

T: +44 (0)300 244 5046  
E: [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

## THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

### Application for a Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) licence for one of the following purposes

- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.
- Social, economic or environmental purpose

Important: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

**Please complete all relevant sections of the form.**

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot).

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MD-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MD-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect Basking sharks in the inshore marine area (0 – 12 nautical miles).

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact NatureScot, email [licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot), Telephone 01463 725364 or visit the [NatureScot website](#) for a licence application for these purposes.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

**Part A**

**Section 1 Personal details**

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Failure to carry out the work proposed in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose the licensee to criminal liability.

**Section 2 Previous applications**

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

**Part B**

**Section 3**

**Location**

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of long pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

#### **Section 4 Consideration of designated sites**

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a European site, an MPA or a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

#### **Section 5 Activities to be licensed**

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

#### **Section 6 Purpose of the licence application**

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Part 1, Section 16 (3).

#### **Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives**

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include the other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), or alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternative dates / timings. The 'do nothing' alternative must also be considered.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

#### **Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position**

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

#### **Section 9 Noise Monitoring**

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. This includes use of seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. This monitoring requires completion of a form at the application stage (giving details of the proposed work) as well as completion of a 'close-out' form (giving details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred). The close-out form should be returned within 12 weeks of completing the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation. These forms are available on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

## Section 10 Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, the Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made with reference to the policies, including but not limited to General Policy13 (GEN 13), that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

## Section 11 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers' responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

### Part D

## Section 12 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

### Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the method statement are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence returns.

### Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team  
Scottish Government  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9 DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046  
Email: [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

**Part A. The Applicant: Personal details**

These questions relate to the person who will be the named licensee. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability.

1. Name of applicant

[Redacted]

Title

Company Name:

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address:

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Inveralmond House 200  
Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ

Tel no. (incl dialling code):

(+44) 01738 342281

Email address:

submarinecablesproject@sse.com

**2. The Applicant: Previous applications:**

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes  No  (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence?

Marine Directorate

Licence number (most recent licence)

BS-00010997

Year in which the licence was issued.

2025

What species were covered by the licence?

Basking shark (Cetorhinus maximus)

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure?

Disturbance from USBL and SBP geophysical surveys

**Part B. The Application**

**3 Species**

(a) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work? This must be the maximum number of animals that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied.

Injury - 0  
 Disturbance - It is estimated that the total number of individuals disturbed will be minimal due to the transient nature of the animals and the brief nature of the works.

(b) Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

There is no potential for injury and very limited potential for disturbance to basking sharks in the vicinity of the survey activities, however a Basking Shark Licence has been applied for on a precautionary basis.

Please refer to Section 7 of Xodus Document Reference: A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001: Laxay Subsea Cable Replacement Marine Environmental Appraisal.

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

See Appended Table

| Latitude |  |   |  |  |   |  |    | Longitude |  |   |  |  |   |  |    |
|----------|--|---|--|--|---|--|----|-----------|--|---|--|--|---|--|----|
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |
|          |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'N |           |  | ° |  |  | . |  | 'W |

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.  
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information  
Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

Following a routine inspection, SHEPD has determined that the existing Laxay - Kershader 2 subsea cable is at the end of its operational life. Therefore, SHEPD intends to replace the cable to improve resilience of the network and deliver network security, as replacement of cable before it fails is essential to ensure a continued electricity supply to customers connected to these circuits. SHEPD intends to replace the existing cable with a larger subsea cable. The proposed cable replacement activities will involve the installation of a new 33 kV (kilovolt) subsea cable and associated cable protection and the removal of sections of out of service cable, where required. It will be constructed adjacent to the existing cables in Loch Eireasort.

SHEPD is seeking an basking shark derogation licence for the cable replacement activities described above, in particular regard to disturbance of basking sharks due to the presence of project vessels.

Other equipment may be used during the installation works; however, these are outwith the hearing range of basking sharks and therefore not capable of causing injury or disturbance:

- Ultra Short baseline (USBL), with a maximum source level of 207 dB re 1µPa (peak), with a source frequency between 24 - 33.5 kHz; and
- Multibeam Echosounder (MBES) - source level ranging between 180 and 240 dB re 1µPa (peak), with a source frequency >200 kHz.

Please refer to Section 1: Introduction, Section 3: Project Description, Section 7 Marine Megafauna and Appendix A: Noise Impact Assessment within Xodus Document Reference:A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001: Laxay Kershader Subsea Cable Replacement Marine Environmental Appraisal.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on Basking shark.  
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

As detailed in Section 7.4.4 of Xodus Document Reference:A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001: Laxay Kershader Subsea Cable Replacement Marine Environmental Appraisal, no significant risks to basking sharks were identified. As such, no basking shark specific mitigation is proposed.

The above notwithstanding, in line with industry best practice, all vessels will adhere to the provisions of the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SMWWC) and the Basking Shark Code of Conduct to minimise disturbance to basking sharks. The cable installation vessels will be traveling at a slow speeds which will minimise the risk of injury and disturbance to basking sharks.

