

Heriot-Watt University

**PROPOSED DEPOSIT OF SHELL, GRAVEL AND NATIVE OYSTERS,
DORNOCH ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

**NATIONAL MARINE PLAN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
V1.1 – NOVEMBER 2024**

This document has been prepared by

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for
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This document has been prepared to set out the consideration that has been given to the National Marine Plan and the policies therein. It relates to all proposed Native Oyster deposit plots within the Dornoch Firth as identified with the application forms and other supporting documents. Within the table below columns 1 and 2 provide reference number and summary policy text from the national marine plan. We then go on to provide information summarising how the developer has considered these policies in progressing these marine licence applications.

Within the consideration of policies we refer to additional documents submitted in support of these applications and provided under separate cover.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	General	
GEN 1	General planning principle: There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and use of the marine environment when consistent with the policies and objectives of this Plan.	This document demonstrates the consideration that has been given to the policies and objectives of Scotland's National Marine Plan in bringing forward the proposed deposit of cultch material and native oysters within the Dornoch Firth. This document has been prepared recognising that advice from MD-LOT is that the proposals are considered to be construction in terms of Marine Licensing legislation in Scotland.
GEN 2	Economic benefit: Sustainable development and use which provides economic benefit to Scottish communities is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.	The proposed deposits are part of an overall DORNOCH ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (DEEP) which seeks to re-establish native oysters within the Dornoch Firth, an area where this species is locally extinct other than on existing trial plots which have been in operation since 2016.
GEN 3	Social benefit: Sustainable development and use which provides social benefits is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.	<p>There will be a small, short term, economic benefit through commercial workboat charter associated with the deposit of cultch and oysters as well as direct income to project officers and project support and monitoring staff.</p> <p>In the long term the presence of Native Oysters may yield self sustaining populations which will bring Social and Economic benefit through ecosystem services eg. water quality, carbon capture</p>

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		<p>and improved habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish species.</p> <p>As the project matures it may be desirable to establish a hatchery facility local to the site whereby broodstock oysters may be held and used to set spat/seed oysters onto shell cultch. The Applicant has had early discussions with Tain Community Council in respect of use of Common Good Land with rental income returning to Tain Common Good Fund.</p>
GEN 4	<p>Co-existence: Proposals which enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities within the Scottish marine area are encouraged in planning and decision making processes, when consistent with policies and objectives of this Plan.</p>	<p>In identifying the plots the applicant has sought to identify sites where there is a balance between suitable sea bed habitat and other ongoing activities and interests. The Supporting information document and information provided at public open days has set out the steps that the project has gone through in order to avoid or address any areas of conflict with other activities in the Firth.</p> <p>The pre-application consultation process has not identified any significant areas of conflict with ongoing activities within the Firth</p>
GEN 5	<p>Climate change: Marine planners and decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.</p>	<p>Native Oysters, absorb significant quantities of CO₂ in shell growth. Shell material does not readily decompose once the animal dies and is retained on the seabed eroding to form shell sand. Shellfish are recognised as an important Carbon sink.</p>
GEN 6	<p>Historic environment: Development and use of the marine environment should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance.</p>	<p>The proposed deposit will not impact on marine heritage assets as set out in the National Marine Plan.</p>
GEN 7	<p>Landscape/seascape: Marine planners and decision makers should ensure that development and use of the marine environment take</p>	<p>The proposed deposit is entirely sub-tidal, with no surface equipment and will therefore have no visual impact.</p>

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	seascape, landscape and visual impacts into account.	
GEN 8	<p>Coastal process and flooding: Developments and activities in the marine environment should be resilient to coastal change and flooding, and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding.</p>	<p>The proposed deposit area at 40Ha total is a small proportion of the total area of the Dornoch Firth. Supporting information provided identifies that the proposed deposits will not have an adverse impact on coastal change or flooding.</p>

