of these assets. In November 2023 initial walkover archaeology and cultural heritage surveys were conducted for the potential landfall locations. Throughout 2024 further walkover surveys are being undertaken across the cable corridor and grid substation locations. As part of the EIA, we will explore appropriate mitigation measures through engagement with Historic Environment Scotland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Any archaeological finds made through our work will be recorded and reported to Historic Environment Scotland.

A hydrological site walkover was conducted in October 2023 to confirm the presence of water features, watercourses and drainage features shown on Ordnance Survey maps.



Traffic and transport
Trafaig agus Còmhdhail

The impact of the project on road users during the construction and operation phases is being considered.

An Abnormal Load Route Assessment will be undertaken to ensure that the proposed route can accommodate large and heavy vehicles with no detrimental effect on the quality of the road network. Where there is any damage to the road as a result of the project this will be rectified at the earliest opportunity.

Airborne noise and vibration

Noise monitoring on the west of Lewis is proposed, with the aim of establishing the prevailing noise climate. The survey results will be used in the assessment of potential impacts from the offshore wind turbines and from onshore infrastructure. The survey approach, including potential locations, duration and strategy, has been agreed in consultation with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Air quality and human health

The onshore air quality assessment considers potential impacts to people, animals and plants, and it will predict changes in air quality during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the onshore infrastructure. The assessment is undertaken using:

- air pollution concentration data from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); and
- nitrogen dioxide monitoring data carried out by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.



Whole project considerations

Tourism, recreation, land and marine users
These assessments will consider:

- core path users;
- users of tourism/recreational resources;
- land use practices; and
- accommodation providers.

The assessment will consider the direct and indirect effects of the construction and operation of the project for users of resources including core paths and other relevant facilities, such as tourism accommodation, hospitality businesses, and tourism attractions (including marine-based activities). Direct impacts could arise from disruption or diversion of core paths or any loss of land used for community or recreational purposes. Indirect impacts could include disruption to access routes, effects on amenities as a result of noise or changes in the visual environment, or increased demand for tourism accommodation due to construction workers moving into the area temporarily. Baseline data gathering is ongoing, informed by stakeholder feedback received through the scoping process.

Socio-economics

The socio-economic assessment will consider the effects of the construction and operation of the project in terms of employment and Gross Value Added (GVA). It will provide estimates of the number of jobs created during each phase, both directly and in the supply chain, taking account of the local economy and labour market conditions. It will also assess the wider socio-economic and socio-cultural effects associated with the project, including impacts on key local sectors such as agriculture, fishing and tourism, temporary and permanent changes in the local population, and any associated increase in demand for local services.

A separate Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Report is also being undertaken, and this will be informed by the socio-economic chapter of the EIA. Focus groups are currently underway to gather the views of residents and communities in Stornoway and north-west Lewis, and a series of interviews have been held with key stakeholders including representatives of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the local arts and tourism industry, and healthcare professionals.



The assessment will consider the direct and indirect effects of the construction and operation of the project.

Cumulative impacts

As part of the EIA, a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) will be undertaken which will consider impacts arising cumulatively with other relevant plans, projects and activities.

The CEA will consider other developments and activities which are 'reasonably foreseeable', including:

- existing developments already built or in construction, including, but not limited to:
  - offshore and onshore windfarms and all associated infrastructure;
  - cable installations;
  - carbon capture and storage;
  - seismic surveys;
  - coastal developments (i.e. ports and harbours);
  - aggregate extraction areas;
  - licenced dredging disposal sites.
- permitted applications of projects that have not yet started.
- submitted applications awaiting approved permits with design information in the public domain (including other ScotWind offshore windfarms, where applicable).

This consultation

We welcome your feedback on any other/specific environmental considerations that you think we should keep in mind throughout the EIA process. Please share your feedback with us using the feedback form at the end of this exhibition.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
MEASADH BUAIDH SHÒISEALTA

As part of its commitment to local communities, Northland Power chooses to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for all its development projects, although this is not an EIA requirement. SIA includes the processes of analysing, monitoring, and managing the effects – positive, negative and neutral – that projects such as windfarms can have on people and communities. Its primary purpose is to ensure that developments are sustainable and fair.

It should also ensure that local knowledge and understanding of the broad social context in the area are used to inform the way that the project goes ahead, if it is granted planning consent.

An SIA looks at potential changes to elements of society and community life caused by a development which may include, but is not limited to: effects on people's way of life, heritage and culture, community, political systems, health and wellbeing, personal and property rights, concerns and aspirations.



It involves a number of different tasks and stages, including:

- desk-based analysis of publicly available data relating to community and social life on Lewis;
- meeting with focus groups to gather and understand people's priorities and values, as well as concerns about the project;
- assessing the findings and data against the project in order to ascertain potential positive and negative impacts, as well as where those impacts would occur;
- in consultation with the community and according to professional judgement, asking what would be acceptable in order to avoid, reduce ("mitigate") or offset negative impacts, where the preference is to avoid them.

The final SIA will be informed by the socio-economic chapter of the EIA. Should the project be consented, the SIA could also be used to monitor how the project's impacts on the community are being managed.

SIAs are carried out by independent agencies that ensure all perspectives are considered without bias. Atlantic58, a local environmental consultancy based on the Isle of Lewis, are leading the SIA for this project. Atlantic58 have undertaken a range of socio-economic impact assessments across the Hebrides, ranging from small community trust scale to large marine projects, and they are working with ERM, a larger consultancy who have expertise in the global requirements of SIAs for projects of this scale.

Work on the SIA commenced during the summer and Atlantic58 will be engaging widely with community-based organisations, local stakeholders and others across the island as it progresses in the coming months.

Have your say

If you are interested in learning more about the SIA or in having your views considered as part of it, please contact Atlantic58 directly via

email: sia@atlantic58.co.uk

[Redact

OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES

AR DEALAS DON CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Community Engagement
Com-pàirteachadh Coimhearsnachd

Northland Power is a values-driven company, committed to building strong relationships with local communities.

This is enshrined in the company's official Commitment to Local Communities Policy, which has been endorsed at Board level.

Similarly, ESB takes its responsibility to local communities seriously and its commitments in this regard are set out clearly on its website here: Supporting Communities (www.esb.ie).

Community engagement for the Spiorad na Mara project has been ongoing since 2021 and it is broadening and deepening all the time. This includes meeting with community councils, trusts, local support agencies and other community groups and organisations.

In order to facilitate better access to our project team, we commenced "community drop-ins" in June and continued these in July and August. The drop-ins were held at four locations across the island – the Old School, Shawbost; Carloway Community Centre; Galson Trust Offices, and Stornoway Business Hub – all venues in the heart of local communities, with which people in the area are very familiar.

The purpose of the drop-ins, which will resume in November after this period of public consultation has been completed, is to allow people to meet with us at locations that are convenient to them, to discuss specific aspects of the project in which they have an interest, to discuss concerns they have about our proposals or to simply learn more about the project.

Details of our community drop-ins for the remainder of the year, including how to book an appointment at one of them, are available on our website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk or by calling Denise Horan, our Consultation & Local Engagement Lead, on [redacted].

In addition to this on-the-ground engagement, our project website is regularly updated with all the latest news and developments on the project. A project update booklet was posted to all homes in the HS1 and HS2 postcodes in July 2024. We also issue press releases to all local media when any activities of relevance to local communities are taking place.

Community benefit
Buannachd Choimhearsnachd

We are committed to ensuring that the communities closest to the proposed Spiorad na Mara project benefit meaningfully from its presence in their area, in both the short and long term.

To stay informed, visit www.spioradnamara.co.uk or our project LinkedIn page.

Meeting with us:

If your community group or organisation would like to meet with us, to learn more about the proposed Spiorad na Mara project and ask questions, we will be happy to do so. Simply call Denise on [redacted] or email spioradnamara@northlandpower.co.uk.

If you have ideas for how we can reach more people, please do get in touch. If you know of anyone who would have difficulty accessing our in-person or online events but would like to know more, please let us know we would be happy to find a solution that works for them.

In August, the project announced its commitment to providing a £4.5m per annum community benefit fund, index linked, and delivered over the operational lifetime of the project, which is expected to be at least 35 years. This is aimed at delivering benefits directly into communities on the west of the island and follows two years of discussions with the West Side Estates Group (WSEG), which comprises three community-run estates and one privately owned estate on the west side of Lewis, and listening to feedback from the broader community.

This commitment reflects our determination to ensure that, should the project go ahead, it leaves a lasting legacy in local communities.

Next steps will involve extensive and meaningful consultation with local communities and stakeholders on the community benefit proposals. This will be separate from this public consultation on the project proposals and will take place in the coming months, supported by an independent specialist company. It will explore many aspects of the community fund, including:

- Geographical areas of benefit for construction and operational stages;
- Types of themes, projects and other initiatives to be supported;
- The governance and administration process around the fund.

The outputs from this independent consultation will be used to inform and put in place a legally binding Community Benefit Agreement.

The separate community benefit consultation process will also seek feedback on potential benefits that could be delivered to other parts of the island, building on wider engagement that is already taking place.

Communities hosting windfarms have traditionally benefitted from local investment funds. Examples of this can be seen across Scotland and the UK, for offshore and onshore wind projects, where communities and companies have worked in partnership to maximise opportunities available through local investment funds.

Community benefit fund arrangements are separate from the planning process, with no provisions associated with the fund either requiring support for the project or prohibiting any objections to it.



Sponsorship and donations support:

Separate from the consideration and development – in consultation with the community – of long-term community benefit initiatives associated with the proposed project, Northland is already providing support to local communities through its Sponsorship and Small Donations programme. This is something that Northland does on its projects all over the world.

Typically, support is given following an approach from a local organisation and discussions between them and Northland regarding the activity, event or initiative for which support is sought. In 2023 and 2024 to date, we have supported a range of community, sporting and cultural activities and initiatives, including:

- Deasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean 2024
- Co-funding of a STEM Co-ordinator for the Highlands and Islands, delivered through UHI
- War Memorials Restoration Project
- Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH)
- Hebridean Emigration Metagama Centenary
- Western Isles Library Services
- Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA)

As with the community benefit proposals, participation in the Sponsorship and Small Donations programme is separate from the planning process for the project. There are no arrangements as part of the Sponsorship and Small Donations programme that require beneficiary support for the project or that prohibit objections to it.

This consultation:

While there will be a separate, independent consultation process on community benefit in the coming months, you may also provide feedback on your thoughts, ideas and desires around community benefit as part of this process. All feedback received in this regard will be used to inform the independent consultation process on community benefit. Please share your thoughts with us through our feedback form at the end of this virtual exhibition, or by filling one in at one of our in-person events.



SUPPLY CHAIN & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SÈINE SOLARACHAIDH & COTHROMAN COSNAIDH

Supply chain
Sèine Solarachaidh

We are committed to maximising opportunities for local suppliers and Scottish businesses.

During development, construction, and operation, our procurement process will focus on involving local businesses, new entrants, and small and medium-sized enterprises. We aim to achieve this by:

- identifying existing potential suppliers
- actively developing new local supply sources for the project and the broader industry
- informing the supply chain of requirements for each project stage
- explaining how to get involved directly or through contractors
- sharing information about local suppliers and new opportunities with main contractors
- requiring contractors to provide opportunities to local suppliers
- collaborating with other projects, support agencies, and the industry to expand supply chain opportunities
- hosting meet-the-buyer events
- providing feedback and advice to registered suppliers.

Below is an indicative, high-level timeline for the development of the Spiorad na Mara project and the associated procurement activities that will take place during each phase of development.

It should be noted that, as with all large and complex infrastructure projects, timelines can change, due to the many variables that impact the schedule. During the development phase of the project, many support services are required for surveying, environmental studies, project management, consenting, and design.

These support services include:

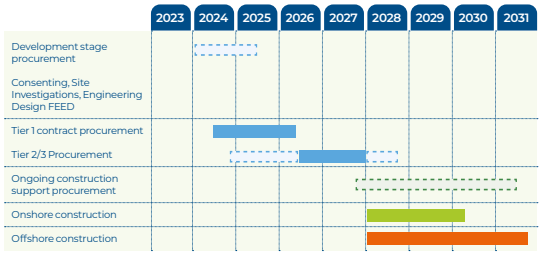
- Environmental impact assessment studies
- Marine and ornithology surveys
- Metocean surveys
- Geophysical site surveys
- Geotechnical site surveys
- Windfarm design
- Graphic design
- Gaelic translation services.

A wide range of local support services are required from the earliest stages of a project's development and continue throughout the life of the project. In the case of Spiorad na Mara, many of these services are already being sourced locally, while others will be required in the months and years ahead.

These include:

- Accommodation
- Plant hire
- Fuel supply
- Training
- Catering
- Security
- Fencing
- IT services
- Electricians
- Ground and building maintenance
- Office space and equipment
- Transportation, hire cars and taxis

Spiorad na Mara – Indicative High Level Procurement Schedule





Jobs
Obraichean

The project expects to create 80 to 120 new, permanent long-term jobs once built (based on similar scale offshore wind projects) and 750 to 1,000 new, temporary jobs throughout the construction phase. Our aim is to keep as many of these jobs as possible, particularly the long-term roles, on the island. To enable this, we recognise that investment is required in skills development, employment training and apprenticeship opportunities in the area.

This is work we have already started to explore and will build on – in collaboration with the large contractors, local educational institutions and support agencies, and industry partners – in the months and years ahead. Typical long-term jobs required within the Operations & Maintenance phase include:

Wind Turbine Operations and Maintenance
- Wind Turbine Service Technicians
- Wind Turbine Service Manager
- Wind Turbine Service Supervisor
- Wind Turbine Service Planner
- HSE Manager
- Warehouse Operative
- Administration.

Operations and Asset Management
- General Manager
- Production Manager
- Engineering Manager
- Commercial Manager
- Office Manager
- Administrative staff and Back-Office.

Support including finance, procurement and HR
- Stakeholder Manager
- Windfarm and High Voltage Control

Engineers & Marine Coordinators
- Safety Rules Authorisations Officer
- Planning and Logistics Coordinator
- Subsea Asset Engineer
- Turbine Engineer
- High Voltage Electrical Engineer
- SCADA and Control Engineer
- Balance of Plant Maintenance Technician
- Performance Engineer
- Warranty, Quality and Systems Engineer
- HSE Manager
- Warehouse Manager
- Fisheries Liaison Officer.

Other Support Services (not all full-time roles)
- Vessel Master
- Vessel crew
- High voltage maintenance engineers
- Blade inspection and repair technicians
- Drone operators
- Specialist engineering support consultants
- Environmental consultants and survey staff
- Subsea survey teams
- IT support staff.

80–120
new, permanent long-term jobs once built

750–1,000
new, temporary jobs throughout the construction phase

Getting involved:

Businesses interested in getting involved in Spiorad na Mara are encouraged to complete the supply chain registration form, which can be found on our website, along with extensive information on the opportunities available, via the following links:

- **northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/spiorad-na-mara-supply-chain/**
- **northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/supply-chain-registration/**

PROJECT TIMELINE
LOIDHNE-TÌM A' PHRÒISEICT

Below is an indicative project timeline, showing the various stages of development and milestones on the journey. Further information is available – and is updated as and when timelines change – at: www.spioradnamara.co.uk

KEY ACTIVITIES

Site selection
2020–2021

2 YEARS

Site selection was undertaken by Scottish Government as part of the ScotWind leasing round.

CrownEstateScotland.com



Development
2022–2027

5 YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- **Detailed site surveys** (onshore and offshore), **including:**
  - Geophysical
  - Geotechnical
  - Environmental
  - Cultural and heritage
  - Noise
  - Hydrology
  - Peat
  - Engineering
  - Social
- Evaluate business case
- Wind monitoring
- Engineering design, including turbine size, layout, foundation type and electrical infrastructure
- Secure grid connection & tarriff
- Procurement and financing
- Secure consents
- Feasibility studies



Pre-construction
2027–2028

2 YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Final design and construction strategy
- Discharge any planning consent conditions
- Secure contracts, including manufacture and installation of foundations, wind turbines, cable and vessels
- Refine Operations & Maintenance strategy



Construction
2028–2031

3 YEARS

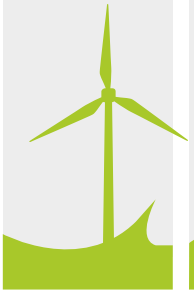
- Engagement and consultation
- Transportation of components to site
- Installing foundations
- Installing transition pieces
- Installing nacelles and wind
- Installing substation(s)
- Laying offshore cables
- Laying cables on land and into SSEN electricity substation and onto the national grid
- Commissioning the windfarm



Operations & maintenance
2031–2066

35+ YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Manage usage and availability of turbines
- Maintenance, inspection, repair and servicing of wind turbines
- Substation maintenance and service
- Use of appropriate vessels on site
- O&M work may include an option to use a helicopter, when weather prevents vessel access



Decommissioning
2067+

2+ YEARS

- Engagement and consultation
- Decommissioning plans are required as part of application for planning consent
- Removal of project infrastructure, in line with decommissioning plan



GETTING IN TOUCH
CONALTRADH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback and engagement is important to us.
Mar a chumas sinn oirnn a' cumadh agus a' dealbhadh a' phròiseict, tha ur beachdan cudromach.

If you would like to get in touch at any time – to ask a question, arrange a meeting, share feedback or seek more information about the project – we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us in the following ways:

Ma tha sibh airson fios a chur thugainn aig àm sam bith – airson ceist fhaighneachd, coinneamh a chur air dòigh, fios air ais a cho-roinn no barrachd fiosrachaidh a shireadh mun phròiseact – bhiodh sinn air leth toilichte cluinntinn bhuaibh. Faodaidh sibh fios a chur thugainn anns na dòighean a leanas:

Community Liaison
Ceangail Coimhearsnachd



Kathleen Milne,
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]



Denise Horan,
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead
[Redacted]

Media Enquiries
Fiosrachadh Meadhanan



Steve Thomas,
Communications Lead
[Redacted]

Fisheries Liaison
Ceangal Iasgaich

Richard Joseph,
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Calum Macleod,
Fisheries Industry Representative
[Redacted]

General Enquiries
Fiosrachadh Coitcheann

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com


Fàilte. Welcome to our online exhibition
0:03 / 2:07
1x


Fàilte don taisbeanadh air-loidhne againn

APPENDIX G Phase 1 Consultation Summary Report

PHASE 1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION:
SUMMARY REPORT

CO-CHOMHAIRLE POBLACH ÌRE 1:
GEÀRR-AITHISG



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TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS
TEIRMEAN IS GIORRACHAIDHEAN

TERM/ ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
FIR	Fisheries Industry Representative
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team
MNWFA	Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association Ltd
PC1	Phase 1 Public Consultation
SFF	Scottish Fisherman's Federation
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Phase 1 Public Consultation (PC1) for the Spiorad na Mara offshore windfarm – an offshore wind project proposed to be developed off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, in Scotland – was carried out over a period of one month, from 23rd September to 23rd October 2024.

The purpose of the consultation was to offer community members and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on the project proposals as they stood at that point.

Consultation consisted of a range of events and outreach activities – both in-person and online – held over a four-week period. The specific consultation and outreach activities – which were publicised widely in advance and were designed to facilitate maximum participation – were as follows:

- **A month-long virtual exhibition** hosted on the project website, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk;**
- **Seven in-person public exhibitions** at different community locations across the Isle of Lewis;
- **20 hours of information clinic appointments**, with morning, afternoon, evening and weekend options available;
- Focused **consultation sessions for representatives of the local fishing community** and relevant fishing and marine organisations; and
- **Two stakeholder briefing events** – prior to the commencement of the consultation activities – for local elected representatives, community council and community trust representatives, local media, local support agencies, education and training organisations and local businesses.

There was a high level of engagement with the consultation process, with a total of 335 people attending the public exhibitions and information clinics and 1,265 visits recorded to the virtual exhibition platform.

Participants in the consultation process were offered a number of ways to provide feedback, including physical feedback forms that were available at the in-person events or from the project office in Stornoway, as well as online feedback forms and options to share feedback by email or verbally to a team member. A total of 275 pieces of feedback were recorded over the course of the consultation.

The feedback received was wide-ranging, with multiple topics covered and varying sentiments expressed. This included numerous concerns about the potential impacts of the project – environmentally, socially and culturally – as well as specific suggestions on changes that should be considered to minimise potential negative impacts and initiatives that could be undertaken to maximise the potential benefits of the project.

"There was a high level of engagement with the consultation process, with a total of 335 people attending the public exhibitions and information clinics and 1,265 visits recorded to the virtual exhibition platform."

All feedback received was recorded, collated and analysed as part of this consultation process and is being used by the project team to inform the ongoing design and development of the project plans. During the project's second phase of public consultation, expected to be during the summer of 2025, updated project plans will be shared, plus information on how feedback received during PC1 has been used to shape these plans.

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed overview of PC1, including a summary of:

- All activities that formed part of the consultation;
- The level of engagement with each activity;
- The range and type of materials made available as part of the consultation process;
- The extent and type of feedback – categorised into themes – received during the consultation; and
- Details of the next steps in the project design and development, and consultation processes.

This summary report will be published on the project website and made available to stakeholders locally, so that participants in the consultation process – and those who were unable to participate – are informed about the outputs, how their views will be considered and when they will next be provided with an updated set of project proposals.

> ***"All feedback received was recorded, collated and analysed as part of this consultation process and is being used by the project team to inform the ongoing design and development of the project plans."***



GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS GNÌOMHACH

Co-chomhairle Poblach Ìre 1 (PC1) airson tuath-gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara – pròiseact gaoithe aig muir a thathar a' moladh a leasachadh far costa an iar Eilean Leòdhais, ann an Alba – air a dhèanamh thar mìos, bho 23 Sultain gu 23 Dàmhair 2024.

B' e adhbhar a' cho-chomhairleachaidh cothrom a thoirt do bhuill na coimhearsnachd agus luchd-ùidh eile fios air ais a thoirt seachad mu mholaidhean a' phròiseict mar a bha iad aig an ìre sin.

Bha co-chomhairleachadh a' gabhail a-steach raon de thachartasan agus chothroman gus coinneachadh – gach cuid gu pearsanta agus air-loidhne – air an cumail thairis air ceithir seachdainean. Bha na cothroman co-chomhairleachaidh agus coinneachaidh – a chaidh fhoillseachadh gu farsaing ro-làimh agus a chaidh an dealbhadh gus an com-pàirt as motha a dhèanamh comasach – mar a leanas:

- **Taisbeanadh biortaileach fad mìos** air a chumail air làrach-lìn a' phròiseict, www.spioradnamara.co.uk;
- **Seachd taisbeanaidhean poblach pearsanta** aig diofar àiteachan coimhearsnachd air feadh Eilean Leòdhais;
- **20 uair de choinneamhan fiosrachaidh**, le roghainnean madainn, feasgar agus deireadh-sheachdain rim faighinn;
- **Seiseanan co-chomhairle le fòcas airson riochdairean bhon choimhearsnachd iasgaich** ionadail agus buidhnean iasgaich is mara iomchaidh; agus
- **Dà thachartas fiosrachaidh do luchd-ùidh** – mus do thòisich na gnìomhan co-chomhairleachaidh – airson riochdairean taghte ionadail, riochdairean comhairle coimhearsnachd agus urrasan coimhearsnachd, na meadhanan ionadail, buidhnean taic ionadail, buidhnean foghlaim is trèanaidh agus gnìomhachasan ionadail.

Bha ìre àrd de chom-pàirteachadh sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh, le 335 neach gu h-iomlan an làthair aig na taisbeanaidhean poblach agus coinneamhan fiosrachaidh agus bha 1,265 a' tadhal air an taisbeanadh biortaileach air-loidhne.

Chaidh grunn dhòighean a thabhann do chom-pàirtichean sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh gus fios air ais a thoirt seachad, a' gabhail a-steach foirmean fios air ais fiosaigeach a bha rim faighinn aig na tachartasan pearsanta no bho oifis a' phròiseict ann an Steòrnabhagh, a bharrachd air foirmean fios air ais air-loidhne agus roghainnean airson fios air ais a cho-roinn tro phost-d no gu labhairteach do bhall sgioba. Chaidh 275 pìosan fios air ais a chlàradh rè a' cho-chomhairleachaidh.

> ***"Bha ìre àrd de chom-pàirteachadh sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh, le 335 neach gu h-iomlan an làthair aig na taisbeanaidhean poblach agus coinneamhan fiosrachaidh agus bha 1,265 a' tadhal air an taisbeanadh biortaileach air-loidhne."***

Bha am fios air ais farsaing, le grunn chuspairean air an còmhdach agus diofar bheachdan air an cur an cèill. Ghabh seo a-steach grunn dhraghan mu na buaidhean a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig a' phròiseact – gu h-àrainneachdail, gu sòisealta agus gu cultarail – a bharrachd air molaidhean sònraichte air atharrachaidhean air am bu chòir beachdachadh gus droch bhuaidh a lùghdachadh agus iomairtean a ghabhadh gabhail os làimh gus na buannachdan a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig a' phròiseact a mheudachadh.

Chaidh a h-uile fios air ais a fhuaradh a chlàradh, a chruinneachadh agus a sgrùdadh mar phàirt den phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh seo agus tha sgioba a' phròiseict ga chleachdadh gus fiosrachadh a thoirt do dhealbhadh is leasachadh leantainneach nam planaichean pròiseict. Rè an dàrna ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air a' phròiseact, a thathar an dùil a bhith ann as t-samhradh 2025, thèid planaichean pròiseict ùraichte a cho-roinn, agus fiosrachadh air mar a chaidh fios air ais a fhuaras tro PC1 a chleachdadh gus na planaichean sin a chumadh.

'S e adhbhar na h-aithisge seo sealladh farsaing a thoirt seachad air PC1, a' toirt a-steach geàrr-chunntas air:

- A h-uile gnìomh a bha mar phàirt den cho-chomhairle;
- An ìre de chom-pàirteachadh le gach gnìomh;
- An raon agus an seòrsa stuthan a gheibhear mar phàirt den phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh;
- An ìre agus an seòrsa fios air ais – air a roinn ann an cuspairean – a fhuaras tron cho-chomhairle; agus
- Fiosrachadh mu na h-ath cheumannan ann an dealbhadh is leasachadh a' phròiseict, agus pròiseasan co-chomhairleachaidh.

Bidh an geàrr-aithisg seo air fhoillseachadh air làrach-lìn a' phròiseict agus ri fhaotainn do luchd-ùidh gu h-ionadail, gus am faigh com-pàirtichean sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh – agus an fheadhainn nach b' urrainn com-pàirt a ghabhail – fios mu na toraidhean, mar a thèid beachdachadh air na beachdan aca agus cuin a gheibh iad molaidhean pròiseict ùraichte.

> ***"Chaidh a h-uile fios air ais a fhuaradh a chlàradh, a chruinneachadh agus a sgrùdadh mar phàirt den phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh seo agus tha sgioba a' phròiseict ga chleachdadh gus fiosrachadh a thoirt do dhealbhadh is leasachadh leantainneach nam planaichean pròiseict."***



1 ABOUT THE SPIORAD NA MARA PROJECT

MU PHRÒISEACT SPIORAD NA MARA

Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm being developed off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, by Northland Power, a global power producer specialising in renewable energy projects, and ESB, Ireland's foremost energy company since 1927. Northland Power holds a 75.5% ownership stake, while ESB holds the remaining 24.5%.

The approximate size of the project array site is 161km² with potentially up to 65 fixed bottom wind turbines to be sited within that area. The array site is located between 5 and 13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, and, with an expected potential capacity of 900MW, it could produce enough energy to power the equivalent annual electricity needs of up to 1.2 million Scottish homes per year[1].

The project aims to submit its planning applications – to the Marine Directorate for the offshore elements and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the onshore elements – in the second half of 2025. Subject to all consents being received, construction could commence on the project in 2028 and it could be generating electricity by 2031.

1.2 MILLION

Equivalent number of Scottish homes whose annual electricity needs could be met through the project.

1.7 MILLION

Tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

1. Supplying electricity to over 1.2 million homes each year, based on Scotland's average annual household electricity use of 3,078 kWh in 2022 (source: **https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics**), combined with an estimated wind load factor of at least 50% and a planned installed capacity of up to 900 MW.



2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PROJECT

CO-CHOMHAIRLE POBLACH MUN PHRÒISEACT

Public consultation is a key element in the development of any offshore windfarm, offering stakeholders — including local communities and interested groups — a platform to provide feedback and raise concerns. This valuable input enables the project team to refine its proposals, address potential environmental, social, and economic considerations, and ensure alignment with planning and consenting requirements. Before submitting its main consent applications, the Spiorad na Mara project will have held two phases of public consultation, with each phase providing an opportunity to share information about the project's evolving plans and gather feedback and input from the community.

The project approach to consultation is focused on transparency, accessibility and inclusiveness to ensure that anyone who may be affected by the project (either positively or negatively), or who could affect the project, can provide input and feel heard.

The recent public consultation phase, PC1, was the first of the two planned consultation phases and is the subject of this report. The objectives of this phase were to share detailed information on the initial project design proposals, gather valuable feedback on these proposals and respond to questions and concerns from the community. This input is crucial in informing the project's ongoing design and development and helping to guide the design process so that, where possible, the project aligns with local priorities and environmental and social sensitivities.

The second phase of public consultation is expected to take place in summer this year and its purpose will be to share updated project design proposals, indicating how feedback from PC1 has been used to inform these proposals. It will also provide a further opportunity for input from the public prior to the submission of planning applications.

In advance of this, there will be a separate period of independently-facilitated consultation on community benefit[2]. This process is designed to seek feedback on the administration, governance and potential uses of the £4.5m per year fund (for the operational life of the project, should it go ahead) committed to (in August 2024) by the project for the west coast of the island, and on potential wider benefits – for other parts of the island and the island as a whole – that could be delivered by the project or as a result of it. This consultation will commence in March.

In addition to the two periods of pre-application public consultation, there will be ongoing engagement – and, where appropriate, further consultation – with the community throughout all phases of the project.

2. Community benefit fund arrangements are separate from the planning process, with no provisions associated with the fund either requiring support for the project or prohibiting any objections to it.

3 PHASE 1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION: ACTIVITIES & AWARENESS-RAISING

CO-CHOMHAIRLE POBLACH ÌRE 1: GNÌOMHAN AGUS TOGAIL MOTHACHADH

3.1. OVERVIEW

PC1 for the project was held between the 23rd of September and the 23rd of October 2024 and marked an important milestone in engaging with the community and stakeholders of the Isle of Lewis. Combining in-person *(from 24th September to 3rd October 2024)* and online *(from 23rd September to 23rd of October 2024*) activities, the consultation shared details of the project's early design plans and gathered feedback from the public on these plans and on the project generally.

There were five different elements to the consultation: a one-month long online exhibition, seven public exhibitions at community venues across the island, dedicated consultation sessions for members of the fishing community, two dedicated briefing events for representatives of key local stakeholder groups with whom the project has been engaging for some time, and 20 hours of information clinics at five local venues. Details of each of these activities is contained in the sections that follow.

All consultation activities were widely publicised, including on the project website and LinkedIn page, through a mail drop to all properties in Lewis and via local media outreach *(see Section 3.4, 'Awareness-raising & Maximising Participation', for further details).*



3.2. CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

The Spiorad na Mara virtual consultation room, which was hosted on the Spiorad na Mara website, provided an accessible and interactive online platform for community engagement. The virtual exhibition room was open between the 23rd of September and the 23rd of October 2024 and presented detailed information about the windfarm project and specific topics such as onshore elements, offshore elements, landfall proposals, environmental impact assessment work, social impact assessment work, supply chain, community benefits and engagement and consultation. Maps of potential locations for all onshore and offshore elements, as well as photomontages of two indicative array layout options, were also provided.

The virtual exhibition attracted 1,265 visitors in total over the course of the month, with the most visited section being the photomontages. Feedback forms and contact options were included to ensure two-way communication and a valuable avenue for stakeholder feedback.

3 IN-PERSON PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

The in-person public exhibitions for Spiorad na Mara were the cornerstone of the project's overall consultation approach, designed to be informative, engaging and interactive for the community. The exhibition events were held between Tuesday 24th September and Thursday 3rd October 2024 at accessible local venues (see Table 1) and were complemented by the online exhibition for remote participants, as described above.

The events – each of which ran for five hours, from 3-8pm – provided attendees with detailed information on the project's objectives, proposed layout, environmental assessments, and anticipated benefits for the area. Display boards, maps, photomontages, an interactive 3D visualisation computer model and information brochures (which were a printed version of the virtual exhibition boards) were available at each event, allowing community members to view the project's potential scope and its potential impact on their surroundings.

Project team members – with different specialisms and areas of expertise – were on hand to answer questions, explain technical aspects of the project's development, and discuss topics such as potential impacts on marine biodiversity, visual impact, and community benefit initiatives, creating an open and informative dialogue.

Feedback forms were available at the events to collect opinions, questions and suggestions from attendees, ensuring that local voices could inform the project planning process. The feedback forms could be filled out onsite or taken away, along with stamped addressed envelopes, giving participants a chance to return more considered opinions. Attendees were also welcome to take feedback forms and consultation booklets away with them to distribute to other community members who could not attend.

A total of 322 people attended the seven in-person exhibitions.

TABLE 1 - Phase 1 Public Consultation Locations and Dates 2024:

PHASE 1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION LOCATION	DATE	TIME	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
Clan MacQuarrie Centre	Tuesday 24th September	3pm - 8pm	30
Barvas and Brue Community Centre	Wednesday 25th September	3pm - 8pm	61
Old School, Shawbost	Thursday 26th September	3pm - 8pm	66
Stornoway Town Hall	Monday 30th September	3pm - 8pm	78
Carloway Community Centre	Tuesday 1st October	3pm - 8pm	35
Uig Community Centre	Wednesday 2nd October	3pm - 8pm	32
Great Bernera Community Centre	Thursday 3rd October	3pm - 8pm	20

3

INFORMATION CLINICS

Information clinics were dedicated sessions – held after the public exhibitions – designed to provide members of the community with a personalised and accessible way to ask questions and learn more about the Spiorad na Mara project. Five information clinics were held, as outlined in Table 2, and offered opportunities for one-on-one or small group meetings with members of the project team to discuss specific questions or concerns in detail. Thirteen people attended these clinics in total, with a variety of different topics discussed.

Unlike the public exhibitions, the clinics focused on individual engagement, allowing attendees to delve deeper into topics of personal relevance. Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback and insights, and share concerns, ensuring that each participant's views were heard and considered. Where answers to specific questions could not be provided at the time, contact details were taken by the project hosts and a commitment made to respond once the relevant information became available.

TABLE 2 - Information Clinic Locations and Dates 2024:

INFORMATION CLINIC LOCATION	DATE	TIME
An Lanntair	Friday 4th October	4pm - 8pm
Cabarfeidh Hotel	Saturday 5th October	10am - 2pm
Raebhat House, Horshader	Monday 7th October	5pm - 9pm
Breasclete Community Centre	Tuesday 8th October	9am – 1pm
Spòrsnis	Wednesday 9th October	1pm - 5pm

"A total of 57 people attended two stakeholder briefing events, one in Borve and the other in Stornoway."

FISHERIES BRIEFINGS

As part of PC1, dedicated fisheries briefings were organised to address the interests and concerns of the local fishing industry, and to engage with national and regional fishing industry representatives.

Fisheries stakeholders were invited to attend fisheries-specific consultation discussions on the 24th, 25th and 26th of September *(as per the venues outlined in Table 1).* Representatives from the Scottish Fishing Federation *(SFF)* and the Scottish White Fish Producers Association *(SWFPA) (2 attendees)* attended on the 24th at Clan MacQuarrie Centre to view the consultation materials. An extensive meeting was held during the event on the 25th at Barvas and Brue at which representatives from SFF, SWFPA, and Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association Ltd *(MNWFA) (3 attendees)* met with the Company Fisheries Liaison Officer *(CFLO)* and the Fisheries Industry Representative *(FIR).* A third meeting was held on the 26th with an independent fisherman. After this meeting, two representatives from the SFF and SWFPA were guided through the 3D Spiorad na Mara model. The CFLO and FIR also travelled to Carloway pier and distributed information to individual fishermen located there. An online meeting was held on the 1st of October with representatives from the Orkney Fisheries Association, which introduced the project and covered topics such as proposed survey activities and the commercial fisheries study area.

3

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

Two briefings were held, in the week prior to the commencement of the public consultation activities, with community stakeholders with whom the project had previously engaged to make them aware of the full range of consultation activities and what they would consist of, so that they could encourage their broader members and/or residents in the areas they represent to participate in the consultation process. The purpose of these briefing sessions was to create awareness and maximise participation in the consultation process.

A total of 57 people attended the two sessions, one of which was held in Borve and the other in Stornoway, on 19th September.

A briefing was also held, on 17th September, with the Member Officer Working Group for Energy of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. This took place in the Council chamber in Stornoway, with all local councillors invited to attend; some were present in the chamber, while others joined virtually. Again, the purpose was to brief the members on the consultation process so that they could encourage their communities and constituents to participate and to provide feedback on the project proposals presented.

3.3. FEEDBACK

Specific consultation feedback forms, which were available both online and in hard copy format, were essential in gathering community input and ensuring that the consultation process remained accessible to all stakeholders *(see Figure 11 in the Appendices)*.

Online feedback forms were available on the project website *(as part of the online exhibition)* and hard copy feedback forms were available at all in-person events, as well as being available at the project office. Both formats were identical in the feedback areas covered, which included onshore and offshore elements, environmental considerations, community benefits, supply chain and employment opportunities. They also provided space for open comments.

During the in-person events, team members made themselves available to assist in filling in feedback forms to ensure the attendees' opinions were accurately recorded.

Project team members who were present at the public exhibitions also completed feedback forms following conversations with members of the public, ensuring that people's comments and feedback were captured in the event that they did not complete feedback forms themselves.

A total of 135 hardcopy feedback forms were handed to project team members during public consultation events or were posted to the Spiorad na Mara office following the events. A further 55 feedback forms were received via the online exhibition; additionally, 8 feedback submissions were received by email, 2 handwritten notes were delivered and project team members captured 67 additional pieces of feedback during the in-person events. Lastly, meeting minutes were also recorded during the information clinics *(5 in total)* and the fisheries consultation sessions *(3 in total)*.

> ***"During the in-person events, team members made themselves available to assist in filling in feedback forms to ensure the attendees' opinions were accurately recorded."***

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3.4. AWARENESS-RAISING & MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION

In organising and delivering PC1, one of the main objectives was to make the consultation as accessible as possible for communities, in order to maximise participation and gather as much valuable feedback as possible. All activities were planned and arranged with this objective in mind.

The seven venues for the in-person public exhibitions were selected (a) to ensure broad geographical reach, (b) with west coast communities prioritised, and (c) on the basis that they are all well-utilised community venues with which local people are very familiar. The venues for the five information clinics were different to those used for the exhibitions, again all familiar to local communities and well-utilised by them. Morning, afternoon, evening and weekend appointments were available at the clinics, ensuring that they were as accessible as possible for people with differing commitments.

To ensure maximum outreach was maintained during the whole of the consultation period, feedback forms were accepted for just over a month and the online exhibition remained open for a month. Additionally, the provision of stamped addressed envelopes with the hardcopy feedback forms ensured that respondents could take time to consider their feedback and return the forms to the project office at their convenience.

Community members were also invited to contact members of the project team directly if they had any accessibility requirements in respect of any of the venues.

Equally important in maximising participation was creating awareness of the activities and providing people with sufficient notice. A number of different tools, platforms and approaches were used to achieve this; these are set out below.


PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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Over 11,000 leaflets were distributed, via Royal Mail, to households and other properties across the HS1 and HS2 postcodes.

MAIL DROPS

Prior to the PC1 events, the project undertook a comprehensive mail drop campaign to inform the local community about the upcoming events and how to engage and participate. Starting on 26th August 2024, over 11,000 leaflets were distributed, via Royal Mail, to households and other properties across the HS1 and HS2 postcodes. These leaflets provided detailed information about the consultation process and invited residents to participate in upcoming events and provide feedback. This extensive mail drop



was a key component of the project's strategy to ensure widespread awareness and encourage active community involvement in the consultation process.

A copy of the leaflet mailed to each household can be found in Figure 8 in the Appendices.

NEWSPAPER/NEWS SITE ADVERTISEMENTS

Prior to the commencement of consultation, advertisements were placed in local papers to provide essential details about the upcoming consultation events, and avenues for public feedback. By using local newspapers, the project aimed to reach a broad local audience, ensuring that residents were well-informed and encouraged to participate actively in the consultation process.

Dates and publications within which adverts were placed are outlined in Table 3 and copies of the advertisements placed can be found in Figure 6, 7 and 8 of the Appendices. The first two adverts listed below were placed in accordance with the pre-application consultation planning requirements for offshore and onshore development.

TABLE 3: Publications and Advertising Dates 2024

PUBLICATION	DATE
The Press & Journal	Tues 13th August
Stornoway Gazette	Thurs 15th August
Stornoway Gazette	5th, 12th, 19th and 26th September
Fios	Fri 6th September
We Love Stornoway	Mon 9th September to Weds 9th October

PRESS RELEASES

The project regularly issues press releases to keep the public informed about significant milestones and pivotal moments in the development of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project. Ahead of the commencement of PC1, a press release was issued on 16th September to all the following publications and online platforms:

- Stornoway Gazette
- We Love Stornoway
- Fios
- Hebrides News
- BBC (Stornoway)
- Western Highlands Free Press
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Carloway News
- Uig News
- Breasclete Newsletter
- Fuaran

MAILSHOTS TO STAKEHOLDERS

Many stakeholders have requested that their names be added to a database to allow the project team to stay in touch. Mailshots are sent to these stakeholders whenever there are developments of note on the project or when there is other relevant information to share.

Ahead of the commencement of PC1, a mailshot was sent to a range of different stakeholders *(143 in total)*, as set out in Table 4 below, making them aware of the details of the consultation process and activities therein.

3

TABLE 4: Mailshots

SUBJECT	DATE	DETAILS	NO. OF RECIPIENTS
Notification of Public Consultation Events for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Windfarm Project	Tuesday 13th July	Notification to statutory consultees of intention to submit a Marine Licence application to the Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and to hold public consultation events.	12
Notification of Public Consultation Events for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Windfarm Project	Thursday 15th July	Notification to non-statutory offshore consultees of intention to submit a marine licence application to MD-LOT and to hold public consultation events.	41
Spiorad na Mara Stakeholder Briefing Event - Borve	Monday 2nd September	Invite to a stakeholder briefing event in Borve allowing specific invitees to RSVP.	36
Spiorad na Mara Stakeholder Briefing Event - Stornoway	Monday 2nd September	Invite to a stakeholder briefing event in Stornoway allowing specific invitees to RSVP.	60
Spiorad na Mara Public Consultation	Wednesday 25th September	Email to all stakeholders in the Spiorad na Mara database announcing public consultation was live online and beginning in person.	143

WEBSITE

The Spiorad na Mara website is a central hub for communication and knowledge sharing, designed to ensure transparency and inclusivity throughout the offshore windfarm project's development. It offers comprehensive resources, including news updates, project background, development timelines, and detailed explanations of environmental assessments and planning processes.

During PC1, this resource was used to create awareness of the consultation events, through a dedicated Public Consultation page, on which the virtual exhibition was hosted, and where downloadable materials were available, along with details of all consultation activities, plus contact details for the project team.

LINKEDIN PAGE

The Spiorad na Mara LinkedIn page is a dynamic tool for communication and information sharing, creating a space for ongoing interaction and updates about the proposed project. Through regular posts, project milestones are shared, plus insights into the development process, news on consultation events, and educational content about renewable energy and offshore wind technology.

In advance of, and during, PC1, a number of posts were shared on the LinkedIn page to create awareness of the consultation activities and remind people of the ways in which they could provide feedback and of its value to the project's development process.



4 FEEDBACK COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

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4.1. COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK

As outlined earlier in this report, feedback was collected in a variety of ways during PC1, ensuring the project team could gather the widest possible range of views, insights and suggestions from the local community and wider stakeholders, and use this valuable information to inform ongoing project planning and refinement.

These collection methods included:

- Physical feedback forms completed and handed in by attendees at the in-person consultation events;
- Physical feedback forms taken away from in-person consultation events, or collected from the project office, and mailed to the project team;
- Online feedback forms submitted through the project's website;
- Feedback sent via email and handwritten letters following the events; and
- Verbal feedback provided directly to team members during the events, which was logged by the project team.

All feedback collected during the consultation process was carefully recorded into a central feedback log for processing and analysis. Where individuals chose to remain anonymous, their privacy was fully respected. For those who opted into the mailing list to receive project updates, this preference was duly recorded.

COLLECTION METHODS



PHYSCIAL FEEDBACK FORMS



POSTED FEEDBACK FORMS



ONLINE FORM



VERBAL FEEDBACK



EMAIL

4.2. FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

Community feedback gathered during the stakeholder engagement process was consolidated into a centralised spreadsheet and organised into themes and sub-themes (see Section 5). This structured approach enabled the analysis of feedback by project aspect, highlighting common concerns and recurring recommendations. By categorising the feedback, the analysis provided a nuanced understanding of community priorities, ensuring actionable insights were identified while preserving the significance of concerns expressed by respondents, as well as specific positive or constructive feedback received.

The collated feedback was initially reviewed by the project's stakeholder engagement and community engagement team, with key recurring themes identified and summarised and short-term actionable items noted and assigned for follow-up.

The full set of feedback data was also shared with the wider project team – including consents, engineering, environmental, procurement and commercial team members – as well as with the specialist support teams working on specific aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). A workshop was then held involving all discipline leads and the project leadership team, facilitated and led by the community engagement team, to ensure that nuanced topics were teased out and discussed as fully as possible. Multiple smaller meetings followed on specific topics and many of these discussions are ongoing, as the project plans continue to evolve.

5 SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED
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This section provides a summary of the feedback gathered during PC1, outlining both the key concerns raised by the community and the suggestions offered to the project team for enhancing the project's design and approach.

5.1. OFFSHORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

Feedback concerning the offshore elements of the project – including the array, cable corridor, and offshore substation – revealed a wide range of strong concerns, alongside constructive suggestions from local communities and stakeholders. The feedback highlighted concerns over key environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with the project, as well as opportunities for improvement. Further, questions about the recyclability of turbine components, decommissioning plans, and construction-related emissions underlined the need for sustainable practices.

Concerns about environmental impacts associated with the offshore elements included potential disruption to marine habitats, bird populations, and the seabed. Additional issues raised related to coastal erosion and underwater swells, with specific worries about the effects on surfing conditions.

Visual and noise pollution emerged as significant issues, with many respondents expressing dissatisfaction with the potential visual impact of the turbines and the offshore substation, particularly their proximity to shore and their scale. The lighting of turbines during operations was also flagged as potentially detrimental to the "dark skies" of the area. Regarding noise, concerns were expressed about potential effects during construction of the offshore elements, and also during operations.

Community members voiced apprehension about the potential effects on tourism, fishing, and the Gaelic culture, noting that the project's presence could alter the region's character. Many respondents felt that the visual aesthetic of the area, which plays a key role in tourism and community wellbeing, would be significantly impacted. Concerns extended to the lack of local potential for the manufacture of offshore components to construct the proposed project.

Comments were made by numerous respondents about a perceived absence of meaningful consultation when the site location for the project was initially identified[3], leading to a sense of being unheard.

Community members proposed relocating turbines further offshore to reduce visual impact and potential disruption to marine ecosystems. Overall, there was mixed feedback regarding the two indicative array layout options, with many respondents citing a preference for the option with more, smaller turbines, due to the reduction in overall height. Meanwhile, others preferred the option with fewer, larger turbines, stating the impact of the height was less significant at a distance compared to the density of the turbines on the horizon.

3. This consultation process was undertaken by the Scottish Government in 2019/2020 when sites were being identified in Scottish waters for inclusion in the ScotWind offshore wind leasing round, which opened in 2021.

Many who completed feedback forms stated that neither option would be acceptable, and their preference was for the project not to proceed.

Several ideas for the offshore elements of the project focused on promoting sustainability and community benefits. Suggestions included prioritising recyclable materials, creating innovative blade repurposing initiatives such as competitions with universities to explore new uses, and providing tangible local benefits like funding infrastructure projects or subsidising energy costs. There were also recommendations for greater local involvement, such as engaging schools and businesses in the project and prioritising local procurement and labour. Additionally, respondents suggested thorough assessments of the project's impact on wave patterns, marine life, and coastal erosion to ensure informed decision-making going forward.

5.2. ONSHORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

Numerous community members supplied feedback about the onshore elements of the project, which include the grid substation, the landfall substation, the onshore cables, and the operations and maintenance facility. There were many suggestions around potential areas for improvement and mitigation if the project were to proceed, such as burying cables underground along existing infrastructure routes such as roads, or within developed areas, to minimise visual impact and potential environmental damage, and to include cycle lanes or paths along the cable route for community benefit.

Some respondents preferred an offshore substation to minimise onshore disruption, while others suggested that onshore substations could be sited in industrial areas like Arnish to reduce disruption, with designs that blend into the landscape through tree planting, natural screening, and height limitations, while ensuring minimal lighting and potential noise pollution. It was recommended to prioritise local hiring for construction, operations, and maintenance, alongside community benefit schemes, such as profit-sharing models.

To preserve the environment, suggestions were made that the design process should attempt to avoid sensitive areas, including habitats for birds and other wildlife. There were calls for construction activities to minimise road disruption, with clear plans to restore disturbed areas to their natural state and improve local infrastructure affected by heavy machinery.

Feedback emphasised that transparency is key, with calls for continued consultation, clear visualisations, and engagement with local historians and heritage organisations to protect cultural sites. Sustainability was a topic which arose frequently, with concerns that it must be prioritised by using recyclable materials and planning for the decommissioning of infrastructure with repurposing or recycling strategies. Concerns were also raised about the potential disruption to daily life from construction and operational noise, traffic, and light pollution. Suggestions to minimise these impacts included ensuring low-profile structures, soundproofing of structures, and continuing meaningful consultations with the local community to incorporate their feedback and concerns into the project design.

Concerns raised highlighted important areas for mitigation to avoid the potential risk of disturbing peatlands, releasing carbon, and damaging ecosystems, including bird habitats, and machair lands.

> ***"Feedback emphasised that transparency is key, with calls for continued consultation, clear visualisations, and engagement with local historians and heritage organisations to protect cultural sites."***

5

Community well-being was an important subject and there were calls for it to be carefully considered in avoiding, managing or mitigating potential onshore impacts through increased road traffic, housing for non-local workers, and the potential impact on tourism and crofting practices. The scale and proximity of the infrastructure to homes and villages was raised as a concern with regards to industrialisation and its effects on daily life and cultural heritage.

5.3. LANDFALL LOCATION

Points were raised regarding the environmental, cultural, and visual impact of the proposed landfall substation and its associated infrastructure, alongside suggestions to mitigate these potential issues.

Many respondents emphasised the importance of minimising the substation's visual footprint through careful siting and sensitive design. Suggestions included blending the substation into the natural landscape using earth mounds, stone, or tree planting, while ensuring the design is aesthetically pleasing and in harmony with the surroundings. Sensitive sites such as cemeteries, historic locations, and culturally significant areas, including croft land, were also raised as concerns.

Specific mentions were made of the importance of protecting surf culture, access to beaches, and minimising disruption to the coastal environment, including safeguarding surf breaks and preventing harm to the marine and bird populations. The project's scale was deemed inappropriate for the area by some respondents, with the size and industrial nature of the substation seen as overwhelming and inconsistent with the rural character of the west side of the island.

Many respondents expressed no strong preference for a specific landfall site, though many noted that all options carried potential impacts, including proximity to residential areas, local surfing spots, and popular tourist destinations. Among the options presented, site 2B was preferred, with appreciation noted for the project's efforts to integrate visual and landscape considerations. There was a strong sentiment that the project needs clearer visual representations of the landfall proposals, and continued community engagement to ensure its alignment with the cultural, environmental, and social priorities of the island.

"Many respondents expressed no strong preference for a specific landfall site"

5.4. EIA

ENVIRONMENT

Many respondents provided feedback on the potential impacts to the environment that may arise as a result of the project, and which are being assessed within the EIA that is currently underway. The main concerns centred around impacts to marine life, including marine mammals and birds, biodiversity, pollution and impact to nature tourism.

Sensitive and migratory species of marine mammals and birds were highlighted as an area that should be carefully considered throughout the EIA process. The marine mammal species mentioned included fin whale, humpback whale and long-finned pilot whale, as well as dolphins *(no specific species),* harbour porpoise and basking shark.

5

Most of the concerns raised were regarding the potential for underwater noise from surveys and construction impacting the species. The bird species mentioned included local and migratory birds such as white tailed eagle, golden eagle, northern gannet, Atlantic puffin, northern fulmar, red-necked phalarope and corncrake. The concerns raised around birds related to collision risk with turbines, disruption to migratory patterns, and the overall impact to bird populations that are already vulnerable due to habitat loss and avian flu. Additionally, concerns were raised around the potential damage to ecosystems and habitats including the seabed, peatlands and machair, either from direct construction activities or potential pollution through oil/toxic substance spills.

Concerns were also noted about potential impacts to fish populations and the breeding grounds around Lewis. The wildlife and environment were highlighted as a key driver of tourism and local pride in Lewis, and there is concern that the loss of, or impact to, natural elements could result in a potential negative impact on the local economy due to reduced tourist activity.

Feedback received highlighted the need for use of more detailed studies regarding cumulative and long-term impacts, the need to provide more clarity on the monitoring that will take place after construction as well as suggestions to utilise data from local stakeholders to further inform the baselines of the EIA. Other suggestions included exploring the mitigation measures that could be implemented such as painting the turbine blades to reduce bird collisions, the use of noise reduction techniques during construction and limiting construction during migration seasons for species in the area.

HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURE

The main topics highlighted in this section were tourism, noise and light pollution, and visual impact on the local seascape and landscape.

In addition to feedback already captured in the sections above, feedback also reflected worries about the population decline of the Outer Hebrides and the potential for locals to move away from Lewis. It is recognised that housing in Lewis is a challenge, and it was stated that the project assessments should consider its potential negative impacts on housing availability and property values. Other comments suggested addressing housing shortages by building temporary and long-term housing for employees, designed to later benefit the community as a lasting legacy. Potential creative solutions were shared, including initiatives like renovating housing for workers and donating it back to the community as affordable housing, as well as offering improvements such as insulation installation to enhance local living conditions.

The potential for flashing lights on the turbines was highlighted as something that may lead to impacts on people's wellbeing. Feedback suggested that the visual impact could be reduced by considering options such as using intermittent lighting or corner-only lighting.

Other issues which were raised for consideration in the EIA included effects on commercial fisheries, cultural heritage landmarks and fuel poverty on the island.

Suggestions included conducting road improvements and enhancing the EIA baseline by conducting transport studies during the tourist season. To align the project with the local life and culture, respondents recommended avoiding work on Sundays.

5

Recognising the island's strong cultural history and heritage, feedback received highlighted the desire for the project to create opportunities for young people to help retain the local population, alongside a commitment to preserve and promote the Gaelic language, heritage and cultural development.

5.5. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Feedback on the project's economic impact reflected a range of perspectives, with some expression of optimism about the potential for job creation, skills development, and long-term economic benefits, while others remain concerned about its potential detrimental impact on the local community. Key concerns included the potential for businesses not local to the islands benefiting more than locals; potential harm to industries such as tourism and crofting, and the possibility of non-local workers being employed over local workers.

Many stressed the importance of ensuring lasting benefits for the community, such as reduced energy costs, improved infrastructure, and opportunities for young people. A call for independent management of community funds, to ensure transparency and that local priorities are met, was also made.

Regarding job creation and skills development, while support was expressed for local employment, apprenticeships, and skill-building opportunities, concerns remain about whether these will be honoured. Concerns included short-term gains and potential job displacement by non-local workers. Strong emphasis was placed on prioritising local hiring and forming partnerships with schools, colleges and universities to ensure residents gain the necessary skills. Transparent, proactive engagement is seen as essential for creating meaningful, long-term benefits.

Regarding supply chain opportunities, many respondents want local businesses, contractors, and suppliers to be prioritised to maximise community benefits. Suggestions included establishing local procurement policies and supporting partnerships with local enterprises. Potential strain on local resources and the broader impact on existing industries was also a recurring theme.

Overall, while economic benefits are acknowledged, many feel they are outweighed by concerns about environmental, cultural, and economic risks.

5.6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community consultation for the proposed project generated a mix of responses, with some appreciating the transparency, organisation, and accessibility of the events, while others expressed disagreement with the process. Positive feedback highlighted the efforts made to provide multiple engagement opportunities, with participants noting that the project team members were polite, engaging and informative. However, many felt that the consultation lacked depth, offering vague information that failed to address key concerns. A recurring theme in the feedback was the perception that the consultation was more of a PR exercise than a genuine attempt to engage with the community, and that local voices, especially those opposed to the project, were not being listened to.

5

There were concerns about limited accessibility to project information, particularly for residents without internet access. The use of Gaelic in the project's branding was seen by some as patronising, whilst for others it was a positive aspect of the project.

Respondents called for more detailed and clear information, including visualisations of the project's scope and impacts, and a more inclusive approach to consultation (including hard-to-reach communities). Suggestions were made around engaging directly with local schools and young people, as well as involving community leaders and councils in the process. There was also a push for consultations to be more than just informational sessions, with calls for deeper, two-way conversations where local concerns, particularly about environmental, cultural, and economic impacts, could be directly addressed.

5.7. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Feedback regarding the community benefits associated with the project highlighted a range of perspectives on how the index-linked £4.5 million annual contribution (for the west coast of the island throughout the operational life of the project) could be more effectively allocated. While some appreciated the intention behind the fund, many felt that it falls short of addressing the potential environmental, economic, and social impacts of the project. Requests were made for transparency on how the £4.5 million was determined, with some suggesting that a more detailed explanation would help build trust. There is strong support for exploring alternative funding models, such as community-owned turbines or a larger share of profits, to ensure that the financial benefits are more directly felt by the islanders.

Suggestions were made by stakeholders for a fund allocation to include supporting local infrastructure improvements, including affordable housing, energy subsidies to combat fuel poverty, and biodiversity restoration initiatives to mitigate the impact on wildlife. There were also proposals for subsidies for electric vehicle purchases and subsidised car hire schemes for residents traveling to the mainland.

Further suggestions on how the project could support local initiatives included supporting programmes for young people such as engineering/STEM programmes in local schools, contributing to outdoor learning on the island and providing training and equipment which could help protect the marine mammal species around the Outer Hebrides. Several community members also recommended the creation of an independent fund managed by local representatives to ensure that the benefits are used effectively and aligned with the community's needs across the whole island.

5.8. OTHER FEEDBACK

Several practical and innovative suggestions were raised to address broader project considerations. Concerns about worker housing during construction highlighted the need to minimise conflicts with the local tourism industry by potentially renovating unused properties, which could later serve as affordable housing for the community.

5

Suggestions were made for broader collaboration, including sharing survey data publicly or sharing infrastructure with other developers to reduce duplication and maximise efficiency. The potential for alternative cable routes was also raised, such as running cables further offshore to minimise landfall impacts and preserve sensitive areas. Biosecurity initiatives, such as integrating principles from established projects like “Biosecurity for Life,” were recommended to safeguard local ecosystems.