#### 4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on [NatureScot's website](#).

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SSSI, SAC, MPA?

Yes  No

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

A Designated Sites impact assessment has been carried out within Section 5 of Xodus Document Reference: A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001: Laxay Kershader Subsea Cable Replacement Marine Environmental Appraisal.

The proposed cable corridor is within proximity to the Lewis Peatlands SPA (1.0 km), Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC (7.6 km) designated for harbour porpoise, and the North-East Lewis NCMPA (7.9 km) designated for Risso's dolphin. The Lewis Peatlands SPA, is designated for breeding populations of black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), and red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*). Assessment of potential LSE to dunlin, golden eagle, golden plover, merlin and greenshank, were screened out given that these terrestrial species are unlikely to be utilising the marine areas which will be affected by the proposed cable installation activities.

The protected sites assessment concluded there will be no adverse effects on red-throated diver and black-throated diver qualifying features of the Lewis Peatlands SPA due to the short installation activities duration (i.e., 20 days) and the plan to undertake the works ahead of peak breeding periods. There will therefore be no Adverse Effect on Site Integrity (AEOSI) on the Lewis Peatlands SPA. Furthermore, given the localised and short term nature of the marine activities, no AEOSI are predicted on the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC and no effects (other than insignificant) are expected for the North-East Lewis NCMPA as a result of the proposed activities.

**5. Activities to be Licenced**

**Proposed Methods**

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

| Disturb                             | Kill                     | Take / trap              | Damage or destroy place of shelter / protection | Method          | From              | To                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                        | Vessel Presence | 1st February 2026 | 31st October 2027 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |                 |                   |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |                 |                   |                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                        |                 |                   |                   |

**6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)**

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works. The options shown are taken from The Wildlife and Contryside Act 1981.

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) (Section 16 (3) (f))

Complete Annex A

(b) Preventing the spread of disease (Section 16 (3) (g))

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.(Section 16 (3) (h))

Complete Annex C

(d) Social, economic or environmental purpose (Section 16 (3) (i))

Complete Annex D

## 7. Satisfactory alternatives

Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.

Following routine inspection of the existing Laxay- Kershader 2 subsea cable, the following options were considered to provide the best investment option and improve network resilience:

Option 1: Do minimum – replace on failure. Under this option the existing Laxay – Kershader 2 subsea cable would not be replaced and the subsea cable would instead continue to operate with minimal repairs until the point where it fails in service. At the time of failure the subsea cable would then be replaced with a new cable. This option was not considered a viable option as it would risk customers being without an electricity supply and would incur greater impact costs due to the cost of an emergency replacement being significantly higher than a planned replacement.

Option 2: Replace cable with a similar sized cable. This option would replace the existing 11 kV Laxay – Kershader 2 subsea cable with the same sized cable and not allow for any required future increase in network capacity. This would improve resilience of the network, deliver network security and be sufficient to support current energy supply and demand.

Option 3: Replace the cable with a larger sized cable. This option is similar to Option 2 but laying a new larger sized 33 kV cable to increase the capacity of the circuit should it be needed in the future. With this option the larger cable would initially operate at 11 kV but would have the capacity to run at a higher level if needed in the future.

Option 3 is considered to be the best option as it delivers network security for customers via a cost effective planned replacement, and also provides the potential to increase capacity of the network in the future, without having to replace the subsea cable.

## 8. Other licences / consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg marine licence).

| Type of licence / consent (e.g. marine licence, local planning authority, local works licence) | Date applied for              | Reference no. | Date of issue of consent |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Marine Licence   | Same as Basking Shark Licence | Pending       | Pending                  |
| EPS Licence  | Same as Basking Shark Licence | Pending       | Pending                  |
|  |                               |               |                          |
|  |                               |               |                          |
|  |                               |               |                          |

## 9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives  Piling  Use of acoustic deterrent devices   
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a proposed activity form on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

The Project will not use explosives, piling, acoustic deterrent devices, or equipment operating in the range of 10 Hz to 10 kHz.

Licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

## 10. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Provide details of considerations made with reference to the relevant policies that have been considered.

Please see Section 2: Legislative Context of Xodus Reference Document  
A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001 Laxay Kershader Subsea Cable Replacement Marine  
Environmental Appraisal.

## 11. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

MD-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#). If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MD-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Have you remembered to enclose supporting information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Completed application form               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Completed annex                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Map / chart                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correct co-ordinates                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting information / risk assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

## Part C. Declarations

12. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

### Warning

Under the THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended) failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under the **THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)**, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

**Note:** Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

Signature of the [Redacted]  
Applicant

Date **9th September 2025**

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letter [Redacted]

ehalf of SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION PLC

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of company name”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to [MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot)

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team  
Scottish Government  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

### Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

**Annex A**

Only to be completed if you selected for preserving public health or public safety in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk?

