

Historic Environment Scotland



By email to:

MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Marine Scotland
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300030259
Your ref: SCR-0065
20 October 2023

Dear Marine Scotland

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
SCR-0065 - MeyGen PLC - Section 36 consent variation - Inner Sound, Pentland Firth
(MeyGen 2)
Request for Screening Opinion

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 29 September 2023 seeking our comments on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for the above proposed development. This letter contains our comments for our historic environment interests comprising world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, gardens and designed landscapes and battlefields on their respective Inventories. In this case our advice also includes matters relating to marine archaeology outwith the scope of the terrestrial planning system.

The relevant local authority's archaeological and conservation advisors will also be able to offer advice for their interests. This may include unscheduled archaeology, category B- and C-listed buildings and conservation areas.

Our Screening opinion

We are content that an EIA is not required for this proposed development for matters within our historic environment remit as identified above.

Our advice

We note that the screening request is for a variation to an existing consent and that part of the consented scheme is already built and active. The variation will involve installing larger turbines and associated amendments to related infrastructure. There appears to be no significant alteration to the consented footprint of the development that would impact on known marine heritage assets.

While we foresee no additional cultural heritage impacts for HES's or Marine Scotland's interests we strongly recommend you consult Highland Council to ensure that there are no conflicts with their intertidal and terrestrial consenting interests in this case.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Deirdre Cameron who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8896 or by email on Deirdre.Cameron@hes.scot

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

NatureScot

Scottish Government – Marine Directorate
Licensing Operations Team
Marine Laboratory
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

20 October 2023

Our ref: CNS TS MeyGen Phase 2

By email only

Dear Kate

**MEYGEN – SECTION 36 CONSENT VARIATION – INNER SOUND, PENTLAND FIRTH –
CONSULTATION ON REQUEST FOR SCREENING OPINION**

Thank you for consulting NatureScot on MeyGen PLC's request for a screening opinion in relation to their proposed Section 36 consent variation for the MeyGen Phase 1 tidal array.

We have reviewed MeyGen's EIA Screening Report (Document Number: A-100835-S00-A-REPT-001) and we provide the following advice.

Variation proposal:

MeyGen currently holds a Section 36 consent, for which they are seeking to vary the following parameters for all future phases of MeyGen Phase 1:

- Increase turbine rotor diameter from 16 - 20 m to 16 - 24 m;
- Reduce the minimum seabed clearance between the rotor tip and the seabed from 4.5 to 3.0 m;
- Remove the rated power cap for each individual turbine (currently restricted 1.0 MW to 2.4 MW) whilst retaining the permitted generating capacity for MeyGen Phase 1, not exceeding 86 MW;
- Increase blade swept area from 201 - 314 m² (based on a 16 - 20 m diameter turbine) to 201 - 452 m² (based on a 16 - 24 m diameter turbine);
- Reduce the total number of turbines in Phase from 61 specified in ANNEX 1 Section 36 (2013), to up to 40 turbines;
- Increase of offshore export cables rating from 6.6 kV to a maximum of 33 kV

MeyGen considers that a further EIA is not required for the proposed Section 36 variation. This is based on MeyGen's conclusion that the impacts of the proposed changes would not have any additional significant impacts on any receptor (subject to implementation of mitigation proposed in MeyGen Phase 1 ES (2012)). Therefore, they conclude that the changes would not result in a significant environmental impact.

NatureScot advice:

Our view in respect of this screening is that significant environmental effects could occur from the changes in turbine parameters from the original application and assessment. However, we consider the information required to support an application should be focussed and consider the following receptors only:

- Marine mammals
- Ornithology and
- Diadromous fish.

It is appropriate that physical processes, benthic, seascape, landscape and visual interest will not require further consideration. In addition, MeyGen have already provided information that we feel is appropriate to support the application and provides information on revised collision risk modelling for the above receptors.

We also take this opportunity to advise that consideration should be given to the history and context of this site, the existing consent and the requirements of consent conditions, including through environmental monitoring the validation of the predicted impacts from tidal stream devices on these nature conservation interests. This is particularly pertinent for harbour seals which continue to experience population declines in this area.

It would also be helpful for agreement to be sought on the list of projects / activities that should be considered in terms of cumulative impact assessment.

I hope our advice is helpful.

Kind regards,

Erica Knott

Marine Sustainably Manager-Marine Energy

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NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage

**Scottish Environmental Protection
Agency**

From: [Planning.North](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Cc: [MD Marine Licensing](#)
Subject: SEPA Ref: 10672 - SCR-0065
Date: 02 October 2023 15:30:17

OFFICIAL

To whom it may concern

**Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
SCR-0065**

**MeyGen PLC – Section 36 Consent Variation
Inner Sound, Pentland Firth**

In line with the advice in the [Transitional Arrangements for National Planning Framework 4 letter](#), issued by the Chief Planner, Fiona Simpson, on 8 February 2023, that “From 13 February, on adoption and publication by Scottish Ministers, NPF4 will form part of the statutory development plan, along with the LDP applicable to the area at that time and its supplementary guidance. NPF4 will supersede National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014). NPF3 and SPP will no longer represent Scottish Ministers’ planning policy and should not therefore form the basis for, or be a consideration to be taken into account, when determining planning applications on or after 13 February”, our position and advice given below is based on the NPF4 policy.

Thank you for the above consultation. Based on the information provided, it appears that this application falls below the thresholds for which SEPA provide site specific advice. Please refer to our standing advice and other guidance which is available on our [website](#). In addition, please also refer to our SEPA standing advice for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Marine Scotland on marine consultations available [here](#).

If there is a significant site-specific issue, not addressed by our guidance or other information provided on our website, with which you would want our advice, then please reconsult us highlighting the issue in question and we will try our best to assist.

I trust these comments are of assistance - please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,
Nicki Dunn
Senior Planning Officer

Disclaimer: This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at this time. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning or similar application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required

The Highland Council

From: [Mark Harvey \(Planning \(North\)\)](#)
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: FW: SCR-0065 - MeyGen PLC – Section 36 consent variation – Inner Sound, Pentland Firth – Consultation on Request for Screening Opinion – Response Required by 20 October 2023
Date: 23 October 2023 21:42:07
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Kate

The Highland Council agrees with the conclusions of the screening report and has no further comment to make.

Kind regards

Mark Harvey

Planning Team Leader

Skye, Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh + Highland-wide Aquaculture

Planning and Environment - Infrastructure, Environment and Economy Service