

Marine licence application form: scientific instrument deployment

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

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Section one - Acronyms and explanatory notes

Acronyms

Note the following acronyms referred to in this application form:

ADCP	Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WGS84	World Geodetic System 1984

Explanatory notes

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the questions in the application details (section four) and are intended to assist in completing the form. These explanatory notes are specific to this application and should be read in conjunction with marine licensing guidance <https://www.gov.scot/collections/marine-licensing-and-consent/>

1. Applicant details

The person making the application who will be named as the licensee. If an applicant is an organisation or company the registered company address should be given.

2. Agent details

Any person acting under contract (or other agreement) on behalf of any party listed as the applicant.

3. Payment

An invoice for the application fee will be issued by MD-LOT after an application is received and initial checks have been carried out. The invoice will provide information on accepted methods of payments. Information on marine licensing fees can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licence-application-fees/>

All payments should reference the invoice number to allow the payment to be processed efficiently and to prevent delays. Application fees should not be sent with applications prior to receiving an invoice.

4. Cost of the Activity

Provide the cost of the activity seawards of the tidal limit of MHWS. This estimate should only cover work taking place below the tidal level of MHWS and must take into consideration the cost of materials, labour etc.

5. Application type

Indicate if the application is for a new scientific instrument deployment site or an existing scientific instrument deployment site. Provide the existing or previous marine licence reference number or any other reference details and the expiry date if applicable.

6. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/pages/0/>

Provide information on how the proposed activity is in accordance with Scotland's National Marine Plan including reference to relevant policies. This should include consideration of the General Policies and any Sector Policies.

7. Scientific Instrument Deployment details

- a) Give a brief description of the activity e.g. wave rider buoy deployment. This description may be used on the marine licence if it is granted.
- b) Provide the proposed start date of the scientific instrument deployment. This must be a date in the future as marine licences are not back dated. Consideration should be given to the marine licensing process which must be completed prior to the proposed start date. Target duration for determination of a marine licence application where EIA is not required is 14 weeks.
- c) Provide the proposed end date of the scientific instrument deployment activity. The proposed end date should be the maximum duration expected and should include time for contingencies.

If a marine licence is granted, the marine licence for is normally valid for the duration of the scientific deployment and the licence will expire at the proposed end date. If a project will not be completed before a marine licence expires the licence holder must apply to vary the marine licence to update the proposed end date. If this is required licence holders should apply to vary their marine licence to continue any ongoing work at least 14 weeks prior to the expiry date of the licence.

- d) Describe the location of the proposed activity.

Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points for each dredge site area.

Latitude and longitude coordinates of the activity must be provided in World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) degrees, decimal minutes (to three decimal places) format XX°X.XXX'N XXX°X.XXX'W or E e.g. 57°8.5667'N 002°5.3833'W.

Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts or GPS equipment are likely to be available in WGS84 compatible datum and in degrees, decimal minutes format.

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.

To supplement your application, provide a suitably scaled extract of an Ordnance Survey Map (1:2,500 scale but not more than 1:10,000) or Admiralty Chart which must be marked to indicate:

- the full extent of the activity in relation to the surrounding area
- the latitude and longitude co-ordinates defining the location of the activity

The map or chart may also include the level of MHWS and any adjacent SAC, SPA, SSSI, MPA, Ramsar or similar conservation area boundary.

Maps and charts will be consulted upon. If they are subject to copyright, it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain necessary approvals to reproduce the documents and to submit suitably annotated copies with the application.

- e) Indicate if the activity is located within the jurisdiction of a Statutory Harbour Authority and provide details of the Statutory Harbour Authority where relevant.
- f) Provide a full method statement, including schedule of work, the period of time it will be in place, its purpose and expected position (e.g. sea bed or water column).
- g) Provide an assessment of the potential adverse impacts which the activity may have on human health, the environment and legitimate uses of the sea. Include details of sensitive areas e.g. Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Marine Protected Areas, Ramsar sites, Priority Marine Features, National Scenic Areas, seal haul out sites, bathing waters, shellfish harvesting areas

Further guidance on designated conservation areas can be obtained from NatureScot : <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/priority-marine-features-scotlands-seas/feature-activity-sensitivity-tool-feast>

Scotland's National Marine Plan Interactive can provide information to support applications: <https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/>

Guidance on shellfish harvesting areas can be obtained from <https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/>. Parameters are set to protect the water quality in which edible shellfish are grown.

