

Objection To Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

References: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743

Dear Sir / Madam,

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.' **NMP Para. 4.77** 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.' **Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance:** The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined. **NMP Para. 4.20** 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'.

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.' **Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats:** The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda. **NPF4 Policy 7 I** 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.' **NPF4 Policy 11 e ix** Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed. **Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments:** The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site. **NMP Para. 4.22** 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important

coastal heritage assets.’ **Para. 4.23** ‘Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting’. **NPF4 Policy 7 h** ‘Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:’ ii ‘significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.’ **Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters:** Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. **NMP Para. 4.77** ‘There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.’ **Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character:** The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area’s landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, **contrary to NPF4 Policy 30. NMP, Para. 12.28** ‘An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland’s coasts,’ **Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment:** The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan’s commitment to community empowerment. **The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5** ‘Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.’ **Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats:** The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government’s own scientists as “probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years” (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso’s dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met. **Construction noise:** The developer’s own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5

hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant." NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold. The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk. **The 2023 Tolsta Stranding:** In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision. **Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance:** Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete." NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area. **Cumulative and in-combination effects:** The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this

requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed. **Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation:** The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address. The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these. Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07). No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise. The N4 proposal clearly conflicts with marine policy guidelines * Visual and Landscape Impact: N4 is located so close to the shore, presenting a higher visual impact compared to other areas, which conflicts with coastal character and landscape policies. * Biodiversity and Habitats: The proposal threatens sensitive habitats (e.g., cold-water coral reefs, maerl beds) and marine mammals/bird species through potential habitat loss, noise, and barrier effects, challenging environmental sustainability goals. * Socio-economic Concerns: The visual impact is expected to adversely affect tourism and recreation in the area, causing tension with policies designed to protect the livelihoods of island and coastal communities. * Operational Impacts: The project introduces increased vessel traffic and potential for electromagnetic fields from subsea cables, creating challenges for marine life and existing user activities. * Noise and Pollution: Significant adverse environmental effects were identified in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), including noise and vibration affecting both marine life and human populations. [1, 2, 3, 4] This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible

harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected. Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Member of the public 2069

Please Email to MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot By 7th May 2026

Or Post to: Marine Directorate, Licensing Operations Team, Scottish Gov, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

My address: _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____ Date: 7 May 2026

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application for a various reasons. The development is subject to

1. (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (SSI 2017/102) underpinned by applicable law of EU Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of **certain public and private projects** on the environment (the 2011 Directive), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, which codified EU law on this issue following successive amendments of the predecessor Council Directive 85/337/EC. Both Directives have sought to ensure that the likely environmental impacts of any major project are **considered and assessed before permission for development is granted**.

Article 3(1) provides that every environmental impact assessment ("EIA") shall "identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project" on a range of environmental factors, including

- (a) population and human health;
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate;
- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;
- (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).

The development is Schedule 2 development (Schedule 2, Category 3 subparagraph (j)).

Recital (2) in the preamble to the 2011 Directive emphasises that "[e]ffects on the environment should be taken into account at the earliest possible stage in all the technical planning and decision- making processes."

Features of the Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council include:

(10) The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity ('the Convention'), to which the Union is party pursuant to Council Decision 93/626/EEC(9), requires assessment, as far as possible and as appropriate, of the significant adverse effects of projects on biological diversity, which is defined in Article 2 of the Convention, with a view to avoiding or minimising such effects. Such prior assessment of those effects should contribute to attaining the Union headline target adopted by the European Council in its conclusions of 25-26 March 2010 of halting biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services by 2020 and restoring them where feasible.

The project is in an environmentally sensitive location.

And



Under type and characteristics of the potential impact (ANNEX III SELECTION CRITERIA, required for 'ANNEX II. A INFORMATION of Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council)

7.A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.

Firstly there is not a full description of measures envisaged in the HRA and where significant adverse effects on the environment are made clear in the HRA and Environmental Impact documentation, it is clear that the requirement to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset is totally lacking and presents unreasonable level of harm to biodiversity and the real prospect of death to many different animals including protected birds and sea mammals, also the documentation indicates that the risk of non-native invasive species due to the construction activities is a real likelihood.

I argue that following legislation will be breached if the scheme goes ahead:

2. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 - the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. The Act requires due regard to:

the United Nations Environmental Programme Convention on Biological Diversity of 5 June 1992 as amended from time to time (or any United Nations Convention replacing that Convention).

3. The **Council of Europe Landscape Convention** ([ETS No. 176](#)), as amended by the 2016 Protocol ([CETS No. 219](#)), promotes landscape protection, management and planning, and organises co-operation between the Parties.

4. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm is incompatible with the above areas of legislation. I give some examples as follows as to why but more examples are easily evident in the documentation supplied by consultees, on the planning portal.

I refer to the Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team Scoping Opinion in May 2024 where Scottish Ministers

6.1.3 “acknowledge that the Scoping Report states at section 4.6.2 that a HRA Report will be undertaken separately. The Scottish Ministers recommend that the Developer submits a HRA screening report at the earliest opportunity and before the submission of the EIA Report.

6.1.4 A gap analysis template is attached at Appendix II to record the environmental concerns identified during the scoping process. This template should be completed and used to inform the preparation of the EIA Report.

As part of the submission of the EIA Report the Scottish Ministers advise that Developer must provide confirmation of how this Scoping Opinion is reflected in the EIA Report.

The 22-08-2024 **Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Screening Report** and EIA documentation cannot rule out significant effects, harms, biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems in fact, the opposite it shows a myriad of adverse impacts.

Backed up by,

Naturescot in: “CNS / REN / OSWF / N4-Spiorad na Mara – Pre-application” state that the EIA, *“presents **very limited information** for this stage in the application process, and there is little new information on the proposal since the Scoping Workshops in mid- 2023. Cumulative effects are briefly addressed in EIA Scoping Report section 4.4, although no detail is set out.”*

There are many further statements by Naturescot in this report, which indicates that the EIA does not meet standards required of it under Directive 2014/52/EU due to incomplete information presented.

For example:

Naturescot have made clear statements that different baseline survey information has to be used. For example:

Study area

The EIA Scoping Report also defines a regional ‘Wider Marine and Nearshore Study Area’ which uses an arbitrary 150km buffer around the Array Area. We do not support the use of an arbitrary buffer in defining this study area and advise Marine Directorate that this is an inadequate method of determining connectivity for EIA.

An “arbitrary buffer” is clearly incompatible with the obligations mentioned in the Directive 2014/52/EU – as the named environmental criteria cannot be assessed and mitigated.

Further obvious evidence from Naturescot’s consultation which backs up the clear lack of information available, which then in turn invalidates the EIA is when they state:

Migratory birds

It is not clear from the EIA Scoping Report section 6.7.3.8 how impacts on migratory birds will be assessed, either alone or in-combination with existing terrestrial and offshore wind farms which must be considered.

This section lists species which overlap the study area in the context of migratory routes. Key in this in terms of the flyway from Scotland to Greenland/Canada via Iceland are the following species:

- whooper swan;
- Greenland white-fronted goose;
- Icelandic Greylag goose; and
- great northern diver (not identified).

Greenland white-fronted goose is of significant conservation concern as it has unfavourable conservation status. The population is subject to an AEWA Flyway International Plan¹¹ and as such it must be considered a highly important and sensitive receptor, and any impacts on this

population requires thorough assessment, using latest population data. The Icelandic greylag goose population has undergone recent declines.

Naturscot continued,

Appendix C – Marine mammals and other megafauna

Scoping Questions

1. Do you agree that the data sources identified are sufficient to inform the Marine Mammal and Other Megafauna baseline for the EIA (and therefore that no further baseline data collection is merited)?

No, the list of sources should be updated to include SMASS, BDMLR, ORCA ferry surveys, WDC Shorewatch data and SCANS IV sources of cetacean data. It should also include Paxton et al. 2014¹⁶, Witt et al. 2012¹⁷, and Speedie and Austin et al. 2019¹⁸ sources of basking shark data. We also note Carter et al. 2022¹⁹ is missing from this list, although it is later referred to in seal density figures.

With regard to SCANS data – in some cases, SCANS III and SCANS IV may not have the same coverage in terms of density estimates for every species of cetacean within or between every survey block. We advise the applicant to include species densities for every listed species from SCANS IV wherever possible, and if some are missing that are still found in SCANS III – then use the density estimate through from SCANS III wherever needed (or if SCANS III is significantly higher/more precautionary)

Naturscot's assertions that mitigations can be put in place gives rise to an imminent requirement for training in Naturscot on tightening up their consultation responses to meet with the legislative requirements of the EIA which is that the effects need to be known and assessed are **considered and assessed before permission for development is granted.**

7. Do you agree that the embedded mitigation measures described provide a suitable means for managing and mitigating the relevant potential likely significant effects of the Project on Marine and Nearshore Ornithology receptors.

The embedded mitigation measures presented are suitable. However, there is scope for additional mitigation measures as described in our detailed advice below.

Basking sharks have been found in the area and that;

Today Basking Sharks are one of the most heavily protected sharks in UK and EU waters, but this wasn't always the case.

From 1946-1995 Basking Sharks were heavily fished in the Northeast Atlantic. Targeted for their liver oil and meat. Then for their large fins, which are prized in the shark fin trade.

Basking Shark fisheries displayed a typical 'boom and bust' pattern. Large volumes of mature Basking Sharks were initially caught. Followed by a rapid decline of landings. Until fisheries were no longer financially viable and collapsed. The last Basking Shark fishery in British waters closed in 1995. Leaving Basking Shark populations on the brink.

Basking Sharks are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Monitoring, management and further research is vital to ensure their survival. And this is why we created the Basking Shark Project.

UK and EU Protection:

In the UK Basking Sharks are protected under:

- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000
- Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

These Acts make it illegal to intentionally kill, injure or harass Basking Sharks in British waters. Any person committing such an offence could face up to 6 months in prison and a large fine.

They're also protected under:

- **Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)** - In 2007 Basking Sharks became a Prohibited Species in the EU. EU commercial fishing vessels are prohibited from targeting, retaining, trans-shipping or landing them. And this also applies to third country vessels in EU waters.
- **UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** - In 1997 the Basking Shark was listed in the UK BAP - an inventory of the nation's biodiversity. This identified the Basking Shark as being in urgent need of conservation management and laid out detailed plans for their protection.

<https://www.sharktrust.org/basking-shark-conservation>

Note that the associated "potential risks" and mitigations in the HRA nor EIA do not give evidence that basking sharks will not come to harm.

Unacceptable risk of Harm

the HRA identified harms without comprehensive mitigations, and species-specific considerations, therefore does not meet the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU.

https://marine.gov.scot/sites/default/files/chapter_13_-_marine_mammals_figures.pdf

Shows that there are marine mammals in the zones for construction of the wind farm and cable lay.

Letter 26.11.2024 from the Scottish Government called "Habitat Regulations Appraisal Screening under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Further evidences the lack of information in the EIA about protections for sealife. In particular the letter raises the concern of

Invasive Non-Native Species (“INNS”) during both the construction and decommissioning activities.

The applicant documentation outlines techniques that will be utilised will be dependent upon ground survey results but could include:

Option 1: Trenchless techniques e.g. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), Direct Pipe or similar,

Option 2: Open-cut trench, and

Option 3: Rock pinning.

For all of these, species-specific impacts must be identified and addressed comprehensively and I argue they are not, see a list of (not exclusive) reasons.

See: **Table 3-2: Potential Pressures and Screening Parameters for Marine Mammals**

Underwater noise – the mitigation is not evidenced and not species-specific furthermore the noise does not include reference to the possible use of explosions, for the Unexploded Ordinance Devices, should they be found, in the cable lay route despite the applicant documentation.

Furthermore it appears that the risk is too high:

“Underwater noise, e.g. from pile driving, may lead to death, injury or disturbance and be direct or indirect (e.g., through impacts upon prey) impacts to marine mammals.” It is not clear that the mitigation level is strong enough.

EMF. The information in the table relating to the EMFs is inadequate for the following reasons:

- “EMF associated with submarine power cabling may have potential to affect the behaviour of marine mammal prey species.”
- No species specific effects are highlighted
- The general class of EMF is not acceptable as it is meaningless without differentiation into at least:

RF: Radio Frequency: 30 MHz – 300 GHz

VLF: Very Low Frequency: 3 kHz -100 kHz

ELF: Extremely Low Frequency: 1 Hz – 3 kHz

- It is likely that the table comments refer only to ELFs as they reference only submarine power cabling. This is unlikely to be the only source of EMFs in the entire development both at survey, laying, construction and operational phase.
- Different signal strengths and frequencies have different biological effects
- There is no safe level by ICNIRP on effects on at least RF-EMF on wildlife

Hence is it reasonable to conclude that the mitigation proposed of “Impact restricted to immediate vicinity of the cables, within the ODA,” is inadequate. Evidence would be needed for this statement to hold.

Habitat loss/gain

“This relates to the loss of marine habitat due to installation of structures, and where relevant the associated introduction of new habitat. **This is a permanent impact** which occurs during the construction phase but will be assessed during operation and maintenance phase. Loss of potentially supporting habitat outside a designated site boundary is deemed inconsequential in the context of wider habitat availability,”

Acknowledgement of permanent impacts shows an unacceptable level of harm to wildlife and is incompatible with protections in UK and EU legislation and the UN Conventions mentioned above.

Toxic Contamination

“This relates to reduced water or sediment quality from, for example, accidental spillages (e.g. fuel from vessels) or mobilisation of contaminated sediments by activities such as cable ploughing which cause seabed disturbance.”

This is an unacceptable level of harm to wildlife and is incompatible with protections in UK and EU legislation and the UN Conventions mentioned above.

Furthermore in Table 3-4: **Summary of Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology Pressures**

it clearly cites collision with birds once the wind farm is operational as if that is acceptable.

Direct contravention of:

- species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981,
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- the UN Conventions mentioned above

And

NPF4 Policy 7 I *‘Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.’*

NPF4 Policy 11 Impact on *‘biodiversity including impacts on birds’* must be addressed.

Also

Possible conflicting RAMSAR interests with Natura qualifying interests

See at 2.2.1.7 of the HRA report that:

2.2.1.7 In accordance with Scotland’s Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) Policy 4, Ramsar sites

(designated under the Conservation on Wetlands of International Importance especially as

Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (the ‘Ramsar Convention’) are also included in this HRA Screening Report.

The Scottish Government (2019) reiterated its policy on the protection of Ramsar sites in 2019, specifically stating that “where Ramsar interests coincide with Natura qualifying interests protected under an SPA or an SAC, as the case may be, the interests are thereby given the same level of (legal) protection as Natura sites” and “where Ramsar interests are not the same as Natura qualifying interests but instead match Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features, these receive protection under the SSSI regime”.

And

2.2.1.8 As the Project has the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on a number of sites designated

under the Habitats Regulations and is not connected to the management of any of these sites, if the Report concludes that LSEs cannot be ruled out in respect of any site, the Competent Authority must carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ascertain whether the Project has any adverse effects on the integrity of such sites. This document provides screening for LSEs and informs the scope of a detailed Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment which will be later provided for the Competent Authority to carry out

The area may be subject to Ramsar Convention, and Natura qualifying SSSI features appear to be highly likely but not been fully assessed by HRA nor the NaturScot consultation response.

Furthermore, the scheme obviously presents

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island.

Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend.

Tourism is built on the area’s landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 30**.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *‘An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland’s coasts,’*

Also, Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Artificial Light Pollution.

The evidence above clearly indicates incompatibility with EU, UK and Scottish Law, as well as the NPF. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

***Signature:**(type your name here) _____

***Note** I confirm that the views expressed in this email are my own and I intend for this typed name to act as my signature

x

*I have put an **X** in this box because I want my personal details to be kept confidential.*

Formal Objection to Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the above application.

I was born and raised in Barvas on the West Side of Lewis. My parents still live there, and I spend a significant amount of my time on the West Side. I am an active and regular user of the coastline and the marine environment, including surfing at multiple west coast surf breaks. The West Side and its coastline are integral to my identity, culture, wellbeing, and sense of place.

I have serious concerns regarding the Spiorad na Mara project and its failure to comply with national and local planning policy, environmental legislation, and procedural requirements.

1. Inadequate and Deficient Information

The application fails to provide sufficient information to allow meaningful assessment of environmental, social, and cultural impacts. Critically, the developer has not confirmed the final number, height, or layout of turbines, making it impossible to properly assess the real scale of harm.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is therefore fundamentally deficient:

- The EIAR contains significant gaps in baseline data relating to local marine and coastal species, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 1** and the **National Marine Plan**.
- The developer has failed to assess a realistic worst-case scenario as required under the **Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, leaving the full extent of impacts unknown.
- Reliance on the **Rochdale Envelope** in such a sensitive environment is inappropriate and obscures the true magnitude of environmental harm (**NPF4 Policy 4; Marine Scotland Guidance**).
- The application relies heavily on post-consent mitigation, preventing proper scrutiny at the decision-making stage (**NPF4 Policy 3; Habitats Regulations**).
- Key protection plans have been deferred until after consent, creating unacceptable procedural uncertainty and undermining the robustness of the application (**Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025; NPF4 Policy 1**).

2. Failure to Protect Cultural Heritage and the Living Landscape

My family has lived on the West Side for generations. The land, sea, and coastline are not simply locations — they form a living cultural landscape deeply connected to identity, tradition, and community life.

The application fails to recognise and assess this properly:

- The EIAR fails to assess intangible cultural heritage and the living cultural landscape, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 7** and the **Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)**.
- The Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) is inadequate, particularly in relation to impacts on Gaelic culture, traditions, and community cohesion, contrary to the **Islands (Scotland) Act 2018**.
- The project treats heritage assets as isolated features rather than part of an interconnected cultural landscape (**LDP Policy EH1; NPF4 Policy 7**).

3. Mental Health and Wellbeing Impacts

I am deeply concerned about the effect this development is having, and will continue to have, on my parents' mental health and wellbeing. The stress and anxiety caused by the proposal have already resulted in loss of sleep and ongoing distress. Concerns about noise, aviation lighting, prolonged construction, and industrialisation of the coastline significantly exacerbate this.

The West Side coastline is a place of solitude, restoration, and wellbeing for me and many others. Standing on an unspoilt coast with uninterrupted views to the Atlantic has profound mental health value. Surfing at Barvas and other west coast breaks forms part of my identity, something I have done for 20 years. Surfing here is how I care for my own wellbeing and is central to my long-term hopes for sharing this way of life with my children. I can't imagine continuing this recreation activity with the windturbines looming over me.

In planning terms:

- The developer has failed to disclose full Social Impact Assessment (SIA) data, preventing transparent assessment of health risks (**NPF4 Policy 14; Aarhus Convention**).
- The proposal will have demonstrable adverse impacts on mental health and wellbeing, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 14 (Health and Wellbeing)**.

4. Social and Economic Harm

This project risks serious and lasting social and economic damage:

- Family members and local residents have stated they would consider leaving the area if the development proceeds.
- The proposal risks reducing the desirability of west coast communities, affecting house prices, population retention, and the ability to attract families.
- Tourism, particularly nature-based, surf, and landscape tourism, is likely to be adversely affected.

In planning terms:

- The project facilitates the export of economic benefit away from the island, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 25 (Community Wealth Building)** and **National Marine Plan Policy GEN 2**.
- The EIAR fails to model the impact of major seascape change on Tourism Gross Value Added (GVA) (**NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy ED1**).
- A legally compliant ICIA has not been undertaken, despite the vulnerability of the tourism sector (**Islands (Scotland) Act 2018; NPF4 Policy 4**).
- The proposal fails to assess labour displacement effects, including cannibalisation of the care and tourism workforce (**NPF4 Policy 30**).

5. Dark Skies and Lighting Impacts

The West Side benefits from exceptional dark skies. I have observed the Northern Lights from my parents' home since childhood. The permanent introduction of aviation and marine lighting will cause irreversibly damage. shadow flicker is of huge concern. Loss of our dark skies would be a huge tragedy and is unacceptable.

The project:

- Will cause a permanent loss of astronomical amenity, undermining dark sky value and tourism (**NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy PD2**).
- Fails to establish a proper nocturnal baseline and underestimates risks to nocturnal species due to phototaxis (**NPF4 Policy 3; Marine Policy Statement; NPF4 Policy 4**).

6. Cumulative Onshore Damage and Peatland Impacts

The offshore infrastructure cannot be assessed in isolation. I am concerned that the landfall, onshore cabling, substations, and access works will cause significant damage. It must be considered a whole not as just one project. I'm concerned about damage too:

- Machair — a nationally important, irreplaceable habitat.
- Peatlands which represent a vital carbon store and cultural resource.
- Crofting land that has been stewarded by my family for generations.

In planning terms:

- The application constitutes **project splitting**, failing to assess the cumulative environmental and carbon impacts (**NPF4 Policy 1; Policy 5 (Soils)**).
- Damage to peatlands and machair would cause irreversible harm contrary to **NPF4 Policy 3**.
- The environmental risk has not been ruled out “beyond reasonable scientific doubt” as required under the **Habitats Regulations**.
- The proposal conflicts with the **2008 Lewis Peatlands Ministerial Decision**, which recognised this area as being of national importance — a position strengthened further by **NPF4 Policy 1**.

7. Fishing, Marine Life, and Protected Species

I am deeply concerned about the impact this development will have on the marine environment that surrounds the West Side of Lewis — a sea I know well and spend time beside and within. The waters where this development is proposed are not empty or expendable; they are alive with whales, dolphins, seabirds, fish, and complex seabed ecosystems. I am particularly concerned about the migrating Atlantic salmon that pass along this coast, and how they may be affected by underwater noise, vibration, electromagnetic fields from cabling, and seabed disturbance.

The health of these marine ecosystems is inseparable from the health of the land. The construction required for turbines, cabling, and associated infrastructure does not only affect the sea but will also damage connected coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. These are environments that have sustained both wildlife and human communities for generations, and once disrupted, they may never fully recover.

In planning terms the applicant has failed to provide a robust and reliable evidence base for impacts on marine life and the local fishing industry:

- The application contains significant methodological deficiency through reliance on biased aerial surveys that ignore established land-based basking shark data (**National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9**).
- The proposal fails **NPF4 Policy 11** and **NMP Policy GEN 4** by providing no evidence that alternative fishing grounds exist, risking displacement and industry cannibalisation.
- The requirement for **European Protected Species (EPS) licences** directly contradicts claims that impacts will be negligible and demonstrates anticipated harm (**NPF4 Policy 3; EPS Regulations**).

8. Risks to Bird Life

The west coast of Lewis is a vital feeding area and major migration corridor for protected bird species.

The developer has already submitted a **Habitats Regulations Derogation Case**, which is only required where damage to protected sites is expected:

- The Derogation Case itself proves the project cannot proceed without harming protected nature sites (**Habitats Regulations; NPF4 Policy 3**).
- The proposal fails the **Precautionary Principle**, as there is no evidence beyond reasonable scientific doubt that bird populations will remain viable (**National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9**).
- The project poses an unacceptable risk to **Special Protection Area (SPA) integrity**, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 4** and the **Birds Directive**.