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
GEN 9	<p>Natural heritage: Development and use of the marine environment must:</p> <p>(a) Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species.</p> <p>(b) Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features.</p> <p>(c) Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.</p>	<p>There are several nature conservation designations covering the Dornoch Firth. These include:</p> <p>Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC Moray Firth SAC Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA Moray Firth SPA</p> <p>The relevant features of interest are detailed within the supporting information document and the Applicant understands that HRA/AA is being undertaken for the project by NatureScot in determining the application for Non-Native Species Translocation Licence.</p> <p>It is further anticipated that The HRA/AA prepared for the Translocation Licence will be provide by NatureScot to inform this Marine Licence Application.</p>
GEN 10	<p>Invasive non-native species: Opportunities to reduce the introduction of invasive non-native species to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made.</p>	<p>A comprehensive biosecurity plan has been prepared and is submitted in support of this Marine Licence Application. The document identifies possible INNS, possible vectors for transfer and sets out mitigation by which the risk of introduction of INNS can be reduced as far as practicable.</p>
GEN 11	<p>Marine litter: Developers, users and those accessing the marine environment must take measures to address marine litter where appropriate. Reduction of litter must be taken into account by decision makers.</p>	<p>Sea bed equipment associated with the deposit is limited to 4no bio-degradable line 15m in length on four of the sites (16 lines total). Individual oysters will be glued to these lines (100 per line). These lines will be weighted to the seabed with rocks in-situ or pinned to the seabed with steel pins. The intention of the lines is to allow certain oysters within the deposit to be identified as the subject of ongoing monitoring. Any packaging used to transfer oysters to the site, eg oyster trays, will be removed from site, cleaned in accordance with the biosecurity plan and reused.</p>

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GEN 12	<p>Water quality and resource: Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive or other related Directives apply.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the project will have a localised positive impact on water quality but that this is likely to be insignificant as a far field effect due to the small footprint of the proposal within the overall extent of the Dornoch Firth and large fluctuations in turbidity which occur naturally within the Firth. For example terrestrial runoff, sediment movement through wind and tide and turbidity caused by naturally occurring algal blooms.</p> <p>One of the overall aims of the project is to bio-remediate organic waste entering the Firth from the operations of Glenmorangie Distillery.</p> <p>Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board has highlighted concerns around the timings of cultch deposit suggesting that there is evidence that increased turbidity which may be associated with the deposit of shell and gravel cultch may have an adverse impact on out migrating salmon smolt if deposits occur during April and May.</p> <p>The Applicant plans to undertake deposit of cultch material during periods of one hour either side of slack water at neep tides during March / April and September / October. This programme is intended to ensure that the cultch settles to the seabed as quickly as possible. Whilst there are no plans to undertake deposits during May, deposits during April are unlikely to be entirely avoidable but will be of short duration and small in scale and in the view of the Applicant based on experience of similar deposits in other projects are unlikely to be detectable in the water column beyond the immediate site areas particularly when taking into account natural fluctuations in turbidity as described above.</p>
GEN 13	<p>Noise: Development and use in the marine environment should avoid significant adverse effects of man-</p>	<p>The only noise associated with the project is the movement of vessels during the deployment and monitoring of oysters. This impact will be infrequent and short</p>

	made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects.	lived so will not contribute significantly to the overall level of noise within the Firth.
GEN 14	Air quality: Development and use of the marine environment should not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.	There will not be any significant impact on air quality resulting from the proposed deposit.
GEN 15	Planning alignment A: Marine and terrestrial plans should align to support marine and land-based components required by development and seek to facilitate appropriate access to the shore and sea.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.
GEN 16	Planning alignment B: Marine plans should align and comply where possible with other statutory plans and should consider objectives and policies of relevant non-statutory plans where appropriate to do so.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.
GEN 17	Fairness: All marine interests will be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
GEN 18	Engagement: Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.	The Applicant has undertaken Pre-Application engagement with local stakeholders prior to bringing forward this application. Please see enclosed report of consultation.
GEN 19	Sound evidence: Decision making in the marine environment will be based on sound scientific and socio-economic evidence.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers. This policy has not been considered further.
GEN 20	Adaptive management: Adaptive management practices should take account of new data and information in decision making, informing future decisions and future iterations of policy.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.
GEN 21	Cumulative impacts: Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the marine plan area should be addressed in decision making and plan implementation.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Sea Fisheries	
FISHERIES 1	Taking account of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine planners and decision makers should aim to ensure ...	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.
FISHERIES 2	The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on fishing.	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. This policy has not been considered further.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
FISHERIES 3	<p>Where existing fishing opportunities or activity cannot be safeguarded, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy should be prepared by the proposer of development or use, involving full engagement with local fishing interests (and other interests as appropriate) in the development of the Strategy. All efforts should be made to agree the Strategy with those interests. Those interests should also undertake to engage with the proposer and provide transparent and accurate information and data to help complete the Strategy. The Strategy should be drawn up as part of the discharge of conditions of permissions granted.</p> <p>[Further policy detail removed for brevity]</p>	<p>Scottish Statutory Instrument 276 of 2004, The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Scotland) Order 2004. prohibits fishing with mobile gear within a line between Dornoch Point and Rubh'na n-innse Moire. For the majority of the proposed licenced plots there is no conflict with mobile fishing activity however, application plots 2, 6, 7 and 8 lie outwith the prohibited area. It is understood that historically there may have been occasional effort targeted at surf clam and razor clam in this area but it is not believed to be routinely fished with mobile gear.</p> <p>The prohibition above does not apply to fishing with dredge specifically to target mussels. The right to fish for mussels in the Dornoch Firth was granted in Royal Charters to the Old Royal Burgh of Tain and now forms a Common Good asset managed by Highland Council. The mussel fishery is not active at present and any reactivation of the fishery may require additional permissions from NatureScot as the mussel beds form part of the Reef feature of interest within the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC.</p> <p>The known historical extent of the mussel beds forming the Common Good asset was obtained from Highland Council during early sift mapping stages of the DEEP project. The proposed licence plots forming part of the Marine Licence application seek avoid all areas where mussel beds have historically formed and been fished within the Firth. Mapping information is presented in the supporting information document.</p> <p>There is occasional fishing by creel within the Firth. It is not considered that there will be any adverse interaction between the project proposals and this activity.</p>