Additional comments stressed the importance of robust emergency planning and effective traffic management during construction to minimise disruption. Transparency was further encouraged through the publication of data for public review and by implementing a “myth-busting” initiative to counter misinformation and provide clear, factual updates about the project. Overall, these suggestions reflected a desire for collaboration and community-focused solutions.



6 NEXT STEPS
NA H-ATH CHEUMANNAN

Feedback from PC1 will continue to play a central role in shaping the development of the Spiorad na Mara project. The insights provided by the community are invaluable for refining the project's design, addressing concerns, and ensuring alignment with local and environmental priorities.

Phase 2 Public Consultation is planned for the summer of 2025. Similar to the first phase, it will involve a combination of online and in-person activities and opportunities. During Phase 2, updated project plans will be shared, including detailed written materials and visualisations showing both day-time and night-time conditions. Within these materials, clear information will be presented on how feedback received during PC1 has been considered and what changes, if any, have been made to the latest proposals on foot of it.

While the key design parameters[4] for the project – such as the maximum turbine height, maximum number of turbines, cable route corridors (onshore and offshore), landfall location, and onshore substation locations – will have been decided at this point, there will be opportunities for further feedback, as detailed plans will not be finalised. There will also be specific opportunities for feedback on potential construction impacts and how these can best be managed, as well as how effective communication and consultation with the community can be addressed during this phase.

Full details of the Phase 2 consultation timeline and activities will be widely publicised in advance.

In the meantime, ongoing engagement with the community and other stakeholders will remain a priority, in order to maintain transparency and ensure that project plans continue to evolve in collaboration with the community. This will include regular updates shared via the project's various communications and engagement channels and through the availability of the project's community engagement team.

Community members can get in touch with the project team at any time in the following ways:

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

By email: **spioradnamara@northlandpower.com**

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Denise Horan
Local Stakeholder and Community Lead
[Redacted]

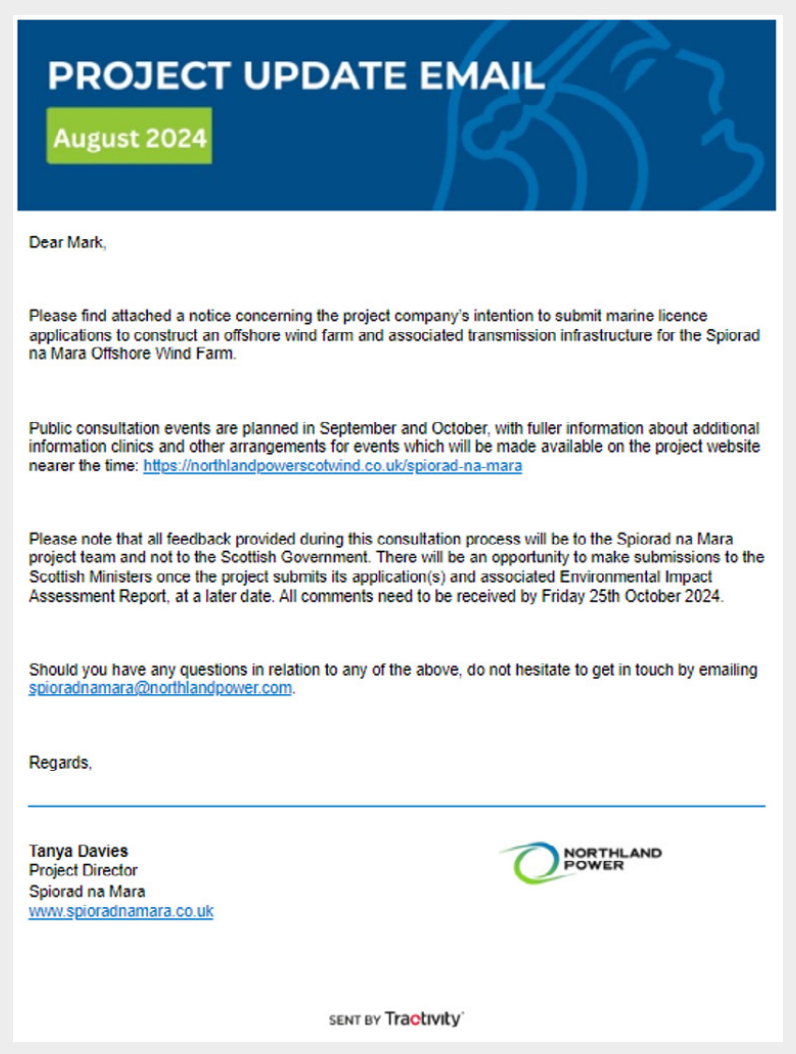
4. The design parameters presented in the updated project plans shared during Phase 2 of public consultation will be the maximum parameters that will be applied for as part of the project's planning applications. However, further refinement of plans will take place during the detailed design phase of the project, which will be post-consent *(should the project achieve all necessary consents).*

7 APPENDICES
PÀIPEARAN-TAICE

APPENDIX A MAILSHOTS

FIGURE 1

Notice to non-statutory consultees of intention to submit a marine licence application



PROJECT UPDATE EMAIL

August 2024

Dear Mark,

Please find attached a notice concerning the project company's intention to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

Public consultation events are planned in September and October, with fuller information about additional information clinics and other arrangements for events which will be made available on the project website nearer the time: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date. All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Should you have any questions in relation to any of the above, do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Regards,

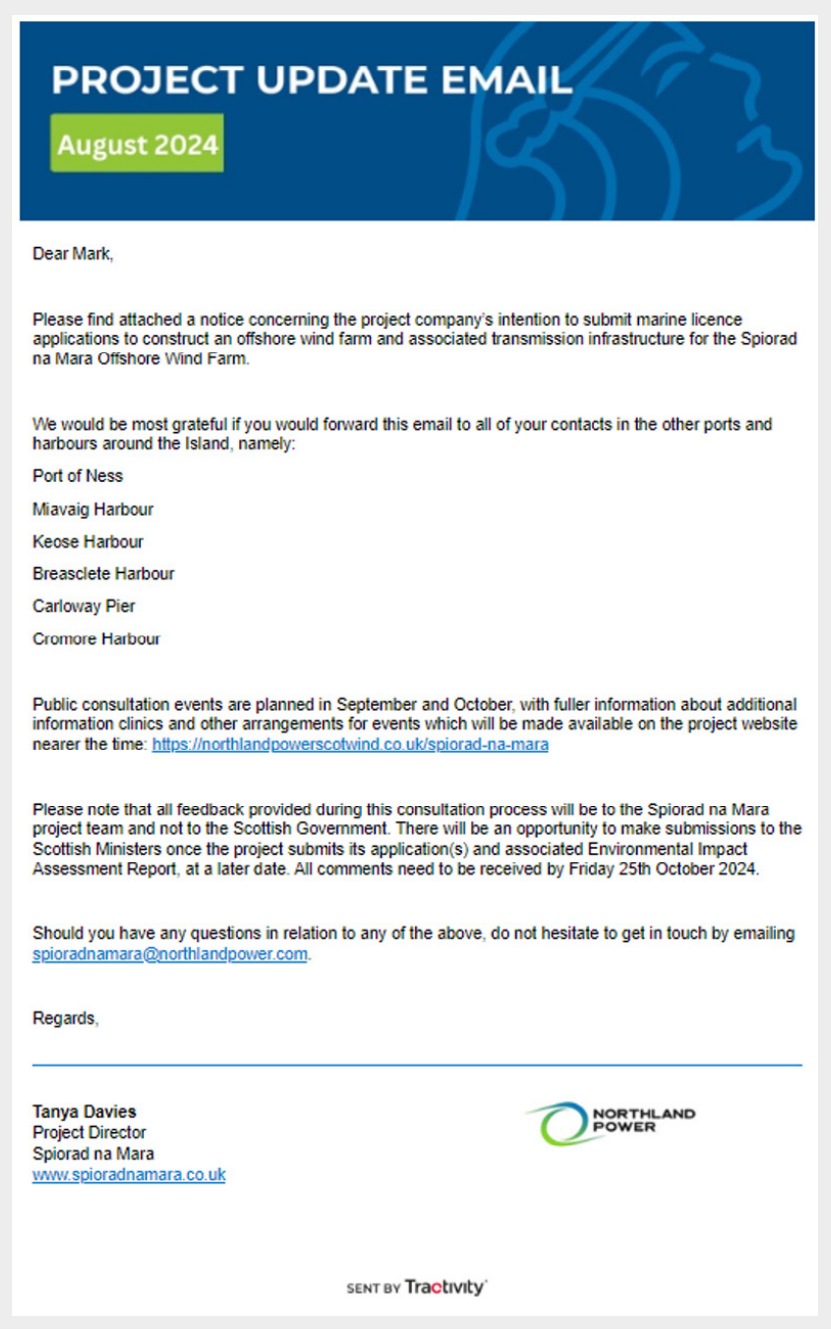
Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

SENT BY Tractivity

FIGURE 2

Notice to non-statutory port consultees of intention to submit a marine licence application



PROJECT UPDATE EMAIL

August 2024

Dear Mark,

Please find attached a notice concerning the project company's intention to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

We would be most grateful if you would forward this email to all of your contacts in the other ports and harbours around the Island, namely:

Port of Ness

Miavaig Harbour

Keose Harbour

Breasclete Harbour

Carloway Pier

Cromore Harbour

Public consultation events are planned in September and October, with fuller information about additional information clinics and other arrangements for events which will be made available on the project website nearer the time: https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date. All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Should you have any questions in relation to any of the above, do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Regards,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

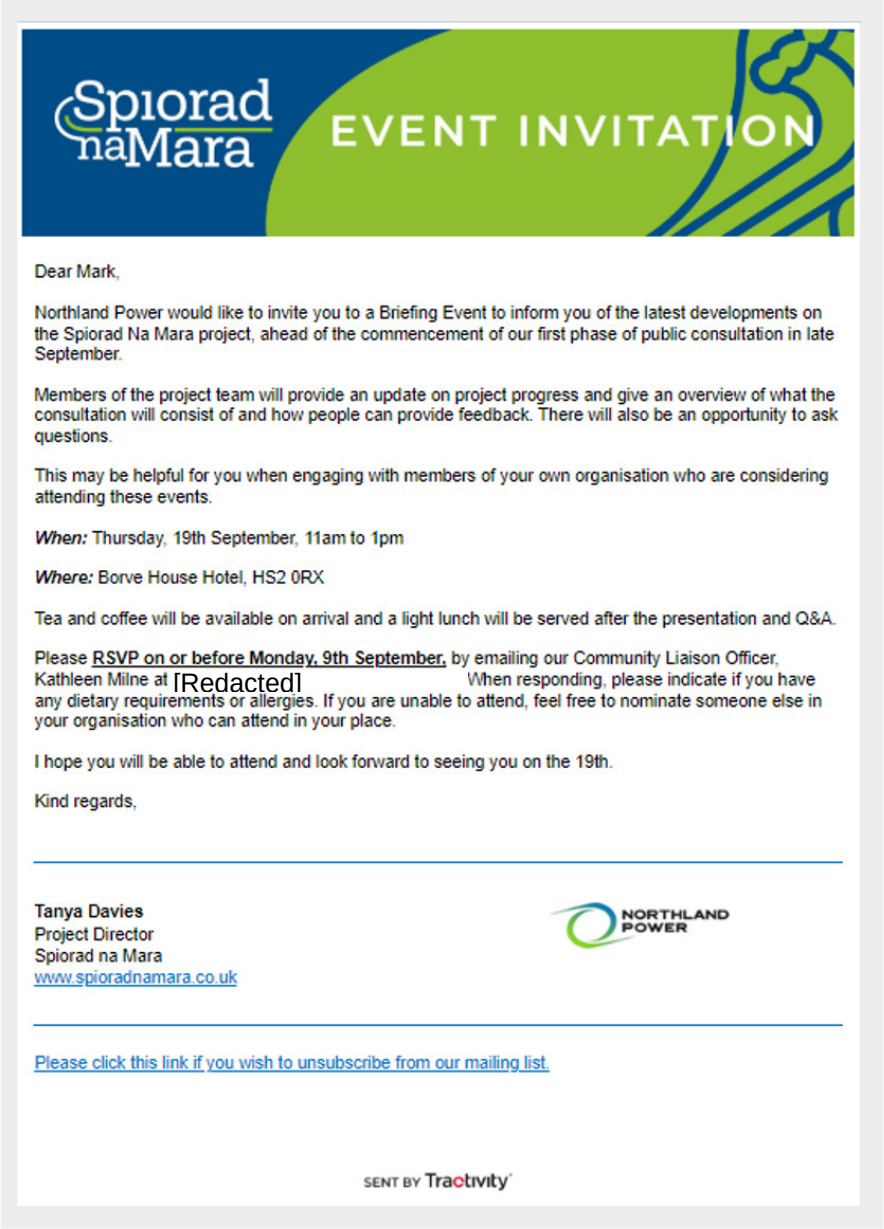
NORTHLAND POWER

SENT BY Tractivity

7

FIGURE 3

Invitation sent to stakeholders for the Borve Stakeholder Briefing Event



Spiorad naMara

EVENT INVITATION

Dear Mark,

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the Spiorad Na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our first phase of public consultation in late September.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress and give an overview of what the consultation will consist of and how people can provide feedback. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Thursday, 19th September, 11am to 1pm

Where: Borve House Hotel, HS2 0RX

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and a light lunch will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

Please **RSVP on or before Monday, 9th September,** by emailing our Community Liaison Officer, Kathleen Milne at [Redacted] When responding, please indicate if you have any dietary requirements or allergies. If you are unable to attend, feel free to nominate someone else in your organisation who can attend in your place.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Kind regards,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

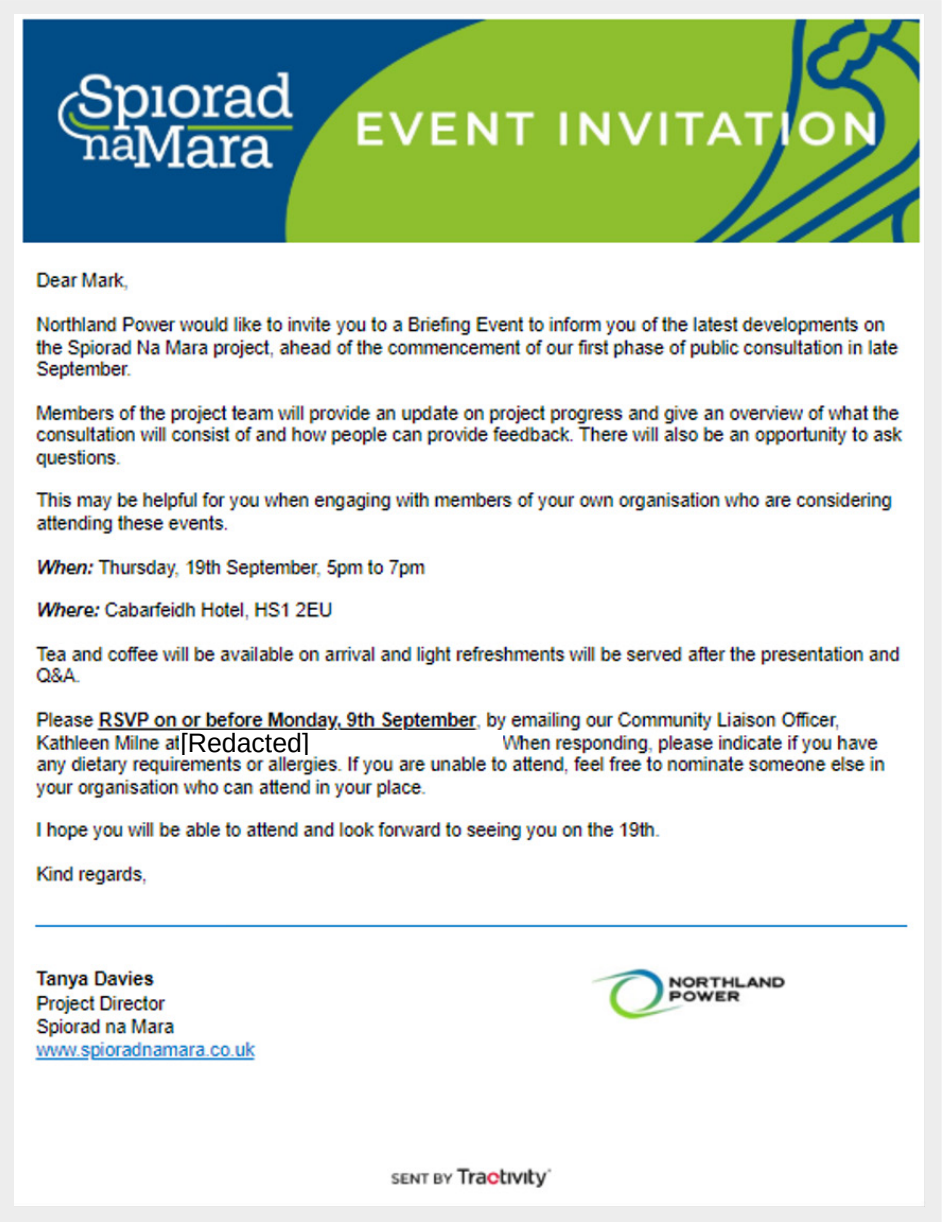
NORTHLAND POWER

Please click this link if you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list.

SENT BY Tractivity

FIGURE 4

Invitation sent to stakeholders for the Stornoway Stakeholder Briefing Event



Spiorad naMara

EVENT INVITATION

Dear Mark,

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the Spiorad Na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our first phase of public consultation in late September.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress and give an overview of what the consultation will consist of and how people can provide feedback. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Thursday, 19th September, 5pm to 7pm

Where: Cabarfeidh Hotel, HS1 2EU

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and light refreshments will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

Please **RSVP on or before Monday, 9th September**, by emailing our Community Liaison Officer, Kathleen Milne at[Redacted] When responding, please indicate if you have any dietary requirements or allergies. If you are unable to attend, feel free to nominate someone else in your organisation who can attend in your place.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Kind regards,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

SENT BY Tractivity

7

FIGURE 5

Notification sent to stakeholders informing of the commencement of the Phase 1 Public Consultation events

Dear Mark,

I'm pleased to inform you that the first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project has commenced. The month-long process began Monday (23rd September) when our online consultation room went **live** on our website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk.

In addition to the online exhibition, we are also hosting seven in-person consultation events across the Isle of Lewis which began yesterday at the following locations:

Date

Event/Location

24*th* September 2024 - Clan MacQuarrie Centre, 3-8pm

25*th* September 2024 - Barvas and Brue Community Centre, 3-8pm

26*th* September 2024 - Old School, Shawbost, 3-8pm

30*th* September 2024 - Stornoway Town Hall, 3-8pm

1*st* October 2024 - Carloway Community Centre, 3-8pm

2*nd* October 2024 - Uig Community Hall, 3-8pm

3*rd* October 2024 - Great Bernera Community Centre, 3-8pm

Further to this, 20 hours of information clinic appointments are available, from 4th-9th October, and can be booked via our website or by calling Denise on +44 7396 818000. Morning, afternoon, evening and Saturday appointments are available.

Both the online consultation room and the in-person events provide important information about the project and its current status and allow for valuable feedback to be gathered. We encourage you to review the materials and provide your insights, either through the online platform or by coming to meet and speak with us in person at one of our public exhibitions.

Please remember that the deadline for submitting your feedback online is **23rd October 2024,** the day the online consultation ends. Hard copy feedback forms can either be completed at one of the exhibition venues or by posting them to us at our Stornoway office, by **25th October**. Stamped addressed envelopes will be provided at our exhibition venues and feedback forms can also be posted out on request; simply contact us at spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this phase of consultation and can play an important role in shaping the project as it progresses.

Best wishes,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

Please click this link if you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list

SENT BY Tractivity

7 APPENDIX B ADVERTS & LEAFLET DROPS

FIGURE 6

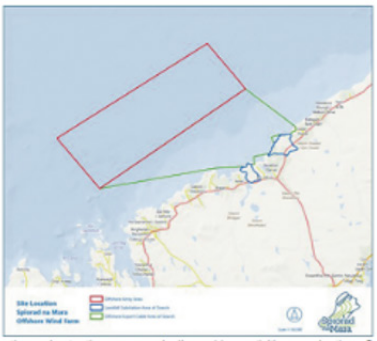
Press and Journal Marine Licence Notification Advert

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
Electricity Act 1989

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. The proposed Spiorad na Mara wind farm is located 5-13 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lewis (Western Isles). The licensable activity consists of:

- Up to 66 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables.
- Up to 12 offshore cables from array to the landfall location on the west coast.
- An offshore substation, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables.

The map below details the location of the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and its associated transmission infrastructure.



Information about the proposed licensable activities and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the times and locations below. The consultations will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

Date	Location
Tuesday 24th September 2024	Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY 3-8 pm
Wednesday 25th September 2024	Barvas & Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA 3-8 pm
Thursday 26th September 2024	Old School Shawbost, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ 3-8pm
Monday 30th September 2024	Stornoway Town Hall, 20 South Beach, Stornoway HS1 2BJ 3-8pm
Tuesday 1st October 2024	Carloway Community Centre, Knock, Carloway, Isle of Lewis HS2 9AU 3-8pm
Wednesday 2nd October 2024	Uig Community Hall, Uig, Isle of Lewis 3-8pm
Thursday 3rd October 2024	Great Bernera Community Centre, Breaclete, Great Bernera, Isle of Lewis 3-8pm

Information about the proposed licensable activities can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 23rd September to 23rd October accessed via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/ Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event and leaving it with us, or sending it back to us by post at Spiorad na Mara Office, UHI Lews Castle Campus (2nd floor), Stornoway, HS2 0XR
- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

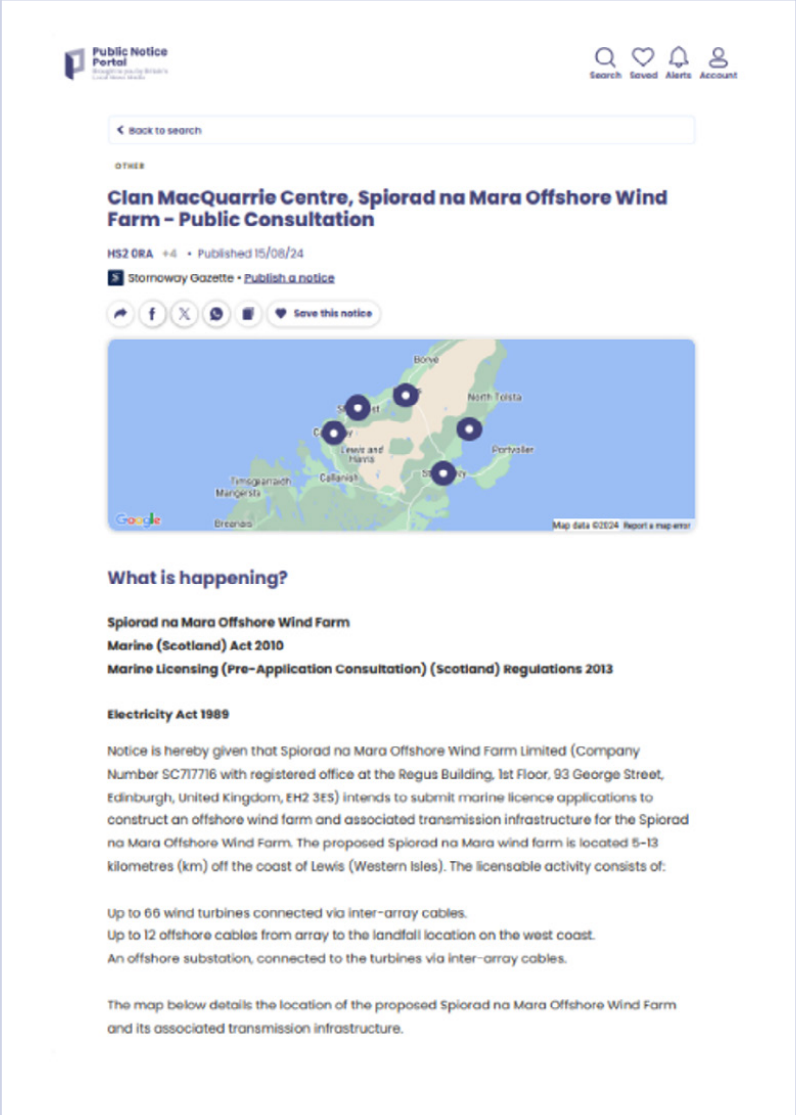
All comments need to be received by Friday 25th October 2024.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to the Scottish Government. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to the Scottish Ministers once the project submits its application(s) and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

7

FIGURE 7

Stornoway Gazette Marine Licence Notification Advert



Public Notice Portal

Search Saved Alerts Account

< Back to search

OTHER

Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Public Consultation

HS2 0RA +4 • Published 15/08/24

Stornoway Gazette • Publish a notice

Save this notice

What is happening?

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Electricity Act 1989

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) intends to submit marine licence applications to construct an offshore wind farm and associated transmission infrastructure for the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. The proposed Spiorad na Mara wind farm is located 5-13 kilometres (km) off the coast of Lewis (Western Isles). The licensable activity consists of:

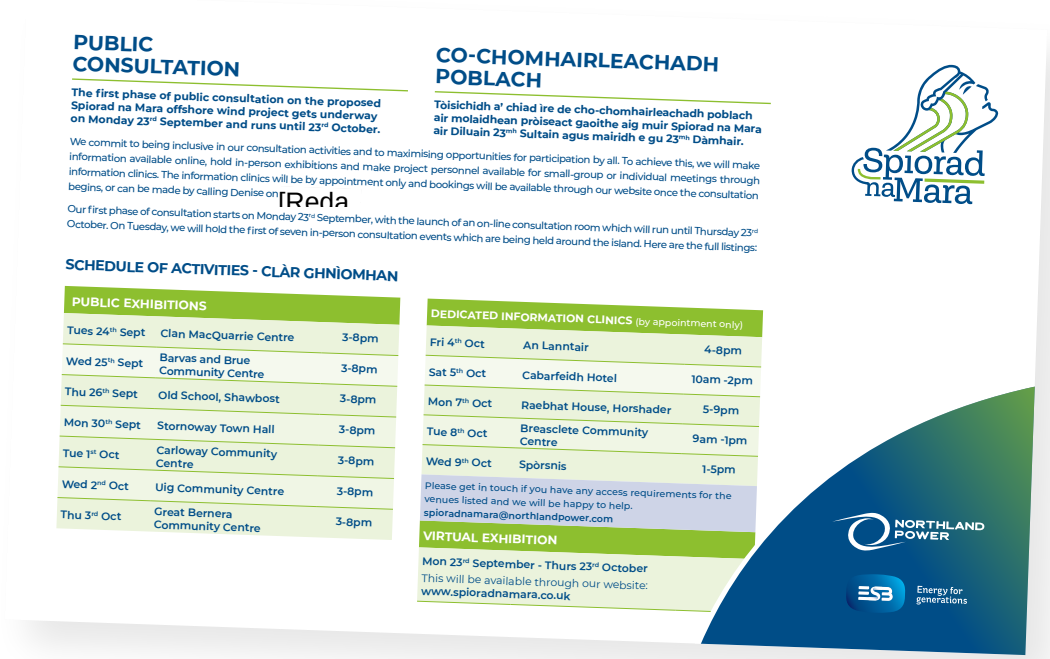
Up to 66 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables.
Up to 12 offshore cables from array to the landfall location on the west coast.
An offshore substation, connected to the turbines via inter-array cables.

The map below details the location of the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and its associated transmission infrastructure.

7

FIGURE 8

Stornoway Gazette Public Consultation Advert



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 23rd September and runs until 23rd October.

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

Tòisichidh a' chiad ire de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean pròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Diluain 23mh Sultain agus mairidh e gu 23mh Dàmhair.

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings will be available through our website once the consultation begins, or can be made by calling Denise on [illegible]Reda

Our first phase of consultation starts on Monday 23rd September, with the launch of an on-line consultation room which will run until Thursday 23rd October. On Tuesday, we will hold the first of seven in-person consultation events which are being held around the island. Here are the full listings:

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES - CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Tues 24th Sept	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	3-8pm
Wed 25th Sept	Barvas and Brue Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 26th Sept	Old School, Shawbost	3-8pm
Mon 30th Sept	Stornoway Town Hall	3-8pm
Tue 1st Oct	Carloway Community Centre	3-8pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Uig Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 3rd Oct	Great Bernera Community Centre	3-8pm

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (by appointment only)		
Fri 4th Oct	An Lanntair	4-8pm
Sat 5th Oct	Cabarfeidh Hotel	10am -2pm
Mon 7th Oct	Raebhat House, Horshader	5-9pm
Tue 8th Oct	Breasclete Community Centre	9am -1pm
Wed 9th Oct	Spòrsnis	1-5pm

Please get in touch if you have any access requirements for the venues listed and we will be happy to help.
spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

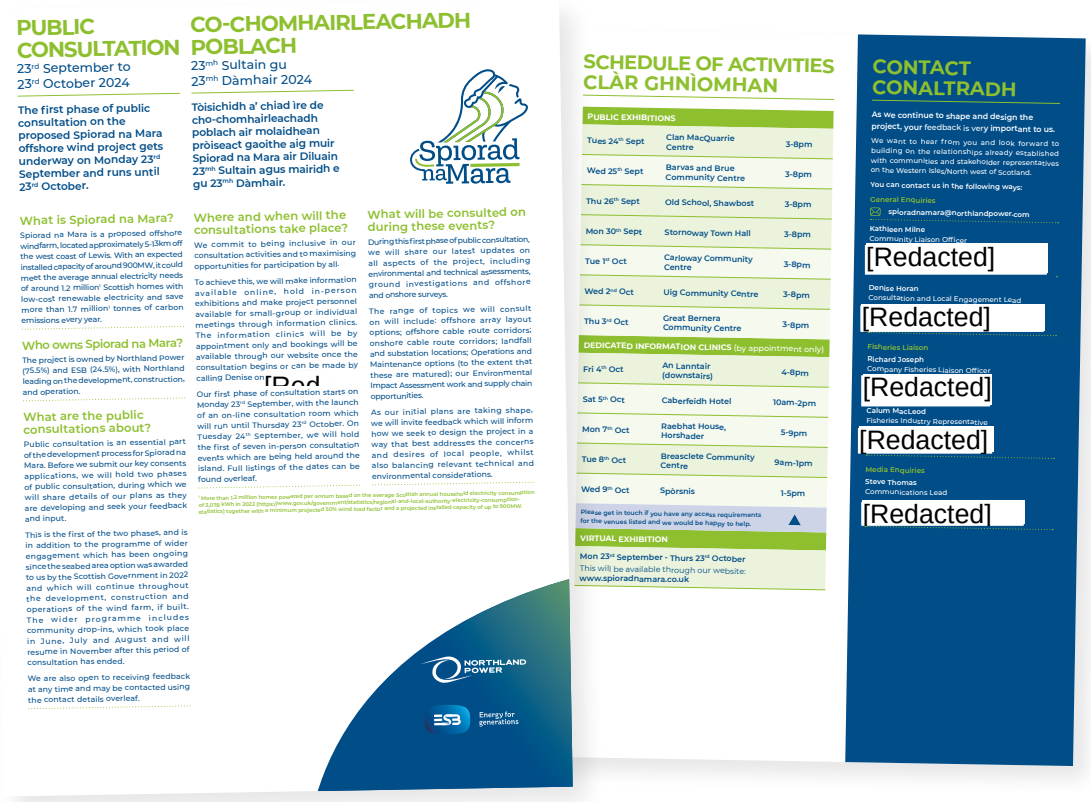
Mon 23rd September - Thurs 23rd October
This will be available through our website:
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

FIGURE 9

Public Consultation Phase 1 Leaflet Mail Drop



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23rd September to 23rd October 2024

The first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 23rd September and runs until 23rd October.

What is Spiorad na Mara?

Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of Lewis. With an expected installed capacity of around 900MW, it could meet the average annual electricity needs of around 1.2 million[1] Scottish homes with low-cost renewable electricity and save more than 1.7 million[1] tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Who owns Spiorad na Mara?

The project is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation.

What are the public consultations about?

Public consultation is an essential part of the development process for Spiorad na Mara. Before we submit our key consents applications, we will hold two phases of public consultation, during which we will share details of our plans as they are developing and seek your feedback and input.

This is the first of the two phases, and is in addition to the programme of wider engagement which has been ongoing since the seabed area option was awarded to us by the Scottish Government in 2022 and which will continue throughout the development, construction and operations of the wind farm, if built. The wider programme includes community drop-ins, which took place in June, July and August and will resume in November after this period of consultation has ended.

We are also open to receiving feedback at any time and may be contacted using the contact details overleaf.

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

23mh Sultain gu 23mh Dàmhair 2024

Tòisichidh a' chiad ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean pròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Dìluain 23mh Sultain agus mairidh e gu 23mh Dàmhair.

Where and when will the consultations take place?

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all.

To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings will be available through our website once the consultation begins or can be made by calling Denise on [Redacted]

Our first phase of consultation starts on Monday 23rd September, with the launch of an on-line consultation room which will run until Thursday 23rd October. On Tuesday 24th September, we will hold the first of seven in-person consultation events which are being held around the island. Full listings of the dates can be found overleaf.

[1] More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078 kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics) together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900MW.

What will be consulted on during these events?

During this first phase of public consultation, we will share our latest updates on all aspects of the project, including environmental and technical assessments, ground investigations and offshore and onshore surveys.

The range of topics we will consult on will include: offshore array layout options; offshore cable route corridors; onshore cable route corridors; landfall and substation locations; Operations and Maintenance options (to the extent that these are matured); our Environmental Impact Assessment work and supply chain opportunities.

As our initial plans are taking shape, we will invite feedback which will inform how we seek to design the project in a way that best addresses the concerns and desires of local people, whilst also balancing relevant technical and environmental considerations.

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Tues 24th Sept	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	3-8pm
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DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (by appointment only)		
Fri 4th Oct	An Lanntair (downstairs)	4-8pm
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Please get in touch if you have any access requirements for the venues listed and we would be happy to help.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Mon 23rd September - Thurs 23rd October

This will be available through our website: www.spioradnamara.co.uk

CONTACT CONALTRADH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives on the Western Isles/North west of Scotland.

You can contact us in the following ways:

General Enquiries
SPioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead
[Redacted]

Fisheries Liaison
Richard Joseph
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Calum MacLeod
Fisheries Industry Representative
[Redacted]

Media Enquiries
Steve Thomas
Communications Lead
[Redacted]

FIGURE 10

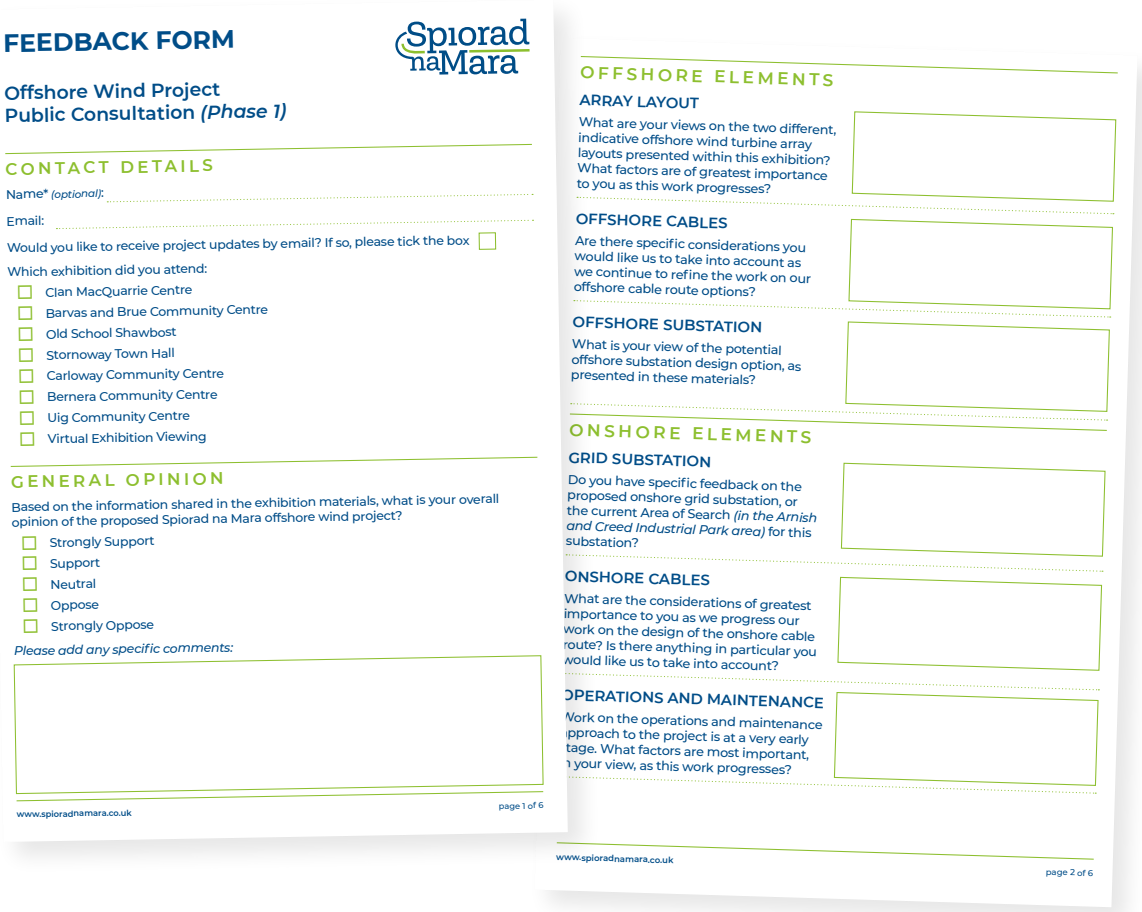
Public Consultation Phase 1 information Booklet



7

FIGURE 11

Public Consultation Feedback Form



FEEDBACK FORM

Spiorad na Mara

Offshore Wind Project
Public Consultation *(Phase 1)*

CONTACT DETAILS

Name* *(optional)*:

Email:

Would you like to receive project updates by email? If so, please tick the box ☐

Which exhibition did you attend:

- ☐ Clan MacQuarrie Centre
- ☐ Barvas and Brue Community Centre
- ☐ Old School Shawbost
- ☐ Stornoway Town Hall
- ☐ Carloway Community Centre
- ☐ Bernera Community Centre
- ☐ Uig Community Centre
- ☐ Virtual Exhibition Viewing

GENERAL OPINION

Based on the information shared in the exhibition materials, what is your overall opinion of the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project?

- ☐ Strongly Support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly Oppose

Please add any specific comments:

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 1 of 6

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS

ARRAY LAYOUT

What are your views on the two different, indicative offshore wind turbine array layouts presented within this exhibition? What factors are of greatest importance to you as this work progresses?

OFFSHORE CABLES

Are there specific considerations you would like us to take into account as we continue to refine the work on our offshore cable route options?

OFFSHORE SUBSTATION

What is your view of the potential offshore substation design option, as presented in these materials?

ONSHORE ELEMENTS

GRID SUBSTATION

Do you have specific feedback on the proposed onshore grid substation, or the current Area of Search *(in the Arnish and Creed Industrial Park area)* for this substation?

ONSHORE CABLES

What are the considerations of greatest importance to you as we progress our work on the design of the onshore cable route? Is there anything in particular you would like us to take into account?

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Work on the operations and maintenance approach to the project is at a very early stage. What factors are most important, in your view, as this work progresses?

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 2 of 6

7

FIGURE 12

Video Still from Public Consultation Welcome Video, available with English and Gaelic Subtitles



APPENDIX H Responses to Feedback from Phase 1 Consultation

RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK
From Phase 1 consultation

FREAGAIRTEAN DO NA BEACHDAN
Bho cho-chomhairle ìre 1



INTRODUCTION
RO-RÀDH

The first phase of public consultation for the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project was carried out over a period of one month, from 23rd September to 23rd October 2024.

There was a high level of engagement with the consultation process, with a total of 335 people attending the public exhibitions and information clinics and 1,265 visits recorded to the virtual exhibition platform. Participants in the consultation process were offered a number of ways to provide feedback, including physical feedback forms that were available at the in-person events or from the project office in Stornoway, as well as online feedback forms and options to share feedback by email or verbally to a team member. A total of 275 pieces of feedback were recorded over the course of the consultation. The feedback received was wide-ranging, with multiple topics covered and varying sentiments expressed.