9. Failure to Deliver Biodiversity Enhancement and Pollution Risks

Under current Scottish planning policy, developments must leave biodiversity in a better state than before.

- The project fails the mandatory **NPF4 Policy 3 enhancement test**, offering mitigation only and no measurable biodiversity net gain.

- The proposal does not contribute meaningfully to a local Nature Network (**NPF4 Policy 3(a)**).
- The absence of detailed Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and Pollution Prevention Plans prevents robust assessment.
- An Appropriate Assessment cannot lawfully conclude “no adverse effect” where evidence shows high-energy piling will significantly disturb the local bottlenose dolphin population (**NPF4 Policy 4; Habitats Regulations**).

10. Infrastructure and Transport Impacts

I am concerned about the impact that construction traffic and abnormal loads associated with this development will have on the fragile local infrastructure of the West Side of Lewis. The roads serving Barvas and surrounding townships are narrow, lightly built, and not designed to accommodate prolonged heavy or abnormal construction traffic.

These are the same roads used daily by local residents, families, crofters, school transport, emergency services, and health and care staff. Increased construction traffic would not only cause physical damage to road surfaces, verges, and bridges, but would also significantly affect road safety, access, and quality of life for those living along these routes. For my family and neighbours, these roads are not transport corridors but essential lifelines.

Prolonged use by heavy vehicles over several years of construction also raises concerns about noise, dust, delays, and disruption to daily life, particularly for elderly residents and those with health needs. The cumulative burden of this disruption has not been adequately considered within the application.

In planning terms, these impacts have not been sufficiently assessed or mitigated and conflict with:

- **NPF4 Policy 13 (Sustainable Transport)**, which requires development to minimise transport impacts and protect local amenity.
- **Outer Hebrides LDP Policy TA1 (Transport Infrastructure)**, which requires development to demonstrate that local transport infrastructure can safely accommodate projected traffic without unacceptable harm

11. Surfing, Coastal Use, and Recreational Impacts

The EIAR fails to identify surf breaks on the west coast of Lewis — including Barvas, Bragar, Dalbeg/Shawbost, and Arnol — as sensitive receptors.

The assessment fails to:

- Evaluate indirect effects on wave transformation and surf quality caused by seabed disturbance.
- Properly assess landfall impacts associated with HDD and sediment disturbance.
- Assess prolonged construction impacts (potentially up to five years) on recreation and amenity.
- Assess access restrictions and safety zones affecting marine users.

This conflicts with:

- **Outer Hebrides LDP Policies EI8, EI1, EI10**
- **NPF4 Policies 4, 13, 14, and 25**
- EIA requirements for assessment of indirect, cumulative, and community impacts.

I was not contacted or consulted at any stage, despite being a regular user of the affected coastline, raising concerns over consultation adequacy.

Conclusion

The land, sea, and coastline of the West Side of Lewis are fundamental to my identity, my wellbeing, and my hopes for the future — including raising my children with the same connection to a place that I was fortunate to grow up with.

The proposal risks permanently changing an environment that provides cultural meaning, mental restoration, and community cohesion, and replacing it with industrial development whose benefits are uncertain and whose harms are irreversible. The damage it will cause is huge and there is no going back from this. The stress and distress this project is already causing my family and others is real and ongoing, and it must not be dismissed as incidental or intangible.

Taken together, the procedural deficiencies, environmental risks, cultural harm, and social impacts demonstrate that this application is not compatible with National Planning Framework 4, the Outer

Hebrides Local Development Plan, or Scotland's legal obligations to protect nature, communities, and island environments.

I believe this application is fundamentally flawed, procedurally deficient, and contrary to national and local planning policy. The EIAR does not provide sufficient information to allow informed decision-making, and the risks of irreversible environmental, cultural, and social harm are unacceptably high.

For all of these reasons — both personal and policy-based — I sincerely ask that this application be refused, so that the West Side can remain a place where people can live, work, and find peace, and where future generations can continue to belong.

I therefore respectfully request that this application be refused.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Date 06.05.26

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Re: Formal Objection to Applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743 Proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm, Isle of Lewis
Date: 06 May 2026 23:12:54
Attachments: [Community+Survey+March+2026+--+FINAL.pdf](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6th May 2026

The Scottish Ministers
Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to submit my formal objection to the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm.

I am a resident of the Isle of Lewis. I do not believe these applications provide a sufficiently complete, transparent or precautionary basis on which to approve a development of this scale immediately offshore from inhabited west coast communities. My objection arises not from one isolated issue, but from a wider pattern: the development has not been presented or assessed in a way that gives either decision-makers or the public a true understanding of its full consequences.

1. The development has not been assessed as one complete project

The offshore turbines, offshore substations and export cables are not a stand-alone proposal. They are dependent on substantial land-based works on Lewis, including cable landfall, transmission infrastructure, construction compounds, heavy engineering access, and associated long-term disturbance to land and settlements.

In reality, this is one integrated industrial development.

However, the current applications ask Scottish Ministers to assess only the marine element while the unavoidable terrestrial consequences sit outside one clear joined-up consent picture.

Residents are therefore being asked to judge the acceptability of the offshore wind farm without being given, in one place, the full implications for:

crofting land,
peatland,
machair systems,
drainage,
local roads,
construction traffic,
landfall infrastructure,
and cumulative community disturbance.

This piecemeal approach makes meaningful public scrutiny much harder. Communities experience these impacts cumulatively, not as separate administrative compartments. A development of this scale should be assessed as the whole project it actually is.

2. Claims of community support are questionable and not borne out by current reality
A serious concern is that the historical narrative of local support for offshore wind in this

area appears to rest on broad institutional assertions that are not transparently evidenced. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar submitted consultation responses to Marine Scotland in 2020 and 2021 supporting offshore deployment areas around Lewis, including N4. In those submissions the Comhairle made repeated statements suggesting that the local population had broadly accepted major renewable visual impacts, was prepared for offshore wind deployment, and had registered little concern.

These are sweeping social claims.

Yet no clear evidential basis has been shown for them. I have seen no island-wide survey, no structured local mandate, and no transparent community engagement record demonstrating that west side communities had positively accepted an industrial offshore wind field of the scale now proposed.

The current reality points strongly the other way.

The dedicated West Lewis Community Opinion Survey undertaken in relation to this proposal recorded 333 objections and 44 expressions of support — 88.3% opposed and 11.7% in favour. (See attached pdf)

That level of opposition is overwhelming.

Absence of objection during an earlier strategic consultation process cannot reasonably be treated as proof that west Lewis communities welcome approximately sixty giant turbines only a few kilometres offshore.

The social licence for this development is plainly unresolved.

3. Exceptional harm to west coast Lewis as a lived coastal landscape

The west coast of Lewis is not an empty marine viewing point. It is a settled, inhabited and culturally distinctive Atlantic coastline whose value lies precisely in its open horizons, dark skies, low industrial presence, crofting settlement pattern, wild seascapes and strong sense of remoteness.

This proposal would place an industrial array of around sixty turbines, each of exceptional height, within roughly 5 to 13 kilometres of that coastline for decades.

These would not appear as a distant incidental feature. They would create a persistent industrial horizon visible from homes, crofts, roads, beaches, grazings and recreational routes along much of the west side.

That is not simply a matter of visibility. It is a permanent alteration to the lived outlook of west coast communities.

This concern is compounded by the fact that much of the documentation reads as a generic offshore renewables assessment rather than one rooted in detailed understanding of the specific west Lewis receiving environment. There is little meaningful recognition of defining Hebridean coastal features such as machair systems, common grazings relationships, crofting settlement pattern and the cultural significance of these interlinked habitats. Machair is one of Scotland's rarest and most sensitive coastal environments and is central to both biodiversity and the visual openness of the west side. Where such place-specific characteristics are only weakly reflected in the assessment, confidence is reduced that the full local consequences have truly been understood.

For residents, the western horizon is part of the daily experience of home. For crofters and outdoor workers, it is part of the daily working environment. For visitors, it is one of the defining scenic experiences of Lewis.

Tourism on Lewis is closely tied to the island's identity as an unspoilt Atlantic landscape of open beaches, wildlife, quiet roads, dramatic skies and visual remoteness. The west side forms an important part of that visitor experience. Scenic degradation is therefore not only a subjective visual issue but a material economic concern. If one of the island's most distinctive coastal horizons is transformed into a nearshore industrial energy field, it is entirely reasonable to question whether this leaves the tourism offer materially unaffected. The industrialisation of this horizon therefore carries cumulative consequences: deterioration of residential amenity,

erosion of remoteness and coastal wildness,
loss of dark-sky integrity,
damage to scenic qualities relied upon by tourism,
progressive normalisation of heavy energy infrastructure in an undeveloped Atlantic setting,
and harm to the cultural identity of crofting communities.

As someone who made my home on Lewis because of its peace, dark skies, open horizons and sense of place, I regard this as a direct alteration to daily lived environment, not a remote offshore abstraction.

4. Inadequate airborne noise assessment and construction disturbance

A further major deficiency is that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not provide a complete or locally appropriate assessment of airborne noise impacts.

The Applicant's own EIAR confirms that during scoping and consultation a number of Lewis representative bodies — including Lewis Island Crofters, Estate Trusts, Grazings Committees and Community Councils — expressly raised concerns regarding airborne noise, low-frequency noise, infrasound and human health effects.

Despite that, the Applicant has expressly excluded from detailed assessment:

low frequency noise,
infrasound,
and amplitude modulation.

The Applicant has therefore not proved there is no impact; it has simply chosen not to substantively assess several of the impact pathways local communities are most concerned about.

In addition, this proposal brings two separate acoustic burdens:

a construction phase involving piling, repetitive marine engineering works and heavy vessel activity; followed by
a permanent operational turbine noise presence.

The west coast is currently characterised by naturally quiet coastal soundscapes. The EIAR does not adequately assess what prolonged construction disturbance followed by chronic offshore industrial sound would actually mean in lived terms for nearby settlements and grazings.

Nor does the receptor modelling reflect west Lewis reality. This is a crofting and outdoor-working environment, not simply a series of indoor domestic receptors. The assessment does not meaningfully address prolonged outdoor human exposure, crofting work environments, livestock disturbance, or the experience of repetitive industrial noise carrying over open sea.

That is a significant omission.

5. These cumulative deficiencies require a precautionary approach

Taken together, these concerns reveal a broader problem.

Scottish Ministers are being asked to determine an industrial development of exceptional scale affecting a highly sensitive inhabited coastline without:

one integrated whole-project assessment,
a convincing democratic basis for claims of community acceptance,
a sufficiently cautious treatment of west coast landscape and tourism value,
or a complete noise and human disturbance assessment.

Instead, the public is repeatedly asked to accept segmented applications, narrowed methodologies and broad assumptions in place of a transparent whole-picture understanding.

There is also a legitimate public-interest question as to whether harm of this scale is presently justified in the straightforward way the applications imply. Scotland already generates renewable electricity well beyond its own domestic consumption, yet major

northern projects are increasingly subject to transmission bottlenecks and costly grid constraint payments, with turbines paid to stand idle because the network cannot absorb output efficiently. In that context, the claimed urgent necessity of imposing additional large-scale industrialisation on fragile host landscapes cannot simply be assumed; it requires especially rigorous scrutiny of whether local sacrifice is proportionate to real deliverable public benefit.

I recognise the importance of renewable energy policy. However, national decarbonisation goals do not remove the obligation to ensure that individual developments are properly assessed, socially legitimate and proportionate in their local effects.

A just transition cannot mean that one remote island coastline is expected to absorb long-term industrialisation on the basis of incomplete scrutiny and unresolved uncertainty.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Scottish Ministers refuse applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743.

At the very least, no consent should be granted unless and until:

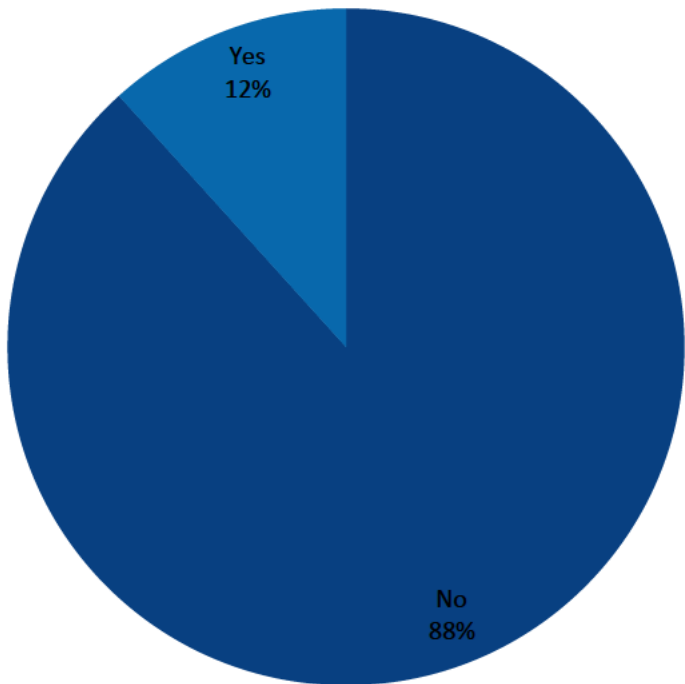
1. The offshore and terrestrial components are assessed together as one coherent development;
2. The true scale of host-community opposition is given substantial weight;
3. The west coast landscape, tourism and residential amenity impacts are treated with much greater caution; and
4. A substantially fuller independent assessment of airborne noise and construction disturbance is undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Report for Community Opinion Survey on the N4/Spiorad na Mara Development – FINAL

1.Do you support the N4 windfarm development, as is currently proposed?



Value	Percent	Responses
No	88.3%	333
Yes	11.7%	44

Totals: 377

2. Do you have any other comments to add?

Responses listed in alphabetical order

1. The disruption etc has no balancing of reduced local tariffs 2. the numbers of units and the visual impact seem undetermined. 3. Impact on navigation, fishing and wildlife seem to be ignored. I would have thought these would have been front and centre. I'm not a conspiracy believer, but the entire process feels like typical central belt SG ignoring island/remote communities.

A good PR exercise was done. It is a scam and should not go ahead. Our local council has no idea of the consequences

A primary factor of what makes the Outer Hebrides special (aside from parts of Stornoway) is the absence of industrialization. Beautiful white sand beaches and blue waters where you can feel like you are the only person in the world. Sunsets over the ocean, where you look out and know there's nothing else, no civilization, for thousands of miles. Vikings landed on these same beaches with the same views. Now they plan to permanently tarnish these views with not just windmills, but MEGA windmills - as big as the Eiffel Tower or the Empire State Building. They will ruin the beauty, the feeling of remoteness, for corporate and shareholder profit ONLY. ZERO benefit to local residents who will have their landscape and environment changed FOREVER.

A shocking potential decision that will ruin the environment

A wind farm of this size should be far out at sea, away from people and migrating birds. They are putting it here because it will make them lots of money, to hell with the inhabitants, they don't matter, they have no voice. We have been let down by all our Councillors, our local politicians and the Scottish Government. They didn't consult us because they want money and wouldn't like what we had to say, which would be a resounding NO.

Absolute destruction to our island and lives living so close to all this industrialisation for the sake of others wealth gain

Absolute dystopian nightmare please let it not go ahead.

Absolutely critical that this goes ahead to reverse depopulation in our young. Pretty views won't look after anyone.

Absolutely no benefit to these communities whatsoever

All this will spoil our beautiful Island and designed to provide zero benefits to our island's. Place these windmills next to the beneficiaries

Although I will not have line of sight from my home, I object to industrialisation of the island most strongly. The 'bribe' from Northland Power cannot possibly offset the damage to our beautiful land and seascapes. It will be an environmental disaster. Nowhere else in the UK are there turbines so large *and* so close to the land. Please do not continue with this project.

Are the worker going to have there own transport and Not use a fragile ferry service. Are they going bring there own food and not take any of fragile food supplies. We don't Need Better jobs on the island ,We Need the Jobs that are here to be filled. The island infrastructure is at breaking point and cannot support the additional workforce . The area on the west side is total unsplilt and it is disasters to even consider the amount of damage this would cause. There are No benefits for any one . We don't need it and certainly it should have never been considered in such a wild and Beautiful area.

As a Barvas resident I totally object to having this development on our doorstep. The construction that will be required to get this debacle is going to be horrendous for the residence of this Island for years. The longterm affects on the health of the residence of the westside is unknown. The devastation to precious sea life and the wildlife is also unknown. The residence of the westside will have to put up with the disruption of all the associated work involved in this construction. The destruction of the Barvas machair and then peatlands is bloody criminal. After all this is complete we will not even be compensated with a reduction in the cost of our electricity. Shame on N4 and DROCH Spiorad na Mara. Why this beautiful island when you have ugly coastlines all around the British Isles for your money making enterprise.

As a resident of Barvas, the overwhelming majority of people I know object to this yet our voices are being ignored. It's absolutely outrageous that such a huge a thing with little to no local benefits could be proposed. CNeS needs to screw their heads back on.

Better than wars over oil.

Blatant forced industrialisation on a small island, bullying by big companies ruining natural historical sites, decimating bird and marine life and wildlife, it will cause people living in sight of these monsters severe anxiety having to watch wind turbines spin (or not due to hefty constraints and red blinking lights from my house).

No benefits for locals, just a community bribe to silence opposers and make it seem like a great deal. You're taking away something from Islanders that can never be replaced.

Brings long term work and makes a positive national contribution. We cannot expect to be massively subsidised by the rest of the country for ever - we have to use the resources here to contribute to the national good also.

Building N4 will be disastrous for wildlife, tourism and the people who lived here for generations

Climate change is a problem that must be tackled imminently. The view is at far greater risk from its effects than the impact of a wind farm that can be removed in the future when the climate emergency is resolved. We are uniquely placed to help in the fight thanks to our wind resource. I'm a native and a gaidhlig speaker, and I prefer the view with the wind farm in place. It's a reminder that we are taking action to care for our planet.

Colonialism and exploitation. Would they also do this to other indigenous groups across the world? Chan eil iad ag èisteachd rinn.

Community will not benefit from this even though it's on our doorstep. The construction of the wind farm is outsourced to foreign labour instead of being built in Scotland. Hazard to seabird population when constructed. Peatland ripped up after being told it's a "carbon capture". Destruction of local reefs which could impact the quality of waves we have on the west coast as I'm a surfer. Light pollution and noise pollution 24/7. We pay the highest energy bills in the country, this will not change with this. In conclusion nobody on this island will benefit from this wind farm. Nothing will change. Power generated will be sold for profit, and it's us islanders who have to deal with the long term consequences. The whole thing is corrupt and no benefit to the island population.

Concern over noise. Both for human but especially for livestock who hear at lower frequencies. Concern for diversity income of tourism that is reliant on natural environment with no industrial structures including dark skies northern lights. The destruction of natural resources for infrastructure of the project on land and marine and birdlife offshore. Both if which can't be predicted by survey of the current status.

Danger to wildlife especially birds, long-term disruption materially and socially, most jobs will be temporary, has decommissioning been properly considered, why is CnES so pro this wind farm?

Destruction of area of natural beauty. Noise pollution

Detrimental to our land, our language and our culture.

Doesn't benefit the local community, doesn't create many "new jobs" besides in the construction period, too tall, too close to shore, damaging to land and wildlife, not the technology of the future (tidal seems to be better), won't give us lower electricity bills..... Why are we generating electricity for other parts of the UK and to fuel the AI economy?

Exploitation of the highest order. Take your corporate greed and shove it.

Far too close to the shore line, inappropriate siting. No community benefit secured. Significant environmental impact.

Forever we have been a quiet, remote and rural place, full of wild, natural beauty and wildlife. It is very wrong and morally bankrupt to suddenly destroy the whole area with massive industry. We didn't ask for this and we don't want it. When Northland Power finally asked if we supported it during the public consultation, no one I knew said yes: we all said no, we don't want it. It made no difference. They didn't listen and they don't care.

Go find some waste land to develop on and leave our coastline alone!

Great opportunity to stem depopulation and create well paid jobs for the island. The addition of the windfarm will visually enhance the Westside of Lewis.

Hate the thought of them spoiling our beautiful shoreline.

Having lived in [REDACTED], near large turbines, the sound pollution is a concern, which SnM dismissed at a community meeting with their rep saying "I like the sound"...More importantly, the site maintenance responsibility being passed on as government responsibility after 30 years is concerning.

Horrendous destruction for commercial gain and no concern for our island and its wildlife and marine life

I am absolutely and fully against this development. Having previously voiced my concerns and opposition as loudly as possible in both written and vocal form, I feel unheard and completely unsupported by both my council and my MP. Neither are listening to the strong opposition of the people of this island, even after the single meeting in Shawbost where there was unanimous opposition bar one attendee. This is causing great stress and sadness to many people who care deeply about their ancestral home, also to those living here who have come from other places and value our precious and unspoilt environment.

I am all for renewables but it is totally inappropriate to place a project of this size and scale within a small island community such as this. These massive turbines were designed to be placed far out at sea, not within inshore waters all along the west side of an island only a few miles out. Destroying an unspoilt scenic area of the Scottish islands (which not only has a unique culture but also rich natural habitats that should be protected for birdlife/wildlife/plantlife) is so short sighted. It will be taking all that is currently special about where we live. The few jobs that will be on offer will in no way compensate for the vast losses that the local residents and Scotland as a whole will experience. The reasons people chose to live here and visit here will be erased. This is currently one of the most unspoilt coastlines in the UK and Scotland and it feels like it will be 'thrown under the bus' to line the pockets of global companies.

I am appalled that our natural environment will be destroyed in the name of green energy. Energy which will not benefit islanders and create further desecration of habitats on its route south. Shameful

I am concerned about the effects on wildlife and on some of Scotland's most important archaeological & heritage sites. Noise, construction are also a concern.

I am concerned about the negative impact this offshore development may have on vulnerable marine species, birds and biodiversity on this special and unique location. I am also concerned about the negative impact it may have on the communities living here on the island. There is already devastating depopulation figures. A large scale offshore development will not help encourage people to live here.

I am elderly and will probably not see end result but what I learn of this find very wrong,

I am extremely concerned about the impact this development will have on the environment and also the detrimental impact on local communities in terms of

visual impact, noise, shadow-flicker, impact on mental health, reduction in the value of properties.

I am heartbroken at the prospect of the uninterrupted view of the horizon and beautiful sunsets on the west side of Lewis being completely ruined by the proposed offshore development. It concerns me that this will negatively impact tourism as the natural landscape is what draws people to our island. It is deeply disappointing that this project 'Spiorad na Mara' has taken a Gaelic name for a project that will not contribute to our Gaelic speaking community and is not representative of Gaelic speakers. I am also concerned at the level of noise and light pollution that this proposed project will bring to one of the most peaceful areas of the United Kingdom.

I am opposed to this development. I am scared of the scale of it, the effect on our land scape and sea scape, the effect on the environment. The closeness to shore, the noise, the lights. I fear for the mass depopulation of my village. House prices will drop. My family and I will need to move to the mainland. Our language and culture and way of life will be lost forever. I am very frightened for the future and don't want it to go ahead.