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
FISHERIES 4	<p>Ports and harbours should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Any port or harbour developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a view to avoiding commercial harm where possible. Where a port or harbour has reached a minimum level of infrastructure required to support a viable fishing fleet, there should be a presumption in favour of maintaining this infrastructure, provided there is an ongoing requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose.</p>	<p>This policy is directed at the operators of ports and harbours and is not relevant to the proposals. This policy has not been considered further.</p>
FISHERIES 5	<p>Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) should work with all local stakeholders with an interest to agree joint fisheries management measures.</p>	<p>Policy relates to the actions of IFGs and is not relevant to the proposals. This policy has not been considered further.</p>

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Aquaculture	
AQUACULTURE 1	Marine planners and decision makers should seek to identify appropriate locations for future aquaculture development and use, ...	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. The proposed deposit is not considered to be Fish or Shellfish Farming in terms of the Planning Acts.
AQUACULTURE 2	Marine and terrestrial development plans should jointly identify areas which are potentially suitable and sensitive areas which are unlikely to be appropriate for such development, ...	We consider that this policy is directed at marine planners and decision makers and is not directly applicable to the proposed deposit. The proposed deposit is not considered to be Fish or Shellfish Farming in terms of the Planning Acts.
AQUACULTURE 3	In relation to nutrient enhancement and benthic impacts, as set out under Locational Guidelines for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters, fish farm development is likely to be acceptable in Category 3 areas, subject to other criteria being satisfied. A degree of precaution should be applied to consideration of further fish farming development in Category 2 areas and there will be a presumption against further fish farm development in Category 1 areas.	The proposal is not a fin fish farm development therefore Locational Guidelines for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters do not apply. This policy has not been considered further.
AQUACULTURE 4	There is a presumption that further sustainable expansion of shellfish farms should be located in designated shellfish waters ...	Not applicable, the deposit is not considered to be a shellfish farm. Oysters are to be deployed to the site for habitat restoration purposes and are not intended as a fishery product or for human consumption.
AQUACULTURE 5	Aquaculture developments should avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts upon the seascape, landscape and visual amenity of an area, following SNH guidance ⁷⁵ on the siting and design of aquaculture.	Considered at National Marine Plan Policy GEN 7 above.
AQUACULTURE 6	New aquaculture sites should not bridge Disease Management Areas although boundaries may be revised by Marine Scotland to take account of any changes in fish farm location, subject to the continued management of risk.	Not applicable, the proposed deposit is outwith a disease management area.