In this booklet, we have categorised and summarised all feedback received and provided responses in terms of how this feedback has been considered and or how it will be considered at a later stage as the project progresses.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Visual impact of the offshore array and offshore substation platform Concerns were raised about the visual impact of the offshore wind turbine array and the potential offshore substation platform, particularly in relation to the island's currently unspoilt seascapes. There was a strong sentiment that introducing large-scale infrastructure to such a scenic and culturally valued area would have potential implications for both residents and visitors. The perceived transformation of open sea views into an energy development zone was noted as a potential key issue for local identity and tourism.	We recognise from consultation feedback received and our wider engagement with the community that the potential visual impacts of the offshore elements of the project are a key concern. Our updated project proposals include a number of significant changes to the proposed maximum design parameters in response to these concerns; these include: · A reduction in the number of proposed turbines from either 65 to 60 smaller turbines or 48 to 44 larger ones. · A reduction from 365m to 339m in the maximum tip height of each turbine, with the potential for this to be reduced to 294m if the smaller turbines are selected. · A reduction of 50m in the maximum turbine rotor diameter. · A commitment to placing no turbine within 6km of the coast. This is an increase from the original site boundary, which is 5km from the coast. · A turbine setback distance of 11km (increased from 7km) from the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA). · A turbine setback distance of 21km (increased from 17km) from the Harris-Uig Hills Wild Land Area (WLA). · A reduction in the footprint of the array area within which turbine and offshore substation (if required) infrastructure will be installed. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), we will evaluate the potential impacts on the seascape and landscape resulting from the offshore project infrastructure using the maximum parameters set out above. If all consents are received and the project proceeds, a detailed design process will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction, during which the design will be further refined.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Size, scale and layout of turbines The proposed height and scale of the wind turbines was a key concern. Feedback was that they appeared too large and too numerous in the context of the landscape. Suggestions were made to relocate the array further offshore to reduce the visual prominence of the structures and to mitigate potential disruption to marine ecosystems closer to the coast. Feedback also noted that the rigid, linear arrangement of turbines could appear unnatural or jarring in contrast to the more organic character of the surrounding environment.	The location of the project array site was designated as part of a Scottish Government process and we secured the seabed leasing rights to this area in 2022 through the ScotWind leasing process. The location of the 161km^2 site is fixed and we do not have the option of moving it further offshore. However, although the array area site remains 5km-13km from shore, we have increased the setback distance of the closest turbines from 5km to 6km from any point along the west coast. In addition, the project has committed to fewer turbines, a reduced maximum turbine tip height, and placing all wind turbines only within a smaller part of the original array area. Furthermore, we have introduced a setback distance of 11km from the closest turbine to any point within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA), and introduced a setback distance of 21km from the Wild Land Area (WLA), which falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA. The refinement of the area within which turbines will be installed also has the benefit of moving away from areas that were shown to have increased bird activity (compared to other parts of the array area), as well as opening up the sea space visually and spatially for other marine users. These measures will mitigate potential disruption to known marine ecosystems closer to the coast. When we gather further data through geotechnical surveys of the array area in 2026, we will have a better understanding of the site conditions and will be able to further refine the design. This could include the siting of individual turbines in ways that minimise the visual impact from certain locations onshore.
Visual impact from key viewpoints and beaches Specific locations were highlighted as particularly sensitive to the array, including popular beaches and coastal viewpoints such as Dalmore Beach, Dalbeg Beach and the Callanish Standing Stones. Feedback stressed the importance of preserving these areas for recreational use, with concerns that turbines would dominate the horizon and alter the character of beloved local landmarks.	As highlighted in the responses above, significant changes have already been made to the proposed project design to address concerns that have been raised around potential visual impacts. This includes changes that reduce impacts at sensitive locations such as the Callanish Standing Stones, Dalmore Beach, Gallan Head and others. These three locations are all represented in the viewpoints chosen for our photomontages, which may be viewed in the Photomontage Viewer on our website. Further refinement will take place at the detailed design stage and again sensitive locations will be given specific consideration.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Turbine colour and night-time lighting Comments received around the proposed turbine colour included that the standard white finish would likely stand out starkly against both sky and sea under various weather conditions. Others expressed concern over the potential impact of aviation and navigation lighting at night, which could disrupt the area's natural dark skies, affect views of the Northern Lights, and create visual disturbance for nearby residents and visitors alike.	It should be noted that the white shown in the photomontages presented as part of this consultation (and the first one) is much brighter than the expected colour that will be used (and which is typically used); this is in order to provide a maximum or worst-case representation to the public for consultation purposes. The final colour of the turbines will be selected based on the design requirements of the wind turbine manufacturer and suitability to local conditions, all aligned with industry standards. We recognise the concerns about lighting from the project and these are being considered through the project's Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), which forms part of the EIA. Lighting will follow safety regulations set out by the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Following industry best practice, it is expected that maritime navigation lights will be placed at platform level at the base of selected turbines, while red aviation lights will be installed on perimeter turbine nacelles, equipped with visibility sensors to automatically dim in good conditions and reduce visual impact. The project is monitoring developments in the wind industry, where alternative lighting applications are being considered, which have the potential to further minimise lighting impacts whilst maintaining strict maritime and aviation requirements. Following feedback received during our first phase of consultation, we have included night-time visualisations – from five locations along the west coast that have been highlighted as sensitive or have known dark sky qualities – in our exhibition materials this time around. This is to give people a sense of what the turbines could look like under night-time lighting conditions. These may be viewed in the Photomontage Viewer on our website.
Noise during operation of the turbines Community members expressed concerns about the potential for noise generated by the turbines once operational, particularly how this might affect local residents and nearby communities. Some attendees were interested in understanding how noise levels would be monitored and managed over time, and whether these levels would comply with established guidelines to protect wellbeing and quality of life.	We recognise that this is a concern for many people along the west coast and it is one we take seriously. As part of the EIA process, we are undertaking assessments to understand the potential effects of noise from the turbines. It is worth noting that industry guidance provides clear methods for determining the day and night-time noise limits that are expected to be met (at receptors) by the operation of a nearby windfarm. The project will demonstrate, through our EIA and using current noise propagation methods, that the proposed windfarm can operate within these limits. Potential monitoring or management measures will be set out by the regulator as part of our consent requirements.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Mixed views on array layout options There was a range of opinions on the two indicative array layout options presented. Many respondents preferred the layout featuring a greater number of smaller turbines, feeling that a lower height would lessen visual impact. Others favoured fewer, larger turbines, suggesting that at a distance, the reduction in visual clutter outweighed concerns about height. However, a significant number of participants expressed that neither option was acceptable, stating a preference for the project not to proceed at all due to the visual changes it would bring.	Options for the type and size of turbines to be used are still being assessed and the project will therefore seek consent for a 'design envelope', which outlines maximum parameters (rather than specific, fixed parameters) that will be refined further at the detailed design stage. With consideration of the mixed feedback received, the project has updated the parameters for both indicative layout options by reducing the maximum height of the turbines as well as reducing the overall number of turbines for both layouts. The final design will be further refined at the detailed design stage, following further investigations of the site conditions and further engagement with the supply chain. It is important to note that the final array layout chosen – in terms of turbine numbers and size – could be somewhere between the two indicative options shown in these updated proposals and the positioning of each individual turbine could be relocated whilst retaining safety principles e.g. lines of turbines to allow safe vessel transit and search and rescue.
Environmental sustainability: turbine longevity and recyclability Environmental sustainability was a major focus, with people expressing concerns about the long-term environmental impacts of the offshore windfarm. Suggestions included using recyclable materials for turbines and offshore infrastructure and finding innovative solutions for the reuse of turbine blades, such as partnerships with universities for blade repurposing initiatives. There were also comments regarding the resilience of turbines, with some questioning whether they would withstand harsh environmental conditions over the long term and how the structures would be decommissioned in the future to avoid environmental harm.	Spiorad na Mara is committed to sustainability in both the energy we produce as well as the design and implementation of our generating technology. At the end of the wind turbines' life cycle, we will look to repurpose the infrastructure, including the turbine blades, in line with best practice options available at that time. At present, turbines can potentially be re-purposed into various structures, such as bike sheds or storage units. We will continue to monitor and explore all new options that become available between now and then. An outline decommissioning plan will be included as part of our EIA, detailing how all key pieces of infrastructure will be decommissioned at the end of the project's operating life. This will be updated and refined, in line with available best practice solutions at that time, as the project nears the end of its life. Regarding the resilience of the turbines, these will be designed to meet the conditions in which they will be operating and will be independently verified in accordance with industry standards. They will also be appropriately operated and maintained to ensure safety standards are met at all times.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Size, scale and location of the onshore substation(s) Many community members raised concerns about the proposed landfall and grid substations, describing the infrastructure as too large, industrial in nature, and visually intrusive, particularly within the rural landscape of the island's west coast. The landfall substation's location was seen as insensitive given its proximity to the Barvas cemetery and the risk of industrialising an otherwise natural and culturally significant area. The scale and visual dominance of both substations were viewed by some as overwhelming and inconsistent with the character of the surrounding environment. Suggestions to minimise these impacts included the use of low-profile structures, effective soundproofing, and designs that blend into the landscape through earth mounding, stonework, and native tree planting. Respondents also emphasised the importance of aesthetically sensitive design and ongoing community consultation.	We recognise the sensitivity of the landfall location and it is our intention to locate the landfall substation as far as possible from Barvas cemetery, in order to reduce its visibility from the cemetery. This siting location will also avoid cultural heritage and archaeological features identified in the area. The preferred location of the grid substation on the east coast near Arnish is located close to Creed Industrial Park with limited visibility from surrounding properties. There will also be limited or no visibility of the substation from local amenities such as Lews Castle grounds. Specialists will also be conducting a colour assessment at our proposed onshore substation locations (both landfall and grid) to consider how the infrastructure can blend into the landscape better, thereby further reducing potential visual impacts. Photomontages of the onshore substations are available to view at this exhibition. The potential noise impacts from both sites are being assessed as part of the EIA and will be reported on in the EIA Report (EIAR). If noise mitigation measures are required, either during construction or operations, these will be identified and implemented as required. We expect that noise limits would be set as conditions to any consent received, and the substations would need to be operated within these limits for their operational lifetime.
Landfall sites and need for clearer visuals Feedback on the proposed landfall sites was varied. While many people expressed no strong preference between the options, they acknowledged that each carried potential impacts – particularly in relation to proximity to homes, popular surfing locations, and well-visited coastal areas. Among the options presented, Site 2B was preferred, with appreciation shown for efforts to minimise visual impact. Nonetheless, there was a clear call for more detailed and realistic visualisations of the landfall proposals, as well as an ongoing commitment to meaningful community engagement.	In line with feedback received during our last consultation and in engagements since then, we can confirm that Site 2B, located north-east of Barvas, is the landfall location we are proposing to proceed with. We have produced visualisations of what the landfall substation layout could look like, plus photomontages of what it could look like from three different locations in the Barvas and Brue area. These are available at this exhibition.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Suggestions to minimise disruption and visual impact Many participants put forward practical ideas for reducing disruption caused by onshore infrastructure. These included burying cables underground along existing roads or within already developed areas to minimise new visual and environmental impacts. Others suggested relocating substations to more industrial settings, such as Arnish, where such infrastructure might be better accommodated.	The onshore cable route will largely follow the existing Barvas Moor Road route (A857). The project has committed to burying the cables underground, thereby eliminating any potential long-term visual impacts associated with this part of the project's infrastructure. In order to minimise the disruption to traffic during construction, we will install a temporary haul road adjacent to the main road, which will be used by construction vehicles. No full closure of the A857 will be required at any time where works are taking place. A detailed Traffic Management Plan will be developed at a later stage, when further information is available about construction activities, durations and timings. This will set out the details of how all construction traffic will be managed. In terms of the grid substation, the site shown in these materials, in the Creed Industrial Park area, is our preferred location for this piece of infrastructure and is the one we believe will have the least impact locally.
NOISE	
Infrasound (noise that can't be heard but may cause health concerns) Several people highlighted unease around infrasound—low-frequency sound that is not audible to the human ear—associated with wind turbines. Questions were raised about whether infrasound could have any long-term health impacts and whether it would be assessed as part of the environmental studies. This was mentioned as an important topic to consider when evaluating the potential effects of the development on human health.	The current industry consensus, supported by various acoustic studies, is that infrasound and low frequency noise from wind turbines do not have adverse effects on residents living near windfarms. The project has therefore not carried out an assessment of infrasound and low-frequency noise.
Construction noise The issue of onshore and offshore construction noise was raised, particularly in relation to piling, construction vehicle activity, and associated works. Feedback reflected a desire for clear information on how construction noise would be managed, how long the noisier phases might last, and what measures would be put in place to minimise disruption to nearby communities and sensitive wildlife.	Potential noise and vibration impacts may arise from project activities, particularly during the construction phase; therefore Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) will be developed for offshore and onshore activities, in advance of construction commencing and these will outline how noise and vibration will be managed. A plan will also be put in place for engaging with local communities and sharing information around relevant construction activities (particularly onshore) – including duration of periods of work, activities involved, type of equipment etc. – well in advance of these activities commencing. All onshore construction activities will take place during normal working hours with no work on Sundays, to the maximum extent possible. The main exception will be Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) work which, for safety and operational reasons, will be continuous. Details of any onshore work activities that fall outside normal working hours will be agreed in advance with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the local community will be notified. Offshore works will, for the most part, be 24/7 and will be managed in accordance with consents requirements and the detail set out in the CEMPs.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
CONSTRUCTION	
Traffic, road access and impacts to emergency services A key question raised by the community was the potential impact of construction on local roads, including potential traffic disruption and road closures. Many emphasised that the area relies heavily on a limited road network, and any interruption – particularly along the main road to and from town – could significantly affect daily life and the ability of emergency services to respond promptly.	The project acknowledges and understands concerns around pressures on the local road network and we are committed to minimising disruption. Throughout construction, activities and traffic movements will be managed in a way that ensures no full road closure is required, though single-lane closures will be required at times. We will build a temporary haul road alongside the A857 to minimise the volumes of additional traffic that will be utilising the main road during the construction period. Similarly, at our proposed substation locations, we will put local access roads in place to minimise impacts on the existing road network and traffic flows. In addition to keeping the local community informed of our construction activities, we will also liaise closely with the local emergency services to ensure ongoing understanding and awareness of our activities and minimise the risk of their vital services being impacted in any way. As part of the ongoing EIA, an Abnormal Load Route Assessment has been conducted to identify any pinch-points along the road network where minor alterations or temporary changes may be required to ensure that large substation components can be transported safely to site.
Road condition and long-term improvements Several people pointed out the existing poor condition of local roads and expressed hope that the project could leave a lasting positive legacy by improving road surfaces as part of the construction process. There was recognition that large-scale development can bring wear and tear, but also suggestions that careful planning and investment could help deliver long-term benefits for local transport infrastructure.	The project has a responsibility to ensure that all local roads used regularly for construction purposes are left in, or restored to, good condition after our work comes to an end. This is a responsibility we take seriously and will honour. In some cases, temporary or permanent new access roads will be required to support construction or operations activities of the project. These access roads will be built and maintained appropriately by the project.
Impacts on local communities and accommodation Concerns were raised about the potential influx of workers during construction, particularly in relation to accommodation pressures in nearby towns. Community members noted that local housing and services are already stretched, and that an unmanaged increase in temporary workers could cause disruption or strain local resources and impact tourism.	At this early stage in development, we do not know the precise sequencing of the construction phases of the project, or the associated numbers of workers that will be required for each phase. When we are more advanced in our procurement process, we will have more detail on these requirements and will work with our contractors and with local agencies and authorities to ensure that accommodation needs are managed appropriately, with careful consideration of existing local housing challenges. We have already started to engage with Hebridean Housing Partnership and Tighean Innse Gall and will continue to do so. We are also working on this topic within the framework of the Major Developments Forum, which is overseen by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, monitoring what other developers are doing and exploring opportunities as they arise.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ONSHORE ENVIRONMENT	
Protection of peatlands and sensitive habitats Substantial feedback was received relating to the potential destruction of peatlands and sensitive habitats along the proposed onshore cable route. Respondents highlighted the environmental importance of peat as a carbon store and its role in local ecosystems, alongside the value of surrounding habitats such as bird nesting areas and machair lands. There were calls for the project to avoid disturbing these areas, wherever possible, and for clear mitigation strategies to be in place to prevent habitat degradation or carbon release.	We recognise the importance of peatlands in Lewis, both for the cultural significance and ecological benefits. An outline Peat Management Plan will be submitted as part of our onshore consent application and a comprehensive plan will be developed prior to the start of construction. This will be followed by the project to ensure impacts are managed sensitively and placement and storage are carried out appropriately. In developing and refining the onshore cable route design, crofted land and grazings have been avoided, where possible. The cable route has been designed to avoid the areas of deepest and best ecological-quality peat and, by keeping the cable route close to the road, we also avoid the high-quality areas of the designated Lewis Peatlands.
Minimising environmental damage through careful routing and restoration To reduce the risk of environmental damage, community members suggested that cables be buried underground along existing infrastructure routes—such as roads or previously developed corridors—rather than cutting through undisturbed natural areas. There was also a strong emphasis on the need for clear and robust restoration plans to ensure that any land disturbed during construction is returned to its natural state and ecological value over time.	The onshore cable route will follow the existing Barvas Moor Road route (A857) and the project has committed to burying the cables underground. To help mitigate any impacts to the habitats that may be disturbed during construction, a number of management plans will be in place prior to the commencement of construction, including: • Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) • Peat Management & Restoration Plan • Habitats Management Plan.
Calls for transparency and heritage protection Beyond environmental impacts, respondents underlined the importance of transparency and continued dialogue with the local community. Feedback included calls for the project team to provide clear visualisations, engage local historians and heritage organisations, and work collaboratively to safeguard cultural and historical sites. Many felt that open consultation and a commitment to protecting the island's natural and cultural identity would be essential for building trust and ensuring that the development proceeds in a respectful and responsible way.	We are fully committed to developing the project in a respectful and responsible way and this includes protecting the cultural and archaeological heritage of the island. We continue to work closely with NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland and the Archaeology Service in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, to ensure we address their concerns as well as local concerns. Where there are known cultural heritage monuments, or where we have discovered new sites of interest or significance through our surveys, we have located infrastructure away from these sites as much as possible. We will also assess potential cultural and archaeological sites offshore, as well as assessing any potential settings effects at locations onshore caused by offshore infrastructure/activities (any potential settings effects arising from onshore infrastructure/activities will also be assessed as part of the onshore EIA work). These assessments will be informed by consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Calls for transparency and heritage protection continued	We are also committed to open consultation and ongoing engagement with community members as well as local groups and organisations. Our community engagement team is available for calls or meetings, community drop-ins will continue to be held at local venues and we will be happy to attend community council meetings to provide updates, answer questions and listen to feedback. All feedback we receive is considered, and all local insights valued, as we continue to shape our project proposals. We will remain open to local input as the project progresses through all its stages, to ensure the best outcomes. Through this consultation, we have made additional visualisations available to provide more detail around the onshore substations, as well as night-time visuals of the offshore infrastructure (while also offering day-time visualisations of two indicative array layouts, as we did during our first phase of consultation, from eight different locations along the west coast). A 3D model, showing all proposed project infrastructure and locations, is also available to view at our in-person public exhibitions.
OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENT	
Marine mammals and underwater noise A significant concern raised by community members was the potential disruption to marine mammals, including fin whales, humpback whales, long-finned pilot whales, dolphins, harbour porpoises, and basking sharks. A lot of feedback included the question of the potential impact of underwater noise from surveys and construction, which could disturb these species during critical periods. Suggestions included the implementation of noise reduction techniques and timing construction activities to avoid sensitive migration periods for these mammals.	The Outer Hebrides has a diverse range of marine mammals present in its waters and it is important that we minimise any impacts to wildlife as much as possible. The project has undertaken 24 months of Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) of marine mammals and supplemented this significant baseline dataset with additional passive acoustic monitoring (deployment of hydrophones) of marine mammal activity over a 12-month period. As part of the EIA, a marine mammal and other megafauna assessment is being undertaken and will consider the effects of underwater noise from construction, operations and decommissioning, as well as a host of other considerations. Once the project finalises its design (post consent), a detailed Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol (MMMP) will be developed and agreed with stakeholders prior to construction commencing. The project commits to following Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) best practice methodologies during any offshore works, as necessary.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Bird species and collision risk Risk of bird collisions with turbines was a common subject of feedback, especially for both local and migratory bird species such as the white-tailed eagle, golden eagle, northern gannet, Atlantic puffin, northern fulmar, red-necked phalarope, and corncrake. Concern was expressed that construction and operation could exacerbate these challenges. Suggested mitigations included painting turbine blades to improve visibility, limiting construction during key migration periods, and adopting noise-reduction measures during construction to reduce impacts on birds.	Since our last consultation, we have been working closely with ornithology specialists and key stakeholders to further refine our project proposals. We have now updated some of the parameters of the wind turbines to help mitigate impacts to bird species: · Committed to a minimum air gap of 30m from Mean Sea Level (MSL) to the lowest point of the wind turbine blade, to allow for increased safe passage of flying birds. This is a valid and proven design mitigation for impacts on bird species and was agreed to in consultation with the RSPB. · Reduction in total number of turbines and reduction in maximum turbine rotor diameter by 50m, resulting in a reduction in total swept area of the windfarm (area in which birds have potential to collide with infrastructure). · Only installing wind turbines within a defined area of the original array area, away from areas which birds (gannet, guillemot, razorbill and puffin) are shown to frequent relative to the rest of the array area. These updates to the project parameters will significantly reduce the risk of collision for bird species. The project has also undertaken extensive research – including both desktop and site-specific surveys – to understand the potential for abundance and presence of listed species of concern, as well as undertaking robust engagement with NatureScot. As a result, we have screened in northern gannet, Atlantic puffin and northern fulmar. We have found that white-tailed eagle are not present within the array area, based on Digital Aerial Surveys and tagging data of four juveniles on the Isle of Lewis. For the remaining species – golden eagle, red-necked phalarope and corncrake – we are continuing to investigate further if there is any potential for collision risk within the array area, but the current evidence is that the risk to all these species is very low.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Potential benthic/seabed impacts, pollution, and waste management Community feedback included potential damage to the seabed and the risks of pollution associated with construction activities. The potential for oil and chemical spills was highlighted, alongside concerns about plastic pollution in the marine environment. There were calls for rigorous environmental monitoring and mitigation strategies to prevent any lasting damage to the seabed and marine ecosystems.	As the maximum number of turbines has been reduced, as well as the size of the array area within which turbines will be placed, the potential for impacts to the seabed has also been reduced. However, we recognise that the remaining proposed turbines will still impact some areas of the seabed. Various surveys will continue to be undertaken to better understand the seabed conditions prior to construction and, where possible, sensitive habitats will be avoided through micro-siting (i.e. optimising the placement of individual turbines within the array area). Offshore turbines have also been shown to enhance marine biodiversity in many areas where offshore windfarms are currently in existence and this is something we will explores our plans progress. As part of the EIA, there will be a robust assessment of potential pollution associated with the project. The assessment will include potential impacts (if any) of the release of pollutants to the marine environment on both human and biological receptor groups. We will seek to use chemicals and other fluids suited for use in the marine environment, and which are biodegradeable, in order to minimise impacts in the event of a spill. A range of management plans will also be put in place, including a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (an outline of which will be included as part of our offshore consent application), setting out how any potential pollution incidents will be managed.
Coastal erosion and underwater swells Several questions were raised regarding the potential impacts on coastal erosion and underwater swells. Respondents feared that construction and operational activities could disrupt the natural dynamics of the shoreline, potentially leading to increased coastal erosion. There were also concerns about the impact on local surfing spots due to changes in underwater swells, which could affect both the environment and local recreational activities.	As part of our EIA, we are undertaking detailed modelling to look at the potential effects of the project on aspects of the marine environment such as wave heights, direction, current and sediment transport, during the construction, operations and decommissioning phases. The modelling uses metocean data collected from the array area and validates it against existing metocean models already available from the wider region to ensure all areas which the project could affect are assessed. Specialist 3D software is used to model a number of scenarios for all activities that could potentially impact on the physical environment; the software will determinewhat (if any) effects the project might have on waves, currents and sediment transport. This information will be incorporated under the Physical Processes chapter in the EIAR. One of the criteria used in assessing potential landfall locations was potential impact on land use and recreation. Given the location of our landfall, north-east of Barvas, we do not envisage any restrictions to local surf breaks during the operational phase of the project.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Coastal erosion and underwater swells continued	Safety zones at sea will be required during the construction phase and will be applied for as part of our offshore consent application. We will liaise in a timely way with local marine users to ensure information is shared in advance in relation to any exclusion zones. In addition to sharing information locally, the following are some further embedded mitigations that could be applied to manage the use of these zones: · Compliance with Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 654 and its annexes. · Appropriate marking on United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) Admiralty Charts. · Buoyed construction area in agreement with Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB). · Marine coordination and communication to manage project vessel movements. · Implementation and monitoring of cable protection. · Marking and lighting in agreement with NLB (and in line with IALA Recommendation G1162). · Compliance of project vessels with the international marine regulations including COLREGs and SOLAS. · Guard vessel(s) consideration as required by risk assessment.
Fish populations and breeding grounds Potential impacts on fish populations and their breeding grounds in the waters around the island were raised. People emphasised the importance of protecting local marine life, particularly as fish species are integral to the ecosystem and local fishing industries. Many felt that any disruption to these populations could have far-reaching consequences for both the environment and the community.	The project recognises the importance of commercial fishing in the waters around the Outer Hebrides and we have been engaging with fishermen and fisheries associations since 2022, when a Company Fisheries Liaison Officer and a Fisheries Industry Representative were appointed. Feedback from these ongoing engagements has informed the design and development of our project plans and will continue to do so. A Benthic and Fish Ecology Assessment is being undertaken as part of the EIA. To support this, numerous site-specific surveys have been conducted, including video-based surveys of the array and cable areas of search, eDNA sampling and baited remote underwater video (BRUV), which you can read more about on our EIA board in this exhibition. A commercial fisheries assessment is also being undertaken as part of the EIA. The project also commissioned a fish tracking study of migrating juvenile Atlantic salmon (*salmo salar*); this was undertaken in 2024 by ZSL with support from the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust. The study aimed to determine the routes of migration paths used by salmon emigrating from the Loch Roag system. One hundred salmon smolts were captured in the lower River Grimersta and fitted with an acoustic transmitter before being released again. Fixed detection stations with receivers were positioned within East Loch Roag and the Spiorad na Mara array area to track the movements of the juvenile fish. A total of 38 tagged fish migrated out of East Loch Roag with 15 of those subsequently detected entering the project array area.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Fish populations and breeding grounds continued	The data collected from these surveys is being examined and further analysed by specialists and the information forms the baseline to the EIA. The results of impacts on commercial fisheries as well as fish, shellfish and benthic ecology will all be presented in the EIAR, which will be submitted with the application. In the meantime, the project is liaising with stakeholders to discuss the approach to assessment to ensure that all assessments are applicable for the Spiorad na Mara site.
HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURE (ECONOMIC BENEFIT, SUPPLY CHAIN, JOBS, ETC)	
Local economic benefits and job creation A common theme in feedback was that the local community would not see significant economic benefits from the project, particularly regarding job creation and supply chain opportunities. People expressed a lack of trust that the project would lead to local employment, with worries that jobs would not be prioritised for local people. The question was raised whether local suppliers would be included in the procurement process, with a potential preference instead for international suppliers. This raised fears that the project could fail to bring substantial benefits to the local economy, particularly in a region where job opportunities are already limited.	If it proceeds, the Spiorad na Mara project will offer a significant opportunity for local employment, in both short-term and long-term roles. Throughout the construction phase, anticipated to last for up to three years, there will be 750 to 1,000 temporary roles for different durations across different parts of the construction process. Once in operation, the project will create between 80 to 120 new, permanent long-term jobs. We are committed to ensuring as many of these jobs as possible, particularly the long-term positions, are available to local people. To enable this, we have started to invest in skills development and apprenticeship opportunities locally and this will continue and broaden as the project progresses. We are also working with local educational institutions and support agencies and industry partners to expand career pathways for island residents, to build their skills and experience, and improve long-term employability. In terms of the local supply chain, we are also committed to maximising opportunities for local businesses and to supporting them to prepare for work packages that will become available through the project in the years ahead. Since the start of 2025, we have been working, in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), to build a comprehensive picture of local businesses that might be suitable for contractor work on the project. This has been augmented by sign-ups via the supply chain portal on our website. In the coming months, as we get greater clarity on the potential construction phases of the project and associated work packages, we will map these local businesses against the project's needs. Later this year, it is our intention to host an event for these local businesses, during which we will provide more details on our approach to procurement and opportunities for local businesses. We will provide more information on the likely work packages – and the timing, duration and sequencing of these, to the extent that this information is available – that will arise during the construction phase of the project. We will also provide whatever information is available at this time on the likely requirements during the operations and maintenance phase. As a demonstration of our commitment to this work, a local team member, Grant Anderson, has recently been appointed as 'Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer' for the project. He is engaging with local businesses and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Ethical supply chain The ethical sourcing of turbine components was raised as a concern. There were worries that parts could be sourced from countries with poor labour practices, including child labour, or countries with less stringent environmental and human rights regulations. This led to calls for transparency in the supply chain procurement process, with a desire to ensure that all components are sourced from ethical and responsible suppliers.	As the project is in the early stages of development, we do not yet know who our suppliers will be, as the procurement process for the large project contracts has not commenced. Once we are in a position to go to the market with specific contracts, we will do so in accordance with all applicable laws and standards, adhering to our own defined procurement processes. The project will then align to Northland Power's policies, which includes a rigorous pre-qualification of suppliers covering a number of topics per industry standards, to ensure that suppliers meet the ethical standards required. Northland conducts business in accordance with the highest ethical standards in all aspects of its activities and expects the same from its business partners.
Housing shortage and potential strain The subject of the potential for the influx of workers which could exacerbate the existing housing shortage in the area was raised. Local communities expressed worries about increased pressure on housing, as well as the potential for social strain with a sudden increase in population. Some suggested that plans to address housing availability for both local residents and temporary workers should be considered in parallel with the development of the project.	As outlined above, due to the early stage we are at in the project's development, we do not know the precise sequencing of the construction phases of the project, or the associated numbers of workers that will be required for each phase. When we are more advanced in our procurement process, we will have more detail on these requirements and will work with our contractors and with local agencies and authorities to ensure that accommodation needs are managed appropriately, with careful consideration of existing local housing challenges. We have already started to engage with Hebridean Housing Partnership and Tighean Innse Gall and will continue to do so. We are also working on this topic within the framework of the Major Developments Forum, which is overseen by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, monitoring what other developers are doing and exploring opportunities that arise. The potential for pressure on local services is something that is also being considered as part of the Major Developments Forum.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Training and skills development There was a call for local training initiatives to ensure that workers are equipped with transferable skills that can be applied beyond the scope of the windfarm project. Feedback emphasised the importance of avoiding overdependence on one industry, suggesting that any job training or development opportunities should focus on skills that can be used in a range of sectors. This approach would help future-proof the local workforce and provide long-term career opportunities for residents.	The project is keen to support the community with skills development and work opportunities. In recent months, we have committed funding to support the local apprenticeships programme that Navantia has developed at its fabrication facility in Arnish. Additionally, we have been working closely with UHI, co-funding their STEM Outreach Programme for Lewis and Harris. Also in recent months, we launched the Spiorad na Mara Scholarships Programme, through which we have committed to supporting 20 students undertaking STEM or Gaelic language and culture-related courses in Scottish universities over the next seven years. More information on these initiatives can be found on the 'Commitment to Communities' board of this exhibition and on our project website. We will broaden our skills development and educational support work in the months and years ahead, with the aim of maximising opportunities for local people to avail of locally-based roles in the renewables sector in the years ahead.
Impacts on fishermen and marine users Local fishermen and marine users raised the questions of the potential establishment of "no-go" zones surrounding the windfarm. Community members highlighted the potential repercussions on fisheries, fish stocks, and migratory pathways, which are vital to the local economy. Thorough evaluation of marine traffic and fishing rights throughout the construction and operational stages, alongside effective mitigation strategies to safeguard the local fishing industry from adverse effects, was requested.	The project recognises the importance of commercial fishing in the waters around the Outer Hebrides and we have been engaging with fishermen and fisheries associations since 2022, when a Company Fisheries Liaison Officer and a Fisheries Industry Representative was appointed. Feedback from these ongoing engagements has informed the design and development of our project plans and will continue to do so. Further information on how the project is addressing concerns around potential impacts on fishing and fish stocks is included under the 'Offshore Environment' section. Regarding restrictions on fishing activities for safety reasons, the approach that will be taken is set out in the 'Coastal erosion and underwater swells' response above.
COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND ISSUES	
Community ownership and local benefits A subject that was raised by a number of people was the lack of community ownership or ability to have a financial stake in the project. Many expressed a desire for tangible local benefits, such as funding for local infrastructure projects or subsidies for energy costs. Some suggested discounted or free electricity for island residents, highlighting the disparity between the generation of power for broader regions like the UK and England, and the perceived lack of benefits flowing directly to the island. Additionally, the issue of the allocation of ScotWind leasing round funds was raised, with objections to these funds being utilised centrally rather than at a local level, where they could have a more direct and meaningful impact on the community.	The project is committed to bringing benefits to the local community throughout all its phases. Over the last three years, 63% of our overall spend on the project has been in Scotland, including the Isle of Lewis. We have used over 50 Lewis-based businesses in that time, including local contractors, suppliers, facilities, accommodation and other service providers. We are committed to prioritising local spend as the project progresses.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Community ownership and local benefits continued	We have clearly heard from the local community that fuel poverty and high electricity costs are two major issues across the Outer Hebrides and that there is a strong desire to see the effects of these being offset in some way. Spiorad na Mara Ltd. is a project company established to develop, construct and operate the project. This company is not involved in the transmission or distribution of power, nor will it directly sell power to domestic consumers. However, we have raised the matter of a local energy tariff through various industry and policy forums and would be supportive of changes to alleviate the specific challenges faced by local communities in the Outer Hebrides. In discussions with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in recent months, we indicated that we are open to the option of community ownership of a portion of the project and are willing to support studies to investigate the feasibility of this. It is also an option for some of the West Coast Community Benefit Fund (a ringfenced amount of £4.5m per year for the operational life of the project) to be used to subsidise electricity costs in some way for that portion of the island. However, this would be at the discretion of the entity that is put in place to manage that fund; the project will not be involved in decision-making around its uses.
Cultural impacts and community cohesion People expressed worry about the potential erosion of the island's cultural identity, particularly in a region with a strong Gaelic heritage. The project raises fears that local residents, especially those of Gaelic descent, might move away, which would have a negative impact on the island's culture and cultural heritage. There was also concern that the development could have a negative impact on tourism and the hospitality sector on the west side of the island, as the local wildlife and environment are key drivers of tourism. If these natural assets were damaged, it could result in a loss of income from visitors and a reduction in local pride associated with the area's natural beauty.	The project is very aware of the significance of Gaelic language and culture locally and we will be conscious and respectful throughout all stages of the project. Equally, we are aware of the natural beauty of the island and its attractiveness to tourists. As part of the EIA, we are considering the socio-cultural effects of the project, including any change in the demographics of the island arising from construction and any related change in local culture and identity. Potential impacts on tourism are being considered as part of the Tourism chapter of the EIA. Beyond the EIA, we are committed to supporting Gaelic language and culture activities through project initiatives such as sponsorship and donations and other programmes. Already we sponsored the national Gaelic debating competition, Deasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean, in 2024 and have committed to being the lead sponsor again in 2025. In addition, we have made donations to other Gaelic language and culture organisations and initiatives, including the Lewis Pipe Band and Breasclete Primary School's attendance at the FilmG awards last year, for which they were shortlisted.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Cultural impacts and community cohesion continued	Furthermore, our Scholarships Programme – which we launched in April – includes a commitment to support eight islands-based students undertaking Gaelic language and culture-related courses in a Scottish university over the next seven years. Regarding tourism, we have committed to the development of a cycleway/multi-use pathway across the island, adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road, as a legacy for the local community and tourists. Further details on this can be found on the 'Onshore Update' board within this exhibition. As the project progresses, and as we review the outputs from the recent independent consultation on community benefits conducted by Aquatera Ltd., we will consider further potential opportunities to support local tourism initiatives.
Local economic impacts and infrastructure Several people mentioned the potential negative impacts on local industries, including crofting and agriculture. The issue of the potential effect of the project on already strained infrastructure was also raised, in particular ferry services, which some respondents noted cannot cope with current demand. There was concern that the local economy could be impacted by these factors, with some residents expressing fears that the project could lead to a reduction in property values.	In the selection of all onshore infrastructure corridors and locations, one of the key considerations was the avoidance of residential properties (as far as reasonably practicable), crofts and active agricultural land. Regarding local infrastructure and services, these are being considered as part of the socio-economic chapters of the EIA and will be reported on in the EIAR. The project is also committed to working collaboratively with other developers and in conjunction with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE, through the Major Developments Forum, to help minimise pressures on local infrastructure. In relation to house prices, this is also being considered as part of the EIA. In 2018, a first major study to address the impact of offshore wind turbines on property prices of nearby residential and vacation properties in Denmark (a country that has had offshore wind for 30 years) concluded that having an ocean view of the windfarms from the house itself or from nearby beaches had no significant impact on property prices, in comparison to having a sea view without a windfarm. The study included two Danish offshore windfarms that are relatively close to the shore – Nystad at 3.5km and Rødsand 9km. In neither case were property prices affected by the presence of offshore windfarms. The full study can be found here: http://macroecointern.dk/pdf-reprints/Jensen_EP_2018.pdf.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Lack of trust and the need for robust consultation A key theme throughout the feedback was a profound lack of trust in the consultation process, with many residents expressing that they felt unheard during the initial stages of the project. There was frustration over what was perceived as a complete lack of robust consultation, particularly during the spatial planning stage with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the Scottish Government. Several people voiced that this historical context of feeling excluded from the decision-making process has led to heightened anxiety and concerns about the project. There were calls for more meaningful engagement going forward, with a focus on local consultation, transparency, and addressing the emotional impact the project may have on residents.	The partners in the Spiorad na Mara project – Northland Power and ESB – had no involvement in the selection of the original sites that were made available for offshore wind development through the ScotWind leasing process or in the associated consultation process. Northland Power was successful in its bid, through the ScotWind process, for the leasing rights to the seabed area now known as the Spiorad na Mara site. In late 2023, we committed to holding two phases of public consultation on the project prior to the submission of our planning applications. The requirement under the planning regulations is for two 'consultation events'. Our consultation has gone above and beyond this requirement, as follows: · Public consultation 1: a one-month long virtual exhibition, seven public exhibitions at different venues across the island and 20 hours of information clinic appointments. · Public consultation 2: a one-month long virtual exhibition, five public exhibitions at different venues across the island and a week of information clinic appointments. In addition to this, we have a full-time Community Liaison Officer and Consultation and Local Engagement Lead available to meet with members of the community at any time. We have also had meetings with the majority of community councils on the island and have offered to provide further updates at any time they wish. We have been holding community drop-ins at a range of venues (and at times covering morning, afternoon and evening) since June 2024. All of this work will continue as the project progresses.
Suggestions for community engagement and infrastructure improvements There were suggestions that the project could contribute more directly to the community by improving local infrastructure, such as providing a more reliable power supply, better internet connectivity, and improved phone reception. Other recommendations were the inclusion of community-friendly features, such as cycle lanes or paths along the onshore cable route, to benefit residents. There was also interest in exploring profit-sharing models, which would allow the local community to directly benefit from the economic success of the project, ensuring that the community sees long-lasting, tangible benefits from the windfarm over its operational lifetime.	The project is eager and committed to bringing meaningful benefits to the local community through all stages of its delivery. We have already demonstrated our commitment in this regard through: · A £4.5m per annum, index-linked fund for the west coast of the island throughout the project's operational life. · A £200,000 commitment to the provision of 20 educational scholarships for local students studying STEM or Gaelic language and culture courses in Scottish universities over the next seven years. · A contribution of over £100,000 to local community, voluntary and sporting organisations across the island over the last three years, through sponsorship and donations. · Financial support for Navantia's successful apprenticeships programme at their Arnish fabrication yard. · Since 2023, we have co-funded the UHI STEM Outreach programme which has enabled two local coordinators to be appointed for the Lewis and Harris areas. The project has also committed to sponsoring the development of a renewable energy activity kit for primary schools across Scotland.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Suggestions for community engagement and infrastructure improvements continued	Additionally, we engaged experienced independent consultants, Aquatera Ltd., to carry out independent consultation on further potential community benefits that could be delivered by, or through, the project as it progresses. The feedback and ideas gathered through this consultation process will be reviewed and considered in the months ahead. It is important to note that the role of developers does not extend to developing, upgrading or maintaining essential local infrastructure or services. This is the role of statutory agencies and authorities. However, we are happy to confirm that to ensure the island benefits from the construction of the project infrastructure and receives a long-lasting legacy, we have committed to developing a cycleway/multi-use path alongside the Barvas Moor Road where the onshore cable route will be installed.

GETTING IN TOUCH
CONALTRADH

If you would like to get in touch at any time – to ask a question, arrange a meeting, share feedback or seek more information about the project – we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us in the following ways:

Ma tha sibh airson fios a chur thugainn aig àm sam bith – airson ceist fhaighneachd, coinneamh a chur air dòigh, fios air ais a cho-roinn no barrachd fiosrachaidh a shireadh mun phròiseact – bhiodh sinn air leth toilichte cluinntinn bhuaibh. Faodaidh sibh fios a chur thugainn anns na dòighean a leanas.

Community Liaison
Ceangail Coimhearsnachd



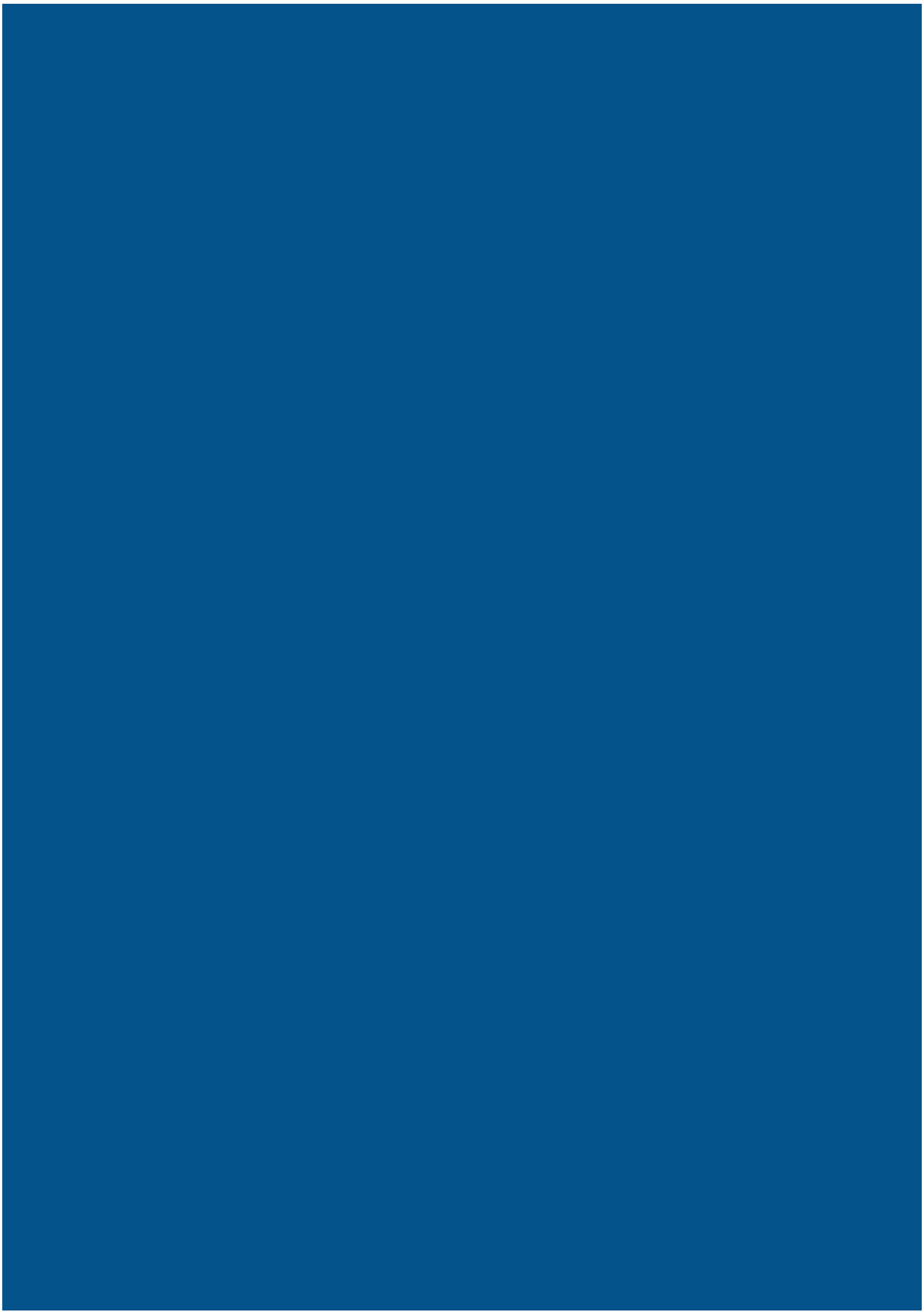
Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer

[Redacted]

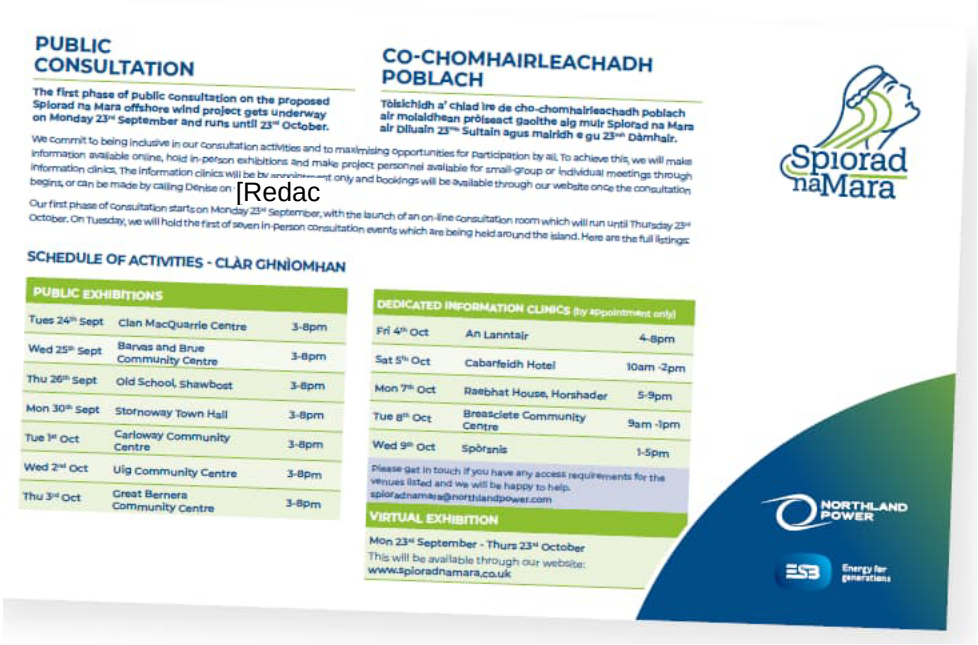


Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead

[Redacted]



APPENDIX I PC1 Methods of Engagement and Awareness Raising



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 23rd September and runs until 23rd October.

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings will be available through our website once the consultation begins, or can be made by calling Denise on [Redac

Our first phase of consultation starts on Monday 23rd September, with the launch of an on-line consultation room which will run until Thursday 23rd October. On Tuesday, we will hold the first of seven in-person consultation events which are being held around the island. Here are the full listings:

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

Tòisichidh a' chiad ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean pròiseact gaothe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Dilluain 23mh Sultain agus mairidh e gu 23mh Dàmhair.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES - CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Tues 24th Sept	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	3-8pm
Wed 25th Sept	Barvas and Brue Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 26th Sept	Old School, Shawbost	3-8pm
Mon 30th Sept	Stornoway Town Hall	3-8pm
Tue 1st Oct	Carloway Community Centre	3-8pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Uig Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 3rd Oct	Great Bernera Community Centre	3-8pm

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (By Appointment only)		
Fri 4th Oct	An Lanntair	4-8pm
Sat 5th Oct	Cabarfeidh Hotel	10am -2pm
Mon 7th Oct	Raebhat House, Horshader	5-9pm
Tue 8th Oct	Breasclete Community Centre	9am -1pm
Wed 9th Oct	Spòrsnis	1-5pm

Please get in touch if you have any access requirements for the venues listed and we will be happy to help.
spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Mon 23rd September - Thurs 23rd October
This will be available through our website:
www.spioradnamara.co.uk



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23rd September to 23rd October 2024

The first phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 23rd September and runs until 23rd October.

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

23mh Sultain gu 23mh Dàmhair 2024

Tòisichidh a' chiad ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air mòaldhearn pròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Dihaoine 23mh Sultain agus mairidh e gu 23mh Dàmhair.

Spiorad naMara

What is Spiorad na Mara?

Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-10km off the west coast of Lewis. With an expected installed capacity of around 900MW, it could meet the average annual electricity needs of around 1.2 million Scottish homes with low-cost renewable electricity and save more than 1.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Who owns Spiorad na Mara?

The project is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation.

What are the public consultations about?

Public consultation is an essential part of the development process for Spiorad na Mara. Before we submit our key consents applications, we will hold two phases of public consultation, during which we will share details of our plans as they are developing and seek your feedback and input.

This is the first of the two phases, and is in addition to the programme of wider engagement which has been ongoing since the seabed area option was awarded to us by the Scottish Government in 2022 and which will continue throughout the development, construction and operations of the wind farm, if built. The wider programme includes community drop-ins, which took place in June, July and August and will resume in November after this period of consultation has ended.

We are also open to receiving feedback at any time and may be contacted using the contact details overleaf.

Where and when will the consultations take place?

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all.

To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings will be available through our website once the consultation begins or can be made by calling Denise on [Redacted]

Our first phase of consultation starts on Monday 23rd September, with the launch of an on-line consultation room which will run until Thursday 23rd October. On Tuesday 24th September, we will hold the first of seven in-person consultation events which are being held around the island. Full listings of the dates can be found overleaf.

What will be consulted on during these events?

During this first phase of public consultation, we will share our latest updates on all aspects of the project, including environmental and technical assessments, ground investigations and offshore and onshore surveys.

The range of topics we will consult on will include: offshore array layout options; offshore cable route corridors; onshore cable route corridors; landfall and substation locations; Operations and Maintenance options (to the extent that these are matured); our Environmental Impact Assessment work and supply chain opportunities.

As our initial plans are taking shape, we will invite feedback which will inform how we seek to design the project in a way that best addresses the concerns and desires of local people, whilst also balancing relevant technical and environmental considerations.

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Tues 24th Sept	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	3-8pm
Wed 25th Sept	Barvas and Brue Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 26th Sept	Old School, Shawbost	3-8pm
Mon 30th Sept	Stornoway Town Hall	3-8pm
Tue 1st Oct	Carloway Community Centre	3-8pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Uig Community Centre	3-8pm
Thu 3rd Oct	Great Bernera Community Centre	3-8pm

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (by appointment only)

Fri 4th Oct	An Lanntair (downstairs)	4-8pm
Sat 5th Oct	Caberfeidh Hotel	10am-2pm
Mon 7th Oct	Reebhat House, Horshader	5-9pm
Tue 8th Oct	Breascleit Community Centre	9am-1pm
Wed 9th Oct	Spòrsnis	1-5pm

Please get in touch if you have any access requirements for the venues listed and we would be happy to help.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Mon 23rd September - Thurs 23rd October

This will be available through our website: www.spioradnamara.co.uk

CONTACT CONALTRADH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives on the Western Isles/North west of Scotland.

You can contact us in the following ways:

General Enquiries

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Kathleen Kithe
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead
[Redacted]

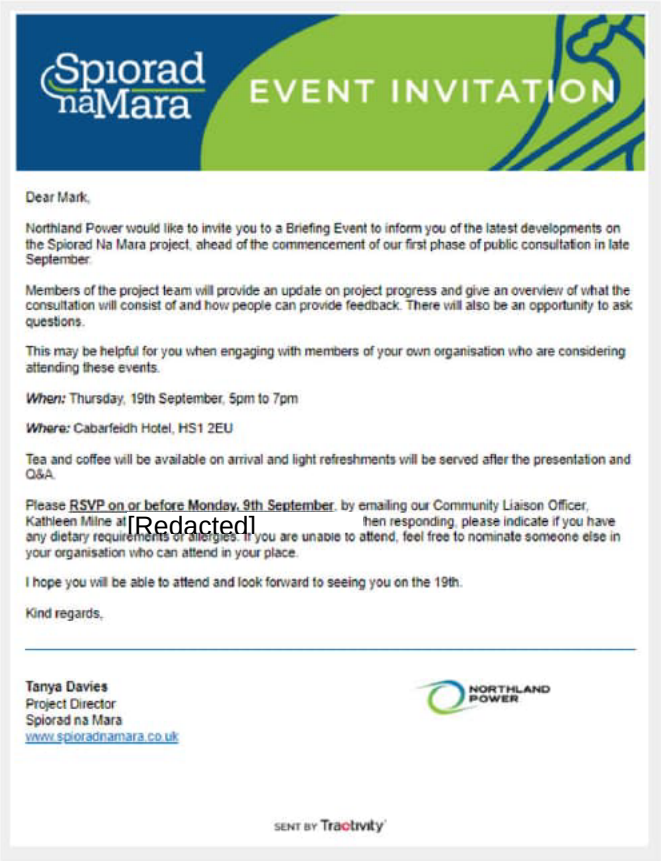
Fisheries Liaison

Richard Joseph
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
[Redacte

Calum MacLeay
Fisheries Industry Representative
[Redacted]

Media Enquiries

Steve Thomas
Communications Lead
[Redacted]



Spiorad naMara EVENT INVITATION

Dear Mark,

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the Spiorad Na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our first phase of public consultation in late September.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress and give an overview of what the consultation will consist of and how people can provide feedback. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Thursday, 19th September, 5pm to 7pm

Where: Cabarfeidh Hotel, HS1 2EU

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and light refreshments will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

Please **RSVP on or before Monday, 9th September**, by emailing our Community Liaison Officer, Kathleen Milne at [Redacted] then responding, please indicate if you have any dietary requirements or allergies. If you are unable to attend, feel free to nominate someone else in your organisation who can attend in your place.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 19th.

Kind regards,

Tanya Davies
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

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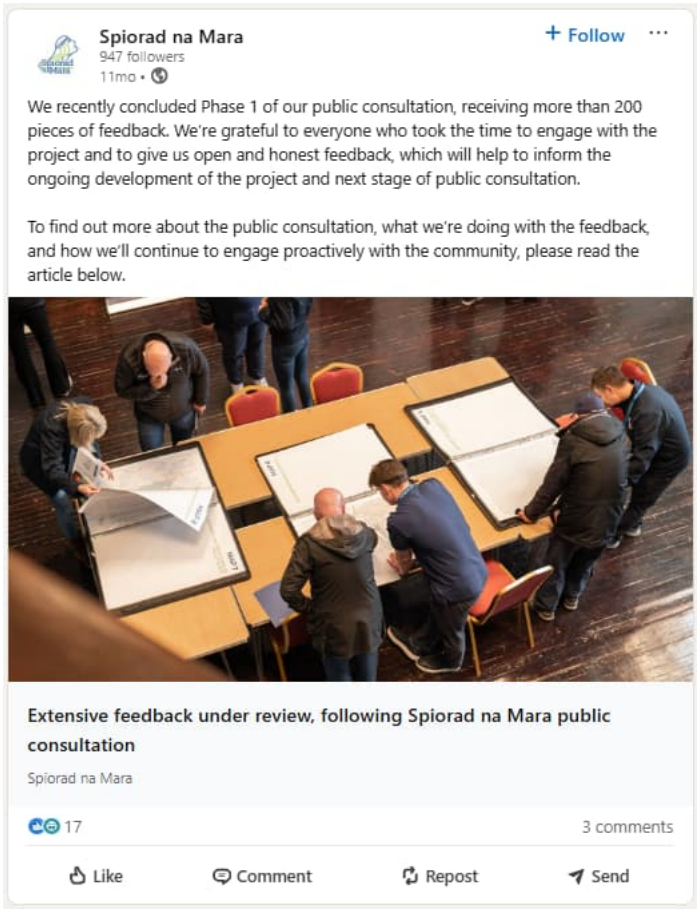

Spiorad na Mara
947 followers
11mo •
+ Follow
We recently concluded Phase 1 of our public consultation, receiving more than 200 pieces of feedback. We're grateful to everyone who took the time to engage with the project and to give us open and honest feedback, which will help to inform the ongoing development of the project and next stage of public consultation.
To find out more about the public consultation, what we're doing with the feedback, and how we'll continue to engage proactively with the community, please read the article below.
Extensive feedback under review, following Spiorad na Mara public consultation
Spiorad na Mara
17
3 comments
Like
Comment
Repost
Send

APPENDIX J PC2 Consultation Materials

FEEDBACK FORM

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Windfarm Project
Public Consultation Phase 2: JUNE 2025

CONTACT DETAILS

Name* *(optional)*: .....

Email: .....

Would you like to receive project updates by email? If so, please tick the box ☐

Which exhibition did you attend:

- ☐ Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway
- ☐ Clan MacQuarrie Centre
- ☐ Barvas and Brue Hall
- ☐ Shawbost Old School Hall
- ☐ Uig Community Centre
- ☐ Virtual Exhibition

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS

What are your views on the **offshore** elements of the updated project proposals, as presented in the materials? Please include any specific comments on – or factors you would like us to consider around – the proposed wind **turbine array layout**, the offshore **cables** and the potential offshore **substation**.

ONSHORE ELEMENTS

Do you have any feedback you would like to share on the updated **onshore** proposals presented? Please include any specific comments on the potential **landfall substation, grid substation, onshore cable** route and the **Operations and Maintenance** aspects of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Based on the information presented in the exhibition materials, do you have any views you would like to share regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed windfarm project? Are there any social or cultural considerations you would like to highlight?

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

How important do you think the potential economic benefits (e.g. job creation, skills development, supply chain opportunities) of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project are for the community?

SUPPLY CHAIN AND JOBS

Do you have any suggestions on how we can support the involvement of the local supply chain, should the project progress, or how we can maximise opportunities for job creation for local people?

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat opposed
- ☐ Strongly opposed

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional comments or concerns you have about the proposed Spiorad na Mara project.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please place your completed form in the box provided in the venue or give it to a member of the team. If you wish to complete and return it later, please ask a team member for a stamped addressed envelope in which the form can be returned.

The deadline for receipt of completed feedback forms for consideration as part of Phase 2 consultation is Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

**All contact details shared will be used in accordance with GDPR regulations and in line with our Privacy Policy, which is available on our website, https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/privacy-policy/.*

PROJECT BENEFITS

£4.5 Million

annual, index-linked Community Benefit Fund for the West Coast, for the operational life of the project.

1.2 million homes

Equivalent number of Scottish homes whose average annual electricity needs could be met.

1.7 million

The number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

80 - 120

New and permanent long-term jobs for the period of operation - potentially 35 years.

750 - 1000

Temporary jobs during construction.

Use of Stornoway Port

Our preferred location for an Operations & Maintenance base.

*Subject to adoption by another party and securing necessary permits

SPECIFIC LOCAL BENEFITS INITIATIVES:

Commitment to delivering a **cycleway/ multi-use path** adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road (A857), which will provide a lasting benefit for the community and tourists, following the construction of our onshore cable route.*

More than **£100,000** contributed to local organisations since 2023, through sponsorship and donations.

Spiorad na Mara **Scholarships Programme** launched, providing scholarships – worth a combined **£200,000** – to 20 local students pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses in Scottish universities over the next seven years.

Since 2023, we have co-funded the UHI **STEM Outreach Programme**, which has enabled two local coordinators to be appointed for the Lewis and Harris areas.

Supporting the recruitment and training of local apprentices, as part of Navantia's ongoing **apprenticeship scheme** at their fabrication facility in Arnish.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN



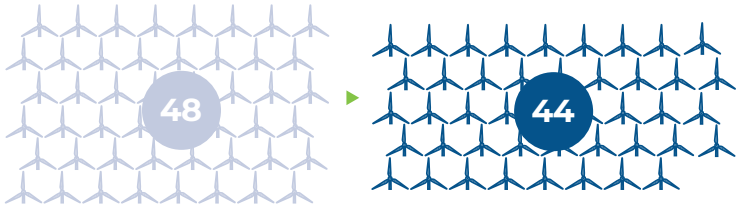
Grant Anderson
Local Supply Chain & Skills Development Officer

Appointment of a **Local Supply Chain Officer** to improve engagement with local businesses.

Supporting **Fit 4 Offshore Renewables** – a unique programme supporting the development of the UK supply chain, including businesses specifically based across Scotland's island and coastal communities, with five businesses from Lewis being selected to participate.

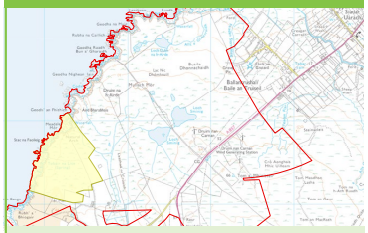
UPDATED PROJECT PARAMETERS

FEWER TURBINES



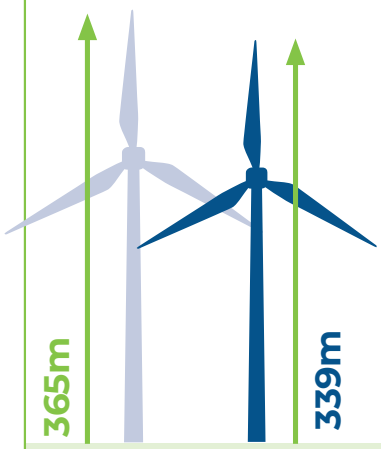
The maximum number of smaller turbines reduced from **65 to 60** and the maximum number of larger turbines from **48 to 44.**

CONFIRMED LANDFALL LOCATION



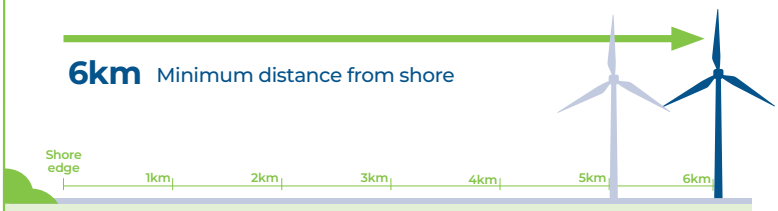
Selected location is northeast of Barvas

REDUCED HEIGHT



The maximum height of the turbines has been reduced from **365m to 339m** *(to blade tip),* with potential for this to be further reduced to **294m** if smaller turbines are used.

6KM FROM SHORE



Although the array area site remains **5km to 13km** from shore, we have increased the distance of the closest turbines to 6km from shore at any point along the west coast.

INTRODUCED A SETBACK DISTANCE

Introduced a setback distance of at least 11km *(up from 7km)* from the closest turbine to any point within the **South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area** (NSA) and 21km *(up from 17km)* from the **Harris-Uig Hills Wild Land Area** (WLA).

ONSHORE CORRIDOR REFINED

The width of the **onshore cable route** corridor has reduced.

REDUCED ROTOR DIAMETER

Reduction of **50m** in the maximum turbine rotor diameter, reducing the total swept area of the windfarm.

AIR GAP

The project has committed to a **minimum air gap of 30m** from Mean Sea Level (MSL) to the lowest point of the wind turbine blade, allowing for increased safe passage for birds.

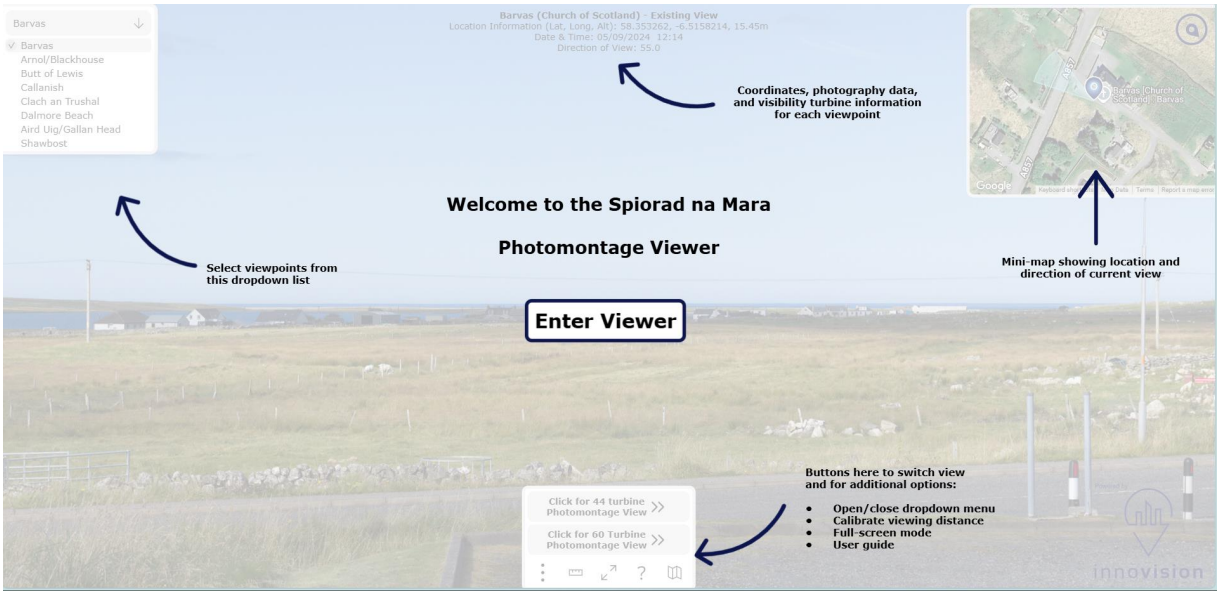
REDUCED OFFSHORE AREA OF SEARCH

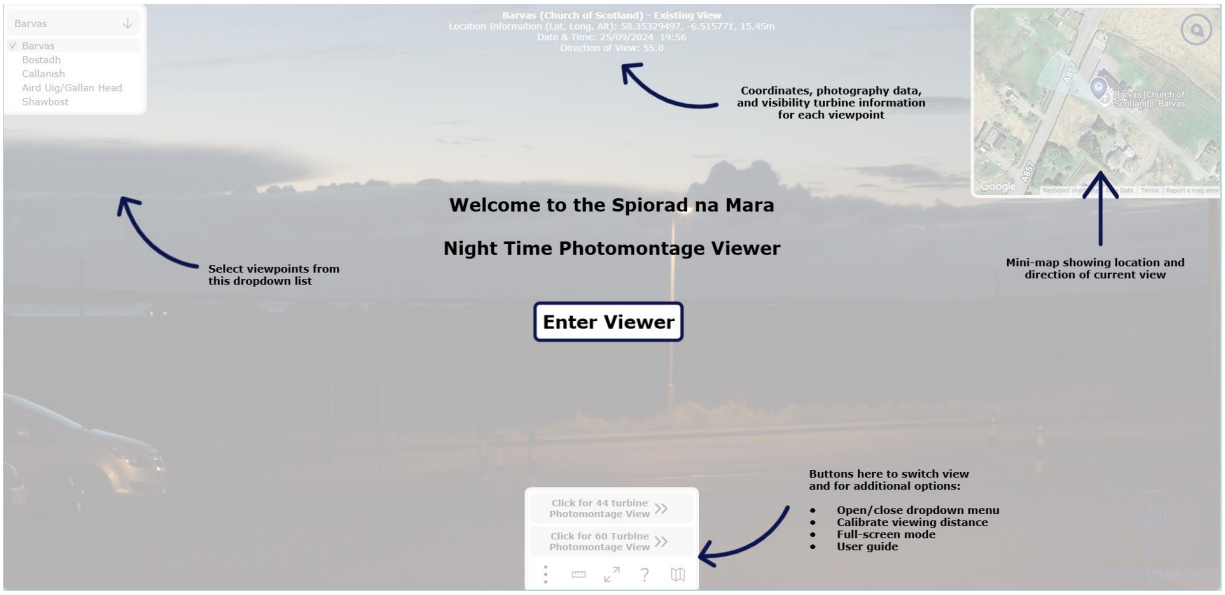
The area of search for the **offshore cables** reduced due to the selection of the landfall location.

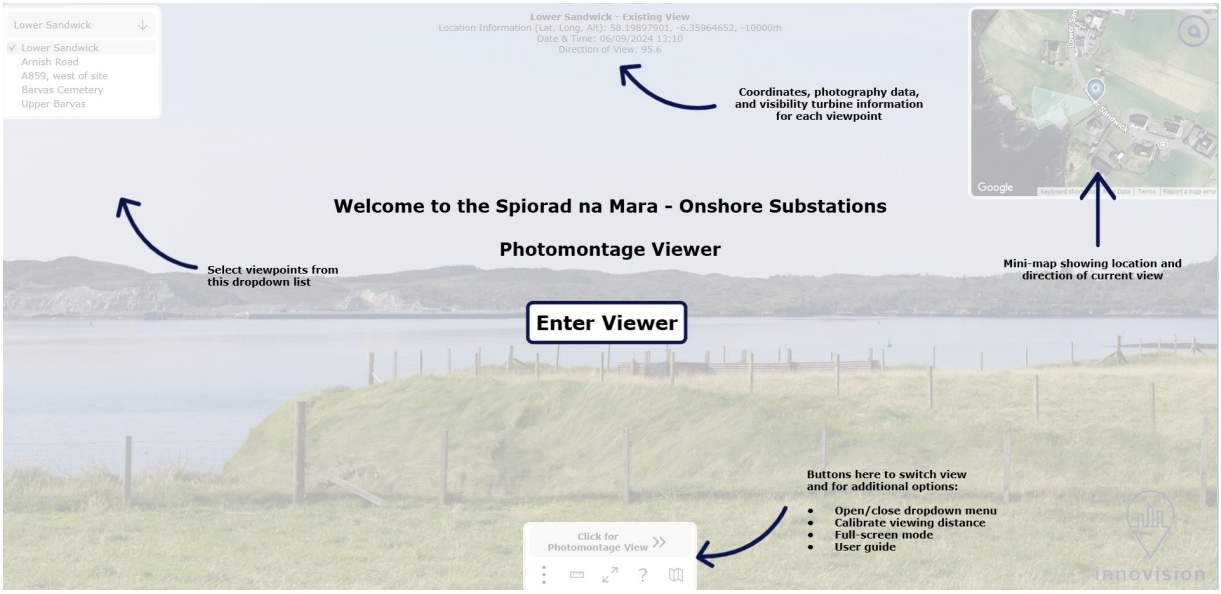
PEAT MANAGEMENT

Increased the onshore red-line boundary to allow for peat management.