I am opposed to this industrial sized development. The sheer scale and height of this industrial monster is frightening in addition to the impact on sea and land. I am concerned about the destruction of the moorland, the sea the traffic. The impact on our services and the community. Our wildlife and mammals. Given that most of us live in fuel poverty this is an ill thought out development with no benefit.

I am opposed to this. Nobody wants these monsters. There's no benefit to us. We are pensioners and are in fuel poverty and we get nothing out of this. My landscape that I've seen all my life will be destroyed. It makes me very sad.

I am perplexed as to how this windfarm, which is meant to help our environment with how we source our electricity, is actually going to create significant damage to our local environment.

I am really hoping that something will make this all stop and not go ahead. Our beautiful Island is going to be destroyed by these awful monstrosities, our stunning views out to sea will never be the same. It's is going to have such a detrimental effect on our house prices and economy and not in a good way either. If they think it will help our economy it will not, they will bring who knows what kind of people to the Island to work on it. My list could go on and on. I for one do not want this to happen and ~~100~~ do not support this

I am strongly opposed to this windfarm. For something that will be seen from my doorstep, my bedroom window and on my daily walk to the shore, i've found the whole concept very upsetting in principal, and aesthetically horrendous.

I am too old to be affected by this development, but as someone who has family roots in this area as far back as I can read about.... maybe to the Vikings! I think the development will have a drastic negative effect on the area.

I believe that the long term damage to the area, will impact the community during the lifetime and long after the turbines have outlived their use. I asked the question about how they will be removed after their use and was told they would remain in place. An eyesore for ever. The damage to sea life, to fishing and tourism which will all impact the Islands inhabitants, have not really been considered. The amount of financial donations will not be sufficient to make up for lost incomes, the lack of peace and natural beauty of these Islands. The companies bidding for this work do not live here, the companies will not have their incomes diminished, health diminished. They will be earning a great deal of income even when the turbines are still because the wind is too strong or not strong enough.

I believe that the project will ruin the landscape, put marine life in danger and result in islanders losing out on profits gained by exploiting local resources. Furthermore, for the cost of the project, I feel that lifespan of the turbines is too limited. What percentage of the energy produced will actually be harnessed or stored?

I believe the wind farm would have a detrimental effect on mine and many others' life

I cannot envision a way in which all of this work can be done while preserving the environment, the wildlife and our traditional lifestyle which brings so many of us in the community so much joy and fulfilment.

I cannot in all conscience agree with the industrialisation of an area of outstanding natural beauty in order that multinational companies line their own and shareholders pockets .

I do not feel that neither I nor my community have had a voice in any decision. It will negatively impact our quality of life and lead to depopulation in one of the few remaining truly Gaelic speaking communities. Why aren't the Comhairle or

Scottish Government talking to locals before decisions are made. And by locals I mean those affected not those in parts of the island(s) not directly impacted.

I do not support any 'development' project that is going to negatively impact the environment and local residents in the way this one will. There is no consideration being given to the health and wellbeing of local residents and the research that has already been done globally has shown that noise, vibration and flickering lights all have a detrimental effect on human health. There is also the devastation that this will cause to wildlife and the seabed. All loss with no gain for anyone except shareholders who already make millions off exploiting other people's homelands. Not to mention the fact that the energy generated is not even needed, as there is already millions of pounds being spent to switch off surplus turbines. Please do not allow this to happen - I do not want my children to grow up in an industrialised wind factory. Generations of my family have lived and worked on our precious island for centuries; the plans to essentially destroy the place are an insult to our heritage.

I do not support these turbines being situated just outside my window/house. I am dreading the noise and the glare that will come from them.

I don't support the N4 wind farm

I don't support the industrialisation of our island. This project is going to have a very negative effect on our communities

I don't want my home or the environment around me including the ocean to be destroyed by the greed of the power companies and their investors. There will be zero benefits from this project for the inhabitants of the island and the construction of the sites bring with it a huge pollution risk, the energy produced might be "green" but the construction phase is far from it!

I fear the pollution to the land and sea, as well as the impact of machinery, more traffic impacting the day to day life of residents in the island.

I feel despair about what's going on. Locals are being ignored and I'm ashamed of our politicians and council members for it. We will become an industrial desert. Any one who doesn't believe this is naive. We should guard our precious beautiful heritage for the future - so far we are failing to do so.

I feel sick and heartbroken that this might happen

I feel the turbines are too big & too close to shore

I feel the turbines are too big & too close to shore The island infrastructure isn't built to cope with influx of people required to build this project. There are many environmental risks the project is going to cause, polluting the skies at day & night with lighting, polluting the waters around the turbines & releasing carbon from peatlands will all have negative effects. I don't feel the community benefit on offer are anywhere near sufficient for the loss of the natural beauty of our islands being destroyed. Loss of income to local business from tourism will also be affected. Although local company's will benefit short term whilst the project is being built, long term all maintenance contracts will be sub contracted to mainland firms with little or no jobs for local people.

I feel this is a done deal , with no consideration of anyone's opinions but those that will benefit financially. Scotgov already stated they have 'spent' the money

I feel this project is of no benefit to the local community but could seriously adverse the health and wellbeing of all those who live on this side of the Islnd where this monstrous development is planned to be developed.

I fully support renewable energy but N4 is unnecessarily close to land with significant negative impacts for the community it would ruin with zero gains

I have grave concerns about many aspects of this development: (in no particular order) 1) This project will profoundly change life on Lewis for residents and visitors alike, with the impact of the ongoing work over many years and the visual destruction of a precious and beautiful sea and landscape scape enjoyed by our descendants for centuries. 2). I do not wish to see the industrialisation of the island. With so many contiguous onshore wind farm developments going on, the impact will be felt right across the island- pressure on infrastructure, pressure on transport links, traffic problems. 3) I have great concern for the impact on marine wildlife and sea birds already facing so many challenges 4). The west side is the jewel in the crown of Lewis and brings visitors here. As a tour guide I know many visitors are horrified by the plans for the destruction of the views up the whole of the seascape. I worry about the potential impact on the many small tourist businesses and crafts people who have built their livelihoods around tourism. 5) potential for impact to water quality, in shore fishing, use of the waters by small leisure crafts 6) concern that this project could take decades to realise, causing disruption and distress. How will the project even be managed with the unpredictable nature of our extreme weather and seas? With the size of waves and wind speeds it will be difficult to progress works. 6). When the project ends it life no doubt the turbines will just stay in the sea bed. I know there are

decommissioning plans but these renewables projects get sold down the line and the commitments get lost! 7) finally, as islanders we don't even benefit directly from the energy or profits that will be generated . Yes they promise community pay outs as sweeteners but I strongly believe all energy projects should be community owned.

I have significant worries about the impact on biodiversity of the area. Consultation has been taken out of the hands of the local community who will be affected daily by the development. No changes to electricity bills as a result.

I live within a mile of the proposed N/4 spiorad na Mara offshore development. I have a clear view of the sea where these monstrosity are to be erected. I will have to suffer the effects of this development in many ways. My daily life will firstly be greatly affected by the construction with machinery back and fore ripping up the precious machair destroying the nesting birds, breeding rabbits, Sea birds and all other land and sea life we have been trying to preserve, and enjoy all our lives. My sheep reseedings on the barvas more will be dug up to make room for the temporary haul road being dug into the precious Lewis peatlands. After all this work is completed, we will be left with the view of the massive turbines and the scar on both our machair and on the Barvas moor. My reseedings, where my sheep graze, will be black peat unable to regenerate for the remainder of my life. There will be no compensation for the impact on my land and the Common Grazings directly, we have been told that only community groups will be compensated or bribed to enable this destruction of our lives to go ahead.

I moved here to start a family and we have a 2 year old son now. We want to stay and grow as a family. If the windfarm is approved we will sell our house and move away.

I object in too many ways to write here. Eg devastating environmental damage in a unique environment. Psychological damage from noise and light pollution. Restriction of further access to National grid for future local wind turbines and the community benefits associated with them. Etc etc etc!

I object to the proposed N4 development on the basis that the current Environmental Impact Assessment appears inadequate to support lawful consent. There is insufficient evidence that ecological impacts—particularly on internationally important seabird populations—have been assessed using robust, site-specific and seasonally comprehensive data. Any deficiency in baseline survey data risks significant adverse effects being underestimated. The proposal also fails to demonstrate a satisfactory cumulative impact assessment when considered alongside existing and proposed developments in the region, raising

serious concerns about incremental industrialisation of a highly sensitive marine and coastal environment. Further, any impact on peatland or carbon-rich soils associated with landfall or infrastructure risks undermining the project's claimed climate benefits and has not been convincingly addressed. In addition, the development poses a significant risk to the cultural landscape of the west coast of Lewis, where Gaelic heritage, crofting traditions, and the longstanding relationship between people, land, and sea form an integral and living environment. These cultural impacts appear to be insufficiently recognised or assessed. Finally, the landscape exhibits qualities consistent with nationally important scenic value, which are undervalued in the current assessment. In the absence of clear, robust, and comprehensive evidence demonstrating that significant adverse impacts—environmental, cumulative, carbon-related, and cultural—can be avoided or mitigated, consent should be refused.

I really hope this development will not go ahead. They should not get permission to ruin our beautiful beaches all down the west coast of our lovely island. It is disgraceful.

I see no benefits for this wind farm just numerous detrimental effects .

I strongly oppose the development of N4. It is an extractive exercise for the purpose of profit and will hugely destructive to the ecologies of this island as well as our livelihoods and wellbeing.

I support green renewables, but as well as the positives the negatives must be considered. I feel that the negatives on this occasion outweigh the positives.

I support small scale community turbines that provide benefits to the local community, not huge developments that ruin our landscape and return proportionally little benefits to our community.

I support the transition to renewable but the rate and quantity of development both here and over the entire Highlands is unacceptable. It will lead to the devastation of our mai assets...the Wild nature of the island

I think it's wrong on many many levels! It's a desecration of our natural beauty.

I think renewable energy is positive for the island. Wind farms are more aesthetically pleasing than oil rigs and power stations! Wind farms are all over the uk, no reason why they shouldn't be on the Isle of Lewis too

I think this is a good opportunity for the island, with a good community benefit package for the west coast communities. There will be plenty of long term secure jobs in the port and it will happen anyway as this is part of the UK gov long term plan for Net Zero. It will become part of the landscape and seascape and actually be good for marine life.

I thought Scotland was a democracy? We live here, we don't want N4 but that apparently doesn't count or matter.

I understand and appreciate the political and economic arguments both for and against this project - and as I write this, the UK's reliance on energy imports feels like a particularly urgent problem given the situation in the Middle East - but I can't shake the feeling that something existential is at stake here. On the one hand we're being told that developments like these are vital to provide clean energy in a climate crisis and that big companies - whatever their motives - are the only people who can achieve this, which is probably true. On the other hand we're also seeing big companies push vast AI data centres which will require so much extra energy that it's hard to imagine any new wind farm making a fundamental difference. Climate breakdown seems inevitable at this point despite widespread public awareness of its causes. Extreme weather will continue to cause extreme damage and loss of life. The global economy may collapse. The USA is led by a narcissistic maniac who is currently speeding all of this up rather than slowing it down. And I have almost no power in any of this. The only power I have is to say no. And as a principle I want local communities to have that power too. If that makes me a NIMBY, and I accept that it does, so be it. The Isle of Lewis is one of the few largely unspoiled places left on Earth. If I'm to die here I don't want the last thing I see from my beloved beach to be giant machines. I understand what the islands, and the UK, may lose if this doesn't go ahead, but I will have a clearer conscience about that than if it did go ahead. In short my feeling is that this wind farm will make the place I live much worse while not making the world better. I cannot say yes to that. So while I doubt my voice will make any difference at all - too many powerful people have a stake in this going ahead - I do not consent.

I would probably suffer mental health issues and feel forced to move away though I do not have the means to do so.

I would support projects that bring cheapest electricity to the Island

I'd prefer community owned turbines that benefit my community. I don't approve of big companies coming in.

I'm appalled by the proposed industrialisation of my home. The turbines are not green in manufacture, transportation or operation (eg use of the greenhouse gas SF6 in the switchgear). They will damage wildlife & large areas of carbon-capturing peat at Arnol in the construction of power storage. Scotland produces far more wind energy than it needs yet contributes less than 0.1 of global emissions. We are severely nature depleted already and the true impact on marine life of off-shore turbines is not even yet known; however, there is plentiful evidence of bird deaths. Scotland is one of the most beautiful places on the planet and is being ruined by money-hungry vandals.

I'm fully in favour of renewable energy developments, but only if benefits to the community are a direct, primary goal, rather than a secondary afterthought. Community-led projects should have priority access to any transmission capacity upgrades.

I'm wholly against the offshore proposal, as there's insufficient proof of a lack of negative environmental, and physiological impact.

I've just submitted my formal objection yesterday.

If N4 would be built it would not only create an unhealthy environment for people, animals and plants it would also destroy the core of the island. I would be forced to move away.

If it was to go ahead, we should receive discounted electricity rates to help with fuel poverty on the island

If they have to do it it should be further out to sea

Im disgusted that the natural habitat of the area will be ripped apart and completely destroyed both in shape and scene by these abominations.

Im glad you're doing this but feel we aren't supposed by our council or scottish government. Islanders opinions have never mattered

Impact on the marine environment and wildlife make this industrial development unacceptable in this location.

In principle, the wind turbines are good, however, we need a benefit to the island community, such as reduced 'island' rate for electricity. Currently, we are allowing the resources that belong to the island to be exploited with no gain for the

community. £4.5m per year is not enough. The turbines are going to change the island, so need a beneficial return. The people who have negotiated on behalf of the community have failed to protect a valuable resource.

Industrial sized development in a rural, untouched environment is wrong.

Industrialisation of Lewis

Industrialisation on Lewis would be catastrophic, we've been fighting this for decades

Is it legal to destroy a world renowned place of natural beauty and destroy people's lives just so they can steal their natural resources to sell to a different country? Why is our government so weak to let this happen? They see only money and they don't live here.

Islanders should be at least getting reduced fuel costs. We should not be leasing these areas to other countries. And the effects on marine mammals will also be detrimental

It is absolutely unacceptable in the current form. Make turbines half smaller, twice as far from the shore, create a fund towards protection of marine life and give energy to islanders for free or at heavily discounted rates then we would maybe say yes.

It is against the wishes of local people.

It is all political, hijacking the green agenda, pretending it's for the environment but actually destroying it to make a few foreign companies obscenely rich. Of course we don't want it, that's why they didn't ask us first.

It is an abuse of the western isles for a short term project that will inly benefit the wind turbine owners.

It is corrupt from the start. I am/was a member of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] however the process was taken over by individuals who are benefitting from n4 and other developments. The stornoway trust are a massive pusher of this along with the trustees of it

It is so sad to ruin our island and put these where the sun sets in the Summer

It is totally inappropriate to place a project of this size and scale within a small island community such as this. These massive turbines were designed to be placed far out at sea, not within inshore waters all along the west side of an island only a few miles out. In addition to having a unique culture Lewis is also rich in natural habitats that should be protected for birdlife, wildlife and plantlife. It will be erasing all that is special about where we live. The few financial incentives that will be on offer to the land owners will in no way compensate for the vast losses that the local residents and Scotland as a whole will experience. The reasons people chose to live here and visit here will be gone. This is currently one of the most unspoilt coastlines in the UK and Scotland. This monster of a project is environmentally destructive not environmentally "friendly" like the people who will gain from it will have you believe. There is nothing environmentally friendly about destroying an environment such as this and transporting all the electricity gained to the mainland and down south. There is little thought for the special natural habits within this area and the pollution that will be caused.

It is way too close to residents. If they are going to go this it has to be at a respectable distance from homes. 6km is not nearly far enough.

It poses a risk to wildlife both air and sea. I agree with renewables but not at any cost. Foreign owned, very few jobs and wrecking our land environment. I strongly oppose

It should not be go ahead unless the community benefits a lot more than what has been proposed ! otherwise it should not get planning permission.

It shouldn't be allowed to happen. We were never consulted about the project. It is a disgrace the SNP government leased the seabed without the locals being consulted.

It will be a further blight to our islands with little impact or benefit to the communities

It will be an eyesore, spoil the views for all living on the west side and beyond. I do a lot of stargazing and aurora photography but the constant flashing lights will spoil this hobby. It will be detrimental to birds and other creatures whether in the air or in the sea. I have seen nothing that positively shows the benefit to having these monstrosities on our "doorstep", Our electricity will not be cheaper and the local population will not benefit from any significant permanent jobs. The only people who will benefit are the owners of these wind farms that will reap in the

money whilst our views and area will be changed for the worse for years to come. Definitely against this in every way.

It will be unsightly, damaging to the local community and wildlife it will also De value our houses that we saved a lifetime to buy. Damaging to our businesses.

It will cause immense harm to the wildlife, both marine life (especially fish), and birds. For a island mostly based on fishing industry and crofting, this is very detrimental and will impact the lives of those living on the shores (which is most of us.) The noises caused by the wind farm will be highly distressing, especially to any people with mental disability or sensory issues, or even just older groups of people, and as the island has a aging population, and many disabled, will impact many lives negatively. This will absolutely ruin the island and the lives on the people living on it.

It will destroy marine environments and change communities for go with no real benefit to the island. It is just for profit

It will massively impact everyone living on the island for the worse with constant noise and light pollution. Also will badly affect marine life , bird life and natural habitat with the onshore infrastructure. The peace and quiet of the iland will be lost forever.

It will permanently alter the Culture and Heritage of the Westside of Lewis.. It is exploitation of our communities.

It will ruin everything that was good about the island- peace and quiet, views, influx of far too many people who will overstretch the resources already struggling.

It's a disgrace that it's even being considered and with the relevant infrastructure on the Isle of Lewisnis going further the devastating impacts on a fragile eco system that is a carbon sink. Look at Shetland: it's horrific.

It's a money grab, no insight, no care

It's an abomination! with severely detrimental effects to our environment and the local population. It is being pushed through with no regard to the overwhelming opposition. Where is the democracy?!

It's going to bring well needed jobs to the island, and that can only be a good thing.

It's going to decimate our island, our culture, our tourism, our fishing, our beautiful landscape etc etc etc

It's scale is not in keeping with our landscape and impacts our daily lives.

It's too big, too close to shore and does not belong in this pristine and sensitive environment. It will destroy my sense of home.

It's too close to shore

It's too close to the shore.

Jobs and money in to the Islands is a good thing

Just that I want the island to stay as it is ,an beautiful natural place which I moved here to enjoy less crowded places to live ,nature ,peace and quiet and no awful industrial buildings to ruin the sea and landscape.

Leave our island as it is.....

N4 is a travesty and CNES are liars. There IS NOT strong community support for this development! There is in fact considerable hostility and opposition. How could they know anyway? They never asked

N4 would devastate the West Side of Lewis, further weakening Gaelic in it's remaining communities of native speakers. Generation after generation of Gaels have had to fight similar exploitative developments - the common factor being the enrichment of the developers and the impoverishment of the Gaels.

Negative effect on marine wildlife and the housing required for the builders would take away from local communities

No individual benefit to the Community of the Island

No need for this to be so close to the shore, all the other proposed developments utilise the floating platform technology meaning they can be situated out at sea, with less impact

No one has asked us, the residents, for our opinion. The Council have lied, saying they had a consultation. We don't want this. It will destroy our island and ruin our lives. Of course they didn't ask us because we would have said NO!!

No, other than the survey description at the beginning is very one sided, locals should be made aware of all the pros and cons of the project then asked to make their own minds up regarding their position they choose to take.

No. Am just not in favour of something that other countries are doing away with and following a very modern approach to harvesting wind without being environmental hazards. Why it cannot be done the same here is mind boggling but I think they got a basement bargain deal in these windmills that no other country wanted and they're just driving ahead with the support of council here to get them up regardless.

None - NO is enough!

Not Needed. Just a money making racket for our council and Scottish government at the expense of our island.

Not at the moment.

Not sustainable. Will be turned off more than they are on. Weather will prohibit proper maintenance. Disturbance to local people. Disturbance to tourists. Disturbance to wildlife

Object to this strongly

Oil is necessary for the moving parts of the windmill. Oil will slide down into the sea, harming sea life. Unknown what the noise and movement will do to disturb the natural migration instincts of birds, whales, seals, fish sea life. Release of CO2 into atmosphere once access roads are churned up and moorland or coastal land excavated. The islanders gain no benefit in their lifetime during this construction. The only thing they get is inconvenience and possible unknown disruptive or harmful effects as yet unknown. When the component parts, big and not so big, reach their decomposition stages, the materials are not easily recyclable. The cost of removing them and conveying them will involve other fuels to power whatever vehicle or boats are to remove them and ? dispose them. Will they end up in landfill, they are huge. wear and tear on roads from vehicular activity to and from. Locals will not have jobs from them as once they are up and running they do not offer much employment. Our area is one of the last natural

fairly unspoiled habitats Our scenic wild natural beauty, views bring a lot of visitors to these islands. Northland power are the ones whose shareholders benefit most. Our scenic views in an already increasingly stressful world, are beautiful, natural, healthy and health promoting, to visitors and locals alike. A lot of the materials could well end up in the sea, e.g path of least resistance, who among the managers cares, cost of removing on decommissioning materials, future generations have no say in this. Psychological effects of damaging this environment on the residents and on sustainable tourism. Large sums of money paid out to switch windmills off when it is too windy or when grid can't handle so maybe any power generated is a waste. Cost versus benefit is unknown but it could be that the cost* in many ways outweighs any benefit. The onshore extra activity could cause disruption in local villages as the minor and one way roads are not ideal for major traffic of large vehicles .etc. This whole works could have a significant negative effect on local ways of life and on local landscape and local livestock and grazing use. Humans, animals, birds, mammals, sea life, future generations, fishing, marine life, all could be adversely affected. Canadian sponsors will not be affected as they don't live here. They will just be interested in their shareholders earning money . No one can dispel these concerns on our behalf as the extent of the impact and outcome is as yet unknown. It is a risk that is being taken if it were to go ahead.Canadian Northland could walk away from this if it goes horribly wrong in the future. Our children will have to live with any harmful consequences on their doorstep.

Our island relies on tourism, this will destroy tourism. Industrialising the Outer Hebrides with immense, unsightly, noisy infrastructure? It's madness, it's insane. No we don't want it and they didn't ask us. I bet they wouldn't like it outside their front doors either. And it's all so unnecessary – these big wind farms should be far out at sea, they can still make money and our shores won't be destroyed.

Our islands are being taken over and destroyed by international companies that don't care about the place. The inhabitants will see no benefit from this.

Priority should be given to community energy enterprises that help to support and develop our communities in a long lasting and sustainable manner

Profits from wind turbines built here should be invested back into the local community not siphoned overseas.

Progress always comes at a cost. Recent events have shown how fragile it is to depend on existing powered sources

Proximity to community is unprecedented as is the scale which will destroy the fabric of life and natural scenic beauty which this area is so well known for.