You should also be aware of the need to pay due regard to coastal and marine archaeological matters and attention is drawn to Historic Scotland's Operational Policy Paper HP6, "Conserving the Underwater Heritage"

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/>.

Where there are potential impacts from the activity, please provide details of proposed mitigation to avoid or reduce potential adverse impacts.

8. Deposits

- a) Indicate all instruments to be deployed, providing further information about the quantity and further details about the instrument to be deployed. Please include the details below depending on type of instrument:

Deployment of buoys (e.g. scientific buoy, marker buoy, associated guard buoy)

- Description
- Type
- Size

Deposits on the sea bed:

- Description including how long proposed to be deposited
- Type
- Size including full dimensions (metres)

Where the activity involves a number of elements, please complete all appropriate sections.



- b) Provide the vessel name, vessel type and name and address of all vessel operators to be used for scientific instrument deployment. If vessel details are not available at the time of application, please indicate this on the form as these details will be required prior to licence issue. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.
- c) Provide details of the vessel role (e.g. guard or fisheries liaison), indicate if the vessel(s) will be stationary during any survey work and provide details of the length of time that the vessel(s) will be stationary.

9. Marine Noise Registry

The Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) developed the [Marine Noise Registry](#) (MNR) to record human activities in UK seas that produce loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz – 10kHz) impulsive noise.

There is a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency impulsive noise. Activities where this type of noise is produced include seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices.

Where noisy activity is being undertaken, you must register an account with the MNR which allows you to provide details of the proposed application/activity.

The MNR collects the estimated location and date data on noisy activities (during the planning stages). This data should be provided as a proposed application/activity in the MNR and the reference number of the MNR proposed application/activity must be included in the marine licence application form. Applications for licensable marine activities that produce loud, low to medium frequency (10Hz – 10kHz) impulsive noise will not be accepted until the MNR has been completed and submitted.

10. Consultation

List any persons or bodies that you have consulted and provide copies of any correspondence with the application.

11. Associated activities

Indicate whether the application is associated with any other marine activities (e.g. land reclamation, marine/harbour construction works, dredging and sea disposal etc). If this is the case, provide reference/licence number for the related marine activities.

Section two - Register of licensing information and declaration

Important information

It is an offence to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information when making an application.

Target duration for determination is 14 weeks. Please note that missing or erroneous information in your application and complications resulting from consultation may result in the application being refused or delayed.

It is your responsibility to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Register of licensing information

A register of marine licensing information must be maintained with information contained within and provided in support of this application .

Information must not appear in the register if the licensing authority determines that its disclosure in the register would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate commercial interest or, in relation to an application made under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, the Secretary of State determines that its disclosure in the register would be contrary to the interests of national security.

Do you consider that any of the information contained within or provided in support of this application should not be disclosed (mark “X” against the relevant section):	Yes	No
For reasons of national security		X
For reasons of confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate commercial interest?		X

If yes to either reason, provide full justification as to why all or part of the information you have provided should be withheld.

Declaration

I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information given in this form and related papers is true.

Signature:	[Redacted]
Date:	28/08/2026
Name in block capitals:	CAMERON MCGREGOR

Section three - Application check list

Check that you provide all relevant information in support of your application, including but not limited to the following (mark “X” against the relevant section).

Completed and signed application form	X
Maps/Charts	X
Co-ordinates of the boundary points of the area of harbour jurisdiction (if you are a Statutory Harbour Authority)	
Method statement	X
Additional information e.g. consultation correspondence (if applicable)	X
Marine Noise registry	

Section four - Application details

1. Applicant details

Title:	Mr
Full name:	Cameron McGregor
Full name of contact (if different):	
Company name (if appropriate):	Exotopic Ltd.
Registered company number (if appropriate):	09238982
Address:	2nd Floor British Interplanetary Society, 27/29 South Lamb
Telephone number (including dialling code):	[Redacted]
Email:	[Redacted]

2. Agent details (if any)

Title:	
Full name:	
Company name (if appropriate):	
Registered company number (if appropriate):	
Address:	
Telephone number (including dialling code):	
Email:	

3. Payment

Contact address to send invoice to:	2nd Floor British Interplanetary Society, 27/29 South Lambeth
Title:	
Initials and Surname:	J. Wood
Address:	2nd Floor British Interplanetary Society, 27/29 South Lambeth
Email:	[Redacted]

4. Cost of the Activity

Cost of the activity seawards of the tidal limit of MHWS (£):	£3000
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5. Application type

Is this application for a new site or an existing site (mark “X” against the relevant section)?