NORTHLAND POWER ESB Energy for generations


Barvas
Barvas
Arnol/Blackhouse
Butt of Lewis
Callanish
Clach an Trushal
Dalmore Beach
Aird Uig/Gallan Head
Shawbost
Barvas (Church of Scotland) - Existing View
Location Information (Lat, Long, Alt): 58.35262, -6.5158214, 15.45m
Date & Time: 05/09/2024 12:14
Direction of View: 55.0
Coordinates, photography data, and visibility turbine information for each viewpoint
Welcome to the Spiorad na Mara
Photomontage Viewer
Enter Viewer
Select viewpoints from this dropdown list
Mini-map showing location and direction of current view
Buttons here to switch view and for additional options:
Open/close dropdown menu
Calibrate viewing distance
Full-screen mode
User guide
Click for 44 turbine Photomontage View
Click for 60 Turbine Photomontage View
innovision


Barvas
Barvas
Bostadh
Callanish
Aird Uig/Gallan Head
Shawbost
Barvas (Church of Scotland) - Existing View
Location Information (Lat, Long, Alt): 58.35329497, -6.515771, 15.45m
Date & Time: 25/09/2024 19:56
Direction of View: 55.0
Coordinates, photography data, and visibility turbine information for each viewpoint
Welcome to the Spiorad na Mara
Night Time Photomontage Viewer
Enter Viewer
Select viewpoints from this dropdown list
Mini-map showing location and direction of current view
Buttons here to switch view and for additional options:
Open/close dropdown menu
Calibrate viewing distance
Full-screen mode
User guide
Click for 44 turbine Photomontage View
Click for 60 Turbine Photomontage View


Lower Sandwick
Lower Sandwick
Arnish Road
A859, west of site
Barvas Cemetery
Upper Barvas
Lower Sandwick - Existing View
Location Information (Lat, Long, Alt): 58.19897901, -6.35964652, -10000m
Date & Time: 06/09/2024 13:10
Direction of View: 95.6
Coordinates, photography data, and visibility turbine information for each viewpoint
Welcome to the Spiorad na Mara - Onshore Substations
Photomontage Viewer
Enter Viewer
Select viewpoints from this dropdown list
Mini-map showing location and direction of current view
Buttons here to switch view and for additional options:
Open/close dropdown menu
Calibrate viewing distance
Full-screen mode
User guide
Click for Photomontage View
innovision

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE 2

Project Maps and Graphics
2nd June – 2nd July 2025

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH ÌRE 2

Mapaichean is Grafaigean a' Phròiseict
2 Ògmhios – 2 Iuchar 2025



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Overview of project infrastructure and boundaries

Map 2
Offshore project area

Map 3
Changes to offshore project parameters

Map 4
Landfall location and landfall substation



Map 5

Onshore cable route corridor area of search

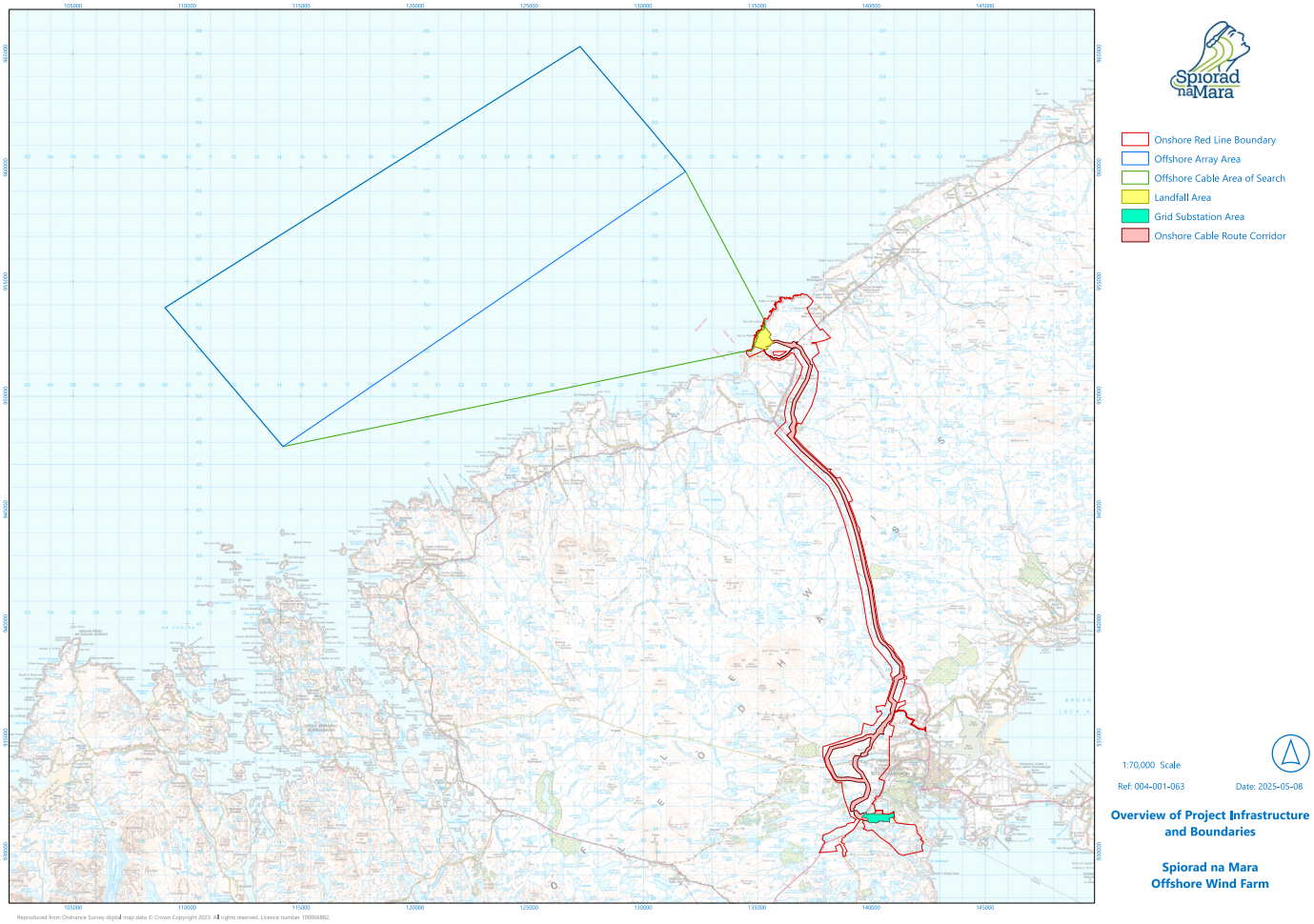
Map 6

Grid substation



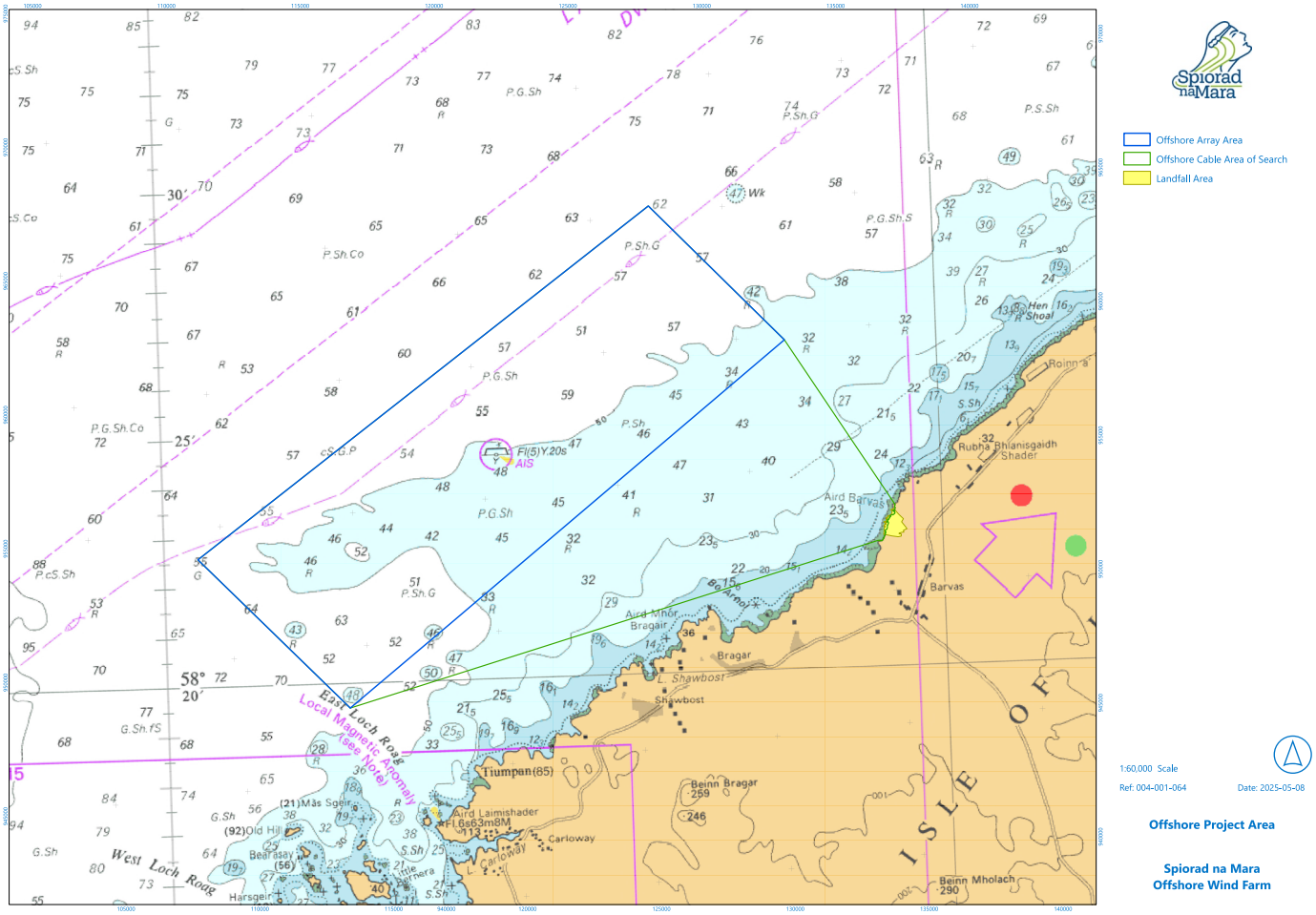
MAP 1

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT INFRASTRUCTURE AND BOUNDARIES


Onshore Red Line Boundary
Offshore Array Area
Offshore Cable Area of Search
Landfall Area
Grid Substation Area
Onshore Cable Route Corridor
1:70,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-063
Date: 2025-05-08
Overview of Project Infrastructure and Boundaries
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

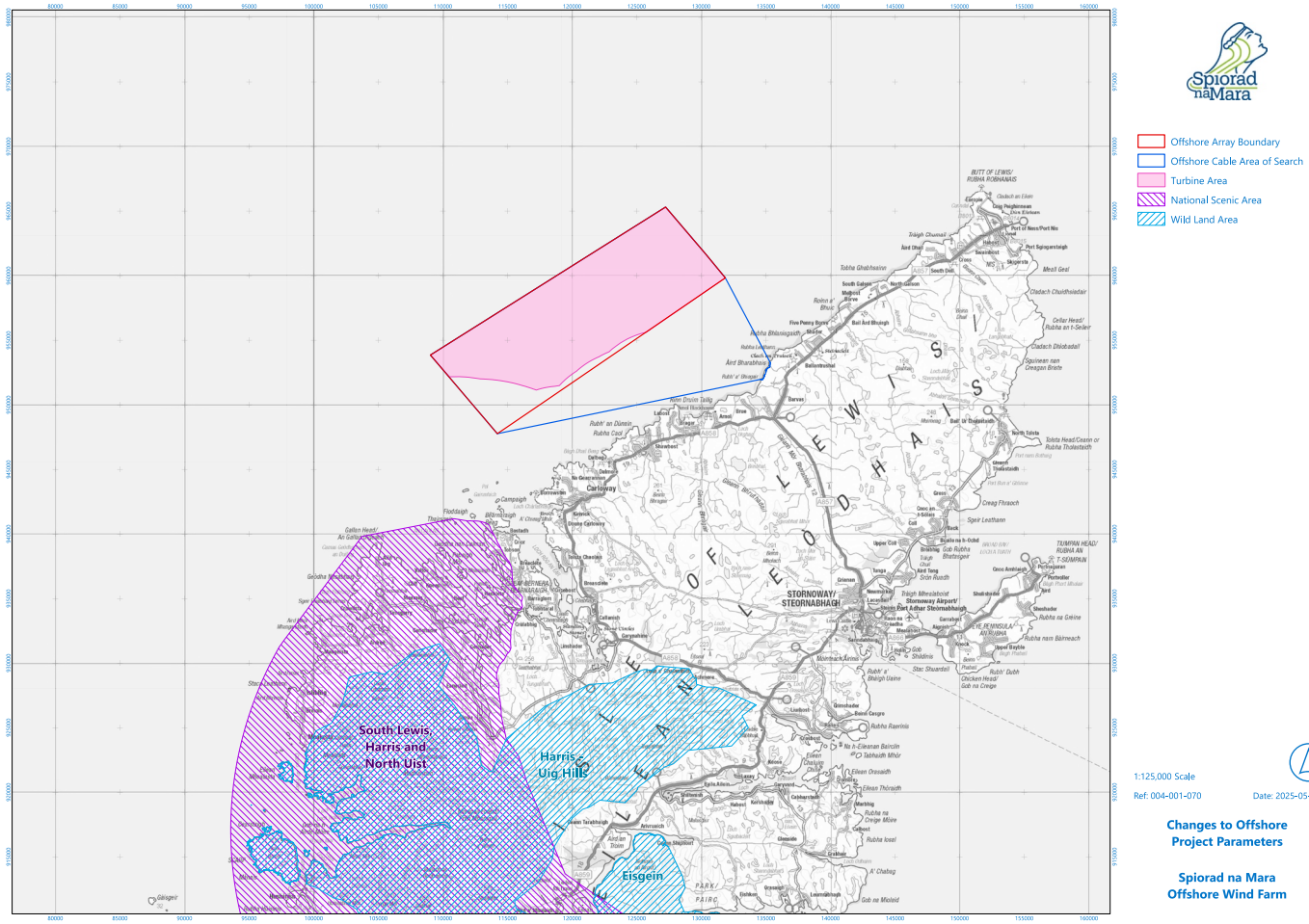
MAP 2

OFFSHORE PROJECT AREA


Offshore Array Area
Offshore Cable Area of Search
Landfall Area
1:60,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-064
Date: 2025-05-08
Offshore Project Area
Spiorad na Mara
Offshore Wind Farm
East Loch Roag
Local Magnetic Anomaly
(see Note)
West Loch Roag
Tiumpan(85)
Aird Laimishader
Carloway
Bragar
Shawbost
Barvas
Aird Barvas
Aird Mhor Bragair
Beinn Bragar
Beinn Mholach
Rubha Bhlanisgaidh Shader
Hen Shoal
Roinn a'
Harsgeir
Bearasay
Old Hill
Mas Sgeir
Little Bernera
ISLE OF

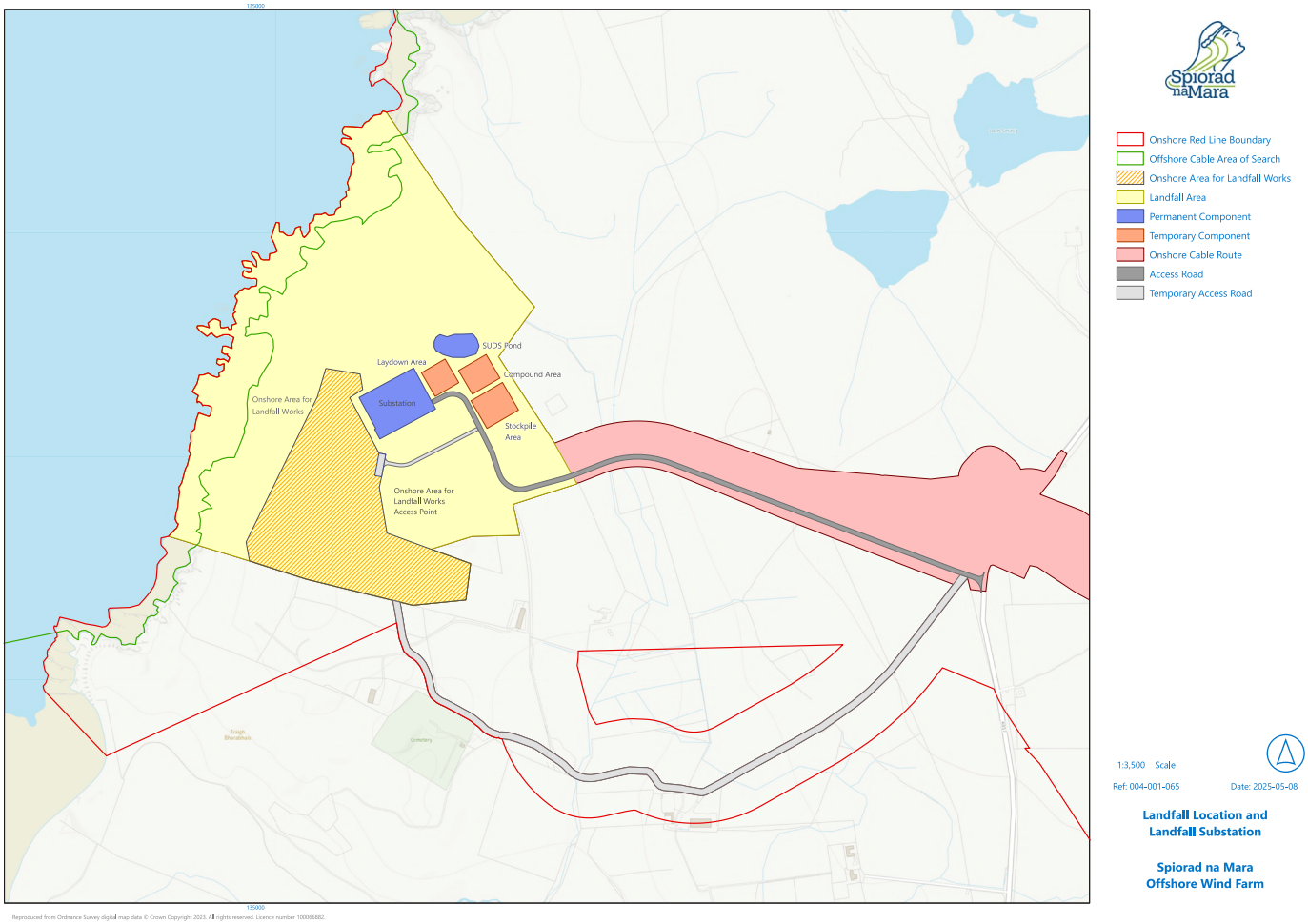
MAP 3

CHANGES TO OFFSHORE PROJECT PARAMETERS


Offshore Array Boundary
Offshore Cable Area of Search
Turbine Area
National Scenic Area
Wild Land Area
South Lewis, Harris and North Uist
Harris - Uig Hills
Eisgein
STORNOWAY/ STEORNABHAGH
1:125,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-070
Date: 2025-05-19
Changes to Offshore Project Parameters
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

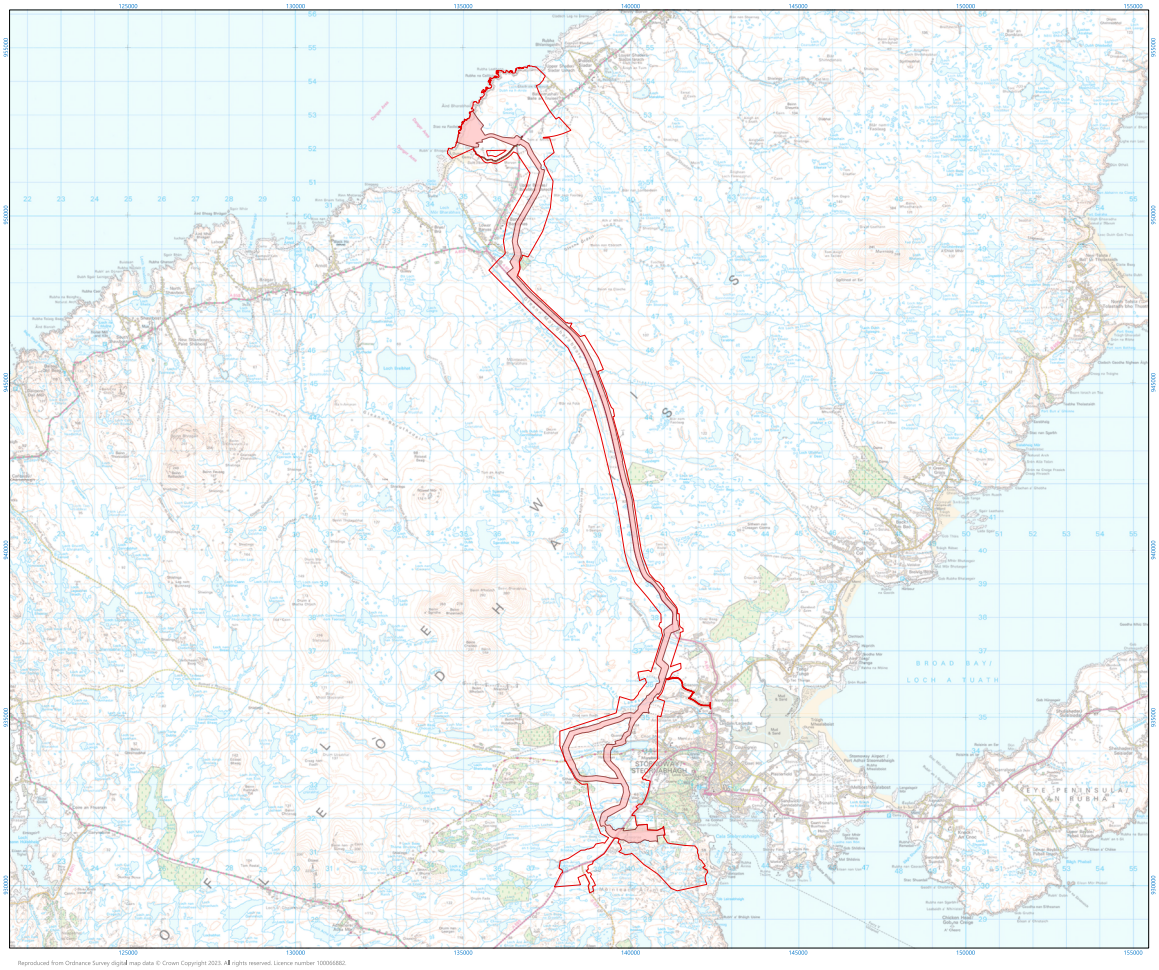
MAP 4

LANDFALL LOCATION AND LANDFALL SUBSTATION


135000
SUDS Pond
Laydown Area
Compound Area
Substation
Stockpile Area
Onshore Area for Landfall Works
Onshore Area for Landfall Works Access Point
Onshore Red Line Boundary
Offshore Cable Area of Search
Onshore Area for Landfall Works
Landfall Area
Permanent Component
Temporary Component
Onshore Cable Route
Access Road
Temporary Access Road
1:3,500 Scale
Ref: 004-001-065
Date: 2025-05-08
Landfall Location and Landfall Substation
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

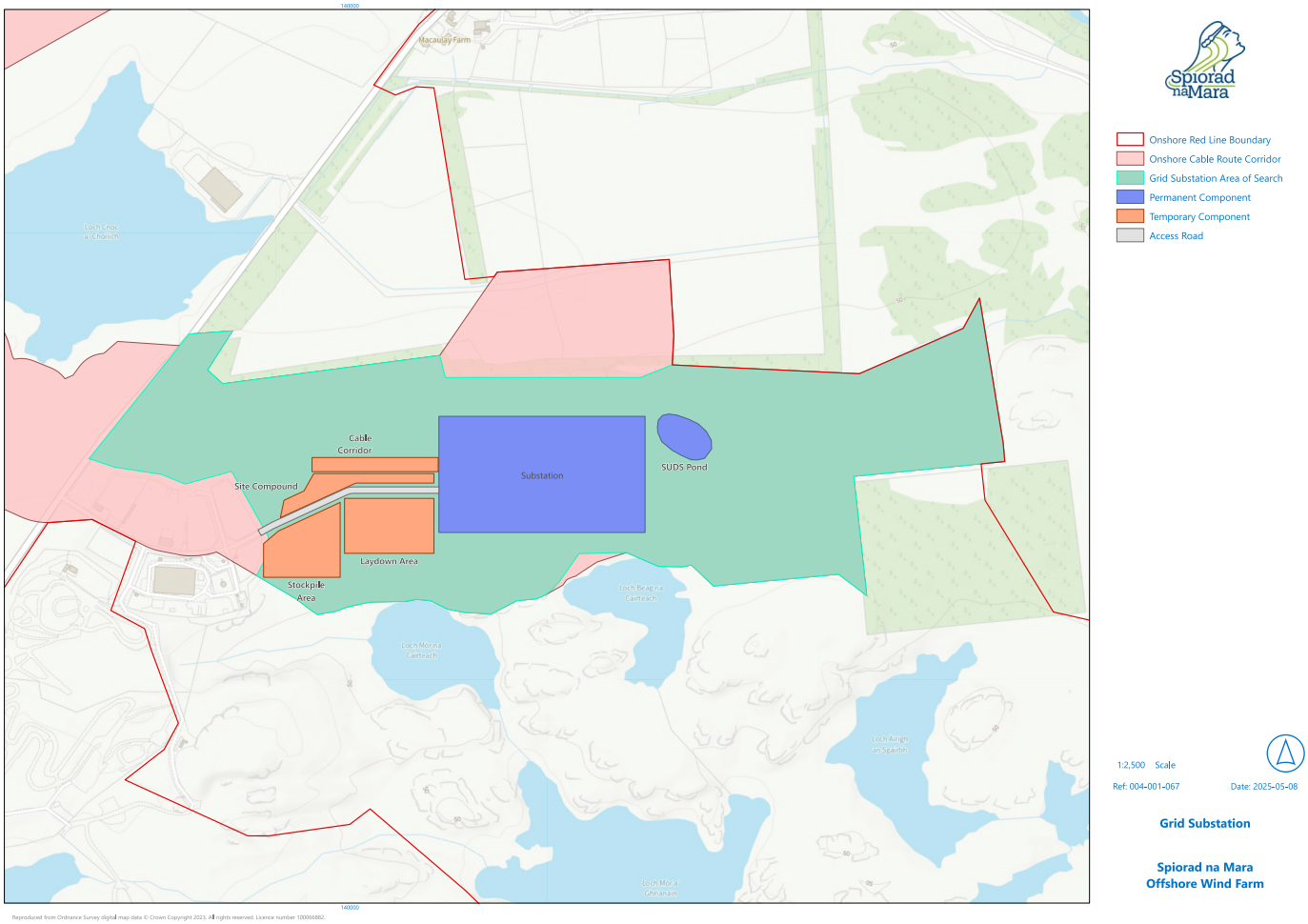
MAP 5

ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE CORRIDOR AREA OF SEARCH


Onshore Red Line Boundary
Onshore Cable Route Corridor
1:50,000 Scale
Ref: 004-001-066
Date: 2025-05-08
Onshore Cable Route Corridor Area of Search
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

MAP 6

GRID SUBSTATION



Macaulay Farm
Loch Cnoc a' Choilich
Cable Corridor
Site Compound
Substation
SUDS Pond
Laydown Area
Stockpile Area
Loch Beag na Cairteach
Loch Mor na Cairteach
Loch Airigh an Sgairbh
Loch Mor a' Ghnanain
Onshore Red Line Boundary
Onshore Cable Route Corridor
Grid Substation Area of Search
Permanent Component
Temporary Component
Access Road
1:2,500 Scale
Ref: 004-001-067
Date: 2025-05-08
Grid Substation
Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown Copyright 2023. All rights reserved. Licence number 100066882.

PHASE 2 ÌRE 2

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH



2nd June – 2nd July 2 Ògmhios – 2 Iuchar 2025

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10 – 15

Onshore update
Ùrachadh air tìr

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WELCOME & OVERVIEW
FÀILTE & RO-SHEALLADH

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today.

We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for our second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

Spiorad na Mara is a key project that can contribute to Scotland's efforts to tackle the global climate emergency and help achieve its net zero ambitions. At the same time, it can benefit local communities and businesses by providing greater energy security and generating additional investment for the local, regional, and national economies.

Anticipated to have a capacity of approximately 900MW, Spiorad na Mara has the potential to meet the equivalent average annual electricity needs of around **1.2 million Scottish homes**[1] through renewable wind energy while reducing harmful carbon emissions by more than **1.7 million tonnes every year**[2].

Welcome & overview
Fàilte & ro-shealladh

Tapadh leibh airson tadhal air an taisbeanadh againn an-diugh.

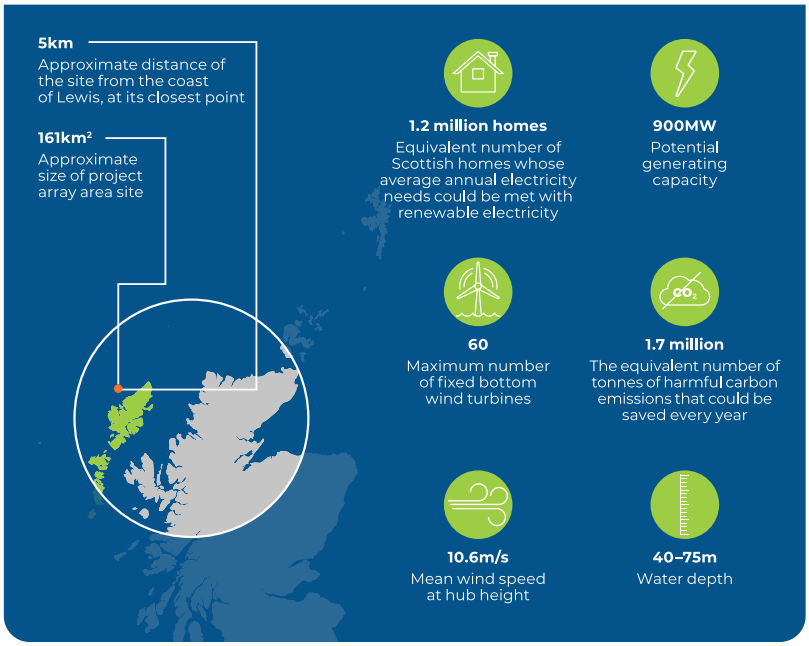
Tha sinn air leth toilichte gun do ghabh sibh an ùine a thighinn còmhla rinn airson an dàrna ìre den cho-chomhairle phoblach againn air molaidhean a' phròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara, a tha suidhichte mu 5-13km far costa an iar Eilean Leòdhais.

'S e pròiseact cudromach a th' ann an Spiorad na Mara a dh'fhaodas cur ri oidhirpean na h-Alba gus dèiligeadh ris an èiginn chruinneil a thaobh gnàth-shìde agus gus cuideachadh le bhith a' coileanadh a mhiannan neoni lom. Aig an aon àm, faodaidh e buannachd a thoirt do choimhearsnachdan ionadail agus do ghnìomhachasan le bhith a' toirt seachad tèarainteachd lùtha nas motha agus a' gineadh tasgadh a bharrachd airson eaconamaidhean ionadail, roinneil agus nàiseanta.

Le dùil ri timcheall air 900MW, tha comas aig Spiorad na Mara coinneachadh ri feumalachdan dealain bliadhnail cuibheasach timcheall air 1.2 millean dachaigh Albannach' tro lùth gaoithe ath-nuadhachail agus aig an aon àm a' lùghdachadh sgaoilidhean gualain cronail le còrr air 1.7 millean tunna gach bliadhna[2].

[1] More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics), together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900MW.

[2] 900MW x 0.5 (assumed minimum projected wind load factor) x 8,760 (hours in the year) x 446g (tonnes of carbon dioxide per GWh of electricity supplied: BEIS July 2020) /1,000 = 1,758,132 tonnes of CO_2 per year



INDICATIVE TIMELINE

APRIL 2022
Northland awarded two offshore wind projects in the ScotWind leasing round.

2025
Date for submission of planning applications.

2028
Potential start of construction.

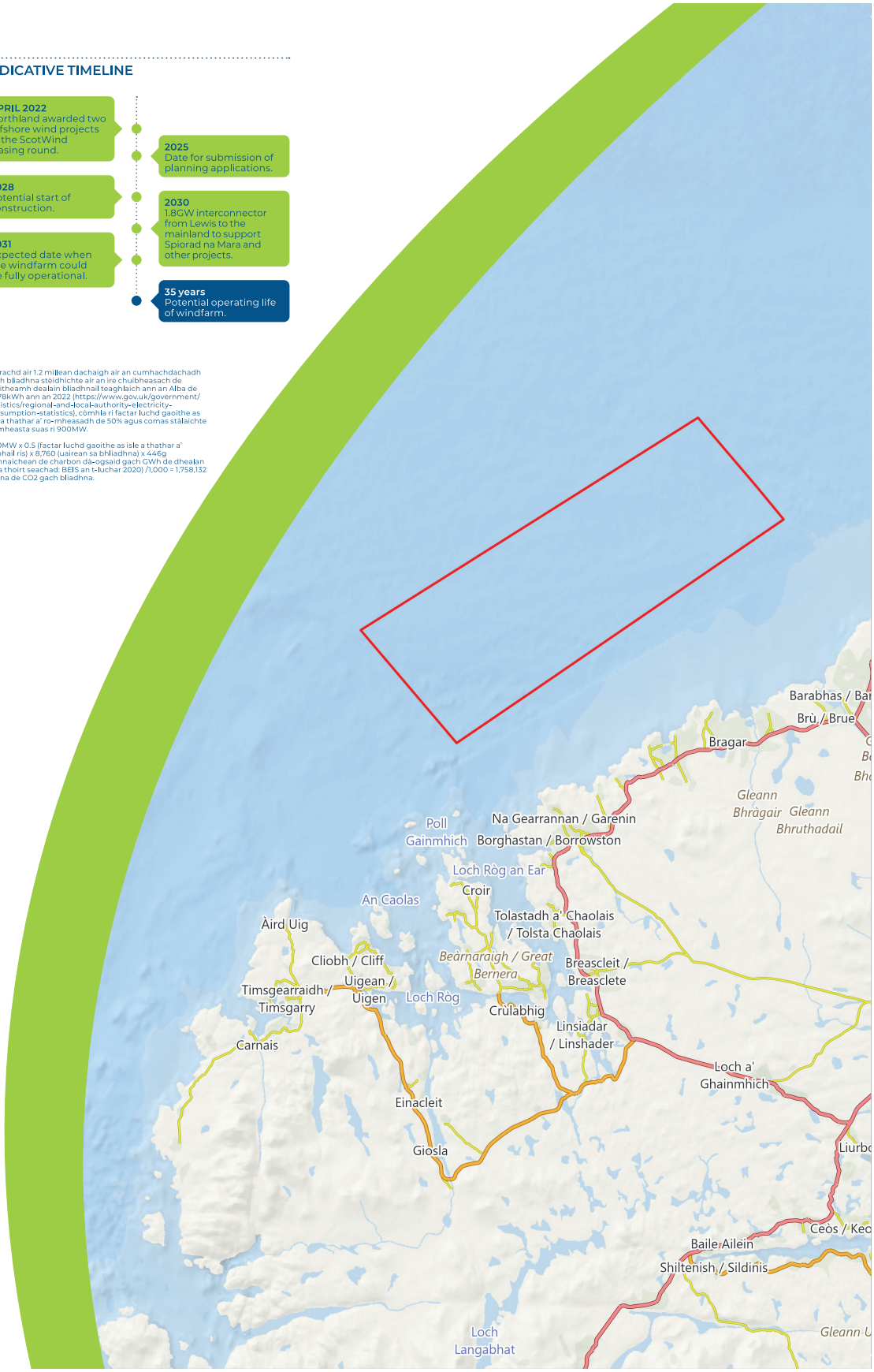
2030
1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland to support Spiorad na Mara and other projects.

2031
Expected date when the windfarm could be fully operational.

35 years
Potential operating life of windfarm.

[1] Barrachd air 1.2 millean dachaigh air an cumhachdachadh gach bliadhna stèidhichte air an ìre chuibheasach de chaitheamh dealain bliadhnail teaghlaich ann an Alba de 3,078kWh ann an 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics), còmhla ri factar luchd gaoithe as isle a thathar a' ro-mheasadh de 50% agus comas stàlaichte ro-mheasta suas ri 900MW.

[2] 900MW x 0.5 (factar luchd gaoithe as isle a thathar a' gabhail ris) x 8,760 (uairean sa bhliadhna) x 446g (tunnaichean de charbon dà-ogsaid gach GWh de dhealan air a thoirt seachad: BEIS an t-Iuchar 2020) /1,000 = 1,758,132 tunna de CO2 gach bliadhna.



WELCOME & OVERVIEW
FÀILTE & RO-SHEALLADH

Consultation

At Spiorad na Mara, we are committed to ensuring there is open and honest consultation, as part of the development of the project, and to respond to feedback received.

FIRST PHASE: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

We held our first phase of public consultation in Autumn 2024, sharing our early-stage project proposals. This consultation ran for one month, from 23rd September to 23rd October, during which a total of 335 people visited our in-person consultation events and 275 feedback responses were recorded.

We appreciate everyone who took the time to participate and share their valuable feedback. All responses have been reviewed and carefully considered by the Spiorad na Mara project team and have been used, where possible, alongside environmental and technical assessments and wider stakeholder engagement, to inform the refinement of the updated project proposals we are presenting in this second consultation.

Within these consultation materials, we have provided a summary of the key themes that were highlighted in your feedback to date and how these have been considered and/or will continue to be considered further at a later stage.

335 people visited

Our in-person consultation events last year.

275 feedback responses

Were recorded during our first phase consultation.

SECOND PHASE: JUNE/JULY 2025

This second phase of consultation will run for one month, starting 2nd June 2025 and closing on 2nd July 2025. During this consultation, we again welcome your valuable feedback on our updated project proposals. An online feedback form can be found at the end of this exhibition and hard copy forms are available at our in-person consultation events or by contacting the project team (contact details can be found under the 'Our commitment to communities' section of these materials).

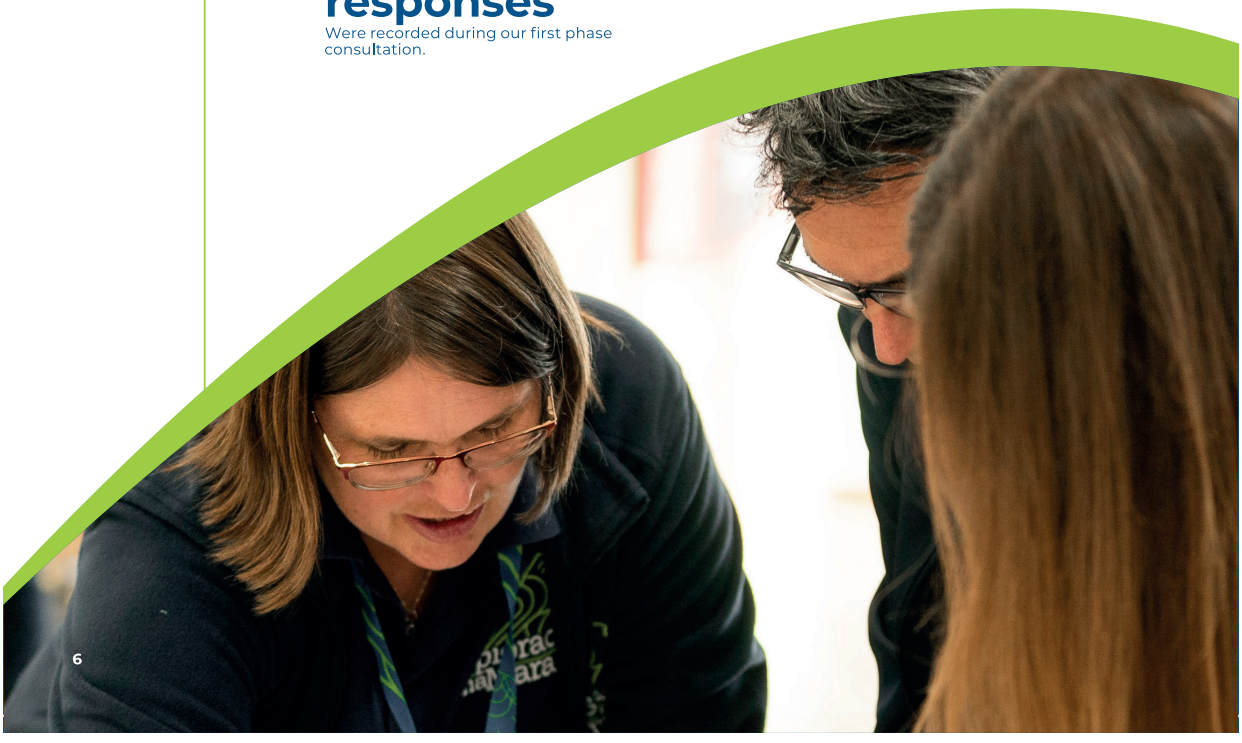
This consultation will consist of:

- **In-person public exhibitions:** Five exhibitions at various venues across the island from 2nd June to 5th June 2025 (see table on the right), offering opportunities to meet with, and ask questions of, the Spiorad na Mara project team and give your feedback.
- **Virtual consultation room:** Our online exhibition will be open for one month, between 2nd June and 2nd July 2025 and will be accessible on the Spiorad na Mara website. This will include all information available at the in-person exhibitions, and access to an online feedback form.
- **Information clinics:** If you wish to make an appointment for an individual or small group meeting with the project team, you can do so by contacting Kathleen.

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer

[Redacted]

Appointments will be available between Monday 9th June and Friday 13th June 2025 and efforts will be made to accommodate time requests where possible.



MON 2ND JUNE
Virtual exhibition goes live

MON 2ND JUNE
Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway
3-7pm

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE
Clan MacQuarrie Centre
12-2pm

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE
Barvas and Brue Community Hall
4-7pm

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE
Shawbost Old School Hall
3-7pm

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE
Uig Community Hall
3-7pm

WEDNESDAY 2ND JULY
Virtual exhibition ends

Consenting process
Pròiseas ceadachaidh

Applications for the offshore elements of the project – a Section 36 consent (under the Electricity Act 1989) and a Marine Licence (under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010) – will be submitted to the Marine Directorate-Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), while planning permission for the onshore elements (in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) will be sought from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. These applications will be submitted later this year.

NORTHLAND POWER | ESB Energy for generations

Project design envelope approach

A common approach for developing an offshore windfarm is to use a 'project design envelope' concept, which is also known as the Rochdale Envelope approach. This is now considered best practice in the industry and is used on most offshore wind projects in the UK.

Essentially it means that a project applies for consent on the basis of a set of maximum design parameters rather than a single defined design proposal. Should the project be consented, these design parameters will be refined into a final project design following what is known as the 'detailed design' phase, which takes place between the granting of consent and the commencement of construction. The final design chosen will adhere to all consent conditions that are prescribed by the regulator.

This approach allows the potential maximum parameters of a project to be fully assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment, while providing flexibility for further technical and environmental assessments, as well as stakeholder engagement, including with the supply chain, to continue during the consenting process. As offshore wind technology is evolving continuously, using the design envelope approach ensures that a project can use the best available technology at the point of construction.



We will use this approach in our consent applications – both onshore and offshore – as we will require further data before certain project parameters can be finalised. In the case of offshore, this will include the final turbine layout.



PROJECT NEED & BENEFITS

FEUM & BUANNACHDAN A' PHRÒISEICT

As the world faces increased pressure from climate change, we need to reduce greenhouse gases to preserve our communities and natural habitats for future generations.

Spiorad na Mara and other ScotWind[1] projects have the collective potential to generate almost 30GW of clean renewable energy and are key to ensuring that Scotland reaches its target net zero emissions by 2045.

In addition to their environmental need in combatting climate change, these projects also have the potential to provide substantial community and economic benefits, offering employment and training opportunities and supporting the development and strengthening of local supply chains, all while limiting our vulnerability to global energy price changes.

As a leading country in offshore energy, Scotland is now in a position to capitalise on its offshore wind potential, boosting local and national supply chains which in turn can bring in profit to the Scottish economy and businesses.

Spiorad na Mara

A Gaelic expression meaning 'Spirit of the Sea'. The proposed project is located 5-13km off the west coast of Lewis.



ENVIRONMENTAL



Net zero
Key contributor to Scotland's net zero targets.

Energy security
Enhancing Scotland's future energy security.

Renewable electricity
With a capacity of around 900MW, it has the potential to meet the equivalent average annual electricity needs of approximately 1.2 million Scottish homes.

CO_2 savings
Potential to save more than 1.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

ECONOMIC



New jobs
80 to 120 new and permanent long-term jobs for the operational life of the project. 750 to 1,000 temporary jobs during construction.

Potential use of Stornoway Port
as an Operations and Maintenance base for the project's operational life.

Opportunities
Substantial new opportunities for the local supply chain.

Education & training
New education and training opportunities locally.



[1] www.crownestatescotland.com/scotlands-property/offshore-wind/scotwind-leasing-round

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Community Benefit Fund
West Coast Community Benefit Fund of £4.5 million per annum, index linked and delivered over the operational lifetime of the project.

New cycleway/ multi-use path
across the island, adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road (A857)

Partnerships
Potential for wider community benefits to be delivered by, or through, the project, including partnerships with other organisations and agencies.

STEM initiatives
Collaboration with University of Highlands and Islands and others on STEM initiatives.

Local sponsorships
Ongoing support to local community, sporting and cultural activities through our sponsorship and donations programme.

Scholarships
For 20 local students studying STEM and Gaelic language and culture courses in Scottish universities.

Following our first consultation and consideration of your suggestions, we are happy to share that the following project-specific benefits are being progressed (further information is available on our 'Commitment to communities', 'Supply chain and jobs' and 'Onshore update' boards):

Cycleway/multi-use path

We are committed to re-purposing our construction haul road to form a cycleway/multi-use path adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road (A857), which will provide a lasting benefit for the community and tourists, following the construction of our onshore cable route.

Navantia apprenticeships

We are supporting the recruitment and training of local apprentices, as part of Navantia's ongoing apprenticeships programme at their fabrication facility based in Arnish.

Stornoway Port

Stornoway Port has been identified as the preferred location for our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base, securing local job opportunities and increased business, and providing a wider economic boost for the Stornoway area.

Spiorad na Mara scholarships programme

In April, we launched a new scholarships programme, committing £200k to supporting 20 students pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses in Scottish universities over the next seven years.

Fit For Offshore Renewables (F4OR) programme

In partnership with Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and other Scottish offshore wind partners, we are providing fully-funded support for five island companies to grow their business in the offshore wind industry.



OFFSHORE UPDATE
ÙRACHADH FAR CHOSTA

Offshore array
Sreath far chosta

During our first phase public consultation events, we presented two indicative layout options for the proposed turbines within the offshore array area: one with a larger number of smaller turbines (Indicative layout 1) and a second with a smaller number of larger turbines (Indicative layout 2). We sought feedback on these indicative layouts at that time, asking for specific comments on any concerns or preferences rather than a simple choice between one option or the other.

A recurring theme in the feedback received related to the maximum height and number of the turbines proposed within both indicative options.

After considering your feedback and following further discussions with statutory stakeholders, we have further refined the design for both array layout options since our last consultation events. The following changes have been made to the offshore project design:

- Reduced the maximum number of smaller turbines from 65 to 60 and the maximum number of larger turbines from 48 to 44.
- Reduced the maximum height of the turbines from 365m to 339m (to blade tip), with potential for this to be further reduced to 294m if a larger number of turbines is used.
- Although the array area site remains 5km to 13km from shore, we have committed to not placing any turbine closer than 6km to shore at any point along the west coast, regardless of what size and number of turbines is ultimately used.
- Introduced a setback distance of at least 11km from the closest turbine to any point within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA).
- Introduced a setback distance of 21km from the Wild Land Area (WLA), which falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA.



Offshore array photomontage
Photomontages showing what the two updated array layout options could look like, from eight different locations along the west coast, can be viewed directly through our photomontage viewer within this exhibition.

	Indicative layout 1	Indicative layout 2
Number of turbines	60	44
Maximum height of turbines (to blade tip)	294m	339m
Approximate distance of closest turbines from the coast of Lewis (at any point in any orientation)	6km	6km
Distance from National Scenic Area (NSA)	11km	11km
Distance from Wild Land Area (WLA)	21km	21km



It is our intention to carry forward both of these sets of parameters in our consents applications (as set out in the 'Project design envelope approach' section above), to allow for further technical work, and stakeholder engagement, at a later stage. It is only during the detailed design phase of the project that the final array layout will be determined and this may fall somewhere in between the two sets of parameters outlined on the left. However, the parameters on the left will not be exceeded, and our environmental impact assessments are based on these 'maximum design' parameters.

The final design layout will consider multiple factors including:

Water depths

Geology and ground conditions

Spacing the turbines efficiently and effectively to ensure we make best use of the wind

Spacing of the turbines to allow safe passage for vessels and Search and Rescue (SAR)

Supply chain and available wind turbine technology

Offshore wildlife and habitats identified through environmental surveys

Engagement with, and feedback from, stakeholders

Substation options
Roghainnean fo-stèisein

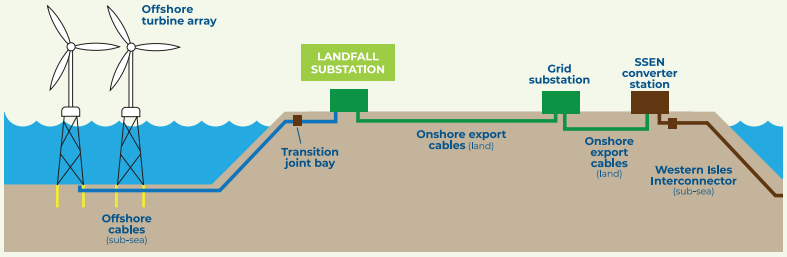
As was the case during our first phase of public consultation, the project is still considering two design options for a substation to gather the electricity generated by the offshore turbines and transform it to a voltage that can be transported onshore. Both options are being assessed in our EIA and both will be carried forward in our consents applications, as further engagement with the supply chain is required to make a final decision.

Here is a summary of the differences between the two project design options:

Project design option 1
Landfall substation design

This option uses two onshore substations (no offshore substation(s)) as follows:

- A landfall substation located on the west coast of Lewis near the landfall which gathers the electricity generated by the wind turbines, transforms and prepares it for transmission to the grid substation; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

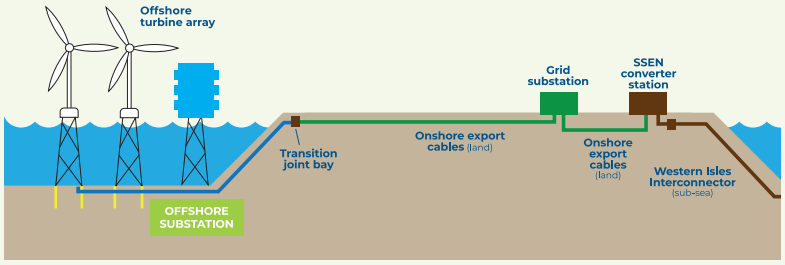


OR

Project design option 2
Offshore substation design

This option uses an offshore substation:

- An offshore substation located within the array area; and
- A grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.



KEY

Offshore elements | Onshore elements | SSEN infrastructure

Foundations
Na bunaitean

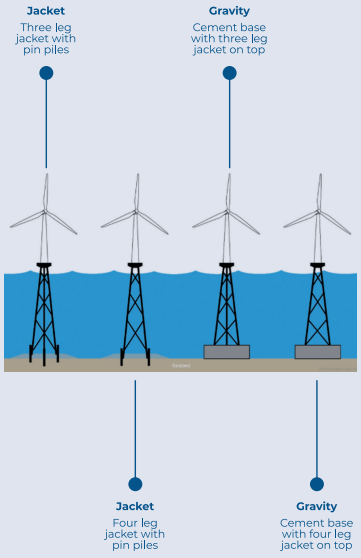
The wind turbines will be connected to the seabed using fixed-bottom foundations. Fixed-bottom foundations have been successfully used on multiple windfarms around the world and are suitable for the water depths present on the Spiorad na Mara site.

We are continuing the selection process for the foundation concept and will require further data from geotechnical and site investigation surveys, as well as further stakeholder engagement and collaboration with the industry supply chain, to best inform the final design.

The following foundation technologies remain the preferred foundation options being considered:

- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations (which are steel lattice structures) supported by piles into the seabed; and/or
- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations which sit on top of a gravity-based structure, i.e. rely on their weight to provide the required stability.

Schematic of wind turbine foundation types that may be deployed in the array area



OFFSHORE UPDATE
ÙRACHADH FAR CHOSTA

Offshore lighting
Solais far a' chosta

Concern around the potential night-time lighting associated with the project is something that came up in several feedback responses during our first phase of public consultation, and in other engagements in recent months, and we are taking it very seriously. It is being considered as part of the seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) being undertaken as part of our EIA and further detail on this process is contained in the 'Environmental Impact Assessment' section of this exhibition. The full written assessment will be submitted in support of our offshore consent application to the Marine Directorate Licencing and Operating Team (MD-LOT).

In terms of lighting options, all offshore projects must follow guidance set by the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) for safety at sea considerations, as well as guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for aviation safety matters. The expectation, based on industry best practice, is that marine navigation lights will be located at the bottom of selected turbines (which will be agreed with Northern Lighthouse Board and MCA) and all the perimeter turbines will have red lights on the nacelle[1] to manage aviation safety. These aviation lights will be positioned above the horizontal plane of the nacelle and will also be automatic dimming lights controlled by visibility sensors. This combination of measures means that the direction of the light will focus above the horizontal plane and that in periods of good visibility the intensity of the lights will be reduced, which substantially reduces the emitted light intensity from the windfarm.

Night-time photomontages
Photomontages have been produced showing potential night-time views of the turbines (using both indicative layouts), with night-time lighting included, from a number of viewpoints (which have been agreed with stakeholders) along the west coast. These can be viewed through our photomontage viewer.

[1]The nacelle is a large cylindrical structure that sits on top of the wind turbine tower, housing all the key components (e.g. gearbox, generators and brake) that convert wind energy into electrical energy.

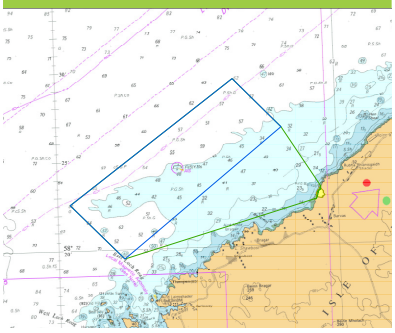
[2]Although up to 12 separate inter-array cables may come ashore and into the landfall substation, the electricity will be converted here into a voltage that allows for its onward transmission to the grid substation using just two cables.

Further, the project is aware of ongoing technological developments for aviation lighting, which have been used in other countries, and we are exploring their feasibility for the Spiorad na Mara project should assessments currently underway suggest that this would be appropriate. We will continue to monitor technological advancements in this area and will utilise the most effective available system that meets safety requirements while minimising visual impact.

Offshore cables
Càbaill far a' chosta

The offshore cables – a combination of inter-array cables and export cables – are located within the array area and the offshore cable area of search, as shown in the map below.

Array area and offshore cable route area of search



Key

Offshore array area

Landfall area

Offshore cable area of search



This area of search has been refined since our first phase of public consultation, as our preferred landfall location for the project (north-east of Barvas) has now been identified.

The offshore cable system to be used is still under consideration and will be dependent on the final substation decision that is taken forward (landfall substation or offshore substation).

The project is currently assessing two designs as follows:

Offshore cables option 1

Installing inter-array cables (cables connecting turbines to each other) which come directly to shore, where at the Transition Joint Bay (TJB) they connect to onshore cables before being routed a short distance to a landfall substation on the west side of the island (up to 12 separate cables). From here, two onshore export cables will route to a substation on the east side of the island. This option negates the requirement for an offshore substation.

OR

Offshore cables option 2

Installing inter-array cables (up to 12) from the array to an offshore substation. From here, offshore export cables (up to 2) will come to shore, where at the TJB they will connect to onshore cables before being routed to the grid substation on the east side of the island. This option negates the requirement for a landfall substation on the west of the island.

Offshore cable protection
Dìon càball far chosta

The offshore cables required to bring the electricity from the turbines ashore will be buried, where possible, below the seabed, offering protection to the cables from marine traffic and other potential hazards. Where cable burial is not possible due to ground conditions, the cables could be laid on the surface with appropriate cable protection measures installed as necessary. This could include rock placement, rock bags, concrete mattresses etc.

Further discussions are to be held with key stakeholders, such as the fishing community, throughout the project's development which, alongside data collected from additional detailed geotechnical surveys, will inform the final approach to the cable protection methods that will be used on the project.

Offshore surveys
Suirbhidhean far a' chosta

To further refine the design of our project, including the array area layout, foundation type and offshore cable system, we will be conducting further geotechnical and nearshore geophysical surveys.

The offshore geotechnical surveys will involve collecting sediment samples from the seabed and are expected to take place in the summer months of 2026. The nearshore geophysical surveys will be undertaken using a drone over the landfall area and nearshore waters to acquire ground data including the ground elevation and bathymetric level. These are expected to take place at the end of summer 2025.

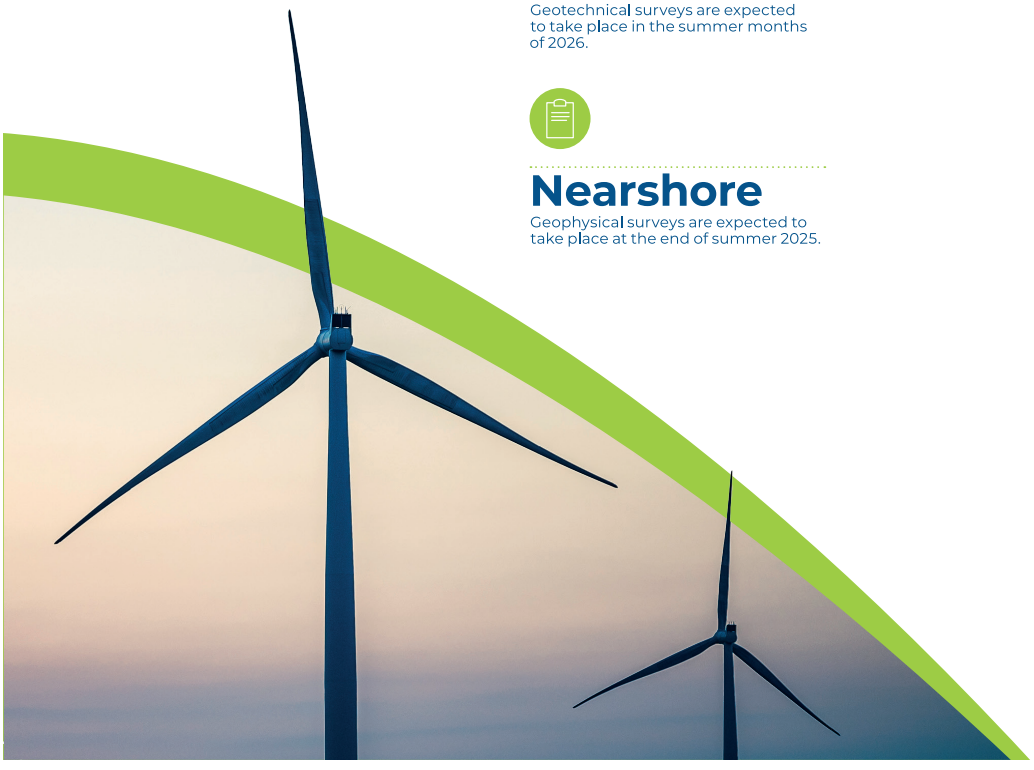
The project will ensure necessary permits and/or exemptions will be in place, along with appropriate Notice to Mariners (NtMs) and agreement with landowners, before any activities are commenced.

Offshore

Geotechnical surveys are expected to take place in the summer months of 2026.

Nearshore

Geophysical surveys are expected to take place at the end of summer 2025.



Landfall
Tighinn air tìr

The 'landfall' is the point where the offshore cables for the windfarm meet the onshore elements of the project relating to the transmission of electricity to the grid. The offshore and onshore cables are joined in a TJB, a concrete box set below ground level. Following construction, only the concrete lid will remain visible.

During our first phase of public consultation, we indicated that based on our early environmental and technical studies we had narrowed our search for a landfall location down to three areas of interest located between Baile an Truiseil and Arnol.

Since then, we have had further engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and conducted detailed ground investigations work and further offshore assessments. This has allowed us to further refine our project proposals and to confirm that the landfall will be located northeast of Barvas (see map below).

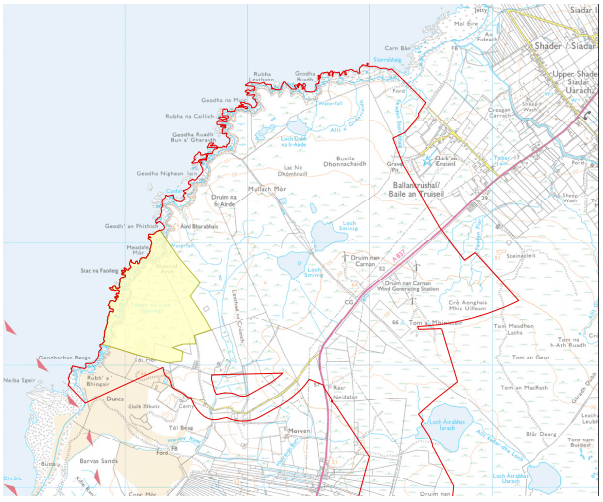
Landfall site construction
Togail làrach tighinn air tìr

As shared during our first consultation, the preferred method in this regard is Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to create ducts for the underground cables. This is a common method used for the installation of offshore cables that come onshore, and it typically reduces the environmental impact on the shoreline as there is a reduced area which will be disturbed. The total duration of construction works for the landfall site is dependent on whether an offshore or onshore substation is progressed and on the number of cables required. This will only be clarified following further ground investigation works and engagement with contractors.

Onshore substations
Fo-stèiseanan air tìr

Landfall Substation (West Coast)
If the project decides to proceed with Design Option 1, i.e. a landfall substation design rather than using any offshore substations, the landfall substation would be located north-east of Barvas shown on the map (bottom left).

Following feedback received during our first phase of consultation and through subsequent engagement with a range of stakeholders, it is our intention to construct the landfall substation as close as is practicable to the landfall TJB and as far as possible from Barvas Cemetery. This will minimise the visibility of the substation from Barvas Cemetery, which was previously highlighted through local feedback as a concern. This location also avoids known cultural heritage features and archaeological remains, including the Pictish village which we discovered during our archaeological surveys undertaken as part of the EIA (further information on this is available in the EIA section of this exhibition).



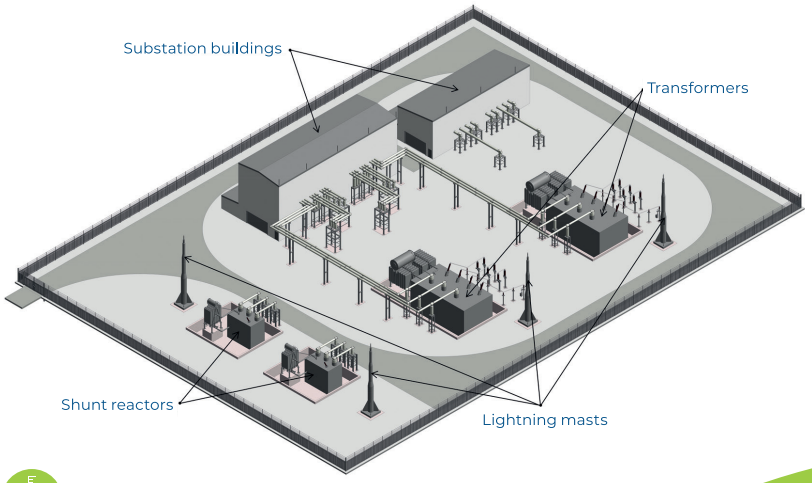
Landfall substation photomontages
Photomontages showing what the landfall substation could look like from two different viewpoints on the west coast are available to view in our photomontage viewer.

The landfall substation would include onshore cables from the TJB into the substation, two main buildings, plus ancillary electrical equipment units, safety features such as lightning masts, and access paths/roads. An indicative image of what the overall landfall substation compound could look like is shown below.

As was the case during our first phase of consultation, the size of the overall site compound is anticipated to be approximately 150m x 150m, with the tallest structures on site being the lightning masts which are proposed to be 20m. The tallest building will have a maximum height of 15m to the apex of the roof.

A new permanent access track to the landfall substation is proposed to be constructed. The Barvas Cemetery road would be used for early stage construction activities at the landfall and landfall substation, while the new access road is being built.

During construction, two temporary construction compounds (one for HDD works and one for the substation) will be required, as well as temporary areas for storing construction materials, equipment and excavated materials such as soil. These areas will be removed and restored at the end of the construction period.



15m
Maximum height of tallest building on site.

150m x 150m
Footprint for the overall site compound.



Grid substation (East coast)
Fo-stèisean a' ghriod (costa an ear)

A grid substation will be required to connect the project to the proposed SSEN Lewis Hub, allowing the project to connect to the national electricity grid.

The final location of the grid substation remains dependent on the location of the SSEN Lewis Hub, as our substation is best placed in close proximity to that facility. Our preferred location for our grid substation is east of Creed Industrial Park, as shown in the map below. Since our last public consultation events, we have extended our boundaries around this area to include areas which we have identified as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration purposes.

The overall dimensions of the site compound have been refined since our first phase of public consultation and are now anticipated to be 300m x 200m.