Pure greed environment and communities destroyed. Shame on our Councillors.

Residents badly served by CNES officials and councillors.

Ruins the beautiful views and has no consideration for the island people's opinions, with also very little island benefits from this

Scant community consultation and little direct community benefit either in terms of energy or financially ~ Green Capitalism at its worst

Silent majority

So far I cannot see how impacts can be mitigated, both onshore and offshore. The impact on terrestrial wildlife, aside from marine, is incredibly worrying.

So sad. For the birds, the marine life, the dark skies, the beauty of the island, impact on tourism which also affects locals. I don't think any community benefit would compensate for the decimation

Support wind energy and especially sea based but for a sensitive area such as this it should be significantly further out to sea like other projects round Scotland to the point they are not visible

TOO CLOSE, TOO BIG AND TOO MANY! We don't want this, we weren't asked.

Terrible idea. A violation to the natural beauty of one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland. The Fossil Fuels consumed to produce, transport, then erect these things will never be offset by the energy they produce. Not to mention the ecological damage they'll cause to aquatic life and birds. Disgraceful.

Thank you for asking for the opinion of those who will be most impacted by this proposal. Noone else has.

The N4/Spiorad na Mara development (both the offshore and the onshore related works) will be catastrophic for the island, for people, wildlife and the general environment. The works and infrastructure required will not be worth the promised jobs and relatively low compensation rates offered by the owners. Irrevocable

damage to the island with so little benefits. This is not about NetZero, this is about profits for the companies involved.

The River Creed is getting badly polluted due to near by digging

The community and the islanders have not been sufficiently canvas regarding their thoughts on this project. Lies were told by the company proposing it from the outset and the people of this island and this area of the island have been treated abysmally by the company, by local government and by national government alike.

The current world crisis as well as the climate crisis means that we have to help alleviate the crises even if it means local sacrifices. The big businesses involved should of course provide substantial community benefits and would be better if UK owned but that is due to historic political interference in privatising crucial infrastructure

The developers have not listened to any of the local opinion including very well thought out and educated responses such as those concerning the fire risk and inability of the island to handle that increased risk with all the land based infrastructure, the concerns around noise and vibration and flicker impact to those living on the coast due to the unprecedented size and location of the turbines (which should be illegal to have OFFSHORE turbines within only a few kms of land), the parroted response of "we will increase biodiversity in any impacted areas" which is clearly a generic response because the island and our waters are some of the most biodiverse in Britain. Trying to use the "mirrors and beads" token gesture of payment instead of true compensation for the proposed wide spread damage to the physical environment, the mental health of the people, the impact to the socio-cultural dynamic of the place, and the damage it will do to the tourism industry is just unforgivable and should be reason enough to prevent this from going ahead. Everyone feels pushed aside, not listened to, and that the very minimal island proposed "benefits" will not outweigh the damage that will be done should this go ahead. We are not anti-renewable, we are anti-green washing. We are not NIMBYs, we are just asking for true care and consideration in the designs that get proposed, and that genuine real changes are made to reduce the impacts. Such as reducing the number, size, height, and location of the turbines, using nature sensitive infrastructure such as blade colour and lighting that is not on all the time, allowing true community benefit such as power or percentage of profits, or simply placing the turbines much further away where the damage they will inflict will be reduced. The N4 site is the wrong one to have chosen, despite

vocal support from the few councillors who will benefit from the money, there were better sites to pick and they should have gone there instead.

The development is far too close to land and to the communities that will be affected by visual impact and other aspects of the project.

The development will go ahead as it's vital for the UK government energy strategy. If refused by CNES the development would be called in by the UK and Scottish Governments and granted permission. Then the community loses out on developer contributions.

The development will have a detrimental impact on not only the marine environment but more importantly the health and wellbeing of all residents that will have to live with a development of an industrial scale that will create light noise and visual pollution to our beautiful coastline and villages. The peace and quiet and tranquility of this delicate area is what attracts so much tourists and this will also trail away resulting in lost tourism income that many rely upon for rental and retail income. The developer has not listened to local opposition or feedback and their EIA findings are being hidden to try and force this project's planning through. House values will also be impacted as well as the mental and physical wellbeing of many residents that depend upon the quiet rural environment for their wellness.

The development will have a devastating impact on the local area. The wildlife and marine life will face unprecedented changes to the land and sea scapes they use to exist. The pristine waters and untouched landscape will turn into an industrial area with implications for the health and wellbeing of the people in the local communities, who will in turn see absolutely zero benefit in their daily lives. The manufacture, delivery and installation of the awful project will likely use more energy than it could ever produce, all in the name of "green energy". Creating such industrial scale devastation in an area of such outstanding natural beauty, where the people are so very connected to the land and sea through generations and which includes countless cultural and heritage sites, under the fallacy of green energy is egregious. As we know from other sites, it's likely that they will be turned off more than they are in use. Local communities will inevitably suffer the most.

The environmental impact would be massive, sea life, birds, noise, light pollution, sea pollution when they break etc. I do not support the size of the project in such a beautiful place.

The environmental issues outweigh the cost of the electricity especially as the community are being sold out. We need nuclear fusion not windfarms.

The impact it will have on such a beautiful unspoilt area including land and sea is unthinkable.

The impact on this coastal community will be affected, both in sea views, altered landscape and to our way of life and your lifestyle. The impact ecologically is still unclear, both to Ocean life and birds. With better, 'floating' turbine options why rush into these fixed turbines so close to shore? We are lucky to live here, on the Westside, but this development threatens something that is special. Our nation needs energy security (current events show the UK to be at the mercy of world events) , but at what cost!

The island does not want this. It is a terrible deal for Lewis and the public has not been listened to. over 900 objections to planning but it still goes through

The island needs economic development. It is essential that we make the most of this opportunity. We do need a strong negotiation to get best deal though.

The photo visions are harrowing-the island as we know it will be gone. Tourism will fall, the local economy will suffer. No thought or consideration is given to those living on these coastlines. This is going to be detrimental to Lewis if it goes ahead. It is a heart breaking thought, to have our island suffer like this.

The project does not have a good business model and the field is in open ocean as against already existing fields which are in sheltered waters. In other words, there is around 4000miles of the Atlantic Ocean for a storm to build up a sizeable swell, whereas the fields already in place are only really have to deal with large waves at worst. Swell is where the power of the sea resides.

The project is abomination of nature, history, human and marine mammal lives. It will destroy unique, unspoiled island that hasn't change the shape since the Viking times for private profit (!?) it will halt tourism and destroy property market - noone will want to buy land near marine Manhattan on a RURAL , quiet ISLAND!! they want to take so much giving nothing in return. Invasion would be no different. The turbines would be almost acceptable if: they were half the size, at least 18 km away from the shore, there were less of them and Northland proposed something in return to islanders for devastating their quiet lives, views and properties values - that is - a part of energy they produce should go to people's households FOR FREE . Plus they should create and sponsor national reserve around the rest of

the island and promise no further developments of no kind - no Black rock and vanguard or their associates on the islands ever again.

The project poses a significant threat to local marine biodiversity, risks the livelihoods of fishing community. The installation of massive industrial turbines will alter the beauty of the horizon, and threatens the local tourism economy. Noise pollution

The project will bring much needed economic growth to the area as well as jobs. The sight of turbines is not offensive to me.

The project will cause significant disruption and change the landscape of the area. The benefits, although the community benefit package agreed is significantly better than other projects, still does not go far enough to compensate the community. It is also preventing community owned energy projects access to a grid connection.

The proposal is located on a migration flyway used by birds leaving and returning to Iceland and Greenland. Also seabirds in their 100,00s pass through the same area. Cetacean numbers are also exceptional. There is no way to mitigate bird strikes and cetacean disturbance on such a large scale. The view and landscape will be destroyed in addition. There is already an excess of generation from wind. Why is this needed other than to make money for corporate shareholders

The proposed development will be disastrous for the West Coast of Lewis. It is too big and too close to shore. All other large-scale proposed developments are significantly further off shore, so why are the people of Lewis being subjected to the increased detrimental health effects (mental and physical) of this proposed site? The impact on wildlife and environment is immeasurable, and irreversible. Tourism and house prices will decline. I have no faith that any long-term employment will be provided for locals. Northland are exploiting our land and sea scape purely for profit. This is not a 'green' energy solution. Green energy projects should be sited close to the energy requirement, not many 100s of miles away, with the associated infrastructure requirements to transport the energy to the site of use. Additionally, the grid requirement for N4 effectively means that small scale community projects, which would have local benefit and support, are no longer viable.

The proposed offshore development will bring employment and resources to the islands.

The size and scale of this windfarm is totally out of proportion to the size and scale of an island such as ours. What is special about this community and the surrounding land and sea will be damaged beyond repair. The special qualities of this unique landscape should be protected. The machair land, peat, birdlife, sea life and culture around this area are so important. Turbines of this size were designed to be placed far out to sea not all along the villages only a few miles out from the houses. I am all for renewables but not for companies that come into small rural communities and exploit all that is special about their home. People will not continue to live or visit an area that becomes industrialised to this extent. It makes no sense to place a project of this size in one of the most pristine and unspoilt coastlines in the UK/Scotland. Because people were not aware of this project in the initial stages they were unable to object. Thus lack of objection (to a project they did not know existed) was taken to mean strong community support. I have only met one person in favour of this project. Everyone else I have spoken to is very strongly against. The level of noise pollution, light pollution, damage to the environment that will be inflicted is upsetting to think of. It is not 'green' to make a project where none of the power generated will be for the local area. People talk of buying foods that are grown locally to save the environment, yet these global companies will be transporting ridiculous amounts of power to the mainland and down south. Yet our island will remain one of the highest areas of fuel poverty in the UK. I feel like our lovely island is getting 'thrown under the bus' as it were. And sacrificed to line the pockets of the rich.

The wind industry is wholly destructive in its lust for power. The small contribution that it will make if it goes ahead will be outweighed by the people's lives which it destroys especially when one mainland renewable power station could produce vastly more power closer to where it is required whilst being instant, controllable and reliable, unlike the fickle wind industry. It appears that the wind industry is like a cancer on the Highlands and Islands showing Zero respect to the country which it lusts to destroy.

The windfarm would have a catastrophic impact on tourism and the already dwindling numbers of permanent residents on the western coast of Lewis. This island has been stomped on and taken advantage of by Wealthy landlords and businesses such as Scottish salmon for far too long. The number of permanent residents has taken catastrophic blow as well as the ecosystem. I have not spoken to a single neighbour in favour of this windfarm, to suggest its supported by the locals is laughable. We remember our history here of being taken advantage of and we will not allow it to happen again.

There has been no meaningful consultation. For the Scottish Government and Local Authority to disregard local opposition is frankly, disrespectful. It assumes a fait accompli despite the contrary evidence.

There is little or no financial gain for local area ,also the impact on marine life will be huge .Because Clach an trush stone will be impacted with the 1000 foot plus wind turbine, no one will want to visit it ..it is after all the tallest monolith in Scotland

These are pristine waters. This development will decimate this area. How can 60 wind masts, which rely on oil for lubricant, be deemed "green!?" The danger of oil contamination is too great.

These turbines will cause noise and visual impacts on my everyday life

They expect us to rollover and accept the raping of our resources and heritage to make wealthy foreigners wealthier. No thanks

This Development is too close to the shore.

This development is far too close to community houses. Invasive night lights and visual impacts. With very little income offered to the westside and the entire Islanders. No beneficial energy supply to the Island as none of the power is for local use (national grid)

This development will be stealing the horizon for the whole of the West Side of Lewis. The Industrial Seascape the development will create will be to the detriment of all the historic sites, Callanish and Arnol Blackhouse, Bostadh Beach etc and will ruin forever the beauty and wilderness that the Isle of Lewis is famed for. It will be the end of tourism.

This development will be the gateway to large industrialisation of our unspoilt island. I strongly disagree with the proposals put forward and the damage that will be made to our delicate peatland and marine habitats through this development. It will also be a horrendous sight from every west coast beach. The island cannot sustain the number of workers who will be here for the works, our hospital is already at capacity, our police service receiving constant cuts, our transport services to and from island have enough demands already and we already don't have enough houses for people who live here. So I don't understand how it can support thousands of workers from the mainland too.

This development will have untold negative environmental impact on our island, both from the turbines themselves and the land based infrastructure supporting them. We currently do not have the infrastructure to support the influx of workers and their families in terms of accommodation, nhs facilities, education and childcare , policing etc. Our local road network will be negatively affected by the additional quantity of heavy vehicles. Our flights and ferry's are already expensive and often full to capacity so this additional demand from vehicles and workers is likely to only increase prices and cause additional capacity issues. There is zero proposed financial benefit to islanders in terms of cheaper energy/ electric as the power companies are against zonal pricing so for all the detrimental aspects of this development to our community and its environment we will still be continuing to pay the highest electricity prices in Europe. In addition I have read that power suppliers often have to turn off turbines for a variety of reasons and the costs of having them turned off also be passed onto the consumer. I cannot see any positive impact of this development on our island at all.

This does not benefit the people that live here, discounted electricity might help. Particularly for those that depend on tourism. I also worry about the cables running across the Moor, the damage to the peat will be pretty much permanent

This has been presented to us as a fait accompli. A handful of councillors and politicians have smelt easy money and agreed to everything, without asking us. We don't matter. How is it legal that these few people who don't even live here can destroy our way of life like this?

This industrial development is ill-thought totally over-scaled and act as a colonial asset without any benefit outside the stakeholders (Canadian retired folks). It is promising turbines that are way too big into an environment where they have little chances of resisting the Ocean. There is no commercial turbine that size in the world. Lewis has a unique environment and is a refuge for a lot of migrating species that will be impacted by the development. The fact that it has been sold from London to be exploited by a speculative fund without any negotiation for the community is an attitude we were hoping to not see anymore since the XVIIIth century. This without assessing the engineering capacity of the project within one of the most violent oceanic setting. For the tourist industry offering unspoiled views, no compensation is envisaged and no redevelopment plan. Finally the scale is such that locally, community-own produced electricity cannot further develop has the array would occupy all the free space for export on the national grid.

This inshore industrialization of one of the last wild coast in the UK, will have a major impact on the environment, quality of residents lives, mental health and

livelihoods and should not have been entertained or suggested in the first place. Shame on the 'gainers'. If this is passed the whole island will be developed & ruined.

This invasive industrialization of our Area of outstanding natural beauty is bad for our wildlife, our health, our economy, our infrastructure, our stretched local services, our tourist industry too. This is not renewable energy or green energy it's a money making scheme for foreign conglomerates that seek to exploit our resources at the expense of everything and everybody here in Westside Lewis.

This is a disastrous proposition for our islands. To destroy such natural beauty, when there is no economical, cultural or physical benefit to the islands, is abhorrent. The lack of acknowledgement for the significantly negative impact this proposal is already having on many of the people that live and work on the islands is shocking. This proposal should absolutely be rejected, from the harm to marine life as well as the harm to the people and the land of Lewis. There will be no second chance to get this right, and the safe-keeping of our land and culture should be prioritised by the government over economical gains for companies that do not need to take advantage of our size to gain further capital. The people of the islands are not benefiting from this proposal, and neither overall are the people of Scotland. The lack of true information sharing, and the ignorance to the real issues raised by the local communities, belies the true meaning behind this proposal - financial gain above all else. I hope the powers that are charged with responding to this proposal take it as seriously as it deserves, and, if they do, they will surely reject this. I hope they challenge themselves to remove financial incentive from their decision making, and put the people and the land above all else.

This is a new age crime, and the companies that are planning on building this turbines are only after the governments money. Also im lead to believe that scotland is generating enough wind power to sustain itself but and still no sign of prices coming down. Just as they did when the hydro was put in

This is abhorrent. Our island is being violated and turned into an industrial desert for the sake of industrials corporations' profits. I'm heartbroken. Awful for future generations to come.

This is an abuse of unspoilt landscape around us. Disgusting. Abhorrent.

This is an industrial project with a guarantee of money from the production to the companies. The community benefits include words such as 'goal' and 'aim for' -

providing no such guarantee, this is my biggest concern, as once everything is agreed the community doesn't need to be listened to. Any large scale infrastructure project usually benefits a community - the project states its goal is £4.5million per year community fund - I have a goal of making that this year but it's more realistic I'll make my normal salary and that's how that particular 'goal' from the development should read unless is in a contract form. Further this is government led so they can easily legislate for western isles postcode discount on electricity to our area which will benefit local businesses in a tangible way, as well as residents.

This is an outrageous project and I haven't met a single islander who is in favour of it. To say it has island support is an outright lie. We need to fight this desecration of our environment, the destruction of our wildlife and tourist industry. The detrimental effects will be huge and with no benefits to the island. This project is madness.

This is catastrophic to the landscape, the culture, the sense of belonging that islanders have which will impact on people's individual wellbeing. Islanders are not even going to benefit from it. The Scottish Government should be ashamed of themselves for allowing this.

This is far too close to land, it will destroy a largely untouched wilderness, the seabed, sea life, birds, peatland and human life with vibrations, noise and kill our tourism sector. The plans are shameful, disgusting.

This is industrialisation on an area of outstanding natural beauty. There is absolutely no compassion for the islanders this will affect. The tearing up of peatland is not "Net Zero" All this damage for approximately 30 years of electricity that we are going to pay a fortune for, whilst these companies get rich!

This is not "green" energy. The Isle of Lewis will be ruined, a few will become very rich in the name of net zero. These turbines will disturb the ocean passages, lights will flash at sea affecting local people, and all just for a few years of money grab.

This is one of the last remote and beautiful places in the UK. The Hebrides rely on tourism because of this. This will affect the sustainability of crofting on the West side of Lewis. Lots of crofters have invested in providing accommodation for tourists, who come for the wild, unspoilt scenery and amazing beaches. They will not come to look out onto an industrial landscape, which is what this will become. If they don't come, many crofters will struggle to make their crofts viable.

Families will leave the area. yes there will be jobs while construction is ongoing, but once that's done the job opportunities are minimal. Big companies- and not even British companies, will make a lot of money at the cost of local communities. So will the crown estate. The cost to local people does not justify this project going ahead. Not only that but the effect is will have on local cetaceans will be huge. We've already had Pilot Whales stranding - nobody seems to be mentioning what was going on out at sea regarding investigations on the sea bed for these windfarms at the time and how that affected the whales. If this goes ahead we can expect a lot more. I am appalled that this is even being considered.

This island is one of the last places left in the UK unspoilt by big commerce and heavy industry. With dark skies, rare habitats such as vast peat moors and the machair, and wildlife like corncrakes and whooper swans migrating right through the proposed windfarms, and a unique culture that includes a weekly communal day of peace and quiet with noticeably lower traffic... to wade in with complete disregard for all of these valuable treasures that ought to be cherished, and simply wipe through them as if they were all meaningless and worthless, is a disgraceful waste . We should be preserving these incredibly special attributes and attractions and hailing this island as a gem of Europe for it's unparalleled beauty and culture in the global tide of consumerism and big business. Only yesterday morning I saw a pair of whooper swans fly in through the proposed windfarm area, exhausted from their Icelandic journey, they came over my garden so low i could hear their breathlessness and the effort of their wings against the wind. I have seen the northern lights from my front door, a sight that people put on their bucket list, and this proposal aims to replace that with the Northland lights of industry. With hundreds of objections completely ignored (Completely ignored!) , this is a shocking and heinous way to treat an exceptional community. We are heading towards unprecedented times where more people than ever before are finding opportunities to work remotely, enabling places and cultures like this, that have been long lost and buried by commercialisation everywhere else in the uk , a final chance to be preserved and celebrated for the matchless jewel it really is. I cannot object strongly enough. It's heartbreaking and sickening to think of. If the proposal goes ahead I will not be able to stay.

This large industrialisation of the Isle of Lewis will have hugely negative impacts on: wildlife, sea life, human health, dark skies, micro plastic pollution, and tourism whilst having zero impact on islander's energy bills and local jobs.

This off shore wind farm is of no use to the local communities or the wider communities of Scotland. Here it will only cause significant damage to wildlife and sea life. Huge disruptions to tourism as many people visit the island for its

unspoiled views not to go to a beautiful beach and see 60 giant turbines! Sit is also the starting point of huge upheaval on the mainland with giant pylons being constructed to carry the power generated from this wind farm down through Scotland to England to then be distributed. This whole project as a whole is unnecessary as as a country we generate enough electricity now to power ourselves. It is purely a ploy to make money at our expense and of no benefit to us!

This power will be produced at our expense and at the expense of our beautiful and fragile environment.

This project stands to ruin one of the last remaining areas of wilderness and natural beauty in the UK. We seem to have learnt nothing - we gave away the oil in the 70s to commercial organisations that returned a fraction of the benefit to the people, and now we're giving away the wind. There seems to be a concerted effort on the part of politicians of all shades to ignore the concerns of island people. This is a travesty and would have an enduring negative impact on every aspect of island life.

This project will create jobs and income for the local area, stop the world's reliance on fossil fuels. And isn't a permanent fixture

This proposed site is in one of the last remaining areas free of construction and huge man made structures. Still a truly wild stretch of ocean, in which marine animals are able to live peacefully without disturbance. The proposed proximity to the shore is deeply concerning regarding wildlife including little terns which have been found nesting on the shoreline at Brue and otters at Barvas beach. I've worked as a wildlife guide for a boat company operating out of Miavaig, Uig and I've encountered many species of dolphins and whales like white beaked dolphin, Atlantic white sided dolphin, porpoise, humpback whale, and minke whale, along with basking sharks, eagles, kittiwakes, and puffins, all of which will be disturbed, causing damage to populations of animals along the west coast. And that is only the wildlife at the surface, below are extensive kelp beds home to hundreds of keystone species. I see the location of the proposed site as the only area of the Lewis and Harris coast without any protection such as the North Lewis MPA, or the natural beauty protection afforded to south of Loch Roag down to Harris. Wildlife doesn't care for our human boundaries, and the construction which will damage the ocean will have a knock on effect right around the coastline and into the Atlantic. I urge you to reconsider the location of this wind farm, or at least undertake extensive wildlife surveys to mitigate and disturbances and damage the construction will undoubtedly cause.

This proposed windfarm and onshore infrastructure will destroy our beautiful island. Nothing green or renewable about it.

This will be catastrophic for the west coast of Lewis, destroying our wildlife both in the sea and in the air, catastrophic for the island tourist industry costing hundreds of jobs, and catastrophic for our cultural heritage sites which are world class. Destroying the islands heritage and wildlife so giant companies can make fortunes exporting Scotland energy.

This will be cultural, economic & environmental suicide. Prioritising corporate greed & professional ambition over the rights of residents

This will destroy the natural landscape, disturb crucial marine and terrestrial habitats, create noise, light and visual pollution, and affect the business of those of us involved in the tourism industry. We did not consent to this huge scale plan, and will not see any benefit. We are deeply concerned for the long term effects of the development, especially but not limited to the carbon cost of the construction, the vehicle and boat transport, road congestion and road degradation, pollution from tyre wear due to increased works traffic, the dilution of local gaelic culture and the cultural appropriation by using a gaelic name and the false idea it will bring local jobs. I am especially concerned for the peatlands, red listed birds, flapper skate which breed in the waters, cold water corals, cetaceans which migrate through these proposed areas, sea grass, threatened sea birds as well as ground nesting birds, and insect life. We do not want massive industrial scale development here.