**Annex B**

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing the spread of disease in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

**Annex C**

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries in question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

**Annex D**

Only to be completed if you selected for a social, economic or environmental purpose in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The main driver behind this Project is to reduce the overall network risk associated with the existing cable which, following routine cable inspections has been deemed to be at the end of its operational life and are therefore prioritised for Asset Replacement. Proactive replacement of cables before they fail is essential to ensure a continued electricity supply to customers connected to the circuit.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

This Project will allow SHEPD to deliver upon two of its commitments within the RIIO ED2 business plan given the existing cable is a named scheme within the plan.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

This application covers the proposed cable replacement works (i.e. vessel presence).

As described in Section 7: Satisfactory alternatives and this Annex B, SHEPD has considered a 'Do Nothing' approach with regard to the cable replacement and the use of installation and support vessels. It was concluded that the 'Do Nothing' approach was not viable, and that installation vessels are required for any proposed alternatives for replacing the Laxay Kershader subsea cable.

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details. Are you fulfilling a statutory role?

SHEPD holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the distribution of electricity in the north of Scotland including the Islands. It has a statutory duty to provide an economic and efficient system for the distribution of electricity and to ensure that its assets are maintained to ensure a safe, secure and reliable supply to customers.

Please see Section 2: Legislative Context of Xodus Document Reference: A-200682-S02-A-REPT-001: Laxay Kershader Subsea Cable Replacement Marine Environmental Appraisal for full policy consideration.

WGS 1984 UTM  
Zone 30N  
0 0.015 0.03 0.06 0.09 km  
Scale: 1:4,000

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Table 1 Cable Corridor Coordinates (WGS84) in Degrees, Minutes and Seconds (DMS), Degrees and Decimal Minutes (DDM) and Decimal Degrees (DD)

| LATITUDE DMS       | LONGITUDE DMS      | LATITUDE DDM | LONGITUDE DDM | LATITUDE DD | LONGITUDE DD |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 58° 5' 51.135630 N | 6° 30' 45.253045 W | 58° 5.852' N | 6° 30.754' W  | 58.097538   | -6.51257     |
| 58° 5' 51.301442 N | 6° 30' 44.515727 W | 58° 5.855' N | 6° 30.741' W  | 58.097584   | -6.512365    |
| 58° 5' 51.974711 N | 6° 30' 43.743734 W | 58° 5.866' N | 6° 30.729' W  | 58.097771   | -6.512151    |
| 58° 5' 52.250792 N | 6° 30' 41.866409 W | 58° 5.870' N | 6° 30.697' W  | 58.097847   | -6.51163     |
| 58° 5' 53.233891 N | 6° 30' 38.265181 W | 58° 5.887' N | 6° 30.637' W  | 58.098121   | -6.510629    |
| 58° 5' 54.198255 N | 6° 30' 35.683622 W | 58° 5.903' N | 6° 30.594' W  | 58.098388   | -6.509912    |
| 58° 5' 54.790275 N | 6° 30' 35.725557 W | 58° 5.913' N | 6° 30.595' W  | 58.098553   | -6.509924    |
| 58° 5' 51.315450 N | 6° 30' 30.340423 W | 58° 5.855' N | 6° 30.505' W  | 58.097588   | -6.508428    |
| 58° 5' 49.187400 N | 6° 30' 28.818437 W | 58° 5.819' N | 6° 30.480' W  | 58.096997   | -6.508005    |
| 58° 5' 38.093159 N | 6° 30' 27.613343 W | 58° 5.634' N | 6° 30.460' W  | 58.093915   | -6.50767     |
| 58° 5' 38.203571 N | 6° 30' 32.868981 W | 58° 5.636' N | 6° 30.547' W  | 58.093945   | -6.50913     |
| 58° 5' 37.966859 N | 6° 30' 35.113729 W | 58° 5.632' N | 6° 30.585' W  | 58.09388    | -6.509754    |
| 58° 5' 37.504470 N | 6° 30' 35.846430 W | 58° 5.625' N | 6° 30.597' W  | 58.093751   | -6.509957    |
| 58° 5' 36.832462 N | 6° 30' 36.091081 W | 58° 5.613' N | 6° 30.601' W  | 58.093565   | -6.510025    |
| 58° 5' 36.861315 N | 6° 30' 36.754055 W | 58° 5.614' N | 6° 30.612' W  | 58.093573   | -6.510209    |
| 58° 5' 36.717382 N | 6° 30' 38.351189 W | 58° 5.611' N | 6° 30.639' W  | 58.093533   | -6.510653    |
| 58° 5' 47.424259 N | 6° 30' 41.618192 W | 58° 5.790' N | 6° 30.693' W  | 58.096507   | -6.511561    |
| 58° 5' 51.135630 N | 6° 30' 45.253045 W | 58° 5.852' N | 6° 30.754' W  | 58.097538   | -6.51257     |

*For the avoidance of doubt, the landward boundaries of the cable corridor covered by the MEA are the MHWS. The landfall boundaries defined by the coordinates within this document should be considered approximations, due to the requirement to limit the number of vertices.*