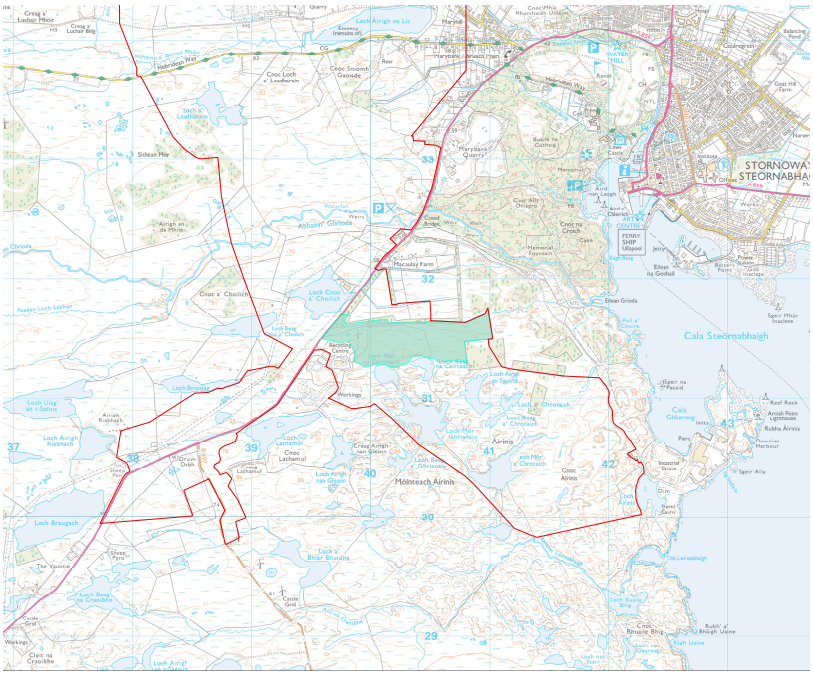
The grid substation will consist of up to six buildings in total, with a maximum height of 20m to the apex of the tallest roof, plus a number of other, smaller buildings housing electrical and other equipment. Within the site compound, there will also be safety features such as lightning masts and access paths/roads.

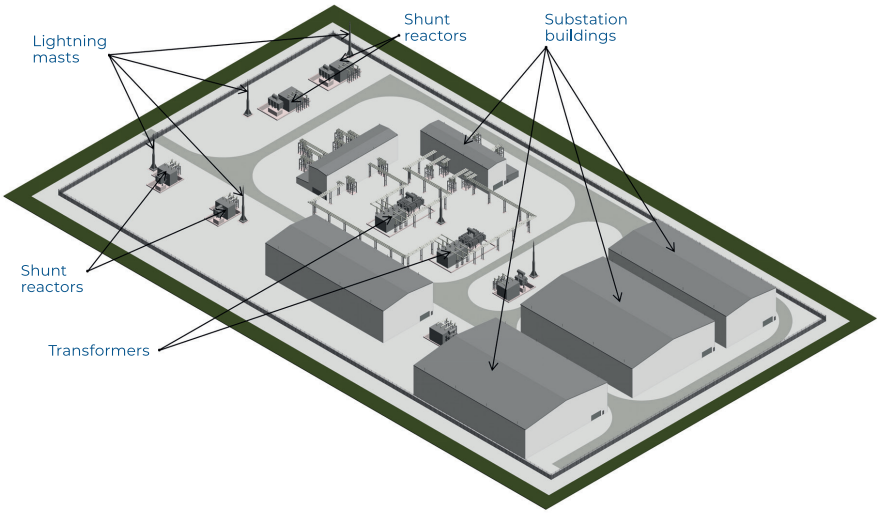
An indicative image of what the grid substation could look like is shown on the right. Similar to the landfall substation, temporary construction and laydown areas will be required. These areas are removed and restored at the end of the construction period.

We have also identified a number of areas around our preferred grid substation location as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration purposes. Management of peat and carbon rich soils is a requirement under planning policy and one which we take seriously. We are continuing to investigate these areas and will be developing our outline plans over the coming months.

While east of Creed remains our preferred location and the one we believe to be the most suitable, there is a possibility, due to SSEN now proposing to locate non-operational parts of their proposed development on areas of land that have long been identified by Spiorad na Mara for critical operational infrastructure components of our project, that we may have to look for an alternative location in and around the Arnish and Stornoway area. If this situation arises, we will come back to the community for further consultation on our updated location and substation proposals.

Any alternative site would be situated within the red line boundary included within the materials shown in this exhibition.


STORNOWAY
STEORNABHAGH
Cala Steornabhaigh
Mointeach Airinis
Loch Airigh na Lic
Loch Croic a' Chnuic
Loch Breugach
Loch Airigh Riabhach
Loch Urag an t-Sluic
Loch Airigh nan Gleann
Loch Bhlar Bhuidhe
Cnoc Loch a' Leodhasain
Cnoc Sniomh Gaibhre
Cnoc Lathamuil
Cnoc Airinis
Cnoc na Croich
Cnoc Alltan Chrogain
Cnoc a' Choilich
Allt Loch Croic a' Chnuic
Allt Bail' Ur Ghlinne
Allt Mor Ghlinne
Allt Mor a' Cheasaich
Allt Loch Airigh Riabhach
Allt Loch Airigh nan Gleann
Allt Bail' Ur Ghlinne
Allt Loch Croic a' Chnuic



20m

Maximum height of tallest building at grid substation.

300m x 200m

Overall dimensions of site compound.



ONSHORE UPDATE
ÙRACHADH AIR TÌR

Onshore substation construction (landfall and grid)
Togail fo-stèisean air tìr (tìr agus lìonra)

Prior to construction, ground investigation works and further design work will be required.

An outline of the potential construction activities required for each substation are:

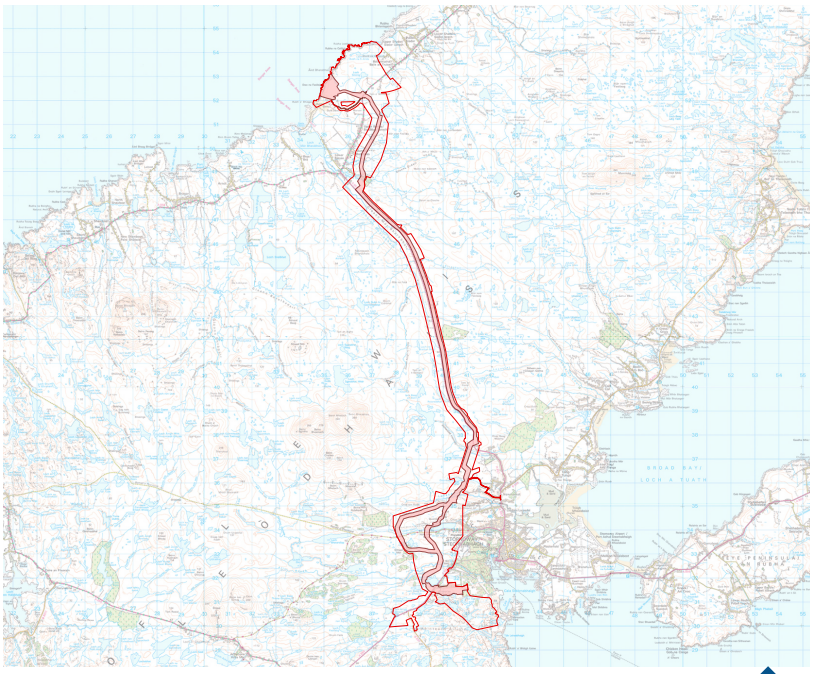
- Development of the site access and junction improvements, if necessary;
- Site preparation, including erection of temporary fencing;
- Civil engineering earthworks to provide a level platform for the electrical plant. This will include drainage;
- Construction of buildings and installation of electrical infrastructure.

The total anticipated construction period for each onshore substation is around 36 months.

Onshore substations operation and maintenance
Obrachadh is cumail suas fo-stèiseanan air tìr

The landfall substation will not be manned during operation and workers will only be at the substation during periods of scheduled or unplanned maintenance. For the grid substation, however, there will be a small number of workers on site during normal working hours.

Lighting of the onshore substation(s) will be carefully planned to ensure safety and minimise impact. During construction, temporary lighting will be used to prioritise a safe work environment with measures to reduce the potential visual impact of this lighting. Once operational, the onshore substation(s) uses motion sensors and directional security lighting fixtures installed with consideration for the public and wildlife, aiming to keep disturbance to a minimum.



Key

Onshore red line boundary

Onshore cable route corridor

Grid substation photomontages
Photomontages showing what the grid substation could look like from two different viewpoints in and around Stornaway are available to view in our photomontage viewer.

Onshore cable route
Slighe càball air tìr

The cable route consists of two circuits which will link either the TJB or the landfall substation (depending on the final option selected) to the grid substation and from the grid substation into the SSEN Lewis Hub.

The cable corridor has been refined and follows the eastern side of the A857 for the majority of its approximate 25km length. The working corridor during construction will be between approximately 30m and 60m wide, depending on the depth of the peat. This will increase in areas where HDD compounds are required in order to facilitate water crossings, and in those areas where temporary compounds would be located.

Onshore cable route construction
Togail slighe càball air tìr

As we confirmed during our first phase of public consultation, it is our intention to underground all our onshore cables. Cables will be pulled through ducts laid in an open cut trench. This allows for rapid restoration of the peat. Following installation of the cable ducts, peat will be re-laid, and the section of cable trench will be restored. The cables will be pulled through the ducts from joint bays positioned along the route. Joint bays are small underground structures where the onshore cables are joined; these will be located in areas of shallower peat and will be carefully sited.

Temporary construction compounds will be constructed along the route to provide laydown areas for materials and welfare facilities. These will be located close to those areas where we will need to drill beneath larger water courses and will access either directly onto the A857 or to an identified access point.

In order to minimise disruption to traffic, which was raised in feedback received during our first phase of public consultation, a haul road will be constructed between the two cable circuits. No full closures of the A857 are anticipated during the construction phase; if necessary, short single lane closures will be used.

The management and restoration of peat disturbed during construction of the cable corridor is a key consideration. We have identified a number of locations along the length of the route as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration. We will continue to develop our outline peat management plans over the next few months.



Operations and maintenance (O&M)
Obrachaidhean is cumail suas (O&M)

During our first phase of consultation last year, we indicated that we were looking at two potential approaches to operating and maintaining the windfarm:

1. A crew transfer vessel (CTV) approach, which involves the use of small vessels (up to 30m) which shuttle in and out to the offshore array area to carry out maintenance activities on the turbines. Using this approach, the O&M base – from which the vessels would be launched – is best located as close as possible to the array. In the case of Spiorad na Mara that would mean a location along the west coast of Lewis; or
2. A service operation vessel (SOV) approach, whereby much larger vessels are deployed offshore to maintain the turbines on an ongoing basis. These vessels require much bigger quayside facilities and greater water depths for docking and therefore the use of an existing facility along the west coast would not be possible.

A full assessment of options was undertaken, with safety being the number one priority, alongside availability of suitable facilities and minimising disruption and displacement of existing vessels or marine users. The results of this assessment indicated that wind and wave conditions on the west coast would make a CTV approach – as the sole method of maintaining the turbines – unfeasible. Therefore, the project intends to progress with a SOV approach in the main.

Following an assessment of feasible port options – both around the island and on the mainland – and engagement with a range of stakeholders, we are pleased to confirm that Stornoway Port has been identified as the preferred location for our O&M base.

Further work remains to be done in defining the precise location of this facility within the port, including further engagement with the port authority and other stakeholders and further assessment work. As this work progresses in the months ahead, more information will be shared and consultation undertaken, as necessary.

As indicated during our first consultation, planning for the O&M facilities will not be sought as part of the main consents applications for the project, which are due to be submitted later this year. Instead, a separate process will be followed for the O&M base, along a longer timeline.

Cycleway/multi-use path

The potential for a permanent cycleway/multi-use path has been raised by both the public and stakeholders. **We propose to re-purpose the majority of the haul road between Stornoway and Barvas as a cycleway/multi-use path as a lasting legacy for the community and for visitors to the island.**

The O&M base at Stornoway Port will consist of:

- An O&M building with office space and welfare facilities
- A local control room where activities are coordinated, and the windfarm is monitored
- A warehouse
- Car parking
- Vessel berthing facilities including access to fuel, water and load out equipment.

Details of the construction process and requirements for the O&M facilities will be shared at a later stage, when plans are more advanced. As this is the last piece of infrastructure required to make a windfarm operational, it is not uncommon for these facilities to be planned and constructed at a later stage.

2–3 years

The total expected duration of construction works relating to the cable route is 2-3 years.




Van Oord

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE
ÙRACHADH MEASADH BUAIDH ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) work has continued to progress since our last consultation events. The final EIA Report (EIAR) will be completed in the coming months and will support our consents applications to the regulatory authorities, which we intend to submit later this year.

Since our last public consultation events, we have made a number of design changes in response to feedback received from the public and other stakeholders. The assessments that are currently taking place as part of the EIA process are based on these revised maximum parameters, which will not be exceeded as plans are further developed and refined.

This section provides an update on the topics that received the most feedback during our last public consultation.

Offshore EIA

Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA)
Measadh buaidh lèirsinneach air cruth-tìre is mara (SLVIA)

The project has been in dialogue with a number of stakeholders since the last public consultation. As part of these discussions, the methodology for our seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) has been agreed with NatureScot and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Historic Environment Scotland were also consulted), with an extensive number of day-time and night-time viewpoints (42 and 7 respectively) selected for assessment. These assessments are currently being finalised.

We recognise that the potential visual impacts of the project are a key concern for many of those who have provided feedback. In order to address these concerns and to reduce the visual impact, the offshore design parameters have been updated as set out below (and as shown on the map):

6km

Increase in minimum distance of wind turbine placement from the coast from 5km to 6km.

Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA)

- **Reduction in maximum number of turbines from 65 to 60 (48 to 44 if larger turbines are used)**
- **Reduction in maximum blade tip height by 26m (from 365m to 339m)**
- **Reduction in wind turbine footprint through commitment to install the turbines in a smaller area within the overall site**
- **Increase in minimum distance of wind turbine placement from the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA) from 7km to 11km and 17km to 21km from the Harris – Uig Hills Wild Land Area (WLA)**
- **Increase in minimum distance of wind turbine placement from the coast from 5km to 6km.**



By reducing the maximum blade tip height of the turbines by 26m, reducing the maximum number of turbines to 60, and committing to placing turbines within a smaller area of the overall site, the visual impacts previously presented can be reduced. This includes impacts on the NSA where there is an increase in the open sea separation between the NSA and the turbines which can reduce their visibility, including from the viewpoint at Gallan Head.

Additionally, an assessment of the effects of aviation lighting and marine lighting is being completed as part of the EIA. Aviation and marine lighting requirements are compulsory to ensure safety at sea and will be approved by statutory stakeholders prior to construction. As part of this consultation, we have produced night-time imagery showing the indicative layouts with associated lighting requirements, to give a better understanding of how the project may look when operational. Five viewpoints that are representative of the closest communities and areas with recognised dark sky qualities have been selected to represent the night-time impacts of lighting and these can be viewed through our photomontage viewer in this exhibition.

Cultural heritage
Dualchas

The potential visual impacts of the turbines on historic environment assets are currently being assessed as part of the EIA. This assessment uses a Zone of Theoretical Vision (ZTV) to identify the designated assets most likely to be affected and to understand the level of visual impact that may occur based on factors such as distance, number of visible turbines and the character of the assets, including how the views out to sea add to their value. As part of the assessment, photomontages are created for viewpoints including, but not limited to, Callanish Standing Stones, Clach an Truiseil Standing Stone and Arnol Blackhouse.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE
ÙRACHADH MEASADH BUAIDH ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

Marine and nearshore ornithology
Eun-eòlas mara agus faisg air a' chladach

Following feedback received during consultation throughout 2024, the project design has been reviewed and the parameters refined, with the goal of reducing potential impacts on birds. A number of studies have been undertaken by ornithology specialists using the site-specific survey data that the project has collected since 2022, alongside other relevant desk-based data. Following the completion of these studies, the project has been able to commit to the following design changes:

Marine and nearshore ornithology

- **Increased air gap (distance between sea surface and lowest blade tip) to allow for increased safe passage of flying birds**
- **Only installing wind turbines within a defined area of the original array area, away from areas which birds (gannet, guillemot, razorbill and puffin) are shown to frequent more relative than the rest of the array area**
- **Reduction in total number of turbines and reduction in turbine diameter, resulting in a reduction in total swept area of the windfarm (area in which birds have potential to collide with infrastructure).**

The project continues to work with ornithology specialists and, as part of the consent application, consideration will be given in the EIA to collision and disturbance impacts on specific species known to use the area, for example kittiwake, fulmar, guillemot and puffin. The project is also working closely with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), NatureScot and other consultees to ensure that a robust assessment is completed for the project alone and cumulatively with other projects.

Following further assessment and consultation with RSPB, the project has committed to a minimum air gap of 30m from Mean Sea Level (MSL) to the lowest point of the wind turbine blade, which will provide more air space for birds to fly above the water within the array area with a reduced risk of collision. This request from RSPB was made based upon experiences from other offshore wind projects, where an increase in knowledge of bird behaviour has shown that this is a valid and proven design mitigation for impacts on bird species. By increasing the air gap, in combination with the reduction of 50m in the maximum turbine rotor diameter, it is considered that this will further reduce the risk of collision for birds.

Marine mammals
Mamalan mara

Since October 2024, when we finished our last consultation, the project has completed its 12 months' passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) data survey. This survey, coupled with the information collected as part of the 24-month digital aerial surveys (DAS) conducted from 2022 to 2024, is providing an excellent picture of the species that use the array area and the surrounding waters.

The project worked with specialists from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Enterprise to undertake PAM surveys to gather additional project-specific data on cetacean vocalisations and ambient sound levels.

The data collected thus far from the PAM and DAS surveys indicates that several species of marine mammal were identified in the waters in and around the project area (up to 10km in the case of all species except the humpback whale, which may also have been detected outside 10km). These include:

Marine mammals

- **Harbour porpoise (most frequent detections in winter months)**
- **Short-beaked common dolphin (detected throughout the year)**
- **Bottlenose dolphin (detected during summer and winter months)**
- **Atlantic white-sided dolphin (detected during summer and winter months)**
- **White-beaked dolphin (most frequent in spring and summer months)**
- **Orca (Killer whale) (detected throughout the year)**
- **Long-finned pilot whale (detected throughout the year)**
- **Risso's dolphin (detected primarily during summer months with the exception of one week in February and May)**
- **Humpback whale (detected during early spring)**
- **Minke whale (detected from late spring to summer).**

The data from the PAM and DAS is contributing to the EIA baseline, enabling an accurate assessment to be completed.



Underwater noise modelling
Modaladh fuaim fon uisge

Additionally, underwater noise modelling is being carried out as part of the EIA to determine any potential impacts on cetaceans and fish species that might result from underwater noise emissions throughout the construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the project. The project is committed to the use of marine mammal observers during offshore works and, in the event that any noisy activity is planned, we will produce a marine mammal mitigation plan prior to works commencing.



Benthic and fish ecology
Eag-eòlas beinnteach is èisg

The benthic and fish ecology assessment is progressing and, to support the desk-based studies used in the EIA, in-situ data has been gathered on fish and other mobile species within the project area. This supporting data has been collected through subtidal and nearshore surveys, which included extensive habitat mapping, focused drone and underwater video surveys of the priority marine feature kelp bed habitats within nearshore areas, baited remote underwater video (BRUV) and a fish tracking study undertaken by Zoological Society of London (ZSL) with support from the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust.

Baited remote underwater video (BRUV)
Bhidio stuth biathte aig astar fon uisge (BRUV)
As part of the wider subtidal environmental study undertaken by the project in 2023, ten BRUV sampling stations were positioned in the offshore project area and a minimum of one hour of footage was recorded for each. The video footage was then reviewed by experts and species were identified and counted (still images of some of the species captured are shown below). There were six major morphological groups observed across the project area, including:

Baited remote underwater video (BRUV)

- **Bony fish (e.g. cods)**
- **Cartilaginous fish (e.g. dog fish and cat sharks)**
- **Crustacea (e.g. hermit crabs)**
- **Echinoderms (e.g. edible sea urchin)**
- **Molluscs (e.g. cuttlefish)**
- **Marine mammal (e.g. grey seal).**

Ten BRUV sampling stations were positioned in the offshore project area and a minimum of one hour of footage was recorded for each.

Gadus morhua (Atlantic cod)



Molva molva (ling)

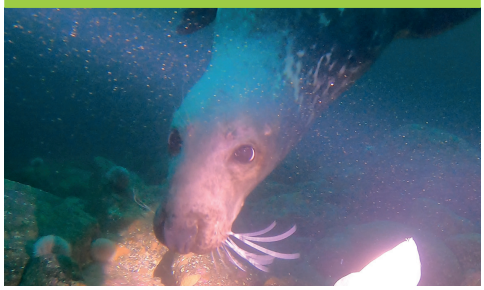


Helicolenus dactylopterus (blackbelly rosefish)



Images of species identified from BRUV survey.

Halichoerus grypus
(grey seal)



Melanogrammus aeglefinus
(haddock)



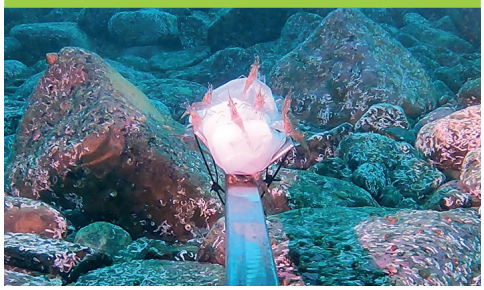
Squalus acanthias
(spiny dogfish)



Trisopterus minutus
(poor cod)



Pandalus montagui
(pink shrimp)



Labrus mixtus
(cuckoo wrasse)

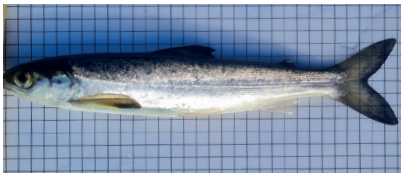


Fish tracking study
Sgrùdadh tracadh èisg

In 2024, the project commissioned a fish tracking study of migrating juvenile Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar), undertaken by ZSL with support from the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust. The study aimed to determine the routes of migration paths used by salmon emigrating from the Loch Roag system. Using a rotary screw trap, 100 salmon smolts were captured in the lower River Grimersta and fitted with an acoustic transmitter before being released again. Fixed detection stations were positioned within East Loch Roag and the Spiorad na Mara array area to track the movements of the juvenile fish. A total of 38 tagged fish migrated out of East Loch Roag with 15 of those subsequently detected entering the project array area.



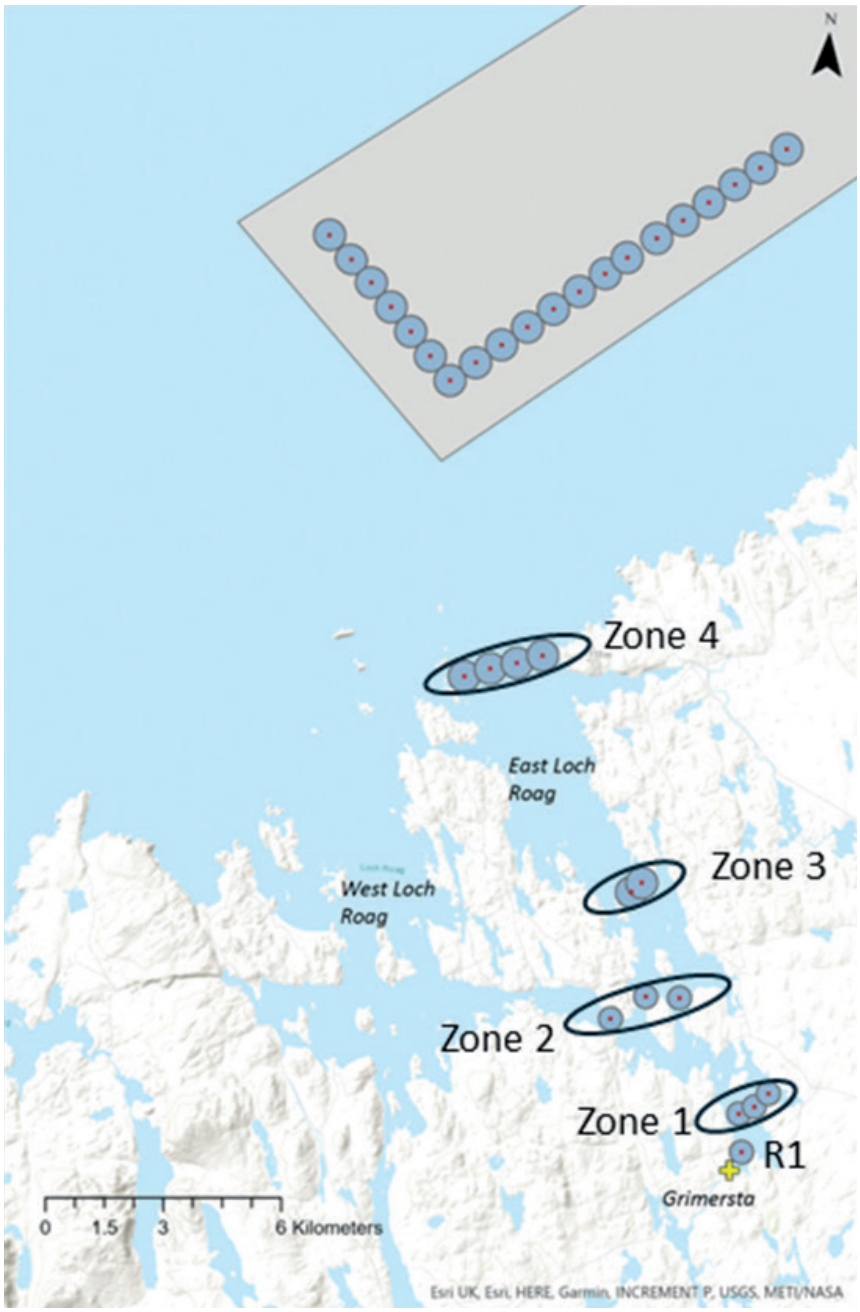






Images of the fish tracking equipment (top and above left), Atlantic Salmon (left) and one of the acoustic receivers (right)

Map showing the fish tracking study area, fish release site and acoustic receiver array within Loch Roag and the proposed Spiorad na Mara (SNM) windfarm site.



Key

- Acoustic receiver
- Fish release site
- SNM site
- Receiver detection zone

Following consultation throughout the project development, and following completion of site survey analysis, the project has a much better understanding of the baseline conditions of the marine environment within the proposed project area and has therefore considered design scenarios that would lead to a reduction of potential impacts on the environment. These include:

- **Reduction in overall turbine numbers to reduce footprint on the seabed and levels of underwater noise**
- **Refinement of the turbine area to reduce noise at the entrance to Loch Roag, which is used by migrating salmon**
- **Consideration of cable routing and micro-siting of cables and wind turbine foundations to avoid sensitive features/species.**

Shipping and navigation
Luingearachd agus seòladh

As part of the Shipping and Navigation assessment within the EIA, a Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) will also be presented. The NRA will be produced following consultation with marine users at a Shipping and Navigation Hazard Workshop. This workshop was held in February 2025, during which feedback from a host of stakeholders was received, including local marine users. The information presented to inform the workshop included desk-based studies and vessel traffic survey data collected for the project over a 12-month period to identify vessel presence within project study area. This allowed shipping and navigation specialists to assess the navigational risk of the project throughout its lifetime. This information will also subsequently be used as part of the NRA and EIA.

Changes to the project's updated design parameters also positively affect shipping and navigation. The reduction in size of the array area within which turbines will be placed, combined with the reduction in turbine numbers, has a beneficial effect by reducing "obstructions" and increasing the sea area between the array and the coast for vessels using this for passage.

Commercial fisheries
Iasgach malairteach

The fisheries team continues to engage with fishermen and industry associations locally and nationally to inform and improve the assessment of potential impacts of the project on the commercial fishing sector. Fisheries stakeholders were in attendance at the Hazard workshop that was held as part of the shipping and navigation assessment (as outlined above) and provided comment on the vessel data that is being used.

The Company Fisheries Liaison Officer and Fisheries Industry Representative will continue to engage with the industry and locals to ensure there is clear communication to all parties throughout the lifetime of the project.

Onshore EIA

Onshore Landscape and Visual Impact assessment (LVIA)
Measadh Buaidh air Tìr agus air Sealladh (LVIA)

The project has been in dialogue with a number of stakeholders since the last public consultation. As part of discussions with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NatureScot, a number of locations have been selected based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility of the onshore transmission works (i.e. the onshore substations and associated infrastructure and onshore cable) which will be included within our application.

As part of this consultation, we have produced photomontages of the landfall substation and the grid substation to provide a better understanding of what these may look like, based on initial designs and using the maximum design parameters. These can be viewed within our photomontage viewer in this exhibition.

We will be conducting an assessment for both onshore substations (landfall and grid) to better understand how the use of colour could assist with blending the substations into the landscape and will inform our final colour selection.

Onshore ecology and ornithology
Eag-eòlas agus eun-eòlas air tìr

Since our last public consultation, we have continued consultation with relevant stakeholders, including RSPB and NatureScot, to best inform the refinement of the project design parameters and the EIA. As part of this refinement, the cable route within the corridor will take into consideration the deepest and best quality peatland habitats and aim to avoid these areas, where possible, during construction. Both our landfall and grid substation locations have been sited to minimise disturbance to peat and peatland habitats, in line with planning policy requirements.

Based on the baseline data that has been collected for the EIA, the project is also developing outline habitat management and enhancement plans to reduce the potential impacts on habitats following construction, including potentially implementing measures to enhance habitats for corncrake near the landfall and landfall substation, as well wider improvements to peatland biodiversity across the island.



Peat, geology, soils and contaminated land
Mòine, geòlas, ùirean agus fearann truaillte

We have identified no areas of contaminated land within the areas proposed for the onshore transmission works. Our cable corridor options have been sited to avoid the landfill area and incinerator at Bennadrove. We have retained two options for the cable corridor in this area until further, more detailed, geotechnical ground investigations have been undertaken.

The predominant soil type present in Lewis is peatland. We recognise the environmental and cultural significance of peat, particularly for the Isle of Lewis communities. As part of the EIA, the project has committed to developing an outline peat management plan which will consider where and how the project will manage any peat disturbed during the construction phase, and opportunities to restore historically degraded peat.

Onshore archaeology and cultural heritage
Arc-eòlas agus dualchas air tìr

The Isle of Lewis is rich in archaeological and cultural heritage features, with many designated assets such as the Clach an Truiseil Standing Stone, as well as non-designated sites with Pictish remains. The EIA has been informed by many walkover site surveys and desk-based studies to ensure that all relevant assets are being included in the assessment. While investigating the landfall location, north-east of Barvas, the project discovered a much wider Pictish village than was previously recorded. As a result of the findings of these surveys, we have sited the landfall substation location to avoid the majority of these features. The landfall substation location has also been selected to avoid any visibility from the Clach an Truiseil Standing Stone.

Whilst there are a small number of other cultural heritage features along the cable corridor, the routing of the cable close to the A857 means there are fewer surviving features, due to historical disturbance.

There are also a number of cultural heritage assets around the grid substation location, such as the garden and designed landscape at Lews Castle. The potential impact of the substation on the setting of these assets will form part of the assessment within the EIA in line with guidance from Historic Environment Scotland.



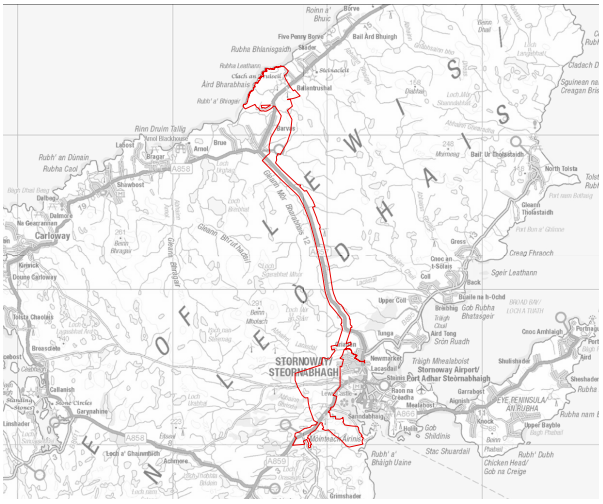
Traffic and transport
Trafaig agus còmhdhail

As with any large project, the construction of the necessary infrastructure will require the use of large and heavy vehicles and will generate additional traffic during the construction period. As part of the EIA, an assessment of these additional traffic movements is being carried out. An Abnormal Load Route Assessment for the large substation transformers is also being carried out, to ensure the pinch-point locations and the need to potentially temporarily remove street furniture to facilitate these deliveries are understood.

As described in the 'Onshore Update' section of these materials, temporary construction compounds will be constructed along the route to provide laydown areas for materials and welfare facilities, and will access either directly onto the A857 or via an identified access point as shown on the map.

In order to minimise disruption to traffic, which was raised in feedback received during our first phase of public consultation, a haul road will be constructed between the two cable circuits. No full closures of the A857 are anticipated during the construction phase; if necessary, short single lane closures will be used.

In addition to the assessments we are undertaking ourselves, we are engaging with other developers of proposed projects on and around the island to ensure that the cumulative activities of construction and road upgrades are carried out efficiently and appropriately.



Key

Onshore transmission works boundary



Airborne noise and vibration
Fuaim agus crith san adhar

Noise monitoring has been undertaken to inform the baseline of the airborne noise and vibration assessment within the EIA. The locations, duration and overall strategy were agreed in consultation with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Potential noise and vibration impacts may arise from project activities, particularly during the construction phase, therefore a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed which includes outlining how noise and vibration will be managed.

Onshore surveys
Suirbhidhean air tìr

We have completed our environmental surveys and gathered the necessary data to complete the EIA. Our surveys have allowed us to understand the baseline for the assessments and provide a deeper understanding of the species, habitats and sensitivities of the area where the onshore transmission works are proposed. The findings have been vital to informing and refining our design.

Further surveys and ground investigations will be required to inform the engineering and final design of the project; this work will take place over the remainder of 2025 and 2026.





Whole project considerations

Socio-economics
Sòiseo-eaconamach

As part of the EIA, a socio-economic assessment is being conducted to determine the project's potential effects on aspects such as employment, housing and the economy, and whether these impacts are positive, negative, or neutral. This assessment will also allow us to better estimate the number of jobs that will be created by the project through each phase, with consideration of the local economy and labour market conditions.

Additionally, the socio-economic assessment explores the wider effects on local communities and culture. For example, many pieces of feedback received during our first public consultation raised concerns around Sunday working on the island. The project recognises the significance of Sunday being observed as a day of rest and is therefore committed to normal working hours from Monday to Saturday only, for all onshore activities throughout all phases of the project, to the maximum extent possible. Some construction activities, such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) for landfall site construction, and locations along the cable route where large watercourses are crossed, require 24/7 works, in order to be completed safely and successfully.

We will inform the local authority, and other relevant stakeholders, in advance of any such works and when they are planned.

Tourism, recreation, land and marine users
Turasachd, cur-seachad, luchd-cleachdaidh fearainn is mara

As highlighted in feedback received during our last public consultation events and in wider engagements since then, tourism is of high importance to the local economy and communities in Lewis. The project is committed to bringing positive benefits to the island and supporting the tourism sector, where possible, is an important part of this. To this end, we have committed to the development of a cycleway/multi-use pathway which will be freely available for use by locals and tourists, potentially offering a safer transportation route for cyclists rather than using the road. More information on this proposal is available in the 'Project Need and Benefits' and 'Onshore Update' sections of this exhibition.



Cumulative impacts

As there are a number of other offshore and onshore developments proposed, planned or underway, the cumulative impacts that may arise as a result of all of them are being considered and a comprehensive assessment of potential combined effects is being conducted.

It is recognised that collaboration with other developers, authorities, and councils is key to ensuring that the impact to local communities is minimised, and the Spiorad na Mara project is committed to effective engagement and collaboration, where appropriate, with all relevant parties.

Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

As previously indicated, the project has committed to carrying out a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to assist in identifying, analysing, monitoring and managing all effects – positive, neutral and negative – the project might have on people and communities. The SIA baseline has been carried out by local environmental consultancy Atlantic58, supported by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM).

In summer 2024, Atlantic58 held independent focus groups in Lewis to gather information and views from members of the community, to better understand the potential impacts of the project, with a focus on livelihoods, heritage, culture and economy. Views and information gathered through these focus groups, as well as information gathered through the SIA baseline, are being used to inform the socio-economic chapter of the EIA and, where relevant, other chapters.

Following its completion, outputs from a wide range of topics assessed as part of the EIA will inform the development of the final SIA, which will be completed at a later stage in the project and may be used in the identification of additional mitigation measures, where appropriate.



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES
AR DEALAS DON CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Spiorad na Mara is deeply committed to engaging meaningfully with local communities, to effectively incorporate local knowledge and insights, safeguard the environment, respect community sensitivities and priorities and generate mutually-rewarding benefits. These are values shared by the two project partners, Northland Power and ESB.

Investment in communities is delivered through an ongoing programme of sponsorships and donations, as well as collaboration and engagement with community groups and local organisations to ensure that communities benefit positively from the project, both now and in the future.

Helping the community

Northland Power takes its relationship with local communities very seriously and building open and trusted relationships with local people is central to its work and values.

Read Northland's Commitment to Local and Indigenous Communities Policy at **www.northlandpower.com**.

Similarly, ESB takes its responsibility to local communities seriously and its commitments in this regard are set out clearly on its website here: **www.esb.ie**

Ongoing community engagement
Com-pàirteachadh coimhearsnachd

Meaningful and open engagement with communities is vital to the development of the Spiorad na Mara project.

It allows us to benefit from local knowledge and understanding and listen to local views which can help shape the project and improve our proposed plans.

All feedback received is recorded and shared with the project team to raise awareness and understanding of any issues or concerns that are brought to our attention.

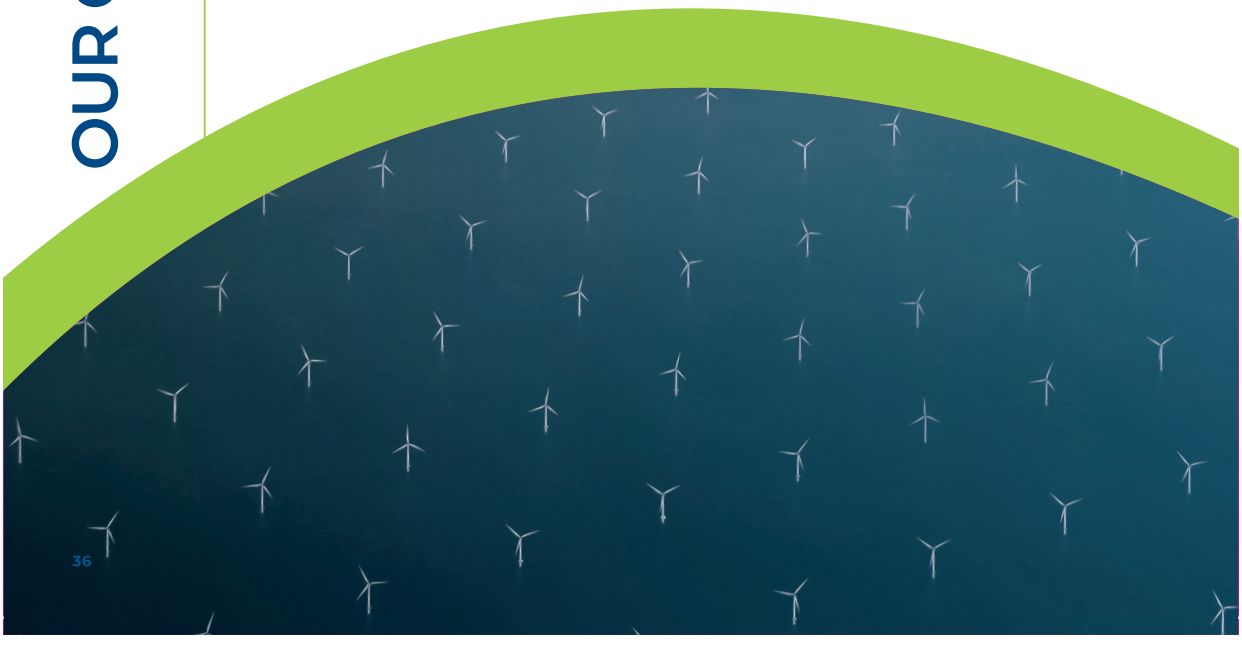
To ensure that engagement is as inclusive as possible, we facilitate a range of options for people to connect with us at any time:

- A full-time, locally-based **Community Liaison Officer** for the project is available and happy to assist with local enquiries and any requests for information or presentations on the project, in addition to queries around sponsorships and/or donations.

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

- **Community drop-in** sessions have been held regularly at a range of venues across Lewis since summer 2024. These sessions, held at accessible local venues, allow people to meet with project team members informally, have a chat, ask questions and find out more about the project. The drop-ins, most recently held in April 2025, are advertised in advance in the local press and radio and promoted through estates and community councils.
- You can sign up for **project updates** on the Spiorad na Mara website, which is updated regularly, or contact us at any time by email:

Spiorad na Mara website:
www.spioradnamara.com
spioradnamara@northlandpower.com



Community benefits consultation
Comhairleachadh buannachd choimhearsnachd

If the project goes ahead, it will provide a fund of £4.5 million each year, index-linked, for its operational lifetime, to communities on the west coast of Lewis (specifically those in Council Wards 6 and 7). This commitment to a West Coast Community Benefit Fund was announced in August 2024, following engagement with the West Side Estate Group over a period of more than two years.

In January 2025, Aquatera, an Orkney-based environmental consultancy, were appointed to carry out independent consultation in relation to the West Coast Community Benefit Fund associated with the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project.

The consultation engaged with residents on the west coast to gather insights and ideas on how the proposed fund should be managed and used. The longevity of the fund, should the project go ahead, will provide a great opportunity to create a long-lasting benefit and legacy and a chance for west coast communities to continue to support younger generations and shape the future of their area.

In addition to the West Coast Community Benefit Fund, a further strand of consultation was undertaken to seek the views of the entire Isle of Lewis community on potential benefits that could be delivered by, or through, the Spiorad na Mara project. This strand of consultation was exploratory, testing ideas that have already been proposed through the first phase of public consultation on the Spiorad na Mara project, as well as other ideas and suggestions which could be considered throughout the various phases of the project. The consultation process ran through March 2025, with opportunities for members of the community to have their say in a variety of ways. The feedback from this consultation process is currently being reviewed and analysed by Aquatera and a report will be published later this summer. This will include proposed next steps in the progression of this important strand of work.

Community benefit fund arrangements are separate from the planning process, with no provisions associated with funds either requiring support for the project or prohibiting any objections to it.

Sponsorship and donations
Urrasachd agus tabhartasan

Since 2023, throughout the development phase of the project, Spiorad na Mara has been running an active sponsorship and donations programme with the aim of supporting a range of local community groups, clubs and charities with their work.

To date, over £100,000 has been gifted to a number of charities, schools, sports clubs and associations, educational and cultural initiatives and community groups, including:

- Lewis Pipe Band
- Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA)
- Ness Over 40s Football Club
- Deasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean Ghàidhlig
- Comunn na Gàidhlig/Breasclete School
- Western Isles Archers
- Stornoway North Community
- University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) STEM Outreach Programme (co-funding)
- War Memorials Restoration Project
- Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH)
- Hebridean Emigration Metagama Centenary
- Western Isles Library Services.



Jennifer Snowball, Head of Global Development, Offshore Wind, Northland Power with the Portree High School team that won Deasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean Ghàidhlig in 2024.



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES
AR DEALAS DON CHOIMHEARSNACHD

Skills development, education and training
Leasachadh sgilean, foghlam agus trèanadh

For the Spiorad na Mara project to operate effectively, it will require a local workforce.

We are keen to actively support and promote the development of skills and knowledge amongst local people of all ages; from early STEM activities for primary schools, to providing learning opportunities for young people, along with supporting those already in work and hoping to transition to renewables from the oil and gas industries. Below are some of the ways we have started to support, or are broadening our involvement in, skills development, education and training.

STEM initiatives
Since 2023, the Spiorad na Mara project has co-funded the UHI STEM Outreach programme which has enabled two local coordinators to be appointed for the Lewis and Harris areas.

The project has also committed to sponsoring the development of a Renewable Energy activity kit, which will be made available to primary schools across Scotland to increase STEM learning and support teaching staff with ideas, materials and resources.

Scholarships programme
The Spiorad na Mara scholarships programme was launched in April 2025. Through this programme, we are committing up to £200,000 to provide financial support to 20 higher education students who are pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses at Scottish universities over the next seven years. The programme opened in April for applications for the 2025/2026 academic year and is open to all final-year students at the four secondary schools in the Outer Hebrides; Nicolson Institute (Lewis), Sir E Scott (Harris), Sgoil Lionacleit (Uist) and Sgoil Bagh a Chaisteil (Barra). The closing date for applications is 20th June and the first scholarship recipients will be announced in August, following evaluation of applications by a local independent assessment panel.

More information on the programme can be found on our website www.spioradnamara.com.

Apprenticeships programme
The project is supporting local apprenticeship positions through Navantia's ongoing apprenticeships programme at the fabrication facility in Arnish. This will offer support in the recruitment and training of local workers to gain qualifications through a blend of practical work experience and learning, with the academic elements being delivered through UHI.

Stornoway Port
Stornoway Port has been identified as the preferred future location for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base for the Spiorad na Mara project. This will bring further development to the port and key added benefits including job opportunities and increased business. The O&M base will become the focal point for the project throughout its operational lifetime.





SUPPLY CHAIN & JOBS
SÈINE SOLARACHAIDH & COTHROMAN COSNAIDH



Supply chain
Sèine solarachaidh

We remain committed to maximising opportunities for local businesses and suppliers in the Isle of Lewis, the Western Isles and across Scotland.

Our procurement process is ongoing and we are focusing on engaging local businesses, new entrants and small- and medium-sized enterprises to collaborate with throughout the development, construction and operation phases of the project.

On the right is an indicative, high-level timeline outlining the upcoming procurement activities for the development of Spiorad na Mara. Since our last consultation, we have refined our preliminary engineering design envelope and are currently working on completing the initial site investigations prior to applying for the relevant consents. During the development phase of the project,many support services are required for surveying, environmental studies, project management, consenting, and design.

Economic contribution to date:

We are eager to maximise benefits to the local and Scottish economies through all phases of the project.

Over the last three years, 63% of our overall spend on the project has been in Scotland, including the Isle of Lewis. We have used over 50 Lewis-based businesses in that time, including local contractors, suppliers, facilities, accommodation and other service providers.

We are committed to prioritising local spend as the project progresses.

Since the start of 2025, we have been working, in collaboration with HIE, to build a comprehensive picture of local businesses that might be suitable for contractor work on the Spiorad na Mara project. This local data gathering exercise has been augmented by sign-ups via the supply chain portal on our website, through which many local and regional businesses have registered their interest in being considered for potential opportunities on the project.

In the coming months, as we get greater clarity on the potential construction phases of the project and associated work packages, we will map these local businesses against the project's needs. This will identify areas of strength locally and potential or actual gaps, and will feed into the project's supply chain plan as it develops in the coming years.

Later this year, it is our intention to host an event for these local businesses, during which we will provide more details on our approach to procurement and opportunities for local businesses. We will provide more information on the likely work packages – and the timing, duration and sequencing of these, to the extent that this information is available – that will arise during the construction phase of the project. We will also provide whatever information is available at this time on the likely requirements during the operations and maintenance phase.

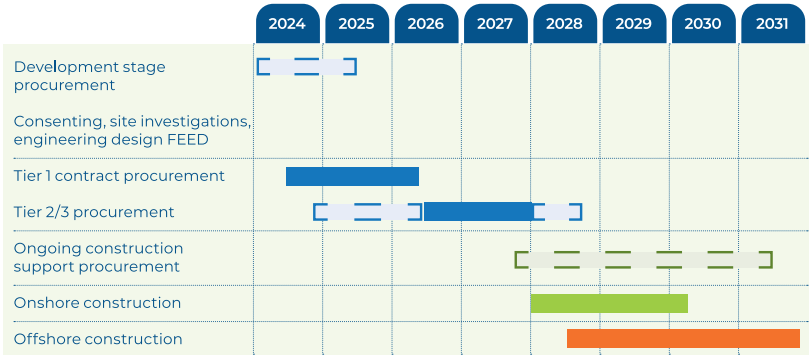
When the project is further advanced in engaging with the large contractors who will undertake the main construction packages on the project, we will support them in hosting events locally, to introduce them to local businesses and build their understanding of local capabilities.

Our next steps, should the project be granted the required consents and permissions, are to further refine our project proposals and advance our procurement process. We will continue to support the development of the local supply chain by leveraging local businesses to deliver essential services.





Spiorad na Mara – Indicative high level procurement schedule





SUPPLY CHAIN & JOBS
SÈINE SOLARACHAIDH & COTHROMAN COSNAIDH

Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult Fit4 Offshore Renewables programme
Pròg ram Ath-nuadhachail Mara (ORE) Catapult Fit4 airson lùth ath-nuadhachail mara

Fit for Offshore Renewables (F4OR) is a unique programme to support the development of the UK supply chain and this year a bespoke version has commenced specifically for businesses based across Scotland's island and coastal communities. Spiorad na Mara has partnered with ORE Catapult and three other Scottish offshore windfarm projects (MachairWind, Stoura and Arven) to offer funding and support to businesses to grow in, and directly benefit from, the offshore wind industry.

Spiorad na Mara supported the programme with £44,000 and proactively encouraged and assisted local businesses to apply, resulting in five of the 12 companies selected to benefit from the programme being Lewis based. These are:

- A. Campbell Electrical Services Ltd.
- G.A. Barnie Group
- CalMax Construction Ltd.
- Atlantic58
- Navantia UK Arnish.

Supply chain lead
Stiùiriche an t-sèine solarachaidh

At the beginning of 2025, we appointed a Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer for the project, offering a central point of contact for local supply chain stakeholders, and improving the integration of local businesses into our procurement processes and the wider renewables-based supply chain. If you would like to get involved or find out more information about potential supply chain opportunities that may become available through the project, you can reach out to Grant Anderson, our Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer, via email at [Redacted]

Alternatively, if you are a local business interested in getting involved, our supply chain registration form remains available on our website at **https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/supply-chain-registration/**

By signing up to our supply chain register, you will be added to our supply chain update list and receive any updates regarding future procurement-related events or opportunities to get involved.



Grant Anderson
Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer

Major Developments Forum
Fòram Ieasachaidhean mòra

The Spiorad na Mara partners are members of the Major Developments Forum (MDF) established by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE) in order to maximise the opportunities arising from, and potential challenges associated with, the proposed development of several major renewable energy projects in the Outer Hebrides in the years ahead.

The MDF ensures that all developers of these proposed projects are working closely together to minimise disruption to communities and collectively maximise the benefits for the islands.

Jobs
Obraichean

If it proceeds, the Spiorad na Mara project will offer a significant opportunity for local employment, in both short-term and long-term roles.

Throughout the construction phase, anticipated to last for up to three years, there will be 750 to 1,000 temporary roles for different durations across different parts of the construction process. Many of these will be specialist roles requiring specialist skills and expertise, while others will be vessel-based offshore activities. However, many will also be locally-based onshore, created through local businesses or specialist contractors.

Once in operation, the project will create between 80 to 120 new, permanent long-term jobs. We are committed to ensuring as many of these jobs as possible, particularly the long-term positions, are available to local people.

To enable this, we have started to invest in skills development and apprenticeship opportunities locally and this will continue and broaden as the project progresses. We are also working with local educational institutions and support agencies and industry partners to expand career pathways for island residents, to build their skills and experience, and improve long-term employability.

As outlined elsewhere in our consultation materials, we have collaborated with Navantia to offer locally based apprenticeship opportunities which will involve practical training and skills development.

750–1,000
New, temporary jobs throughout the construction phase.

80–120
New, permanent long-term jobs once built.



PROJECT TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS
CLÀR-AMA A' PHRÒISEICT & NAN CEUMANNAN A LEANAS

What is next for Spiorad na Mara?
Dè an ath rud airson Spiorad na Mara?

After our phase two public consultation comes to a close, all feedback will be reviewed and considered as we further refine and finalise our project proposals before submission of the offshore and onshore consents applications.

Similar to our last consultation events, we will publish a Summary Report of our activities and all the feedback we receive.

Autumn 2025

When we aim to finalise our Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reporting is ongoing and will be finalised in Autumn 2025 to be submitted alongside our consents applications.

As part of our consents submission, we will produce a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report which will provide a detailed breakdown of all consultation and engagement that we have carried out through the EIA phase.

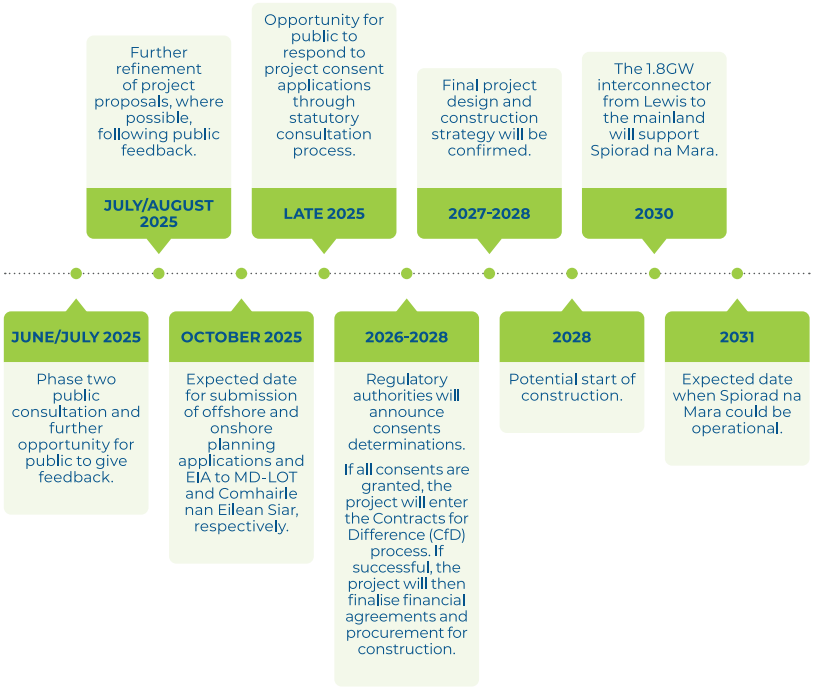
Once the consents applications and required supporting documents are finalised and submitted, the relevant regulatory authorities will review the applications and issue to consultees. As part of this process, there will be a period of statutory consultation during which the public can make submissions directly to the regulatory authorities on the applications.

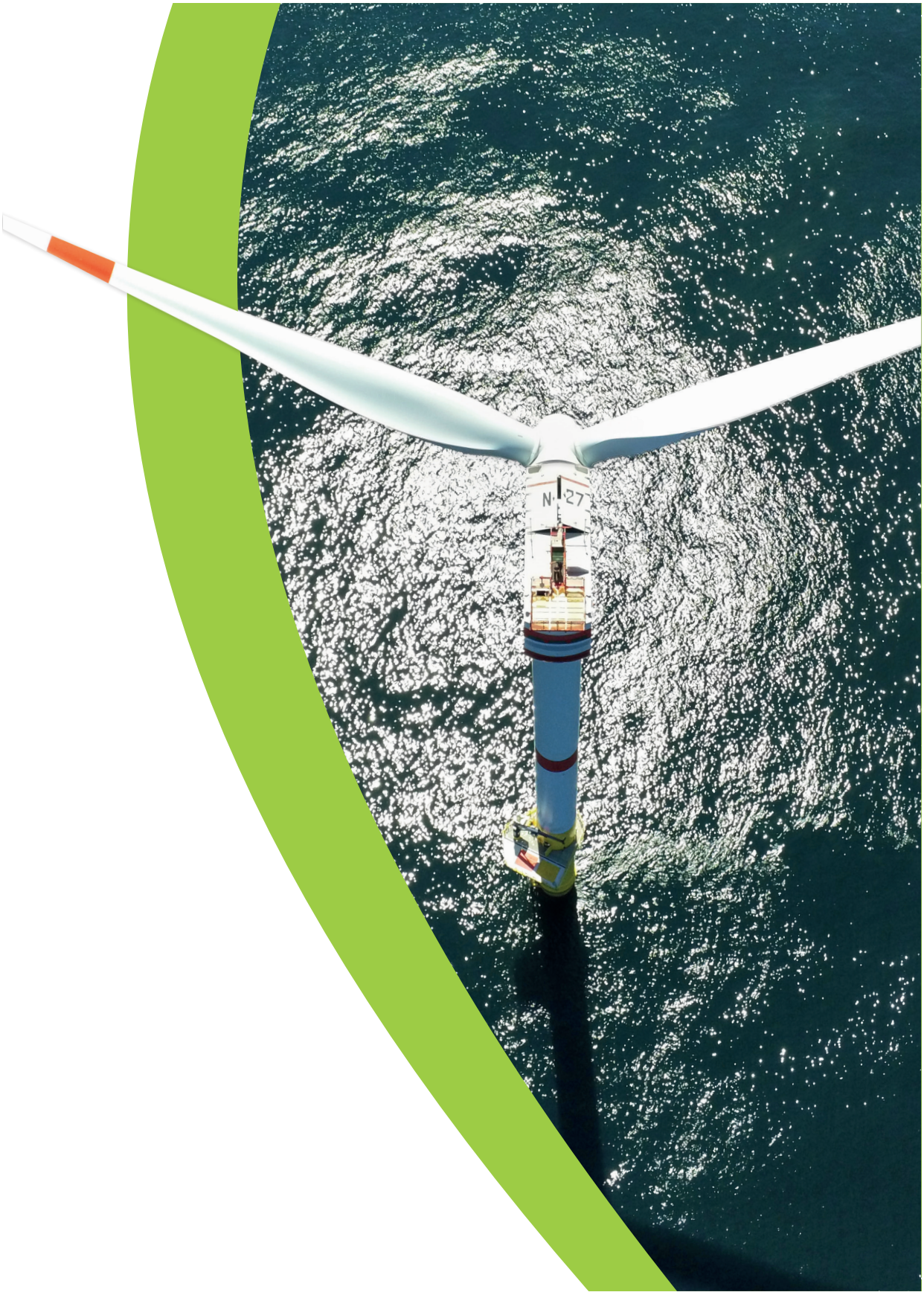
Should Spiorad na Mara receive all required consents, licences and permissions, the project will enter a Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction to secure contracts to supply the national grid with energy. If it is successful in securing a CfD, the project will then progress through to making a final investment decision and achieving financial close, before entering into construction.

The graphic below provides an indication of the anticipated timelines for all of these activities and milestones. It is important to note, however, that these are indicative only and may change further. Updates on any changes will be shared through the project's website and other communications channels.

Throughout all phases of the project, we will continue engagement with key local stakeholders including community councils, community groups and neighbouring residents and businesses.

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE





YOUR FEEDBACK
NA BEACHDAN AGAIBH

Feedback mechanisms
Modhan fios air ais

Your feedback is important to us and important in shaping the project. As part of this consultation process, you can provide your feedback in any of the following ways:

- **Online feedback form available at www.spioradnamara.com**
- **Hard copy feedback form, available at our in-person events or by contacting Kathleen Milne (contact details below)**
- **By phone and/or by email.**

Inclusivity commitment
In-ghabhaltachd

We are committed to ensuring that information about the Spiorad na Mara project is accessible to everyone.

- Information is available online, in hard copy and available at our in-person events.
- Dates and locations for all events have been publicised in local media and community networks.
- We want everyone to have the opportunity to learn about, and give feedback on, the Spiorad na Mara project. If you know of anyone with special requirements to allow them to take part in this consultation, please let a member of the team know.

Statutory Engagement
The project is carrying out ongoing engagement with all designated statutory consultees, as required under the various consenting legislation processes.

Consultation for fishing community
Co-chomhairle airson Coimhearsnachd an Iasgaich

Richard Joseph is your dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and Calum MacLeod is your Fishing Industry Representative (FIR); both have been engaging with the local fishing community for the last two years.

If you would like to get in touch with them, their contact details are on the right.