This will destroy what makes the west side of the Outer Hebrides so unique, in the name of profit. This is not about green energy, this is about profit, and it is about profit at the expense of wildlife and some of the last remaining wild places around the UK. The people of Lewis do not want this, the UK does not need this, and the planet will not be saved by this.

This will have a huge impact on the island especially the Westside, the noise and the lights on them will have a negative impact on my mental wellbeing!

This will impact the natural environment and impact all that live in this area and beyond. It is not of benefit to anyone except those wanting exploit this. This does not benefit human kind, only reminds us of others greed and egos. We as a society are better than this. Don't do it.

This will not only be an eye sore but I am dreading the noise. I currently live with 1 turbine nearby and when it's completely quiet at night time you can hear the blades spinning.

This wind farm along with all the other infrastructure associated with it will ruin the island it'll also cause a huge upheaval for us on the west side during construction. I am concerned of the health impacts associated with these turbines being so close to land aswell as I have been reading more things online about this

This would destroy the natural beauty and local ecosystem

To construct such an industrial landscape in an area of natural unspoilt scenery with zero positive benefits to islanders is both unfair and irresponsible.

Too big, too close to shore. Unnecessary as Scotland already produces more power than it can ever consume. No thought for the years of mental anguish this has caused residents of the west coast. Pathetic social impact assessment

Too close to shore, too high, apart from the effect of the transmission lines to the proposed Arnish development An absolute environmental nightmare.

Too close to the shore. If it was 15 Km plus away I would not be opposing it. I strongly oppose a wind farm with the distance currently proposed.

Too many and too big

Too tall, too many masts and too close to the land - which will cause too much damage and disruption to the local community, landscape and wildlife

Ugly structures that will spoil the beauty of our Island forever.

Undemocratic industrialisation of communities, destructive to nature, wildlife and the wellbeing of residents. Turbines well known to be a costly and unviable means of renewables due to maintenance and pollution from eroding blades from the harsh conditions they inhabit. There are other less destructive ways to tackle the renewable energy problem.

Unsightly and we won't benefit from energy generated. Throwing a few million per year at us is poor compensation. Try offering free electricity for all island residents for 40 yrs and you may get more support.

Very concerned about the environmental impact to seabirds and marine life in the area with such a huge development

Very poor returns for the community.

We already have enough green energy and it is sent away and it will destroy the island

We are strongly opposed to any wind farm of this nature on the western isles. The development shows a complete disregard for the people living here, the delicate and unique environment and the cultural heritage of the island as a whole.

We are strongly opposed to this development as it will devastate the environment and people of Lewis. We are offended by the lies and misinformation that are being peddled by the supporters of N4. No one is listening to people's objections. This is not just nimbyism. Offshore wind farms should be offshore, not inshore.

We don't want it, we weren't asked but no one actually cares apart from us. I've contacted councillors and politicians but they either don't reply or say well it's happening, get used to it, there will be 'community benefit'. I don't want money, I want my beautiful quiet island left undisturbed. And anyway, we know who will get the community benefit and it won't be the community. There is no benefit in any size, shape or form to the communities. Our lives will be destroyed – 24/7 pile driving into the seabed for 6 years, then the operational sounds, sights and vibrations? It's insane. I contacted the RSPB and do you know what they said? Why don't you put up a bird box or plant a hedge, these things often aren't as bad as you think they are going to be. Has everyone actually gone barking mad? No one cares, no one listens.

We have noise concerns and view concerns as we moved here for the very reason of having a wonderful view and peace and quiet. Our other huge concern is for wildlife (birds, marine life both swimming and seabed dwelling etc. etc. Added to this is the impact that it could have on tourism which is now so important to the island economy. The westside has always been a popular destination but many people's businesses could be impacted if tourists decide to avoid the area due to construction in the shorter term and then the change to the scenery in the long term. We would also question the fact this is being termed an off-shore windfarm. These turbines are not meant to be so close to land and this is an 'on-shore' windfarm to all intents and purposes. To have to tolerate this and have no benefit to the islands that we can see seems ludicrous.

We think it's an abhorrent idea. As an island we have too many wind farms already. This, IF it goes ahead, will have a hugely detrimental effect on our community, island and surrounding sea. The ecological impact is devastating. The sea around our island needs to be protected not destroyed

We've never been consulted by ANY organisation, galson estates , council or goverment body. Any information as far as I can gather is on social media and not by mail to the properties concerned

What is already proposed on the island is enough, there is more than enough research to prove the damage caused by these turbines to marine life.

When we can't afford to fund our NHS and Education - why are we paying subsidies to non British companies? That's even before you think about the environmental impact.

Whilst I am not against new energy development, it has to be done appropriately and sensitively to its location, geography and population. I believe this development will decimate the Isle of Lewis as we know it. The pride in the beauty and splendour of our islands, the nature (in sea and on land), our dark skies will cease, to the detriment of islanders, and visitors. There is no genuine benefit to our islands, and promises of large numbers of jobs once this development is complete is, I believe, to be untrue. There will be no attraction to people wanting to live on the islands, or families returning. We will also see a massive decline in property values, and I would be concerned at possible ill health to residents due to this development. I also am surprised that with so much new energy technology being developed, there is a need to still have such huge, inappropriate structures so close to shore. Energy created in the Western Isles should be for its own islands, and primarily used to help reduce local fuel poverty in the first instance. Local windfarms for local people and Scotland. Power for the south (England and wider), should come from the south.

Whilst I'm generally not against wind turbines and green energy, this development will bring nothing to the local population.

Why are they wanting to spoil the beautiful beaches we have, which are one of the island biggest assets. It feels like there is no thought for the culture & blood running through our Hebridean veins. These turbines are going to be an eyesore. They are likely going to be noisy, they will have an impact on fishing on that coast & wildlife. I feel sick to my stomach that this is going to happen. It's disgraceful that the multi million pound companies once again show no regard for locals and their well-being and livelihoods. It's shameful, It screams out Profit above everything!! Shame on them!! Shame on whoever allows this to go ahead

Why is it so close? I saw ones recently off Dunbar and they are 20km out. So close is horrific for the islands. If further out I may be willing to accept.

Why is our island being handed over to shareholders who have nothing to do with our island, with nothing positive in any way being given to the islanders. Why are the islanders not being given reduced electricity? For ever?

Will completely spoil the landscape with no benefit whatsoever to the island

Wind turbines are not green, or economical. They destroy natural habitats, cause havoc, discontent and division. They are a con.

With over 800 objections on the original planning application, how was planning passed for the first stage by the local council?

Yes I do,. I've lived on this island my entire life and have setup a business here and after this project it complete I will seriously consider leaving. im all for small scale wind turbines but nothing as disruptive on the landscape as this .

Yes it looks awful. Will effect marine life, bird life and humans. There is nothing "green" about turbines. Concrete, metal and oil. Once redundant can't be recycled. Then the fact no deal was made for locals to get reduced electricity despite being the highest population of fuel poverty in the UK. What were the councillors thinking. Maybe about the benefits they might get but certainly not their community. Scotland already produces 115% of the energy the country requires. So good to know this will all be transported down South where they already have lower electricity rates than we do!! Pathetic decision made by a large bunch of councillors. No one came and discussed any of these proposals with me. We could save some money by getting rid of half of them. Far too many in post clearly not acting on behalf of their community or Island.

Yes. I am very much in favour of wind energy Especially with the current oil crises, countries would do better to become self sufficient and not rely on oil. Plus the environmental issues. But this scheme is too large, it affects local wildlife and beautiful nature. It is too close to the shore. I think smaller scenes are the way to go or schemes far off the land also the community should have a much bigger cut. Not just the westside but the whole community

Yet another scheme to pour billions into the pockets of the developers and investors. Wind power on this scale is so detrimental to communities, also to the marine and land environment, much of which is supposed to be protected. I am absolutely appalled at the prospect of this development. It serves no good purpose, and is just another tick box in the unplanned, unregulated rush towards a supposedly more sustainable future. Greenwashing in the extreme, it absolutely should not happen.

You'll not stop it. It's going to happen. Why fight it? It is a done deal.

horrible things to look at and what's going to happen at the end of their shelf like they can't be recycled and a lot of concrete left all over the place .

no benefits to the residents !?? 340 m high !?? NO! NO ! NO you would be able to see this from every hill across Harris and Lewis! and land devastation for the grid will be too great

no words. just no

strongly oppose the idea. it will ruin surfers tourism, tourism overall, property market will be damaged (no one will buy land on the west side of the island and west northern harris). Take it

away from the shore so we don't see it or hear it, propose smaller turbines as well as benefits to the islanders and marine life in return otherwise we will oppose it every way we can

strongly oppose this horrible idea, the windmills are distopian and way too big, too close to the shore, no benefits to islanders is outrageous - we will lose views, possibly health, risk ecological disaster due to marine life being at threat, oil leaks ect. no matter where they would put such monstrosities it would be devastating for nature. Propose something sensible. You don't take from someone without giving in return - if you do you commit a crime. 100m windmills , 15km away from the shore , free electricity to the islanders forever and marine mammals fund is somewhat acceptable.

the effect on the land as well on tourism will be unfathomable. the best views of the islands will be gone. Harris views are not effected to much as that's where the rich live...

there are industrial places for developments like this , beautiful islands are not place for this

there is an excess of wind development across the UK and more effort to be made on transmission and energy storage - all new wind scheme within 30Km of the coastline shall be banned to maintain both nature and wellness of those who live in the area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Fwd: application reference md-00011742 & md-00011743 dpioradba mara ltd -siorad na mara offshore wind farm isle of lewis
Date: 07 May 2026 13:49:29

Dear sirs,

I object to the above proposals . The construction works will have a detrimental effect on island life and the tourism income for at least the next 5 years . The aviation warning light will effectively destroy the island's dark sky status for at least 35 years . The size and scale of the project is totally unnecessary and untested and there is no plan in place for removal of the underwater debris in the event of catastrophic failure .The are no funds placed in escrow to remove the derelict remains of the turbines at the end of their operational life should the developers claim insolvency .The lifespan of offshore turbines is significantly under that of land based and the economic case and environmental impact in the event of predictable climate change wind speed escalation causing failure has not been adequately investigated.. In the event of a negative outcome funds would be required to be put in place for mitigation prior to work proceeding.

To the best of my knowledge no Community on the island has agreed to this or supports this project , it brings very marginal benefit in the short term to our economy and brings very significant short and long term detriment to our economy and environment . On all these grounds I OBJECT .

My Address is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ated 07.05.2026

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: MD-00011742 and MD-00011743 Spiora na Mara Limited - Spiora na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis
Date: 07 May 2026 13:23:31

I wish to object to the above application on the following grounds:

1. The size and unusually close proximity to land will adversely affect the seascape which at present is wild and impressive, and is greatly valued by local people and visitors. Such vistas are becoming rarer and their value for recreation and even for mental health is increasing.
2. There has been no meaningful consultation and at the same time it appears that the majority of Islanders are against the development.
3. The development is likely to significantly affect the tourism industry.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

& May 2026

Member of the public 2074

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: MD-00011742 and MD-00011743 Spiora na Mara Limited - Spiora na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis
Date: 07 May 2026 13:46:24

I wish to object to the above application on the following grounds:

1. There has been no consultation, or investigation of the impact of this development on the local population.
2. There has been no assessment of the adverse aspects of this development economically.
3. I am concerned that wildlife will be adversely affected, in particular bird life including the movement of gannets.
4. The full details of accompanying infrastructure developments on land have not been given.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

& May 2026

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

7 May 2026

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

For the attention of the Scottish Ministers.

Ref: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 – Spiorad na Mara Limited – Spiorad na Mara Wind Farm – Isle of Lewis

Dear Scottish Ministers,

I write to formally object to the application by Spiorad na Mara Limited to construct and operate an offshore wind farm off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

I was born and brought up in Lewis and after 25 years away, 22 of these in New Zealand, I have returned to Lewis. It is simply, one of the last unspoilt landscapes in the world.

If allowed, this development will create significant and life-changing impacts due to the extent of the development: 60 wind turbine generators, 338m in height and situated only 5km to 13km from the coastline.

The impacted coastline, and Lewis in general, is steeped in a traditional way of life enjoyed by both its residents and the many tourists attracted to the area, due to its natural beauty, culture including Gaelic language, wildlife, fauna and historic sites of interest.

This is not the first time this island has been subject to proposed large-scale renewable energy development. Thankfully, on the previous occasion sense prevailed and the project was scrapped.

I have a number of areas of specific areas of concern:

Lack of Community Engagement

There was no consultation with the Lewis community prior to the Crown Estate Scotland identifying and leasing of the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed upon residents without consent.

As a research consultant with years of experience managing stakeholder and community communications for large infrastructure projects I am appalled at the blatant lack of community consultation.

The stated position of support and lack of objection [as stated by the local authority] did not reflect what was being discussed in the communities I live and work in. I, along with a community group, undertook an online community survey which returned an outstanding **88% of respondents against** the development as it stands. This survey was completed to international best practise guidelines; the data was cleaned with duplicate responses and IP addresses outwith the Western Isles removed.

The misrepresentation of community opinion by the local authority is a significant breach of our communities' rights under existing planning legislation, which alone would justify suspension of any consenting until a public enquiry is undertaken.

Furthermore, there are many problematic elements to the N4 proposal in its current format, with many Scottish Government policy statements breached and disregarded. Specifically my concerns are:

1. Incomplete Information

The developer's paperwork is full of gaps. They are using a 'design envelope', which means they aren't telling us the exact size or number of turbines yet, making it impossible to know the real damage.

In planning terms, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is deficient because it lacks site-specific data and fails to assess a realistic worst-case scenario:

- The application represents a deficient EIAR because it contains significant gaps in baseline data regarding local species. (National Marine Plan; NPF4 Policy 1)
- The developer has made a failure to apply a realistic worst-case scenario, meaning the true impacts remain unknown. (Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017)
- The use of the Rochdale Envelope principle in this sensitive location is inappropriate as it masks the scale of environmental harm. (NPF4 Policy 4; Marine Scotland Guidance)

2. 'Fix it Later' Promises

The developer is asking for permission now and promising to figure out how to fix environmental damage later. We can't trust a plan that hasn't been written yet.

In planning terms it is problematic to rely on post-consent mitigation. The authorities cannot judge if the project is safe if the solutions are not provided before the decision is made:

- I object to the reliance on post-consent mitigation, as the effectiveness of these measures cannot be scrutinised now. (NPF4 Policy 3; Habitats Regulations)
- The proposal suffers from procedural uncertainty, as key protection plans have been deferred until after permission is granted. (Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025)
- The pre-determination of mitigation without evidence-based results fails the test of a robust planning application. (NPF4 Policy 1)

3. Economic Damage to Lewis

The island bears all the costs while the high-paying jobs and profits go off-island. Local businesses may lose staff to short-term wind farm jobs. Particular impact on the tourism sector is insufficient. In planning terms, the project violates Community Wealth Building policies and risks cannibalising our local workforce:

- The proposal creates a significant socio-economic imbalance and facilitates the benefit export of wealth away from the island. (NPF4 Policy 25; National Marine Plan Policy GEN 2)
- The EIAR fails to model how the "high magnitude of change" to the seascape will reduce Tourism Gross Value Added (GVA) (NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy ED1)
- The lack of a compliant Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) means the vulnerability of the vital tourism sector hasn't been legally evaluated (Islands (Scotland) Act 2018; NPF4 Policy 4)
- Lack of assessment of industry cannibalisation, where the project causes labour displacement from our vital care and tourism sectors. (NPF4 Policy 30)
- The development fails the NPF4 Policy 25 mandate for Community Wealth Building. (NPF4 Policy 25)

4. Ignoring our Culture

The assessment ignores our Gaelic language, our traditions tied to the sea, and how we actually use our landscape today.

In planning terms, the developer has failed to assess intangible heritage and the living landscape, violating the requirement to protect the unique cultural identity of our island communities:

- The assessment fails NPF4 Policy 7 by ignoring the intangible and living heritage of the West Side community. (NPF4 Policy 7; Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS))
- There has been an inadequate Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) regarding the impact on Gaelic culture and local traditions. (Islands (Scotland) Act 2018)
- The project fails to respect the Cultural Landscape as a whole, treating historic sites as

isolated objects rather than a living environment. (LDP Policy EH1; NPF4 Policy 7)

5. Hidden Impacts on Mental Health

A report showing that local residents are suffering from high levels of stress and anxiety was kept out of the main public documents.

In planning terms, by not disclosing the full Social Impact Assessment (SIA) data, the developer has prevented the community from seeing the true health risks:

- I object to the non-disclosure of social impact data, which prevents a transparent assessment of the project's risks. (NPF4 Policy 14; Aarhus Convention)
- The proposal will have a documented adverse impact on mental health and wellbeing, which is a material violation of NPF4 Policy 14. (NPF4 Policy 14 (Health and Wellbeing))

6. Fishing, Marine Life, and Protected Species

The developer's study of West Lewis waters is dangerously incomplete, not taking into account the full impact on the local fishing industry and marine life.

In planning terms the proposal fails to provide a robust evidence base for marine mammals and ignores the displacement of the local fishing fleet:

- "The application contains significant methodological deficiency by using biased aerial surveys that ignore established land-based basking shark data." (National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9)
- "The proposal fails NPF4 Policy 11 and NMP Policy GEN 4 as it provides no evidence that alternative fishing grounds are available to prevent industry cannibalisation." (NPF4 Policy 11; NMP Policy GEN 4)
- "The requirement for European Protected Species (EPS) licenses proves that environmental impacts are not 'negligible' as claimed." (NPF4 Policy 3; EPS Regulations)

7. Risks to Bird Life

This area is a vital feeding ground and a major highway for migrating birds. The developer is trying to bypass nature laws because they know the project will likely harm protected species.

In planning terms, the developer has already filed a Derogation Case, which is a legal loophole used when a project admits it will definitely damage a protected area:

- The developer's own Habitats Appraisal Derogation Case proves that the project cannot be completed without damaging protected nature sites. (Habitats Regulations; NPF4 Policy 3)
- The proposal fails the Precautionary Principle, as there is no evidence beyond reasonable scientific doubt that local bird populations will survive. (National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9)
- I object on the grounds that the project poses an unacceptable risk to SPA-integrity (Special Protection Areas). (NPF4 Policy 4; Birds Directive)

8. Failure to Help Nature and Pollution Risks

In Scotland, just doing less harm isn't enough anymore. Big projects are legally required to leave nature in a better state than they found it.

In planning terms, the developer has failed the mandatory Enhancement test required by NPF4:

- The project fails the NPF4 Policy 3 mandate, which requires a measurable net gain for biodiversity, not just mitigation. (NPF4 Policy 3)
- The proposal offers no genuine biodiversity enhancement and fails to contribute to our local Nature Network. (NPF4 Policy 3(a))
- Failure to provide detailed CEMPs or Pollution Prevention Plans prevents a robust assessment.
- "An Appropriate Assessment cannot conclude 'no adverse effect' given that high-energy piling will disturb 28% of the local bottlenose dolphin population." (NPF4 Policy 4; Habitats Regulations)

9. Destroying Our Dark Skies

Massive flashing red lights on top of every turbine will destroy our view of the stars and disorientate birds that fly at night.

In planning terms, the project will cause a permanent loss of Astronomical Amenity and likely kill

nocturnal species through phototaxis (fatal attraction to light):

- The project will result in a permanent loss of astronomical amenity, destroying the West Side's appeal as a dark sky destination. (NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy PD2)
- The developer has failed to establish a proper nocturnal baseline, ignoring the lethal risk to nocturnal species. (NPF4 Policy 3; Marine Policy Statement)
- The impact of phototaxis (fatal attraction to aviation lighting) on migrating birds has been dangerously underestimated. (NPF4 Policy 4)

10. Cumulative Devastation and Onshore Damage

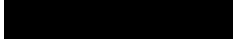
The offshore turbines and the onshore cables/substations are actually one single project, but treating them separately hides the true damage to our peatlands, machair and crofting land. The developer has also ignored the cumulative impact of this project alongside other future plans for the area (like N2).

In planning terms, this application represents "Project Splitting" and fails to account for the total environmental and carbon cost to the island:

- The assessment fails to account for the total carbon store degradation caused by digging up the Barvas Moor peatlands. (NPF4 Policy 1; NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils))
- Failure to assess impacts on irreplaceable machair habitats at the landfall point constitutes a direct breach of NPF4 Policy 3.
- Given the significant "Information Deficiencies," the developer has failed to prove, "beyond reasonable scientific doubt," that the environment will not be irreparably harmed (Habitats Regulations)
- The project is notably inconsistent with the 2008 AMEC/Lewis Wind Power Ministerial Precedent, which established that the Lewis Peatlands SPA constitutes a "national interest" carrying a "weight of importance" that outweighed the benefits of energy production; a conservation priority further strengthened by NPF4 Policy 1, which mandates that significant weight be given to the global climate and nature crises in all planning decisions (Ministerial Decision 2008; NPF4 Policy 1).

There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reason for over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

Thank you for your consideration.



Member of the public 2076

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](mailto:MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot)
Subject: Objection - MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Isle of Lewis
Date: 07 May 2026 14:22:30

Please Email to MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot **By 7th May 2026**

Or Post to: *Marine Directorate, Licensing Operations Team, Scottish Gov, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB*

My address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: 07/05/2026 _____

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 *'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'*

NMP Para. 4.77 *'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'*

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. *'We will empower people to shape their places.'*

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 *'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.'*

NPF4 Policy 7 a *'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'*

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994**, the **2018 Offshore Regulations**, the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**, and the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 I *'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'*

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on *'biodiversity including impacts on birds'* must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with **NPF4 Policy 7**. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 *'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.'* **Para. 4.23** *'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.*

NPF4 Policy 7 h *'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:'*
ii *'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or*
iii *exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'*

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes **NPF4 Policy 3**, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the **Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993**.

NMP Para. 4.77 *'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'*

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to **NPF4**

Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts.'*

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 *'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'*

My further objection points:

I object in the strongest possible terms to this proposal. It has breached required regulations and guidance multiple times and is certainly not legally watertight.

We have been left without the full information which is offensive. Have the people of this place no right even to know what your intentions are? You will know that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is deficient because it lacks site-specific data and fails to assess a realistic worst-case scenario:

- The application represents a deficient EIAR because it contains significant gaps in baseline data regarding local species. (National Marine Plan; NPF4 Policy 1)
- The developer has made a failure to apply a realistic worst-case scenario, meaning the true impacts remain unknown. (Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017)
- The use of the Rochdale Envelope principle in this sensitive location is inappropriate as it masks the scale of environmental harm. (NPF4 Policy 4; Marine Scotland Guidance)

The relevant authorities cannot judge if the project is safe, if the solutions are not provided before the planning consent decision is made:

- I object to the reliance on post-consent mitigation, as the effectiveness of these measures cannot be scrutinized now. (NPF4 Policy 3; Habitats Regulations)
- The proposal suffers from procedural uncertainty, as key protection plans have been deferred until after permission is granted. (Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025)
- The pre-determination of mitigation without evidence-based results fails the test of a robust planning application. (NPF4 Policy 1)

How dare you assume that you do not need to give us this vital information!