New site	X
Existing site	

If an existing site, provide the marine licence reference number or any other reference details and the expiry date if applicable and expiry date.

Consent/Licence Number or Other Reference Details	
Expiry Date	

6. Scotland’s National Marine Plan

Provide details of how the proposed activity is in accordance with Scotland’s National Marine Plan including reference to relevant policies. This should include consideration of the General Polices and any Sector Policies.
See attached document - Overview of the Lowlander Pathfinder

7. Scientific Instrument Deployment details

a) Brief description of the activity (e.g. wave rider buoy deployment):	
See attached document - Overview of the Lowlander Pathfinder	

d) Description of activity location:

The launch will take place from Machrihanish Airbase, Argyll and Bute, located on the western edge of the Kintyre Peninsula at approximately 55.43932°N, 5.70887°W. The vehicle will be launched on a broadly westward azimuth to ensure that the trajectory remains over the sea.

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the activity (continue on Appendix 01 Additional Co-ordinates form if necessary):

Latitude									Longitude													
5	5	°	2	5	.	8	9	9	'	N	0	0	5	°	4	3	.	2	2	5	'	W
5	5	°	2	5	.	3	8	9	'	N	0	0	5	°	4	6	.	1	9	4	'	W
5	5	°	2	7	.	8	3	3	'	N	0	0	5	°	4	5	.	6	3	1	'	W
5	5	°	2	6	.	7	8	7	'	N	0	0	5	°	4	2	.	9	0	0	'	W
		°			.				'	N				°			.				'	W
		°			.				'	N				°			.				'	W
		°			.				'	N				°			.				'	W
		°			.				'	N				°			.				'	W
		°			.				'	N				°			.				'	W

e) Is any part of the activity located within the jurisdiction of a Statutory Harbour Authority (mark “X” against the relevant section)?

Yes	
No	X

If yes, specify the Statutory Harbour Authority:

f) Method statement including schedule of work (attach separate document if necessary):

See attached document - Overview of the Lowlander Pathfinder

g) Potential impacts the activity may have (including details of sensitive areas e.g. designated conservation and shellfish harvesting areas) and proposed mitigation in response to potential impacts (attach separate document if necessary):

Potential impacts are limited to temporary disturbance associated with launch, splashdown and recovery activities, together with the unlikely scenario of unrecovered debris. Sensitive receptors considered within the assessment include Machrihanish Dunes SSSI and the Sound of Gigha SPA. Recovery of vehicle components, use of a temporary Safety Exclusion Zone, and operational controls are designed to minimise impacts. The accompanying Environmental Assessment concludes that significant adverse environmental effects are not anticipated.

8. Deposits

a) Provide further details about the instrument(s) to be deployed.

Instruments	Instrument Details (e.g. description, type and size)	Quantity
Scientific Buoys (e.g. waveriders or wave-powered)		
Marker Buoys		
Associated Guard Buoys		
Profiling Instruments (e.g. ADCP)		
ROV		
Other (please describe below)		

b) Details of any vessel(s) undertaking deposit or removal activities (please note that a marine licence cannot be issued until the vessel details have been confirmed. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Vessel	Vessel Name	Type of Vessel	Name and Address of Operator
1	TBC	TBC	TBC
2			
3			
4			
5			

c) Further details of any vessel(s) undertaking deposit or removal activities (note that a marine licence cannot be issued until the vessel details have been confirmed. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Vessel	Vessel Role (e.g. guard or fisheries liaison)	Vessel to be Stationary (include length of time to be stationary)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

9. Marine Noise Registry

Will loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise be produced by the activity (mark "X" against the relevant section)?

Yes	
No	X

If yes, provide the Marine Noise Registry – Application Reference Number:	
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If yes, which please indicate the noise generating activities and sound frequencies:	
Noise Generating Activity	Sound Frequency (Hertz)
Use of Explosives	
Other (please describe below)	

10. Consultation

List any persons and bodies that you have consulted and provide copies of the correspondence:
Marine Directorate, MCA, NLB, HMCG, UKHO

11. Associated activities

Provide details of other related marine activities, including reference/licence numbers (if applicable):
No related activities