Get in touch

If you would like to get in touch at any time – to ask a question, arrange a meeting, share feedback or seek more information about the project – we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us in the following ways:

Conaltradh

Ma tha sibh airson fios a chur thugainn aig àm sam bith – airson ceist fhaighneachd, coinneamh a chur air dòigh, fios air ais a cho-roinn no barrachd fiosrachaidh a shireadh mun phròiseact – bhiodh sinn air leth toilichte cluinntinn bhuaibh. Faodaidh sibh fios a chur thugainn anns na dòighean a leanas:

Community liaison
Ceangail coimhearsnachd



Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Fisheries liaison
Ceangal Iasgaich

Richard Joseph
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Supply chain
Sèine solarachaidh

Grant Anderson
Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer
[Redacted]





Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead

[Redacted]

Media enquiries
Fiosrachadh meadhanan



Steve Thomas
Communications Lead

[Redacted]

Calum Macleod
Fisheries Industry Representative

[Redacted]

General enquiries
Fiosrachadh coitcheann

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Spiorad Na Mara Project Office, c/o Stornoway Business Hub, 9 Bank Street, Stornoway, HS1 2XG

Please note that the Stornoway office is not staffed full-time. Please phone or email if you would like to arrange a meeting.



WELCOME & OVERVIEW

FÀILTE & RO-SHEALLADH

1

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Fàilte!

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for our second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

Spiorad na Mara is a key project that can contribute to Scotland's efforts to tackle the global climate emergency and help achieve its net zero ambitions while benefitting Scottish communities and businesses by providing greater energy security and generating additional investment for the local, regional, and national economies.

CONSULTATION

At Spiorad na Mara we are committed to ensuring there is open and honest consultation as part of the development of the project and responding to feedback received. We held our first phase of public consultation in Autumn 2024, sharing our early-stage project proposals.

This second phase of consultation will run for one month, starting 2nd June and closing on 2nd July. During this consultation, we again welcome your valuable feedback on our updated project proposals. An online feedback form can be found in the virtual exhibition on our website, while hard copy forms are available at these in-person consultation events or by contacting the project team *(contact details can be found under the 'Our Commitment to Communities' section of these materials).*

THIS CONSULTATION *(PHASE 2)*

Monday 2nd June to Wednesday 2nd July

This consultation will consist of:

In-person public exhibitions – Five exhibitions at various venues across the island from 2nd to 5th June 2025 *(see table bottom right)*, offering opportunities to meet with, and ask questions of the Spiorad na Mara project team and give your feedback.

Virtual consultation room – Our online exhibition will be open for one month, between 2nd June and 2nd July 2025 and available on the Spiorad na Mara website.

Information clinics – If you wish to make an appointment for an individual or small group meeting with the project team, you can do so by contacting Kathleen at

[Redacted]

Appointments will be available between Monday 9th June and Friday 13th June 2025 and efforts will be made to accommodate time requests where possible.

CONSENTING PROCESS

The project intends to submit its consents applications later this year. Applications for the offshore elements of the project – a Section 36 consent *(under the Electricity Act 1989)* and a Marine Licence *(under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010)* – will be submitted to the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT), while planning permission for the onshore elements *(in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997)*, will be sought from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

We will use a project design envelope approach to our consents, which essentially means that our applications will be based on a set of maximum parameters – which will be assessed as part of the EIA process and refined at a later stage – rather than a single fixed design. This is a common approach to the development of offshore wind projects, ensuring a project can use the best available technology at the time of construction.



INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

2025	Submission of planning applications
2028	Potential start of construction
2030	The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland, which will support Spiorad na Mara and other proposed projects.
2031	Expected date when the windfarm could be operational
35 Years	Potential operating life of windfarm

1.2 million homes
Equivalent number of Scottish Homes whose average annual electricity needs could be met.

60
Maximum number of fixed bottom wind turbines

900MW
Potential generating capacity

1.7million
The equivalent number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

40-75m
Water Depth

10.6m/s
Mean wind speed at hub height

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Mon 2nd June	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3 to 7pm
Tues 3rd June	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 to 2pm
Tues 3rd June	Barvas & Brue Community Hall	4 to 7pm
Weds 4th June	Shawbost Old School Hall	3 to 7pm
Thurs 5th June	Uig Community Hall	3 to 7pm

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

Spiorad na Mara

PROJECT NEED & BENEFITS

FEUM & BUANNACHDAN A' PHRÒISEICT

2

As the world faces increased pressure from climate change, we need to reduce greenhouse gases to preserve our communities and natural habitats for future generations. Spiorad na Mara and other ScotWind projects have the collective potential to generate almost 30GW of clean renewable energy and are key to ensuring that Scotland reaches its target net zero emissions by 2045.

In addition to their environmental need in combatting climate change, these projects also have the potential to provide substantial community and economic benefits, offering employment and training opportunities and supporting the development and strengthening of local supply chains, all while limiting our vulnerability to global energy price changes.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

PRINTED ON PVC-FREE BANNERS. BANNERS REUSED FROM LAST YEAR

ENVIRONMENTAL

Key contributor to **Scotland's net zero targets.**

Enhancing **Scotland's future energy security.**

With a capacity of around **900MW,** it has the potential to meet the equivalent average annual electricity needs of approximately **1.2 million Scottish homes.**

Potential to save more than 1.7 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY



West Coast Community Benefit Fund of **£4.5 million** per annum, index linked and delivered over the operational lifetime of the project.

Potential for **wider community benefits** to be delivered by, or through, the project, including partnerships with other organisations and agencies.

Collaboration with University of Highlands and Islands on STEM initiatives.

Ongoing support to local community, sporting and cultural activities through our sponsorship and donations programme.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

In April, we launched a new Scholarships Programme, committing **£200k to supporting 20 students pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses** in Scottish universities over the next seven years.

CYCLEWAY/ MULTI-USE PATH

We are committed to developing a cycleway/ multi-use path adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road (A857), following the construction of our onshore cable route, as a lasting community legacy.

APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

We are supporting the recruitment and training of local apprentices, as part of Navantia's ongoing apprenticeships programme at their fabrication facility based in Arnish.

ECONOMIC

80 to 120 new and permanent long-term jobs for the operational life of the project.

750 to 1,000 temporary jobs during construction.

We have identified **Stornoway Port** as the preferred location for our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base.

New education and training opportunities locally.

Substantial new opportunities for the local supply chain



STORNOWAY PORT

We have identified Stornoway Port as the preferred location for our Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base.

FIT4OFFSHORE RENEWABLES

In partnership with Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, and other Scottish offshore wind partners, we are providing **fully-funded support for five island companies** to grow their business in the offshore wind industry.

Further information on community benefits and our work with the local supply chain can be found on **Board 6 'Our Commitment to Communities'** and **Board 7 'Supply Chain and Jobs'.**

ONSHORE UPDATE
ÙRACHADH AIR TÌR

3

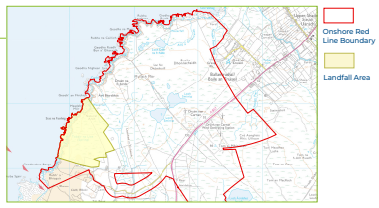
There are a number of onshore elements required as part of the Spiorad na Mara project: a landfall substation *(if this is the design option chosen)*, **a grid substation, onshore cables and an operations and maintenance base. On this board you will find updates on how our work on these elements has progressed since our first phase of consultation.**

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

LANDFALL

The 'landfall' is the point where the offshore cables for the windfarm meet the onshore elements of the project relating to the transmission of electricity to the grid. The cables are joined in a Transmission Joint Bay (TJB), a concrete box set below ground level. Following construction, only the concrete lid will remain visible.

Since our first phase of consultation, we have confirmed the area north-east of Barvas *(as shown in the map on the right)* as the location for our landfall and our landfall substation.



ONSHORE SUBSTATIONS

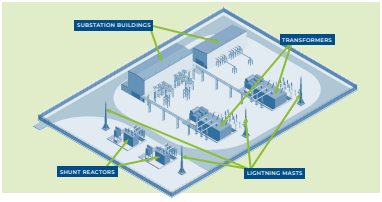
Up to two onshore substations could be required for the project, one located on the west coast and the other on the east coast, as set out in the information boxes below.

LANDFALL SUBSTATION (West Coast)

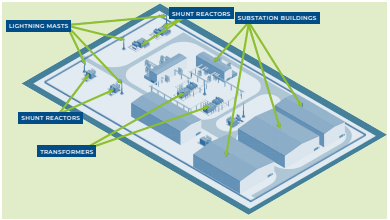
If the project decides to proceed with a landfall substation, it would be located north-east of Barvas, as shown in the map above. The size of the overall compound site would be approximately 150 x 150m.

It is our intention to construct the landfall substation as far as possible from Barvas Cemetery, in order to minimise its visibility from the cemetery, which was previously highlighted through local feedback as a concern.

The landfall substation would include cables from the TJB into the substation, two main buildings, plus ancillary electrical equipment units, safety features such as lightning masts, and access paths/roads. An indicative image of what the overall landfall substation compound could look like is shown to the right.



(East Coast) GRID SUBSTATION



A grid substation (with an approximate compound footprint size of 300 x 200m) will be required to connect the project to the proposed SSEN Lewis Hub and onward to the national electricity grid.

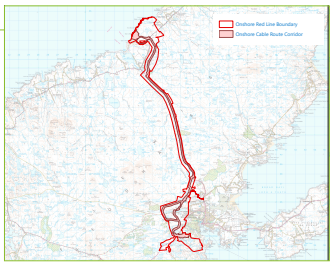
Our preferred location for our grid substation is east of Creed Industrial Park, as shown in the map below. Since our last public consultation events, we have extended our boundaries around this area to include areas which we have identified as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration purposes.

The grid substation will consist of up to six buildings in total, with a maximum height of 20m to the apex of the tallest roof, plus a number of other, smaller structures housing electrical and other equipment. Within the site compound, there will also be safety features such as lightning masts and access paths/roads. An indicative image of what the grid substation could look like is shown to the left.

ONSHORE CABLE ROUTE

The onshore cable consists of two circuits which will link either the TJB or the landfall substation *(depending on the final option selected)* to the grid substation and the grid substation to the SSEN Lewis Hub. Since our last consultation, the cable route has been refined and follows the eastern side of the A857 for the majority of its approximate 25km length. The working corridor during construction will be between approximately 30m and 60m wide, depending on the depth of the peat. This will increase in areas where HDD compounds are required in order to facilitate water crossings.

The management and restoration of peat disturbed during construction of the cable corridor is a key consideration. We have identified a number of locations along the length of the route as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration and we will continue to develop our outline peat management plans over the next few months.



CYCLEWAY/ MULTI-USE PATH

The potential for a permanent cycleway/multi-use path has been raised by both the public and stakeholders. We propose to re-purpose the majority of the haul road between Stornoway and Barvas as a cycleway/multi-use path as a lasting legacy for the community and for visitors to the island.

PHOTOMONTAGES

Photomontages of both the landfall and grid substations are available to view elsewhere in this exhibition and on our website. Please speak to a team member if you need assistance.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

Offshore wind projects need to be operated and maintained, safely and efficiently, throughout their lifespan. Typically, this important work is carried out from an O&M base located at a coastal location close to the windfarm site.

Following an assessment of feasible port options – both around the island and on the mainland – and engagement with a range of stakeholders, we are pleased to confirm that **Stornoway Port** has been identified as the preferred location for our O&M base.

Further work remains to be done in defining the precise location of this facility within the port, and details of the construction process and requirements for the O&M facilities will be shared at a later stage, when plans are more advanced.



OFFSHORE UPDATE

ÙRACHADH FAR CHOSTA

4

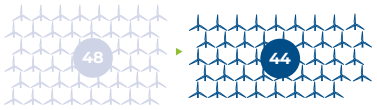
There are a number of key offshore elements to the project: the offshore array area, within which the turbines will be sited; offshore cables *(some of which connect the turbines to each other and others which bring the electricity ashore)* and potentially an offshore substation, which would be sited among the turbines in the array area. Below is a summary of the progress we have made.

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

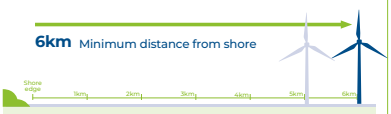
OFFSHORE ARRAY

After considering feedback received during our first consultation phase and through wider stakeholder engagement and consultation, the design parameters for the array layout have been refined. We are presenting two updated indicative layout options: one with a smaller number of larger turbines and one with a larger number of smaller turbines. In both scenarios, there is a **reduction** in both the **number** and **height** of the turbines, while the **distance from shore** has also been increased.

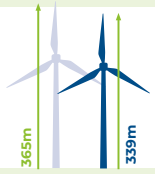
Below are the changes that have been made and these are the maximum parameters that are being assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); these will not be exceeded in the final design:



Maximum number of turbines reduced from 65 to **60** smaller turbines or 48 to **44** larger turbines.



Although the leased area of the site remains 5km from shore at the closest point, we have committed to **not placing any turbine closer than 6km to shore** at any point along the west coast, regardless of what size and number of turbines are ultimately used.



Maximum height of the turbines reduced from 365m to **339m** *(to blade tip)* or **294m** *(if a larger number of smaller turbines are used)*

We have committed to a setback distance of at least **11km** from the **closest turbine** to **any point** within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA).

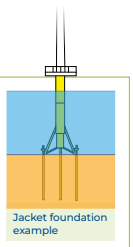
We have committed to a setback distance of **21km** from the **Wild Land Area** (WLA), which falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA.

FOUNDATIONS

The wind turbines will be connected to the seabed using fixed-bottom foundations.

Our preferred foundation technologies are:

- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations *(steel lattice structures)* supported by piles into the seabed, and/or
- 3 or 4-legged jacket foundations which sit on top of a gravity-based structure *(i.e. rely on their weight to provide the required stability)*

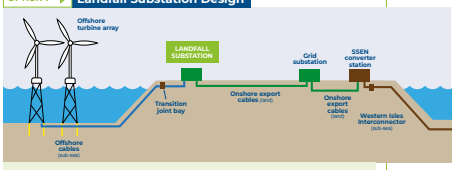


Jacket foundation example

SUBSTATION OPTIONS

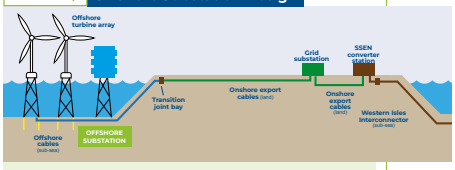
The project is still considering two design options for a substation to gather the electricity generated by the offshore turbines and transform it to a voltage that can be transported onshore. Both options are being assessed in our EIA and both will be carried forward in our consents applications, as further engagement with the supply chain is required to make a final decision.

OPTION 1 **Landfall Substation Design**



The **first option** is for two onshore substations: one located on the west coast of Lewis near the landfall to gather the electricity generated by the wind turbines and prepare it for transmission to a second grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

OPTION 2 **Offshore Substation Design**



The **second option** is for an offshore substation located within the array area, and a grid substation on the east coast of Lewis located near the proposed SSEN converter station.

OFFSHORE LIGHTING

In terms of lighting, all offshore projects must follow guidance set by the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) for safety at sea considerations, as well as guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for aviation safety matters. The expectation, based on industry best practice, is that marine navigation lights will be located at the bottom of selected turbines *(which will be agreed with Northern Lighthouse Board and MCA)* and all the perimeter turbines will have red lights higher up to manage aviation safety. These aviation lights will be automatic dimming lights controlled by visibility sensors and the direction of the light will focus above the horizontal plane, meaning that in periods of good visibility the intensity of the lights will be reduced.

Further, the project is aware of ongoing technological developments for aviation lighting, which has been used in other countries, and we are exploring its feasibility for the Spiorad na Mara project. We will utilise the most effective available system that meets safety requirements while minimising visual impact.

OFFSHORE CABLES

The Area of Search for the offshore cables – comprising inter-array cables and export cables – has been refined since our first phase of public consultation *(see maps elsewhere in this exhibition)*. The offshore cable system to be used is still under consideration and will be dependent on the final substation decision that is taken forward *(landfall substation or offshore substation)*.

Further detail on these options can be found in the information booklet you received at the door.

PHOTOMONTAGES

Elsewhere in this exhibition, and on our website, you will find photomontages showing what the two indicative turbine array layouts could look like from eight different viewpoints. Additionally, there are night-time photomontages from five different viewpoints.

Please speak to a member of the team if you need assistance in viewing these.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ÙRACHADH MEASADH BUAIDH ÀRAINNEACHDAIL

5

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) work has continued to progress since our last consultation. The final EIA Report (EIAR) will be completed in the coming months and will support our consents applications to the regulatory authorities, which we intend to submit later this year. This section provides an update on some of the topics that received the most feedback during our last public consultation. Further details on how we have responded to feedback received are contained in a separate booklet which is available at this event and on our website.

ONSHORE EIA

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA):

As part of discussions with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and NatureScot, a number of locations have been selected based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility of the onshore transmission works which will be included within our application. Photomontages of the landfall substation and the grid substation have been produced for this consultation, to provide a better understanding of what these may look like, based on initial designs and using the maximum design parameters.

Onshore Ecology and Ornithology:

As part of the refinement of our project parameters, the cable route within the corridor will take into consideration the deepest and best quality peatland habitats and aim to avoid these areas, where possible, during construction. Both our landfall and grid substation locations have been sited to minimise disturbance to peat and peatland habitats. The project is also developing outline habitat management and enhancement plans to reduce the potential impacts on habitats following construction.



Traffic and Transport:

As part of the EIA, an assessment of the additional traffic movements required during the construction phase of the project is being carried out. An Abnormal Load Route Assessment for the large substation transformers is also being carried out, to ensure the pinch-point locations are considered and understood.

In order to minimise disruption to traffic, which was raised in feedback received during our first phase of public consultation, a haul road will be constructed between the two cable circuits.

No full closures of the A857 are anticipated during the construction phase; if necessary, short single lane closures will be used.

The EIA has been informed by many walkover site surveys and desk-based studies to ensure that all relevant cultural and heritage assets are being included in the assessment.

As part of the EIA, the project has committed to developing a peat management plan which will consider where and how the project will manage any peat disturbed during the construction phase, and opportunities to restore historically degraded peat.

Further consultation with relevant stakeholders has also been undertaken, to help to inform and refine the project design parameters and the EIA in a range of areas, including peat and geology, archaeology and heritage and airborne noise and vibration.

OFFSHORE EIA

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA):

Following engagement with a number of stakeholders, the methodology for our SLVIA has been agreed with NatureScot and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, with 42 day-time and seven night-time viewpoints selected for assessment. These assessments are currently being finalised.

By reducing the maximum blade tip height of the turbines and the maximum number of turbines, and by committing to placing turbines within a smaller area of the overall site, the visual impacts previously presented can be reduced. Additionally, an assessment of the effects of aviation lighting and marine lighting is being completed as part of the EIA.

Marine and nearshore ornithology – The air gap distance *(between the sea surface and lowest blade tip)* has been increased to allow for increased safe passage of flying birds and wind turbines will only be installed within a defined area of the original array area, away from areas which birds (gannet, guillemot, razorbill and puffin) are shown to frequent most.

The total number of turbines has been reduced, as has the turbine diameter, resulting in a reduction in total swept area of the windfarm *(area in which birds have potential to collide with infrastructure).*



Marine mammals – The project has completed its 12 months passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) data survey. The data from the PAM and the 24-month digital aerial surveys (DAS) is contributing to the EIA baseline, enabling an accurate assessment to be completed.

Assessments are also being undertaken on Underwater Noise Modelling, Benthic and Fish Ecology and the potential impacts on Cultural Heritage, Shipping & Navigation and Commercial Fisheries to inform the further development of the project.

WHOLE PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

As part of the EIA, a **socio-economic** assessment is being conducted to determine the project's potential effects on aspects such as employment, housing and the economy, and whether these impacts are positive, negative, or neutral. This assessment will also consider the jobs that will be created through each phase of the project, with consideration of the local economy and labour market conditions.

As there are a number of other offshore and onshore developments proposed, planned or underway, the **cumulative impacts** that may arise as a result of all of them are being considered and a comprehensive assessment of potential combined effects is being conducted.

A **Social Impact Assessment (SIA)** is being carried out to assist in identifying, analysing and managing all effects – positive, neutral and negative – the project might have on people and communities.

Following its completion, outputs from a wide range of topics assessed as part of the EIA will inform the development of the final SIA, which will be completed at a later stage in the project and may be used in the identification of additional mitigation measures, where appropriate.

Further information on our EIA work can be found in the printed booklets available at the welcome desk at this event.



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES

AR DEALAS DON CHOIMHEARSNACHD

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EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Spiorad na Mara is deeply committed to engaging meaningfully with local communities to effectively incorporate local knowledge and insights wherever possible, safeguard the environment, respect community sensitivities and priorities and generate mutually rewarding benefits. These are values shared by the two project partners, Northland Power and ESB.

Investment in communities is delivered through an ongoing programme of sponsorships and donations, as well as collaboration and engagement with community groups and local organisations to ensure that communities benefit positively from the project, both now and in the future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful and open engagement with communities is vital to the development of the Spiorad na Mara project. It allows us to benefit from local knowledge and understanding and listen to local views which can help shape the project and improve our proposed plans. All feedback received is recorded and shared with the project team to raise awareness and understanding of any issues or concerns that are brought to our attention.

To facilitate this, we have a full-time local **Community Liaison Officer** for the project, who is happy to assist with local enquiries and any requests for information on the project, in addition to queries about sponsorships and/or donations. You can contact Kathleen Milne on [Redacted]

We also hold regular **Community Drop-in** sessions, which are advertised in advance in the local press and promoted through estates and community councils.

Alternatively, you can sign up for **project updates** on the Spiorad na Mara website, which is updated regularly, or contact us at any time by email.

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

www.spioradnamara.com

Since 2023, throughout the development phase of the project, Spiorad na Mara has been running an active sponsorship and donations programme with the aim of supporting a range of local community groups, clubs and charities with their work.

To date, over **£100,000** has been gifted to a number of charities, schools, sports clubs and associations, educational and cultural initiatives and community groups, including the Lewis Pipe Band, Western Isles Archers, Deasbad, Lochs Gaelic Choir and WIIGA.

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COMMUNITY BENEFITS CONSULTATION

If the project goes ahead, it will provide a fund of £4.5 million each year, index-linked, for its operational lifetime, to communities on the west coast of Lewis (Council Wards 6 and 7).

In early 2025, Aquatera, an Orkney-based environmental consultancy, carried out an independent consultation in relation to the West Coast Community Benefit Fund associated with the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project.

In addition to the West Coast Community Benefit Fund, a further strand of consultation was undertaken to seek the views of the wider Isle of Lewis community on potential benefits that could be delivered by, or through, the Spiorad na Mara project.

The outputs of the consultation process are currently being compiled by Aquatera and will be reported on in the coming months, as well as next steps in the progression of this important strand of work.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

For the Spiorad na Mara project to operate effectively, it will require a local workforce. We are keen to actively support and promote the development of skills and knowledge amongst local people of all ages; from early STEM activities for primary schools, to providing learning opportunities for young people along with supporting those already in work and hoping to transition to renewables from the oil and gas industries.

- **The Spiorad na Mara Scholarships Programme** will provide financial support to 20 higher education students who are pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses at Scottish universities over the next seven years.
- Since 2023, the Spiorad na Mara project has co-funded the **UHI STEM Outreach** programme which has enabled two local coordinators to be appointed for the Lewis and Harris areas.
- The project is supporting local **apprenticeship** positions through Navantia's ongoing apprenticeships programme at the fabrication facility in Arnish.



SUPPLY CHAIN AND JOBS

SÈINE SOLARACHAIDH & COTHROMAN COSNAIDH

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We remain committed to maximising opportunities for local businesses and suppliers in the Isle of Lewis, the Outer Hebrides and across Scotland.

Our procurement process is ongoing, and we are focusing on engaging local businesses, new entrants and small- and medium-sized enterprises to collaborate with throughout the development, construction and operation phases of the project.

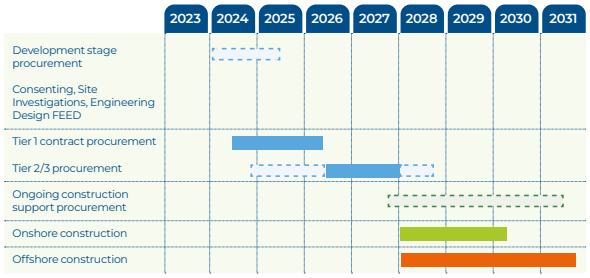
EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

SUPPLY CHAIN

Later this year, it is our intention to host an event for local businesses, during which we will provide more details on our approach to procurement and opportunities for local businesses. We will provide more information on the likely work packages – and the associated timing, duration and sequencing of these, to the extent that this information is available - that will arise during the construction phase of the project.

In advance of this, we have been working – in collaboration with HIE and others – to develop a better understanding of the capabilities that exist within the local supply chain. Local businesses can also continue to register their interest by signing up via the Supply Chain Portal on our website.

SPIORAD NA MARA INDICATIVE HIGH LEVEL PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE



LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN FOCAL POINT

At the beginning of 2025, we appointed a **Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer** for the project, offering a central point of contact for local supply chain stakeholders, and improving the integration of local businesses into our procurement processes and the wider renewables-based supply chain.

If you would like to get involved or find out more information about potential supply chain opportunities that may become available through the project, you can reach out to **Grant Anderson,** our Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer, via email at [Redacted]



Grant Anderson
Local Supply Chain & Skills Development Officer

JOB CREATION

If it proceeds, the Spiorad na Mara project will offer a significant opportunity for local employment, in both short-term and long-term roles.

The project is expected to create **80 to 120 new, permanent, long-term jobs** and **750 to 1,000 temporary jobs during construction.**

Throughout the construction phase, anticipated to last for up to three years, there will be **750** to **1,000 temporary roles** for different durations across different parts of the construction process. Many of these will be specialist roles requiring specialist skills and expertise, while others will be vessel-based offshore activities. However, many will also be locally-based onshore roles, created through local businesses or specialist contractors.

Once in operation, the project is expected to create between **80 to 120 new, permanent long-term jobs.**

We are committed to ensuring as many jobs as possible, particularly the long-term positions, are available to local people. To enable this, we have started to invest in skills development and apprenticeship opportunities locally and this will continue and broaden as the project progresses. We are also working with local educational institutions and support agencies and industry partners to expand career pathways for island residents, to build their skills and experience, and improve long-term employability.

FIT FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLES (F4OR)

Fit for Offshore Renewables (F4OR) is a unique programme to support the development of the UK supply chain and this year a bespoke version has commenced specifically for businesses based across Scotland's island and coastal communities.

Spiorad na Mara supported the programme with £44,000 and proactively encouraged and assisted local businesses to apply. Seven local businesses were shortlisted, with five based in Lewis being finally selected to benefit from the programme.

- A.Campbell Electrical Services Ltd.
- G.A. Barnie Group
- CalMax Construction Ltd.
- Atlantic58
- Navantia UK Arnish

APPRENTICESHIPS PROGRAMME

The project is supporting local apprenticeship positions through Navantia's ongoing apprenticeships programme at the fabrication facility in Arnish. This offers support in the recruitment and training of local workers to gain qualifications through a blend of practical work experience and learning, in partnership with UHI.



PROJECT TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

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EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

WHAT IS NEXT FOR SPIORAD NA MARA?

After our Phase 2 public consultation ends, all feedback will be reviewed and considered as we further refine and finalise our project proposals before submission of the offshore and onshore consents applications. As with our last consultation events, we will publish a Summary Report of our activities and all the feedback we receive.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be finalised in Autumn 2025 to be submitted alongside our consents applications. As part of our consent submissions, we will produce a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report, which will provide a detailed breakdown of all consultation and engagement that we have carried out through the EIA phase.

Should Spiorad na Mara receive all required consents, licences and permissions, the project will enter a Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction to secure contracts to supply the national grid with energy. If it is successful in securing a CfD, the project will then progress through to making a final investment decision and achieving financial close, before entering into construction.

INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

JUNE/JULY 2025
Phase two public consultation and further opportunity for public to give feedback.

JULY/AUGUST 2025
Further refinement of project proposals, where possible, following public feedback.

OCTOBER 2025
Expected date for submission of offshore and onshore planning applications and EIAR to MD-LOT and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, respectively.

LATE 2025
Opportunity for public to respond to project consent applications through statutory consultation process.

2026-2028
Regulatory authorities will announce consents determinations. If all consents are granted, the project will enter the Contracts for Difference (CfD) process. The project will then finalise financial agreements and procurement for construction.

2027-2028
Final project design and construction strategy will be confirmed.

2028
Potential start of construction.

2030
The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland will support Spiorad na Mara and other projects.

2031
Expected date when Spiorad na Mara could be operational.

2031-2066
Potential operating lifetime of the project with ongoing maintenance.

2067+
Decommissioning.

Throughout all phases of the project, we will continue engagement with key local stakeholders, including community councils, community groups and neighbouring residents and businesses.



YOUR FEEDBACK
NA BEACHDAN AGAIBH

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Your feedback is important to us and vital to refining and shaping the project. As part of this consultation process, you can provide your feedback in any of the following ways:

EXPLORE OUR VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

ONLINE FORM | HARD COPY FORM | CALL OR EMAIL | TALK TO THE TEAM

INCLUSIVITY COMMITMENT

We are committed to ensuring that information about the Spiorad na Mara project is accessible to everyone.

Information is available online, in hard copy and available at our in-person events.

Dates and locations for all events have been publicisedinlocalmediaandcommunitynetworks.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to learn about, and give feedback on, the Spiorad na Mara project. If you know of anyone with special requirements to allow them to take part in this consultation, please let a member of the team know.

CONSULTATION FOR FISHING COMMUNITY

Richard Joseph is your dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and Calum MacLeod is your Fishing Industry Representative (FIR); both have been engaging with the local fishing community for the last two years.

If you would like to get in touch with them, their contact details are below.

STATUTORY ENGAGEMENT

The project is carrying out ongoing engagement with all designated statutory consultees, as required under the various consenting legislation processes.

GET IN TOUCH

COMMUNITY LIAISON



DENISE HORAN
CONSULTATION & LOCAL ENGAGEMENT LEAD
[Redacted]



KATHLEEN MILNE
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER
[Redacted]

SUPPLY CHAIN



GRANT ANDERSON
LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
[Redacted]

MEDIA ENQUIRIES



STEVE THOMAS
COMMUNICATIONS LEAD
[Redacted]

FISHERIES LIAISON

RICHARD JOSEPH
COMPANY FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICER
[Redacted]

CALUM MACLEOD
FISHERIES INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE
[Redacted]

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com
Spiorad na Mara Project Office
c/o Stornoway Business Hub
9 Bank Street
Stornoway, HS1 2XG

Please note that the Stornoway office is not staffed full-time. Please phone or email if you would like to arrange a meeting.

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Spiorad na Mara

APPENDIX K Phase 2 Consultation Summary Report


PHASE 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION:
Summary Report
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Geàrr-aithisg
Spiorad naMara
NORTHLAND POWER
ESB
Energy for generations



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TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS
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TERM/ ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
FIR	Fisheries Industry Representative
O&M	Operations & Maintenance
PC1	Phase 1 Public Consultation
PC2	Phase 2 Public Consultation
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

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Executive Summary

Phase 2 Public Consultation (PC2) for the Spiorad na Mara offshore windfarm – an offshore wind project proposed to be developed off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, in Scotland – was carried out over a period of one month, from 2nd June to 2nd July 2025.

The purpose of the consultation was to provide an update on the project proposals to community members and other stakeholders following further assessments and design updates, and share how the project has considered feedback received during Phase 1 Public Consultation (PC1), which was undertaken between 23rd September and 23rd October 2024.

PC2 consisted of a range of events and outreach activities – both in-person and online – held over a four-week period. The specific consultation and outreach activities were advertised through a range of channels in advance and were designed to offer the community a variety of opportunities to take part, with the aim of maximising participation. The consultation consisted of:

- A month-long online exhibition hosted on the project website, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk**;
- Five in-person public exhibitions held at different community locations across the Isle of Lewis;
- Fifteen hours of information clinic appointments;
- Two stakeholder briefing events – held prior to the commencement of PC2 – for local elected representatives, community council and community trust representatives, local media, local support agencies, education and training organisations and local businesses.

Throughout the consultation period, a total of 150 people attended the in-person public exhibition events, two made appointments at the information clinics and 1,223 visits recorded to the online exhibition platform.

Various options were offered for participants to provide their feedback, including physical feedback forms which were available at the in-person events or from the project office in Stornoway, as well as online feedback forms which could be submitted through a link within the online exhibition or downloaded as physical printed copies and sent to the project office. Additionally, feedback could be provided either through email or communicated verbally to a team member. A total of 304 pieces of written feedback were recorded over the course of the consultation.

Extensive feedback was received from participants raising concerns, sharing positive and/or negative comments on the updated plans, and providing suggestions for the project to consider going forward. Multiple topics were covered and key themes focused on included environmental impacts, community benefits and social impacts.

This report is a factual summary of the feedback received during the consultation period. A further document will be produced in due course, providing responses to the feedback received, including how the project has considered the feedback and/or how the feedback will be considered as the project continues to progress.

In the main, the summary of feedback in this report relates to the 304 pieces of written feedback recorded, which has been supplemented in places by verbal feedback provided to project team members.

150

People attended the in-person public exhibition events

1,223

Visits recorded to the virtual exhibition platform.

Geàrr-chunntas Gnìomhach

Co-chomhairle Poblach Ìre 2 (PC2) airson tuath-gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara – pròiseact gaoithe aig muir a thathar a' moladh a leasachadh far costa an iar Eilean Leòdhais, ann an Alba – air a dhèanamh thar mìos, bho 2 Ògmhios gu 2 Iuchair 2025.

B' e adhbhar a' cho-chomhairleachaidh ùrachadh a thoirt do bhuill na coimhearsnachd agus luchd-ùidh eile air molaidhean a' phròiseict às dèidh tuilleadh mheasaidhean agus ùrachaidhean dealbhaidh, agus roinn mar a tha am pròiseact air beachdachadh air fios-air-ais a fhuaireadh rè Ìre 1 den Cho-chomhairle Phoblach (PC1), a chaidh a dhèanamh eadar 23 Sultain agus 23 Dàmhair 2024.

Bha raon de thachartasan agus chothroman gus coinneachadh ann am PC2 – gach cuid gu pearsanta agus air-loidhne – air an cumail thairis air ceithir seachdainean. Bha na cothroman co-chomhairleachaidh agus coinneachaidh – a chaidh fhoillseachadh gu farsaing ro-làimh agus a chaidh an dealbhadh gus an com-pàirt as motha a dhèanamh comasach. Bha na leanas anns a' cho-chomhairleachadh:

- Taisbeanadh biortaileach fad mìos air a chumail air làrach-lìn a' phròiseict, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk;**
- Còig taisbeanaidhean poblach pearsanta aig diofar àiteachan coimhearsnachd air feadh Eilean Leòdhais;
- Còig-deug uair de choinneamhan fiosrachaidh;
- Dà thachartas fiosrachaidh do luchd-ùidh – mus do thòisich gnìomhan co-chomhairleachaidh PC2 – airson riochdairean taghte ionadail, riochdairean comhairle coimhearsnachd agus urrasan coimhearsnachd, na meadhanan ionadail, buidhnean taic ionadail, buidhnean foghlaim is trèanaidh agus gnìomhachasan ionadail.

Rè na h-ùine co-chomhairleachaidh, bha 150 neach an làthair aig na taisbeanaidhean poblach, rinn dithis coinneamhan aig na coinneamhan fiosrachaidh agus chaidh 1,223 tadhal a chlàradh air an taisbeanadh biortaileach air-loidhne.

Chaidh grunn dhòighean a thabhann do chompàirtichean sa phròiseas co-chomhairleachaidh gus fios air ais a thoirt seachad, a' gabhail a-steach foirmean fios air ais fiosaigeach a bha rim faighinn aig na tachartasan pearsanta no bho oifis a' phròiseict ann an Steòrnabhagh, a bharrachd air foirmean fios air ais air-loidhne a dh'fhaodadh a bhith air an cur a-steach tro cheangal taobh a-staigh an taisbeanaidh biortaileach no air an luchdachadh sìos mar lethbhric chlò-bhuailte agus air an cur chun oifis phròiseict. A bharrachd air a sin, dh'fhaodadh fios-air-ais a bhith air a thoirt seachad tro phost-d labhairteach do bhall sgioba. Chaidh 304 pìosan fios air ais sgrìobhte a chlàradh rè na co-chomhairleachaidh.

Fhuaireadh fios air ais farsaing bho chom-pàirtichean a' togail dhraghan, a' roinneadh bheachdan adhartach is/no àicheil air na planaichean ùraichte, agus a' toirt seachad molaidhean airson beachdachadh air a' phròiseact san àm ri teachd. Chaidh iomadh cuspair a chòmhdach agus nam measg mar phrìomhachas bha buaidhean àrainneachdail, buannachdan coimhearsnachd agus buaidhean sòisealta.

Tha an aithisg seo na gheàrr-chunntas cothromach den fhios air ais a fhuaireadh rè ùine a' cho-chomhairleachaidh. Thèid sgrìobhainn eile a thoirt gu buil san àm ri teachd, a' toirt seachad freagairtean don bheachd a fhuaireadh, a' gabhail a-steach mar a tha am pròiseact air beachdachadh air an fhios air ais agus/no mar a thèid beachdachadh air an fhios air ais fhad 's a tha am pròiseact a' leantainn air adhart.

Sa mhòr-chuid, tha geàrr-chunntas an fhios air ais san aithisg seo a' buntainn ris na 304 pìosan sgrìobhte a chaidh a chlàradh, agus tha fios air ais labhairteach a chaidh a thoirt do bhuill sgioba a' phròiseict air an cur ris ann an àiteachan.

About the Spiorad na Mara project

MU PHRÒISEACT SPIORAD NA MARA

Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm being developed off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, by Northland Power, a global power producer specialising in renewable energy projects, and ESB, Ireland's foremost energy company since 1927. Northland Power holds a 75.5% ownership stake, while ESB holds the remaining 24.5%.

The approximate size of the project array site is 161km2 with potentially up to 60 fixed bottom wind turbines to be sited within that area. The array site is located between 5 and 13km off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, and, with an expected potential capacity of 900MW, it could produce enough energy to power the equivalent annual electricity needs of up to 1.2 million Scottish homes per year[1].

The project aims to submit its planning applications – to the Marine Directorate for the offshore elements and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for the onshore elements – in the coming months. Subject to all consents being received, construction could commence on the project in 2028 and it could be generating electricity by 2031.

1.2 MILLION

Equivalent number of Scottish homes whose annual electricity needs could be met through the project.

1.7 MILLION

Tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

1. Supplying electricity to over 1.2 million homes each year, based on Scotland's average annual household electricity use of 3,078 kWh in 2022 (source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics), combined with an estimated wind load factor of at least 50% and a planned installed capacity of up to 900 MW.



2



Public Consultation on the Project

CO-CHOMHAIRLE POBLACH MUN PHRÒISEACT

Public consultation is a key element in the development of any offshore windfarm, offering stakeholders — including local communities and interested groups — an opportunity to provide feedback and raise concerns. This valuable input enables the project team to refine its proposals, address potential environmental, social, and economic considerations, and ensure alignment with planning and consenting requirements. Working towards the submission of the main consents applications, the Spiorad na Mara project have now held two phases of public consultation, with each phase providing an opportunity to share information about the project's evolving plans and gather feedback and input from the community.

The project approach to consultation is focused on transparency, accessibility and inclusiveness to ensure that anyone who may be affected by the project (either positively or negatively), or who could affect the project, can provide input and feel heard.

The first phase of public consultation events (PC1) was held in Autumn 2024, during which the public shared their feedback on the early design parameters and overall project. Following these events, all the feedback received was collected, analysed and considered by the project team. Alongside environmental and technical assessments as well as continued stakeholder engagement, the feedback received from PC1 allowed the project team to refine the project design and proposals.

The recent public consultation phase (PC2), held in Summer 2025, was the second of the two planned consultation phases and is the subject of this report. The objectives of this phase were to share detailed information on the updated project design proposals, including how feedback from PC1 has been considered, and provide a further opportunity for the public to provide valuable feedback prior to the submission of the consent applications.

In addition to these two periods of pre-application public consultation, there will be ongoing engagement – and, where appropriate, further consultation – with the community throughout all phases of the project. The public will also have the opportunity to respond to the project's consent applications through the statutory consultation process which will follow their submission.

Phase 2 Public Consultation: Activities & Awareness-raising

CO-CHOMHAIRLE POBLACH ÌRE 2: GNÌOMHAN AGUS TOGAIL MOTHACHADH

3.1. OVERVIEW

PC2 for the project was held between the 2nd June and the 2nd July 2025 and included a combination of in-person events *(from 2nd June to 5th June 2025)* and an online consultation platform *(from the 2nd June until the 2nd July 2025)*. The consultation presented an updated set of project proposals, showing how plans have evolved since PC1 with consideration of all feedback received from that first phase of consultation. It offered an opportunity for the public to provide further feedback on the design plans and on the project generally.

There were four different elements to the consultation: a one-month long online exhibition, five public exhibitions at accessible community venues across the island, two dedicated briefing events for representatives of key local stakeholder groups with whom the project has been engaging for some time and a briefing for elected members of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and 15 hours of information clinic appointments over five days. Details of each of these activities is contained in the sections that follow.

While there were no dedicated fisheries consultation 'events' during PC2, there has been ongoing engagement with the fishing community through the project's Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO) and the Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR). Following PC2, several meetings have been held with fisheries stakeholders and further meetings will be held in Lewis in September 2025, to share any relevant new information that is available.

All consultation activities were widely publicised, including on the project website and LinkedIn page, through a mail drop to all residential and business properties in Lewis and via the project update emailing list and local media outreach *(see Section 3.4, 'Awareness-raising & Maximising Participation', for further details).*

3.2. CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

ONLINE EXHIBITION

The Spiorad na Mara online consultation room, which was hosted on the Spiorad na Mara website, provided an accessible and interactive online platform for community engagement. The online exhibition room was open between the 2nd June and the 2nd July 2025 and presented updated information on how the project proposals have progressed since PC1. The content of the exhibition was extensive, covering a range of topics such as onshore elements, offshore elements, landfall proposals, EIA work, Social Impact Assessment (SIA) work, supply chain, community benefits and engagement and consultation. Maps of potential locations for all onshore and offshore elements, as well as photomontages of two indicative array layouts and indicative onshore substations, were also provided. Night-time visualisations of the indicative array layouts were also provided. All of the information made available via the online exhibition was also made available in printed form at the in-person events.

3

The online exhibition attracted 1,223 visitors in total over the course of the month, with the most visited section being the photomontages. To ensure the online exhibition provided the opportunity for public input, an online feedback form was incorporated into the exhibition and could be completed at the end of the tour or at a later time if people preferred. The online feedback form was also downloadable and could be returned by email: an image of the feedback form can be found in Figure 11 of the Appendices.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Spiorad na Mara's in-person exhibitions were key to the consultation process, offering an informative and interactive experience for the community. The exhibition events were held between Monday 2nd June and Thursday 5th June 2025 at accessible local venues (see Table 1) and were complemented by the online exhibition for remote participants, as described above.

At the events, information about the project's purpose and potential benefits, updated proposals for the offshore and onshore elements, updates on environmental assessment work, responses to feedback from PC1 and recently announced benefits were shared through a variety of informational formats, including:

- Display boards
- Map booklets
- Photomontages
- Interactive 3D visualisation computer model – which allowed attendees to view the indicative project design from anywhere on the island
- Information brochures – which included a printed version of the virtual exhibition boards *(see Figure 8 of the Appendices)*
- Updated project parameters and benefit factsheets *(see Figure 9 of the Appendices)*
- 'Responses to Feedback from PC1' booklet *(see Figure 10 of the Appendices)*

The photomontages, as well as PDFs of the exhibition content brochure, map booklet and responses to feedback document, all remain available to view and/or download on the project website.

Several project team members – with a range of specialisms and areas of expertise – were on hand to answer questions, explain technical aspects of the project's development, and discuss topics such as potential visual impacts, impacts on marine biodiversity, and potential community benefit initiatives, creating an open and informative dialogue.

It is important that local perspectives and voices are heard and considered in shaping the project planning process. Therefore, each event had a feedback station where attendees could take their time to fill out feedback forms sharing their opinions, questions and suggestions. Alternatively, participants had the option to take feedback forms away, along with free stamped addressed envelopes, giving participants a chance to return more considered opinions. Additionally, attendees at the events were welcome to take extra feedback forms and consultation brochures to share with other community members who could not attend.The feedback form available at the in-person events was the same document available for the online feedback form, this can be viewed in Figure 11 of the Appendices. Finally, project team members completed internal feedback forms, noting any feedback that was shared with them by people who did not wish to complete a form themselves, or where information was shared that was important for the awareness of specific members of the project team, to inform their work.

A total of 150 people attended the five public exhibitions, including local residents, representatives from community councils, trusts, press/media, local elected representatives, support agencies representatives, University of the Highlands and Islands personnel, and local businesses, providing valuable insights into local concerns, preferences, and opportunities.

TABLE 1 - Phase 2 Public Consultation Locations and Dates

LOCATION	DATE	TIME	NO. OF ATTENDEES
Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway	Monday 2nd June 2025	3pm - 7pm	31
Clan MacQuarrie Centre	Tuesday 3rd June 2025	12pm-2pm	20
Barvas and Brue Community Hall	Tuesday 3rd June 2025	4pm - 7pm	36
Shawbost Old School Hall	Wednesday 4th June 2025	3pm - 7pm	37
Uig Community Hall	Thursday 5th June 2025	3pm - 7pm	26

INFORMATION CLINICS

Information clinics were dedicated sessions available to members of the public by appointment between Monday 9th June and Friday 13th June 2025. These sessions took place after the public exhibitions and were intended to provide members of the community with a personalised and accessible way to ask follow-up questions and learn more about the Spiorad na Mara project and the updated plans that were shared through the consultation.

Through the week, 15 hours of information clinic appointments were made available, as outlined in Table 2, offering opportunities for one-on-one or small group meetings with members of the project team to discuss specific questions or concerns in detail. An indication was given in all advertisement materials and on the project website that the team would do their best to accommodate requests for specific times; this included making alternative times available if that was necessary.

The clinics offered an individual approach to engagement with the team and allowed attendees to focus on specific topics of personal relevance. As with the in-person and online events, attendees were

encouraged to provide their feedback and raise concerns which the team could take into consideration. Where answers to specific questions could not be provided at the time, contact details were taken by the project team members and a commitment made to respond once the relevant information became available.

In total, two people booked and attended these clinics, with a variety of different topics discussed. All relevant feedback provided during these meetings was recorded and has been captured and summarised within this report. The venues for the information clinics were chosen to accommodate the preferences of the participants. Of the two individuals who attended, one clinic was conducted at the project office in Stornoway, while the other took place at An Lanntair in Stornoway.

TABLE 2 - Information Clinic Dates and Times Made Available to Public

DATE	TIME
Monday 9th June 2025	9am - 12pm
Tuesday 10th June 2025	3pm – 6pm
Wednesday 11th June 2025	12pm – 3pm
Thursday 12th June 2025	6pm – 9pm
Friday 13th June 2025	9am - 12pm

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

In the week prior to the commencement of the public consultation activities, two briefings were held with community stakeholders with whom the project had previously engaged. The briefings were to make them aware of the full range of consultation activities and what they would consist of, and to answer their questions, so that they could encourage their broader members and/or residents in the areas they represent to participate in the consultation process. The purpose of these briefing sessions was to share the key project updates that were central to PC2 and maximise participation in the consultation process.

A total of 25 people attended the two sessions, one of which was held in Borve and the other in Stornoway, on 28th May 2025. Copies of the invitations sent to relevant stakeholders can be found in Figure 6 and Figure 7 of the Appendices.

A briefing was also held, on 29th May 2025, with the Member Officer Working Group for Energy of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. This took place in the Council chamber in Stornoway, with all local councillors invited to attend; some were present in the chamber, while others joined virtually. Again, the purpose was to brief the members on the upcoming PC2 consultation information and events so that they could encourage their communities and constituents to participate and to provide feedback on the updated project proposals presented.

3.3. FEEDBACK

A specific consultation feedback form was created for PC2, which was available both online and in hard copy format. These were essential in gathering community input and ensuring that the consultation process remained accessible to all stakeholders *(see Figure 11 in the Appendices)*.

Online feedback forms were available on the project website *(as part of the online exhibition and separately on the dedicated Public Consultation 2 landing page)* and hard copy feedback forms were available at all in-person events, as well as being available at the project office. Both formats were identical in the feedback areas covered, which included onshore and offshore elements, environmental impact assessment, community benefits, supply chain and jobs. They also provided space for additional comments.

During the in-person events, team members made themselves available to assist in filling in feedback forms if required. Project team members who were present at the public exhibitions also completed feedback forms following conversations with members of the public, ensuring that people's comments and feedback were captured in the event that they did not complete feedback forms themselves.

A total of 45 *(33 by post + 12 by hand)* hardcopy feedback forms were handed to project team members during public consultation events or were posted to the Spiorad na Mara office following the events. A further 248 feedback forms were received via the online exhibition; additionally, one feedback submission was received by email and project team members captured 8 additional pieces of feedback during the in-person events. Lastly, meeting minutes were recorded during the information clinics *(2 in total)*.

3.4. AWARENESS-RAISING & MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION

In organising and delivering PC2, one of the main objectives was to make the consultation as accessible as possible for communities, in order to maximise participation and gather as much valuable feedback as possible. All activities were planned and arranged with this objective in mind.

The five venues for the in-person public exhibitions were selected (a) to ensure broad geographical reach, (b) with west coast communities prioritised, and (c) on the basis that they are all accessible, well-utilised community venues with which local people are very familiar. The venues for the two information clinics were chosen based on the preferences of the people who made the bookings, with the aim of making attendance convenient for them. Community members were invited to contact members of the project team directly if they had any accessibility requirements in respect of any of the venues.

To ensure maximum outreach was maintained during the whole of the consultation period, feedback forms were accepted between 2nd June 2025 and 2nd July 2025 and the online exhibition remained open for the whole month. Additionally, the provision of stamped addressed envelopes with the hardcopy feedback forms ensured that respondents could take time to consider their feedback and return the forms to the project office at their convenience free of charge.

Equally important in maximising participation was creating awareness of the activities and providing people with sufficient notice. A number of different tools, platforms and approaches were used to achieve this; these are set out below.

3

MAIL DROPS

Prior to the PC2 events, the project undertook a comprehensive mail drop campaign to inform the local community about the upcoming events and how to engage and participate. Starting on 28th April 2025, over 11,000 leaflets were distributed, via Royal Mail, to households and other properties across the HS1 and HS2 postcodes. These leaflets provided detailed information about the consultation process and invited residents to participate in upcoming events and provide feedback. This extensive mail drop was a key component of the project's strategy to ensure widespread awareness and encourage active community involvement in the consultation process.

A copy of the leaflet mailed to each household can be found in Figure 1 in the Appendices.

NEWSPAPER/NEWS SITE ADVERTISEMENTS

Prior to the commencement of consultation, advertisements were placed in local papers to provide essential details about the upcoming consultation events, and avenues for public feedback. By using local newspapers, the project aimed to reach a broad local audience, ensuring that residents were well-informed and encouraged to participate actively in the consultation process.

Dates and publications within which adverts were placed are outlined in Table 3 and copies of the Public Notice and advertisements placed can be found in Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 of the Appendices. There were two public notices placed in the Stornoway Gazette, on the 17th April 2025 and 22nd May 2025, in accordance with the pre-application consultation planning requirements for offshore and onshore developments, respectively.

TABLE 3: Publications and Advertising Dates

PUBLICATION	DATE
Stornoway Gazette – Public Notice	Thursday 17th April 2025
Stornoway Gazette	Thursday 15th May 2025
Stornoway Gazette - Advert and Public Notice	Thursday 22nd May 2025
Stornoway Gazette	Thursday 29th May 2025
We Love Stornoway	Thursday 15th May 2025 to Thursday 5th June 2025
Fios	Friday 16th May 2025
Fios	Friday 30th May 2025

PRESS RELEASES

The project regularly issues press releases to keep the public informed about significant milestones and pivotal moments in the development of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project. Ahead of the commencement of PC2, a press release was issued on 27th May 2025 to all the following publications and online platforms:

MAILSHOTS TO STAKEHOLDERS

Many stakeholders have requested that their names be added to the project updates emailing list to allow the project team to stay in touch. Mailshots are sent to these stakeholders whenever there are developments of note on the project or when there is other relevant information to share.

- Stornoway Gazette
- We Love Stornoway
- Fios
- Hebrides News
- BBC (Stornoway)
- Western Highlands Free Press
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Carloway News
- Uig News
- Breasclete Newsletter
- Fuaran
- Bernera Newsletter

To announce the commencement of PC2, a mailshot was sent to a range of different stakeholders via the project update mailing list as set out in Table 4 below, making them aware of the details of the consultation process and activities therein..

TABLE 4: Mailshots

SUBJECT	DATE	DETAILS	RECIPIENTS
Spiorad na Mara Public Consultation	Monday 2nd June 2025	Email update announcing the beginning of PC2 detailing the dates, times and locations of the in-person events as well as a link to the online exhibition and confirming the dates which feedback can be received. This project update was sent to everyone on the project update mailing list, which is available to people to sign up to via the project website or by contacting members of the team. People who attend project-hosted events, including the PC1 and PC2 in-person consultation events, are offered the option of having their contact details to the project distribution list there also.	531

WEBSITE

The Spiorad na Mara website is a central hub for stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing, designed to ensure transparency and inclusivity throughout the offshore windfarm project's development. It offers comprehensive resources, including news updates, project background, development timelines, and detailed explanations of environmental assessments and planning processes.

During PC2, this resource was used to create awareness of the consultation events, through a dedicated Public Consultation page, on which the online exhibition was hosted, and where downloadable materials were available, along with details of all consultation activities, plus contact details for the project team.

LINKEDIN PAGE

The Spiorad na Mara LinkedIn page is a dynamic tool for stakeholder engagement and information sharing, creating a space for ongoing interaction and updates about the proposed project. Through regular posts, project milestones are shared, plus insights into the development process, news on consultation events, and educational content about renewable energy and offshore wind technology.

In advance of, and during, PC2 a number of posts were shared on the LinkedIn page to create awareness of the consultation activities and remind people of the ways in which they could provide feedback and of its value to the project's development process.

4

Feedback Collection and Analysis

CRUINNEACHADH FIOS AIR AIS AGUS MION-SGRÙDADH

4.1. COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK

As outlined earlier in this report, feedback was collected in a variety of ways during PC2, ensuring the project team could gather the widest possible range of views, insights and suggestions from the local community and wider stakeholders, and use this valuable information to inform future project planning and refinement.

These collection methods included:

- Physical feedback forms completed and handed in by attendees at the in-person consultation events;
- Physical feedback forms taken away from in-person consultation events, or collected from the project office, and mailed to the project team;
- Online feedback forms submitted through the project's website/online exhibition;
- Feedback sent via email following the events; and
- Verbal feedback provided directly to team members during the events, which was logged by the project team.

All feedback collected during the consultation process was carefully recorded into a central feedback log for processing and analysis. Where individuals chose to remain anonymous, their privacy was respected. For those who opted into the mailing list to receive project updates, this preference was duly recorded.

4.2. FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

Community feedback gathered during the consultation process was logged via Tractivity, a commonly used stakeholder database system which is used by the project team. Once all feedback was collected, each form was carefully read and comments were tagged by themes and sub-themes *(see Section 5)*. This structured approach enabled the analysis of feedback by project aspect, highlighting common concerns and recurring recommendations. Categorising the feedback in this way allowed for analysis that provided a nuanced understanding of community priorities, ensuring actionable insights were identified while preserving the significance of concerns expressed by responders, as well as specific positive or constructive feedback received.

The collated feedback was initially reviewed by the project's stakeholder engagement and community engagement team, with key recurring themes identified and summarised and short-term actionable items noted and assigned for follow-up.

The full set of feedback data was also shared with the wider project team – including consents and environment, engineering, procurement and commercial team members – as well as with the specialist support teams working on specific aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A workshop was then held involving all discipline leads and the project leadership team, facilitated and led by the community engagement team, to ensure that nuanced topics were teased out and discussed as fully as possible. Multiple smaller meetings followed on specific topics and many of these discussions are ongoing, as the project plans continue to evolve.

Summary of Feedback Received

GEÀRR-CHUNNTAS AIR FIOS AIR AIS A FHUAIREADH

This section provides a summary of the feedback received during PC2, outlining both the key concerns raised by participants and the suggestions offered to the project team for progressing the project's design and approach.

5.1. OFFSHORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

A recurring concern was the layout and proximity of the turbine array to the shore, which many described as visually intrusive and incompatible with the 'scenic' coastal setting. While some respondents acknowledged the reduction in turbine number, height and rotor diameter, as well as the increased distance from the shore and from designated areas, as positive and a move in the right direction, many still feel that it was not sufficient. There was a strong view that the turbine scale, in terms of size and number, would still result in potential significant visual impact and would permanently alter the island's seascapes. Some responses suggested further refining the design by continuing to reduce the height and number of turbines as well as placing the array further offshore and beyond the main shipping lanes. Several responses also raised concerns about the potential cumulative impact of the turbines alongside other offshore activities, and the uncertainty around maintenance and decommissioning.

Generally, those who provided feedback were opposed to the option of the proposed offshore substation, stating that this could add to the potential visual impact at sea. Further key issues raised in relation to the offshore substation included the potential risk of oil spills and chemical leaks, impacts to marine species from ongoing underwater noise and electromagnetic field (EMF), and disruption of fishing grounds through seabed disturbance. Conversely, some respondents expressed a preference for an offshore substation due to potential land-based visual impacts from an onshore alternative.

A key concern raised about the offshore elements was the red aviation and yellow navigation lights on the turbines and substation. Many respondents viewed this as a threat to the island's dark skies, with some calling for mitigation through shielded or low-impact lighting technologies to reduce skyglow and preserve the dark skies.

Potential shadow flicker from the turbines during sunrise and sunset was raised in some responses, particularly in relation to its repetitive nature and proximity to homes and frequently visited viewpoints. This gave rise to concerns around potential health impacts. Similar concerns were raised in relation to potential noise pollution from the offshore infrastructure, with some respondents worried about the potential for a constant low-frequency noise, which could damage the peaceful character of the island and affect local wellbeing.

5.2. ONSHORE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

The feedback provided on the proposed onshore infrastructure, including the grid substation, landfall substation, onshore cables and the operations and maintenance (O&M) facility, covered a range of topics. Several concerns were raised relating to potential impacts on the island's environment, cultural heritage, and rural character. A recurring concern was that the scale and location of the proposed infrastructure could result in long-term changes to areas valued for their ecological and cultural significance.

The proposed landfall substation located north of Upper Barvas was one of the most frequently discussed elements, with comments often focusing on the proximity to the Barvas cemetery and nearby cultural sites, which was felt to be inappropriate. Respondents raised concern regarding the potential visual impact and scale of the substation, with suggestions that it would be out of place amid the surrounding rural landscape. A number of mitigation measures were proposed to reduce potential visual and environmental impacts, such as covering with vegetation or earth mounds, planting trees, reducing structure heights, and/or minimising lighting and noise.