These problems related to local employment and economy are also of great importance and have not been considered –

- The proposal creates a significant socio-economic imbalance and facilitates the benefit export of wealth away from the island. (NPF4 Policy 25; National Marine Plan Policy GEN 2)
- The EIAR fails to model how the "high magnitude of change" to the seascape will reduce

Tourism Gross Value Added (GVA) (NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy ED1)

- The lack of a compliant Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) means the vulnerability of the vital tourism sector hasn't been legally evaluated (Islands (Scotland) Act 2018; NPF4 Policy 4)
- Lack of assessment of industry cannibalisation, where the project causes labour displacement from our vital care and tourism sectors. (NPF4 Policy 30)
- The development fails the NPF4 Policy 25 mandate for Community Wealth Building. (NPF4 Policy 25)

With regard to our language and traditional way of life –

You, the developer has failed to assess intangible heritage and the living landscape, violating the requirement to protect the unique cultural identity of our island communities:

- The assessment fails NPF4 Policy 7 by ignoring the intangible and living heritage of the West Side community. (NPF4 Policy 7; Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS))
- There has been an inadequate Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) regarding the impact on Gaelic culture and local traditions. (Islands (Scotland) Act 2018)
- The project fails to respect the Cultural Landscape as a whole, treating historic sites as isolated objects rather than a living environment. (LDP Policy EH1; NPF4 Policy 7)

We are real! Living, breathing, talking, working humans!!

And we are suffering stress because of this monstrous proposal - by not disclosing the full Social Impact Assessment (SIA) data, you the developer has prevented the community from seeing the true health risks:

- I object to the non-disclosure of social impact data, which prevents a transparent assessment of the project's risks. (NPF4 Policy 14; Aarhus Convention)
- The proposal will have a documented adverse impact on mental health and wellbeing, which is a material violation of NPF4 Policy 14. (NPF4 Policy 14 (Health and Wellbeing))

Fishing, Marine Life, and Protected Species

Your study of West Lewis waters is dangerously incomplete, not considering the full impact on the local fishing industry and marine life.

You, the developer, do not provide a robust evidence base for marine mammals and ignore the displacement of the local fishing fleet:

- "The application contains significant methodological deficiency by using biased aerial surveys that ignore established land-based basking shark data." (National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9)
- "The proposal fails NPF4 Policy 11 and NMP Policy GEN 4 as it provides no evidence that alternative fishing grounds are available to prevent industry cannibalisation." (NPF4 Policy 11; NMP Policy GEN 4)
- "The requirement for European Protected Species (EPS) licenses proves that environmental impacts are not 'negligible' as claimed." (NPF4 Policy 3; EPS Regulations)

7. Risks to Bird Life

The threat to animals and birds of all kinds, I consider to be one of the most immoral aspects of this proposal altogether.

It is heartbreaking to think about the cost on living creatures, and I truly believe it will come to haunt you if you are allowed to cause damage to our precious unspoilt marine ecosystem and knowingly cause harm to the birds.

As we know, you have already filed a Derogation Case, a legal loophole used when a project admits it will definitely damage a protected area:

- The developer's own Habitats Appraisal Derogation Case proves that the project cannot be completed without damaging protected nature sites. (Habitats Regulations; NPF4 Policy 3)
- The proposal fails the Precautionary Principle, as there is no evidence beyond reasonable scientific doubt that local bird populations will survive. (National Marine Plan Policy GEN 9)
- I object on the grounds that the project poses an unacceptable risk to SPA-integrity (Special Protection Areas). (NPF4 Policy 4; Birds Directive)

This can only be described as tragic.

The mess you would leave behind, and your obligation to improve the natural world –

As a developer, you have failed the mandatory Enhancement test required by NPF4:

- The project fails the NPF4 Policy 3 mandate, which requires a measurable net gain for biodiversity, not just mitigation. (NPF4 Policy 3)
- The proposal offers no genuine biodiversity enhancement and fails to contribute to our local Nature Network. (NPF4 Policy 3(a))
- Failure to provide detailed CEMPs or Pollution Prevention Plans prevents a robust assessment.
- "An Appropriate Assessment cannot conclude 'no adverse effect' given that high-energy piling will disturb 28% of the local bottlenose dolphin population." (NPF4 Policy 4; Habitats Regulations)

There can be NO JUSTIFICATION that the project will cause a permanent loss of Astronomical Amenity and likely kill

nocturnal species through phototaxis (fatal attraction to light):

IMAGINE trying to STEAL our night sky. There are no words to describe how sad and angered I feel at the thought of never being able to see the stars properly again.

I won't even begin to try and explain that feeling. You have not demonstrated an ability to understand much, so it seems pointless...

- The project will result in a permanent loss of astronomical amenity, destroying the West Side's appeal as a dark sky destination. (NPF4 Policy 30; LDP Policy PD2)

- The developer has failed to establish a proper nocturnal baseline, ignoring the lethal risk to nocturnal species. (NPF4 Policy 3; Marine Policy Statement)
- The impact of phototaxis (fatal attraction to aviation lighting) on migrating birds has been dangerously underestimated. (NPF4 Policy 4)

Let's consider the Cumulative Devastation and Onshore Damage

The offshore turbines and the onshore cables/substations are actually one single project, but treating them separately hides the true damage to our peatlands, machair and crofting land. You have also ignored the cumulative impact of this project alongside other future plans for the area (like N2).

This application represents "Project Splitting" and fails to account for the total environmental and carbon cost to the island:

- The assessment fails to account for the total carbon store degradation caused by digging up the Barvas Moor peatlands. (NPF4 Policy 1; NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils))
- Failure to assess impacts on irreplaceable machair habitats at the landfall point constitutes a direct breach of NPF4 Policy 3.
- Given the significant "Information Deficiencies," the developer has failed to prove, "beyond reasonable scientific doubt," that the environment will not be irreparably harmed (Habitats Regulations)
- The project is notably inconsistent with the 2008 AMEC/Lewis Wind Power Ministerial Precedent, which established that the Lewis Peatlands SPA constitutes a "national interest" carrying a "weight of importance" that outweighed the benefits of energy production; a conservation priority further strengthened by NPF4 Policy 1, which mandates that significant weight be given to the global climate and nature crises in all planning decisions (Ministerial Decision 2008; NPF4 Policy

The local population has been impacted significantly and a very real human cost has already been paid simply by the threat of this becoming a reality. This emotional burden has been borne and has taken a toll, but will never be documented. Personally, I have suffered a great deal of stress, which manifests in physical symptoms. I have also used many hours, days, weeks of my life dealing with issues related to trying to battle this proposal. I know many others who have done the same and much more, real people, dealing with their own everyday lives, family, children, work, relationships, illness, appointments, LIFE. We haven't been paid to deal with this huge threat to our very existence as we (and our ancestors before us) know it. Consider this carefully.

In conclusion, and considering the sheer strength of objection locally, I would like to say I am very hopeful that this proposal will not go ahead. If it was 20+ miles away, without the same onshore infrastructure, that would be a very different proposal.

Please consider all of the points made above, all of the effort that has gone into this objection, and all of the feelings conveyed which are genuine and heartfelt. As residents of this planet, surely we can come to some agreement that is better than this as to how to care for our shared futures on it.

I know I have had a very blessed life on Lewis, an idyllic childhood and strong and deep attachment to my ancestral home, which drew me back home after studying in my twenties. I long for my children to enjoy the same beauty, tranquility and peace, living close to nature as we are supposed to. I know that my two girls, who are themselves away studying at the moment, also care deeply about their home. They too are extremely concerned about the possible devastation that such huge scale industry could have on this unique and precious place.

Again, please think again.

Ultimately, we are not in charge of the future of Barvas, a place with a hugely spiritual history. I believe it will be looked after from above. And I pray for the right outcome.

Vanity, vanity, all is vanity, a chasing after the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:14

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

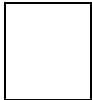
I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:(type your name here)*

[REDACTED]

***Note** *I confirm that the views expressed in this email are my own and I intend for this typed name to act as my signature*



*I have put an **X** in this box because I want my personal details to be kept confidential.*

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 06:51:50

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development.

The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 1 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public

interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold.

The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo

the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these. Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

My family is from here. Many still live in the western isles. I grew up here. The natural habitat is incredible and shouldn't be blocked by mechanisms or the crowd of industrial labor that would also be involved. Do not sacrifice my homeland please

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy. I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,





From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 06:01:49

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts.'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold. The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability

of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these.

Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed.

Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

I object to this proposal of wind farms!

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,



[Redacted]

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: 
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 08:14:52

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development.

The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 1 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public

interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold.

The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo

the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these. Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

As someone who has studied Countryside & Environmental Management and values Scotland's rich natural heritage and recognises the importance of Hebridean waters as the most important area for marine mammals in Europe, I strongly object to this development.

It is commonly cited in Scottish wildlife literature that roughly one-third of the North Atlantic whale population migrates to the west coast of Scotland, including the Minch and surrounding waters of the Hebrides, each year.

Whatever option the developer chooses is harmful to marine life, particularly breeding whales. The pile driven option will see over 10,000 hammer blows per pile, per day, for over 5 years. Each one capable of deafening or permanently damaging the sensitive hearing of whales and other marine mammals.

Furthermore, I recognise that Scotland consistently generates more electricity than it uses and that this development is not out of necessity but corporate greed. If the energy is to be exported to England then these developments should be placed there, closer to the point of use and not in such an important area for marine mammals.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.
I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 08:30:27

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development.

The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 1 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public

interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold.

The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo

the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, Frontiers in Marine Science) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these. Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

This is not required. We have enough without another to spoil our beautiful countryside. These will not cut our bills only increase them.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy. I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 14:25:53

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts.'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold. The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability

of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these.

Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed.

Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

This will ruin the environment, nature and cause major destruction to our fishing

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to N4
Date: 06 May 2026 23:29:47

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts.'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold. The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability

of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these.

Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed.

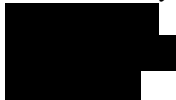
Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to Northland Power N4 Offshore Wind Farm (Marine Licence Application), West of Isle of Lewis
Date: 06 May 2026 23:14:35

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to formally object to the marine licence application for the proposed N4 Offshore Wind Farm by Northland Power, located off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

This objection relates specifically to the marine components of the proposal and is based on the following material marine planning considerations, with reference to the Scottish National Marine Plan.

Seascape and Coastal Landscape Impact

The west coast of the Isle of Lewis is characterised by highly sensitive, open seascapes with a strong sense of remoteness and limited industrial influence. The introduction of large-scale offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure would result in a significant and adverse change to the character of the seascape.

These effects would be experienced directly from coastal receptors, including settlements and recreational areas, altering key views and the relationship between land and sea. This raises conflict with National Marine Plan policies GEN 5 (Landscape/Seascape), which seeks to protect and enhance the Scottish marine area, and GEN 1, which requires sustainable development that avoids significant adverse impacts.

Impacts on Marine Ecology and Designated Sites

The proposed development area lies within waters supporting internationally and nationally important marine species and habitats. There is potential for significant adverse effects on seabirds through collision risk and displacement, as well as impacts on marine mammals from underwater noise and disturbance.

Given the proximity to designated sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), it has not been demonstrated beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there will be no adverse effect on site integrity. This raises concerns in relation to GEN 9 (Natural Heritage), GEN 10 (International Nature Conservation Sites), and GEN 11 (European Protected Species), as well as compliance with the Habitats Regulations.

Underwater Noise and Disturbance

Construction activities, particularly piling and seabed works, would generate high levels of underwater noise. This has the potential to disturb, displace, or cause injury to sensitive marine species, including cetaceans and seals.

The level of uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures conflicts with the precautionary approach embedded in GEN 1 and the protection requirements of GEN 11.

Seabed Disturbance and Benthic Impacts

The installation of turbine foundations and subsea cabling will result in direct and potentially extensive disturbance to the seabed. This may lead to loss or degradation of benthic habitats, with uncertain recovery times.

This raises concerns under GEN 9 (Natural Heritage) and GEN 12 (Water Quality and Resource), which require protection of marine ecosystems and minimisation of environmental harm.

Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

The waters around the Outer Hebrides are subject to increasing pressure from multiple offshore renewable developments. The cumulative effects of the N4 proposal, in combination with existing and proposed developments, have the potential to result in significant long-term impacts on marine ecosystems, particularly for wide-ranging species such as seabirds and marine mammals.

This appears inconsistent with GEN 4 (Co-existence) and GEN 1, which require proper consideration of cumulative impacts and sustainable use of the marine environment.

Impacts on Marine Users and Coastal Communities

The proposal has the potential to affect established marine activities, including commercial fishing, through displacement and loss of access to fishing grounds. This represents a material impact on the sustainable use of the marine environment and conflicts with GEN 4 (Co-existence).

In addition, the alteration of the seascape would affect coastal communities by impacting visual amenity, recreational use of the coast, and tourism activities that depend on the area's undeveloped maritime character. These effects are material where they arise directly from the marine development and its interaction with coastal receptors, and engage GEN 5.

Navigational Safety

The presence of turbines and associated infrastructure, together with increased vessel movements during construction and operation, may pose risks to navigation. This is particularly relevant for local fishing vessels and other marine users operating from coastal communities, and raises concerns under GEN 3 (Navigation).

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed N4 Offshore Wind Farm gives rise to significant concerns regarding its impact on seascape character, marine ecology, navigation, and the sustainable use of the marine environment.

In its current form, the proposal appears to conflict with multiple policies of the Scottish National Marine Plan, including GEN 1, GEN 3, GEN 4, GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 10, GEN 11 and GEN 12.

I respectfully request that the application be refused unless it can be clearly demonstrated that these impacts can be avoided or reduced to an acceptable level in accordance with the National Marine Plan and relevant environmental legislation.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender. The box is composed of several overlapping rectangular shapes, creating a solid black area that obscures any text that might have been present.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to Spiorad na Mara
Date: 07 May 2026 14:16:38

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of infrastructure , Hospitals, doctors, roads, police even pavements - the island cant handle the addition traffic on the island

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'.

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'
NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig

opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made

noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold.

The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of

determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, Frontiers in Marine Science) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these.

Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

Why would anyone buy a house in this area ? It will drive population away from an area of already declining population.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to Spiorad na Mara N4
Date: 07 May 2026 11:39:38

Please Email to MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot By 7th May 2026
Or Post to: Marine Directorate, Licensing Operations Team, Scottish Gov, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

My address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] Date: 27.04.26

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent. Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 *Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.*
NMP Para. 4.77 *'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'*
NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. *'We will empower people to shape their places.'*

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historic attachment of the population of Lewis to the landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities relationship with the coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.
NMP Para. 4.20 *'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.'*
NPF4 Policy 7a *'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'*

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Biodiversity and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposals likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPAs: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.
NPF4 Policy 7 *'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'*
NPF4 Policy 11 *'Impact on biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.'*

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Canaan's monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into the natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of overriding public interest for choosing this site.
NMP Para. 4.22 *'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.'* Para. 4.23 *'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting.'*
NPF4 Policy 7h *'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'*

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on riparian, peat and deep peat and remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including riparian and peat habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition to the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.
NMP Para. 4.77 *'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'*

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourism industry on which so many livelihoods depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts.'*

Community Opposition and Lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-ew.s.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents

from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment. The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 *Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.*

My further objections are:

This objection is based on the failure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and associated submissions to comply with:

- The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
- The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
- Marine Scotland consenting guidance
- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan (Outer Hebrides LDP)

1. Failure to Identify Surf Breaks as Sensitive Receptors

The EIAR fails to identify key surf locations on the west coast of Lewis, including Barvas, Bragar, Shawbost/Dalbeg, and Arnol, as discrete receptors.

This is contrary to EIA requirements and conflicts with:

- Outer Hebrides LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
- NPF4 Policy 4 (Natural Places)

2. Failure to Assess Impacts on Wave Transformation and Coastal Processes

The EIAR acknowledges seabed disturbance but does not assess indirect effects on wave transformation and surf break quality.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements for indirect effects
- LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
- LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
- NPF4 Policy 4

3. Landfall Impacts Not Adequately Assessed

Landfall areas along the west coast of Lewis are in proximity to sensitive coastal environments and surf breaks.

The EIAR does not adequately assess impacts of HDD, cable installation, or sediment disturbance.

This conflicts with:

- LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
- LDP Policy EI 9 (Waste Water and Drainage)
- NPF4 Policy 4

4. Excessive Design Uncertainty (Project Design Envelope)

Key parameters remain undefined, preventing meaningful assessment.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements for a reasoned conclusion
- LDP Policy PD1 (Placemaking and Design)
- NPF4 Policy 2 (Climate and Nature Crisis)

5. Segmentation of Offshore and Onshore Development

The project is split between offshore and onshore applications, preventing holistic assessment.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
- NPF4 Policy 3 and 4

6. Inadequate Assessment of Construction Impacts

Up to 5 years of 24-hour construction is proposed, with insufficient assessment of impacts on recreation and amenity.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy PD1
- NPF4 Policy 14

7. Failure to Assess Access Restrictions

Potential safety zones and access impacts are not properly assessed.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)
- NPF4 Policy 13 and 14

8. Inadequate Consideration of Alternatives

Alternatives do not demonstrate minimisation of impacts on coastal receptors.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy EI 8
- NPF4 Policy 1

9. Failure to Assess Cultural and Community Impacts

Surfing is a key cultural and economic activity that is not adequately assessed.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy EI 10
- NPF4 Policy 25

10. Inadequate Cumulative Impact Assessment

Combined impacts from multiple developments are not sufficiently assessed.

This conflicts with:

- EIA requirements
- LDP Policy EI 1
- NPF4 Policy 4

11. Impacts on Peatland and Carbon-Rich Soils

Onshore infrastructure may impact peatlands and carbon stores.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils)
- LDP Policy EI 5 (Peatlands)

12. Landscape and Visual Impact

The development risks significant adverse landscape and seascape effects.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 4 and 14
- LDP Policy PD2 (Landscape)

13. Impact on Tourism and Recreation

The development may negatively impact tourism and recreation.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 10 (Sustainable Tourism)
- LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)

14. Infrastructure and Transport Impacts

Construction traffic and abnormal loads may impact local infrastructure.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 13
- LDP Policy TA 1 (Transport Infrastructure)

15. Risk of Pollution and Environmental Damage

Pollution risks are not fully assessed or mitigated.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 4
- LDP Policy EI 1

16. Precedent and Cumulative Industrialisation

The development contributes to wider industrialisation of the coastal environment.

This conflicts with:

- NPF4 Policy 1
- LDP Policy EI 1

17. Lack of Sufficient Detail to Enable Determination

Key details remain undefined or deferred.

This is contrary to:

- EIA Regulations
- Marine Scotland guidance

As a business owner, running an outdoor Watersports company [REDACTED] have grave concerns about the effect a development of this scale would have on tourism as 3 of the 4 main attractions would be directly opposite this development; The Caianish Stones, The Caroway Broch and Gearneann Backhouse Village.

80% of tourists in the last V&T Hebrides survey stated that they come to the Hebrides for "Scenery and Landscape" This development would dramatically change the scenery and landscape therefore reduce visitors and in turn my income as a tourism business.

In March 2020, our council Comhairle nan Eilean Siar responded to Marine Scotland and about the Draft sectoral marine plan for Offshore Wind Energy

In this response much was said, the most outstanding is that "The local population has accepted the considerable visual impact of these Onshore deployment on the tacit understanding that the next generation of energy production will be in the marine environment. The local population is therefore prepared for and supportive of large scale deployment of Offshore Wind off Lewis and has not reacted negatively to the potential visual impact in the way other coastal regions in Scotland have." This is just nonsense. I was not consulted nor anyone I know of.

This project has been encouraged by our local council with no real consultation and respect for people's views. It is far too big, far too close to shore and should be rejected as option.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Sporadic Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and arguably irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I confirm that the views expressed in this email are my own and I intend for this typed name to act as my signature

☐

I have put an X in this box because I want my personal details to be kept confidential.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to Spiorad Na Mara OffShore Wind Farm.
Date: 07 May 2026 07:48:14

I write to you with our objection to the the proposed Spiorad Na Mara Offshore Wind Farm, Isle of Lewis.

My wife and moved to the Western Isles 20 years ago after visiting the Islands on many occasions.
We were drawn here because of the outstanding natural beauty and cultural engagement that has been lost in most places throughout the UK.
We have enjoyed the unspoiled beauty of the land and the sea as active outdoor enthusiasts.

We have subsequently built businesses in sustainable tourism to share our own experience of the islands, whilst giving us a modest income in return.
If this proposed wind farm and its infrastructure goes ahead, all this will be lost.

We have conducted our own questionnaire survey with our self catering guests, with regards to the environmental damage that that will occur if the proposed wind farm and infrastructure proceeds and the the response is quite clear.....

“ Our guests will not return to a place that has been blighted by these monstrous wind turbines and the environmental damage that will be caused to this place”

As a result my wife and I have already made the decision that if this proposal goes ahead, we will close our businesses and move away from the islands.

If this proposal goes ahead, the environment, island life, locals livelihoods and the impact of increased worker population will change all of the above for the worse, forever!

There will be no going back when the damage is done.

This proposal is not for the benefit of the environment or the islands, it is purely based on Greed.

We strongly object to the Spiorad Na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Proposal, Isle of Lewis.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection to Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
Date: 07 May 2026 08:15:10

[REDACTED]
7th May 2026

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown

Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats

&c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer

Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where

their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse

effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal

would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their

natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these

sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no

reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be

carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage

assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant

adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances

have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the

monument or its setting have been minimised.'

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection
Date: 07 May 2026 10:17:32

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of infrastructure , Hospitals, doctors, roads, police even pavements - we cant handle the addition traffic on the island

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'

NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.'

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'.

NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 l 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'
NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.

NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:' ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30.

NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed

the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met.

Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant."

NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made

noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold.

The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk.

The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision.

Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete."

NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area.

Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed.

Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of

determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, Frontiers in Marine Science) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address.

The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these.

Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07).

No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise.

My further objection points:

Why would anyone buy a house in this area ? It will drive population away and create a Industrial landscape of west coast of Lewis, years of History from the Callanish stones ruined by night light and sounds. We dont have pavements on the majority of our roads , just to give you an insight - how will it cope with all the construction ? The anti social behaviour it will bring to Stornoway and we hardly have the Police to deal with a few kids vandalising the place.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]



26/04/2026

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent. **Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18** *'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'* **NMP Para. 4.77** *'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes.'* **NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition.** *'We will empower people to shape their places.'*

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 *'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'*

NPF4 Policy 7 a *'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'*

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994**, the **2018 Offshore Regulations**, the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**, and the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 I *'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'*

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with **NPF4 Policy 7**. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 *'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.'* **Para. 4.23** *'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.*

NPF4 Policy 7 h *'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances*



have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes **NPF4 Policy 3**, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the **Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993**.