AQUACULTURE 7	Operators and regulators should continue to utilise a risk based approach to the location of fish farms and potential impacts on wild fish.	Not applicable, the proposed deposit is not considered to be a fish farm. Native oysters and wild salmonids co-exist successfully throughout their natural distributions.
AQUACULTURE 8	Guidance on harassment at designated seal haul out sites should be taken into account and seal conservation areas should also be taken into account in site selection and operation. Seal licences will only be granted where other management options are precluded or have proven unsuccessful in deterrence.	<p>The proposed sites are Within the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC with Common Seal as Species of Interest. The conservation objectives for the site seek to avoid deterioration of seal habitat and that there should be no significant disturbance to the species.</p> <p>Within the supporting information document The Applicant has described activities such as boat movements which may cause a disturbance and set out mitigation measures whereby adverse impacts can be limited. The main methods for this are limiting the proximity of project sites to sand banks on which seals haul out, and seeking to avoid the most sensitive timings for seals.</p> <p>The Applicant acknowledges that that it an offence to harass seals at a designated seal haul out site and although the closest sites so designated are out with the Firth (Loch Fleet and Cromarty Firth) the Applicant is aware of the definition of Harassment as applied to such sites and will treat the Seal Haul outs with in the SAC as if so designated.</p> <p>All on water activities involving boat movements will take place in accordance with NatureScot Guidance included within its Marine Wildlife Watching Code</p> <p>It is not considered that the proposed deposit of native oysters is incompatible with the presence of the designated seal haul out sites.</p>

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
AQUACULTURE 9	Consenting and licensing authorities should be satisfied that appropriate emergency response plans are in place.	Recent determinations on Marine Licence Applications have included a requirement for emergency response plans to be submitted to MCA. It is anticipated that MD-LOT will choose to add licence condition to this effect.
AQUACULTURE 10	Operators should carry out pre-application discussion and consultation, and engage with local communities and others who may be affected, to identify and, where possible, address any concerns in advance of submitting an application.	Please refer to information provided above in response to GEN 18.
AQUACULTURE 11	Aquaculture equipment, including but not limited to installations, facilities, moorings, pens and nets must be fit for purpose for the site conditions, subject to future climate change. Any statutory technical standard must be adhered to. Equipment and activities should be optimised in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Not applicable to this project. This policy has not been considered further.
AQUACULTURE 12	Applications which promote the use of sustainable biological controls for sea lice (such as farmed wrasse) will be encouraged.	Not applicable to this project. This policy has not been considered further.
AQUACULTURE 13	Proposals that contribute to the diversification of farmed species will be supported, subject to other objectives and policies being satisfied.	Not applicable to this project. This policy has not been considered further.
AQUACULTURE 14	The Scottish Government, aquaculture companies and Local Authorities should work together to maximise benefit to communities from aquaculture development.	This policy duplicates the provisions of policies GEN 2 and 3. Please refer to response above.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish	
WILD FISH 1	The impact of development and use of the marine environment on diadromous fish species should be considered in marine planning and decision making processes. Where evidence of impacts on salmon and other diadromous species is inconclusive, mitigation should be adopted where possible and information on impacts on diadromous species from monitoring of developments should be used to inform subsequent marine decision making.	Native oysters and wild salmonids co-habit successfully throughout their natural distributions. Concerns raised by Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fisheries Board in relation to short term turbidity events are discussed above in relation to policy GEN 12.
	Oil and Gas	
OIL & GAS 1-6		Policies not relevant to proposed deposit of native oysters
Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Carbon Capture and Storage	
CCS 1-2		Policies not relevant to proposed deposit of native oysters
	Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy	
RENEWABLES 1-10		Policies not relevant to proposed deposit of native oysters
	Recreation and Tourism	
REC & TOURISM 1	Opportunities to promote sustainable development of marine recreation and tourism should be supported.	Through the project outreach of DEEP there are opportunities for members of the public to become involved in aspects of the project. This includes assisting with the biosecurity measures for the oyster to be deposited as well as opportunities for engagement via the Marine Conservation Society interpretation centre at Glenmorangie Distillery.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
REC & TOURISM 2	<p>The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on recreation and tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely affect the qualities important to recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with the physical infrastructure that underpins a recreational activity. • The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety. • Where significant impacts are likely, whether reasonable alternatives can be identified for the proposed activity or development. • Where significant impacts are likely and there are no reasonable alternatives, whether mitigation, through recognised and effective measures, can be achieved at no significant cost to the marine recreation or tourism sector interests. 	<p>There are unlikely to be any adverse impacts on Tourism related activity within the vicinity of the project.</p>
Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
REC & TOURISM 3	<p>Regional marine plans should identify areas that are of recreational and tourism value and identify where prospects for significant development exist, including opportunities to link to the National Long Distance Walking and Cycle Routes, and more localised and/or bespoke recreational opportunities and visitor attractions.</p>	<p>This policy is aimed at regional marine plans. This policy has not been considered further.</p>

