

# Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Faray

## Marine Licence Application – Dredging

### Outline Method Statement

Construction of the new extended slipway and landing jetty is currently planned to commence on 1 April 2025, at the earliest, and scheduled to be completed by 30 April 2026, at the latest. Dredging will last up to two weeks within this construction period.

Construction works will be dependent on an offtake mechanism for the electricity generated, likely to require a new transmission connection to Orkney from mainland Scotland. The actual construction date may, therefore, be determined by factors out with the control of the Applicant and, as such, it is not possible to confirm the construction date with certainty. Thus, the dates provided are indicative with further details provided following consent, upon appointment of installation contractor(s).

The dredging operations will be within the Faray and Holm of Faray Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (see Figure 1 which accompanies this marine licence application). The site is designated for grey seals, supporting the second largest grey seal breeding colony in the UK. As detailed in the EIA Report, there is a project wide commitment for no construction to take place between 15 September to 31 December to avoid the grey seal breeding season. Thus, all construction works associated with the new extended slipway and landing jetty, including dredging, will be out with this period.

This method statement is based on project information available at the time of writing, further details will be provided following consent, upon appointment of installation contractor(s).

A total of up to 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be dredged. Four seabed sediment samples were obtained with the following densities recorded - 1.418 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 1.203 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 1.180 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and 1.360 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Based on the average density of 1.290 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 3,000 m<sup>3</sup> is estimated to equate to 3,870 tonnes. The Sediment Sample Analytical Report has been provided with this marine licence application for reference.

Dredging will occur in two areas, details provided below, and areas illustrated in Figure 2:

- **Dredge Area A:** Up to 600 m<sup>3</sup> (774 tonnes) will be dredged (maximum of 1 m depth) to allow for construction of the new extended slipway
- **Dredge Area B:** Up to 2,400m<sup>3</sup> (3,096 tonnes) will be dredged (maximum of 1 m depth) to allow for construction of the new landing jetty. This includes channel dredging to allow for abnormal load vessel access.

Dredging would be of overlaying sediment only, no blasting of underlying rock is planned for the Proposed Development.

The preference for the dredged material is disposal at sea at a designated disposal site. As shown on Marine Scotland's National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) map (Marine Scotland, 2021), there are four operational at sea dredge disposal sites in Orkney, with Stromness A the closest to, and

preference for, the Proposed Development. Further details are provided in the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) Assessment, which accompanies this marine licence application.

A backhoe and hopper barge operation is the assumed dredging methodology. Due to the distance from the dredging site to the disposal site, the backhoe dredger will operate most efficiently if two hopper barges are provided to the works, or the backhoe operates daytime only operation with disposal occurring by the hopper barge at the end of the shift.

The estimated backhoe dredger production rate was modelled as 3,400 m<sup>3</sup>/week which means that the work would be carried out in under a week. This is expected to produce spillage of soil (i.e. of all sediment fractions) at a rate of 0.6 kg/s. If boulders are found, this release rate can be expected to be even smaller due to natural cementation of material.

The rate of release of fine sediment (silt/clay) particles is 0.4% of 0.6 kg/s, however this produces the almost negligible figure of approximately 0.002 kg/s.

The dredging contractor and vessels have not been selected at the time of application. These will be confirmed post-consent, prior to any works commencing.