NMP Para. 4.77 *'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'*

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 30**.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'*

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 *'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'*

My further objection points:

Having lived on Lewis since I was born and lived in Barvas for the past 13 years, I am deeply concerned about the visual impact of this development on our wild Atlantic coast. I feel like we are being exploited and that this project is being forced upon us against the communities will.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,



***Note** I confirm that the views expressed in this email are my own and I intend for this typed name to act as my signature

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Planning objection - Spiorad na Mara
Date: 06 May 2026 22:53:41

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived on Lewis for 14 years and have been visiting the island for well over 20 years. I feel very much part of the community in particular the surfing community, spending a large amount of time on the West coast of Lewis. I would like to formally object to the above application.

I have been travelling to the west coast of Lewis, from the North East of England, to surf since the early 2000s. I chose Lewis because of its wilderness and the consistently high-quality surf found at locations such as Bragar, Dal Mor, Bru, Arnol, Barvas, Eoropie, and many other smaller surf breaks in between. Over time, this place became far more than a surf destination: it is where I met my wife through the surfing community, and ultimately why I chose to relocate and build a life here.

My decision to move to Lewis was rooted in the unique combination of wild coastline, strong surf culture, and close-knit community. This environment is central to my lifestyle, wellbeing, and sense of belonging. Had a development of this scale and nature existed 20 years ago, this would not have been a destination I would have considered. I came here for a wild and unindustrialised coastline and sea, not one defined by large-scale infrastructure.

In my view, the applicant has failed to recognise or adequately assess the impact that this development will have on the surfing community and other coastal and marine users.

At the outset of this development process, it was indicated that local communities had been consulted and were supportive of the proposal. However, as a regular user of the coastline directly affected by this development, I was not contacted or consulted at any stage. This raises concerns regarding the completeness and inclusiveness of the consultation process.

Furthermore, I am aware that concerns were raised during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by members of the surfing community, including detailed submissions outlining potential impacts and suggested actions. It is not evident within the EIAR how these concerns have been meaningfully addressed or how they have influenced the assessment or design of the project.

Re: Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Section 36 Consent, Marine Licence Application, and Associated Onshore Development

This objection is based on the failure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and associated submissions to comply with:

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Marine Scotland consenting guidance
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan (Outer Hebrides LDP)

1. Failure to Identify Surf Breaks as Sensitive Receptors

The EIAR fails to identify key surf locations on the west coast of Lewis, including Barvas, Bragar, Shawbost/Dalbeg, and Arnol, as discrete receptors.

As someone who regularly uses these locations, I can confirm their importance not only recreationally but also in terms of their sensitivity to environmental change.

This is contrary to EIA requirements and conflicts with:

Outer Hebrides LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
NPF4 Policy 4 (Natural Places)

2. Failure to Assess Impacts on Wave Transformation and Coastal Processes

The EIAR acknowledges seabed disturbance but does not assess indirect effects on wave transformation and surf break quality.

Changes to seabed conditions have the potential to directly affect wave patterns and surf quality at these locations.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements for indirect effects
LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
NPF4 Policy 4

3. Landfall Impacts Not Adequately Assessed

Landfall areas along the west coast of Lewis are in proximity to sensitive coastal environments and surf breaks.

The EIAR does not adequately assess impacts of HDD, cable installation, or sediment disturbance.

This conflicts with:

LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
LDP Policy EI 9 (Waste Water and Drainage)
NPF4 Policy 4

4. Excessive Design Uncertainty (Project Design Envelope)

Key parameters remain undefined, preventing meaningful assessment.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements for a reasoned conclusion
LDP Policy PD1 (Placemaking and Design)
NPF4 Policy 2 (Climate and Nature Crisis)

5. Segmentation of Offshore and Onshore Development

The project is split between offshore and onshore applications, preventing holistic assessment.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
NPF4 Policy 3 and 4

6. Inadequate Assessment of Construction Impacts

Up to 5 years of 24-hour construction is proposed, with insufficient assessment of impacts on recreation and amenity.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy PD1
NPF4 Policy 14

7. Failure to Assess Access Restrictions

Potential safety zones and access impacts are not properly assessed.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)
NPF4 Policy 13 and 14

8. Inadequate Consideration of Alternatives

Alternatives do not demonstrate minimisation of impacts on coastal receptors.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 8
NPF4 Policy 1

9. Failure to Assess Cultural and Community Impacts

Surfing is an important part of my own use of the coastline and contributes to the wider cultural and recreational value of the area.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements

LDP Policy EI 10
NPF4 Policy 25

10. Inadequate Cumulative Impact Assessment

Combined impacts from multiple developments are not sufficiently assessed.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 1
NPF4 Policy 4

11. Impacts on Peatland and Carbon-Rich Soils

Onshore infrastructure may impact peatlands and carbon stores.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils)
LDP Policy EI 5 (Peatlands)

12. Landscape and Visual Impact

The development risks significant adverse landscape and seascape effects.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 4 and 14
LDP Policy PD2 (Landscape)

13. Impact on Tourism and Recreation

The development may negatively impact tourism and recreation.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 10 (Sustainable Tourism)
LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)

14. Infrastructure and Transport Impacts

Construction traffic and abnormal loads may impact local infrastructure.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 13
LDP Policy TA 1 (Transport Infrastructure)

15. Risk of Pollution and Environmental Damage

Pollution risks are not fully assessed or mitigated.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 4
LDP Policy EI 1

16. Precedent and Cumulative Industrialisation

The development contributes to wider industrialisation of the coastal environment.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 1
LDP Policy EI 1

17. Lack of Sufficient Detail to Enable Determination

Key details remain undefined or deferred.

This is contrary to:

EIA Regulations
Marine Scotland guidance

Conclusion

The application fails to comply with statutory EIA requirements and conflicts with national and local planning policy.

From my personal perspective, this proposal represents a fundamental change to the very qualities that brought me to Lewis in the first place. I did not choose this place simply as somewhere to live, but as somewhere defined by its wild coastline, its surf, and its community. These are not interchangeable qualities—they are the reason I built my life here.

As someone who has travelled here for over two decades and ultimately made the decision to stay, I believe this development risks eroding the very character of the west coast that makes it unique. The presence of large-scale industrial infrastructure at sea and onshore would fundamentally alter my experience of these places, and diminish the sense of wilderness and escape that has always defined them.

I am particularly concerned that the impacts on surfing and coastal use have not been properly recognised. These are not niche activities but form a meaningful part of how people engage with this environment and why people like myself chose to come—and remain—here.

It does not provide sufficient information to allow a reasoned conclusion on

environmental, social, and recreational impacts.

I therefore request that:

The application be refused; or
Further information be required, including specific assessment of surf breaks, coastal processes, and recreational impact.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 6 May 2026, 22:50
Subject: Planning Objection- Spiorad Na Mara
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived on Lewis for 14 years and have been visiting the island for well over 20 years. I feel very much part of the community in particular the surfing community, spending a large amount of time on the West coast of Lewis. I would like to formally object to the above application.

I have been travelling to the west coast of Lewis, from the North East of England, to surf since the early 2000s. I chose Lewis because of its wilderness and the consistently high-quality surf found at locations such as Bragar, Dal Mor, Bru, Arnol, Barvas, Eoropie, and many other smaller surf breaks in between. Over time, this place became far more than a surf destination: it is where I met my wife through the surfing community, and ultimately why I chose to relocate and build a life here.

My decision to move to Lewis was rooted in the unique combination of wild coastline, strong surf culture, and close-knit community. This environment is central to my lifestyle, wellbeing, and sense of belonging. Had a development of this scale and nature existed 20 years ago, this would not have been a destination I would have considered. I came here for a wild and unindustrialised coastline and sea, not one defined by large-scale infrastructure.

In my view, the applicant has failed to recognise or adequately assess the impact that this development will have on the surfing community and other coastal and marine users.

At the outset of this development process, it was indicated that local communities had been consulted and were supportive of the proposal. However, as a regular user of the coastline

directly affected by this development, I was not contacted or consulted at any stage. This raises concerns regarding the completeness and inclusiveness of the consultation process.

Furthermore, I am aware that concerns were raised during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by members of the surfing community, including detailed submissions outlining potential impacts and suggested actions. It is not evident within the EIAR how these concerns have been meaningfully addressed or how they have influenced the assessment or design of the project.

Re: Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – Section 36 Consent, Marine Licence Application, and Associated Onshore Development

This objection is based on the failure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and associated submissions to comply with:

The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Marine Scotland consenting guidance
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan (Outer Hebrides LDP)

1. Failure to Identify Surf Breaks as Sensitive Receptors

The EIAR fails to identify key surf locations on the west coast of Lewis, including Barvas, Bragar, Shawbost/Dalbeg, and Arnol, as discrete receptors.

As someone who regularly uses these locations, I can confirm their importance not only recreationally but also in terms of their sensitivity to environmental change.

This is contrary to EIA requirements and conflicts with:

Outer Hebrides LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
NPF4 Policy 4 (Natural Places)

2. Failure to Assess Impacts on Wave Transformation and Coastal Processes

The EIAR acknowledges seabed disturbance but does not assess indirect effects on wave transformation and surf break quality.

Changes to seabed conditions have the potential to directly affect wave patterns and surf quality at these locations.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements for indirect effects
LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
NPF4 Policy 4

3. Landfall Impacts Not Adequately Assessed

Landfall areas along the west coast of Lewis are in proximity to sensitive coastal environments and surf breaks.

The EIAR does not adequately assess impacts of HDD, cable installation, or sediment disturbance.

This conflicts with:

LDP Policy EI 8 (Coastal Protection)
LDP Policy EI 9 (Waste Water and Drainage)
NPF4 Policy 4

4. Excessive Design Uncertainty (Project Design Envelope)

Key parameters remain undefined, preventing meaningful assessment.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements for a reasoned conclusion
LDP Policy PD1 (Placemaking and Design)
NPF4 Policy 2 (Climate and Nature Crisis)

5. Segmentation of Offshore and Onshore Development

The project is split between offshore and onshore applications, preventing holistic assessment.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 1 (Natural Environment)
NPF4 Policy 3 and 4

6. Inadequate Assessment of Construction Impacts

Up to 5 years of 24-hour construction is proposed, with insufficient assessment of impacts on recreation and amenity.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy PD1
NPF4 Policy 14

7. Failure to Assess Access Restrictions

Potential safety zones and access impacts are not properly assessed.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)
NPF4 Policy 13 and 14

8. Inadequate Consideration of Alternatives

Alternatives do not demonstrate minimisation of impacts on coastal receptors.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 8
NPF4 Policy 1

9. Failure to Assess Cultural and Community Impacts

Surfing is an important part of my own use of the coastline and contributes to the wider cultural and recreational value of the area.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 10
NPF4 Policy 25

10. Inadequate Cumulative Impact Assessment

Combined impacts from multiple developments are not sufficiently assessed.

This conflicts with:

EIA requirements
LDP Policy EI 1
NPF4 Policy 4

11. Impacts on Peatland and Carbon-Rich Soils

Onshore infrastructure may impact peatlands and carbon stores.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 5 (Soils)
LDP Policy EI 5 (Peatlands)

12. Landscape and Visual Impact

The development risks significant adverse landscape and seascape effects.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 4 and 14
LDP Policy PD2 (Landscape)

13. Impact on Tourism and Recreation

The development may negatively impact tourism and recreation.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 10 (Sustainable Tourism)
LDP Policy EI 10 (Tourism)

14. Infrastructure and Transport Impacts

Construction traffic and abnormal loads may impact local infrastructure.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 13
LDP Policy TA 1 (Transport Infrastructure)

15. Risk of Pollution and Environmental Damage

Pollution risks are not fully assessed or mitigated.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 4
LDP Policy EI 1

16. Precedent and Cumulative Industrialisation

The development contributes to wider industrialisation of the coastal environment.

This conflicts with:

NPF4 Policy 1
LDP Policy EI 1

17. Lack of Sufficient Detail to Enable Determination

Key details remain undefined or deferred.

This is contrary to:

EIA Regulations
Marine Scotland guidance

Conclusion

The application fails to comply with statutory EIA requirements and conflicts with national and local planning policy.

From my personal perspective, this proposal represents a fundamental change to the very qualities that brought me to Lewis in the first place. I did not choose this place simply as somewhere to live, but as somewhere defined by its wild coastline, its surf, and its community. These are not interchangeable qualities—they are the reason I built my life here.

As someone who has travelled here for over two decades and ultimately made the decision to stay, I believe this development risks eroding the very character of the west coast that makes it unique. The presence of large-scale industrial infrastructure at sea and onshore would fundamentally alter my experience of these places, and diminish the sense of wilderness and escape that has always defined them.

I am particularly concerned that the impacts on surfing and coastal use have not been properly recognised. These are not niche activities but form a meaningful part of how people engage with this environment and why people like myself chose to come—and remain—here.

It does not provide sufficient information to allow a reasoned conclusion on environmental, social, and recreational impacts.

I therefore request that:

The application be refused; or
Further information be required, including specific assessment of surf breaks, coastal processes, and recreational impact.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Planning objection
Date: 07 May 2026 08:09:00

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance: Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent. Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.' NMP Para. 4.77 'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,' NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. 'We will empower people to shape their places.' Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined. NMP Para. 4.20 'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,' NPF4 Policy 7 a 'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.' Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the 2018 Offshore Regulations, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda. NPF4 Policy 7 I 'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.' NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on 'biodiversity including impacts on birds' must be addressed. Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with NPF4 Policy 7. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site. NMP Para. 4.22 'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.' Para. 4.23 'Designated assets should be protected

in situ within an appropriate setting'. NPF4 Policy 7 h 'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.' Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes NPF4 Policy 3, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993. NMP Para. 4.77 'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to NPF4 Policy 30. NMP, Para. 12.28 'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,' Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment. The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'

Significant Adverse Impacts on Marine Mammals and Protected Marine Habitats: The Outer Hebrides are described by the Scottish Government's own scientists as "probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals with around 20 species of cetacean recorded in the region over the last 30 years" (Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol. 5 No. 9). The site lies adjacent to the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC - the largest harbour porpoise SAC in Europe - within the wider range of the North-east Lewis MPA for Risso's dolphin, within documented fin and sperm whale migration corridors (Blue Corridors initiative), and within the wider feeding and habitat range of minke, humpback and sei whales, and within the foraging range of the Monach Isles grey seal colony (the largest in Europe). The EIAR fails to reflect this internationally significant baseline in its significance conclusions and cannot demonstrate, to the legal standard required, that adverse effects on these protected sites and species will be avoided. Under the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, consent must be refused unless Scottish Ministers are satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected (NatureScot HRA guidance). That standard has not been met. Construction noise: The developer's own noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 19.2) provides for up to 5.5 hours of percussive piling per day, up to 10,635 strikes per pile per day, hammer energies up to 5,000 kJ, and 1,563 pin piles across two consecutive construction years (April–October). The EIAR itself acknowledges that "harbour porpoises are

widely regarded as the most sensitive marine mammal receptor to underwater noise" and that behavioural disturbance can occur up to 70 km from piling (Bailey et al., 2010, cited in Chapter 13). The proposed piling window coincides with peak cetacean seasonal density and with harbour seal pupping (June–July), triggering the prohibition on deliberate disturbance of European Protected Species during breeding and rearing periods under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The developer's own underwater noise modelling (EIAR Appendix 13.3) confirms that, even with noise mitigation applied, percussive piling at the northernmost foundation location generates a PTS (permanent auditory injury) range of up to 1,500 m for low-frequency cetaceans and a TTS (temporary auditory injury) range of up to 49 km. These are the developer's own figures, after mitigation. Low-frequency cetaceans include minke, fin, sei and humpback whales - all species documented in these waters. A 49 km auditory injury zone, repeated across an April–October piling window for two consecutive years, cannot credibly be reconciled with a classification of effects as "not significant." NMP Policy GEN 13: development should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration on species sensitive to such effects. The EIAR predicts disturbance to 9.186% of the Risso's dolphin management unit population and 27.7% of the coastal bottlenose dolphin population from piling noise, yet classifies these effects as "not significant." GEN 13 sets an avoidance standard, not a tolerance threshold. The developer's own EPS and Basking Shark Risk Assessment (submitted to Marine Scotland, 22 February 2023) formally acknowledges risk of disturbance to minke whale, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, grey seal and basking shark from survey work alone. Full construction at this scale cannot credibly be claimed to present a lesser risk. The 2023 Tolsta Stranding: In July 2023, 54 of 55 long-finned pilot whales died on Traigh Mhòr beach while geophysical surveys were being carried out at this lease area. The Scottish Government investigation could not rule out anthropogenic contribution and explicitly acknowledged limitations in the acoustic detection capability of the recorders used. This recent and devastating event must weigh heavily in this decision. Priority Marine Features and seabed disturbance: Kelp beds - confirmed present across 10 km² within the Study Area and designated as a PMF and blue carbon habitat - are assessed as sustaining "minor adverse" impact, with no compensatory measures proposed. Maerl beds, horse mussel beds, fan mussel aggregations and cold-water coral reefs (all Scottish PMFs) are either excluded on the basis of decade-old desktop data (Tyler-Walters et al., 2016) or not mentioned at all. The developer concedes that its primary mitigation - micro-siting of turbines and cables - "cannot be quantified until detailed design and further site-specific investigations are complete." NMP GEN 5: safeguard natural carbon sinks including kelp beds. NMP GEN 9: do not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features, and protect and enhance the health of the marine area. Cumulative and in-combination effects: The Habitats Regulations require assessment of cumulative effects with other plans and projects. The Scottish Government's own 2026 ICIA Screening Report concedes that Scottish offshore wind plans are "likely...to undergo the derogations process under the Habitats Regulations." Spiorad na Mara is one of several large developments proposed in or adjacent to these waters; the cumulative assessment does not rigorously meet this requirement. NMP GEN 21 requires cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem to be addressed. Inadequate assessment and deferred mitigation: The joint representation from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust and Whale and Dolphin Conservation states that baseline cetacean data is "severely lacking." Proposed mitigation (MMOs, PAM, soft-

start) is designed to address acute physical injury, not behavioural displacement; JNCC guidance confirms PAM has "limited range" for harbour porpoise and is "not suitable" for seals and baleen whales. Key mitigation is deferred to a post-consent Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol, preventing Scottish Ministers from assessing adequacy at the point of determination - contrary to the beyond-reasonable-scientific-doubt standard required under the Habitats Regulations. Peer-reviewed monitoring at Scottish offshore wind farm construction sites (Benhemma-Le Gall et al. 2021, *Frontiers in Marine Science*) observed harbour porpoise displacement up to 12 km from pile-driving and 4 km from construction vessels alone - distances that no MMO, PAM or soft-start zone can address. The EPS licence contradiction: The EIAR identifies that activities may require an EPS licence due to disturbance at a level requiring legal derogation, while simultaneously concluding residual effects are "negligible or minor." Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, an EPS licence can only be granted where no satisfactory alternative exists, imperative reasons of overriding public interest apply, and favourable conservation status is maintained. The EIAR demonstrates none of these. Basking sharks (IUCN Endangered) were recorded by the developer's own July 2023 aerial survey (EIAR Appendix 13.1). The EIAR does not adequately assess EMF impacts from subsea cables on elasmobranchs, despite Scottish Government ScotMER research identifying this as an unresolved evidence gap (FF.07). No alternative solutions: Under the Habitats Regulations, consent cannot be granted if alternative solutions exist. Other ScotWind sites are available in waters without the same density of European Protected Species and designated habitats, and the existence of those alternatives is directly relevant to whether consent for this site can lawfully proceed. Consent would therefore breach or inadequately address the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, NMP Policies GEN 5, GEN 9, GEN 13 and GEN 21, and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.6 (2016) on underwater noise. My further objection points: Renewable energy needs to be proportionate, these large scale projects in some of our quietest communities place all the issues and problems on places that feel no benefit. Places that are so important for ecological and cultural reasons. This proposal is extractive and placement is poorly considered, prioritising only affordability to the investment. This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy. I respectfully request that this application is rejected. Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Member of the public 2092

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Please, do NOT vote for the N4 "Spiorad na Mara" windfarm on the West Coast of Lewis.
Date: 07 May 2026 09:32:49

Dear Madam, Mister, X,

Please do not vote for this project.

It will causes irreversible damages.

- N4 conflicts with the Development Plan and NPF4
- N4 harms protected seabirds - N4 harms vulnerable and protected marine life
- N4 harms humans living in close proximity
- N4 harms visual amenity - N4 conflicts with and threatens tourism
- N4 harms dark skies
- N4 conflicts with transport capacity
- N4 harms heritage and other historic sites
- N4 causes cumulative long-term harm
- N4 conflicts with biodiversity policy
- N4 threatens community identity, tradition, and distinct character of the West Side

Please lets find another way to go green for the sake of every living thing on this Earth.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED] fellow follower and admirer for the preservation of Scottish beauty and cultural heritage.

Adress:

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: References: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743
Date: 07 May 2026 09:48:56

Objection To Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
References: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743

- N4 conflicts with the Development Plan and NPF4
- N4 harms protected seabirds
- N4 harms vulnerable and protected marine life
- N4 harms humans living in close proximity
- N4 conflicts with the landscape and character of the West Side of Lewis
- N4 harms visual amenity by introducing an industrial scale that clashes with the horizon
- N4 conflicts with and threatens tourism
- N4 harms dark skies
- N4 conflicts with transport capacity
- N4 harms heritage and other historic sites
- N4 causes cumulative harm that is long-term and difficult to reverse
- N4 conflicts with biodiversity policy
- N4 threatens community identity, tradition, and the distinct character of the West Side

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: References: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743
Date: 07 May 2026 08:19:19

Objection To Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm
References: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743

Lewis represents a precious ecosystem and unique habitat - a Scottish Government scientific report on the west coast of Lewis states that "the Outer Hebrides are probably the richest area of the UK for marine mammals."

We are an indigenous culture. The Isle of Lewis is home to one of Europe's oldest continuous Gaelic-speaking communities, with linguistic and cultural roots stretching back over 5,000 years.

The proposal will threaten our dark skies

Quality of life for the people on this island will be harmed

The fishing industry and the tourism industry - both of which are a huge part of island culture will be decimated.

Mental health and well-being of residents who will be subject to the constant light and noise damage will suffer greatly

Sacred cultural landmarks and spaces will be affected hugely.

I object to an enormously, unthinkable large and destructive development that will add to taxpayer costs and may not even be used...

I object as the project will solely benefit and give profit to mega corporations based in Canada and Ireland.

The original plans were pushed through during Covid, when people could not attend meetings to object, and pushed forward during a change in leadership in the local council.

There is NO benefit for the local community except a cycle path - that will be given after the massive disruption is built through the peatland and its use has finished.

The 60+ wind turbines are planned to be taller than the Empire State Building which will devastate our wild landscape and devastate marine life as it is a popular whale path and devastate bird life and migrating birds.