Others who attended the consultations stated that the Barvas site was the most suitable location of those considered for the landfall substation. The plan to build a permanent access road into the site, separate from the existing cemetery road, was also noted as positive in avoiding an overlap between site traffic and those visiting the cemetery for remembrances purposes.

Regarding the proposed grid substation located near Arnish, the main concerns raised were similar to those around the proposed landfall substation. Specifically, it was suggested that the size and scale of the infrastructure would be disproportionate to the surroundings and would have potential visual impact on the landscape from the town and ferry route. Although generally those who provided feedback had concerns, there were some respondents who were supportive of the proposed location, as it is within a current industrial area. These respondents also acknowledged the need for the proposed grid substation.

Some respondents raised concern about the potential fire risks and lack of local emergency infrastructure should a potential accident arise at the substations. There was also concern for the potential noise and light pollution anticipated to occur due to the construction and operation of the substations.

In relation to the proposed onshore cable route, many respondents highlighted the sensitivity of the Barvas Moorland and the island's machair habitats. Primarily, the concerns raised were around the potential release of stored carbon within the peatlands and potential impacts to rare and protected ecosystems during construction. Several respondents had concerns about the potential disruption throughout construction and safety aspects of the high-voltage cables, specifically where the cable route is in close proximity to residential properties in Upper Barvas. Suggestions to minimise impacts included rerouting to avoid sensitive areas and homes, and providing clear plans for the restoration of disturbed areas. There were also requests for greater clarity on technical aspects such as the cable stability and long-term maintenance.

Regarding O&M[2], many respondents were supportive of the preferred O&M base location at Stornoway Port, feeling this gave greater assurance that more of the long-term jobs associated with the project would be locally based. Many also felt this would be positive for the port overall, and for the town, contributing to footfall and the use of local services and facilities.

2. Planning for the O&M facilities will not be sought as part of the main consents applications for the project; a separate process will be followed for the O&M base, along a longer timeline.

However, several respondents expressed uncertainty about the associated economic benefits the project anticipates from the O&M base, such as job creation and contract opportunities. Some expressed doubts that local people or businesses would benefit and there were calls for meaningful local partnerships and skills training. Some suggested they could be more supportive of the project if these would be delivered. Furthermore, the feedback also highlighted people's concern for logistical and safety considerations, with references to the difficult conditions at sea and in remote areas as well as potential increased pressure on local infrastructure, including roads and harbours.

5.3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Feedback on the approach to the EIA, and associated topics, was primarily negative, with concerns raised around potential damage to wildlife, and potential impacts to the local community with respect to economics, tourism, and mental wellbeing. Respondents raised concerns on the approach and methodology used in the EIA process, stating that generally assessments are based on modelling rather than real-world data, and that there is insufficient research available on the potential impacts to marine wildlife. Some respondents stated they felt the EIA process is vague, uses inadequate mitigation strategies with an overreliance on biodiversity loss offsetting, without a clear understanding of local ecosystems. Some also expressed concerns about the absence of a clear plan for mitigation and wind turbine waste and debris management.

The approach to the EIA was also criticised with respect to potential cumulative impacts, with concern that the potential impacts of the project together with other windfarm developments might be underrepresented within the assessment and not ecologically sustainable.

ENVIRONMENT

Feedback on the potential environmental impacts of the project aligned with feedback received during PC1. Key issues raised focussed primarily on potential impacts to marine mammals and bird species, as well as potential impacts to the physical environment including peat and soils, benthic ecology and hydrology.

Potential impacts of the project on marine mammal species were a key concern shared by respondents. Among the concerns highlighted were: the potential increased underwater noise and vibration as a result of increased vessel traffic, construction activities and wind turbine operation potentially resulting in auditory injury, displacement, increased mortality and higher collision risk to marine mammal species. Specific species noted by the community included humpback whales and orcas *(dolphins and porpoises were also highlighted, however no specific species were identified).*

Another key area of concern was potential impacts to bird species. Respondents outlined that the turbine array area overlaps with migratory and foraging routes for many bird species, including: sea eagles, skuas, gannets, kittiwakes, razorbills, corncrakes, whooper swans, and pink-footed geese. Respondents highlighted that the Outer Hebrides and Barvas Moor are vital breeding grounds for red list and protected species such as lapwing, redshank, curlew, dunlin, snipe, oystercatcher, and corncrake. Respondents raised concerns around the potential for blade strikes posing a high risk of fatality to bird species, and how the construction of infrastructure and access roads could fragment habitats, disrupt nesting, and reduce breeding success.

Some respondents highlighted the potential impacts to the seabed and associated benthic communities, as a result of dredging, cable laying and turbine installations. Respondents further raised concerns on the potential effects of EMF and heat from subsea cables on the movement and migratory patterns of fish *(particularly salmon)*, sharks and rays.

Feedback included concerns about the potential impacts of the project on physical marine processes; some respondents outlined that the installation of fixed-bottom foundations may alter wave patterns, currents, and sediment transport potentially resulting in an increased risk of coastal erosion and beach degradation, especially on the west coast of Lewis. These potential changes could have subsequent impacts on ecological receptors such as the benthic communities discussed above.

Respondents raised concerns about the potential impacts of onshore infrastructure on peatland habitats, specifically blanket bogs which are a rare habitat and important for carbon storage. Respondents outlined concerns of perceived deep-peat excavation and the potential risks of peat slides, slope failure, and long-term ecological damage; the release of carbon from excavated peatland habitats was also raised as a concern. Respondents stated that altered groundwater flow due to construction and/or infrastructure, could potentially increase flood risk and some raised concerns about potential contamination of local water supplies and soil instability due to construction and possible oil leaks.

In the context of the environment more broadly, many people who attended the events expressed the urgent need for projects of this kind – offshore wind and other renewable energy projects – to happen, in order to help offset the worst impacts of climate change. While the need for these projects to be developed carefully and sensitively was highlighted, they were deemed to be essential, including the Spiorad na Mara project.

HUMAN, SOCIAL AND CULTURE

The main topics highlighted in the feedback received focused on potential seascape and landscape visual impacts, local tourism and economy, community and social concerns, and cultural heritage.

A repeated issue raised was the potential visual impacts of the project. Some respondents highlighted specific concern for potential impacts at cultural sites such as the Callanish Stones, Gearrannan Blackhouse Village and west coast cemeteries and beaches. There were concerns that any potential impacts to these and/or any other sites on the island could impact local tourism, particularly local businesses that are dependent on scenic views and tranquillity. It was raised that tourism is vital to the local economy and feedback highlighted the concern for local job losses in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Respondents were also concerned about potential property devaluation where houses have a direct view of the project infrastructure, with calls for more research into the potential impacts of the project on the island's house prices. Some highlighted the depopulation issues in the Outer Hebrides, particularly among younger generations, with concern that the project could result in an increase in numbers leaving the island. Many others, however, felt that the long-term job opportunities associated with the project could play a pivotal role in retaining more young people on the island in the decades ahead and in attracting some skilled people who had left the island to return.

There was concern raised about the potential visual and noise impacts affecting the health and wellbeing of the community.

Some respondents outlined that the project has already spread distress among some residents due to the perceived inevitability of the project without local consent.

A key concern raised was the potential impact to the island's unique Gaelic culture and heritage, with some respondents raising that the perceived industrialisation of the island due to the project could potentially impact the island identity and Gaelic-speaking population. There were some respondents that highlighted the potential disruption of local traditional lifestyles including crofting and peat cutting. Concerns also outlined the potential risk to archaeological and marine heritage sites, stating that cable works and construction may disturb archaeological remains, nearshore shipwrecks and/or buried cultural artefacts.

Regarding local infrastructure and services, feedback highlighted concerns that the roads, ferries, housing and healthcare may not cope with the increased pressure from project workers and traffic coming to the island.

There was also concern raised about potential impacts to the fishing industry, with some raising that the location of the project disrupts inshore fisheries. There was specific concern for creel, lobster and scallop fishing and some called for compensation to fishers who could potentially be impacted.

5.4. ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Written feedback received mirrored PC1 feedback, with some acknowledgment of the opportunities the project could provide across the island yet also concern that the project may have a negative impact on the local economy. The main themes that were raised related to the need for local skills development, supply chain concerns and potential strains on existing island infrastructure and incomes.

There were calls for local employment rather than filling the jobs with external contractors, although some respondents felt that the specialist skills required for roles will be a barrier to recruiting locally. Some respondents believed that long-term roles for island residents would be limited and temporary, while others highlighted that the community requires roles in healthcare and education rather than offshore work.

The importance of providing job training opportunities for local residents was repeatedly emphasised as essential to enable locals to access positions. There was concern around the economic impacts to the island, with many respondents raising the potential job losses in the tourism and hospitality industries due to potential visual and environmental impacts.

Similar concerns were raised regarding the supply chain opportunities with some scepticism that local businesses could benefit from the project contracts. Many respondents felt the project is more likely to use the international supply chain, as seen in other projects, which also raised concern for some about ethical and sustainable sourcing. There were several calls for the project to provide commitments around local hiring numbers, supply chain sourcing, infrastructure investment and training opportunities to prepare more locals for the skilled roles the project would require *(such as apprenticeships and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education).*

While the written feedback detailed the above concerns, there was a noticeable increase in the volume of positive and supportive feedback from people who attended the in-person events around the potential economic benefits of the project. The potential for

long-term jobs from the project to revitalise island communities was noted by several people at all events, with some pointing out that retaining young people and growing the number of young families on the island is vital to its future. It was felt that the renewable energy sector offers a huge opportunity in this regard in the years ahead and should be embraced. Some also highlighted that they had friends or family who currently work away in offshore jobs that would like to return if there were appropriate job opportunities available on the island.

Representatives of many local businesses hoping to be part of the supply chain for the project also attended events and voiced their desire to see it proceed. The view expressed by these people was that, while much work remains to be done to ensure this potential opportunity is maximised, the indications from the project have been positive in terms of their eagerness to work with local businesses.

5.5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mixed feedback was received on the materials and content shared at PC2. Positive feedback was provided by many attendees around the level and quality of the project's engagement with the community. It was noted that this had improved significantly over the last 18 months, with much greater efforts being made to be as open and accessible as possible. This was also remarked upon in relation to the consultation process, which was considered by many to be well-organised, extensive, well-advertised and supported by knowledgeable project team members and subject matter experts.

Some respondents also gave positive feedback on the visual representations of the onshore and offshore elements of the project, noting that they provided a clear impression of what the project could look like, and that the presentation of information in the consultation overall was of high quality. Others shared a different view, criticising the materials as being selective or mis-leading, with some respondents suggesting that there was missing or inadequate information provided on environmental impacts, noise, scale and potential disruption from construction/ decommissioning.

Many of those who provided feedback felt that the consultation process lacked genuine engagement and that consultation was carried out only as a requirement of the consenting process. Some respondents said they feel they have not been listened to, suggesting that community-led discussions should be considered to fully understand the local values and knowledge. Positive feedback was received with regard to the schools' engagement undertaken by the project.

Feedback suggests there remains some frustration within the local community about the early engagement stages of the project. However, greater frustration exists around the original selection process for the offshore array site, which preceded the development of the project and was not carried out by the project partners or team.

Some respondents suggested that that the public consultation could have been more widely communicated to the public to maximise attendance, with some suggesting that they were unaware of the events, learning about them only through social

media or word of mouth at short notice. Some attendees also felt the events were held at inconvenient times and more consideration could have been given to vulnerable groups who may not have been able to attend events or use the online exhibition. Some suggested improvements from the public included: improving the signage and advertising of consultation events, for example putting posters into local shops or on roadsides, and making feedback forms more visible at events and accessible around the community.

5.6. COMMUNITY BENEFITS

WEST COAST COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Regarding the West Coast Community Benefit Fund, the general opinion of those who provided written feedback is that the £4.5 million is too little in comparison to the project profits and would fail to compensate for the potential impact to the island's economy, culture and environment. Many feel that the aim behind the community benefit fund is to gain public approval rather than genuinely support the community, with criticisms that there is no compensation sufficient to offset the overall negative environmental, cultural and social impacts.

However, the fund was warmly welcomed by many attendees at the west coast events, who view it as an opportunity to create a legacy for this part of the island for generations to come. Job creation, facilities for the elderly, access to housing, environmental initiatives and supports for the fishing community were all suggested as potential examples of legacy initiatives.

There was a strong opinion – among those with positive views and those who were more sceptical – that the management of the West Coast Community Benefit Fund needs to reside locally to ensure it is managed fairly and properly allocated. Many responses emphasised the need for island-wide compensation that would address local needs without being restricted to specific communities.

Additionally, there is concern in the community about the long-term commitment of community benefits should the project be sold to another company.

CYCLEWAY/MULTI-USE PATH

There were mixed opinions about the proposed cycle pathway adjacent to the Barvas Moor road as a benefit of the project. Some respondents welcomed the repurposing of the haul road as a cycleway/multi-use path, which could leave a lasting positive legacy from the proposed onshore cable works. Those respondents feel the pathway could support tourism through recreational cycling and it is seen as a potentially significant safety improvement for the busy road. Some people highlighted the potential for the benefits to be further enhanced through information boards, while the potential for a café and/or other commercial services and facilities to be established by local people along the route was also raised.

Some respondents feel that the potential benefits of the cycleway/multi-use path would not outweigh the overall impact to wildlife and landscape. There is a concern that the project may lead to a reduction in tourist numbers, which could subsequently result in fewer visitors who would use the pathway. Furthermore, some

raised concern about the durability of the cycleway/multi-use path, particularly in winter or if it is misused, and feel there could be more clarity on the construction and who will maintain the pathway if built.

A number of respondents also suggested that for the cycleway/ multi-use path to have true value and benefit, it must extend all the way to Stornoway, with proper connections at either side into existing road and/or cycle networks.

OTHER BENEFITS

Of those who provided feedback, many expressed doubts about any future potential benefits of the project, with the majority of respondents feeling that no community benefits offered could compensate for the potential environmental, cultural and social impacts. Many have concerns that profits from the project would only benefit investors while the local community would be impacted through a potential decline in tourism, house price reductions and a loss of local jobs. A common theme throughout the feedback received was concern that Lewis currently has high energy bills, yet no reduction is currently being offered as a potential benefit of hosting the project despite the energy potentially being generated locally.

There were repeated calls to allow any community benefits to be managed locally e.g. via community trusts, to ensure that initiatives are driven by the actual needs of residents and that resources are distributed fairly across the whole island.

Some respondents viewed the potential job creation opportunities from the project as a positive benefit if approached correctly, highlighting that the jobs would need to be long-term, sustainable roles only for local people (or with a commitment to hiring a percentage of locals for the workforce), as well as ensuring sufficient training and upskilling be put in place to enable local hiring. There were some respondents who expressed positive views on the apprenticeships and STEM initiatives supported by the project.

Numerous suggestions were received regarding potential benefits that the project could consider, including:

- Free or subsidised electricity for affected households;
- Compensation to each household in view of turbines;
- Community ownership;
- Investment in local housing and support with household insulation and solar installation;
- Investment in local transport, road maintenance and potential decarbonisation of buses;
- Environmental conservation i.e. peatland and coastline restoration;
- Supporting Gaelic language and culture revival; and
- Additional guaranteed apprenticeships and STEM education.

Next Steps

NA H-ATH CHEUMANNAN

Feedback from PC2 will continue to support the refinement of the project plans throughout the development of the Spiorad na Mara project. The insights provided by the community are invaluable to ensure that the project can be successfully developed in a way that seeks to optimise local benefits, address concerns, and ensure alignment with local and environmental priorities.

Following the close of PC2, the project team considered all feedback received *(as detailed in Section 4 above)* and this process is ongoing, as plans for the project's consent submissions are finalised. There will be an opportunity for the public to respond to the submitted consents applications through the statutory process.

While the indicative key design parameters for the project – such as the maximum turbine height, maximum number of turbines, cable route corridors *(onshore and offshore),* landfall location and onshore substation locations – have been identified at this point, there will be opportunities for further feedback on the project, should it go ahead, as detailed plans will not be finalised until post-consent. There will also be specific opportunities for feedback on potential construction impacts and how these can best be managed, as well as how effective communication and consultation with the community can be addressed during this phase.

Ongoing engagement with the community and other stakeholders will remain a priority throughout the consent submission process and beyond. The Spiorad na Mara team is committed to maintaining transparency throughout the development of the project and recognises the importance of collaboration with the community as the project plans continue to evolve. This will include regular updates shared via the project's various communications and engagement channels and through the availability of the project's community engagement team.

Community members can get in touch with the project team at any time in the following ways:

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

By email: **spioradnamara@northlandpower.com**

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead
[Redacted]

7 Appendices PÀIPEARAN-TAICE

FIGURE 1 Public Consultation Phase 2 Leaflet Mail Drop

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

2nd June to 2nd July 2025
2 Ògmhios gu 2 Iuchar 2025

The second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 2nd June and runs until 2nd July.

What is Spiorad na Mara?

Spiorad na Mara is a proposed offshore windfarm, located approximately 5-13km off the west coast of Lewis. With an expected installed capacity of around 900MW, it could meet the equivalent average annual electricity needs of around 1.2 million[1] Scottish homes with renewable electricity and save more than 1.7 million[1] tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Further information on Spiorad na Mara can be found on the project website, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk.**

Who owns Spiorad na Mara?

The project is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation.

What are the public consultations about?

Public consultation is an essential part of the development process for Spiorad na Mara. The project has committed to holding two phases of public consultation prior to the submission of its consents applications, to seek input from the public on the project's plans as they are progressing. The first phase took place in September and October 2024 and this is the second phase.

These consultations are in addition to the programme of wider engagement which has been ongoing since the seabed area option was awarded to us by the Scottish Government in 2022 and which will continue throughout the development, construction and operations of the wind farm, if built.

We are also open to receiving feedback at any time and may be contacted using the contact details overleaf.

Where and when will the consultations take place?

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all.

To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics.

Our second phase of consultation starts on Monday 2nd June, with our first in-person event being held at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, South Stornoway and the launch of an on-line consultation room which will run until Wednesday 2nd July. Further in-person events will take place around the island - full listings of the dates and venues can be found overleaf.

The information clinics will be by appointment only, between Monday 9th June and Friday 13th June, and bookings can be made by calling Kathleen on [Redacte

[1] More than 1.2 million homes powered per annum based on the average Scottish annual household electricity consumption of 3,078 kWh in 2022 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics) together with a minimum projected 50% wind load factor and a projected installed capacity of up to 900MW.

What will be consulted on during these events?

During this second phase of consultation, all feedback from the first consultation will have been considered in detail and taken into account, as appropriate, as our plans have progressed. The focus during this consultation will be on sharing updates on progress since Phase 1 - including details of how your earlier feedback has been considered or will be considered later - and seeking feedback on these updated plans. This phase may also include consultation on specific aspects of the project which have been further advanced since Phase 1, for example our operations and maintenance approach.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

The second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 2nd June and runs until 2nd July 2025.

We look forward to sharing updates on how project plans have progressed since our first phase of public consultation in Autumn 2024 and showing how we have responded to feedback received during that period.

The consultation starts on Monday 2nd June with the launch of an on-line consultation room along with the first of five in-person consultation exhibitions, which are being held at accessible venues around the island *(as per the table below)*.

Information clinics will take place on the dates set out below and will be by appointment only.

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Mon 2nd June	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3 to 7pm
Tues 3rd June	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 to 2pm
Tues 3rd June	Barvas & Brue Community Hall	4 to 7pm
Weds 4th June	Shawbost Old School Hall	3 to 7pm
Thurs 5th June	Uig Community Hall	3 to 7pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Monday 2nd June to Wednesday 2nd July 2025
This will be available through our website:
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

INFORMATION CLINICS (by appointment only)

Information clinic appointments, for individuals or small groups who wish to further discuss specific aspects of the project, will be available from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. Bookings can be made by contacting Kathleen Milne (using the contact details on the right-hand side of this page). We will endeavour to be flexible in accommodating times requested.

NOTE: If anyone has any specific mobility issues, or any other challenges in terms of accessing our events, please get in touch with Kathleen on [Redacted] and we will endeavour to make arrangements to facilitate you.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

CONTACT
CONALTRADH

As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives across the Western Isles/North west of Scotland.

You can contact us in the following ways:

General Enquiries

spioradnamara@northlandpower.com

Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead
[Redacted]

Fisheries Liaison

Richard Joseph
Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
[Redacted]

Calum MacLeod
Fisheries Industry Representative
[Redacted]

Media Enquiries

Steve Thomas
Communications Lead
[Redacted]



FIGURE 2 Stornoway Gazette Offshore Public Notice

PLANNING NOTICES

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Electricity Act 1989

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) plans to hold pre-application consultation events in relation to proposed licensable marine activities in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

The proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm is located 5-13 kilometres (km) off the coast of the Isle of Lewis.

The marine licensable activities seaward of Mean High Water Springs within Scottish Territorial Waters consist of the following (the "Licensable Marine Activities"):

- Up to 60 wind turbines connected via inter-array cables located within the offshore array area shown edged red in the figure below;
- Transmission infrastructure comprising either:
- Up to 12 offshore cables from the offshore array area (being the area edged red in the figure below) to a landfall location on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis and to be located within the offshore cable area of search (being the area edged green in the figure below), or
- An offshore substation located within the offshore array area (being the area edged red in the figure below) connected to the turbines via inter-array cables and, up to two export cables from the offshore substation to a landfall location on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, to be located within the offshore cable area of search (shown in the area edged green in the figure below);
- Other associated activities including seabed preparation, scour, cable protection and installation of cable ducts.

The figure below details the location of the proposed offshore array area and the offshore export cable area of search.



Information about the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm, including the proposed Licensable Marine Activities, can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, held at the dates, times and locations below. The consultation events will provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the proposed Licensable Marine Activities.

Date	Location	Time
Monday 2nd June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel, Manor Park, Perceval Rd S, Stornoway HS1 2EU	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Clan McQuarrie Community Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY	2pm – 2pm
	Barvas and Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA	4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Shawbost Old School Centre, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 5th June 2025	Uig Community Centre, Uig, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JE	3pm – 7pm

Information about the proposed Licensable Marine Activities can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 2nd June 2025 – 2nd July 2025, accessed via the project website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

- Completing an online feedback form via the project website: www.spioradnamara.co.uk.
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event or sending it back to us by free post to: Spiorad na Mara Office, c/o Stornoway Business Hub, 9 Bank Street, HS1 2XG.
- Emailing comments to our dedicated mailbox: www.spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.
- Calling our free project phone number: [Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) of the person making a representation, and a return email or postal address should be provided. All comments need to be received by Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

As no marine licence application for the proposed Licensable Marine Activities has been submitted, feedback will be received by Spiorad na Mara Limited. Please note comments made to Spiorad na Mara Limited are not representations to the Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT). Representations to MD-LOT can be made once a marine licence application has been submitted.

FIGURE 3 Stornoway Gazette Onshore Public Notice

PLANNING NOTICES

Public Notice

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Associated Onshore Transmission Infrastructure

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Pre-Application Public Consultation, with revision of boundaries to reflect peat management and refinement of landfall options

Notice is hereby given that Spiorad na Mara Limited (Company Number SC717716 with registered office at the Regus Building, 1st Floor, 93 George Street, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, EH2 3ES) plans to hold pre-application consultation events in relation to an application for full planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to construct onshore transmission works in association with the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. This notice updates the previously approved Pre Application Public Consultation Notice Ref 24/00327/PAN, to reflect refinement of the landfall location and inclusion of peat management areas.

The onshore works, inland of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM), for the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm consists of:

- Up to 12 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at the landfall located north-east of Barvas on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis;
- up to 2 onshore substations being:
  - a Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs;
  - a Grid Substation located near the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station;
- export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a landfall substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation; and
- 2 export cable circuits from the Grid Substation to the SSEN Converter Station;
- peat management areas;
- associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
  - temporary construction compounds;
  - landscaping;
  - drainage;
  - parking/servicing areas;
  - access tracks and road alterations;
  - cycleway/ multi-use pathway.

Information about the proposed onshore transmission works and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm can be obtained at the following pre-application consultation events, to be held on the dates, and at the times and locations, below. The consultation events will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

Date	Location	Time
Monday 2nd June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel, Manor Park, Perceval Rd S, Stornoway HS1 2EU	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Clan McQuarrie Community Centre, Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY	12pm – 2pm
	Barvas and Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA	4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Shawbost Old School Trust, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ	3pm – 7pm
Thursday 5th June 2025	Uig Community Centre, Uig, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JE	3pm – 7pm

Information about the project can also be obtained in a virtual exhibition available 24 hours a day from 2nd June 2025 – 2nd July 2025, accessed via the project website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk. Further information about the project is also available, at all times, on the same project website.

Information clinics, through which members of the public can make an appointment to speak with a member of the project team, will be available from 9th June and 13th June. These appointments can be booked by calling +44 7442585935 or emailing kathleen.milne@northlandpower.com

There are multiple ways that people can provide feedback during this consultation process, including:

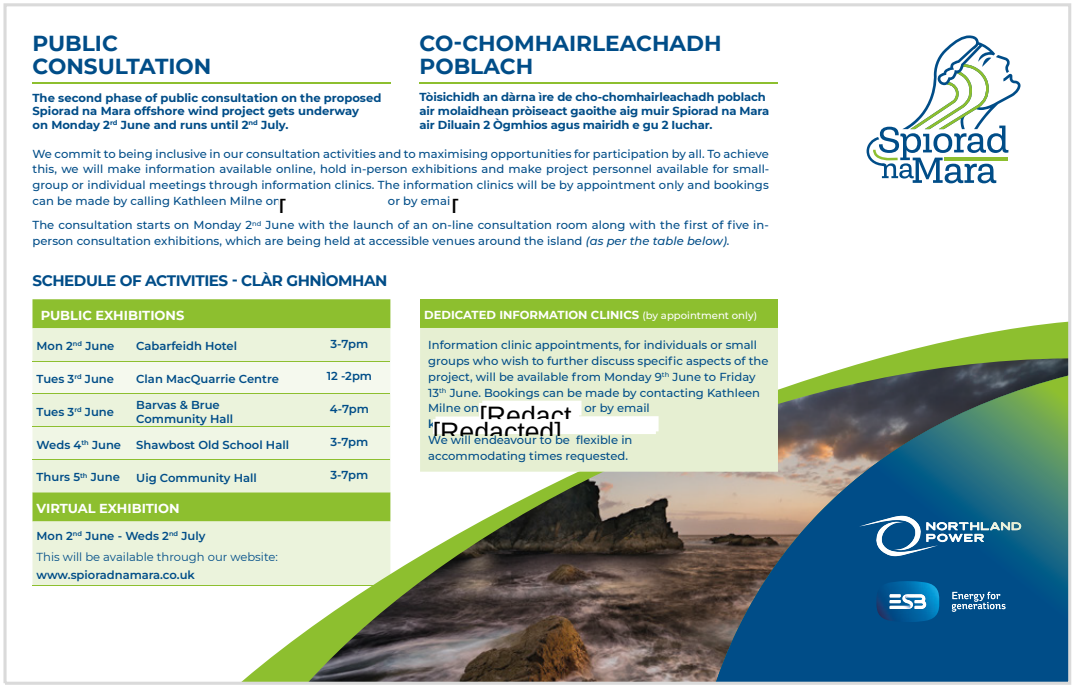
- Completing an online feedback form via the project website https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/;
- Completing a hard copy feedback form at a public consultation event or sending it back to us by post at Spiorad na Mara Office, c/o Stornoway Business Hub, 9 Bank Street, HS1 2XG;
- Contacting us directly via spioradnamara@northlandpower.com;
- Calling our project phone number [Redacted]

Comments should be dated and clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making the comment.

All comments need to be received by 5pm, 2nd July 2025.

Please note that all feedback provided during this consultation process will be to the Spiorad na Mara project team and not to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar once the project submits its planning application and associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report, at a later date.

FIGURE 4 Newspaper and Local Media Advert



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 2nd June and runs until 2nd July.

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

Tòisichidh an dàrna ìre de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean pròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Diluain 2 Ògmhios agus mairidh e gu 2 Iuchar.

Spiorad naMara

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings can be made by calling Kathleen Milne on [or by email [

The consultation starts on Monday 2nd June with the launch of an on-line consultation room along with the first of five in-person consultation exhibitions, which are being held at accessible venues around the island *(as per the table below).*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES - CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Mon 2nd June	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3-7pm
Tues 3rd June	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 -2pm
Tues 3rd June	Barvas & Brue Community Hall	4-7pm
Weds 4th June	Shawbost Old School Hall	3-7pm
Thurs 5th June	Uig Community Hall	3-7pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Mon 2nd June - Weds 2nd July

This will be available through our website:
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (by appointment only)

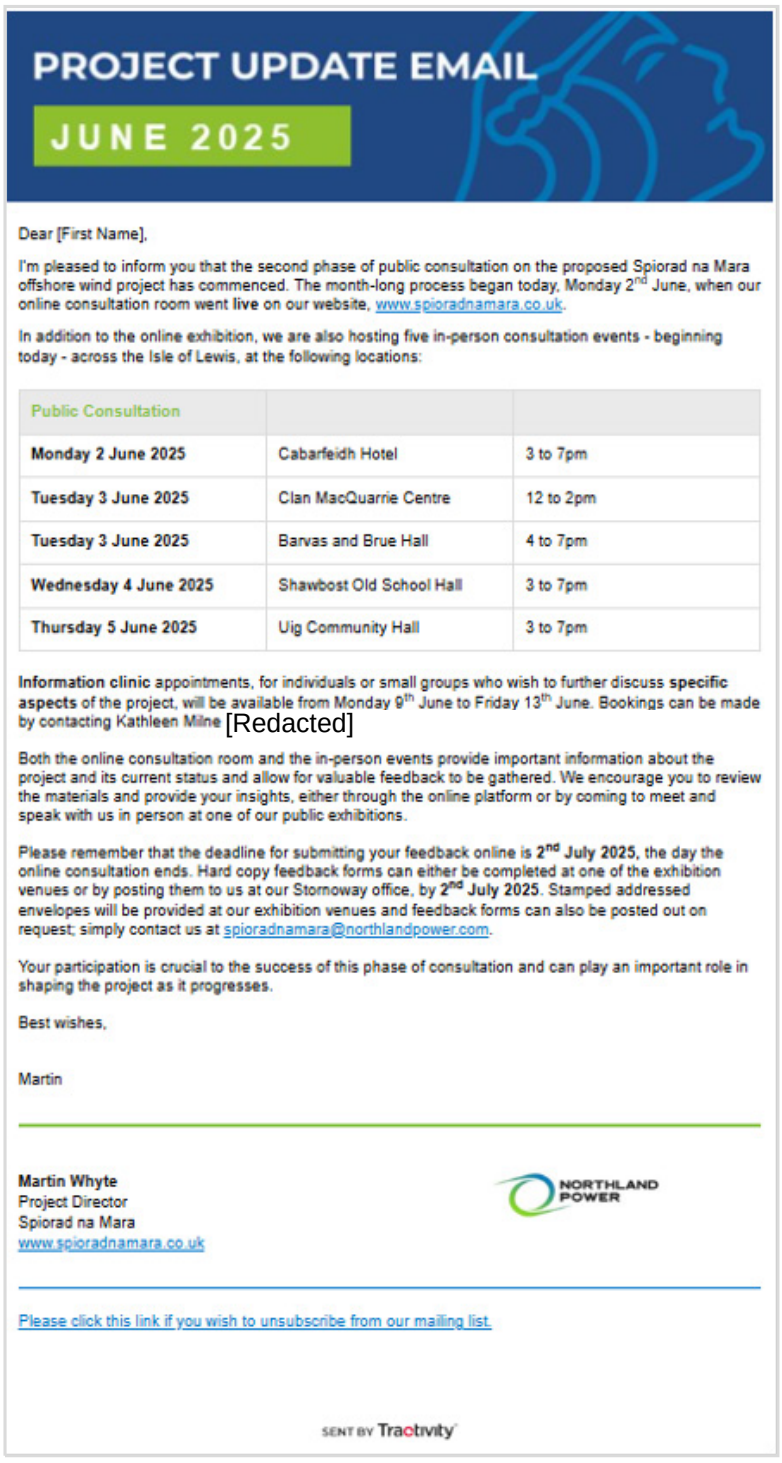
Information clinic appointments, for individuals or small groups who wish to further discuss specific aspects of the project, will be available from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. Bookings can be made by contacting Kathleen Milne on [Redact or by email [Redacted]

We will endeavour to be flexible in accommodating times requested.

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

FIGURE 5 Mailshot sent to the project updates mailing list



PROJECT UPDATE EMAIL

JUNE 2025

Dear [First Name],

I'm pleased to inform you that the second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project has commenced. The month-long process began today, Monday 2nd June, when our online consultation room went **live** on our website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk.

In addition to the online exhibition, we are also hosting five in-person consultation events - beginning today - across the Isle of Lewis, at the following locations:

Public Consultation		
Monday 2 June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3 to 7pm
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 to 2pm
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Barvas and Brue Hall	4 to 7pm
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Shawbost Old School Hall	3 to 7pm
Thursday 5 June 2025	Uig Community Hall	3 to 7pm

Information clinic appointments, for individuals or small groups who wish to further discuss **specific aspects** of the project, will be available from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. Bookings can be made by contacting Kathleen Milne [Redacted]

Both the online consultation room and the in-person events provide important information about the project and its current status and allow for valuable feedback to be gathered. We encourage you to review the materials and provide your insights, either through the online platform or by coming to meet and speak with us in person at one of our public exhibitions.

Please remember that the deadline for submitting your feedback online is **2nd July 2025**, the day the online consultation ends. Hard copy feedback forms can either be completed at one of the exhibition venues or by posting them to us at our Stornoway office, by **2nd July 2025**. Stamped addressed envelopes will be provided at our exhibition venues and feedback forms can also be posted out on request; simply contact us at spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this phase of consultation and can play an important role in shaping the project as it progresses.

Best wishes,

Martin

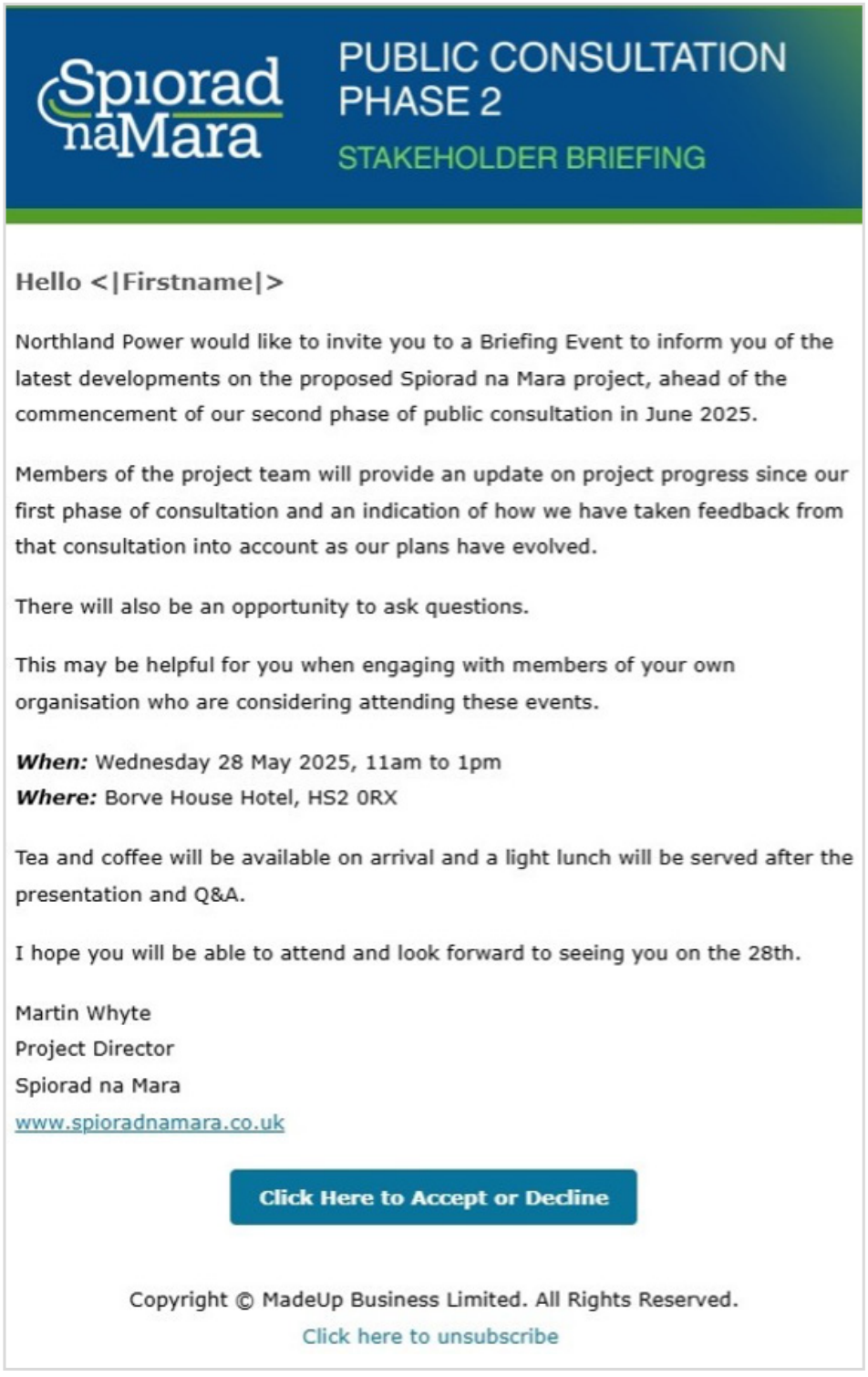
Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

NORTHLAND POWER

Please click this link if you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list

SENT BY Tractivity

FIGURE 6 Invitation sent to stakeholders for the Borve Stakeholder Briefing Event



Spiorad naMara

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE 2

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

Hello <|Firstname|>

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the proposed Spiorad na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our second phase of public consultation in June 2025.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress since our first phase of consultation and an indication of how we have taken feedback from that consultation into account as our plans have evolved.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Wednesday 28 May 2025, 11am to 1pm
Where: Borve House Hotel, HS2 0RX

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and a light lunch will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

Click Here to Accept or Decline

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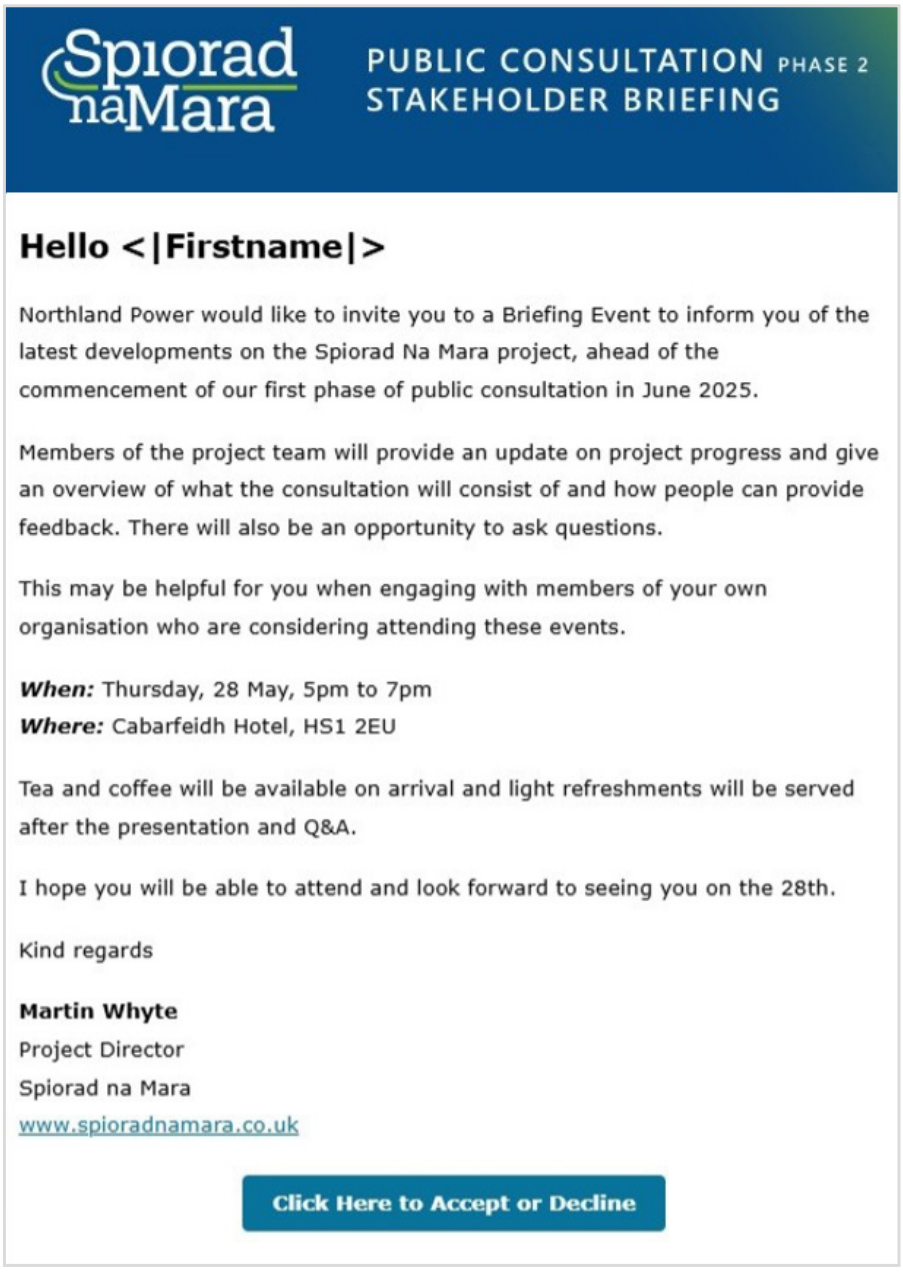
Click here to unsubscribe

FIGURE 7

Invitation sent to stakeholders for the Stornoway Stakeholder Briefing Event



Spiorad naMara

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE 2
STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

Hello <|Firstname|>

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the Spiorad Na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our first phase of public consultation in June 2025.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress and give an overview of what the consultation will consist of and how people can provide feedback. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Thursday, 28 May, 5pm to 7pm
Where: Cabarfeidh Hotel, HS1 2EU

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and light refreshments will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

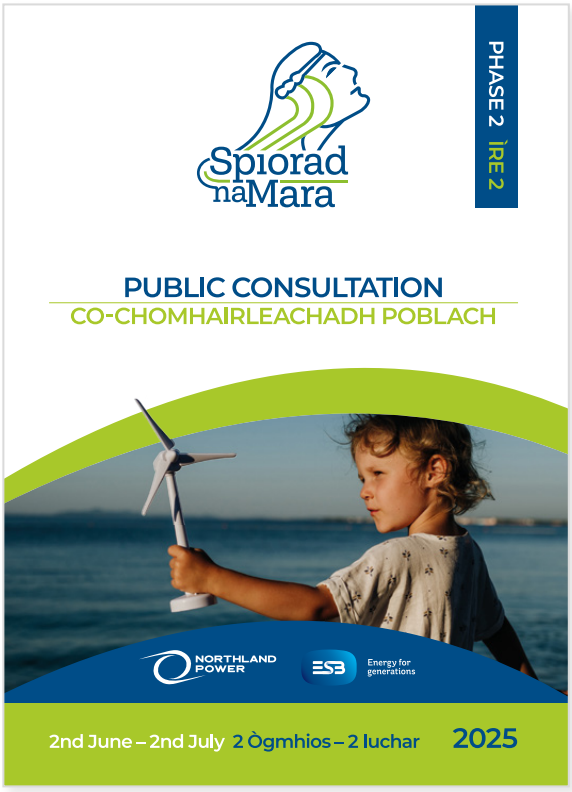
I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

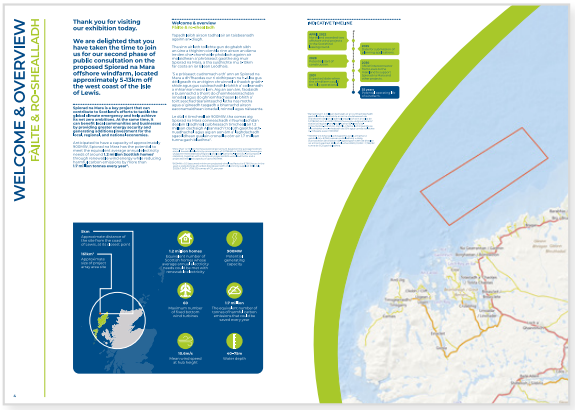
Kind regards

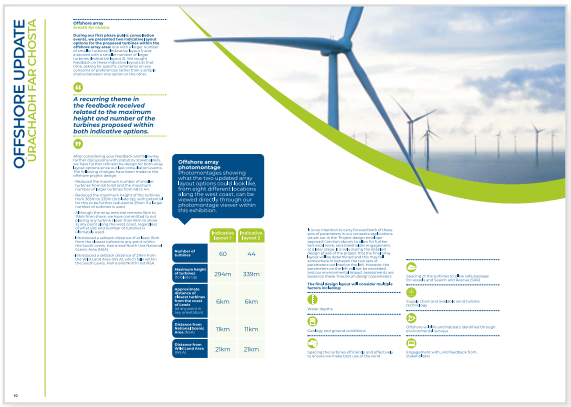
Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

Click Here to Accept or Decline

FIGURE 8 Public Consultation Phase 2 Information Booklet









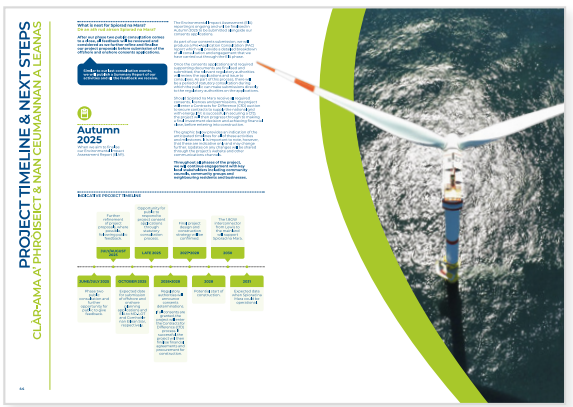


FIGURE 9

Public Consultation Updated Project Parameters and Benefits Factsheet

PROJECT BENEFITS

£4.5 Million
annual, index-linked Community Benefit Fund for the West Coast, for the operational life of the project.

1.2 million homes
Equivalent number of Scottish homes whose average annual electricity needs could be met.

1.7 million
The number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.

80 - 120
New and permanent long-term jobs for the period of operation - potentially 35 years.

750 - 1000
Temporary jobs during construction.

Use of Stornoway Port
Our preferred location for an Operations & Maintenance base.

SPECIFIC LOCAL BENEFITS INITIATIVES:

Commitment to delivering a **cycleway/ multi-use path** adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road (A857), which will provide a lasting benefit for the community and tourists, following the construction of our onshore cable route.

More than **£100,000** contributed to local organisations since 2023, through sponsorship and donations.

Spiorad na Mara **Scholarships Programme** launched, providing scholarships – worth a combined **£200,000** – to 20 local students pursuing STEM or Gaelic-related courses in Scottish universities over the next seven years.

Since 2023, we have co-funded the UHI **STEM Outreach Programme**, which has enabled two local coordinators to be appointed for the Lewis and Harris areas.

Supporting the recruitment and training of local apprentices, as part of Navantia's ongoing **apprenticeship scheme** at their fabrication facility in Arnish.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN



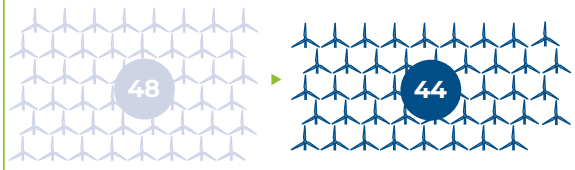
Grant Anderson
Local Supply Chain & Skills Development Officer

Appointment of a **Local Supply Chain Officer** to improve engagement with local businesses.

Supporting **Fit 4 Offshore Renewables** – a unique programme supporting the development of the UK supply chain, including businesses specifically based across Scotland's island and coastal communities, with five businesses from Lewis being selected to participate.

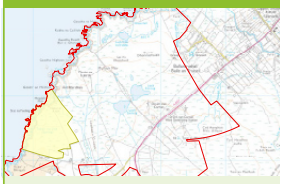
UPDATED PROJECT PARAMETERS

FEWER TURBINES



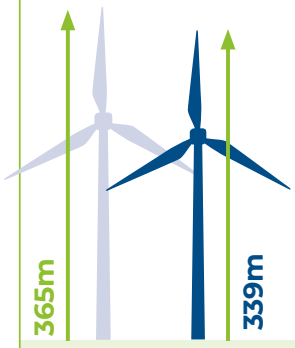
The maximum number of smaller turbines reduced from **65 to 60** and the maximum number of larger turbines from **48 to 44.**

CONFIRMED LANDFALL LOCATION



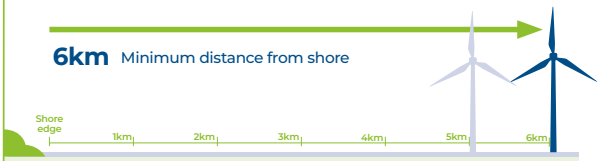
Selected location is northeast of Barvas

REDUCED HEIGHT



The maximum height of the turbines has been reduced from **365m to 339m** *(to blade tip),* with potential for this to be further reduced to **294m** if smaller turbines are used.

6KM FROM SHORE



Although the array area site remains **5km to 13km** from shore,we have increased the distance of the closest turbines to 6km from shore at any point along the west coast.

INTRODUCED A SETBACK DISTANCE

Introduced a setback distance of at least 11km *(up from 7km)* from the closest turbine to any point within the **South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area** (NSA) and 21km *(up from 17km)* from the **Harris-Uig Hills Wild Land Area** (WLA).

REDUCED ROTOR DIAMETER

Reduction of **50m** in the maximum turbine rotor diameter, reducing the total swept area of the windfarm.

AIR GAP

The project has committed to a **minimum air gap of 30m** from Mean Sea Level (MSL) to the lowest point of the wind turbine blade, allowing for increased safe passage for birds.

REDUCED WIDTH

The width of the **onshore cable route** corridor has reduced.

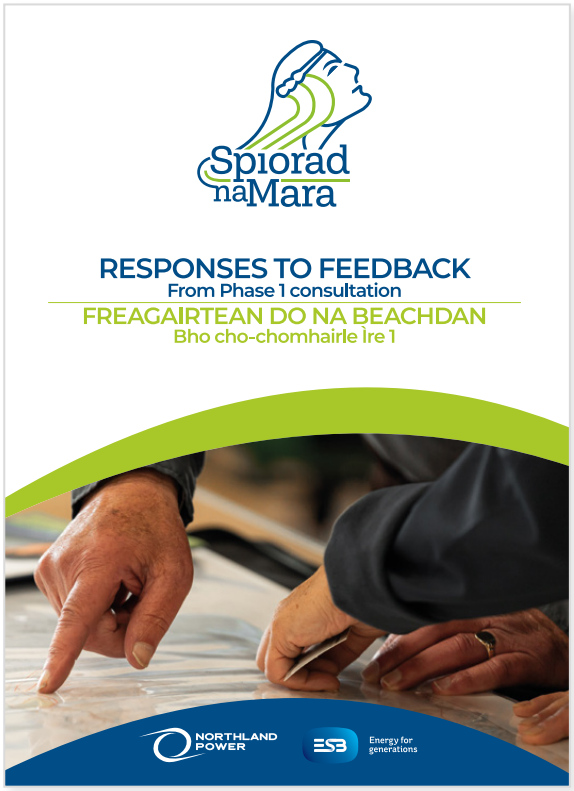
REDUCED OFFSHORE AREA OF SEARCH

The area of search for the **offshore cables** reduced due to the selection of the landfall location.

PEAT MANAGEMENT

Increased the onshore red-line boundary to allow for peat management.

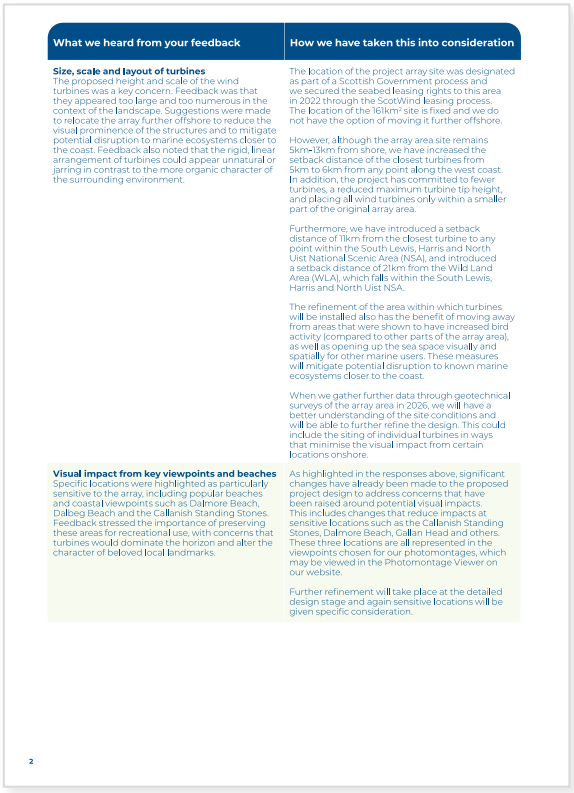
FIGURE 10 Response to Feedback Booklet



Spiorad naMara

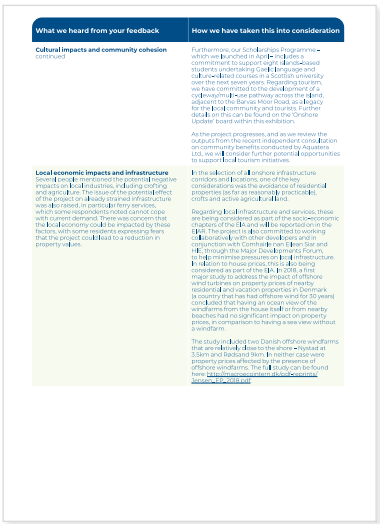
RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK
From Phase 1 consultation
FREAGAIRTEAN DO NA BEACHDAN
Bho cho-chomhairle ìre 1

NORTHLAND POWER | ESB Energy for generations

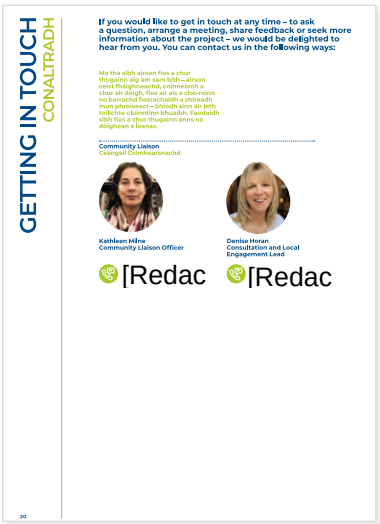


What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Size, scale and layout of turbines The proposed height and scale of the wind turbines was a key concern. Feedback was that they appeared too large and too numerous in the context of the landscape. Suggestions were made to relocate the array further offshore to reduce the visual prominence of the structures and to mitigate potential disruption to marine ecosystems closer to the coast. Feedback also noted that the rigid, linear arrangement of turbines could appear unnatural or jarring in contrast to the more organic character of the surrounding environment.	The location of the project array site was designated as part of a Scottish Government process and we secured the seabed leasing rights to this area in 2022 through the ScotWind leasing process. The location of the 161km² site is fixed and we do not have the option of moving it further offshore. However, although the array area site remains 5km–13km from shore, we have increased the setback distance of the closest turbines from 5km to 6km from any point along the west coast. In addition, the project has committed to fewer turbines, a reduced maximum turbine tip height, and placing all wind turbines only within a smaller part of the original array area. Furthermore, we have introduced a setback distance of 11km from the closest turbine to any point within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA), and introduced a setback distance of 21km from the Wild Land Area (WLA), which falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA. The refinement of the area within which turbines will be installed also has the benefit of moving away from areas that were shown to have increased bird activity (compared to other parts of the array area), as well as opening up the sea space visually and spatially for other marine users. These measures will mitigate potential disruption to known marine ecosystems closer to the coast. When we gather further data through geotechnical surveys of the array area in 2026, we will have a better understanding of the site conditions and will be able to further refine the design. This could include the siting of individual turbines in ways that minimise the visual impact from certain locations onshore.
Visual impact from key viewpoints and beaches Specific locations were highlighted as particularly sensitive to the array, including popular beaches and coastal viewpoints such as Dalmore Beach, Dalbeg Beach and the Callanish Standing Stones. Feedback stressed the importance of preserving these areas for recreational use, with concerns that turbines would dominate the horizon and alter the character of beloved local landmarks.	As highlighted in the responses above, significant changes have already been made to the proposed project design to address concerns that have been raised around potential visual impacts. This includes changes that reduce impacts at sensitive locations such as the Callanish Standing Stones, Dalmore Beach, Callan Head and others. These three locations are all represented in the viewpoints chosen for our photomontages, which may be viewed in the Photomontage Viewer on our website. Further refinement will take place at the detailed design stage and again sensitive locations will be given specific consideration.

2



What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Cultural impacts and community cohesion continued	Furthermore, our Scholarships Programme – which we launched in April – includes a commitment to support eight Gaelic-based students undertaking Gaelic language and culture-related courses in a Scottish university over the next seven years. Regarding tourism, we have committed to the development of a cycleway/multi-use pathway across the island, adjacent to the Barvas Moor Road, as a legacy for the local community and tourists. Further details on this can be found on the 'Onshore Updates' board within this exhibition. As the project progresses, and as we review the findings of the Socio-Economic Impact Consultation on community benefits conducted by Aquatera Ltd., we will consider further potential opportunities to support local tourism initiatives.
Local economic impacts and infrastructure Several people mentioned the potential negative impacts on local industries, including crofting and agriculture. The issue of the potential effect of the project on already strained infrastructure was also raised, in particular ferry services, which some respondents noted cannot cope with current demand. There was concern that the influx of workers could exacerbate these issues, with some residents expressing fears that the project could lead to a reduction in property values.	In the selection of all onshore infrastructure corridors and locations, one of the key considerations was the avoidance of residential properties (as far as reasonably practicable), crofts and active agricultural land. Regarding local infrastructure and services, these are being considered as part of the socio-economic chapter of the EIA Report that will be submitted to the MS. The project is also committed to working collaboratively with other developers and in connection with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE through the Major Developments Forum, to help minimise pressures on local infrastructure in relation to house prices; this is also being considered as part of the EIA. In 2018, a first major study to address the impact of offshore wind turbines on property prices of nearby residential and vacation properties in Denmark (a country that has had offshore wind for 30 years) concluded that having an ocean view of the windfarms from the house itself or from nearby beaches had no significant impact on property prices, in comparison to having a sea view without a windfarm. The study included two Danish offshore windfarms that are relatively close to the shore – Nysted at 3.5km and Rødsand 9km. In neither case were property prices affected by the presence of offshore windfarms. The full study can be found here: https://impactassessment.dk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/full.pdf



GETTING IN TOUCH
CONALTRADH

If you would like to get in touch at any time – to ask a question, arrange a meeting, share feedback or seek more information about the project – we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us in the following ways:

Ma tha sibh airson fios a chur thugainn aig àm sam bith – airson ceist fhaighneachd, coinneamh a chur air dòigh, fios air ais a cho-roinn no barrachd fiosrachaidh a shireadh mun phròiseact – bhiodh sinn air leth toilichte cluinntinn bhuaibh. Faodaidh sibh fios a chur thugainn anns na dòighean a leanas.