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
REC & TOURISM 4	Marine and terrestrial planners, marine decision makers and developers should give consideration to the facility requirements of marine recreation and tourism activities ...	The only reasonably foreseeable interaction with recreation and tourism interests would be the ability of pleasure craft and tour vessels to see project vessels when they are operating on the sites. This is likely to be a positive interaction given the nature of the conservation project. This said, on site activities by the project are low in number and of short duration and navigation close to the sites by tourism or recreational vessels is also low and of short duration making the opportunities for interaction limited.
REC & TOURISM 5	Marine planners and decision makers should support enhancement ...	Policy aimed at marine planners and decision makers. This policy has not been considered further.
REC & TOURISM 6	Codes of practice for invasive non-native species and Marine Wildlife Watching should be complied with.	Although the proposed deposit is not a recreation and tourism activity boat movements associated with the project will be undertaken in accordance with the agreed biosecurity measures plan and NatureScot Marine Wildlife Watching Code of Practice. Adherence to both of these documents are anticipated to be conditions of the NatureScot Conservation Translocation Licence sought for these deposits.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries	
TRANSPORT 1	<p>Navigational safety in relevant areas used by shipping now and in the future will be protected, adhering to the rights of innocent passage and freedom of navigation contained in UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding development and use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the locational decision interferes with existing or planned routes used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety. This includes commercial anchorages and defined approaches to ports. • Where interference is likely, whether reasonable alternatives can be identified. • Where there are no reasonable alternatives, whether mitigation through measures adopted in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the International Maritime Organization can be achieved at no significant cost to the shipping or ports sector. 	<p>Navigational activities within the Dornoch Firth are very rare. Boat activities associated with the project will be infrequent and of short duration and there is no surface equipment associated with the proposed licence sites. There will be no significant adverse impact on navigation.</p> <p>Advice was received from Northern Lighthouse Board during pre-application consultations. As the plans have no surface equipment deposits and only involve the restoration of native oyster species there is no requirement for lighting and marking. It went on to request that during any of the planned works that involve surface vessels a notice to mariners is to be promulgated to warn other vessels that might be operating in the area.</p> <p>The Applicant anticipates that such requirement will be incorporated into any marine licence issued.</p>
TRANSPORT 2-7		Policies not relevant to these proposals. These policies have not been considered further.
	Submarine Cables	
CABLES 1-4		There is known to be a Marine Cable crossing the Dornoch Firth to the west of the Dornoch Firth Bridge. This cable depicted on hydrographic charts is marked by daymarks on the north and south shores of the Firth. It is over 1500m from the closest of the proposed deposit plots. These policies are not therefore relevant to the proposed deposit and are not considered further.

Ref & Policy No.	Heading & Policy Text	Consideration by the Developer
	Defence	
DEFENCE 1	<p>To maintain operational effectiveness in Scottish waters used by the armed services, development and use will be managed in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naval areas including bases and ports: Safety of navigation and access to naval bases and ports will be maintained. The extent to which a development or use interferes with access or safety of navigation, and whether reasonable alternatives can be identified, will be taken into account by consenting bodies. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Firing Danger Areas: Development of new permanent infrastructure is unlikely to be compatible with the use of Firing Danger Areas by the MOD. Permitted activities may have temporal restrictions imposed. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Within Exercise Areas, activities may be subject to temporal restrictions. Development and use that either individually or cumulatively obstructs or otherwise prevents the defence activities supported by an exercise area may not be permitted. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Communications: Navigations and surveillance including radar: Development and use which causes unacceptable interference with radar and other systems necessary for national defence may be prohibited if mitigation cannot be determined. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. 	<p>The East end of the Dornoch Firth is within the danger area for Tain Air Weapons Range as depicted in Ordnance Survey Mapping and operated by Defence Infrastructure Organisation.</p> <p>Of the proposed licence plots, plots 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 lie within the range danger area as shown on Ordnance Survey Mapping. It is not considered that there will be any physical conflict between the seabed presence of the licence plots and the operations of the range although the Applicant accepts that boat movements associated with the deposit of clutch and oysters and ongoing monitoring will need to fit in with published range activity.</p> <p>The Applicant is aware that range firing times are published in advance via Scotland firing times - GOV.UK website. Operations requiring boat movements within in the mapped range area will be timed to take place on Friday Afternoon, Saturday or Sunday when Tain AWR is generally inactive.</p>
DEFENCE 2-3		Policies not applicable to the proposed deposit of Native Oysters. These policies have not been considered further.
	Aggregates	
AGGREGATES 1-2		Policies not applicable to the proposed deposit of Native Oysters. These policies have not been considered further.

ENDS.