The plan is the turbines will be used for 35 years but there is no plan to dispose of them after the 35 year period... meaning that these turbines will contribute to an incredibly vast and destructive amount of non-biodegradable TRASH.

I respectfully ask for this proposal to be rejected.

[REDACTED]



Member of the public 2095

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 6th May 2026

Dear Sirs

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application on the grounds that the size and scale is unprecedented anywhere in the world, in close proximity to human life. I live with my young family just 6km from where the nearest turbine would be sited – taller than the Eiffel Tower – and I am highly concerned about the impact this will have on our lives, our environment, our physical and mental health, and our connection to this incredible place that is written into our DNA.

It is worth stating that I personally do not mind the visual impact of wind turbines. I don't think they are at all ugly. I could live with them on the horizon. My concern is all the other consequences of a project of this size – impact on marine life, biodiversity, and especially on human health. The effects on humans are still being investigated and recent research on the negative effects of infrasound from large wind turbines (yet much smaller than those being proposed here) is truly terrifying for a mother of young children who is faced with the prospect of having these forced upon us in the near future. And I am not alone – many other families I know on the West Side of Lewis will seriously consider moving away if this project goes ahead and there will be a sharp increase in depopulation.

The fact that the energy generated will be transported far away for the profits of multinational companies, with minimal tangible benefits to the local community, is another particularly sore point. The small community benefit fund negotiated by the landlords/Estates with no consultation with the residents of those communities is completely disproportionate to the upheaval, loss and damage that they would experience. Nevertheless, I don't believe there is a monetary figure that would sufficiently compensate for the loss of irreplaceable and priceless assets such as our island possesses.

I also note that the application clearly contravenes the following planning policies and guidance, among others:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent.

Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18 *'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'*

NMP Para. 4.77 *'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'*

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. *'We will empower people to shape their places.'*

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 *'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'.*

NPF4 Policy 7 a *'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'*

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994**, the **2018 Offshore Regulations**, the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**, and the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 I *'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'*

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on *'biodiversity including impacts on birds'* must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with **NPF4 Policy 7**. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 *'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.'* **Para. 4.23** *'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.*

NPF4 Policy 7 h *'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:'* ii *'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided;* or iii *exceptional circumstances*

have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes **NPF4 Policy 3**, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the **Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993**.

NMP Para. 4.77 *'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'*

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 30**.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'*

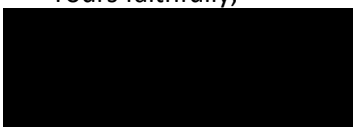
Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 *'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'*

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.

I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours faithfully,



Note: Please keep my personal details confidential.

Member of the public 2096

Please Email to MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot By 7th May 2026

Or Post to: Marine Directorate, Licensing Operations Team, Scottish Gov, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

My address: _____,

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Date: 07/05/26

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis

I formally object to the above application as it contravenes the following planning policies and guidance:

Lack of Community Engagement: There was no consultation with the communities of west Lewis before Crown Estate Scotland identified and leased the N4 area for development. The plan was imposed on them without consent. **Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) GEN 18** *'Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.'*

NMP Para. 4.77 *'Engagement with the public and other stakeholders should be appropriate, proportionate and meaningful. It should be undertaken as early as possible in planning and consenting processes,'*

NPF4 Spatial Principles - Just Transition. *'We will empower people to shape their places.'*

Lack of understanding of Cultural Significance: The EIAR makes no reference to the personal, cultural or historical attachment of the population of Lewis to their landscape and heritage, and fails to assess impacts on the living intangible heritage of the Gaelic community. Until a full assessment addressing impacts on Gaelic language and culture, community wellbeing, and west Lewis communities' relationship with their coastline is completed and publicly consulted upon, this application cannot lawfully be determined.

NMP Para. 4.20 *'The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time,'*

NPF4 Policy 7 a *'Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place.'*

Significant Adverse Impacts on Protected Birdlife and Habitats: The development occupies primary foraging grounds for the Lewis Peatlands SPA red-throated divers, falls within the foraging range of the St Kilda gannet colony, and crosses a principal UK migratory corridor for protected species, including whooper swan and pink-footed goose. The EIAR fails to adequately assess the threats of collision, displacement, and barrier effects to these declining populations. Thus, consent would breach the **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994**, the **2018 Offshore Regulations**, the **Marine (Scotland) Act 2010**, and the **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, as the proposal is likely to adversely affect the integrity of the following SPA's: Lewis Peatlands, West Coast of the Outer Hebrides, Seas off St Kilda and St Kilda.

NPF4 Policy 7 I *'Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.'*

NPF4 Policy 11 e ix Impact on *'biodiversity including impacts on birds'* must be addressed.

Failure to Protect the Integrity and Setting of Scheduled Monuments: The EIAR anticipates significant adverse effects on coastal heritage. It fails to assess the impact on key scheduled monuments such as SM13786. The proposal would harm the Calanais monuments and wider historic landscape by introducing an industrial horizon into their natural surroundings, fundamentally undermining the meaning, experience, and interconnected setting of these sites, directly conflicting with **NPF4 Policy 7**. There are many alternative sites for offshore wind development and no reasons of over-riding public interest for choosing this site.

NMP Para. 4.22 *'Marine planning should help to ensure that future marine activities and developments can be carried out in a way that respects the marine historic environment and the setting of important coastal heritage assets.'* **Para. 4.23** *'Designated assets should be protected in situ within an appropriate setting'.*

NPF4 Policy 7 h *'Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where: ii 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or iii exceptional circumstances*



have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.'

Unassessed Onshore Impacts and Breach of Statutory Rights of Crofters: Granting offshore consent while onshore impacts on irreplaceable machair and deep peatland remain unassessed, directly contravenes **NPF4 Policy 3**, which requires biodiversity (including irreplaceable habitats) to be left in a demonstrably better state. In addition the proposal fails to engage the statutory rights of crofters under the **Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993**.

NMP Para. 4.77 *'There should be a presumption in favour of publicising applications for marine and terrestrial components of a development together during consenting processes.'*

Irreparable Harm to the Tourism Economy and Coastal Character: The Spiorad na Mara wind farm would permanently industrialise the unspoiled coastal scenery and dark skies on the Isle of Lewis, destroying the very qualities that attract visitors to the island. Local residents have consistently warned during consultation that this visual impact would decimate the tourist industry on which so many islanders depend. Tourism is built on the area's landscape, seascape, heritage, nature, and dark skies. This development risks long-term damage to local businesses and the wider economy, contrary to **NPF4 Policy 30**.

NMP, Para. 12.28 *'An unspoiled environment, high quality landscape and a sense of closeness to nature are important to many people. Scenery and environmental quality are key factors in attracting visitors to Scotland's coasts,'*

Community Opposition and lack of Community Empowerment: The Community Opinion Survey on the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Development (N4) published by www.emg-lewis.co.uk in April 2026 found that 88% of residents from Ness to Uig opposed the N4 development. Approving this project against such overwhelming local consensus would directly contravene the National Islands Plan's commitment to community empowerment.

The National Islands Plan, page 65, para. 5 *'Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.'*

My further objection points: The proposed windfarm off the west coast of Lewis due to its vast scale, height and proximity to the coastline will cause irreparable damage and devastation to the character of the wild and beautiful landscapes and seascapes that constitute the area and completely destroy the experiences of naturalness, wildness and remoteness which both locals and visitors treasure and enjoy. It is striking that these points are acknowledged in the developer's own EIA when discussing the visual impacts that will be caused by this development. I have often heard visitors to Western Lewis remark that they feel they are 'on the edge of Europe' as they absorb the vast expansive horizon and wide- open vistas of the Atlantic Ocean in front of them while being embedded within a sacred historical and cultural landscape going back millennia and where, as the developer's own EIA admits, human influence remains confined to small-scale development that does not interrupt the dominance of natural features. These feelings are heightened by the peacefulness and tranquillity which the remoteness of the area offers. In short, the landscapes and seascapes which will be majorly affected by the windfarm are not simply picturesque but embody a sublime aesthetic in the feelings of transcendental awe and wonder that their panoramic vision elicits in myself and many other people while also evoking a sense of calmness and peace at being present in such a pristine, unspoilt location.

In Appendix 18.4: Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities, the developer itself acknowledges 'a rich variety of exceptional scenery', 'a great diversity of seascapes' and 'the predominance of water and sky' in the area of the proposed windfarm further noting 'the appreciation of the natural world and environment, along the coast, balanced between the land and sea dominate the experience, imparting qualities of wildness, remoteness and seclusion. They then add that 'by its very nature, the Offshore project...contrasts with the irregular rugged landform...detracting from the strong expression of perceived naturalness and absence of human influence' causing **significant** adverse effects. Prior to admitting this they also acknowledge the 'very edge of Europe experience' produced by the 'infinite' sea views and 'emptiness' of the wide Atlantic Ocean evoking the perception that the very edge has been reached and state that the offshore project would have a **significant** adverse effect on this elemental experience. The appendix further acknowledges that these experiential qualities of remoteness, seclusion and

wildness that produce the 'edge of Europe' feeling are felt not just in low-lying topography including places such as the pristine beaches of Dalbeg and Dalmore and sacred historical locations such as Callanish but also from the vantage points of the Lewis and Harris hills stating that "the experience of walkers accessing these northerly Lewis/Leodhas mountains...would be principally effected, the perception of wild mountainous character would be diminished' adding ' the offshore project would introduce visibility of large-scale uncharacteristic and contemporary moving structure into these panoramas...detracting from the strong expression of wild mountainous character'. The visual impacts of the windfarm would not only be obvious from vantage points that produce the 'edge of Europe effect' such as 'the frontier qualities' of the Lewis coastline which the developer describes as wild and undeveloped or the ruggedness of the Lewis and Harris hills with panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean but also in the cnoc and lochan landscapes in sub-area 2 which the EIA states 'creates an unusual seascape with outstanding scenic variety and diversity of coastline in the NSA'. The developer admits that the contrasting visual containment and reveal which the cnocs produce as one experience the twists and turns of this landscape would be breached by the WTGs as they would 'signpost' the coastal extremity and further reduce the qualities of remoteness and 'edge of Europe'. In relation to this sub-area the developer states that 'the offshore project would significantly detract from the exceptional scenic quality and diversity...of the cnocs' and that the WTGs with their vertical scale, moving components and whiteness would contrast with the ruggedness of the cnoc and lochan landscape. The EIA also acknowledges that this is a historical and cultural as well as natural landscape with the two blending seamlessly together as the small-scale features of human development allow natural features to predominate. The developer admits that this intimacy would be greatly undermined by the windfarm as the WTGs would detract from this composition of views and completely change the character of a 'cultural landscape dictated by natural environment' with the insertion of a large-scale human development into an environment where human influence was 'subservient'. In the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment it is admitted that there will be '**significant effects occurring to landscape and Character areas**' and '**significant effects occurring to the special landscape qualities of National Scenic Areas**'. These effects will not simply cause major visual pollution but completely change the character of the landscapes and seascapes in a wholly unacceptable way to all those who both appreciate, experience and indeed immerse themselves in the wildness and seclusion that these areas evoke. In three of the five sub-areas assessed in the EIA the effects of the windfarm on the special landscape qualities were judged to be **significant** and in both sub areas one and two were classed as **major to moderate** in nature.

I also have grave concerns about the light pollution that is going to be caused by this windfarm due to the necessity for navigational and aircraft lighting because of the size of the turbines. The island of Lewis, and the west coast of Lewis in particular, have some of the darkest skies in Europe as can be seen on light pollution maps of the continent. Indeed, the An Lanntair cultural centre has had a dark skies exhibition every year due to the unobstructed views of the night sky on Lewis and Harris and the opportunities this presents for stargazing and astrophotography. Some of the best photography of the Northern Lights has been taken from the west coast of Lewis and I fear this will be ruined by the windfarm. The EIA produced by the developer merely further exacerbates my concerns with language that is both ambiguous and contradictory. On the one hand they state on page 2-15 that the **significant (major-moderate to major)** effects of the offshore project in sub-area one would extend into evening/night due to the required lighting with the significant effect affecting the nightscape along the coast disrupting the juxtaposition of dark waters and clear sky, and stating that the lights are likely to contrast with the remoteness of the headlands and the rugged coast in large parts of the NSA. Having said this I do not find their subsequent claim in the next paragraph that the dark skies will continue to be experienced in the relevant parts of the NSA very reassuring. The developer also makes a similar claim in relation to sub-area 2 stating that **significant (major-moderate)** effects would extend into evening/night before arguing somewhat contradictorily that the dark sky quality will still be experienced. I find these competing points difficult to reconcile and note that the photomontages which I have observed show significant light pollution from the turbines compared to now rendering the developer's claim that the lights will not be obtrusive incomprehensible bearing in mind the contrast between the coastal and land topography on the one hand and the lights of the turbines which the developer itself acknowledges as a significant

adverse effect. In the non-technical summary, the developer themselves refers to **significant effects** occurring during night-time at various viewpoints including the Butt of Lewis, many of the west coast's most pristine beaches, Doune Carloway and Gallan Head, **significant effects** occurring to Coastal Character Areas during night-time and significant effects occurring during night-time to the Special Landscape Qualities of National Scenic Areas in sub-areas 1, 2 and 4. It should also be noted that as stated in the EIA the lighting of the turbines will also encroach on large parts of the coastline at dawn and dusk as admitted which will adversely affect the spectacular sunsets and sunrises over the Atlantic Ocean which can be witnessed from many different viewpoints in all the sub-areas. This will not only be the case when observing the Atlantic Ocean from sandy beaches or rugged mountains but also in the cnoc and lochan landscapes where sunset colours illuminate water and rocky coastal features giving an enchanting juxtaposition of light and dark in these areas. Referring to this, the AESLQ states that 'changes resulting from lighting will occur 'in the backdrop to views to the dark sea between headlands and dark profiles of distinctive rocky islands that contribute to the diversity of seascape experienced', changes which it states are '**significant**'. Significant major or moderate effects on the nightscape are anticipated in sub-areas one, two and four.

When I read about the proposed windfarm off the west coast of Lewis in detail, I was absolutely shocked to learn both about the unprecedented height of the turbines and the proximity of the farm to the shore. I was hoping I could find the words to convey and describe the wild beauty, sublimity and remoteness which the landscapes and seascapes which comprise the area affected by the proposed windfarm possess due to the diverse topography and striking connections and contrasts between different aspects of wildness not least water and sky. In the end I did not have to look far. The EIA produced by the developer when discussing the visual assessment of the area clearly articulates many of the themes which make the landscapes and seascapes of the area so unique including 'a rich variety of exceptional scenery', 'a great diversity of seascapes' 'intervisibility', and 'the close interplay of the natural world, settlement and culture'. The ASLQs also makes very clear the deeply adverse and objectionable impact which this windfarm will have on all these landscape and seascape qualities! For someone like myself who suffers from sensory overload and needs space from crowded environments to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature, the thought of the character of these landscapes and seascapes being destroyed irreversibly produces in me strong feelings of loss and even grief as I try to picture what it would be like to try and inhabit the pristine beaches of west Lewis, the Lewis and Harris mountains or the sacred cultural landscapes of this area while huge vertical, industrial structures painted white and illuminated at night like any other industrial site loom just offshore destroying the experience of blue infinity while gazing out at sea, the feelings of peace and serenity that these landscapes evoke and the thrilling contrast of landforms and coastal features that make the area feel so wild and rugged. I cannot think of a more jarring contrast.

The adverse aesthetic effects of this windfarm are not simply the negative visual and aural effects causing annoyance and irritation to the passive observer at seeing their views spoiled and their peace disrupted. They are rather the profound sense of sorrow and heartbreak felt in both mind and body at seeing the intimacy and transcendental awe which only a remote wild place like the west coast of Lewis and North Harris can evoke being ripped from under you, in front of you and indeed above you. As someone who loves visiting and indeed cleaning the beaches of west Lewis what matters to me most is the elemental, bracing experience that you feel when watching a glorious sunset or gazing at the starry skies while feeling embodied in and indeed possessed by a place whose wild remoteness leaves me feeling both sensorily, cognitively and emotionally reinvigorated. These are my happy places and the thought of a huge, industrial windfarm standing guard over it feels like a major intrusion not just on the wild places themselves but on my mind, body and self which is entangled with those places. Much recent academic research on how people experience landscapes has demonstrated that we do not simply observe landscapes in a detached and disembodied way but rather are embodied within the landscapes themselves and thus have a visceral emotional connection to them. I would suggest that this is particularly the case with rugged island landscapes such as those affected by the proposed windfarm where one's sense of place is especially acute due to the remoteness and intimacy of the area and where nature and culture are so clearly intermeshed. In the AESLQ these themes are mentioned with reference to 'the close interplay of the natural world, settlement and culture' and

the indivisibility of landscape and history that form integral elements of islandness and island identity and which the windfarm will sharply intrude on by severing the harmonious composition of natural and unobtrusive human features in intimate environments such as those composed of cnoc and lochan features. The feeling and experience of peripherality which characterises remote islands will also be undermined by the wind farm as just the very awareness of its existence just off the coast will reduce the anticipation that a traveller feels as they journey towards the 'edge of Europe through landscapes in which contained views gradually or suddenly open out into what the AESLQ itself describes as reveals encompassing 'richly layered scenic compositions of landform and water' which alert the traveller that the wide expanse of the ocean is almost in sight.

It should also be noted that the psychological restorative benefits of 'blue spaces' and in particular ones that have long horizons and expansive vistas are well documented in the academic literature as a 'panoramic vision' induces feelings of calmness and stress reduction compared to nearsighted 'focal vision as the former removes you from the stresses of daily life and 'lets you stand before big vistas, wide open spaces, long views, horizon lines, and a star-stuffed night sky that reminds you that you live in a universe because, for a change, you can actually see it'. Gregg Lavoy, The Value of Looking at Long-Distance Views, *Psychology Today* (2023). See also Lonneke Goddijn-Murphy, 10 Things to consider before approving another offshore wind farm: A case study for Highland, Scotland *Ocean and Coastal Management* 271 (2026). Strikingly, on p2-31 of the AESLQ, it is noted that in viewpoint 39 in sub-area 4, panoramic views are extensive and the perception of wildness is 'pronounced' wherever you look and state 'the Offshore Project would introduce visibility of large-scale uncharacteristic...moving structure into these panoramas...detracting from the strong expression of wild mountainous character and...the perceptual qualities of perceived naturalness, lack of built artefacts and remoteness'. I would therefore strongly submit that whatever benefits are attributed to this proposed development in terms of combating climate change is greatly outweighed by the violence and desecration that will be wreaked on pristine natural and cultural landscapes and seascapes destroying their character and adversely affecting many people's sense of place. The industrialisation and commercialisation of wild land and coast that will result from this development will irretrievably and irreversibly alter the island's character and people's sense of islandness in ways that would have occurred if either Lord Leverhulme's controversial proposals for developing the island or the Lewis Wind farm had been successful. These consequences would be felt over long intergenerational timescales as the windfarm is not scheduled to be decommissioned until the 2060s. Despite admitting that people's perception of wildness and remoteness will be damaged by this windfarm in their EIA, they offer no significant mitigatory measures in return. I therefore object very strongly to this proposed development.

I wish finally to state my serious concerns about the possible impacts that the proposed windfarm will have on the rich and abundant marine biodiversity of the area in all stages of its development. There is still much research that requires to be done on the effects that offshore windfarms have on marine ecosystems as there are still many uncertainties. For example, Appendix 14.4 states on p2-14 that no migration collision risk assessment was carried out on a range of seabird species including puffins, guillemots, razorbills and cormorants due to their low vulnerability to collision impacts. This declaration is based on a research paper over a decade old. Bearing in mind the high levels of possible mortality predicted by many ecology experts for seabird species including puffins because of disruption to migratory routes caused by the Berwick Bank offshore windfarm I feel a lot more research needs to be carried out first before reaching the conclusion of low risk of harm. The gannet colony at St Kilda is now judged to be the largest in the world overtaking Bass Rock and unlike other populations which have been decimated by avian flu is judged to be stable. Gannet numbers generally have increased substantially in Northwest Scotland over the last decade and there is an expanding colony in the Flannan Isles which benefits from a lack of predators and good nesting habitat. As the Flannan Isles are just 21 miles west of Gallan Head and 31 miles west of Carloway then when taken alongside the importance of the St Kilda colony I am very concerned about the impact this windfarm will have on these majestic and charismatic birds which are known to fly long distances in order to forage especially bearing in mind the other considerable pressures they are facing. The RSPB have stated that while they support expanding offshore wind to combat climate change "shallow, relatively near shore developments like Berwick Bank

are unsuitable because of the huge impact on Scotland's globally important seabirds. I would suggest that these points may also apply to the proposed windfarm off Lewis as it is an important migratory route for seabirds and is so close to the shore. I also find it puzzling that while it is stated that the estimated population of pink-footed Goose crossing the migratory corridor of the turbine area is around 30000, the annual collision estimate is only 0.068. This seems remarkably low! It is both disturbing and revealing that the developer has sought a Habitats Regulations Appraisal Derogation to override objections of possible damage to this pristine ecosystem. Another major concern I have relates to marine light pollution. Goddijn-Murphy (2026) state that marine light pollution at night 'illuminates marine ecosystems up to 100 times brighter than the full moon at night which has various environmental impacts because marine organisms from the smallest plankton to great whales, are very light sensitive during every stage of their lives'. This seems particularly germane to the proposed development as the light pollution at night will be considerable. He also points out that light flicker from offshore wind farms and visual impacts on marine life are not routinely assessed in planning applications. He further adds that 'aquatic species vision is important for detecting prey, predators, and each other, but the potential impacts of visual cues have not been investigated and are unknown at present'. He also notes fears that species such as migrating wild Atlantic salmon may suffer from wrongly perceiving wind turbine blades as predators due either to visual cues such as moving blades or underwater shadows of the blades being misidentified underwater. These points are discussed in detail by Williamson and al. (2024) who state that 'evidence for the extent of exposure of aquatic organisms to the visual cues arising from moving turbine blades...is sparse' (Williamson BJ, Goddijn-Murphy L, McIlvenny J, Youngson A, Potential exposure of aquatic organisms to dynamic visual cues originating from aerial wind turbine blades, *Fishes*, (2024) . Goddijn-Murphy makes a similar point in relation to noise pollution observing that infrasound from offshore wind turbines can travel underwater as far as 100km and the impact of long -term noise from offshore wind farms on marine life has not been studied to the same extent as on humans. These less studied marine animals that can detect ultrasound include whales, dolphins, fishes and jellyfish all of which are abundant in the vicinity of the proposed offshore windfarm.

This planning decision is about the long-term future and the character of a landscape and community that cannot be replaced once altered at this scale. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and largely irreversible harm to landscape and seascape character, heritage setting, and the tourism economy.
I respectfully request that this application is rejected.

Yours sincerely,

Signature:(type your name here)*

[REDACTED]

***Note** *I confirm that the views expressed in this email are my own and I intend for this typed name to act as my signature*

x

I have put an X in this box because I want my personal details to be kept confidential.