Community Liaison
Ceangal Coimhearsnachd

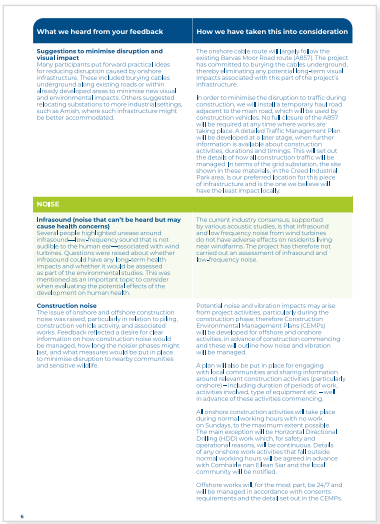
Kathleen Milne
Community Liaison Officer

[Redac

Denise Horan
Consultation and Local Engagement Lead

[Redac

20



What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
Suggestions to minimise disruption and visual impact Many participants put forward practical ideas for reducing disruption caused by onshore infrastructure. These included burying cables underground, using existing corridors within already developed areas to minimise new visual and environmental impacts. Others suggested relocating substations to more industrial settings, such as Arnish, where such infrastructure might be better accommodated.	The onshore cable route will largely follow the existing Barvas Moor Road route (A857). The project has committed to burying the cables underground, thereby eliminating any potential long-term visual impacts associated with this part of the project's infrastructure. In order to minimise the disruption to traffic during construction, we will install a temporary haul road adjacent to the main road, which will be used by construction vehicles. Next, a closure of the A857 will be required at any time where works are taking place. A detailed Traffic Management Plan will be developed at a later stage, when further information is available about construction activities, durations and timings. This will set out the details of how all construction traffic will be managed, in terms of the grid substation, the site shown in these materials, in the Creed Industrial Park area, is our preferred location for this piece of infrastructure and is the one we believe will have the least impact locally.
NOISE	
Infrasound (noise that can't be heard but may cause health concerns) Several people highlighted unease around infrasound – low-frequency sound that is not audible to the human ear – associated with wind turbines. Questions were raised about whether sufficient research has been undertaken into its impacts and whether it could be assessed as part of the environmental studies. This was mentioned as an important topic to consider when evaluating the potential effects of the development on human health.	The current industry consensus, supported by various acoustic studies, is that infrasound and low frequency noise from wind turbines do not have adverse effects on residents living near windfarms. The project has therefore not carried out an assessment of infrasound and low-frequency noise.
Construction noise The issue of onshore and offshore construction noise was raised, particularly in relation to piling, construction vehicle activity, and associated works. Feedback reflected a desire for clear information on how construction noise would be managed, how long the noisier phases might last, and what measures would be put in place to minimise disruption to nearby communities and sensitive wildlife.	Potential noise and vibration impacts may arise from project activities, particularly during the construction phase, therefore Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) will be developed for offshore and onshore activities, in advance of construction commencing and those will outline how noise and vibration will be managed. A plan will also be put in place for engaging with local communities and sharing information about upcoming activities, which will typically include: anticipated working hours, including duration of periods of work; activities involved; type of equipment etc – well in advance of these activities commencing. All onshore construction activities will take place during normal working hours with no work on Sundays, to the maximum extent possible. The main exception will be Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) work which, for safety and operational reasons, will be continuous. Details of any onshore work activities that fall outside normal working hours will be agreed in advance with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and the local community will be notified. Offshore works will, for the most part, be 24/7 and will be managed in accordance with consents requirements and the details set out in the CEMPs.

6

FIGURE 11 PC2 Feedback Form



FEEDBACK FORM

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Windfarm Project
Public Consultation Phase 2: June 2025

CONTACT DETAILS

Name* *(optional)*:

Email:

Which exhibition did you attend:

- ☐ Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway
- ☐ Clan MacQuarrie Centre
- ☐ Barvas and Brue Hall
- ☐ Shawbost Old School Hall
- ☐ Uig Community Centre
- ☐ Virtual Exhibition

OFFSHORE ELEMENTS

What are your views on the **offshore** elements of the updated project proposals, as presented in the materials? Please include any specific comments on – or factors you would like us to consider around – the proposed wind **turbine array layout**, the offshore **cables** and the potential offshore **substation**.

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 1 of 4

ONSHORE ELEMENTS

Do you have any feedback you would like to share on the updated **onshore** proposals presented? Please include any specific comments on the potential **landfall substation, grid substation, onshore cable** route and the **Operations and Maintenance** aspects of the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Based on the information presented in the exhibition materials, do you have any views you would like to share regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed windfarm project? Are there any social or cultural considerations you would like to highlight?

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 2 of 4

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

How important do you think the potential economic benefits (e.g. job creation, skills development, supply chain opportunities) of the proposed Spiorad na Mara project are for the community?

SUPPLY CHAIN AND JOBS

Do you have any suggestions on how we can support the involvement of the local supply chain, should the project progress, or how we can maximise opportunities for job creation for local people?

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 3 of 4

HOW SUPPORTIVE ARE YOU OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

- ☐ Very supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat opposed
- ☐ Strongly opposed

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please provide any additional comments or concerns you have about the proposed Spiorad na Mara project.

Would you like to receive project updates by email? *If so*, please tick the box ☐

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please place your completed form in the box provided in the venue or give it to a member of the team. If you wish to complete and return it later, please ask a team member for a stamped addressed envelope in which the form can be returned.

The deadline for receipt of completed feedback forms for consideration as part of Phase 2 consultation is Wednesday 2nd July 2025.

**All contact details shared will be used in accordance with GDPR regulations and in line with our Privacy Policy, which is available on our website, https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/privacy-policy/.*

www.spioradnamara.co.uk page 4 of 4



Baile an Truiseil Standing Stone | Isle of Lewis

APPENDIX L Responses to Feedback from Phase 2 Consultation



Responses to Feedback from Phase 2 Public Consultation

Freagairtean do Bheachdan bho Cho-chomhairleachadh Poblach Ìre 2

Spiorad na Mara

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations


2
RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK FROM PHASE 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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ECONOMIC BENEFITS 20

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 22

COMMUNITY BENEFITS 24

Glossary Briathrachas

Term	Meaning
APPLICANT	Spiorad na Mara Limited (the Project owner)
ARRAY AREA	Total area within which offshore wind turbine generators, associated foundations, array cables and offshore substation platform (OSP) (if required) will be located.
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT (CEA)	Assessment of effects as a result of the incremental changes caused by other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and natural processes together with the Project.
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD (EMF)	An electric and magnetic force field that surrounds a moving electrical charge.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR)	The report prepared to assess the likely significant effects of the Project on the environment.
EMBEDDED OR 'DESIGNED-IN' MITIGATION	Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the preferred design for the Project. This can include standard practice in accordance with or without guidance. Embedded mitigation is considered as part of the impact assessment, before effect significance is identified.
IMPACT	Change that is caused by an action; for example, land clearing (action) during construction which results in habitat loss (impact).
LANDFALL	This is the point at which the Project transitions from offshore to onshore. The infrastructure and installation methods associated with the landfall involve both onshore and offshore components.
LANDFALL SUBSTATION	The potential onshore substation located on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. Includes the buildings and associated components which allow the voltage to be increased to meet onward transmission requirements.
LEASE AREA	Legal agreement from the Crown Estate Scotland whereby an option over an area of foreshore or seabed is granted to a developer for an agreed purpose. If required permissions are gained, the developer exercises their rights to enter into a lease. In this case this is the same spatial area as the Array Area.

Term	Meaning
OFFSHORE APPLICATION	The application for Marine Licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (between 0 and 12nm) and a Section 36 consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
OFFSHORE CABLES	Electrical and communication cables located within the Offshore Cable Area of Search and Array Area.
OFFSHORE CABLE AREA OF SEARCH (OCAS)	The area within which the offshore cable infrastructure between the Array Area and Landfall will be located.
OFFSHORE PROJECT	Components of the Project seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). Includes Array Area plus Offshore Cable Area of Search.
OFFSHORE SUBSTATION PLATFORM (OSP)	The optional offshore substation located within the Array Area. Includes the platform and associated components which allow the electricity voltage to be increased to meet onward transmission requirements.
ONSHORE APPLICATION	The application for consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).
ONSHORE CABLES	Electrical and communication cables located within the Onshore Cable Corridor.
ONSHORE CABLE CORRIDOR	The area within which Onshore Cables and associated infrastructure will be located which is routed from the TJB to the SSEN Lewis Hub.
ONSHORE LANDFALL AREA	The area which includes both the Landfall above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and Landfall Substation (as defined separately), cabling from the Transition Joint Bays (TJB) to the Landfall Substation (if required) and construction-related compounds and working areas.
ONSHORE TRANSMISSION WORKS (OTW)/ONSHORE PROJECT	Onshore components of the Project landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS). Includes all temporary and permanent works associated with the onshore elements of the Landfall, Onshore Landfall Area, Landfall Substation, Onshore Cable Corridor and Grid Substation, peat management and other ancillary requirements.
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PHASE	The period during which a development is operational and being maintained.
PROJECT	To describe the Project as a whole, this includes all offshore and onshore components of the Project.

Term	Meaning
PROJECT DESIGN ENVELOPE (PDE)	A description of the range of possible components that make up the Project design options under consideration when the exact engineering parameters are not yet known.
SCOPING OPINION	A report presenting the written opinion of the Scottish Ministers, with input from a range of statutory consultees, including Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES), as to the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Project.
SSEN LEWIS HUB	This is the National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) interface. A transmission system operator substation into which the Project will connect for onward transmission through the existing grid network.
TRANSITION JOINT BAY (TJB)	The point at which offshore cables are connected to Onshore Cables. The TJB is located onshore above MHWS.
TURBINE AREA	A reduced area within the Array Area where above water surface infrastructure would be located i.e. Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) or Offshore Substation Platform (OSP). Developed and refined through environmental assessment.
WIND TURBINE GENERATOR (WTG)	The wind turbines that generate electricity consisting of tubular towers and blades attached to a nacelle housing mechanical and electrical generating equipment.

Introduction
Ro-ràdh

The second phase of public consultation for the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project was carried out over a period of one month, from 2nd June to 2nd July 2025.

Many people participated in the consultation process, with a total of 152 people attending the in-person public exhibitions and information clinics and 1,223 visits recorded to the online virtual exhibition. Participants in the consultation process were offered a number of ways to provide feedback, including physical feedback forms that were available at the in-person events or from the Project office in Stornoway, as well as online feedback forms and options to share feedback by email or verbally to a team member. A total of 304 pieces of feedback were recorded over the course of the consultation.

Much of the feedback received was similar to feedback received during the first phase of public consultation and covered a range of topics. However, this new feedback also provided an insight into the community's opinions on the updated Project plans, reflecting a range of sentiments.

In this booklet, we have categorised and summarised all feedback received and provided responses in terms of how this feedback has been considered and addressed and/or how it will be addressed at a later stage.



What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Concerns about visual impact of the Array Area and Offshore Substation Platform (OSP) Some acknowledged the reduction in Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) number, height and rotor diameter, as well as the increased distance from the coastline, as positive. Others felt the scale of the development needed to be further reduced or completely moved from the current offshore location.	The Project is utilising a Project Design Envelope (PDE) approach within its Offshore Application and Onshore Application. This approach ensures that the maximum design parameters for all elements of the Project, offshore and onshore, are assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These maximum parameters are those set out within the consultation materials used for PC2 and the potential visual impacts of the Project on the seascape and landscape will be assessed based on these maximum design parameters. If all consents are granted and the Project progresses, the final design of the Project will then be further refined following a detailed design process.
Concern about the potential cumulative impacts due to the presence of the WTGs within the Array Area Respondents wished to have more information on the potential cumulative impacts of the WTGs alongside other offshore activities/ projects.	As part of the EIA, a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) will be undertaken which will consider other consented and proposed renewable energy developments, as well as developments (existing or planned) related to other industries, including cables and pipelines, and harbour developments. This assessment will be reported in *Chapter 23 Combined Effects Assessment* of the Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
Some respondents expressed uncertainty around decommissioning There were some calls for more information on the decommissioning of the offshore infrastructure.	Decommissioning will be considered within the EIARs, as part of all relevant topic chapters. A full Decommissioning Plan will be prepared post consent, but prior to construction, in accordance with the Energy Act 2004. This will include detailed plans for removing infrastructure and restoring all relevant sites, as well as providing details of the financial security to ensure the plans can be undertaken. The Decommissioning Plan will be updated closer to the end of the Project's operating life, to reflect best practice decommissioning approaches and technologies at that time.
Some respondents were opposed to the option of an OSP Many felt that the OSP will add to the potential visual impact on the seascape. There were also concerns about the potential pollution risk, ongoing underwater noise and Electromagnetic Field (EMF) impacts that may arise from the OSP.	The OSP remains an option within the PDE and may be built, depending on what is considered to be the most suitable design option. As with all infrastructure detailed in the PDE, all potential impacts relating to the OSP, including pollution risks, underwater noise and EMF, will be fully assessed within the relevant topics of the Offshore EIAR and appropriate mitigations will be put in place, where required.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Concern about the potential impacts from lighting, shadow flicker and noise Many respondents were concerned that the aviation and marine navigation lighting will impact the island's dark skies. There was also concern about potential health impacts from potential shadow flicker and operational noise effects, given the proximity of the development to homes and viewpoints.	The potential effects of lighting from the Project are being considered through the Project's Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), which forms part of the Offshore EIAR. Lighting will follow safety regulations set out by the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Following industry best practice, it is expected that maritime navigation lights will be placed at platform level at the base of selected turbines, while red aviation lights will be installed on perimeter turbine nacelles, equipped with visibility sensors to automatically dim in good conditions and reduce visual impact. The Project is monitoring developments in the wind industry, where alternative lighting applications are being considered, which have the potential to further minimise lighting impacts whilst maintaining strict maritime and aviation requirements. The Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB), a statutory consultee, have indicated that there may be flexibility for the light range associated with land-facing turbines to be reduced, although an understanding of inshore vessel activity would be needed to determine the feasibility of this. In line with the scientific and engineering understanding of shadow flicker effects, it is not considered that there are any impacts where turbines are more than 11 rotor diameters from an onshore receptor such as a property. Based on the maximum turbine design parameters for the Project, 11 rotor diameters is a distance of 3.08km and the closest onshore receptor will be a minimum of 6km away. Though not required, a technical study of the potential effects of shadow flicker due to Project infrastructure was completed and the results confirmed that shadow flicker would not be experienced at the coast, or recreational sea use areas within 1km of the coast, as the turbines within the Array Area would be placed beyond the 11 rotor diameters threshold. The findings of this technical study have been used to inform the Offshore EIA and therefore shadow flicker has not been included within the scope of the EIA.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Some respondents raised concerns about the location of the Landfall Substation north of Upper Barvas While some agreed that the Barvas site is the most suitable location of those that were considered, respondents raised concern about the potential visual impact and scale of the Landfall Substation, particularly given its proximity to Barvas Cemetery.	The Project had a shortlist of 3 possible substation locations, which were shared during PC1. Ultimately the location at Barvas was selected on the basis of technical and environmental considerations including avoidance of priority peatland habitats, ease of creating new access to the substation, greatest distances to residential properties, avoidance of croft land and active Common Grazing, and no visibility from nearby scheduled monuments and tourist features such as Arnol Blackhouse and the Baile an Truseil Stone. The proposed Landfall Substation location is as far as possible from Barvas Cemetery within the Onshore Landfall Area. Also, the maximum height of any building within the Landfall Substation compound will be 15m to the apex of the roof. We recognise the sensitivity of the proximity to Barvas Cemetery and options to further reduce the visibility of the Landfall Substation will be considered, such as planting trees or placing earth mounds around it. However, due to the nature of the local landscape, in particular the difficulty of growing trees in such an exposed location and a desire to minimise the footprint within the machair habitat, neither of these options for blending the buildings more with their surroundings may be possible. The Project is also looking at painting colours and techniques that will help the infrastructure blend into the surroundings better. A colour assessment will be completed as part of the Onshore EIA and a further detailed study will be undertaken if the Project receives all approved consents. While the proposed maximum design parameters are currently fixed, the PDE approach allows for flexibility, meaning the size and height of the Landfall Substation could still be reduced prior to construction.
Disproportionate scale of the Grid Substation There was some support for the location of the Grid Substation near Arnish as it is already an industrialised area, however respondents felt that the size and scale of the infrastructure could have potential visual impacts.	The size of the Grid Substation is based on the equipment needed to safely and efficiently connect to the grid. Since PC2, the proposed location of the Grid Substation has been updated. The maximum design parameters remain the same, however the Grid Substation is now proposed to be located at a site which lies northwest of Loch Cnoc a'Choilich *(see **Grid Substation Consultation materials here**).* This location remains in an area where there are other large buildings and large-scale consented and proposed infrastructure such as Stornoway Windfarm. While the proposed maximum design parameters are currently fixed, the PDE approach allows for flexibility, meaning the size and height of the Grid Substation could still be reduced prior to construction. As described above for the Landfall Substation, a colour study will be completed to assess how the potential visual impact of the Grid Substation may be reduced.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Concern about potential health impacts from lighting and noise during construction and operations and maintenance (O&M) of the onshore substation(s) and Onshore Cables The potential noise and light from the Landfall Substation and the Grid Substation were raised as concerns, particularly if they result in human health impacts. The potential safety risks of the high voltage Onshore Cables being near residential properties was also raised as a concern.	The potential impacts of the Project on human health are being assessed in dedicated chapters within both the Onshore and Offshore EIARs. *Chapter 18 Human Health* of the Onshore EIAR will include the assessment of potential health impacts associated with lighting and noise from the Landfall Substation and Grid Substation. Lighting of the onshore substation(s) will be carefully planned to ensure safety and minimise impact. During construction, temporary lighting will be used to ensure a safe work environment with measures taken, such as the use of directional lighting, to reduce the potential visual impact of this lighting beyond the site boundaries. Once operational, the onshore substation(s) will use technology such as motion sensors and directional security lighting fixtures installed with consideration for the public and wildlife, aiming to keep impacts to a minimum. Noise levels are strictly regulated and the Project will be required to show in the Onshore EIA that both construction and operations activities can be undertaken within the limits set. If noise mitigation measures are required, either during construction or operations, these will be identified and implemented as required. An onshore Construction Management Plan (CMP) will also be developed prior to construction commencing; this will include details on how noise and light from construction activities will be managed. There is no conclusive evidence that high-voltage cables cause health problems, however this will be considered within the Onshore EIA. Proximity to residential properties has been a key design consideration and for the majority of the Onshore Cable Corridor there are no residential properties within 200m of the proposed route. As we are adopting a PDE approach, there is potential for distances from properties to be further reduced, in some places, at a later stage.
Concern about potential fire risks at substations A lack of local emergency infrastructure was raised as a concern should a potential major accident arise at the substations.	Any potential accidents or fires at the Project's onshore substation(s) would be dealt with through a range of measures including: • Onshore CMP, which will detail how the Project will respond to incidents, including communication with emergency services; • Fire prevention systems; • Appropriate Emergency Response Plans for all relevant aspects of work; and • Fire suppression systems. If the Project receives all required consent approvals, there will be ongoing close engagement with the local emergency services to ensure good communication and understanding is in place between all relevant parties.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ONSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Concern around the potential impacts from the construction of the Onshore Cable Concern was raised about the potential release of stored carbon within the peatlands and potential impacts to the island's machair habitats. There was also concern raised about the potential disturbance, to people and traffic, during the construction phase.	The proposed Onshore Cable Corridor has been carefully refined to avoid deep, high-quality peat and particularly sensitive machair habitats, where possible, by staying close to the Barvas Moor Road (A857). An Outline Soil and Peat Management Plan will be submitted as part of our onshore consent application and a comprehensive plan will be developed prior to the start of construction. The Soil and Peat Management Plan will be followed by the Project to manage impacts sensitively, and ensure placement and storage are carried out appropriately. In order to minimise the disruption to traffic during construction, a temporary haul road will be installed adjacent to the main road, which will be used by construction vehicles. No full closure of the A857 will be required at any time where works are taking place. To help mitigate potential impacts from construction, several onshore management plans will be produced prior to the commencement of construction works, each being first produced as an outline plan with the Onshore Application. These will include: • Onshore CMP; • Soil and Peat Management Plan; • Biodiversity Restoration and Enhancement Plan; and • Construction Traffic Management Plan.
Calls for greater clarity on technical aspects of the Onshore Cable Requests for more detail on the cable stability and technical details of the Onshore Cable.	Cables and other utilities connections are already in place underground across the island and all over the country, providing essential services to homes and businesses. For the Project, the Onshore Cable will be laid in a trench at a minimum depth of approximately 0.8m below the surface. Once the cable is laid, the trench will be backfilled, ensuring the cable is both stable and protected. While further ground investigations are required at the detailed design stage, a range of proven options exist for stabilising cables of this kind, including the use of ducts, allowing sufficient slack in the cable to keep it stable in the event of any movement, and the use of suitable bedding and geotextiles (permeable, synthetic fabrics commonly used in soil to help with separation, filtration, reinforcement, protection, and drainage).

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)	
General support for the preferred O&M base located at Stornoway Port Many felt this was a positive opportunity for the port and the town, providing greater assurance of locally based Project roles. However, some respondents expressed doubts that the local people or businesses would benefit due to the current lack of meaningful local partnerships and skills development opportunities.	The Project is committed to working with local support agencies such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise and with local education providers such as University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) North West and Hebrides and local secondary schools to create awareness of opportunities that will arise during the construction and operations phases of the Project and to support the training and upskilling/reskilling of a local workforce, to the maximum extent possible. Much of this work has already commenced, e.g. the Project has: • Supported the employment of STEM Co-ordinators for Lewis and Harris, through UHI, for the last 3 years; • Launched a scholarships programme for local secondary school students, committing to financial support of £200k for 20 students from the Outer Hebrides studying STEM or Gaelic language and culture-related courses from 2025 to 2032; • Attended careers events at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway in 2025 and committed to further careers support work with local schools in future years; • Committed funding to support Navantia's existing apprenticeship scheme at its fabrication facility in Arnish, which is being delivered in conjunction with UHI; and • Committed to advertise all relevant Project jobs (hires by the Project company) locally and to work with suppliers to make sure as many job opportunities as possible are made available to local people. All of this work will be built on in the years ahead, as the Project's timelines and requirements become clearer and as we engage more with the global providers that will deliver the larger (or 'Tier 1') contracts. In addition, the Project has appointed a full-time Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer to develop relationships with and support local businesses to help them to position themselves to compete for contracts on the Project.
Concern around offshore working and safety considerations Respondents highlighted the potential implications of working in difficult sea conditions and remote areas.	The Project is aware of the challenges of working in rough sea conditions and remote areas. Maintenance will only be carried out when safe to do so, in accordance with offshore Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards and guidance. Also, all contractors carrying out work on the Project will be required to prepare health and safety plans and to carry out all necessary risk assessments before commencing new activities. As part of our planning for the O&M phase, we have already analysed different vessel types and have a preference to use the larger Service [and] Operations Vessel (SOV) to facilitate the majority of O&M works. This is largely due to the ability of these types of vessels to operate in more challenging sea conditions.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)	
Concern for the potential increased pressure on local infrastructure such as roads and harbours. Some respondents feel that the O&M activities will increase road traffic and put strain on the local harbour which may increase the disturbance in certain areas.	Stornoway Port has been selected as the preferred location for the Project's O&M base and activities. Based on our engagement with the Port regarding their current activities and future expansion plans, we are confident that there is sufficient space and capacity within the port facilities to allow our activities to take place without disrupting or displacing other services or activities. Regarding local roads, it is not anticipated that the operation of the windfarm will lead to any material increase in road traffic. It is envisaged that much of the equipment needed to facilitate O&M will be shipped to the island.
Calls for more clarity on maintenance activities Some people raised that they would like to have more information about the anticipated maintenance activities.	Activities associated with the offshore O&M phase of the Project will be considered in the Offshore and Onshore EIA and will be reported on as part of the supporting documentation. An outline O&M Plan will be submitted with the Offshore Application, which will be updated to a detailed O&M Plan at a later date. Relevant permissions for these activities will be sought through a separate process. In terms of maintenance of the Onshore Cables, there will be joint bays every 800-1000m along the cable route, allowing for long-term access for the purposes of maintenance and/or repair work if required. It is anticipated that maintenance visits will be required once every 3 years and the Project may use sensors within the Onshore Cables to monitor the health and performance.The Landfall Substation (if required) will not be manned during operation and workers will only be at the substation during periods of scheduled or unplanned maintenance. For the Grid Substation, there will be a small number of workers on site during normal working hours.
Calls for more clarity on post-construction monitoring Several people raised that they would like more information on any post-construction monitoring that may be carried out to continuously assess the potential impacts both offshore and onshore, specifically referencing potential noise and environmental impacts.	The Project will be required to comply with all conditions associated with its consents. This may include ongoing or periodic monitoring during construction and operational phases of the Project. Where evidence of compliance is requested, or in the event of an incident, the Project will be required to make its records available to appropriate authorities.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	
Concern around potential impacts to marine mammals Respondents raised concern about the potential impacts to whales and dolphins due to potential underwater noise effects, disturbance and collision risks.	Potential impacts to marine mammals will be assessed fully within *Chapter 13 Marine Mammals* of the Offshore EIAR, including associated appendices assessing potential underwater noise impacts. The Project has committed to submitting an Outline Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan (MMMP) as part of the Offshore Application. Once the Project has finalised its design (post-consent, if approved), a detailed MMMP will be developed prior to the commencement of construction works to control potential impacts to marine mammals. The MMMP will form part of the Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and will include adherence to requirements of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) 73/78/. The Project commits to following Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) best practice methodologies during any offshore works, as necessary, and has followed these methodologies throughout all offshore survey work completed to date. This includes having a Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) onboard for certain installation vessels and using a soft-start approach when carrying out noisy construction activities to control the underwater noise emissions.
Concern around potential impacts to birds and the location of the Array Area overlapping migratory and foraging routes Respondents highlighted the importance of the Outer Hebrides for migratory species and the Barvas Moor for breeding birds. There is also concern around potential collision risk and habitat disruption.	An assessment of the potential impacts to birds will be included within *Chapter 14 Marine and Nearshore Ornithology* of the Offshore EIAR; this will assess breeding, non-breeding and migratory bird species. The Marine and Nearshore Ornithology assessment is informed by data gathered from site-specific surveys which were undertaken for over 2 years and discussions with relevant consultees. Similarly, an onshore ornithology assessment will be included within *Chapter 10 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology* of the Onshore EIAR which is informed by 1 year of breeding bird data gathered on the Barvas Moor as agreed with relevant consultees. As all infrastructure associated with the OTW across the Barvas Moor will be underground, potential impacts to birds will be confined to the construction phase of the Project. An Outline Breeding Bird Protection Plan will be submitted alongside the Onshore Application. In addition to all of the changes made to the Project proposals between the first and second phases of public consultation to minimise the potential impacts on birds *(including a reduction in the number and height of turbines and in the area within which turbines will be located, a reduction of 50m in the rotor diameter of the turbines, and the inclusion of an air gap of 30m from mean sea level to the base of the turbines)*, the outputs of the Offshore EIA and Onshore EIA will identify any other potential mitigations that might be necessary and appropriate. The updated parameters of the WTGs were designed to reduce collision risk to birds.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	
Queries and concern around the potential effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) and heat from subsea cables The potential impact to the movement and migratory patterns of fish, sharks and rays were highlighted as a concern for some respondents.	Potential impacts to fish will be fully assessed within *Chapter 12 Fish Ecology* and Chapter 11 will consider *Benthic and Intertidal Ecology* of the Offshore EIAR. EMF and thermal emission effects from Offshore Cables have been scoped into these assessments. Prior to construction and finalising the design of the Project, a Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA) will be undertaken which will confirm the burial depths of all Offshore Cables across the Array Area and OCAS.
Concern around potential pollution There was interest about the waste management of the Project and concern for the potential impacts from chemical leaks, oil spills or particle pollution from the Project infrastructure and construction of Project infrastructure.	For the offshore infrastructure, the Project will seek to use chemicals and other fluids suited to and approved for use in the marine environment, with biodegradable materials selected wherever possible in order to minimise impacts in the event of a spill. As part of the Offshore EIA, potential pollution incidents will be fully assessed. The assessments will include potential impacts of the release of pollutants to the environment on both human and biological receptor groups. Supporting the Offshore EIAR at application will be a Marine Pollution Contingency Plan which will identify fluids and chemicals associated with the Project and processes to be followed should a leak occur during any phase of the Project lifetime. In relation to the OTW, many pollution prevention design principles have been adopted as part of the mitigation embedded into the design, such as the inclusion of buffer distances between the OTW and watercourses wherever possible. During the construction of the OTW, best practice construction methods will be implemented to minimise the risk of pollution incidents and a variety of construction management plans will be produced in order to meet all regulatory requirements in place at the time of construction. Waste management for the OTW of the Project will be detailed in the onshore CMP, which will first be produced as an Outline CMP with the Onshore Application and later updated to a full plan.
General support for renewable energy projects Many people raised the importance of renewable energy projects like the Spiorad na Mara Project in combatting the worst impacts of climate change on the environment while highlighting they need to be developed sensitively and sustainably.	This feedback is noted and aligns with the overall objectives of the Project, including to support the Scottish Government targets of 50% renewable energy by 2030 and the potential environmental benefits it will bring, for example producing sufficient clean electricity to meet the equivalent annual average electricity needs of 1.2 million Scottish homes and reducing harmful carbon emissions by more than 1.7 million tonnes every year.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	
Concern about the potential visual impacts at cultural sites, west coast cemeteries and beaches Specific concern about the potential visual impacts of certain areas that are key locations for tourists and therefore may have a subsequent impact on local tourism and business which are dependent on scenic views.	The EIAs will have dedicated chapters that consider both: landscape and visual impacts including on historical and cultural sites; and socio-economic impacts which will include tourism. These will be covered in *Chapter 18 SLVIA*, *Chapter 15 Offshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (including array setting impacts)*, *Chapter 20 Other Sea Users* and *Chapter 6 Socio-Economics and Tourism* of the Offshore EIAR. The onshore EIAR will include separate chapters to assess the potential impacts relevant to onshore infrastructure. A number of changes have already been made to the design parameters of the Project – including a reduction in the number and height of turbines; an increase in the distance of turbines from shore; an increase in the distance of turbines from South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area (NSA), and from the Wild Land Area (WLA), which falls within the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA; and a reduction in the Array Area within which turbines will be placed – which reduce the potential visual impacts at sensitive locations such as Callanish Standing Stones, Dalmore Beach, Gallan Head and other sites. The sensitivity of cemetries is recognised by the Project, particularly the Barvas Cemetry which is in close proximity to the proposed location for the Landfall Substation. Within the proposed Onshore Landfall Area, the Project has proposed to locate the Landfall Substation as far as possible from the cemetry and will consider options to further reduce visibility where possible. Post consent, the Project will obtain further information to refine the design of the windfarm and once a WTG can be confirmed through the supply chain, a final layout will be confirmed. Concerns raised regarding visual impacts will continue to be considered during this refinement process.
Concern about potential property devaluation Several people have concerns about how the Project may impact local house prices, particularly those within direct view of the Project infrastructure.	Many macroeconomic factors can influence property pricing, including local employment opportunities, school catchment areas and the overall housing market and economic state nationwide. Several studies have been conducted to assess the potential impact of onshore wind turbines on house pricing; however, there are limited studies in relation to offshore wind turbines. The first major study to address the impact of offshore wind turbines on property prices of nearby residential and vacation properties in Denmark concluded that having an ocean view of the windfarm from the house itself or from nearby beaches had no significant impact on property prices, in comparison to having a sea view without a windfarm *(Available at:* **http://macroecointern.dk/pdf-reprints/Jensen_EP_2018.pdf***)*.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	
Concern about the Outer Hebrides depopulation issues The depopulation seen across the Outer Hebrides (particularly amongst younger generations) was raised with concern that the Project may result in more people leaving the island. Alternatively, others feel that the Project will help to retain more young people through the long-term job opportunities it can create.	Similar to above, there are several macroeconomic factors which could result in the movement of a population in and out of areas. We recognise the importance of retaining the local population in the Outer Hebrides and anticipate that the Project could bring benefits to Lewis through local job and supply chain opportunities, skills development and community initiatives which can support the local population and potentially bring locals back to the island who have had to leave for specific job roles i.e. offshore jobs.
Concern about the potential human health impacts from noise and visual impacts There was concern that the noise from construction and operation as well as the potential visual impacts may affect the health and wellbeing of the community, with some raising that the Project in general can increase stress for individuals.	The potential impacts of the Project on human health are being assessed in *Chapter 22 Offshore Human Health* of the Offshore EIAR and *Chapter 18 Human Health* of the Onshore EIAR. Where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified to address any residual impacts. As mentioned above, the Project will also assess potential visual and noise impacts within the EIARs. Key chapters will include *Chapter 18 SLVIA* and *Chapter 19 Offshore Airborne Noise* of the Offshore EIAR as well as *Chapter 9 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Chapter 15 Airborne Noise and Vibration* and *Chapter 16 Air Quality* of the onshore EIAR. The Project is required to carry out construction and operations within the acceptable limits set, which are strictly regulated. Relevant management plans such as the onshore CEMP will detail how the noise and light from construction activities will be managed.
The importance of Gaelic culture and heritage must be considered There is concern about the potential impact to the island's identity and the Gaelic language due to the perceived industrialisation of the island.	We recognise the importance of Gaelic and the island's strong identity, which is felt across generations. The potential impacts to culture and heritage – including the language – are fully assessed within *Chapter 6 Socio-Economics and Tourism* of the Offshore EIAR. Separately, we are committed to supporting Gaelic language and culture activities through project initiatives such as sponsorship and donations and other programmes. We sponsored the national Gaelic debating competition, Deasbad Nàiseanta nan Àrd-sgoiltean, in 2024 and are the lead sponsor again in 2025. Through our scholarships programme, we have committed to supporting students to undertake a Gaelic language and/or culture related course in a Scottish university. In addition, we have made donations to other Gaelic language and culture organisations and initiatives, including the Lewis Pipe Band and Breasclete Primary School's attendance at the FilmG awards last year.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)	
Concern about the potential increased pressure on local infrastructure and services Some respondents raised that the Project may impact local transport, housing and healthcare as well as disrupt key industries like tourism and commercial fisheries.	The potential impacts from increased pressure on local infrastructure and services, as well as tourism and commercial fisheries, will be fully assessed within the relevant chapters of the Onshore and Offshore EIARs, where appropriate. This includes *Chapter 6 Socio-Economics and Tourism* and *Chapter 21 Commercial Fisheries* of the Offshore EIAR. Where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce potential impacts that are identified. It is important to note that the majority of the workforce required for offshore construction activities is expected to be offshore most of the time, meaning that accommodation and local services will not be impacted. Where pressures exist on local services such as healthcare, the Project will put alternative arrangements in place, where possible, to support the temporary construction workforce required for onshore activities, in order to avoid adding to local pressures. As details of construction sequencing and associated workforce numbers become clear, we will seek to find accommodation solutions that do not add to existing local pressures. Additionally, the Project remains committed to working collaboratively with other developers and in conjunction with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and HIE, through the Major Developments Forum, to help minimise pressures on local infrastructure. To minimise disruption to traffic, the Project will construct haul roads where necessary which will be used by the majority of construction traffic. As part of the Onshore Application, an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed which will be updated pre-construction to detail how the Project will transport during construction activities. Since 2022, we have been engaging with the local fishing community and with the fisheries industry associations, through our Company Fisheries Liaison Officer and Fisheries Industry Representative, and their feedback has informed the design of the Project proposals. This engagement will continue.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ECONOMIC BENEFITS	
Calls for local employment, skills development and supply chain There was a strong opinion that employment and supply chain for the Project should be locally sourced and calls for the Project to offer more skills development opportunities to ensure locals have the specialist skills required.	We are committed to maximising opportunities for local businesses and to maximising the potential for the local population to apply for jobs created by the Project. At the start of 2025, we appointed a Local Supply Chain and Skills Development Officer for the Project and since then he has been engaging with local businesses and training providers and will continue to do so as the Project progresses. With the support of partner agencies, we will work with local businesses and training providers in order that they can begin to prepare for opportunities that will be created by the Project in the years ahead. We have been working, in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), UHI North West and Hebrides and others, to build a comprehensive picture of local businesses that might be suitable to work on the Project. In October 2025, we attended a supply chain event in Stornoway, hosted by HIE and focused on renewable energy opportunities, and met with a wide range of local businesses with an interest in opportunities. We intend to hold a local supply chain event of our own in 2026, following the submission of our consent applications, and will use feedback and insights from the HIE event to inform how we deliver it and what information we provide. In terms of employment, there will be 750-1,000 people employed during the construction phase of the Project and 80-120 long-term roles during the operations phase. We are committed to ensuring as many of these jobs as possible, particularly the long-term positions, are available to local people, in order to support the retention of young people and families on the island and potentially attract back many who had moved elsewhere to gain employment. To enable this, we have started to invest in skills development and apprenticeship opportunities locally and this will continue and broaden as the Project progresses. We are also working with local educational institutions and support agencies and industry partners to expand career pathways for island residents, to build their skills and experience, and improve long-term employability. In 2025, we launched a scholarships programme, which will support 20 students from the Outer Hebrides who are undertaking STEM or Gaelic language and culture-related courses in Scottish universities over the next 7 years. We attended 2 careers events at the Nicolson Institute this Autumn and will continue to work with local secondary schools in the coming years to create awareness of employment opportunities and career pathways within the industry.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
ECONOMIC BENEFITS	
Concern about supply chain sourcing Some respondents were sceptical about how the supply chain opportunities associated with the Project will benefit local businesses and concern was raised around ethical and sustainable sourcing.	The Project remains in the early stages and therefore we do not yet know who our contractors and suppliers will be. The Procurement process will begin post-consent, should we receive all relevant consents. In the meantime, as outlined above, we continue to work with the local supply chain to understand local capability, availability and interest. The Project partners' policies include a rigorous pre-qualification of suppliers covering a number of topics per industry standards, to ensure that suppliers meet the ethical standards required. The Project conducts business in accordance with the highest ethical standards in all aspects of its activities and expects the same from its business partners.
Support for the potential job creation Many people support the potential job opportunities the Project could create for Lewis if it is developed effectively; this was viewed as a good opportunity to retain young people and families on the island.	This feedback is welcome and encouraging, in terms of the level of interest that exists locally in opportunities associated with the Project being fully realised for the benefit of the island, in the years ahead and for generations to come.
Support from local businesses eager to be a part of the supply chain While still in the early stages, some local businesses expressed interest in being part of the supply chain for the Project should it go ahead.	As above, this feedback is both welcome and encouraging and we are committed to maximising the opportunities that will be available locally. To date, over 130 companies have registered on our supply chain portal *(which is available on our website, **www.spioradnamara.co.uk**)* and a significant portion of these are local. We will continue to engage with these companies, and others, in the coming years and continue to work in collaboration with relevant agencies such as HIE to point them to relevant business support initiatives that can assist them.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
Recognition of community engagement efforts Many shared that the consultation events and wider community engagement efforts have improved over the last 18 months, highlighting that the PC2 consultation was well-organised and extensive.	This feedback is welcome and appreciated. We have worked hard to broaden and deepen our engagement, including the range of engagement and consultation opportunities we provide, over the last 18 months and will continue to work on this further as the Project progresses.
Mixed views on the consultation materials and visualisations Some respondents highlighted that the consultation materials were a clear and realistic impression of the Project proposals while others criticised the same materials as being selective and mis-leading.	We have worked hard to make our consultation materials extensive yet accessible for the community and to provide information in a range of different formats. We also continue to recognise the irreplaceable value of conversations and have made as many team members and specialists - including EIA subject matter experts - as possible available at our events to support these conversations. As the process of developing and designing an offshore wind project is lengthy and complex, it is not possible, at this stage, to provide precise details of what all aspects of the Project will look like should it go ahead. We appreciate that this is frustrating for some people; however, we have made every effort in our materials and our conversations to explain the PDE process clearly and the next stages that will follow should consent be granted. All of our materials are developed in accordance with statutory requirements and in line with best practice engagement and consultation standards. Specialists with extensive expertise in this area of work have been engaged to advise on and oversee the development of these materials. All content is rigorously checked to ensure it accurately describes the most up-to-date position on our technical and environmental work.
Calls for community-led discussions Some raised that the consultation lacked genuine engagement and suggested that more community-led discussions should be held to fully understand the local values and knowledge.	Providing a range of consultation opportunities is important in gathering wide-ranging views and feedback. The Project has done this at every stage and has dedicated team members (including a full-time island-based Community Liaison Officer) working on an ongoing basis on community engagement and consultation. Beyond the periods of focused consultation we have hosted, we have also held several community drop-ins at local venues across the island and attended ten community council meetings, at which Project update presentations were given followed by open question and answer sessions, over the last 18 months. We remain open to attending community council meetings and have offered this opportunity to all such councils on the island, as these organisations are community-led and their meetings attended by residents within those local communities. Our Community Engagement and Fisheries Engagement teams are also available to have discussions with individuals and groups at any time and may be contacted using the details on our website and at the back of this document.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	
Need for more advertisement of the public consultation While some felt the events were appropriately advertised there were other respondents who highlighted that the consultation could have been more widely communicated and should be held with more consideration for vulnerable groups who may not be able to attend events or use the virtual exhibition.	The Project aims to maximise public awareness and participation in all of its events. The public consultations were widely advertised through local channels *(i.e. newspaper adverts, leaflet drops to all properties on the island, local social media networks)* and details were published through the Project website, circulated directly to everyone on our emailing list and promoted on our LinkedIn page. Following feedback received from PC2, the Project has also incorporated posters into its advertisement process, placing these in local retail venues, and has improved signage. To support vulnerable groups and ensure that the consultation was accessible for everyone, the Project included details on its consultation advertisement leaflets for people to contact if they had any specific mobility issues or any other challenges accessing the consultion events. The consultation leaflet was mailed to over 11,000 residential and business addresses in HS1 and HS2 postcode areas. The Project welcomes any further suggestions on how to improve engagement with the community.

What we heard from your feedback	How we have taken this into consideration
COMMUNITY BENEFITS	
West Coast Community Benefit Fund While many welcome the fund and the benefits it can bring, some respondents feel it is too little and will not adequately compensate for the potential impacts on the economy, culture and environment. There is a strong overall opinion that the fund must be managed locally to be fairly distributed. Many emphasised that there needs to be island-wide compensation across the Isle of Lewis that is not restricted to certain communities.	The Project recognises the concerns people have about the governance and uses of the West Coast Fund[1] and, for this reason, an experienced company – Aquatera Ltd. – was appointed to carry out an independent consultation process earlier this year, to gather views on how the fund should be set up, administered and used. It also sought feedback on other wider potential benefits that could be delivered by, or through, the Project. The report of this independent consultation was published in November and may be accessed at www.spioradnamaracommunity.uk. The recommendations arising from this report are being considered and next steps will be progressed in 2026.
Cycleway/Multi-use path Mixed comments were received regarding the proposed cycleway/ multi-use path. Some highlighted the positive legacy that it could create by improving road safety and potentially supporting tourism through recreational cycling. Others feel that the benefits of a cycleway do not outweigh the potential environmental impact to the wildlife and landscape and there are concerns around the management and durability of the cycle pathway, if built.	These comments have been considered and an update on the cycleway/multi-use path will be shared during the final OTW consultation at the end of November.
Call for more benefits that can improve the local communities While many respondents felt that no community benefits would compensate for the environmental, cultural and social impacts, some were encouraged by the current benefits that are proposed and called for additional community benefits such as energy discounts, community ownership, investment into local services and environmental conservation.	As the Project progresses, we will continue to explore opportunities to bring benefits to local communities, aligned with local needs. A starting point will be consideration of the outputs from the Aquatera independent community benefit consultation report. In terms of community ownership, this is something we have had initial discussions with Eilean Siar Energy[2] about and these discussions will continue.

1 The West Coast Fund is a fund of £4.5m per year which will be paid for the operational life of the Project, should it go ahead, for the benefit of communities on the west coast of Lewis, specifically Council wards 6 and 7. This was committed to by the Project in August 2024.

2 Eilean Siar Energy is a joint venture between Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust and the Stornoway Trust. It was established earlier this year to explore how best to progress ownership stakes in two consented onshore windfarm developments locally.


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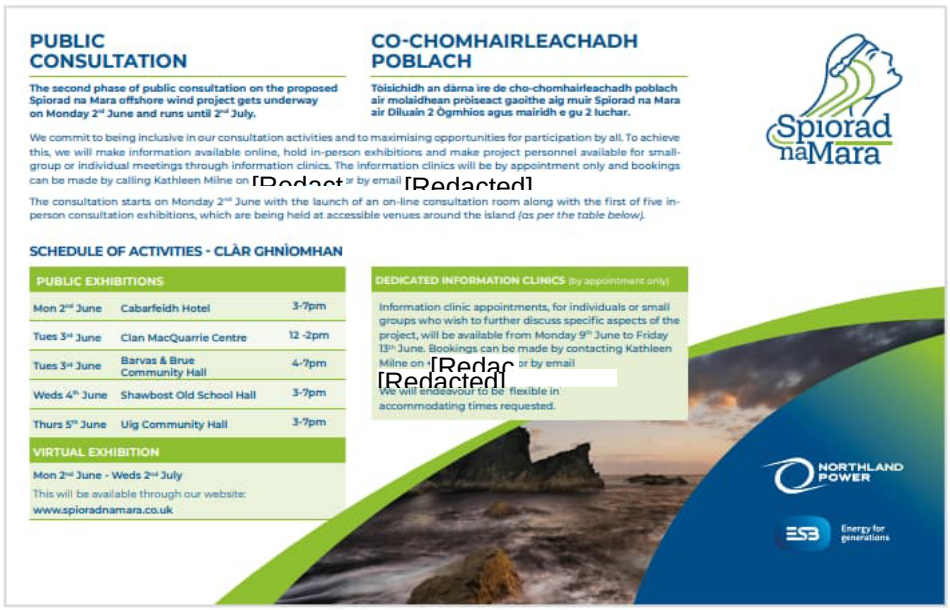
APPENDIX M PC2 Methods of Engagement and Awareness Raising



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 2nd June and runs until 2nd July.

CO-CHOMHAIRLEACHADH POBLACH

Tòisichidh an dàrna ire de cho-chomhairleachadh poblach air molaidhean pròiseact gaoithe aig muir Spiorad na Mara air Diluain 2 Ògmhios agus mairidh e gu 2 Iuchar.

We commit to being inclusive in our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small-group or individual meetings through information clinics. The information clinics will be by appointment only and bookings can be made by calling Kathleen Milne on [Redacted] or by email [Redacted]

The consultation starts on Monday 2nd June with the launch of an on-line consultation room along with the first of five in-person consultation exhibitions, which are being held at accessible venues around the island *(as per the table below).*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES - CLÀR GHNÌOMHAN

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS		
Mon 2nd June	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3-7pm
Tues 3rd June	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 -2pm
Tues 3rd June	Barvas & Brue Community Hall	4-7pm
Weds 4th June	Shawbost Old School Hall	3-7pm
Thurs 5th June	Uig Community Hall	3-7pm

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Mon 2nd June - Weds 2nd July

This will be available through our website:
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

DEDICATED INFORMATION CLINICS (By appointment only)

Information clinic appointments, for individuals or small groups who wish to further discuss specific aspects of the project, will be available from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. Bookings can be made by contacting Kathleen Milne on [Redacted] or by email [Redacted]

We will endeavour to be flexible in accommodating times requested.

NORTHLAND POWER

ESB Energy for generations

, :



Dear [First Name],

I'm pleased to inform you that the second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project has commenced. The month-long process began today, Monday 2nd June, when our online consultation room went **live** on our website, www.spioradnamara.co.uk.

In addition to the online exhibition, we are also hosting five in-person consultation events - beginning today - across the Isle of Lewis, at the following locations:

Public Consultation		
Monday 2 June 2025	Cabarfeidh Hotel	3 to 7pm
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Clan MacQuarrie Centre	12 to 2pm
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Barvas and Brue Hall	4 to 7pm
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Shawbost Old School Hall	3 to 7pm
Thursday 5 June 2025	Uig Community Hall	3 to 7pm

Information clinic appointments, for individuals or small groups who wish to further discuss **specific aspects** of the project, will be available from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. Bookings can be made by contacting Kathleen Milne ([Redacted]

Both the online consultation room and the in-person events provide important information about the project and its current status and allow for valuable feedback to be gathered. We encourage you to review the materials and provide your insights, either through the online platform or by coming to meet and speak with us in person at one of our public exhibitions.

Please remember that the deadline for submitting your feedback online is **2nd July 2025,** the day the online consultation ends. Hard copy feedback forms can either be completed at one of the exhibition venues or by posting them to us at our Stornoway office, by **2nd July 2025.** Stamped addressed envelopes will be provided at our exhibition venues and feedback forms can also be posted out on request; simply contact us at spioradnamara@northlandpower.com.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this phase of consultation and can play an important role in shaping the project as it progresses.

Best wishes,

Martin

Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

Please click this link if you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list.

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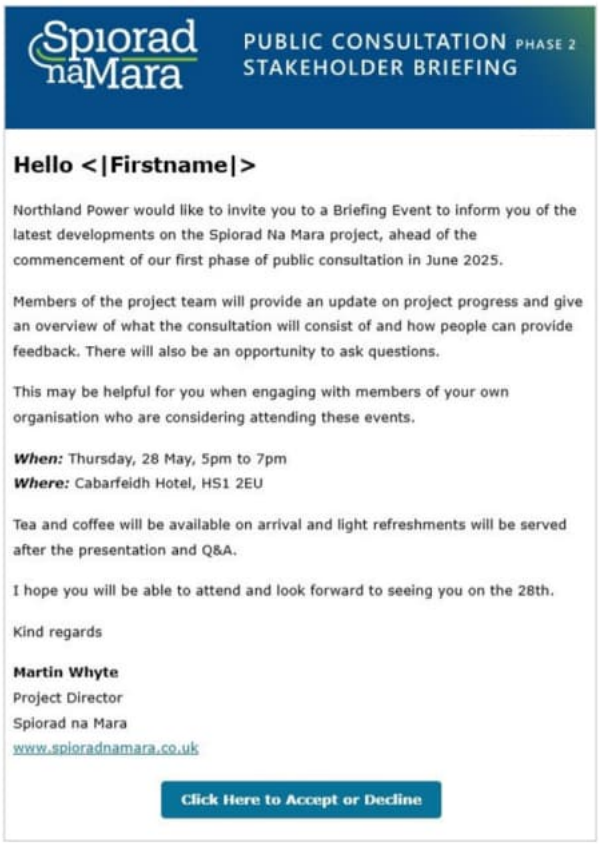


Spiorad naMara

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE 2
STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

Hello <|Firstname|>

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the Spiorad Na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our first phase of public consultation in June 2025.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress and give an overview of what the consultation will consist of and how people can provide feedback. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Thursday, 28 May, 5pm to 7pm
Where: Cabarfeidh Hotel, HS1 2EU

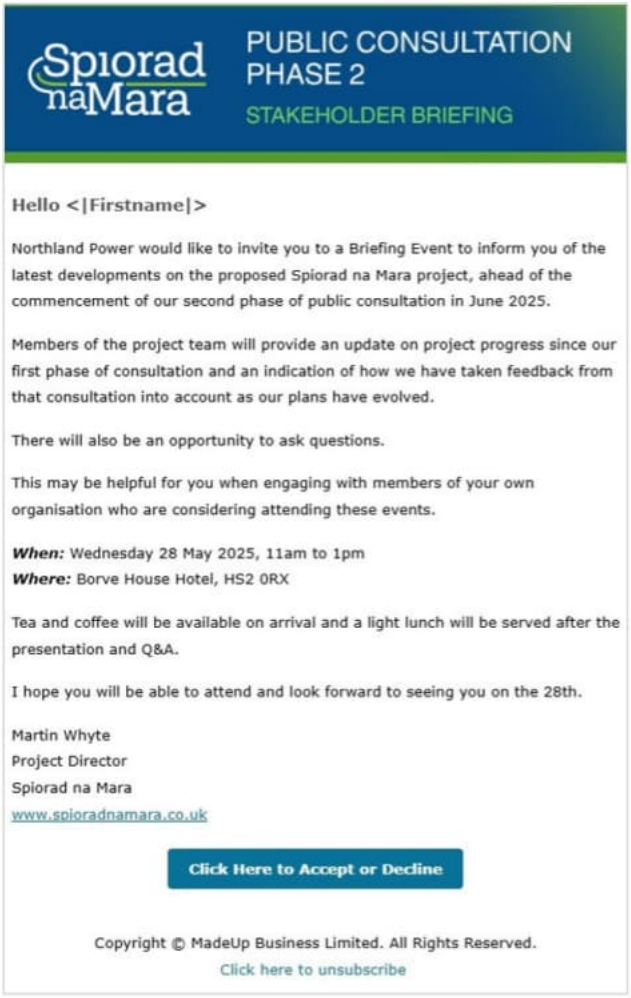
Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and light refreshments will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Kind regards

Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

Click Here to Accept or Decline



PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PHASE 2
STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

Hello <|Firstname|>

Northland Power would like to invite you to a Briefing Event to inform you of the latest developments on the proposed Spiorad na Mara project, ahead of the commencement of our second phase of public consultation in June 2025.

Members of the project team will provide an update on project progress since our first phase of consultation and an indication of how we have taken feedback from that consultation into account as our plans have evolved.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

This may be helpful for you when engaging with members of your own organisation who are considering attending these events.

When: Wednesday 28 May 2025, 11am to 1pm
Where: Borve House Hotel, HS2 0RX

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and a light lunch will be served after the presentation and Q&A.

I hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you on the 28th.

Martin Whyte
Project Director
Spiorad na Mara
www.spioradnamara.co.uk

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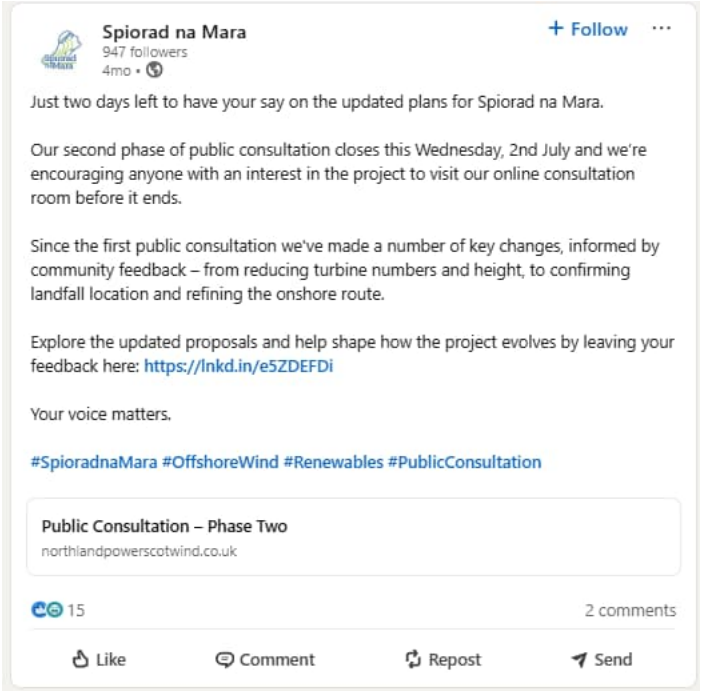
Spiorad na Mara
947 followers
4mo •
+ Follow
Just two days left to have your say on the updated plans for Spiorad na Mara.
Our second phase of public consultation closes this Wednesday, 2nd July and we're encouraging anyone with an interest in the project to visit our online consultation room before it ends.
Since the first public consultation we've made a number of key changes, informed by community feedback – from reducing turbine numbers and height, to confirming landfall location and refining the onshore route.
Explore the updated proposals and help shape how the project evolves by leaving your feedback here: https://lnkd.in/e5ZDEFDi
Your voice matters.
#SpioradnaMara #OffshoreWind #Renewables #PublicConsultation
Public Consultation – Phase Two
northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk
15
2 comments
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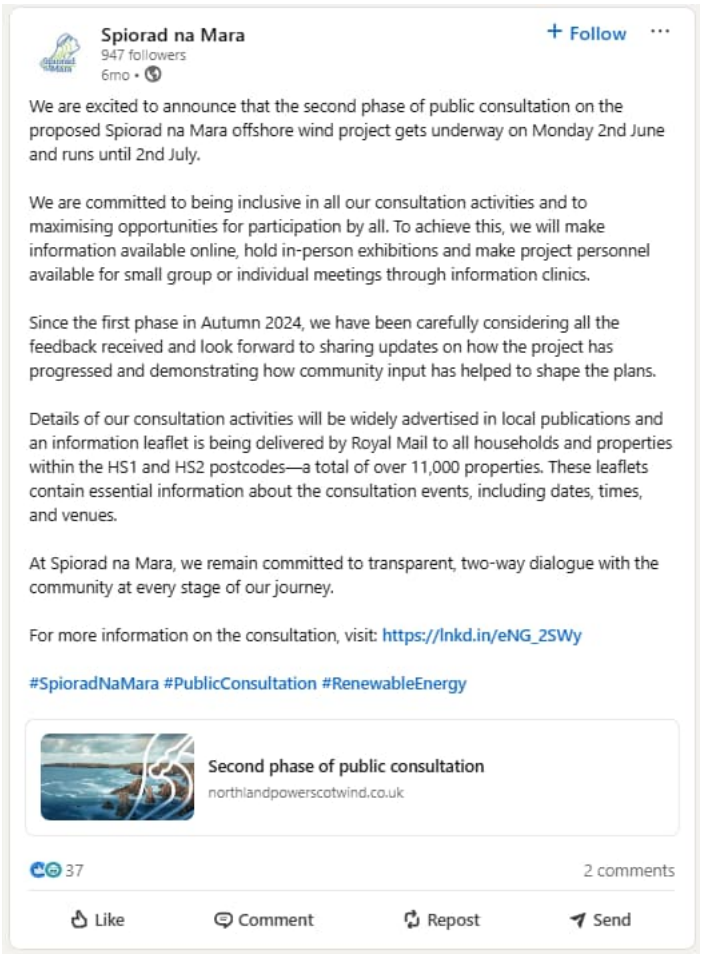
Spiorad na Mara
947 followers
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+ Follow
We are excited to announce that the second phase of public consultation on the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind project gets underway on Monday 2nd June and runs until 2nd July.
We are committed to being inclusive in all our consultation activities and to maximising opportunities for participation by all. To achieve this, we will make information available online, hold in-person exhibitions and make project personnel available for small group or individual meetings through information clinics.
Since the first phase in Autumn 2024, we have been carefully considering all the feedback received and look forward to sharing updates on how the project has progressed and demonstrating how community input has helped to shape the plans.
Details of our consultation activities will be widely advertised in local publications and an information leaflet is being delivered by Royal Mail to all households and properties within the HS1 and HS2 postcodes—a total of over 11,000 properties. These leaflets contain essential information about the consultation events, including dates, times, and venues.
At Spiorad na Mara, we remain committed to transparent, two-way dialogue with the community at every stage of our journey.
For more information on the consultation, visit: https://lnkd.in/eNG_2SWy
#SpioradNaMara #PublicConsultation #RenewableEnergy
Second phase of public consultation
northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk
37
2 comments
Like
Comment
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